

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



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

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

Date: 12 March 2015

Marie Rosenthal
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Marie,

POLICY REVIEW & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 MARCH 2015

Members ask that you pass our best wishes on to Councillor De'Ath and his family, with our hopes for a speedy recovery.

Members thank you and Paul Keeping for attending the above meeting to discuss progress on the Improved Governance - Organisational Development Programme and for preparing the update report on this.

With regard to the 'Improved Decision Making and Ethical Culture' project, Members ask that you pass our sincere thanks and appreciation on to Gill Nurton, Graham Porter and Kate Rees for all their hard work and efforts in ensuring that Modern.Gov is operational and user-friendly. Members believe that e-modernisation is both necessary and helpful in enabling effective local democracy.

Also within this project, Members note there is an action on 'Executive Decision Making and Forward Plan' and wish to highlight to you that the current Forward Plan published on the Council's website runs from October 2014 – March 2015. Members recommend that you investigate the reasons why an updated Forward Plan has not been published and ask that the situation is rectified.

As part of the 'Member Development and Engagement' project, Members recommend that officers look at the work other local authorities have done in using social media and web-based tools to widen participation in Member training, for example Monmouthshire Council's use of YouTube. Members were pleased to note that, in our discussion on this, you stated that this would be an action in next year's programme.

During our discussion on the 'Improving Scrutiny' project, Members were interested to hear that the Welsh Government is currently consulting on their White Paper 'Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People' and that a report is due to be taken to Cabinet on this, detailing the proposed response from Cardiff Council. The deadline for consultation responses is 28 April 2015 and Members would like to know



how the wider member body will be engaged in the process of formulating a response; we would welcome being involved in this process.

To recap, this letter contains the following points and recommendations and requires a response:

- Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to Gill Nurton, Graham Porter and Kate Rees for all their work re Modern.gov.
- Members recommend that you investigate the reasons why an updated Forward Plan has not been published and ask that the situation is rectified.
- Members recommend that officers look at the work of other local authorities regarding the use of social media and web based tools in member training.
- Members would like to know how the wider member body will be engaged in the process of formulating a response to the Welsh Government White Paper 'Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People'.

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: Cllr De'Ath Paul Keeping
 Alison Taylor Jayne Davis