

Invitation to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23 October 2023

Letter sent by the Chair – 14 November 2023

Email response from Samantha Clements, Audit Wales - 21 November 2023

Please find below our response to Cllr. Williams the Chair of your Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

First of all, I would like to apologise for any disappointment caused by my not attending the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee (COSC) on 23rd October 2023.

There seems to have been some confusion about this between ourselves and officers.

We were alerted to the request on 16th October 2023 and unfortunately, we were unable to attend on this occasion.

As you know, this report had been agreed with the Council earlier in the year and we had already presented it to Governance and Audit Committee (GAC) in April.

As with all other public bodies in Wales we have not been immune to difficulties with recruitment and retention and have had capacity issues to manage over the last few years and we tend to factor into our budgeting that we will present our reports once and this is something we have made clear to officers.

This does not have to be at GAC and its up to the Council to determine where this would be of most benefit.

It is positive to hear that the Scrutiny Committee is taking our reports into account in its consideration of the Council's performance management arrangements. If there were any particular queries on the back of this, we would be happy to receive these via email.

Many thanks for alerting us to your concerns.

Kind Regards