



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Programme Committee

At: Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

On: Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Peter Black CBE

Membership:

Councillors: E W Fitzgerald, R Fogarty, T J Hennegan, V A Holland, M Jones, H Lawson, W G Lewis, P N May, F D O'Brien, S Pritchard, M S Tribe and T M White

Statutory Co-opted Members: Beth Allender and Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley, P R Hood-Williams, S M Jones and L R Jones

Watch Online: <http://bit.ly/3gFK3Am>

Webcasting: This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to be filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and / or training purposes.

Agenda

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1 **Apologies for Absence.**

2 **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.**

www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests

3 **Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.**

4 **Minutes.**

To approve and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.

1 - 5

5 **Public Question Time.**

Questions can be submitted in writing to Democratic Services democracy@swansea.gov.uk up until noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Written questions take precedence. Public may attend and ask questions in person if time allows. Questions must relate to

items on the open part of the agenda and will be dealt within a 10 minute period.

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, 17 January 2023 at 4.00 pm



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday, 6 December 2022

Contact: Democratic Services - Tel (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 15 November 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
H Lawson
F D O'Brien
T M White

Councillor(s)

R Fogarty
W G Lewis
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)

M Jones
P N May
M S Tribe

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

C A Holley	S M Jones
P R Hood-Williams	L R Jones

Officer(s)

Jeremy Davies	Group Leader Parks and Cleansing
Rachael Davies	Head of HR & Service Centre
Chris Howell	Head of Waste, Parks and Cleansing
David Howes	Director of Social Services
Simon Jones	Social Services Strategy and Performance Improvement Officer
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Samantha Woon	Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s):

Statutory Co-opted Member(s): Beth Allender

Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance

11 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interest were declared:

Councillor Matthew Jones – Personal – Minute No. 15 – Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities: Fly Tipping – Councillor Cyril Anderson, Cabinet Member for Community (Services).

12 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

13 Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 18 October, 2022, be signed and approved as a correct record.

14 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

15 Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities: Fly Tipping - Councillor Cyril Anderson, Cabinet Member for Community (Services).

The Cabinet Member for Community (Services) introduced his report and asked the Head of Service for Waste, Parks and Cleansing to provide an overview of the Council's duties and current procedures to deal with Fly Tipping .

The Head of Service Waste, Parks and Cleansing, accompanied by the Waste Enforcement Team Leader and Group Leader Parks and Cleansing provided background regarding legal responsibilities, and details regarding activities and action taken. He referred to monitoring, clearance, and preventative measures (the 3 E's, Education, Engagement and Enforcement) and enforcement data. He detailed the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) issued last year and Committee Members noted that there had been a further 20 FPN's issued during that period.

Committee questioning and discussion focussed on the following:

- Consistency around the approach to the management of Fly Tipping across the City and County over the last 12 months.
- Proposed changes to current Fly Tipping legislation/procedure creating a 'lighter touch' for managing indiscretions, as an alternative to prosecution.
- The success of the preventative work resulting in a low level of Fly Tipping prosecutions.
- The nature and levels of prosecutions in the last year.
- Numbers of Officers with delegated powers to issue FPN's.
- Challenges associated with monitoring complaints associated with dog fouling/littering.
- Fly Tipping hot spots/differences in the nature of Fly Tipping in urban and rural areas.
- Costs/Income associated with the management of Fly Tipping and disposal of commercial waste.

- Whether incidences of Fly Tipping can be linked to the proximity of existing civic amenity sites where, e.g., the local site does not take certain waste/recycling materials.
- The success of the booking system at the Llansamlet Bailing Plant.
- Work with traders / businesses around waste collection processes to avoid fly tipping issues; Preventative measures and multi-agency working in the City Centre and surrounding areas.
- Roles and responsibilities of the Cleansing Ward Operative Team/Fly Tipping Teams.
- The use of other agencies for the specialist removal of Fly Tipping.
- Development of ICT to provide meaningful monitoring information to Members following requests for service.
- The challenges associated issuing FPN's in relation to dog fouling.
- Covert/overt surveillance costs / benefits and associated issues.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Community (Services) and Officers for their input.

Resolved that the Chair write to the Cabinet Member for Community (Services) reflecting discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

16 Annual Report - Corporate Safeguarding 2021/22

The Cabinet Member for Care Services, accompanied by the Director of Social Services and Social Services Strategy & Performance Improvement Officer attended to present the report.

The Cabinet Member for Care Services referred to the latest Annual Report (Corporate Safeguarding 2021/22) and highlighted the role of the Corporate Safeguarding Group which leads on development of corporate safeguarding policy and monitoring of policy implementation, and developments and achievements against the 7 key areas of activity. She referred to:

- Covid response
- Corporate Safeguarding Policy
- A positive internal audit report on corporate safeguarding 2022/23 and feedback from Estyn review on Council's Education Services
- The Self-Assessment exercise/work programme,
- Issues arising from previous year (which included mandatory training compliance, disclosure and barring service, contracting and procurement, safeguarding leadership), and
- The work programme for the year ahead.

Committee questioning and discussion focussed on the following:

- Progress and monitoring in respect of contractors and suppliers' compliance with Swansea Council Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

- The challenges associated with reporting mandatory training compliance by staff. However, it was noted that the introduction of Oracle Fusion would alleviate these issues.
- Issues in relation to the processing of DBS checks and clarity around requirement criteria.
- Improvements to the Council's advocacy offer to vulnerable children, adults and their families. The Committee noted difficulties in developing an Adult Advocacy Service and the potential opportunities provided by co-production.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Care Services and Officers.

Resolved that the Chair write to the Cabinet Member for Care Services reflecting discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

17 Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group - Workforce.

The Head of HR and Service Centre provided an update on workforce matters since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Working Group – Workforce in February 2022. She referred to key developments including recent agreement by Cabinet of a Post Pandemic Working Model (and 7 agreed principles), and Workforce Strategy 2022-27. The latest position was also provided on wellbeing and sickness absence, agency workers, HR and Service Centre operations, Headcount/FTE and Occupational Health Data.

Committee questioning and discussion focussed on the following:

- Procedures in relation to wellbeing and staff sickness, for example phased return to work for those coming off long term sickness.
- Mental health support / management of issues and the availability of training.
- The benefits of the introduction of the Oracle Fusion system in providing 'live' HR & OD reporting on a day to day basis.

The Chair thanked the Head of HR and Service Centre for her informative report, following up on the Scrutiny Working Group.

Resolved that the Chair write to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance reflecting the discussion and outlining the views of the Committee.

18 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

Further to written report, some changes were verbally reported for agreement:

- Service Improvement & Finance Panel – Add Cllrs Rebecca Fogarty, Dai Jenkins, and Matthew Jones.

The Committee noted that the Adult Services Performance Panel has agreed to renew its co-option of Mr. Tony Beddow.

Resolved that the membership of the Panels and Working Groups as reported, be agreed.

19 Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Chair presented the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.

As per Committee work plan, the main items scheduled for the next meeting on 13 December is:

- Homelessness (Cabinet Member for Service Transformation)
- Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty (Leader and Cabinet Member for Wellbeing)

It was also noted that a Cabinet decision on the Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry final report was made on 20 October, agreeing all 14 Panel recommendations. The Panel will reconvene in 9-12 months to follow up on the implementation of their recommendation and assess the impact of the inquiry.

20 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair presented a report on 'Scrutiny Letters' for information. It was highlighted from the Scrutiny Letter relating to the Committee's Pre-Decision Scrutiny on the Oracle system that a further report was expected following implementation of the system (after April 2023) to provide the Committee with clarity on total project cost.

21 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.

The Chair referred to the date and time of upcoming Scrutiny Panel/Working Group Meetings, for information.

The meeting ended at 5.32 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 December 2022

Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities

Purpose:	To enable the Committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore Cabinet Members' priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to specific areas of responsibility.
Content:	<p>The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee:</p> <p>a) Councillor Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</p> <p>The specific areas of responsibility being discussed are:</p> <p>a) Homelessness</p>
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the relevant Cabinet Member on the specific portfolio responsibilities• Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas
Access to Services Officer	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the Council's Cabinet to account. The Cabinet (also known as the Executive) is made up of the Leader and other councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific portfolio responsibilities.

1.2 There are 10 Cabinet portfolios:

	Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member
1	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader of the Council)	Cllr Rob Stewart
2	Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cllr Andrea Lewis
3	Corporate Services & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cllr David Hopkins
4	Education & Learning	Cllr Robert Smith
5	Care Services	Cllr Louise Gibbard
6	Wellbeing	Cllr Alyson Pugh
7	Environment & Infrastructure	Cllr Andrew Stevens
8	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
9	Equalities & Culture	Cllr Elliott King
10	Community (Services) Community (Support)	Cllr Cyril Anderson Cllr Hayley Gwilliam

NOTE:

- The Community Portfolio operates under a job-sharing arrangement
- Detailed breakdown of Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities are **attached** to this report.

- 1.3 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members on their actions and performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.
- 1.4 Rather than a look at overall responsibilities, the Committee has agreed to focus on specific areas of interest / concern, taking into account any gaps in the overall scrutiny work programme and ensuring good coverage of scrutiny across all cabinet portfolios.
- 1.5 The Committee should be mindful to avoid duplication of any issue(s) which are being examined elsewhere in the Scrutiny Work Programme e.g., within Performance Panels.

2. Discussion on Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities

- 2.1 The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee:
- a) Councillor Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Service Transformation
- 2.2 The Cabinet portfolio responsibilities that the Committee will focus on are:
- a) Homelessness

- 2.3 The Cabinet Member, will attend, along with lead officers who can assist the Committee, to report on aims / objectives, plans, and the delivery of work related to this portfolio responsibility and objectives. Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee.
- 2.4 The Cabinet Member has provided a report on the portfolio responsibility under discussion to help the Committee focus the discussion and questions - see **Appendix 2**.

3. Approach to Questions

- 3.1 The session should provide Committee members with a greater understanding of what the specific responsibilities entail, resources, priorities/objectives/commitments, key activities & headlines/achievements, performance measures, and overall assessment of service health (including, for example, how we compare with others, challenges / risks) and improvement/impact/difference made. This will give the Committee the chance to ask focused questions and provide challenge on actions and performance in relation to these areas of responsibility, as well as future thinking.
- 3.2 During 2018, the work of a Homelessness Scrutiny Working Group and meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Committee contributed to the development of the Council's four-year Homelessness Strategy. The Committee met in April 2021 to see how the new Strategy, adopted by Cabinet in November 2018, has delivered improvement to services, advice and support, both in preventing homelessness and dealing with it where it exists. The Committee recognised the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on homelessness in Swansea. At the Strategy's mid-point of implementation, the Committee gave views on the impact and difference made, and achievements against objectives and specific planned actions. The Committee letter sent following that meeting in April 2021 and the response that was provided is **attached**.
- 3.3 Councillors will be interested in how homelessness is being managed as we emerge from the pandemic and the support that is provided, what has changed over the last 18 months in that regard, current performance and trends (relevant data/statistics), notable practice and outcomes, current pressures / challenges / risks, the overall assessment of things and outlook.
- 3.4 In terms of themes that cut across all cabinet portfolios, the Committee can ask Cabinet Members about:
- Well-being of Future Generations Act – impact on their work / decisions e.g., what they are doing to achieve the well-being goals and ways of working, e.g., focus on long-term thinking, collaboration / involvement etc. (including regional / collaborative working, service user / public engagement)

- Links to poverty reduction, reducing inequalities, including socio-economic disadvantage
- Links to the Council's Recovery and Transformation Plan, 'Swansea Achieving Better Together'
- Links to the Public Services Board (PSB)

3.5 Links to Policy Commitments 2022-2027:

- Swansea Council will offer immediate support for people who become homeless and a commitment to shorter housing waiting lists.
- 100 days target: We are committed to agreeing a strategy to support homeless individuals as the Covid hotel use ends, whilst we will strive to continue our 'always a bed' pledge.

3.6 The Committee also invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions that the Committee should ask. It is up to the Committee how to deal with any suggested questions within the session.

3.7 Following each session the Chair will write to Cabinet Members in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for them to consider.

3.8 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during the session, then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

3.9 The Committee should note that Councillor Andrea Lewis has already been engaged in scrutiny, or is planned, of the following other matters:

- Public Services Board (Scrutiny Programme Committee)
- Welsh Housing Quality Standard Programme (Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel)
- Climate Change Action Plan & Nature Recovery (Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel)
- Green Vehicle Adoption (Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel)
- Public / Residential Electric Vehicle Charging (Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel)
- Anti-Social Behaviour Inquiry
- Sustainable Swansea Programme Review (Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel)
- Crime & Disorder (Community Safety) (Scrutiny Programme Committee)
- Customer Contact Working Group
- South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (representative for regional Energy)

4. Next Session

- 4.1 The next scheduled Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities, will be a Q & A session with the Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy, Councillor Rob Stewart. This is being arranged for the Committee meeting on 17 January 2023. The Committee should identify in advance any key issues that it may wish to explore so that these can be reported on and responded to. Although an overall look at his responsibilities and achievements, the Committee should consider those issues where focus will allow a more in-depth discussion. The Committee could focus on the achievement against specific Policy Commitments / Council Priorities, and the Council's Recovery & Transformation Plan, and of course managing the Council's budget. Committee Members should raise specific questions in advance to aid planning and preparation for the meeting.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 5.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 5.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5.2 An IIA screening has been undertaken noting there are minimal impact assessment implications associated with this report (IIA can be viewed in **Appendix 1**). The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The public were invited to contribute to the session. The work of Scrutiny will involve examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers). Scrutiny activities have the potential for engagement to ensure public views can feed into the Scrutiny process.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: IIA Screening

Appendix 2: Cabinet Member Report – Homelessness

Appendix 3 – Committee Letter & Response – Scrutiny of Homelessness Strategy (April 2021)

Appendix 4: Cabinet Portfolio Responsibility Listing

Appendix 1 - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence

Directorate: Resources

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Information report on the Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities to guide the Committee.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix 1 - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The public were invited to contribute to the session.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No If yes, please provide details below

The work of Scrutiny will involve examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers).

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

Low impact because there are no decisions within the information report which will directly affect service users, people and/or communities, but scrutiny activities have the potential for engagement to ensure public views can feed into the Scrutiny process.

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)
- Summary of involvement (Q3)
- WFG considerations (Q4)
- Any risks identified (Q5)

Appendix 1 - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

There are minimal impact assessment implications associated with this report. The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The public were invited to contribute to the session. The work of Scrutiny will involve examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers). Scrutiny activities have the potential for engagement to ensure public views can feed into the Scrutiny process.

