



County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW  
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir  
Caerdydd  
CF10 4UW  
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

## CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee** COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time of Meeting** MONDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2018, 10.00 AM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact [scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)

**7 Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting (Pages 1 - 10)**

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

13 February 2018

Councillor Chris Weaver  
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Chris,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12 FEBRUARY 2018**  
**DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19**

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the corporate overview of the Draft Budget Proposals 2018/19 and Corporate Plan 2018 – 2020. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you:

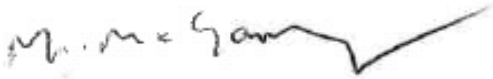
Members were pleased with the content of the presentation, given by Ian Allwood, and appreciated the work that has been done for 2018/19 to address continuing challenges in balancing finite resources with increasing demand pressures. More specifically;

- Members were satisfied that due diligence had been taken in relation to RAG ratings in the savings proposals; and support the ongoing commitment made by Directors and other Senior Officers across the authority in working together to achieve a balanced set of proposals.
- Members were content with responses from yourself and officers in relation to the amount of borrowing by the Council, and the affordability of borrowing.
- Members were happy with the balance of delivering capital programmes, and the effect that they have on the revenue budget, and appreciate and support the need to proactively undertake works (such as housing improvements, providing disabled adaptations etc) to bring stock and services to suitable standards.

In relation to the Corporate Plan, the Committee would be very grateful if you could take forward Members' thanks and appreciation to all involved in bringing together a Plan that not only addresses how the Council would deliver its services but also links with the commitments of the Capital Ambition and the wider commitments in relation to well-being objectives. Members felt that the layout of the Plan clearly set out how the Council will deliver its ambitions, with clear performance targets and measures, and linked to the budget, and thought that this should be commended.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee's comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M<sup>C</sup>GARRY**

**Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Christine Salter, Corporate Director  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Allan Evans, OM Accountancy  
Councillor David Walker, Chairperson Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Nicola Newton, Principal Scrutiny Officer  
Cabinet Support Office

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

13 February 2018

Councillor Susan Elsmore  
Cabinet Member Social Care, Health & Well-Being  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12 FEBRUARY 2018**  
**DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2018-21 AND DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19**

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the draft Corporate Plan 2018-21 and the Draft Budget Proposals for 2018/19 relevant to your Portfolio. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you:

**Social Services Directorate**

Members of the Committee wanted to pass on their appreciation of how you and officers have worked to produce an increased budget for this critical service. Members valued the work that had been done to achieve this and commend all involved in the process. Some further specific comments are:

**Service/Budget Realignment**

Members support the work being undertaken to realign and refocus services in order to make them more joined up and efficient and noted that the relevant savings in the budget come as a result of these service improvements.

**Partnership working**

The Committee were pleased to hear that a number of close working relationships with partners and other services across the Council had already resulted in a reduction of people needing admission to hospital and that DTOC levels were the lowest they had been in 12

years. This is very encouraging. In addition, Members were also encouraged to hear that a larger number of providers were interested in working with the Council in its move towards focussing on reablement.

#### Preventative Services

Members were supportive that the above would result in ensuring that the Council can meet its commitments in supporting people to live independently, and pleased that a wider, tailored, offer of support to a wider range of individuals would be available as a result.

#### Use of Technology (Line 41)

As you will be aware, at the meeting, Members aired their concerns about the use of technology in reducing the need for commissioned care. Members were satisfied with the responses given by yourself and officers that this was going to be a complementary service to what is already being offered rather than a replacement. However, Members of the Committee would again like to stress that how the Council promotes the use of technology will be crucial in ensuring that there is sufficient take-up of the service and also mitigate any potential criticism that it is a reduction in service. The Committee would be very interested in hearing about the development of this area of work, including the results of the pilot project with people with learning disabilities. If agreeable, when setting the work programme for 2018/19, I would like to discuss this with you to ensure that we receive the information at an appropriate date.

#### Increase of Charges

Whilst Members accept the need to increase charges, they wanted to highlight again their concerns on how this will affect families already under financial pressure.

