

Audit Committee

4 November 2016

Finance Scrutiny Panel

Purpose of Report: Progress report

The Panel has met twice in the period since the last Audit Committee.

A self-assessment has been undertaken to measure the effectiveness of the Panel. The Panel has been highlighted externally for its work and it is essential to build on this going forward. The findings of the self-assessment will help inform the Member Development Programme.

Performance management monitoring has been a cause of concern for some time with the Panel and the former Finance and Performance Working Group. Proposals where scrutiny were to be involved in a corporate Performance Management Panel had been suggested. The Panel were disappointed that this did not come to fruition as they believed the draft proposals has been exciting and proactive. The new, agreed arrangements represent little change.

The Panel have been briefed on school pupil projections given the long term variances that have been noted between projections and actual numbers. The Portfolio Holder has been contacted regarding the accuracy of Plasc figures.

A Joint Audit and Adult Social Care Working Group has been established to address an overspend in Adult Social Services. The Panel have been briefed on the findings of a Forensic Accountant. This work will continue over the next few weeks and will include scrutiny of a Recovery Plan once it is available.

At its most recent meeting, the Panel were briefed on the provisional settlement and initial findings of the Actuary's report. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Future meetings will assess service area budgets and efficiency savings from 2017/18 onwards with Portfolio Holders and Strategic Directors.

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Sources: Notes of meetings – 25 July and 20 September 2016

Group Membership: County Councillors J G Morris (Lead Member), K Curry, A W Davies, D E Davies, S C Davies, J Gibson-Watt, D R Jones, M J Jones, D A Thomas and Mr J Brautigam