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

Screening completed by:
Name: Brij Madahar
Job title: Scrutiny Team Leader
Date: 5 December 2022
Approval for Head of Service:
Name: Debbie Smith
Position: Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Date: 6 December 2022



Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13th December 2022

Homelessness Progress Report

Purpose	To brief/update the Scrutiny Committee on current homelessness pressures and how these pressures are being tackled.
Content	The report sets out how the Council is tackling homelessness, and what the key priorities and objectives are through the introduction of the Housing Support Programme Strategy. The report also provides an update on what impact the pandemic has had on homelessness and the current challenges that are currently being faced.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the information provided and give views.
Lead Councillor	Councillor Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Service Transformation.
Lead Officer Report Author	Steve Porter Operations Manager for Community Housing ☎ 07976 201446 ✉ steve.porter@abertawe.gov.uk
Legal Officer	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer	Aimee Dyer
Access to Services Officer	Rhian Miller

1. Background

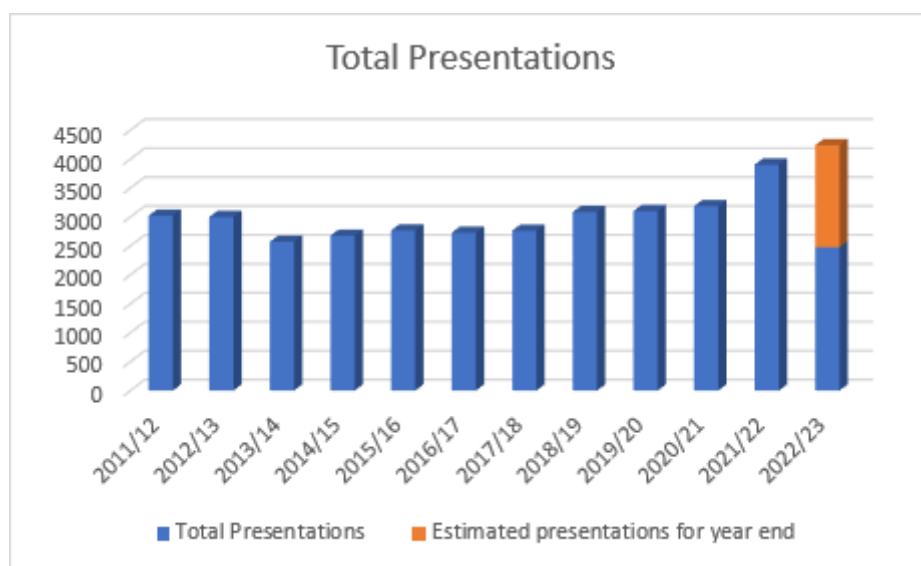
- 1.1 Since the pandemic, Homelessness in Swansea and across Wales has faced huge challenges. This report reflects on what impact the COVID19 pandemic has had on homelessness in Swansea and how this is continuing to create challenges going forward. The report looks at some of the reasons for homelessness and how the levels of demand have increased, particularly around the need for temporary accommodation through the Welsh Government's 'no-one left out approach'.

- 1.2 In April 2022, all Local Authorities in Wales were required to have a Housing Support Programme Strategy in place. The Housing Support Programme Strategy is a 4 year plan which sets out how Swansea is going to prevent homelessness and protect the most vulnerable people in the city. The report looks at the Strategy and Action Plan in more detail, in particular what the priorities are for the City in tackling homelessness over the next 4 years and beyond.
- 1.3 The Report also looks at some of the other challenges around key issues such as the shortage of properties within the private rented sector, the cost of living crisis and the impact of the Ukrainian Conflict.

2. Levels and Causes of Homelessness

2.1 The following section gives an overview of homelessness in the city. It should be noted that following the first lockdown on 23rd March 2020 this had far reaching effects on homelessness. At that time the Welsh Government took a ‘no-one left out approach’ which meant that the priority need test for homelessness was suspended. As we move out of the pandemic, whilst the priority need test is now starting to be applied again, there is an expectation for Local Authorities across Wales to continue to support those currently in temporary accommodation until they are able to secure long term settled accommodation. There has also been a recent amendment to the priority need test (Nov 22) to include those who are at threat of sleeping rough.

2.2 Total number of homeless presentations.



The above graph clearly illustrates that the number of people presenting as homeless is continuing to rise. In 2021/22, there were over 3,500 presentations compared to under 3,000 10 years previously in 2011/12. Even greater concern is that in the present year if the numbers continue to grow at the same rate there is likely to be well over 4,000 presentations. There is no evidence to suggest that the numbers are likely to subside.

2.3 Causes of Homelessness

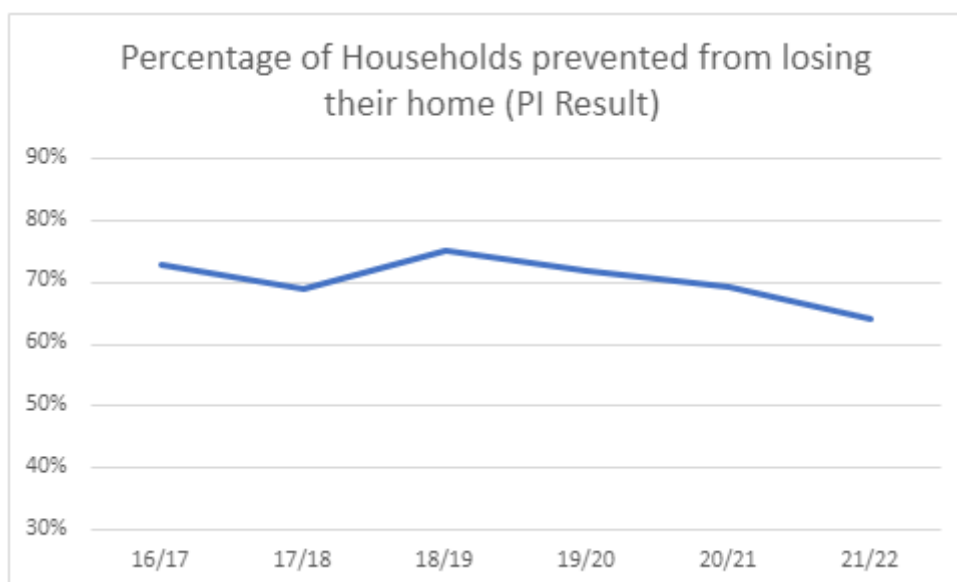
The reasons for homelessness have remained fairly constant and the main reasons why people are homeless are as follows;

- Relationship breakdown with family;
- Relationship breakdown with partner (both violent and non-violent);
- Loss of private rented accommodation;
- Leaving prison.

There are 2 main causes of homelessness that have led to the rise in presentations. Firstly, there have been large increases in homelessness due to parents or friends/other relatives no longer being willing to accommodate during the pandemic – which is reflective of the family pressures that increased and tighter restrictions on households mixing which meant that informal arrangements could not continue.

Secondly, there has been a sharp rise in the number of people being asked to leave private rented accommodation. Between Apr 21 – Sept 21 and Apr 22 – Sept 22, there has been a 75% increase in the number of households presenting as a result of notices to quit. A recent survey carried out in Wales does show that a significant number of landlords are nervous about the introduction of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, other reasons given included the impact of the pandemic where it has been difficult to evict unsuitable tenants and a number of landlords selling their properties due to the buoyant property market.

2.4 Total Number of Preventions

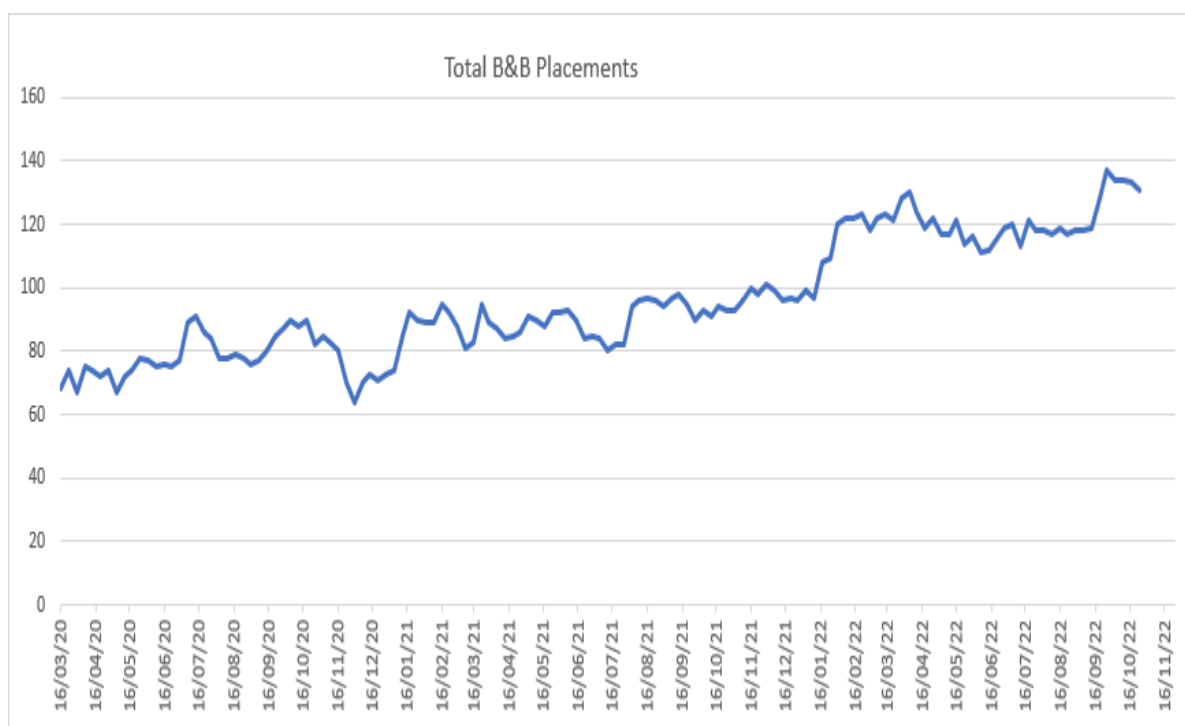


The graph above shows that preventing homelessness has become more difficult in the last 3 years. Again, the pandemic had a huge impact on the ability to prevent homelessness. There are more people presenting to us in crisis situations, lessening the options for early prevention. This is coupled with a reduction in the number of affordable properties to move-on to.

In the private rented sector less properties are becoming available, and those that are available have rents are simply too high for many households. In some areas in Swansea rents are being charged at double the current Local Housing Allowance rates.

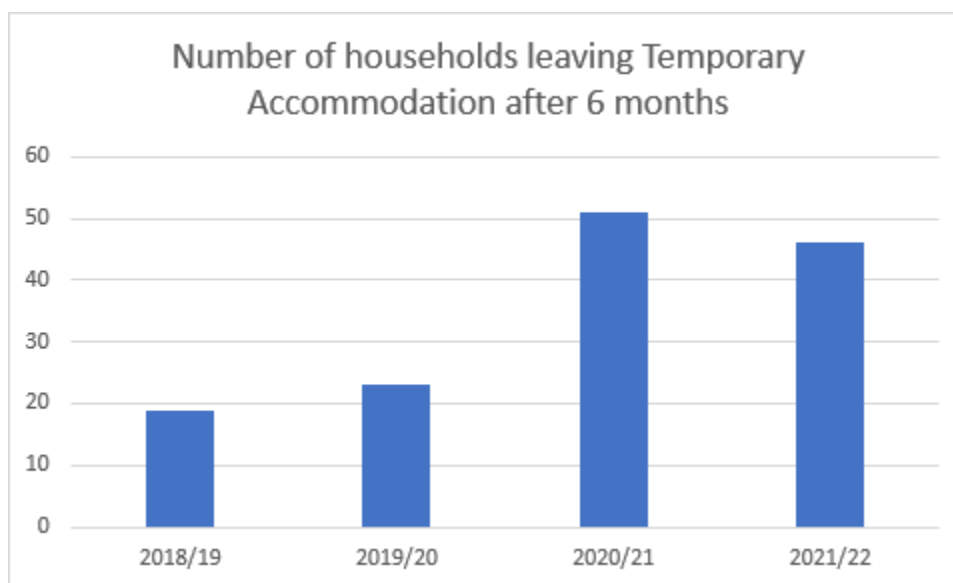
2.5 Numbers of households in temporary accommodation.

The Council offers a wide range of temporary accommodation, to support both families and single persons. There are currently unprecedented levels of households in temporary accommodation. For the first time there are over 200 households currently living in temporary accommodation. This is made up of approximately 15% families and 85% single persons. The biggest increase has been in the rise in the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation (B&B).



This is one of the most concerning pieces of data and is the best example of how the pandemic and the suspension of priority need has placed enormous pressure on temporary accommodation. In 2019/20 i.e. the year preceding the pandemic the average numbers in B&B were 30 households per night. This rose to 70 at the start of the pandemic, and the current levels are at around 130 households. It is important to note that the majority of households placed are single persons, although more recently there are more families having to be placed in B&B for short periods of time.

2.6 Length of time in temporary Accommodation



The graph indicates that since the pandemic people spend much longer periods of time in temporary accommodation. Since 18/19 more than twice as many people have been occupying temporary accommodation for longer than 6 months. Once again this is down to the sheer volume of people becoming homeless, coupled with the lack on move-on options. It should also be noted that there are a number of challenges with those individuals who have specific support needs and may need more specialist accommodation.

2.7 Families in B&B Accommodation

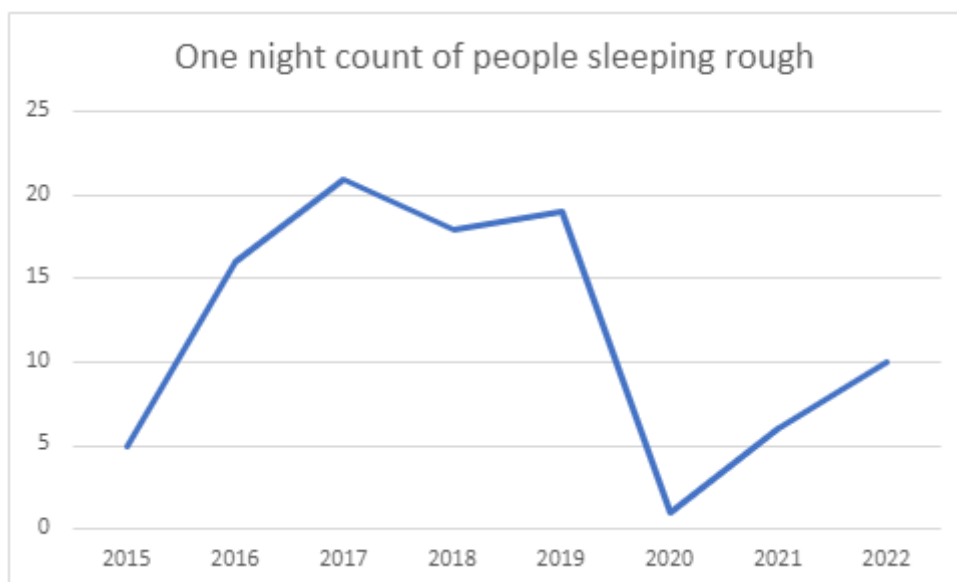
There are various types of family sized temporary accommodation which helps to avoid the need for B&B for families. However, in order to meet our statutory duty a placement in this type of accommodation can sometimes be the only option.

