

MEETING	Cabinet
DATE	13 September 2016
TITLE	Planning and Regulatory Cabinet Member Performance Report
PURPOSE	Receive and note the information in the report
AUTHOR	Councillor Dafydd Meurig
CONTACT OFFICER	Dilwyn Williams, Chief Executive

1.0 BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on where we have reached in terms of realising the promises of the Strategic Plan; where the performance measures have reached and provide an update on savings schemes.

The only promises which are relevant to the Strategic Plan are the savings schemes and an update on these is provided in part 2.

In addition, I have referred to the situation with performance measures in part 3 within the Regulatory Department.

2.0 EFFICIENCY SAVINGS

Regulatory Department

Although the picture as a whole is promising with 59% of 2016/17 Efficiency savings realised together with 79% of the year's cuts, concerns are noted in relation to the ability to realise several schemes in accordance with what had been anticipated. However, at present, there is only one scheme (Rh21 - Countryside and Access collaboration (Gwynedd and the National Park) in 2017/18 (£35,000)) which we have recognised that will not be realised.

As previously noted, the Department has been working on alternative schemes in order to try to address the matters highlighted above and these were scrutinised by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 16 June. The schemes were approved by the Cabinet on the 12 July.

There are schemes within the cuts to close the Frondeg, Pwllheli building and the Beach Road, Felinheli building. Although discussions with the users of Frondeg are moving ahead better than expected problems have arisen with the Beach Road Building and closure is not expected to bring about the anticipated saving.

However, an opportunity has been identified to let a space within the Penrallt offices which would deliver the saving in question. I will submit a report to the Cabinet regarding the intention to realise the sum by letting Penrallt and not close Beach Road, for approval in September.

3.0 MEASURES

I have some concerns that several of the measures do not convey what the residents of Gwynedd need and consequently I have asked Managers within the Department to review their measures in order to try and ensure that they measure the issues that are important to the residents. I am also uncertain about whether we need to report on as many measures as reported on currently and I will be looking at this by the next reporting cycle.

A full list of the performance measures can be seen in **Appendix 1**; however, the main messages as well as any responses to action points from the last performance report are noted below:

PLA/004b Lleol - Percentage of all other planning applications determined within 56 days and how quickly they are determined on average.

It was noted that the performance continued to improve with 90.12% of applications determined within 56 days (8 weeks) during April and May compared with 72.86% during 2013-14. This means that, during April and May, a decision was reached on 146 of the 162 applications within 56 days or 8 weeks with the average time taken to reach a decision being 36 days. The average time for reaching a decision on all applications has reduced to 51 days compared with 60 days in 2015/16.

Cludiant02 - Percentage of customers stating that they are satisfied with the level of service

I have asked the Service to look at this measure to measure the services that are commissioned by the Council only as it is only these that we can influence. I will also discuss how to ensure that the companies in question are aware of the need to place the people of Gwynedd at the centre by the next performance meeting in September.

4.0 Recommendation

Accept and note the information in this report.

Views of Statutory Officers

The Chief Executive:

Clearly, we need to keep a focus on realising the promises of the Strategic Plan for savings and where the actual plan cannot be realised, that an alternative will be offered in place.

The Monitoring Officer:

No comments regarding propriety

The Head of Finance Department:

In line with what was discussed at the last meeting of the Cabinet, there are various reasons why some of the Regulatory Departments original savings plans had been

realised, but I understand that the Department is developing alternative savings worth £ 278,440. It was stated on 12 July that a further report will be presented to the Cabinet before April 2017 in order to approve the details of those plans.