

Date: 28 October 2019



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Councillor Chris Weaver,
Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation & Performance
Cardiff Council,
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Weaver,

Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee: 16 October 2019

Following your attendance at the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, to inform members of the approach and practice being developed for Budget Consultation in 2019/20, members wish to thank you for your time in facilitating the scrutiny. The Committee notes that the prospect of a delayed Local Government Settlement has implications for the consultation. They have asked that, as Chair of the Committee, I relay their comments and observations discussed at the Way Forward to inform its ongoing development.

Timescales for pre-publication scrutiny

Members consider it important they avoid missing the opportunity to add their voices to the development and pre-publication testing of the Budget Consultation, and would like you to engage with the Committee on final draft budget proposals. We appreciate that this presents practical timescale challenges. If you consider that the 13 November meeting may be too early for sight of the proposals and should 11 December prove to be too late for meaningful engagement, then I would request that you forward the draft to the Committee's support officer to circulate for comment. I will then ensure any comments are fed back to inform Cabinet discussions before sign off. I hope you will rethink the potential of bringing this item to the earlier meeting.

Methodological Approach

The Committee was unable to properly review consultation practice in the current year before publication, and we ask that you give committee members an early sight of your proposals for enhancing consultation during 2019-20. We note the mixed methodological approach you are proposing, and your plan to undertake a mid-point review analysis of the survey. Also that you will be analysing responses very closely so that experience informs future consultation.

Developing added value in 2019-20

The Committee considers it important to evaluate and reflect the wider make up of Cardiff's demography. We therefore endorse the importance and value of a qualitative response alongside the quantitative response. We note that as part of your review you have identified priority wards in need of targeted engagement. It is important that both the Ask Cardiff and Child Friendly City consultations deliver results in time to be used to inform the budget. Members feel it is important to define both demographic groups *and* sub-demographic groups, to ensure that all groups, particularly under-represented groups, are accessed.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank you and the officers for your continued support for the internal challenge of important issues, such as the budget consultation.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR DAVID WALKER
CHAIR, POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee;
Chris Lee, Corporate Director Resources
Gareth Newell, Head of Performance & Partnerships
Sian Sanders, Operational Manager, Cohesion & Community Engagement
Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Office Manager
Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Officer