In 2016/2017, a total of 8 families were placed in B&B and these families were there for an average of 4 days. However, in 2021/2022 13 families were placed in B&B at an average of 10 days. This trend is continuing to rise despite increasing the number of family sized temporary accommodation units in the last 2 years.

In summary, more families are having had to be placed into B&B and those families are spending a longer period of time in this form of accommodation. This can be attributed to an increase in presentations, the lack of move-in options and external factors such as the Ukrainian conflict.

2.8 Rough Sleeping Data

The graph below shows a snapshot of the number of people sleeping rough on the one night count in November over the last 8 years.



The graph shows the dramatic reduction in the numbers of people sleeping rough at the start of the pandemic, due to the 'no-one left out approach'. However, it is also noticeable that there has been a steady increase in those numbers in the last 2 years. Currently the nightly average of people sleeping rough is 9, so approximately half of the rough sleeper numbers between 2017 – 2019.

Tackling rough sleeping is a key priority for the Council and therefore a considerable amount of data is held in relation to this issue. It is interesting to note that a number of people that are currently sleeping rough do have a tenancy they could return to, it is also worth noting that in recent years a relatively high number of those sleeping rough have come from out of the area. These cases can be difficult to deal with as there are often limited solutions.

Clearly this is a complex area, particularly as a number of those rough sleeping will have spent time in temporary or supported accommodation. In addition, some will be experiencing issues around substance use and co-occurring mental health issues and therefore the role of the Rough Sleeper Intervention Team is vital. This is a very responsive service that operates 7 days a week and plays a major role in offering support and moving people on to more suitable accommodation as quickly as possible.

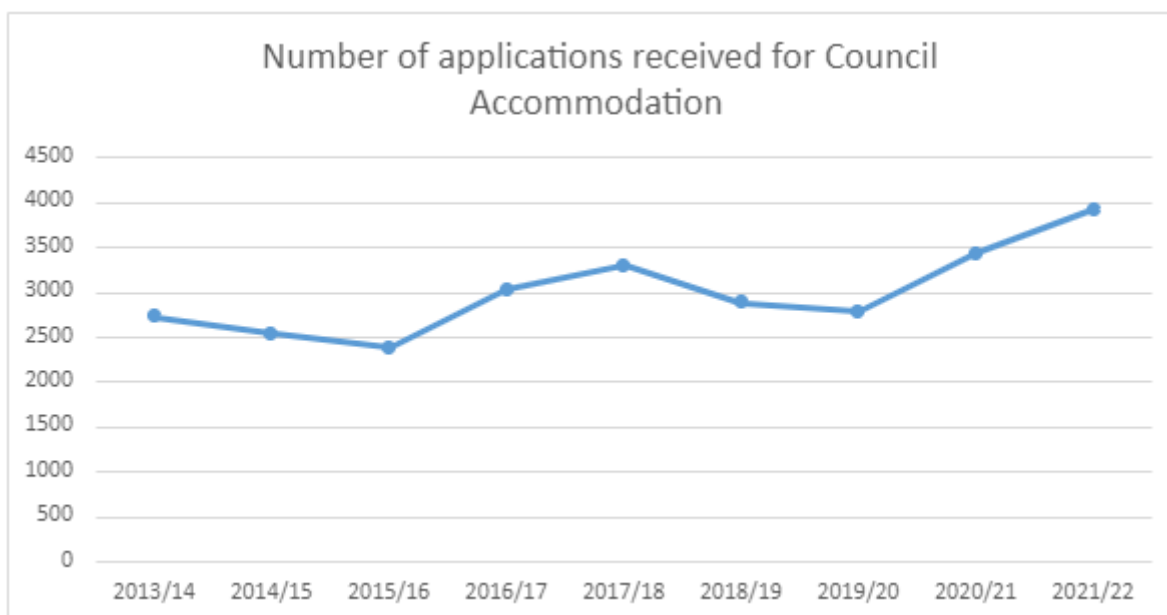
2.9 Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Swansea, like the other dispersal areas in Wales, are seeing growing pressures with the numbers of refugees that require assistance through each of the different Schemes. The Ukrainian crisis has added more pressure to the system.

Collectively with the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Welsh Government Super Sponsor Scheme approximately 250 Ukrainian Households are being supported. These households are either in hotel accommodation, living with sponsors or have recently found their own accommodation. It is difficult to predict how many of these households will need resettling in Swansea there

are already a number of households needing to move on from their sponsored accommodation.

2.10 Demand for council housing



The above graph shows that demand for social housing is increasing with a 44% increase in waiting list applications between 2013/14 and 2021/22. More recently, a further spike in demand has occurred and the Council is likely to receive over 4,000 applications this year. The largest demand is for one bed accommodation.

2.11 Summary of Key Trends

- Swansea is currently experiencing the highest number of homelessness presentations and this is not expected to decrease in the short to medium term.
- Demand for social housing has rapidly increased since March 2016.
- Preventing homelessness is becoming more difficult at present due to a lack of permanent accommodation.
- The number of households in temporary accommodation is at the highest level on record.
- People are in temporary accommodation for longer with fewer options to move on.
- The private rented sector is becoming increasingly difficult to accommodate people in.
- Additional issues such as the Ukrainian crisis is causing further pressures on the system.
- The greatest demand is for one bed accommodation.

3. Housing Support Programme Strategy and Strategic Priorities

- 3.1 The Housing Support Programme Strategy and Action Plan set out the single, strategic direction of the Local Authority for homelessness prevention and housing related support services for the next four years (2022 – 2026). It sets out the key priorities for the Local Authority and its partners based on findings from a comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder engagement.

Link to Strategy and Action Plan:

www.swansea.gov.uk/housingsupportstrategy

- 3.2 In addition to taking into consideration the levels and causes of homelessness, the Strategy and Action Plan was developed through consultation with our partners and taking into consideration the priorities of the Welsh Government

These include:

- A continued focus on eradicating rough sleeping with a commitment to examine the potential need for legislative reform of the “priority need test”.
 - A new requirement from Welsh Government for all Local Authorities to develop Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans, which will show how the Council intends to move away from use of temporary accommodation over a five-year period to make the transition to a Rapid Rehousing model of homelessness.
 - Increased focus on the private sector. Welsh Government are keen to find ways to improve access and reduce evictions in the Private Rented sector.
 - Increase the availability of permanent homes. This is one of the biggest issues facing the Council in terms of resolving homelessness. Particularly around the lack of one-bed room properties across all tenures.
- 3.3 Following extensive consultation the Strategy was implemented in April 22 and sets out 9 key priorities;

Housing Support Strategy Strategic Priorities 2022-26	
Strategic Priority 1	Strengthen and increase services in place to prevent homelessness.
Strategic priority 2	Ensuring appropriate support is available at the right time for people who are at risk or are experiencing homelessness.
Strategic Priority 3	To develop and implement a 5 year Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.
Strategic priority 4	Continue to develop and improve partnership working with key stakeholders to ensure a joined-up approach to homelessness prevention.
Strategic priority 5	Work in partnership to strengthen support provision for people with complex needs, including mental health, learning disability, substance misuse and VAWDASV.

Strategic priority 6	Continue to increase the supply of suitable and affordable accommodation.
Strategic priority 7	Work with service users and stakeholders to introduce regular mechanisms for engagement and co-production to inform service development and improvement.
Strategic priority 8	Strengthen support and accommodation provision for young people.
Strategic priority 9	Provide robust responses to support rough sleepers and eliminating the need for individuals to sleep rough.

4. **Current Achievements**

- 4.1 Through the previous Homelessness Strategy and since the implementation of the Housing Support Programme Strategy much has been achieved in tackling homelessness, despite the challenging environment that we have been working in since the pandemic.
- 4.2 Since March 2020, over 1,100 households have been successfully moved on from temporary accommodation into more suitable accommodation. This has been achieved by excellent partnership working with our Landlord Services colleagues and with the major Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) operating in Swansea. During this period the RSLs have taken a flexible approach with how they have allocated properties and have been supportive in meeting the increasing need of rising numbers in temporary accommodation.
- 4.3 During the last 2 years, the Council increased temporary accommodation stock in order to mitigate against the impact of the rise in numbers needing temporary accommodation. This has included self-contained accommodation for both single persons and families.
- 4.4 Through the More Homes programme and by using Welsh Government Phase 1 and 2 homelessness funding (put in place during the pandemic) we have been able to increase our levels of permanent and temporary accommodation through a number of different schemes. 20 x acquisitions of one & two bed flats during this period have been used for both temporary and permanent accommodation. Recently, the Council was successful in winning a Welsh Housing Award for the development of Bryn House, a new build site which combined 4 permanent flats with 4 'pods' used to provide temporary accommodation as an alternative to bed and breakfast. In addition to this, RSLs were also able to bid for Phase 2 funding giving a further 23 units of accommodation for use during the pandemic.

Further to the capital funding secured, revenue funding was obtained via the Phase 2 Homelessness funding to provide additional support via a range of 3rd sector partners and Health. These projects have continued post-pandemic via funding through the uplift in Housing Support Grant provided by Welsh Government in 2021/22.

4.5 More recently the Welsh Government's new Temporary Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) has made additional funding available to support a wide range of projects by local authorities and registered social landlords to create much-needed extra housing capacity across Wales. This can include:

- bringing unused properties that would otherwise not be re-let back into use as homes for individuals and families
- remodelling existing accommodation
- converting buildings into good-quality accommodation
- using modern methods of construction as a medium-term form of housing on some sites as they are developed for permanent housing

Swansea Council has so far submitted the following schemes:

- Work to bring major voids back into use – funding of £229,108 approved to fund an external contractor to deliver kitchen and bathroom works to 34 major void properties. This will increase capacity for the in-house team and enable void properties to be prepared for letting more quickly.
- Expression of interest submitted to fund a further 24 acquisitions of ex-council properties – awaiting Welsh Government decision.
- The remodelling of the former District Housing Offices in Penlan and Eastside into 10 flats using TACP Funding.

4.6 In line with Welsh Government priorities a rapid rehousing approach has been developed to provide additional support to those needing to move on from temporary and supported accommodation. Following an uplift in Housing Support Grant in 2021/22, more resources have been directed into rapid rehousing which has enabled more intensive support to be provided to the most vulnerable in the City. A 5 year Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (2022 – 2027) is being finalised and this will be included in the Housing Support Programme Strategy as an appendix in line with Welsh Government requirements.

4.7 The successful *Housing First* project will continue to be developed and as a result resources have been targeted through the Housing Support Grant to increase the number of people being supported and housed via Housing First.

4.8 Ty Tom Jones was quickly developed as a direct response to the pandemic. Its model is to move people out of homelessness by taking a rapid rehousing approach. Through excellent partnership working, Ty Tom Jones has produced considerable success and as a result has enabled more resources to be dedicated to the project through the Housing Support Grant which has enabled the project to increase capacity.

- 4.9 In the last 12 months a supported housing review has been carried out with partners and in consultation with service users. One of the outcomes of the review was to ensure that people get the right property at the right time. Currently, a *temporary accommodation pathway* is being trialled which is looking at improving the way voids are allocated in supported housing. This is at the early stages of this but there are already positive signs of successful outcomes.
- 4.10 Reduction of evictions – The primary cause of eviction from social housing has historically been rent arrears. Whilst the legislative changes and stay on evictions implemented throughout the COVID19 pandemic had the intended consequence on eviction levels, the developing approach of Swansea’s Housing Service in respect of preventing eviction due to rent arrears had already begun to impact outcomes; as evidenced in a significant reduction in number of evictions in 2019/20 as compared with 2018/19. Moving forward since the pandemic, despite overall rent arrears levels continuing to rise, only 2 evictions have taken place; neither resulting in homelessness.

The Housing Rents Management Strategy 2022-2026 aims to effectively prevent rent arrears to ensure that Council tenancies are sustained. The strategy includes a specific objective and subsequent actions in respect of minimising rent arrears when they occur and supporting Council tenants to sustain tenancies and prevent eviction which further embeds the approach of eviction being a last resort. In addition, no evictions have taken place in regard to anti-social behaviour since 2019 with approaches to support tenants using other tools to modify behaviour and sustain tenancies in place.

Swansea, like other social landlords in Wales, have recently committed to the Welsh Governments pledge that there will be no evictions due to financial hardship for the term of the rent settlement in 2023-24, where tenants engage with their landlords. During this time we will continue to provide targeted support to those experiencing financial hardship to access support available.

- 4.11 Rough sleeping in the City still remains very low and when it does occur the appropriate advice and assistance is provided within 24 hours. This will remain as a priority going forward.
- 4.12 The Asylum and Refugee Coordinator has successfully developed a team to manage the on-going Ukrainian crisis. This team have had to develop rapidly to cope with the large numbers of Ukrainian people coming through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Welsh Government Super Sponsor Scheme.

5. Challenges going forward

- 5.1 Probably the greatest challenge is the issue of demand outstripping supply. There is a lack of suitable, affordable, move-on accommodation and given the high numbers in temporary accommodation and the continuing rise in homelessness it makes it extremely difficult to find appropriate solutions. The Council continues to look at ways of increasing the amount of affordable one bed properties, but also look at innovative ways of preventing homelessness.

- 5.2 The cost of living crisis is a real threat to tackling homelessness and it is anticipated that as a result of rising costs, energy prices and interest rates that there will be a further increase in homelessness through unaffordability. Whilst we can mitigate some of this through additional tenancy support and use of prevention funding, this will continue to be a major challenge.
- 5.3 There are major financial pressures to meet the cost of temporary accommodation. Since March 2020, the Welsh Government have provided a considerable amount of financial support to cover some of the costs of temporary accommodation. We have not yet received any confirmation as yet that the level of funding will continue into 23/24 and therefore there is a potential future financial risk to the Authority.
- 5.4 Rising immigration levels is clearly a concern locally and nationally. The Council are working closely with the Welsh Government to try and find solutions to the increasing numbers through the various schemes, however, as outlined previously, with limited solutions then this is adding to the pressure on temporary accommodation. The Council is committed however to continue as a City of Sanctuary and need to continue working with the Welsh Government and partners to find innovative solutions.
- 5.5 There continue to be a number of cases with complex needs through substance use and co-occurring mental health issues. These are difficult to find solutions to and it is vital that this is not simply seen as a housing issue and that there is strong partnership working with RSLs, Social Services, Health, Probation, Police and the voluntary sector in order to prevent homelessness.
- 5.6 The increased volume of cases and the lack of move-on creates added pressure on staff and this leads to a very challenging environment for those that are working on the front line providing support to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Increased caseloads means higher level of enquiries and therefore there is a need to ensure that the teams are appropriately resourced to deal with the extra demands.

