



Finance Panel

Panel Observations to Cabinet on: 27th February 2024

The Finance Panel met on the 26th February 2024 and considered the following documents:

- **Quarter 3 Financial Revenue Report as at 31st December 2023.**
- **Quarter 3 Capital Programme Report as at 31st December 2023**

The Finance Panel thank the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Transformation and officers for attending Panel.

Panel made the following observations:

- The Panel welcomed:
 - The assurance given by the S151 Officer that the Directors and Heads of Services had been robustly challenged in respect of undelivered savings and that those savings marked to be delivered by the Service Areas at the financial year end were on target.
 - Assurance from the Head of Finance / Director of Corporate Services that there was currently sufficient staffing resource within the Schools Finance Team and that this was reviewed constantly.
 - The assurance that the Corporate Services resource capacity would be protected, in the short term, as a main component to deliver and implement Sustainable Powys across the Authority.
- The Panel noted:
 - That the Capital Oversight Board provided challenge in respect of delays in projects and undelivered savings, with Scrutiny Committees having the opportunity to challenge further, through deep dives and working groups.
- The Panel requested that:
 - A report be presented to Finance Panel on the use and the contracts of Consultants within Powys. The Panel welcomed the positive response from Officers to the request.
- The Panel expressed concern:
 - On the deficit levels of schools delegated budgets across the Sectors. Panel would appreciate a report and regular updates on all schools delegated budget positions from the initial submission in May, through to the conclusion of budgets being approved.

Panel's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1. Panel would appreciate early sight of, and regular updates (via confidential session if required) on schools delegated budget 2024/25, from the initial submission by schools in May, through to budget approval.			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by 27th April 2024

Membership of the Panel on 24 February 2023:

County Councillors: A W Davies (Chair), P Lewington (Vice Chair) J Pugh, E Vaughan, G Ratcliffe, C Kenyon Wade.

Co-Opted Members: Gareth hall