



Audit Committee

11 July 2013

Finance and Performance Working Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

The Group met recently to consider finance and performance reports detailing the year end results.

It was acknowledged that this Group had not met as often as had been hoped but that regular meetings had been programmed for the remainder of the year to ensure that effective monitoring could take place. It had been suggested that finance and performance monitoring should be undertaken by the scrutiny committees as this had not been carried out adequately following the change to the Committee Structure. The Scrutiny Manager hoped that this Group would become more active in its monitoring role and avoid the duplication that had occurred previously.

The Programme Office Manager was also present for the meeting and found feedback on reporting procedures helpful towards the Improved Governance Project which is due to report shortly. The Group did agree to write to the Leader and Chief Executive regarding concerns in the reporting process and lack of challenge in some areas in driving performance forward.

It is intended that at future meetings one or two Portfolio Holders and Heads of Service would be invited to attend to discuss issues in their areas in addition to the overall financial overview and forecast and performance monitoring reports. The Portfolio Holders for HR and Adult Social Care have been invited to attend the next meeting on 26 July 2013.

A tracker of efficiency savings will also be presented to future meetings to ensure service areas are on track in making the efficiencies identified in their Business Plans.

At the end of year overspends and underspends were in line with that which had been forecast throughout the year. Service areas holding reserves of over 5% of their budget had had those funds recovered. A further review was being undertaken into specific reserves.

Period 2 draft information is showing that Children's Services are under-spent. Adult Social Care is on target following an injection of growth funding – however any increase in service provision will have to be met from within existing budgets. The Regeneration and Development service continue to struggle to achieve income targets. Leisure Services are on track. Schools continue to show overspending on severance pay and home to school transport.

Report contact: Lisa Richards, Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Contact details: 08708510513, lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk

Sources/background papers:

Group Members: County Councillors A W Davies (Lead Member) L R E Davies, W J T Powell, Col T J Van Rees, Mrs J Shearer and Mr J Brautigam

Dates of future meetings:

- 26 July – Period 3 Financial Report
Portfolio Holders and Service Managers for HR and Adult Social Care
- 23 September – Period 5 Finance and Q1 Performance
- 15 November - Period 6 Finance and Q2 Performance