

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2024**

PRESENT

County Councillors G E Jones, J Ewing, L Rijnenberg, C Robinson, C Walsh,
L Brighouse and H Hulme

Officers:

Clive Pinney – Legal and Monitoring Officer
Jane Thomas - Director of Corporate Services
Lynette Lovell – Director of Education
Nina Davies – Director of Social Services and Housing
Diane Reynolds - Director of Economic Development and Growth
Matt Perry – Chief Officer - Place
Catherine James – Head of Transformation and Democratic Services
James Langridge Thomas – Deputy Head of Transformation and Communications

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor: G E Jones, B Breeze

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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There were no Declarations of Interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

3.	DISCLOSURE OF PARTY WHIPS
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The Committee did not receive any disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member had been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78(3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

4.	QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE
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Background:

- The Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan known as 'Stronger, Fairer, Greener' the priority work for the Council driven by the Cabinets works programme and ambitions and sets out three wellbeing objectives and provides the actions to deliver them.
- The purpose of the Plan was to present the wellbeing priorities for 2023-2027. It was important to note that the plan did not cover the full work of the Council as services compile and monitor individual service improvement plans.
- Each wellbeing objective progress was monitored and tracked, with outcomes provided from a results-based accountability approach.
- The sustainable principle showed long term involvement, prevention, collaboration, and integration.
- An engagement overview demonstrated activities carried out throughout the quarter.

- Assurance was given that targets were challenged and analysed at a service level and through service performance meetings with Directors and Portfolio Holders. It was noted that some targets were statutory.
- More detailed explanatory commentary would provide clarification around the reasons for why measures were at certain levels or why no data had been specified.

Committees Comments:

- Appreciation was shared for the significant amount of data provided in the report and the hours taken to provide such a substantial report.
- The overall picture provided in the report for a scrutiny audience did not provide enough statistical information for both service and geographical areas. And suggested that Individual security committees could carry out deep dives into certain areas of concern.
- A form of reflection could be developed to ensure full awareness of the target audience, which was to be fully considered,
- It was asked that the Council were mindful of who the report would be available to and ensure it was effective for readability and meaningfulness.
- The report was a work in progress and still in the development stages, however it was noted that more developed data was being provided for each quarter.
- It was asked that all wider learning could be shared with scrutiny committees and the whole Council.
- The scorecard held a significant amount of data but could be used more effectively. It was important that the report was balanced, useful and meaningful. Statements within the report were not backed up with evidence on occasion and difficult to acknowledge fully.
- The information in the measures section triggered more questions which led the reader to the commentary which was useful and helpful.

The Corporate and strategic Equality Plan Objectives:

- It was explained that the drop in positive feedback had dropped significantly which was not representative of County, and difficult to draw learning from such low response numbers. Alternative options and methods were being explored to encourage the engagement process and trials were being held with colleagues including the Health Board for a joined up approach.
- Assurance was given that more detailed information was provided to the Scrutiny Committees on a monthly basis for certain measures to in order for progress to be tracked.
- Clarification was provided that data collection options were being explored for some measures that were not completed.
- More information was available through other means including the Wellbeing Bank and the Wellbeing Assessment.
- The workforce data was comprehensive which reflected seasonal changes within the year, however It was felt that the workforce figures could include the school staff.
- More information would be provided in the next quarter to capture data for apprentices and the Councils Grow Your Own Schemes to demonstrate effectiveness.

- Assurance was given that long-term targets were broken down and commentary included interim figures for the wider annual target progress.

Conclusions:

- Documents provided to Scrutiny are done so in a timely manner, they must be complete, up to date and contain accurate information.
- Full narrative explanations were to be provided around the data for clarity and more effective challenge.
- Comparisons year on year, and the provision of segment progress for long targets would help to analyse the performance of the Council.
- The document audience must be more considered, including the presentation of information for the Council to achieve the widest possible audience.
- Improvements could be made for a more aesthetically pleasing document, removing the amount of grey cells, and providing the data broken down into service area and geographically would greatly help.

Scrutiny's Recommendation to Cabinet	Accept (plus Action & timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale, Action & timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1. The target audience for any document must be evaluated and considered for the Council to encompass value, effectiveness, and readability.			
2. Complete, accurate and up to date documents must be provided to Scrutiny Committees in a timely manner to enable full and effective challenge.			