



Audit Committee

29 January 2015

Finance and Performance Working Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

Two meetings have been held since the last Audit Committee. The first discussed the Financial Overview and Forecast as at 31 August 2014. Significant issues were raised and a further meeting was held to discuss these issues with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Strategic Director Resources. The issues covered were:

- Projected overspend had doubled since Q1
- Capitalisation of revenue costs deflects from the failure to achieve other savings
- Repayment of Invest to Save funds omitted from Schools Service budget
- Volatility surrounding the number of pupils and school transport routes
- Failure to achieve savings due to staffing changes being carried out in a timely manner
- Discretionary payments moratorium
- Funding for wind farm appeals
- Level of reserves
- Scrutiny of virements
- Voluntary Severance payments could be distorting budgets
- Funding of Pension Fund

Further scrutiny of Finance and Overview reports has been undertaken by the Finance Scrutiny Panel as part of the ongoing project to strengthen financial scrutiny in Powys being run by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS).

The Group also received a presentation on Performance Management and the way in which it was anticipated that the Group could deal with this information in the future. There was agreement that Service Improvement Plans should be subject to consideration by Scrutiny. The revised process has been designed to add value and provide a framework for accountability.

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Sources/background papers: Notes of meetings 27 October and 13 November 2014

Group Members: County Councillors A W Davies (Lead Member), J Brunt, J G Morris, T J Van Rees, and Mr J Brautigam