

Scrutiny Report



Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate

Part 1

Date: 9 October 2018

Subject Recommendations Monitoring – Budget Proposals 2018-19

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The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Bev Owen	Strategic Director - Place
Paul Jones	Head of Streetscene and City Services

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the Officer responses in relation to the recommendations made by the Committee at the 22 January 2018 meeting upon the 2018-19 Budget Proposals.
2. Determine if it wishes to make any comments or recommend actions to the Head of Service or Cabinet.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Budget saving proposals were presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee- Place and Corporate as part of the Budget consultation for the financial year 2018/19. The proposals were included in the Medium Term Financial Plan at the meeting on the 22 January 2018 (Minutes available here).
- 2.2 The Committee made a number of recommendations which were presented to Cabinet alongside the information gained from the rest of the consultation. The Budget Process and Public Engagement aspects of the Budget saving proposals were addressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 1 February 2018 ([minutes available here](#)) and the

monitoring of the recommendations made at the meeting on the 1 February took place on the 26 July 2018 ([minutes available here](#)).

- 2.3 To ensure that the Officers' responses addressed each of the Committee's recommendations, the relevant Head of Service has been requested to provide an update to the Committee. As part of this update and provide a structure to this update, the Heads of Service have been asked to directly respond to the specific areas that the Committee commented on, these comments have been included in the table at appendix 1 for reference. The full comments are available at Appendix 2.
- 2.4 The Committee is only looking at the recommendations that were made on the proposals in January, and how the Officers are implementing the decisions have taken into account the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee have this opportunity to gather evidence from the officers as to the implementation of the budget proposals, any comments will be forwarded to the Cabinet in the form of a Scrutiny Letter, for the Cabinet Member to address any specific concerns and respond to the Committee at its next meeting in November / December if appropriate.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** – contains the Head of Streetscene and City Service's response to the Committee's recommendations on the 2018-19 Budget Proposals.

Appendix 2 – contains the Recommendations of the Committee on 22 January 2018, for information.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Establish whether the monitoring report adequately addresses the Committee's Recommendations;
 - What progress has been made towards the recommendations?
 - What actions are in place to continue progress over the next twelve months?
- Question the relevant Officer on any areas the Members feel requires additional explaining or information.
- Query whether the Service Area has achieved the proposed saving as set out in the business case.
 - If the saving has been achieved what impact has it had?
 - If no saving has been made, why and will this have a financial impact on this year's spending?
- **Conclusions**
 - What was the overall conclusion on the information contained in the report?
 - Does the Committee wish to make any comments to the Cabinet or directly to the Cabinet Member to address at the Committee's next meeting?
 - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee or further information required?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 Evaluating the impact of the recommendations made by Scrutiny is an important tool in assessing whether the work of the Scrutiny Committee's is making a difference and making an impact.
- 5.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) practice guide 'Demonstrating and Enhancing Impact' ([Link](#)) outlines the importance of being able to demonstrate that Scrutiny is effective and that it has impact.

'When we talk about scrutiny having an "impact" we mean that the work of councillors sitting on scrutiny committees should translate into better outcomes for local people. A scrutiny investigation of an issue should lead to services provided to the public improving. If scrutineers are unable to demonstrate either to themselves or others that their work adds value and makes a positive difference to local people, it is more difficult to justify expending resource on it in difficult financial times.'

- 5.3 Demonstrating impact does not necessarily mean that a decision was changed, or altered, Scrutiny's recommendation of the budget being discussed at this meeting were centred around identifying risks and potential issues for the Council to take into account should it chose to proceed with the proposal. The value of Scrutiny in assessing the implementation of the recommendations at this stage is to check whether those issues identified by the Committee are being addressed and mitigated against when the decisions are being implemented.

6 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- The Service Area's Budget saving proposals have intrinsic links to all of the Councils policies and priorities, these links should be highlighted by the Officers in the reports or through questioning at the Meeting:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

7 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

7.1 General questions

- In implementing the budget decisions, how is the Council ensuring that the impact upon future generations is being established and the long term impact identified?

- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered when implementing these decisions?

7.2 Wellbeing Goals

- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected implementation of the proposals?
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*

7.3 Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the report demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
 - **Long Term**
The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
 - **Prevention**
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
 - **Integration**
Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies
 - **Collaboration**
Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
 - **Involvement**
The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

8. Background Papers

Include all additional documents that are referenced in the report, and those that you have used as background reading.

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2017 - 2022](#)
- [Report to the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate held on 22 January 2018 \(Agenda Item 5\) and Minutes](#)
- [CfPS Guide 'Demonstrating and Enhancing Impact'](#)