

Scrutiny Chairs and Joint Chairs meeting – 11th September 2018

Notes and recommendations regarding:
Corporate Improvement Plan 2017-18 Annual Performance Report

This relates to previous plan and not Vision 2025 and previous objectives. It has been presented to the Executive Management Team and Heads of Service. This report does not relate to the year when we had the poor CIW inspections. The report has to be approved by the County Council by the end of October to meet statutory deadlines.

Steering Group reminded of the 6 questions they were asked to address.

79% of commitments / targets were complete or on target.
£1.5m had been saved against a target of £1.7m

Members asked if the report was too positive rather than showing what we needed to achieve? The inspections of Social Care were not positive and what the inspectors had said were articulated in the document.

As an authority we were in the top 5 authorities in wales in 2016-17. This year 2017-18 we are in the top 6 (excluding waste)

Members commented that whilst there were improvements in learning we are not achieving in terms of numbers receiving free school meals and also school budgets are out of control (p47). The summary on learning is not positive.

There is a need to include explanations at the beginning of the document e.g. what does adequate etc mean.

The Leader's statement refers to a 5 year MTFS being completed. Currently there is only a draft version but this has not been approved for a 5 year period.

Some matters may have also been subject to action in the following year but these changes are not reflected back to the year in question.

P33 – Children's Services – financial planning. The original budget was £12m which was wrong as it was insufficient, and therefore it was increased by £6m. However it did not account for an increase in placements. Based on the data at the time the service thought that the budget was sufficient. Therefore there needs to be a caveat in the report that the projection was incorrect which has led to the increase in funding for 2018/19.

P30/31 – Looked after children – 16/17 figures were prepared on Draig and need to be treated carefully. 17/18 figures produced from WCCIS system.

Members asked if the document was really geared for the public. They also asked what the colour coding and ticks meant. It was explained that the colours were set from the well-being goals but perhaps their meaning could be explained clearer. This

is a public report as we have to produce it in accordance with the Local Government Wales Measure. Members asked if there was any way to make the document more readable by the public.

P55 – Working Sustainably – no explanation here that the budget went awry due to Children’s Services. This also ties into the development of the MTFS.

P57 – Consultation and engagement – School Transport. Blu Badges public consultation was May 2018.

P62 – Year 11 pupils – text is missing in first box. Also older statistics are missing. There is also a need to explain what the rankings mean.

Personal names should be redacted in the case studies.

P63/64 – Street Scene – the information is split between pages.

Social Services data – no Public Accountability Measure information (PAMs) has been released for social care across Wales since the Well-Being Act came into force. This needs to be explained and the tables withdrawn.

WAO report – the draft report is expected by the end of September, so that comment from it can be included in the report.

P59 – 43 indicators.
8 indicators are social services indicators.

In the box – highest / lowest should be shown rather than best / need to improve. Some of these are local indicators but may not be the highest priorities for the Council which may be acceptable to the Council hence the positioning in the tables.

Topics do not always have any context against them as to why they are best / need to improve – the explanation is included in later pages. Should be a link included to My Council to provide local context against this information.

P59 – roads in poor condition – needs to be an explanation of the length of roads within the county area.

At the bottom of the summary box needs to be an explanation which links this information to following pages or place the summary box after the explanations. Otherwise the alternative would be to remove the summary box.

Roads targets – the increase in funding required to improve the situation means that Powys’ position is unlikely to improve significantly.

P69 – effectiveness of central funding support in schools – how does this tie back to the schools issue identified earlier in the discussion. Also there is no link between inspectorate reports and service detail.

There is no comment on the effect of Brexit on the Council’s economic position.