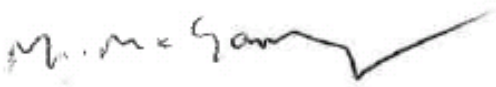
#### **Communities, Housing & Customer Services Directorate**

In relation to your commitments within this Directorate, Members were very pleased to receive details on how you are continuing to drive forward Independent Living Services, including the future of the Wheels on Meals Service, which is aiming to become self-funding during 2018/19. Members would also like to commend you on the expansion of the Joint Equipment Service, and the improved service this offers individuals and families. The Committee will look forward to receiving further progress reports during the coming year.

Members were very reassured by the work you and Councillor Thorne are doing together across both Directorates (and further) in ensuring that the Council continues to develop a more joined-up, communicative culture in delivering services.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee's comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. McGarry', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small upward hook.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M<sup>C</sup>GARRY**

**Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Christine Salter, Corporate Director  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Allan Evans, OM Accountancy  
Councillor David Walker, Chairperson Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Nicola Newton, Principal Scrutiny Officer  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities  
Tony Young, Director of Social Services  
Amanda Phillips, Assistant Director of Social Services  
Leon Goddard, Operational Manager, Central Performance Team  
Cabinet Support Office

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

13 February 2018

Councillor Lynda Thorne  
Cabinet Member Communities & Housing  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Lynda,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12 FEBRUARY 2018**  
**DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2018-21 AND DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19**

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the draft Corporate Plan 2018-21 and the Draft Budget Proposals for 2018/19 relevant to your Portfolio. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you.

**Communities, Housing & Customer Services Directorate**

**Housing Revenue Account**

The Committee looks forward to receiving a Cabinet pre-decision report on this at its next meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Some further comments and observations are as follows:

**New Homes**

The Committee commends the target of building 200 new homes during 2018/19. The Committee supports the avenues that the Council is seeking in being able to build new homes and also the initiatives in place to buy-back properties and to encourage people to down size.

The Committee would again wish to encourage the Council to provide a sufficient number of 3+ bedroomed homes in future builds so that the Council can provide much needed family homes.

The Committee would be very interested in receiving regular updates on this issue going forward and look forward to discussing this with you, when we meet to discuss the Committee's 2018/19 Work Programme later this year.

#### Universal Credit

Members were satisfied with your and officers' responses in relation to what the Council is doing to mitigate the transition to Universal Credit, and the effect this may have on collecting rents and dealing with arrears, and to mitigate the affect the rent increase may have (albeit a small increase). However, Members would be interested in receiving a briefing on the outcome of the transition at an appropriate date during 2018/19.

#### Give DIFFerently Campaign

Members were pleased to receive an update on the Give DIFFerently Campaign. Members look forward to the full launch of the Campaign in the coming months. Members were also reassured by the way the money from the campaign was being used, and would be interested, at an appropriate juncture, to receive details of what the campaign has done to improve the lives of people currently street homeless.

#### Butetown Pavilion/City Centre Youth Hub

Members were extremely supportive of the improvements proposed in youth provision in Butetown and the City Centre. Members were impressed with the range of services proposed for both sites and will follow developments closely with our colleagues on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

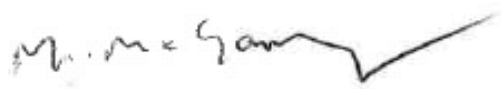
#### **Policy & Partnerships**

Thank you for the updates from yourself, Joe and Steph re the future of the Community Safety Partnership, tackling substance misuse and the future of Taxi Marshalls in relation to the Night Time Economy. Members were assured that there will not be a gap in provision in relation to Taxi Marshalls and look forward to receiving details on developments in this area with our colleagues on the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee.

Finally, Members were very reassured by the work you and Councillor Elsmore are doing together across Portfolios (and further) in ensuring that the Council continues to develop a more joined-up, communicative culture in delivering services.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee's comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. McGarry', followed by a large checkmark.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M<sup>C</sup>GARRY**

**Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Christine Salter, Corporate Director  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Allan Evans, OM Accountancy  
Councillor David Walker, Chairperson Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Nicola Newton, Principal Scrutiny Officer  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities  
Jane Thomas, Assistant Director Communities & Housing  
Nick Blake, Business Support Manager, Communities Housing & Customer Services  
Joe Reay, Head of Performance & Partnerships  
Steph Kendrick-Doyle, Community Safety Manager  
Cabinet Support Office

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