6. Conclusion and Summary

- 6.1 The Housing Support Programme Strategy and Action Plan will play a key role in tackling homelessness over the next 4 years. Partnership working will be vital in ensuring that the priorities set out in the Strategy can be met. It is important to note the Action Plan will be regularly reviewed and will be a live document so this can be amended and updated to deal with any pressures that may arise that may have an impact on homelessness.
- 6.2 The current high numbers in temporary accommodation and the increase in the number of homeless presentations, coupled with the lack of move-on options is of greatest concern.

6.3 Moving forward, it is clear that this is and will continue to be a difficult period for homelessness as a result of combination of factors, such as legislative changes, the cost of living crisis and the Ukrainian conflict. Therefore, the Council may need to strengthen resources in this area in order to provide the appropriate levels of advice and support.

6.4 It is important to note that the challenges that are being faced are not specific to Swansea, and these issues are being experienced at a regional, national and UK wide level. Therefore, there will be a need to ensure that the Council continues to work collaboratively with other LA's, the WLGA and the Welsh Government to tackle the various challenges that are being faced.

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. Finance Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this progress report. The financial implications associated with the prevention of homelessness are covered by revenue budgets within Housing Options and the Housing Support Grant Spend Plan 2022/23.

9. Integrated Assessment Implications

9.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

9.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 9.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 9.2 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) screening document has been completed as part of the Housing Support Programme Strategy (**See Appendix A**).

Engagement, consultation and coproduction will be incorporated into the future development and delivery of the Housing Support Programme in collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure a joined-up approach to homelessness prevention and housing related support ultimately aiming to improving people's outcomes.

The actions identified seek to support individuals to overcome any inequalities of access to affordable housing and support vulnerable individuals to sustain settled homes in which to build their futures. It is envisaged that the impact of the Housing Support Programme will result in improved services and be wholly positive for individuals experiencing homelessness both now and in the future.

Background papers: *None*

Appendices:

Appendix A – IIA Screening Form

Appendix A – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Housing and Public Health

Directorate: Place

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Housing Support Programme Strategy

The Housing Support Programme Strategy fulfils the requirement described in the Welsh Government Housing Support Grant guidance published in March 2020(updated in April 2021) for each Local Authority to develop a strategic plan for the whole housing system.

The Housing Support Programme Strategy incorporates the reviewed and updated 2018-2022 Homelessness Strategy produced as part of the local authority's statutory duty under Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the strategic plans for use of the Housing Support Grant (a combination of three existing grants Supporting People Programme Grant, Homelessness Prevention Grant, and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement Grant).

The Strategy and associated action plan set out the strategic direction of the local authority for homelessness prevention and housing related support services for the next four years (2022-2026). It sets out key strategic priorities and actions to achieve those priorities based on findings from a comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder engagement.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix A – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement.**

The Strategy has been developed utilising a range of different mechanisms to provide opportunities for stakeholders including people experiencing homelessness, the third sector, housing, health, probation, and social care. The different methods of collaboration and engagement are described below;

A Client Survey and a Stakeholder Survey to gather views of people that use services and key partners and stakeholders who work within services; the findings have been used to inform the strategic priorities and actions to achieve them.

A system thinking review of Temp Accommodation for homeless people was undertaken. This involved consultation with 47 people experiencing homeless asking a range of questions of what matters to them and how their experience could have been improved. The review also included consultation with 28 staff who work within the services to understand how services are designed and managed. The key themes and learning from the consultations have contributed to the needs assessment and have been used to inform the Strategy priorities.

There are also a number of key strategic links that the HSP Strategy needs to make in order to be fully effective. The Strategy and Action Plan have been developed in partnership with the stakeholders responsible for these strategies and plans. The Action Plan of the Strategy reflect the needs and priorities identified. Some of the key partnerships are listed below;

- Homelessness Coordination Cell
- Partnership working with Registered Social Landlords
- West Glamorgan Partnership Board
- Homelessness and Housing Support Grant Collaborative Forum
- VAWDASV Leadership Group
- West Glamorgan Area Planning Board
- Dual Diagnosis Group
- Health of Homelessness and Vulnerable Groups Plan

Engagement, consultation and coproduction will be incorporated into the future development and delivery of the action plan priorities. The implementation of the Strategy will be done in collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure a joined up approach to homelessness prevention and housing related support ultimately aiming to improve people’s outcomes.

Appendix A – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

There has been a significant increase in Welsh Government Housing Support Grant funding which provides additional opportunities to develop, strengthen and improve services. It is not anticipated there will be any negative impact on people that use services by the implementation of the Strategy.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

This strategy has been developed jointly by Housing Department and Social Services Commissioning. PO's and other strategy and operation staff from sections of the housing department and Social Service and Poverty and Prevention have been engaged in developing the draft. Probation and Health staff have also had input into this area.

The aim of the Strategy is to improve and enhance service provision it is not anticipated there will be any negative impact on other Council services.

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

The aim of the strategy is to improve homeless prevention services, access to settled accommodation and support services for all groups including all those with protected characteristics. The timeline for the strategy starts during unprecedented levels of new homeless presentations and numbers that the Council owes a statutory duty to under the Homeless Act Wales. Some of these are due to the impact of the pandemic such as suspension of non-priority need status under the legislation and others are trends which were emerging before such as shortage of affordable accommodation, levels of domestic abuse and challenges accessing timely specialist health and support services around mental health and substance misuse.

Appendix A – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

The strategy identifies priority areas and actions to prevent and alleviate homelessness and to ensure people can access and maintain a settled home with the support they need to do so. The actions will link to other existing and developing strategies such as the Local Housing Strategy and also cross cut with strategies and plan in social care and health around support to vulnerable people e.g. those with mental health issues, VAWDASV and poverty.

The actions identified seek to support individuals to overcome any inequalities of access to affordable housing and support vulnerable individuals to sustain settled homes in which to build their futures.

The strategy identifies a number of sources of funding with which service will be provided including the most significant being the Housing Support Grant. Some of the action plan items will influence the three year investment and delivery plan for the HSG grant programme in order to deliver the priorities.

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

It is envisaged that the impact of the implementation of the Strategy will result in improved services and be wholly positive for individuals experiencing homelessness both now and in the future.

The Strategy will continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders during the implementation of the action plan and ensure that coproduction principles are at the heart of decision making.

The Strategy encompasses the Welsh Government homelessness strategy key priorities for tackling homelessness. The Strategy states that homelessness cannot be prevented by housing alone and that all public services have a role to play working together to prevent homelessness and where it cannot be prevented ensure it is rare, brief and unrepeatable, emphasising the importance of partnership working

Items in the action plan may require further screening or a full IIA where they result in the implementation of change to services commissioned or to the way services are provided or the type of accommodation provided.

- Full IIA to be completed
- Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

Screening completed by:
Name: Steve Porter
Job title: Operations Manager for Community Housing
Date: 1/12/22
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Carol Morgan
Position: Head of Housing & Public Health
Date: 1/12/22



**To/
Councillor Andrea Lewis
Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy
& Service Transformation**

BY EMAIL

cc: Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

01792 637257

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

SPC/2020-21/8

05 May 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy & Service Transformation following the meeting of the Committee on 13 April 2021. It is about progress with the delivery of the Council's Homelessness Strategy. A formal response is not required.

Dear Councillor Lewis,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 April

Thank you for attending the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 13 April 2021, in which we considered progress with the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy 2018-22, since adoption by Cabinet in November 2018. This built upon your report and discussion at the Council meeting in March. We are also grateful for the contribution of lead officers to our discussion on progress, achievements and impact, as well as current issues and challenges.

Scrutiny was able to influence the development of the Strategy during 2018, through both our Homelessness Scrutiny Working Group, and the Committee's consideration of the draft Strategy prior to agreement. When the four-year strategy was agreed, no one could have predicted that we would soon experience a global pandemic and health crisis. The Committee wanted to explore how the new Strategy has delivered improvement to services, advice and support, both in preventing homelessness and dealing with it where it exists; and what impact the pandemic has had.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

This letter reflects on what we learnt from the discussion, shares comments and views of the Committee on progress with the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy at its mid-point stage, and highlights any outstanding issues / actions for your response - main issues summarised below.

Key findings from our discussion:

- You reported good progress across the five key objectives that were set to meet the aims of the Strategy, with high levels of homelessness prevention being maintained, helped by what you felt to have been some of the best partnership working experienced, and some additional support to tackle homelessness during the pandemic. You also highlighted that pressures on homelessness and support services are expected to rise, along with increased demand for affordable and secure, social housing, however were confident that the Strategy remains robust and fit for purpose to deal with forthcoming challenges.
- The pandemic has affected some of the priorities and plans within the Homelessness Strategy agreed in 2018. However overall the pandemic has effectively accelerated plans to tackle homelessness with a level of urgency, which has seen the suspension of the 'Priority Need' test, seeing a dramatic fall in the number of rough sleepers since the start of the pandemic. However, this has meant an increase in the number of people placed in Bed & Breakfast (B&B) and other temporary accommodation, many of whom would not have normally qualified for assistance under existing homelessness legislation. Additional costs have covered by the Welsh Government's Emergency COVID Fund. We noted that it is possible that the Welsh Government will enact legislation to abolish the 'Priority Need' test. If this happens, there will be an impact on current policy around housing allocations and points system, and put pressure on resources. We noted that there are now around 2-3 rough sleepers compared to around 15-20 during 2019, but were concerned that numbers may rise as we come out of the pandemic.
- Given the unsuitability of B&B accommodation and pressures on the service, there is a need to increase the supply of one bed, permanent, affordable, accommodation. The Council successfully bid for £5.4m from the Welsh Government's Phase 2 Homelessness capital funding to increase the amount of one bed accommodation. This will be delivered in partnership with local Registered Social Landlords (Pobl, Family Housing and Coastal) through a number of schemes that will provide between 70 to 80 additional units of permanent accommodation, available for homeless people, during 2021. This funding will also help to provide additional support, with a particular focus on rapid rehousing, mental health and substance misuse. A review of temporary supported housing provision is also being carried that should help to shorten the time-period from temporary accommodation to permanent housing to break the cycle of homelessness.

- In reducing the number of people sleeping rough during the pandemic the Council has also been able to provide support to all people who required it, including those with no recourse to public funds. This is in line with national guidance that all homeless people are to be considered vulnerable during the pandemic and therefore in priority need. We were pleased to hear no one has been left behind.
- Included in a list of priorities for 2021/22 are on-going negotiations with the Home Office to agree staggered asylum seeker move on from Home Office accommodation following a positive decision on refugee status, in order to reduce strain on temporary accommodation and allow a planned approach to refugee move on. With Swansea being one of four dispersal areas in Wales, we were keen to see improvement to the way asylum seekers and refugees can be dealt with, in a joined-up way, given the issues they face.
- To support efforts in ensuring service users are at the centre of service deliver you have embedded a PIE approach (Psychologically Informed Environment) within the Homelessness Service, which has enabled services to be delivered in a trauma informed, person centred way. The Homelessness Service successfully bid to be part of pilot project training from Cymorth Cymru for staff. Staff from Housing Options, the Tenancy Support Unit and the Council's Rents Team have all received this training. We discussed the benefits of this approach, in the way we deal with and treat people and understand their situation, and look forward to hearing further about how it has made a difference.
- The Committee has previously been concerned about the impact of homelessness on children and young people, and / or being subject to constant moving, on their education. We sought some assurance that there is a joined up working across the Council, and with partners, and measures in place so that no one falls through the gaps in terms of education provision. You spoke about the development of a Youth Homelessness Charter, the particular support to care leavers, the focus on not placing families in B&B accommodation, looking at housing provision beyond one-bed units, the involvement of housing in social services case conferences, and efforts to avoid moving children around schools unnecessarily.
- When we discussed the draft Strategy in 2018, we welcomed the plan to carry out a feasibility study to look at developing a holistic "solutions centre" for services for rough sleepers, to improve facilities for those who are vulnerably housed and sleeping rough. We noted that the pandemic has led to a re-evaluation of what is required, along with the impact of other service developments being undertaken by Health and the voluntary sector in the city centre. We asked about current thinking on how this may be taken forward, and whether Council plans for a city-centre public hub may provide space for some sort of 'solutions centre', including the

housing options service, in addition to the development and expansion of the Ty Tom Jones temporary supported accommodation scheme. On Ty Tom Jones, you reported that the new project has shown success in adopting a rapid rehousing approach with improved engagement and outcomes, and funding identified from Housing Support Grant will enable the project to continue during 2021/22, and be increased by an additional four units bringing the total to 24. We were told that, in addition, all homeless households are currently placed in temporary accommodation, and services have been enhanced to ensure individualised support is available for all who require it. You felt that the expansion of Ty Tom Jones, with its focus on rapid rehousing, would provide the opportunity to look at increasing the amount of services that are delivered at this location. This could include space for drop-in services and facilities for those in less flexible accommodation such as B&B. Whilst you would consider potential for housing services and/or associated multi-agency support to be included in any community hub base in the city centre, you stressed the focus was on improving outreach. Thinking has very much moved away from developing a 'solutions centre', but you will continue to listen to service users to help inform future direction.

- It was good to hear that homelessness people, as a vulnerable group, have been prioritised for COVID vaccinations and you indicated that the roll-out has gone well, with special mobile units set up over a number of days. We understand that around 40% of those offered a vaccination have had one but further efforts are being made to improve upon this.

In conclusion, the Committee was very impressed with the work that has gone to deliver homelessness services and support, in the face of difficult challenges. We praise the hard work of all staff in responding to the challenges created by the pandemic, adapting to changing priorities, increased pressures and changes in service delivery, and working together to deal with homelessness. We thank those in housing services and all partners for their work. We noted there has been a shift in the public's perception of homelessness, with greater awareness of the problem, sympathy and willingness to support rough sleepers as a priority. We hope that continues to be the case.

Of course, how we move forward from the pandemic, and avoid a return to rough sleeping, is a big question, given expectations of an increase in the numbers of people who will require advice and assistance for homelessness and housing related support, along with increased demand for affordable and secure, social housing. It was clear that this would not be sustainable without continuity of additional funding, which we hope is forthcoming that will show a permanent, not temporary, national commitment to tackling homelessness. We do need a long-term solution to move away from reliance on B&B accommodation to more sustainable housing, and ability to focus on rapid rehousing to prevent further homelessness with wrap around multi-agency support.

We asked how sustainable the situation is for individuals who may have benefitted during the pandemic, but as we come out of lockdown, the additional support may no longer be available. There will also be people facing hardship with the ending of financial assistance schemes such as furlough and fall-out from the pandemic in terms of mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse that we will need to support.

