



Finance Panel

Panel Observations to Cabinet on 19/11/2024:

The Finance Panel met on 15/11/2024 and considered the following documents:

- **Q2 Revenue Forecast as at 30th September 2024**
- **Appendix D**

The Finance Panel thank the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Corporate Transformation, Future Generations, Caring Powys and officers for attending scrutiny.

Panel made the following observations:

- The Panel welcomed:
 - The ongoing reduction in agency social workers with Children's Services and the impact of the Grow Our Own project.
- The Panel requested:
 - Assurance that both Adult Social Care and Children's Services were changing to meet the potentially huge increase in demand.
 - Information as to when the Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team became aware of the significant increase in spend across the 2 service areas. Appendix D para 4.1 notes risks within the 2024/25 FRM (Finance Resource Model) have materialised.
 - Impact Assessments to be reviewed, updated and understood to inform the 2025/26 budget setting.
- The Panel expressed concern:
 - That para 7.4 of the Q2 Revenue Forecast Cabinet Report was not noted as a recommendation: *"A review of all budget lines be undertaken and where underspends are already being reported at Appendix A and are unlikely to change, or where income is higher than expected and projected to continue, the section 151 officer has delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to freeze or realign these budgets for the remainder of this financial year"*.
 - Of the increased detrimental impact on next year's budget of this expenditure.

Panel's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
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1. Paragraph 7.4 of the Q2 Revenue Forecast Cabinet Report to be added to the Recommendations at para 14 as noted above.			
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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 15th January 2025

Membership of the Panel on 15th November 2024:

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

Co-Opted Members: G Hall