

Date: 25 January 2017

Councillor Phil Bale
Council Leader
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



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

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Dear Councillor Bale,

**Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee: 17 January 2017
Corporate Plan 2017-19**

As Chair of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, I wish to convey the Committee's appreciation that you shared the draft Corporate Plan 2017-19 for policy development Scrutiny at an early stage. There is clearly some way to go, however we value the early opportunity to help inform the refresh. Members have asked me to advise you of their comments and observations to inform development of the final draft, and we look forward to pre-decision consideration on 15 February 2017.

The Committee considers that the golden thread between the Corporate Plan and the forthcoming Well-being Plan needs to be strengthened. Members feel the complexity of ensuring a clear read across all strategic planning documents, from the *Well-being Plan*, through the *Corporate Plan*, to *Directorate Plans* and *Individual Objectives* could be improved. We would like to see the same language used to define Priorities in the forthcoming Well-being Plan as is used in the Corporate Plan. We acknowledge that at this point in the consultation and planning stage of delivering the new requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG) the timing to ensure such strong links is imperfect; given the 2017-19 Corporate Plan is under development prior to the development of Cardiff's Well-being Plan by April 2018. However, the Public Services Board has already identified its outcome priorities for Cardiff (*page 5 Cardiff Liveable City Report 2017*) and these do not clearly align with the Council's four priorities set out in the draft Corporate Plan 2017-19. We urge that you strengthen the links going forward.

Members consider that the Corporate Plan is the most important annual document the Council produces. As such, we feel there is an opportunity to learn from previous Corporate Plans. We are unclear whether an analysis of 'how we did' occurs at the end of the Plan period that could usefully inform future planning. However, we agree that the WFG Act will enable more robust planning and therefore enable you to look back more successfully. We note that you consider the Improvement Plan will

provide much more detail than the Corporate Plan; however, we conclude it is most important to assess Council performance against the Corporate Plan annually.

Given the proximity of the Local Government Elections in May 2017, the Committee feels it will be necessary to ensure that the political ambitions of the Council's next Administration can be reflected in the PSB's Well-being Plan. We note the Chief Executive's view that timescales to ensure this happens are good, with the development of the Well-being Plan over summer, for publication in April 2018.

We look forward to the final draft Corporate Plan being made available in time for all Scrutiny Committees to ensure scrutiny of the Council's key strategic planning document alongside budget proposals early in February. Could I remind you that the papers for the Corporate Plan/Budget 2017/18 are programmed for release from Tuesday 7 February, to comply with the Council's Constitution and give Members time to prepare?

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 15 February 2017.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Howells', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS
Chair, Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee

cc

Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee;
Paul Orders, Chief Executive;
Joseph Reay, Head of Performance and Partnerships;
Dylan Owen, Head of the Cabinet Office;
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance
Clare Deguara, Cabinet Business Manager.
Naomi Evans, PA to Leader