
IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK BRIEFING

Reason for the Report

1. On 3 September 2013, Committee members held an informal work programming session to discuss items for inclusion in the Committee's 2013/14 work programme. At the meeting, Members requested a briefing from officers in order to better understand the Improvement framework within which the Council operates.

Background

2. This Committee's remit provides for it to scrutinise the effectiveness of the implementation of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, including the overall operation of the Cardiff Programme for Improvement. This includes areas such as overall Council corporate planning and performance monitoring, down to the operation of the Council's Personal, Performance and Development Scheme.
3. The Wales Programme for Improvement (WPI) was introduced in 2002. It was designed as a locally-owned approach to improvement, where councils assess and seek to improve the corporate health of the organisation and the performance of services.
4. The WPI underwent significant reform through the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. The Measure aimed to link councils' shorter-term, annual improvement planning (through the WPI) with their longer-term strategic planning.
5. Improvement is concerned with the short term delivery (1-5 years) of services to citizens, communities and customers. It helps to determine the Council's priorities and

plan, monitor, manage and report these activities on an annual basis in order to achieve them. Community planning is concerned with delivery over much longer timescales (10-15 years). It helps local authorities and partners establish a strategic vision for improving local citizen and community wellbeing. It often deals with much longer-term and often much more complex and intractable problems and priorities than the improvement processes.

6. The Local Government (Wales) Measure also requires the Auditor General for Wales to carry out an Improvement Assessment for each improvement authority every year, to determine whether the authority is likely to comply with requirements to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement.

Issues

7. Over the course of the coming year, the Committee will consider many items of direct relevance to the Council's improvement programme, including the Wales Audit Office's Improvement Report and its Corporate Assessment, as well as the Council's Corporate Plan and regular performance monitoring reports. This briefing will give Members a chance to understand the overall framework before it considers these more specific items.

Way forward

8. Mike Davies, Head of Performance and Improvement, and Vivienne Pearson, Operational Manager for Improvement and Information, will be in attendance at the meeting to give the Committee a presentation on the Improvement framework.

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 of 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

This item is for information only.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

County Clerk and Monitoring Officer (Democratic Services)

6 September 2013