

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/PRAP/Comm Papers/Correspondence

Date: 27 April 2016



Councillor Dan De'Ath,  
Cabinet Member for Skills, Safety, Engagement and Democracy,  
Cardiff Council,  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor De'Ath

**Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee: 12 April 2016**

As Chair of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee, my sincere thanks for attending the meeting on 12 April 2016, to facilitate consideration of the Governance and Legal Services Directorate Delivery Plan. Please would you also pass on my thanks to David Marr, Elizabeth Weale and Paul Keeping for answering Members' questions. The Members have asked that I draw your attention to the following points.

The Committee recognises that this Directorate faces many external corporate policy challenges, one of which is compliance with the new Welsh Language Standards. Members wish to stress that they have full confidence in the work of Bi-lingual Cardiff, the aspirations and actions proposed to facilitate compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and the act. However they are seeking reassurance as to how well the Council is set up to deal with the new Welsh Language standards. The Committee's real concern is a lack of evidence of corporate ownership of the requirements of the new Welsh Language Standards, and whilst they note your explanation that the Senior Management Team discusses the responsibility regularly and Directors are answerable, they will continue to monitor corporate ownership at a senior management level in light of the £5,000 fine per transgression.

Members acknowledge that benchmarking is central to the scrutiny service but in view of the action to report quarterly progress feel it would be beneficial to encourage benchmarking discussion across all service teams.

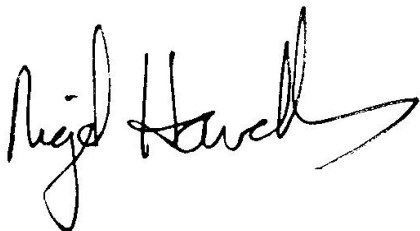
Lastly, the Committee feels the performance measurement for Scrutiny (DS03) is rather odd, and although it may be considered an indicator of corporate health, Members consider that the achievement of targets set for this indicator is not within Scrutiny's control. The Committee notes there will be a natural shift towards greater self evaluation with the advent of Personal Development Reviews for each of the five Scrutiny Chairs, and therefore they wish to suggest that this performance indicator for scrutiny is re-visited, and in future explores the possibility of measurement of scrutiny impact by monitoring the application of scrutiny recommendations.

*To recap, the Committee will monitor:*

- Corporate ownership of the Welsh Language Standards;
- Benchmarking activity within the Governance & Legal Services Directorate;
- Future re –consideration of the scrutiny Performance Indicator.

Once again, thank you for your time, and for allowing the Committee to offer its observations on the Directorate's Delivery Plan. I look forward to a response.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS  
CHAIR, POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee;  
David Marr, Interim Monitoring Officer  
Elizabeth Weale, Legal Manager  
Paul Keeping, Operational Manager, Scrutiny & Equality Manager;  
Christine Salter, Corporate Director Resources;  
Gareth Newell, Head of Cabinet Office;  
Cheryl Cornelius, Cabinet Support Manager.