

Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 December 2024

Responses to Recommendations / Information requested.

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
Quarter 2 Performance 2024-25			
Recommendations:			
1	<p>The Committee welcomed the commitment from the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and Officers that the number and focus of Wellbeing Objectives would be reviewed and that there would be an exercise to determine the most important Performance Indicators/Commitments, those which should remain and whether any should be removed or amended. The Committee recommended that in order to provide measurable assurances, the narratives contained in the dashboard should provide more detail, including, for example, any specific funding, progress on projects or initiatives.</p>	<p>An exercise is already underway with Cabinet to review the current Corporate Wellbeing objectives and potentially reduce them in number and focus on a smaller amount of prioritised wellbeing objectives and performance indicators, in readiness to present to Council, for approval, a revised Corporate Plan Development Plan for 2025/26. Clearly this exercise is dependent on getting political approval for any revised Council's priorities moving forward and aligning those priorities with the budget and resourcing plans set out in medium term financial strategy. Revised narratives and more measurable performance indicators can then be devised to match those refined and reduced priorities.</p>	Accepted

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2	The Committee recommended that for future in-year Performance Reports, an asterisk or some other marker be added to any Performance Indicator that is identified to be deleted after the annual meeting of full Council.	This will be added for Q3	Accepted
3	The Committee recommended that consideration should be given to the timeliness of scheduling future Performance Reports, highlighting that the Committee was being asked to consider the Authority's Quarter 2 Performance almost at the end of Quarter 3.	Our timelines are in line with other authorities across Wales allowing time for completion of reports at the end of each quarter, development of commentary, data testing and checking and the manual manipulation of data required to provide the analysis COSC require. Unfortunately, therefore, it will be difficult to present completed data and analysis any sooner than is currently the case. However, earlier reporting could be considered if and when the Delivery Plan is significantly reduced in size and/or a new, less manual performance system is in place, as the overall quantum of work will be less.	Partially Accepted

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4	The Committee recommended that following the appointment of a new Chief Executive, their view of how they envisage future Performance reporting, be sought.	The new Chief Executive is unlikely to be in place until at least July pending a full and comprehensive recruitment process. Like all CEO's they will have a view on future performance reporting and their preferences on how this should be done, however, there will also be an opportunity to cover this as part of the recruitment process should that be an area that the elected member appointment panel wish to test and prioritise.	Accepted
5	<p>The Committee considered that the performance of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) represented a corporate risk and recommended the following for future reporting of DFGs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The reporting target show data attributed to legacy cases and data attributed to new applications separately, as well as showing the amalgamated data already contained in performance reports. That the target of 210 days be revisited and consideration given 	<p>This will be reviewed for the 2025/26 CPDP as we are already in Q4 of the current period.</p> <p>PIs, commitments and targets are not changed in year as they are signed off by Cabinet / Council. Instead, we provide commentary to explain underperformance / any major changes.</p>	Accepted

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	to a less aspirational and more achievable and measurable on a quarterly basis.		
6	<p>The Committee recommended that meetings be convened between local Members and specialist Officers, on a 6 or 12 monthly basis, to discuss, understand and feed into major projects and strategies relevant to the area/ward that they represent.</p> <p><u>Further Context:</u> This recommendation was made following discussions regarding Wellbeing Objective 3, a County Borough with thriving valleys communities, and that the Committee were content to start the process involving the 3 valleys and the 13 Councillors that represent those areas.</p>	<p>Noted – Meetings will be scheduled, as appropriate, to engage with local members and discuss Major Projects and Strategies, including the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl Regeneration and the Valleys Regeneration Strategy. These will be area specific and local members who represent those wards will be invited to attend the meetings. These will not however be a substitute for Scrutiny sessions, and these will continue as deemed appropriate.</p>	Accepted
7	<p>The Committee recommended that the recommendations from Practice Reviews (now known as Single Unified Safeguarding Reviews) undertaken by Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding</p>	<p>Noted - The statutory responsibility for the commissioning of SUSRs, and the monitoring of the completion of actions arising from SUSR recommendations, sits with the Cwm Taf</p>	Alternative suggested.