You talked about strong partnership working. We noted that the focus on a Housing First approach has seen the integration of mental health support and outreach, funded by housing. However, the relationship with Health around mental health support provision and issues around future funding need to be monitored closely to ensure it is a collaborative effort, to avoid pressure and financial burden falling disproportionately on the housing service. Early intervention is going to be invaluable in helping people to sustain permanent housing, to prevent more complex problems and things reaching a point of crisis. You mentioned close working by housing with Health, not directly linked to the Homelessness Strategy, being developed around tackling substance misuse – something the Committee would be interested in hearing more about in due course. We felt that key to tackling homelessness and meeting the challenges identified, was sustaining the partnership working, particularly with our local Registered Social Landlords. We were pleased to hear that there has been increased flexibility in some forms of accommodation regarding pets, which we have known to be a barrier to accessing housing for many homeless people. You told the Committee that you were confident of continuing effective partnership working with Health and others.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments on anything within, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Peter Black
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Andrea Lewis
Direct Line: 01792 63 7442
E-Mail: cllr.andrea.lewis@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: AL/CM
Your Ref:
Date: 13th May 2021

Dear Councillor Black

Thank you for your letter dated 5th May following my attendance at the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 13th April 2021.

Your feedback and positive comments on the progress of the Homelessness Strategy were very welcome and I continue to value the support and challenge that you provide to our work in this area.

I would also like to pay tribute to the wide range of individual and organisations who are contributing to this important work. Homelessness is not an issue that can be solved by the Council alone and I am proud of the tremendous partnership working that is going on in Swansea to address the issue of homelessness and to get the best results for the people of Swansea, of which the work of Scrutiny is an important element.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on this agenda in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely



Y Cynghorydd/ Councillor Andrea Lewis
Y Dirprwy Arweinydd
Cartrefi, Ynni a Thrawsnewid Gwasanaethau
Joint Deputy Leader of the Council
Homes, Energy & Service Transformation

Appendix 4 - CABINET PORTFOLIOS (July 2022)

Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) (Cllr Rob Stewart)	Service Transformation (Cllr Andrea Lewis (Deputy Leader)	Corporate Services & Performance (Cllr David Hopkins) (Deputy Leader)	Education & Learning (Cllr Robert Smith)	Care Services (Cllr Louise Gibbard)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery Plan • Capital Programme • City Centre Strategic Redevelopment • City Deal • Communications • Community Leadership • Constitutional Changes • Finance Strategy, Budget & Saving Delivery • Financial Services • Legal Services • Local and Regional Investment Strategy • Planning Policy (Regional) • Poverty Reduction corporate lead • Public Service Board (PSB) • Major Projects • Regional Working Lead (All Bodies) • Strategic Partnerships • Risk & Resilience Management • Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) - Chair • Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee - Chair • Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) – Deputy Leader • WLGA Lead on Economy & Inward investment, Europe & Energy • WLGA representative to LGA 	<p>Strategic Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post covid service stabilisation & transformation • Corporate ICT & Digital Transformation • Contact centre • Public Service Board (PSB) Leader’s Representative • Homes as Power Stations (City Deal) • APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) • Climate change action plan <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Programme • Building Services • Housing Adaptations & Renewal Schemes • Housing Policy, Affordable Housing and Housing Options • More Homes Delivery • Penderry redevelopment board • Climate & nature recovery board chair • Sheltered Housing • Co-operative Housing • Homelessness • Housing support grant • Council House Management & Repairs • Lettings policy & Tenancy Enforcement <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleet Renewal & Maintenance inc Green fleet strategy • CJC (Corporate Joint Committee) representative for regional Energy • Green Vehicle Adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Delivery of Priorities • Performance monitoring • Commercial Services, Procurement & Frameworks • Food sustainability • Human Resources • Mayoral & Civic Functions • Member Development • Outside Bodies participation oversight • Council Champions • Petitions • Scrutiny liaison • Democratic Services • Health & Safety • Planning Policy • Biodiversity • Landlord Licensing • Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) • Licensing Policy • Building Control • Public Protection • Environmental Health • Trading Standards • Strategic Estates & Property Management • Trade Union Engagement and JCC (Joint Consultative Committee) • Agile Rollout Programme Lead • Western Gateway Leader’s Representative • Audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Schools Programme inc. School Building Upgrade • Apprenticeships • Catchment Review • Education Services from 3 to 19 • Further Education • Inclusion & Learner Support • NEETS (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) Prevention & vocational opportunities • Quality in Education (QEd) Programme • Readiness for Work • UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) • Regional Workforce Planning & Skills Development • School Improvement • Schools Estate Planning & Resources Planning • Schools’ Organisation & Performance • Flying start (schools settings & transitions) • Partneriaith (regional working) Leaders Representative • City of Learning (COL) - Member of UNESCO COL (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Steering Group (Cllr EK to support) • Corporate parenting Board member • Skills & Talent Project (City Deal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Services Modernisation • Strategic Health & Social Care Collaboration Opportunities • Mental Health including CAHMS • Assessment / Care Management • Elderly Care • Supporting People • Joint Equipment • Learning Disability • Local Area Coordination (support) • Physical & Sensory Impairments • Safeguarding lead • Wellbeing lead • Preventing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Support) • Child & Family Services • Children & communities grant • Continuum of Care • Regional Adoption Service • Safe Looking After Children (LAC) Reduction Strategy • YOS (Youth Offending Service) • Leaders Representative on West Glamorgan RPB • Corporate Parenting chair • UNCRC (support) (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) • Human Rights city accreditation

Appendix 4 - CABINET PORTFOLIOS (July 2022)

Wellbeing (Cllr Alyson Pugh)	Environment & Infrastructure (Cllr Andrew Stevens)	Investment Regeneration &Tourism (Cllr Robert Francis-Davies)	Equalities & Culture (Cllr Elliott King)	Community (Services: Cllr Cyril Anderson & Support: Cllr Hayley Gwilliam)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Reduction • 3rd Sector Services • Drugs and substance misuse reduction • Sexual exploitation reduction • Preventing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence • Flying start (all settings) • UNCRC (support) (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) • Refugees & Asylum • Community Cohesion • Life long learning support • Vulnerable people support • Community Safety • NEEs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) • Employability • Financial Inclusion • Prevention and intervention initiatives • Swansea Working • Welfare Reform • Welfare Rights • Public Space protection orders • Safer Swansea Partnership member • Public Service Board Representative • RPB (Regional Partnership Board) representative • CCTV operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways maintenance & improvements • Infrastructure repairs & Maintenance • Pothole Task Force • Patch services Parking Policy, Control and Enforcement • Road safety • Operational Public Transport Services • Coastal Defences • Flood prevention • Marina, Foreshore & Beach Maintenance • Active travel & cycleways • Estates Maintenance Management (Non HRA (Housing Revenue Account)) • Members Community Budget Scheme delivery • Play upgrade programme delivery (in collaboration with IRT) • Green infrastructure • Corporate & Community digital connectivity (inc hybrid facilities, free community WiFi & next gen CCTV technical delivery) • Rural development • Rural economy including sustainable farming • Leaders' representative for regional collaborations for Transport, and Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business & City Promotion • City Centre Management • City Projects delivery • Future Development Opportunities • Inward Investment Opportunities • Suburban Centres & Community Regeneration Initiatives • New Local & Regional Business Opportunities • Economic recovery local business grant delivery • River Corridor Development • Events and attractions • Tourism • Purple Flag • Destination Management & Marketing • Parks investment, maintenance and usage • Play investment (links to play sufficiency) • ERF (Economic Resilience Funds) grants for play enhancement lead • Sports Facilities development and maintenance • Universities Collaboration (Development) • Business engagement • Western Gateway Leader's Representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities • Access to Services • Diversity • Age Friendly City • Inclusion • Recognition • Creative City • The Arts • Galleries & Museums • Floating exhibits • Street Art • Healthy City Partnership • Healthy Night Life • Heritage protection and restoration • Libraries • Archives • Community Centres • Community hubs • Veterans support fund • Science City 	<p>Services (Cllr Cyril Anderson):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Caretakers • Grass Cutting Services • Weed control • Tree services • Wildflower planting • Fly Tipping • Litter & Community Cleansing • Street scene improvements • Local Waste Management services • Recycling • Community operatives (new) • Regreening in communities • Bin services • Public Toilets • Community Growing (inc. Allotments) <p>Support (Cllr Hayley Gwilliam):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live well Age well • Mental Health awareness • Community Groups, Engagement & Development • Community Support Services • LAC (Local Area Coordinators) Services in Communities • Co-production champion • Neighbourhood Working • Early years • Corporate parenting board member • Promoting Youth Inclusion & Youth Citizenships • Youth Services • Opportunities for play • Play sufficiency • Community based events • Community safety • Community Wellbeing • Digital inclusion • Local policing • Dementia Champion

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Cabinet Member for Well-Being

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 December 2022

Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty

Purpose	To provide a briefing to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on delivery of the Council's Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty.
Content	The report provides an overview and context of the 'Report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty'.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the report, to give their views and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as necessary.
Lead Councillor	Councillor Alyson Pugh, Cabinet Member for Well-Being.
Lead Officer Report Author	Amy Hawkins, Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty Lee Cambule, Tackling Poverty Service Manager Anthony Richards, Tackling Poverty Strategy Development Manager
Legal Officer	Carolyn Isaac
Finance Officer	Chris Davies
Access to Services	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swansea Council's Corporate Plan sets out six key council priorities, one of which is Tackling Poverty – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- 1.2 Poverty is caused by things that reduce resources, or increase needs and the costs of meeting those needs. Causes of poverty can also be consequences which can then create a cycle known as the poverty trap. Common triggers of poverty are often life changing events or changes in circumstances such as becoming sick, bereavement, redundancy or relationship breakdown.
- 1.3 During the last 12 months progress has been made against our ambitions for tackling poverty. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic challenges - including the Cost of Living crisis - have focussed and shaped our efforts to tackle poverty.

1.4 As we enter a period of revisiting our priorities and plans for tackling poverty, this is an opportunity to reflect back on the progress that has been made as well as informing our future approaches through national and local evidence and lived experience.

2. Content

2.1 The report prepared for the Scrutiny Programme Committee (see **Appendix A**) is structured to include:

- Executive Summary
- Context
- Corporate Priority
- Corporate Plan Steps
- Corporate Performance Indicators
- National Strategic Drivers
- Additional Developments
- Way Forward

2.2 The report presents evidence, insights and intelligence that demonstrates the contributions that have been made to achieving the Corporate Plan priority in the last twelve months.

2.3 The report also considers the findings and recommendations of Audit Wales' ['Time for Change – Poverty in Wales'](#) Report, published 1st November 2022, including a number of positive reflections of good practice identified in Swansea.

3. Context

3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic and Cost of Living Crisis is disproportionately impacting low income households, pushing more people into poverty and those experiencing it, further into poverty resulting in increasing demand for services including crisis support services and increased complexities for those in need.

3.2 Swansea Council's ongoing response to the Cost of Living Crisis is contributing to mitigating the impact of poverty and increased levels of demand.

3.3 The report outlines the activity from the past 12 months and future plans over the next 12 months.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the ‘well-being goals’.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above – see **Appendix B**. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5. Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report other than those set out in the body of the report.

6. Finance Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background papers: *None*

Appendices: Appendix A – Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty
Appendix B – IIA Screening



Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty

Scrutiny Programme Committee

13th December 2022

1. Executive Summary

Tackling poverty was identified as one of Swansea Council's six well-being objectives defined in its **Corporate Plan** published in 2017:

Tackling Poverty - so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.

This is a cross-directorate commitment taking a 'tackling poverty is everyone's business' approach. In the last twelve months, we have:

- Responded to the Cost of Living crisis with more funding and support made available;
- Adapted our programmes and service delivery in response to COVID-19 impacts;
- Helped more people to find employment and improve their skills;
- Continued to deliver more affordable and energy efficient housing;
- Expanded our work with communities and partnerships focused on tackling poverty.

In 2017, Swansea Council published **Working towards prosperity for all in Swansea: A tackling poverty strategy for Swansea**. This corporate strategy represented the Council's commitment to reducing poverty and the impacts poverty has upon the people of Swansea.

Since 2017, progress has been made against our ambitions for tackling poverty but there has also been a lot of change, most significantly in the past three years. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic challenges - including the Cost of Living crisis - have affected not only our efforts to implement our strategy but our ability to refresh our strategic approach.

As the Cost of Living crisis has continued to escalate in this reporting year, the number of grants for individuals and organisations have increased. The table below provides a summary of the related grants that have been administered through the Council so far:

Grant	Funder / Partner	Amount	Who does it help
Cost of Living Payment – Main Scheme (Closed September 2022)	Welsh Government	£11,466,450 paid to 76,443 people	Eligible people / households struggling with the cost of living.
Cost of Living Payment – Discretionary Scheme (Ongoing to 31/03/23)	Welsh Government	£1,451,392 paid to 39,914 people	Eligible people / households struggling with the cost of living.
Fuel Support Scheme (Applications close 28th February 2023)	Welsh Government	£4,067,400 to 20,337 people	Supporting low-income households with energy costs.
Unpaid Carers Grant (Closed September 2022)	Welsh Government	£1,725,000 paid to 3,450 people	Supporting unpaid carers.
Self-Isolation Payments (Closed July 2022)	Welsh Government	2022/23 - £1,196,250 paid to 2,374 people	Supporting people with the cost of self-isolation.

Grant	Funder / Partner	Amount	Who does it help
Swansea Spaces (Warm Hubs)	Welsh Government	£83,831 in 2022/23	People struggling with the Cost of Living in particular energy costs. The grant supports organisations and groups with the increased costs of providing a warm hub.
Period Dignity in Schools and Communities Grant	Welsh Government	£211,853 in 2022/23	People struggling with accessing period dignity products. The grant supports schools, organisations and services to provide products.
Direct Food Support	Welsh Government	£121,213 in 2022/23	People experiencing food poverty and food insecurity. The grant supports organisations that are involved in tackling food poverty / providing crisis food provision.
Household Support Grant (Food Poverty)	Welsh Government	£83,440 in 2022/23	People experiencing food poverty and food insecurity. The grant supports organisations that are involved in tackling food poverty / providing crisis food provision.
Men's Sheds Grant	Swansea Council	£25,000 in 2022/23	Men's Sheds groups and people engaged in their activities.
Community Calling	Hubbub, O2, SCVS	700 reconditioned smart phones with calls and data in 2021/22	People who are digitally excluded and would benefit from the scheme. Digital Skills Training offered to recipients via Lifelong Learning.
Surplus Bed Scheme	Welsh Government, NHS, NPT	Over 500 surplus beds from Bay Field Hospital in 2022	People in bed poverty.

As we enter a period of revisiting our priorities and plans for tackling poverty, this is an opportunity to reflect back on the progress that has been made as well as beginning to gather views about what the future holds. Some of the challenges we faced when the Tackling Poverty Strategy was published remain relevant while others have changed significantly.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress made against the corporate Tackling Poverty priority in the last twelve months.

2. Context

2.1 Definition of poverty

While there is no single, universally agreed definition of poverty, in Swansea we define it as:

- Income below the Minimum Income Standard;
- Inadequate access to necessary services of good quality;
- Inadequate opportunity or resource to join in with social, cultural, leisure and decision-making activities.

