

Appendix B

Summary of Overview & Scrutiny Committee Observations on the Portfolio Business Plan Efficiency Proposals

Issues which were common to several committees	
Need to maintain strong representations on funding to the Welsh Government (WG)	An assurance was given that the council would continue to lobby the appropriate cabinet Minister
Concern at the potential impact of further savings	Any further cuts are likely to affect service delivery
Concern that the public do not understand the reasons behind the financial pressures and the need for efficiencies	There will be a further public consultation exercise.
Corporate Resources O&SC 16th June 2016	
Will increased collaborative working contribute to the business plan efficiency proposals?	This is the intention: there will be more regional working with greater focus on economic activity. This may be supported by benchmarking with other authorities and common use of software.
There is a need to focus on Legal and Finance where value for money, efficiency and resilience are amber rated.	Acknowledged. Temporary investment is to improve working practices and help deliver necessary efficiencies
Organisational Change O&SC 28th June 2016	
The importance of emphasising the 'underfunded council' arguments, especially apposite for a county of small towns and communities without the economy scale of a single large town.	Acknowledged and welcomed.
The 'back office' functions are essential to sustain the whole of the organisation.	Acknowledged.
Need to maintain impetus with Alternative delivery Models and Community asset transfers in a robust and timely manner.	Acknowledged.
Social & Health O&SC 28th June 2016	
The benefits of early sign-posting where re-ablement is not an option, for example in supporting those with mental health issues.	Acknowledged, with a role for Single Point of Access teams.
The problems of an ageing population with an expected 23% rise over the next four years.	The extra care model is appropriate in caring for and supporting the needs of individuals.

Increased charges form independent fostering and adoption agencies.	The current regional arrangements on fostering and adoption are robust and an all wales approach is to be introduced.
Representations should be made to increase the 'Hospice at Home' initiative	This will be raised with BCUHB.
Education & Youth O&SC 7th July 2016	
Concern that the £14.4M between income and cost pressures could have implications for small schools.	It was confirmed that the current savings do not included further school reorganisation proposals
Community & Enterprise O&SC 13th July 2016	
What cost reducing alternatives have been sought for bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless people?	A change in legislation which will reduce the threshold is expected. Single people are offered alternative provision and there is collaboration with Denbighshire, and further collaboration on larger projects is being considered
The committee accepted the evidence presented that the council cannot go beyond the current business plans without putting services at risk.	Acknowledged.
Environment O&SC 19th July 2016	
The need to maintain services in rural areas where there could be safety issues in not doing	Safety is a priority and specific concerns should be made directly to the appropriate Streetscene supervisors.
Cuts within the portfolio impact on all residents	Acknowledged.
The need for greater clarity on what can be recycled	An education campaign is to take place.
What are the implications for the services within the portfolios if the risk levels move from amber to red?	The amber risks support the case to WG for a national debate on funding.
Do the 2017/18 efficiencies meet the 30% target?	The efficiencies for Planning & Environment are 27.6% of budget, extending to 30% over three years, with those for Streetscene & Transportation as a whole being 34%.

