

Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee – 17th October, 2018

Scrutiny Briefing – Heart of Wales Property Service Annual Report 2017-18

The Heart of Wales Property Service (HOWPS) is a Joint Venture between Kier and Powys County Council to provide property services including property maintenance and asset management. The Joint Venture commenced in July 2017.

Since the commencement of the Joint Venture scrutiny have heard concerns expressed in connection with a number of issues which have been scrutinised including amongst others:

- In education scrutiny how HOWPS work with schools and the schools service in respect of property maintenance
- In housing scrutiny how HOWPS work in particular in respect of returning voids for occupation
- In economy scrutiny how HOWPS work in particular in respect of maintaining and improving the county farm estate

The report gives an overview of progress since HOWPS was set up. There are clear links with Vision 2025 around increasing local spend. There is also a section on workforce which members may wish to explore given the problems expressed around recruitment and retention in other services such as adult social care, children's services and education.

Appendix A outlines the key performance indicators which are reported against with a short summary as to the recorded position.

Appendix B details the operational plan including progress to date and future timeframes.

The purpose of this scrutiny session is to examine the Annual Report and identify areas where further explanation of the position may be required. It will also be appropriate to seek assurance that the Joint Venture has an appropriate understanding of the current position, the areas identified for improvement are appropriate along with the timeframe for addressing these and finally that there is sufficient capacity and expertise to make these improvements.

Please note this is not the forum for seeking answers to ward issues but to seek assurance that the service provided is performing correctly and meeting the needs of its clients.