As of this report, the Minimum Income Standard (the amount of income that a person or household needs to meet living standards) is £25,500 a year for a single person and £43,400 for a couple with two children.¹ The Minimum Income Standard itself is not a measure of poverty but is a measure of the household income deemed by the public a sufficient income to afford a minimum acceptable standard of living.

In general terms, poverty means being unable to afford the essential resources that allow you to live a minimum acceptable standard of living. It can be defined by the issues of living in poverty in the diagram opposite, characteristics that are common for people in poverty who either cannot afford or face challenges with these issues.



Fig. 1 – Seven characteristics of poverty²

Poverty is multi-dimensional, complex, growing and impacting more people in Wales. It can take several different forms that will present their own unique challenges:

- **Situational poverty** – linked to the individual's situation such as a loss of employment;
- **Generational poverty** – being part of a family living in poverty for two or more generations (a long-term cycle of poverty);
- **Absolute poverty** – being in complete destitution with an absolute lack of resources including food, housing, etc.;
- **Relative poverty** – struggling to live well based on living in households with income below 60% of the median in that year;
- **Material Deprivation** – being unable to afford every day essential items or services
- **Rural poverty** – defined by living in a rural area and situations arising from that environment including isolation, lack of access to technology, etc.;
- **Urban poverty** – defined by living in urban areas and situations arising from that environment including overcrowded homes, high competition for jobs, etc.³

Other common terms or descriptions of poverty include **in-work poverty** (households where at least one adult is in work yet still living in poverty), **child poverty** (children are at highest risk of poverty in Wales), **pensioner poverty** (people who have retired and struggling to live

¹ 'A Minimum Income Standard: UK in 2022' - Joseph Rowntree Foundation, September 2022 www.jrf.org.uk

² Information from Audit Wales 'Time for Change – Poverty in Wales' report published November 2022.

³ Definitions are derived from a range of sources including Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Stats Wales.

above the poverty line with only their pensions to support them) and **persistent poverty** (when a person has been in relative poverty for at least three of four consecutive years).

Welsh Government define a person to be living in relative poverty (or relative income poverty) if they live in a household where the total household income from all sources is less than 60% of the average UK household income (as given by the median). In 2020-21 around 20% of all people in Wales lived in relative poverty.

The End Child Poverty Coalition and the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University released research in July 2022 showing the reality of Child Poverty in the UK. Child Poverty figures in Swansea show that 32.7% of children were living in poverty in 2020/21, up 3.9 percentage points from 2019/20. By comparison, 34% of children in Wales were living in poverty in 2020/21, up 3 percentage points from 2019/20.

2.2 Current position

With almost 1 in 5 people in Wales⁴ classed as being in relative income poverty prior to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current Cost of Living crisis, those that were already experiencing financial hardship are more likely to have been pushed further into poverty and those that were at risk of poverty have been more likely to experience it.

Bevan Foundation's report **A Snapshot of Poverty in Summer 2022** looked at impacts of surging costs and slow income growth for households in Wales. Key findings of the report are:

- **Families are struggling to make ends meet** – More than 1 in 8 Welsh households (13%) either sometime or often struggle to afford everyday items. In total, 45% of Welsh households never have enough money for anything other than the basics.
- **The majority of people are cutting back on essential items** – 57% cut back on heating, electricity and/or water, 51% cut back on clothing for adults, 45% cut back on transport costs and 39% cut back on food for adults between January and July 2022.
- **Children are going hungry** – the number of people in households with one or two children who are having to cut back on food for children has nearly doubled since the previous Snapshot Report in November 2021, with 1 in 10 families with one child and 1 in 5 families with two children cutting back on food for their children.
- **Household debt has remained static** – the number of people that are reporting that they are in arrears on a bill or that they have borrowed money has not increased significantly since November 2021. In total, 14% of people have been in arrears on a bill for more than one month with 25% borrowing money.
- **A third of people have no savings** – 22% of people in Wales had no savings at the start of 2022, whilst 10% spent all their savings on day-to-day items between January and July 2022. Only 31% of people had savings in January 2022 and did not use them to cover day-to-day items.
- **More people are worried about losing their home** – 11% of people are worried about the prospect of losing their home over the next three months. This rises to a quarter of private rental sector tenants and 17% of social housing tenants.
- **The Cost of Living crisis is affecting people's health** – 43% of people in Wales have seen their mental health deteriorate as a result of their financial position whilst 30% have seen a deterioration in their physical health.
- **People are pessimistic about their prospects over the next three months** – nearly two thirds (63%) of people expect to have to cut back on at least one essential over the next three months, up more than 20% points from November 2021.

⁴ Based on Relative Income Poverty: April 2019 to March 2020 report by Welsh Government

- **More work to do to raise awareness of support** – many people are not aware of all the support to which they are entitled from UK, Welsh and local governments. This means that there are families struggling financially that are missing out on vital assistance that could make a difference.

3. Poverty in Swansea

3.1 Impacts of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on society since it began in early 2020. As well as the significant health implications for our population, the economic impacts have also been substantial. Some industries like hospitality were hit hard, many communities were disproportionately affected and the long-term effects on areas like mental health and life expectancy are still to be understood.

In Swansea, we have seen a range of evidence and insights relating to the economic impacts of COVID-19 including:

- Strains on health and care workforces across sectors affecting staff wellbeing, recruitment and retention;
- Increased demand reported by food banks and crisis food support projects reflects an increase in the numbers of people struggling to make ends meet;
- Greater demand for benefits and welfare rights advice linked to people being unable to work or losing their jobs;
- Changes to working practices such as increased waiting times, backlogs and demands for service due to restrictions placed on service delivery;
- Organisations prioritising emergency responses to the pandemic had to pause, cancel or postpone investment into other key initiatives and programmes of work;
- Important sectors such as hospitality being adversely affected by restrictions and changing rules around social distancing.
- Increased arrears in respect of monies owed to the Council by citizens across all services.

As a global pandemic, COVID-19 has had broad, sweeping impacts across many sectors and services. While we continue to monitor the long-term implications of COVID-19 and deal with the more immediate challenges such as winter pressures on health and care services, the impacts on poverty will continue to emerge over time.

3.2 Cost of Living crisis

The current crisis – where the cost of everyday essentials (e.g. groceries, household bills, etc.) is rising faster than average household incomes – has been escalating since 2021. This has been impacted by several factors on global and national levels including the energy crisis, labour shortages, supply chain issues and rising rates of inflation. The Bank of England has warned that the UK is facing its longest recession since records began a century ago.

This means that most people have seen their household income not keeping pace with rising prices of essential goods and services. Families are struggling to make ends meet which is impacting on wellbeing and the ability to provide for loved ones. The Snapshot of Poverty in Summer 2022 report highlights a range of impacts of this crisis including:

- Majority of people cutting back on essential items and services;
- Children are going hungry as families cut back on food costs;
- A third of people have no savings available to them;
- More people are worried about losing their home in the next three months;
- Physical and mental health is impacted by financial position;
- Many people are not aware of the support and help they are entitled to receive.

In Swansea, we have seen evidence of the impacts of the Cost of Living crisis from a range of sources and statistics including:

- An increase in the use of Food Banks and other charitable initiatives⁵;
- The need to develop Warn Hub provision in Swansea, as we are seeing across the UK⁶;
- Increased numbers of people and families struggling to make ends meet⁷;
- Increase in the availability of poverty-related grants and schemes;
- Changes in jobs as people seek more sustainable employment opportunities;
- Increased demand for crisis related services including from people in employment;
- Increased demand reported by Citizens Advice including for energy advice⁸;
- The Council’s Cost of Living Help webpage has had over 100,000 page views since it was established in early September 2022.

3.3 Population Needs

3.3.1 Each regional area provides a unique set of opportunities, strengths, challenges and issues that we can look at in a systematic approach. By understanding and reviewing the health and wellbeing needs of the population, we can make the right decisions and priorities to achieve better outcomes and reduce inequalities.

3.3.2 The **Census 2021** results were first published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in June 2022 with updated and unrounded data published in November 2022. Current data from the Census shows that a third (33.3%) of households in Swansea are deprived in at least one dimension. More detailed population data based on topic summaries (such as housing, education and labour market) are due to be released in the coming months.

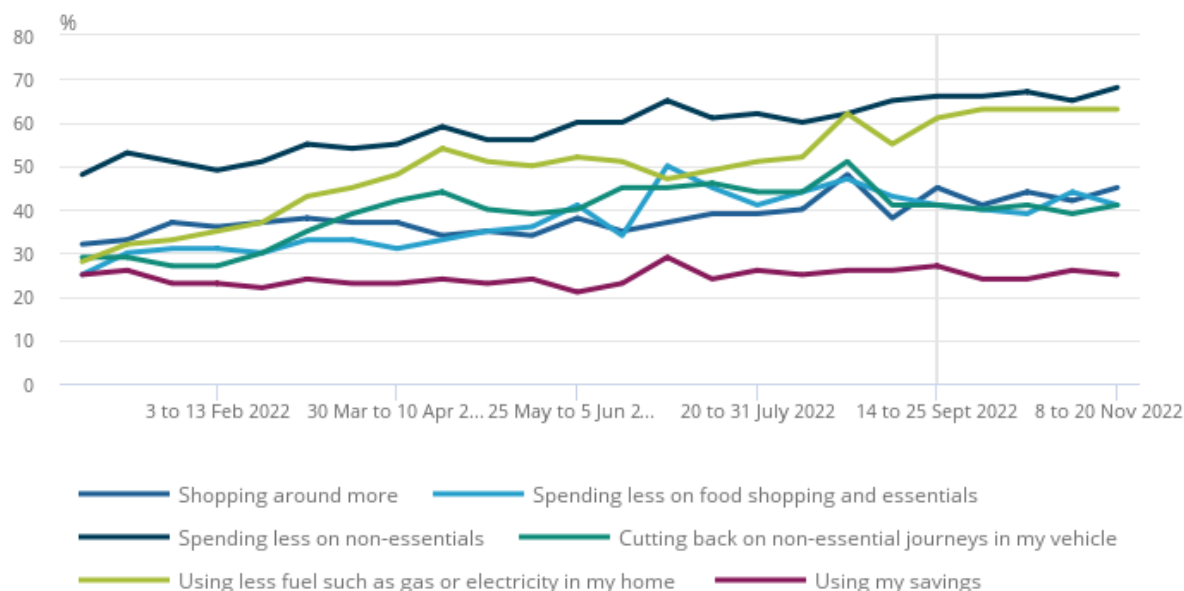


Fig. 2 – ONS graph on people taking action in response to Cost of Living crisis

⁵ Statistics available at www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats

⁶ A list of Swansea Spaces is available at www.swansea.gov.uk/swanseaspaces

⁷ Source: Bevan Foundation ‘A snapshot of poverty in Summer 2022’ published July 2022.

⁸ Source: Citizens Advice ‘Wales: Cost of living briefing’ published July 2022

On a national perspective, the Cost of Living crisis was highlighted as an important issue for 93% of adults with people seeing an increase in the price of food shopping (95%), gas or electricity bills (68%) and the price of fuel (55%)⁹. Fig. 2 above shows that more people are taking more drastic actions to deal with financial hardship including reducing spend on non-essential items and using less fuel and energy at home.

3.3.3 The Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) produced its annual **Assessment of Local Wellbeing** in May 2022 which provides a breakdown of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing in Swansea. As well as providing evidence and data trends relating to poverty in Swansea, it covers the broader definition of the people of Swansea (geographical communities, population density, population characteristics, and so on) and their needs in relation to wellbeing.

The recent cost of living crisis and the significant rise in energy bills will have a significant negative impact on households across Swansea. The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally impacted the well-being of people, households and communities in a multitude of ways since March 2020, including the prospects for children and young people, the impacts on physical and mental health, income and employment, crime and abuse, equality, connectivity and lifestyles – to name but a few. More recent and ongoing world geo-political events, whilst clearly mostly affecting those directly involved, will ultimately have consequences for people’s well-being locally.

Swansea Assessment of Local Wellbeing 2022 Report

3.3.4 The West Glamorgan **Population Needs Assessment** (PNA) is a joint exercise undertaken by health and social care partners in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot to gather information on people’s wellbeing and the barriers preventing them from achieving a sense of wellbeing. The chapters published at www.westglamorgan.org.uk highlight a range of impacts that poverty has on health and wellbeing, including:

- Suicide rates are two to three times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the most affluent;
- 1 in 4 people experiencing a mental health problem is struggling with debt while people with mental health problems are three times more likely to be in financial difficulty;
- In January 2021, 43% of unemployed people reported poor mental health (compared to 27% of people in employment);
- Older people have been impacted financially by the pandemic, and those who wish to remain in the workforce are at higher risk of redundancy or exclusion from developing working practices;
- Deprivation is associated with childhood obesity with 14.2% of children who are obese in the most deprived fifth of areas compared with 8.2% in the least deprived fifth;
- Caring has an impact on participation in the workforce and unpaid carers who give up work to provide care can find themselves living in poverty as a result;
- Disabled people have disproportionately fallen behind with household bills during the COVID-19 pandemic, because of their disadvantaged position in the labour market, poor housing and increased costs associated with being disabled’.

⁹ Source: Office for National Statistics ‘Opinions and Lifestyle Survey’ published November 2022.

Mental health is affected by the social, economic and physical environments within which people live and homelessness, poor accommodation and poverty have a detrimental impact on mental health and wellbeing. These factors will have a different impact at different points in life. People in poverty will have an increased risk of mental health problems.

Mental Health Chapter, West Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment 2022

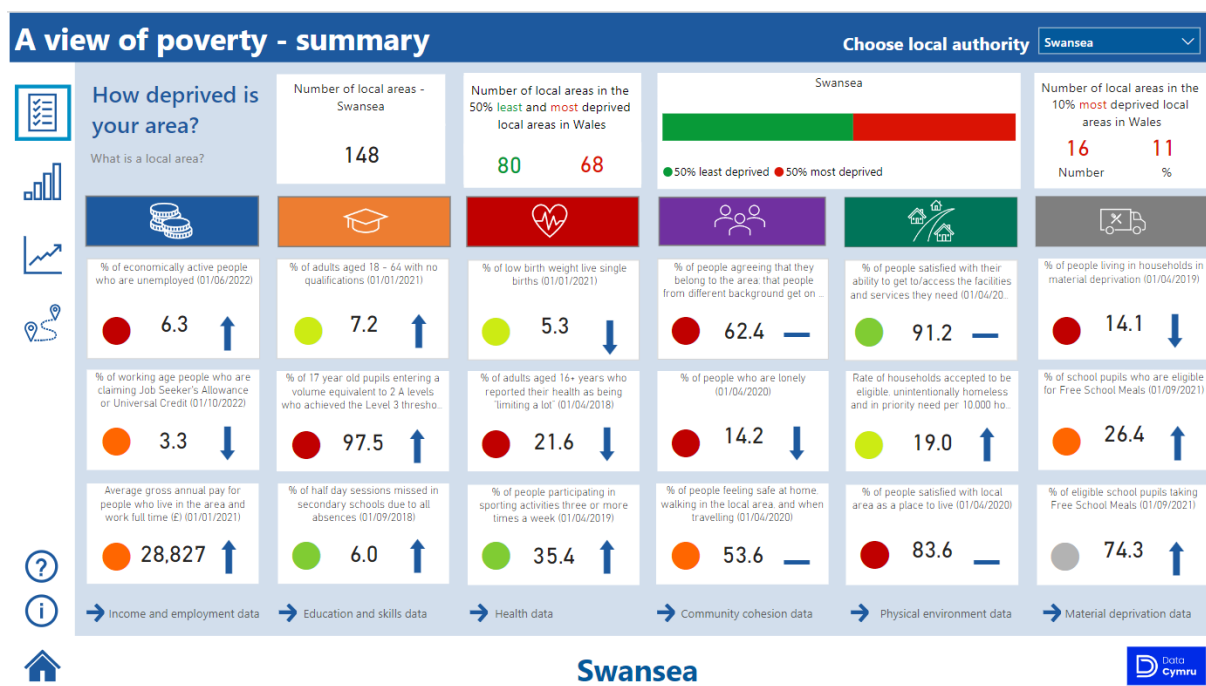
3.3.5 The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is designed to identify the areas of Wales that are most deprived. It ranks small areas according to their relative deprivation levels across eight types of deprivation to produce an overall index. There are 1,909 small areas known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Wales and 148 of them are in Swansea.

