

PERFORMANCE REPORTING - Quarter 1 2012/13

Reason for the Report

1. To provide Members with the Quarter 1 2012/13 report for Council wide performance, and give Members an opportunity to feed into the development of a new performance reporting approach.

Background

2. To inform Scrutiny Members of the Council's performance across all service areas the performance reports prepared for consideration by the Cabinet are routinely included in this Committee's papers as they become available.
3. The Committee last considered performance in July 2012, when Members were advised that in future performance reports will be considered by the Cabinet prior to being made available to Scrutiny Committees for their consideration.

Issues

4. The Committee has frequently highlighted the importance of performance monitoring arrangements, routinely scrutinising the previous exception-based style of performance report on a six monthly basis, and taking the interim quarterly reports for information only. The new Committee has agreed this is an appropriate way forward. Members have also agreed to undertake a task & finish inquiry to examine how the Council's staff performance appraisal mechanism is

aligned to the performance monitoring, reporting and management arrangements.

5. .Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Quarter 1 performance report for 2012/13 considered by Cabinet on 18 October 2012. The content and format of quarterly reports is currently under review, and discussion at the meeting will inform that review.
6. It is understood that in future quarterly performance reports will focus on the delivery of the Administration's priorities as outlined in *Leading Cardiff - Building Communities* and against specific indicators drawn from portfolio responsibilities. Therefore, with effect from Quarter 2, quarterly reports will be prepared on that basis, allowing for trend analysis to be undertaken on an appropriate basket of indicators. Consideration as to the new format for future quarterly reports is underway and in response to the Committee's letter following consideration of Quarter 4 2011/12 performance the Committee has been offered a future discussion of whether the new format meets the requirements of the Committee's needs with regard to the over arching monitoring of the Council's performance.
7. Following scrutiny of performance in July 2012 the Committee offered a view that performance reporting within the current report card approach would have more value if there was clearer trend analysis. Attached at **Appendix 2** are the Committee's letter and the officer response to the Committee's concerns. The Committee therefore welcomed the offer of trend information as to how the picture has changed over a number of years. Additionally the Committee observed an absence of targets, little explanation of how targets were arrived at, and the process by which targets had been validated as appropriately challenging.
8. The Council Leader, Councillor Heather Joyce, and Mike Davies, Head of Scrutiny, Performance and Improvement, have been invited to Committee to brief Members on progress and the future direction of travel for performance monitoring, and to answer Members' questions on quarter 1 2012/13.

Legal Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to

- (i) Note performance in Quarter 1 2012/13,
- (ii) Consider whether it will continue to routinely scrutinise the overarching quarterly corporate reports for all services, and

(iii) Consider its own requirements for monitoring the performance of those services that fall within its own Terms of Reference.

Volunteers

MIKE DAVIES
Head of Scrutiny, Performance & Improvement
17 October 2012