



Audit Committee

3 November 2017

Finance Scrutiny Panel

Purpose of Report: Progress report

The Finance Scrutiny Panel met on 15 September 2017.

The Panel remain concerned that the current year's budget must be stabilized before a longer budget could be drawn up. It was noted that the Cabinet proposes to move to a 5 year budget but the Panel, to date, had not had an opportunity to scrutinize the budget going forward in light of the 2025 Vision.

The Panel had invited three Portfolio Holders present their budgets to the Panel although by the date of the meeting, only one was available to attend. Whilst recognising that many members of the Cabinet were new to either the Cabinet or the Authority, the Panel were becoming concerned at the lack of fiscal responsibility demonstrated by the Cabinet. Some service areas relied heavily on other services being underspent and this was unacceptable as each service should manage within its budget. The Cabinet had reversed a number of decisions made by the previous Cabinet and it was not clear how these additional costs would be met going forward.

The Joint Chairs and Vice Chairs Steering Group has asked that the Panel scrutinize the Social Services Budget and Savings. Work is already programmed regarding the draft 2018/19 budget.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 27 October and a further, oral update will be given to Audit Committee.

Report contact: Lisa Richards, Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Contact details: lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk, 01597 826371

Background papers: Notes of meeting held on 15 September 2017

Group Membership: County Councillors J G Morris (Lead Member), M Dorrance, J Gibson-Watt, D R Jones, P Roberts, D A Thomas, E Vaughan, A Williams, G Williams and Mr J Brautigam