



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

- Leader of the Councillor (Finance & Strategy)
- Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation
- Cabinet Member for Services for Adults & Vulnerable People
- Cabinet Member for Education
- Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration
- Cabinet Member for Transformation & Performance

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**Overview &
Scrutiny**

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1 May 2015

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel following the meeting of the Panel on the 15 April 2015. It is about the 3rd Quarter Performance Monitoring report, including the Policy Commitments Tracker.

Dear Leader and Cabinet Members,

Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel 15 April 2015

The Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel met on 15 April to consider the 3rd Quarter Performance Monitoring report, including the Policy Commitments Tracker. We are grateful to Richard Rowlands who attended the meeting and provided us with advice and support.

We considered a range of issues and raised questions on various topics, some of which are likely to cut across the cabinet portfolios, therefore we would be grateful if the appropriate Cabinet Members could provide responses to the questions and provide the information outlined within this letter.

Performance Monitoring – 3rd Quarter

CHR/002 (no of working days lost to sickness absence)

Overview & Scrutiny / Trosolwg a chraffu
City and County of Swansea / Dinas a Sir Abertawe
Civic Centre, Swansea, SA1 3SN / Canolfan Ddinesig, Abertawe, SA1 3SN

We noted that although there is an improvement in performance in comparison to the same period last year, it is unlikely that the annual target of 8 will be met.

The Panel would like to be provided with a breakdown of sickness figures for each Department. We would also like a comparison of last year's sickness absence figures for the authority with other local authorities.

EDU016a & EDU016b – Percentage of pupil attendance in primary & secondary schools

Performance for this indicator is improving and these are the highest attendance rates since 2008/09. However the authority is still ranked 20th (primary) and 16th (secondary) in Wales. The Panel raised two questions; are attendance levels being raised quickly enough and are there any trends in the figures ?

We would like a breakdown of attendance figures, absence figures and the make up of the absence figures.

SCA001 – the rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 100 population aged 75

We observed with concern that performance is down in comparison to last year. The Panel will continue to monitor performance of this indicator and noted the explanation for the increase of delayed transfers.

To look at the figures in more detail the Panel has requested a figure for the total number of people transferred by Social Services.

SCC043a & SCC043b – the percentage of required core assessments completed within 35 working days and average time taken to complete those required core assessments that took longer than 35 days.

Although the targets have not been met for these indicators, we are pleased to note that performance has improved since the last quarter and that continued improvement is expected throughout the year.

CTG4 – Grand Theatre usage (physical visits)

We noted the reduction in visits to the Grand Theatre compared to the previous year. The Panel has requested further explanation for this and more detail on the performance figures.

We would like the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration and the Head of Cultural Services to attend a future meeting to discuss the performance for this indicator in more detail.

LCL001 – the number of visits to public libraries during the year per 1,000 population

We discussed the performance of this indicator which is down on the previous year and the target for library visits which has not been met.

To identify potential trends in the reduction of library visits the panel has requested a breakdown of visits for each individual library.

PLA1005 – percentage of reinforcement cases resolved during the year within 12 weeks

We are pleased to note the performance figure of 43% for this indicator which is an improvement on the previous quarter figure of 30%. The 55% target was missed by 12% however general performance has started to improve and it is anticipated that performance will continue to improve throughout the year. .

STS006 – The percentage of fly tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days

We noted that performance for this indicator is slightly below target. The number of incidents cleared within 5 days has improved however the number of incidents reported has increased. The Panel discussed this indicator in detail and raised the following questions:

Has the introduction of the three bag limit contributed to the increase of incidents ?
Is the cost of rubbish disposal a factor in fly tipping ?
Is there sufficient enforcement of fly tipping incidents ?
Why is there a lack of publicity around successful fly tipping prosecutions ?

BBMA1 – Increase in the number of projects with social benefit clauses & Beyond Bricks and Mortar in their contracts.

We observed that performance is down on this indicator both in comparison to the same quarter last year and the previous quarter. We noted the explanation that a number of projects have been delayed but will be starting at the beginning of the next quarter. The Panel will be provided with a definition of this indicator.

Strategic Quarterly PI report

We discussed and noted the general downward turn in the overall figures outlined in the Strategic Quarterly PI report especially those for Corporate Services.

The Panel will be monitoring this report closely and would like a corporate explanation for the downturn in figures.

Policy Commitments Tracker

Whilst we do not have any specific recommendations, we wished to advise you, and the relevant Cabinet Members, of the Panel's discussions about how it monitors, develops and assesses the progress of the Policy Commitments Tracker.

We agreed that the Panel should review how it scrutinises the Policy Commitments Tracker as part of our work plan discussions for 2015/16

Work plan

On a final note, we will be discussing and agreeing our work plan for the forthcoming year at our next meeting on 13th May and will share this with you in due course.

Your Response

In your response we would appreciate your comments on any of the questions and issues raised in this letter. Please provide your response by 31 May.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Mary Jones

Convenor, Service Improvement and Finance Performance Panel

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