The WIMD can be used for:

1. Identifying the **most deprived** small areas
2. Comparing **relative** deprivation of small areas
3. Exploring the **8 types** of deprivation for small areas
4. Comparing the proportion of small areas within a **larger area** that are very deprived
5. Using **indicator data** (but not ranks) to compare absolute change over time

The percentage of people living in Swansea in income deprivation - as defined by the Income Domain of WIMD - in 2019 was 17%. This compares to the Wales average of 16%. Swansea ranks joint 7th across the 22 Welsh Local Authorities in terms of the percentage of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in Wales. Of the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales, 17 are in Swansea.

3.3.6 This year, Data Cymru launched a new online portal - **Data Cymru Poverty Dashboard** - collating key data about poverty in Wales which breaks down to a dashboard view of the key statistics at a local authority level. This tool can be accessed for information at <https://www.data.cymru/dashboards/viewofpoverty>. Below is the latest snapshot of local data which highlights key data sets related to poverty:



4. Corporate Priority

The corporate well-being objective for 2021/22 is “Tackling poverty so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential” because:

- We are committed to reducing poverty and the impacts that poverty has upon its citizens. Poverty can limit aspirations, damage relationships and ensure a loss of life chances.
- We want a Swansea where poverty is not a barrier to doing well at school, having a healthy and vibrant life, developing skills and qualifications and having a good job and income.
- We want to ensure equitable access to necessary services of good quality by targeting resources where they have the most effect, with decisions made involving service users.
- We want all residents to have the opportunity and resources to join in with social, cultural and leisure activities and decision-making.
- We want people to maximise their income and get the most out of the money they have.
- We want people to avoid paying the 'Poverty Premium', the extra costs people on low incomes must pay for essentials such as fuel and transport.
- We want to ensure removal of barriers to employment.
- We want to ensure inclusion of people from Swansea's most disadvantaged communities so that we reduce inequalities between and within communities.

To demonstrate how we are progressing with achieving this objective, we report on **Corporate Performance Indicators** that show the contribution we are making to this priority detailed in Section 6.

5. Corporate Plan Tackling Poverty Steps

5.1 Tackling Poverty – ‘Everyone’s business’

5.1.1 Our first step towards achieving the ‘Tackling poverty’ priority is to **work in partnership to tackle poverty including the revision and implementation of Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy ensuring that tackling poverty is everyone's business.**

Work has started on refreshing the corporate Tackling Poverty Strategy using an evidence-based, coproduction approach working with people who have lived experience of poverty to define and shape our vision for the future. This will inform the specific outcomes, objectives and planned activities for the Council to undertake in order to tackle and alleviate poverty in Swansea. Adopting a coproduction approach will help us to ensure that the language we use is clear, appropriate and reflects the experiences of people in poverty. It will also identify the actions to be taken in tackling poverty including those that are the responsibility of the Council to implement.

The refreshed Tackling Poverty Strategy is planned to be published in mid-2023.

5.1.2 In 2021/22, we continued to develop local tackling poverty networks and forums including:

- Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum (quarterly, led by Swansea Council);
- Swansea Food Poverty Network (bi-monthly, led by Swansea Council);
- Financial Inclusion Steering Group (quarterly, led by Swansea Council).

We have built positive relationships with and between the partners and stakeholders involved in these groups ensuring improved coordination of information is available to all members and opportunities for collaboration are realised. We recently began the process of seeking insights from these networks to inform our strategy development approach. This process commenced with a survey of key questions and will continue to include targeted workshops, presentations at network events and capturing case studies and service user stories.

5.1.3 The Swansea Council Poverty Forum meet monthly and bring together colleagues from across the Council to focus on a range of tackling poverty outcomes and collaborative activities. In the last twelve months, this has included:

- Coordinating ‘Talk Money Week’ participation and communications;
- Informing Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) projects;
- Shaping the Swansea Spaces (Warn Hubs) response and grant funding approach;
- Informing the ongoing development of the Swansea Neath Port Talbot Community Action Network Referral System;
- Promoting key messages across the forums and services such as encouraging take up of Cost of Living Payments and Support;
- Presentations to support collaboration with partners such as BAME Mental Health, Christians Against Poverty and Swansea Bay Credit Union.

5.1.4 On 20 October 2022, the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission (SPTC) was officially launched at the Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea University Singleton Campus. This is the first



commission of its kind in Wales and the event brought together community, civic and business commissioners from across Swansea to kick off the process of putting people with lived experience of poverty at the heart of policy and decision making.

5.2 Community Cohesion

Our second step is to **enhance community cohesion and reduce inequalities of income, resource and opportunity by ensuring that residents can fully participate in society and contribute to their communities.**

5.2.1 Community cohesion refers to how everyone in a geographical area lives alongside each other with mutual understanding and respect. This approach recognises our increasingly diverse communities which face challenges due to economic migration, intergenerational differences, the impact of poverty and the growing influence of extremism. The National Community Cohesion Delivery Plan 2022-23 was published in April 2022, to continue to strengthen, mainstream and sustain both local and regional community cohesion approaches through:

- Engagement and awareness raising;
- Training and capacity building;
- Tension monitoring and mitigation;
- Inclusive policy and decision-making;
- Prevention of hate, exploitation and extremism.

The Community Cohesion Regional Co-ordinator currently manages a team of three Community Cohesion Officers based in Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend, working with service providers and community groups towards a common vision.

5.2.2 Supporting and enabling people to participate and contribute to their local communities is an important action across this priority.

The Council has continued to provide £25,000 funding towards Men’s Shed initiatives across Swansea for the third year in succession. These are community spaces for men to connect, converse and create through activities that help to tackle isolation and loneliness. In the last twelve months, funding has been provided to seven new and existing schemes across areas including Manselton, Dunvant, Clydach and Penllergaer Valley Woods.

“Men's Sheds have a very positive impact on health, well-being and in reducing social isolation by drawing on the wealth of skills and experience that exists within our communities.

This is the third year that the council has been able to provide substantial direct support via our Tackling Poverty team to these fantastic projects.

I've been lucky enough to visit many of these groups in Swansea to see the life-changing impact they can have on those involved.”

Cllr Alyson Pugh, Councillor Champion for Health and Wellbeing

5.2.3 Since 2015, Swansea Council has implemented Local Area Co-ordination as a strategic community-based approach. Since 2021, we have full coverage across Swansea with 23 dedicated, locally-based Coordinators. The shared vision for this approach is that ‘all people

live in welcoming communities that provide friendship, mutual support, equity and opportunities for everyone’.

Local Area Coordination recognises the power of taking time to get to know people, families and the connections, resources and opportunities within communities. Walking alongside individuals enables them to stay stronger, confident and interdependent for longer, delaying – or even removing – their need for formal service support. It is a connected, integrated, preventative and strength-based role which provides a valuable bridge between community and Local Authority.



Local Area Coordination is part of a person-centred, strengths-based approach to tackling poverty. Coordinators have the trust, connections and local knowledge to support individuals struggling with poverty and the associated impacts. Implementing local and hyper-local support in partnership with communities, businesses and volunteers – building on local strengths and assets – can become a sustainable approach to not only reducing poverty but improving prosperity and wellbeing of our population.

Each Coordinator works with around 50 individuals, some of them more regularly than others, meaning a total of approximately 1,150 individuals in Swansea with a Coordinator walking alongside. In the last twelve months, the team have produced over eighty stories describing positive changes in peoples lives as a result of introduction with Local Area Coordinators. Over 1,800 individual informal contacts have been made and another 2,000 contacts with people attending groups so far this year.

CASE STUDY: Sue’s Story

Sue has walked alongside her Local Area Coordinator (Dan) since 2015 when she ran the Daffodil Club, which met each week in a local pub. During the COVID pandemic, the Club suffered like many other community groups; it had to close its doors and sadly a third of its membership died in the same period.

Dan contacted Sue in the spring of 2021 and she explained how the Club was in danger of folding and remaining members were scared to venture out, let alone meet as a group. Sue felt isolated as she had lost her husband and her pet in the last year. She also had to move home due to poor mobility and expensive upkeep of her home. These life changes affected her confidence in remaining as group leader and her motivation to carrying on.

Together, Sue and Dan began exploring her strengths and reviewed how she was able to overcome similar challenges previously. Her goal remained the same; to have a social group of likeminded people meeting in their local community for fun, support and friendship. What emerged was a plan, which began with Sue looking for a meeting place somewhere more central in St Thomas, to attract people from Port Tennant and hopefully have a bus stop close by. Sue also felt it could be enhanced by having a café or similar involved, opening up possibilities for a wider age range and variety of activities.

Once COVID restrictions allowed people to meet safely again indoors, Sue and Dan visited St Thomas Church. Sue was delighted with the newly refurbished space and amenities. It had disabled access and facilities inside as well as a bus stop outside. Sue discovered their ‘pay-as-you-feel’ community meal promotion so anyone who wanted could have a meal. This was the catalyst for restarting meetings of the Daffodil Club.

Local Area Coordinators have recently supported the set up - by community members - of eleven community projects, all of which were provided a small grant which enabled them to get started. These projects include Warm Wednesday Brunch in West Cross, Art Group in Gowerton, Community Garden in Mynnydbach and Gently Exercise Class in Manselton.

5.2.4 Through an application and selection process, Swansea was selected by the Children's Society to be one of four areas across the UK to pilot the Coordinated Community Support Programme¹⁰. The programme is a collaboration between the Children's Society, Swansea Council and a wide range of local and national partners. The programme aims to provide the support, guidance and resources local community organisations need to better coordinate crisis provision in their community. In the last twelve months, the Swansea project team have continued to deliver a range of projects including working with the Independent Food Aid Network to produce their cash-first advice leaflet for Swansea.



5.3 Access to Services

Our third step is to **ensure that services are accessible, inclusive, timely and effective, and that those with lived experience are involved in coproducing solutions.**

5.3.1 The Socio-economic Duty came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021. It aims to improve decision-making and help those who are socio-economically disadvantaged. The Council has a comprehensive Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) that not only considers in detail the likely impact of a policy decision on the various statutory responsibilities but also considers:

- involvement activity setting out those the service has engaged with in determining its strategic policy such as partners, service users and those it is co-producing with;
- an assessment of the cumulative impact/mitigation to ensure the policy is considered in the round showing how it links across services provided across the Council;
- how the Council will monitor and evaluate impact to be able to make changes swiftly;
- an action plan setting out activities the Council will take as a result of the IIA.

¹⁰ More information is available at www.coordinatedcommunitysupport.org.uk/content/swansea

5.3.2 Making services accessible for people who are in poverty includes making more information and support available online but this can be a challenge for people who are unable to afford broadband or suitable IT equipment such as phones and laptops that can access the internet. This in turn makes it more challenging for people to find their way out of poverty, for example if they cannot access online job sites to find suitable employment.

Working in partnership with Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS), this year we have continued to support the Community Calling Campaign set up and run by O2 and environmental charity Hubbub. This project has provided over 700 smartphones and tablets to individuals without digital access, while encouraging local businesses and individuals to donate more devices which are data-wiped and cleaned before being redistributed.



5.3.3 The Council continues to improve internet access and availability for homes and businesses including helping people to access grant programmes such as Access Broadband Cymru Grant and Open Reach's Fibre First Programme which has started rolling out full fibre broadband in Sketty, Gowerton and Ravenhill as part of a national £25m investment scheme.

5.3.4 The Council is currently developing its Digital Strategy and digital inclusion is a key link to ensuring that our strategic approach to digital considers the needs of our population including people who are in or at risk of poverty.

5.3.5 The Passport to Leisure (PTL) Scheme 2022/23 has so far supported 1,563 beneficiaries with discounts for residents on low incomes to access a wide range of sports and leisure venues throughout Swansea, ranging from all council libraries to sports centres, theatres and swimming pools as well as discounts from a number of private companies such as EXIST Skate Park, Taliesin Arts Centre and Swansea Rugby Football Club.

5.3.6 We have commissioned Co-production Lab Wales to work with us on our Co-production and Involvement Project to support practical implementation of co-production, enhancing current good practice, and increasing capacity and confidence to apply a co-productive approach across the Council. This will involve upskilling and developing strong enabling leadership that supports our aspirations to be a co-producing organisation. It will grow awareness, working knowledge, skills and networks across the organisation and wider and will increase the involvement of communities and partners in decision making to ensure services meet the needs communities have identified.

5.3.7 Working with people who have lived experience of poverty is an essential part of our ongoing service delivery and plans are under development for a range of participation and engagement activities – including Experience Mapping – to inform our refresh of the Tackling Poverty Strategy.

5.4 Early Years

Our fourth step is to **work with our Health partners to ensure that, through our Early Years Strategy, children in their early years and at Foundation Phase achieve their expected language, emotional, social and cognitive development and are ready for learning and for school.**

5.4.1 The impact of poverty on early years (i.e. the development of children from birth up to five years old) is significant as studies show that about 1 in 3 children in the UK are living in poverty¹¹. This can impact on the child's health, social, emotional and cognitive development as well as their behaviours and educational outcomes. Children born into poverty are more likely to experience a wide range of issues from poor nutrition to mental health problems.

