

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

Date: 20 January 2016

Councillor Phil Bale
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Neuadd y Sir
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Dear Councillor Bale,

**Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee: 12 January 2016
Corporate Plan 2016-18.**

Thank you for your recent attendance at Committee to seek the Committee's views regarding the refreshed Corporate Plan 2016-18. Members were delighted to have an early opportunity to help inform development of the Plan, and have asked me to advise you of their comments and observations.

The Committee feels the draft 2016-18 Corporate Plan is a considerable improvement on last year's Plan, which it was heavily involved in redesigning. As this document is effectively the Council's improvement plan, we look forward to scrutinising the proposed budget 2016/17 that supports it, and will be looking to ensure the budget lines do not dilute the aspirations of the Corporate Plan. Members acknowledge that this is a live document, and are most grateful that you have made it clear that the Committee's observations are welcome.

Members wish to offer the following specific suggestions they feel would strengthen the document:

- Pages 28 and 29 - we suggest ordering 'Commitments' (P28) in line with 'Measures' would improve readability.
- Page 3 Foreword by the Leader. Paragraph 2 '*benefits of a big City, but none of the drawbacks*'. Members would like you to reflect on the use of '*drawbacks*'.

The Committee is concerned that the draft report does not contain benchmarks that will enable it to monitor whether 2015/16 targets have been achieved. They note your reassurance that, as previously requested by this Committee, there will be key

council targets added to the document and additional information in the appendices. They also note your explanation that targets will be set when Quarter 3 results become available. However, additional to this information, they feel a significant improvement to the Plan would be the inclusion of targets and outcomes of the previous, current, and forthcoming years, culminating in a three year trend. They are therefore delighted that you agreed to look into this.

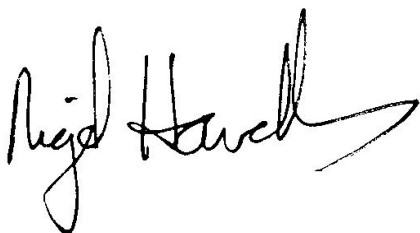
Taking into account the hierarchy of business planning documents, where the *Corporate Plan* is silent on Council specific tasks set out in the overarching *What Matters* partnership strategy, Members are reassured to hear these will be picked up in the relevant *Directorate Delivery Plans*. Members agree that adopting a more focussed Corporate Plan could blot out some aspirations and are pleased to note any gaps are captured in the Core Business section of the Corporate Plan.

To recap, when the final draft Corporate Plan 2016-18 is presented to Committee, we will be looking for:

- Commitments (P28) ordered in line with Measures (P29);
- Reflection on the use of 'drawbacks' in the Leader's foreword on page 3;
- The inclusion of targets and outcomes of the previous, current, and forthcoming years, illustrating a three year trend.

We look forward to the final draft Corporate Plan being made available in time for all Scrutiny Committees to ensure proportionate scrutiny of the Council's key strategic planning document alongside budget proposals. Once again many thanks for your engagement with the Committee on this matter. We will not require a formal response to this letter as a further opportunity to re-consider the final draft Plan alongside the budget proposals is programmed for 17 February 2016.

Yours sincerely,

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

COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
Chair, Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee

cc

Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee;
Paul Orders, Chief Executive;
Gareth Newell, Head of the Cabinet Office;
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Business Manager.