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	Board be included on the Regulatory Tracker which is reported to Governance and Audit Committee for monitoring.	Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board. This is the statutory body to which this responsibility is vested. Recommendations and actions cover a range of statutory bodies including the NHS, police and probation as well as local authorities and all are accountable to the Regional Safeguarding Board for their performance in this area. It is suggested that recommendations and actions from SUSRs which are specific to BCBC are reported to Scrutiny and Cabinet in the annual corporate safeguarding annual report. It is suggested that Governance and Audit Committee receive assurance on the effectiveness of these statutory arrangements through its oversight of governance, risk, and control arrangements.	
Additional Information:			
8	In relation to the retendering exercise being undertaken for the redevelopment of Porthcawl Pavilion, the Committee requested a response from the Corporate Director for Communities and	The retendering of the Grand Pavilion Project was discussed at the COSC meeting. The following answers were given at the meeting and they cover the questions raised by the committee.	Partially Accepted

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	<p>the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) whether the reasons for the unsuccessful first contract have been properly analysed and lessons learned. b) whether the retendering exercise is ongoing and, if so, when is it anticipated it will be complete; and c) whether they are confident that the situation will not arise again. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first tender was unsuccessful, as the submission was above the capped sum, so could not be accepted. Relevant officers, as always, have reflected on the potential reasons why the only submission was above the capped sum and that has informed the retender exercise. 2. The retender exercise is currently live under the SEWSCAP framework and closes on the 23rd of January 2025. 3. We are unable to comment further on this tender and any issues until it is finished, and all bids have been evaluated. At that point there is potential for a further review of the process and to consider what worked well and what (if anything) worked less well. 	
9	The Committee requested an information report detailing the uptake of Flying Start support, the progress of the rollout of the programme to other areas including detail of why they have been chosen and	<p><u>Flying Start Summary (January 2025)</u></p> <p>At the last data capture (October 2025), there were 555 children registered in early years settings</p>	Accepted

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	an update on the current and new settings.	<p>eligible for Flying Start childcare funding in Bridgend.</p> <p>This can be broken down as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Core programme = 2652. Outreach programme = 423. Phase One programme = 364. Phase Two programme = 212 <p>The Phase One expansion took place from September 2022, and the Phase Two expansion commenced from April 2023. A very small expansion of 26 additional places was included in the Phase Two programme from April 2024.</p> <p>In line with Welsh Government expectations, areas with the highest levels of deprivation according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) are prioritised (where childcare spaces are available) and expansion plans are submitted to Welsh Government on this basis.</p> <p>A plan for Phase Three of the expansion was submitted to Welsh Government on 13 December 2024. The plan outlines how the local authority</p>	

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		<p>might secure sufficient childcare to accommodate all remaining two-year-olds and indicative timescales for achieving this.</p> <p>A substantial capital investment programme is required. Welsh Government has not yet responded to the plan and have indicated that funding is not yet guaranteed.</p> <p>An update report will be provided in due course.</p>	
Forward Work Programme Update			
Recommendations			
10	The Committee discussed the Council's response to the recent storm, Darragh, expressing concern about the increasing pattern of storms hitting the UK and recommended that the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 request a report to explore the Council's preparedness to respond to storms and adverse weather, preventative measures against foreseeable damage and the	Accepted – The Councils emergency response to Storm Darragh is being reviewed by Officers on the 8 th of January, and on a multi agency basis later in the month, and a report will be produced which will outline good practice and where there are any lessons to be learnt. This can form the basis of a future Scrutiny Session.	Accepted

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	impact of adverse weather and any fallout (e.g. loss of power) on vulnerable residents The Committee recommended that the report should have invitees from Communities and Social Services.		
11	The Committee expressed grave concerns regarding the performance of Disabled Facilities Grants and considered that it represented a significant corporate risk to the Council. The Committee therefore recommended that Disabled Facilities Grants be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme as soon as possible. The Committee agreed that the scheduling of the Item would be discussed between Scrutiny Chairs with Scrutiny Officers.	Scrutiny team / Scrutiny Chairs will meet to discuss the scheduling to COSC as soon as possible.	Accepted