

POLICY REVIEW & PERFORMANCE PAGE - Draft copy for Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Our Membership – photos to be sourced from library.

Councillor Joel Williams (Chair) Councillors Mike Ash-Edwards, Jasmin Choudhury, Grace Ferguson-Thorne, Jane Henshaw, Garry Hunt, Ed Stubbs, Leonora Thomson, Daniel Waldron.

Our Purpose

- We assist the Council in creating solid foundations to deliver services successfully. With the customer in mind, we act as a critical friend, challenging the back-office support services on which frontline services depend, seeking assurance that the Council is using its finances, property, digital and staff resources to deliver the best possible services.
- Our aim is to maximise customer experience by scrutinising policies, plans and programmes. We are looking for good performance against the priorities and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- We report our findings to the Cabinet by making recommendations we consider would enhance Council performance and the effectiveness of its policies.

Our Achievements

- Continuing our focus on the **financial resilience** of the Council, we have allocated time to the Council's *financial strategy* for dealing with the challenges ahead, to the proposals for the 2023/24 budget, and to *monitoring the budget* at the Outturn 2021/22 and months 4 and 6 2022/23. This year we have scrutinised in greater depth the *Capital Programme* for 2022/23, given our stakeholder view on the *Budget Consultation* and endorsed the Council's new *Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy*.
- The work and influence of the Committee in **Performance Monitoring** has continued to grow, formally challenging Council performance at the end of year 2021/22 and mid-year 2022/23. The Scrutiny Performance Panel gained a more independent standing in 2022, whilst continuing to report its recommendations on performance to this Committee. In a spirit of open informal engagement all five Chairs of Scrutiny engaged with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance in performance related discussion centred on the Council's highest strategic document, the **Corporate Plan 2023-26**. Our focus, with citizen service in mind, is on target setting.

- Our statutory responsibility for scrutiny of the **Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB)** resulted in commending its work and recommending that the culture and successes of all PSB's are celebrated by Welsh Government and the Future Generations Commissioner and, where good practice is in clear evidence, it is shared across Wales.
- We have focussed on topical issues, commending the Council's response to the **Race Equality Taskforce** setting out progress made and proposing actions for each of the Taskforce recommendations. We examined whether our **Communications and External Relations** service is equipped to support the important role it plays in the organisation's reputation and public profile, establishing that the role of scrutiny committees is of genuine interest to the Council's customers and stakeholders. As such we can play our part in improving public engagement with assistance from the communications service. We have also scrutinised the **Annual Property Plan 2022-23** and look forward to engaging with Cabinet's proposals to rationalise the estate.
- Our inquiry into **Home & Agile Working** in support of the move towards a hybrid working style was warmly received as a reference point for the Council's ongoing policy development work on its **Homeworking Strategy**.
- The Committee discharged a more formal governance role when it scrutinised how the Council should manage its conflict of interests in discharging its role as sole trustee of the **Maindy Park Charitable Trust**, and thereby ensure a lawful and robust decision-making process. We followed up our interest in ensuring good governance with scrutiny of the recommendations of the Maindy Trust Advisory Panel, prior to Cabinet's decision to proceed. Similarly, the Cabinet proposal to seek an alternative operating mechanism for **St David's Hall** was called-in for consideration on the basis of additional information with the announcement of the Financial Settlement for 2023/24.