We believe it is important to address the impacts of poverty on children as soon as possible in their development. Poverty can have a negative impact of their education, health and overall well-being, along with their future housing and employment prospects can be negatively impacted upon.¹²

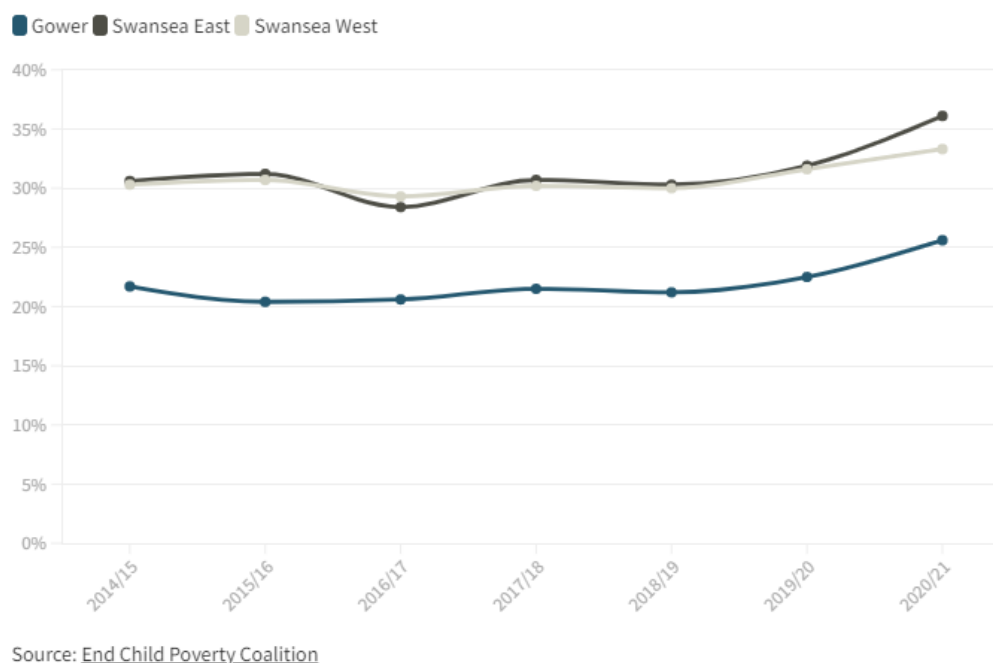


Fig. 3 – Trends of changes in child poverty across Swansea areas

The Council provide a range of services and support for children and families including those in or at risk of poverty.

5.4.2 Flying Start is the Welsh Government flagship early years programme for families with children who are under 4 years of age, targeted in identified areas that are among the most disadvantaged in Wales. In Swansea, this includes Birchgrove, Blaenymaes, Clase, Hafod, Pentrechwyth, Portmead and Townhill.

5.4.3 Families First is a Welsh Government funded programme that can provide families with help, advice and support to prevent any issues or problems from getting worse. These projects work with families to decide what help they need for the family to thrive. The Swansea Central Team work with a range of stakeholders providing local services and activities.

The Speech and Language Therapies Team provide advice, recommendations and strategies to support children's talking by:

¹¹ Report from the End Child Poverty Coalition published July 2022.

¹² Insight from Children in Wales www.childreninwales.org.uk

- Providing training for the childcare setting workforce and parents to support children with their talking;
- Supporting parents and families of children with identified communication difficulties within their home (as well as in their childcare setting where appropriate);
- Identifying children with long term speech, language and communication needs for support further interventions via the Speech and Language Therapy Service at Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB).

5.4.4 The Council's Sport and Health Team deliver training in Physical Literacy sessions for Swansea schools, childcare and community settings. Physical Literacy is about developmentally appropriate activities that best support children's physical development inclusive of children who may have motor development delays or a disability. Our qualified tutors deliver projects that benefit specific target groups including areas of poverty, ethnically diverse groups, early years, parental engagement and disability groups.

5.4.5 Early Help Hubs across Swansea are the main point of contact for those seeking advice and support where they have worries about the wellbeing of children, young people and their families. The Early Help Hubs bring together community resources from the Council's Early Help service under one roof to provide guidance, signposting or support based on the need. The Hubs have multi-agency partnership links to assist with ensuring the correct support for the family is accessed at the right time. There are five Early Help Hubs across Swansea in a locality based model covering East, Penderry, Townhill, Valley and West.

“Our aim is that the right services are available at the right time and in the right place for every child and young person according to their need.

The Early Help Hubs will provide preventative and support services to achieve better outcomes for children, young people and families through effective packages of support to those who need it.

By bringing in these services under one roof within these five communities it will make it easier for those that need support to access it.”

Dave Howes, Director of Social Services

5.6 Education, Training and Employment

Our fifth step is to **work with our partners to reduce inequalities in educational, training and employment outcomes throughout the life course.**

5.6.1 Poverty can have detrimental impacts on people's ability to complete education, access essential skills training and gain meaningful employment. Some of the actions we have taken this year include:

- Presentations to all headteachers in Swansea on the poverty agenda, including local statistics.
- Headteachers and governors have been reminded to be mindful of the affordability of their school uniform policies. The local charity GROW provides recycled school uniform at a very low cost.

- Period products have been issued to schools for distribution to learners from the Welsh Government's Period Dignity Grant; a meeting has also been held recently with groups of learners from schools to better understand their requirements from the grant.
- Universal free school meals have been rolled out to all Reception pupils from September 2022 and work is ongoing to roll out to Years 1 and 2 early in the New Year.
- School uniform grant continues to be promoted with parents/carers and payments are made by bank transfer in the majority of cases to make the process as easy as possible for parents. Schools work with the parents/carers of learners who do not have a bank account to ensure they get their entitlement.
- Holiday payments continue to be made to those entitled to free school meals, and these will continue until the end of this financial year.
- The Council has coordinated and supported a number of schools to deliver Food and Fun schemes in the summer holidays, providing nutritious meals and stimulating activities.
- The use of Pupil Development Grant is monitored at school level to ensure it is narrowing the gap between those on free school meals and those who are not.

5.6.2 Below are some of the various grant schemes that have been delivered by the Council to support children and young people who are affected by poverty:

Free School Meals Holiday Payments 22/23

- Funded by Welsh Government
- Scheme is open and ongoing until end of February 2023
- 9,932 applications received since April 2022

School Uniform Grant 22/23

- Funded by Welsh Government
- Scheme is open and ongoing
- 7,472 applications received since July 2022

“We are keenly aware of the pressures facing families at the moment and are looking at options across the council to help.

The council made a series of policy commitments in June to support our communities and the freeze in school meal prices was one of these which I'm pleased we are delivering.”

Robert Smith, Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills

5.6.3 Supporting adults to overcome the barriers in education, training and employment is a focus of the Lifelong Learning Service, which promotes lifelong learning concepts and provides learning opportunities for working-age adults to progress or develop new career paths that contribute to their self-actualisation. This supports people who are in or at risk of poverty by helping to develop their skills and qualifications so that they can improve their personal prosperity through achieving employment and career progression.

**Gwasanaeth Lifelong
Dysgu Learning
Gydol Oes Service**
Yn falch o fod yn Ddinas Ddysgu
Proud to be a Learning City

The Lifelong Learning team is a part of the Tackling Poverty Service and is responsible for delivering essential skills development – numeracy, literacy, digital, employability skills, family learning and learning for life (including music, art, well-being, IT and photography courses) within communities. This includes developing and delivering bespoke accredited and non-accredited learning as well as promoting the benefits of a lifelong learning approach through events and exhibitions.

The courses and programmes of learning offered to Swansea residents aged 16+ includes:

- Essential Skills – Literacy and Numeracy (from non-readers to Level 2)
- Essential Skills Embedded – Jewellery Making, Cookery, Needlecraft, etc.
- Digital Skills – from absolute beginners to Level 2 accredited IT programmes.
- Family Learning – working with parents, grandparents and carers to support children’s learning and to raise essential skills of adults.
- Adult Community Learning (ACL) Programme.

During the last twelve months, the Lifelong Learning Services team have:

- Continued to contribute to the overarching vision and ambitions for Swansea as a UNESCO Learning City;
- Delivered a wide range of courses, taster sessions and learning opportunities while looking after the wellbeing and prosperity of our learners;
- Developed and delivered bespoke programmes designed to meet the needs of learners and/or partners;
- Continued to be a member of the Adult Learning Partnership Swansea (ALPS) working in collaboration with adult community learning partners;
- Participated in an Estyn review of adult community learning in Swansea in November 2022;
- Delivered the learning festival in September 2022 as part of Adult Learners Week including the public event in Castle Square.

Lifelong Learning Service – Learners Reporting	
Academic Year 2021/22	Academic Year 2022/23 (Autumn Term)
Learners across all programmes: 1,681 Improved skills: 94% Progression to further learning or employment: 73% Accreditation: 89 awards	Learners across all programmes: 735

CASE STUDY: Guy and Emma’s Digital Journey

Guy and Emma regularly attended a Lifelong Learning Essential Skills class in Portmead, Swansea but when lockdown happened, classes had to shift to remote learning. Although sometimes they find learning difficult, they were keen to continue despite only having access to mobile phones. This initially involved phone calls and lessons carried out over speaker-phone. Neither had used email before so, with practice and careful instruction, they were delighted when they managed to send their first email. This opened more learning possibilities and they were able to stay in touch with their tutor via email.

Their next achievement came when they were able to join Google Classrooms and use GSuite to access work and activities. Over time, they managed to complete and achieve an Agored Cymru Entry Level Qualification. They both said how much they’ve enjoyed the classes even though they were completed remotely. The classes helped them to have

something to focus on in difficult and strange times, having a positive impact on their well-being, knowing that they were not on their own during this time.

At the start of the autumn term this year, Guy and Emma signed up again but in order to make their learning more accessible, they were able to join the Lifelong Learning Service scheme to borrow a laptop with portable Wi-Fi access. They are now able to view their work more clearly and now have access to the internet, which they did not have previously. They were also able to attend an online class via Google Meet and can now access lessons via video and regular live online sessions.

This has helped to expand their learning by enabling them to research information and explore learning sites (enabling them to complete the 2021 Census online). Their confidence in digital learning has grown and they have joined an online IT course called 'Learn My Way' to improve their skills further. Guy and Emma have both completed Essential Skills Wales qualifications with the Lifelong Learning Service and have started part time employment within a local charity shop.

5.6 Person-centred employment

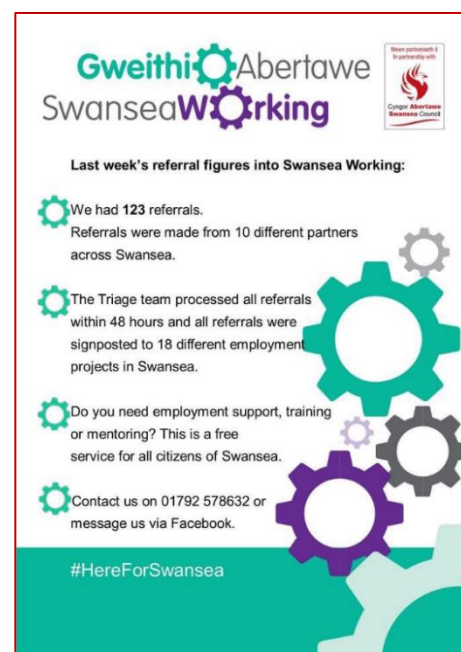
Our sixth step is to **provide a coordinated person-centred approach to supporting people to overcome their barriers to employment.**

5.6.1 Applying a person-centred approach to employability support puts the focus of our service teams on supporting people to achieve their aspirations and tailoring solutions to their needs and unique circumstances. This is a principle that is embedded in our employability services and the way our teams engage with people looking to achieve employment. Some of the actions we have taken in the last twelve months include:

- Continued our mentor support and triage service around the principle of person-centred employability support;
- Supporting the BAME Mental Health Support employability hub to explore the issues facing people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in achieving employment;
- Improving social media and marketing content to reach a wider audience with our employability promotions while supporting efforts to tackle digital inclusion;
- Working with large employers and Council departments to assist in shaping post-COVID recruitment approaches;
- Participating in community park events in collaboration with Safer Swansea Partnership to bring employability information closer to people in their communities.

The Employability & Skills team is a part of the Tackling Poverty Service and is responsible for delivering services and programmes to improve the personal prosperity of people in Swansea by developing their skills, qualifications and opportunities.

5.6.2 The Communities for Work (CFW) programme is responsible for delivering two Welsh Government funded programmes tackling poverty through sustainable employment, providing intensive employment mentoring and support. The first programme provides a triage service and mentors for Adults (over 25 years old) and Young People (aged 16-25). The second



programme works with a wider cohort of people who are not eligible under the first scheme (for example, people who are unemployed for less than 12 months). The Young Persons Guarantee (YPG) works with young people aged between 16 and 24 with the aim of significantly increasing employability support for this age group. It is delivered in line with the Children and Communities Grant (CCG) which focuses on the support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities, through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms.

5.6.3 The Swansea Working team is responsible for delivering a partnership approach to supporting people to gain employment, providing a range of support services such as employment engagement/action plans, individual training, developing Curriculum Vitae and in-work support. This includes delivering a range of events, promotions and help for people looking for work in Swansea.

5.6.4 During this year, the TPS Employability & Skills team have:

- supported 243 people into work by the end of October 2022, the highest level of 'into works' since the beginning of the programme;
- worked with 1,803 people accessing employment support via the Triage process since April 2022;
- achieved 756 sustainable Employment Opportunities, sourced via the Employer Engagement Officers, since April 2022;
- coordinated the ICT Chromebooks Scheme to offer digital support to clients with 46 individuals using Chromebooks finding employment;
- delivered marketing activities including newsletters distributed to 120,000 households, attendance at local events and Swansea Working promotional materials including lamppost banners and digital car park screens.

Employability Mentors have continued to work with high caseloads this year. The team continue to support community networks and hubs (which reopened earlier this year following the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic) including Jac Lewis Foundation, BAME Mental Health Support and City Centre Hub, working in collaboration with partner agencies.

CASE STUDY: Employability Mentor

SH completed an SIA qualification with support from our Employability Mentor and had had a job offer as a security guard at Caswell Beach car park. For him to be able to accept this job offer, he needed to have means of transport.

To overcome the lack of transport barrier which would allow him to accept this offer, the Mentor contacted JT's Motorcycles to enquire about CBT course, as he had a provisional licence and he was over 24 years of age so he could meet the criteria to drive 125cc motorcycle with a valid CBT. JT's Motorcycles had a spare place on a course that weekend on the Saturday so the Mentor secured his place and called SH to advise of date, time and documents he would need to take with him.

SH was struggling with poverty and desperately needed this job as he was frequently visiting food banks. This job would enable him to support himself and give him a sense of pride so the Mentor completed a requisition form with support from the Finance Team. Once his transport was organised, the Mentor also helped him to get all-weather clothes to be able to take the job. When he started work, SH visited his Mentor with his new bike and clothes, to offer his thanks as he felt without his CBT and clothing, he would have not been able to come off benefits and improve his personal circumstances.

5.6.5 Workways+ tackles the barriers that prevent individuals from finding employment. The project provides support with job searching, Curriculum Vitae (CV) development, application forms, interview skills and access to training. Participants in the scheme must be over 25 years old, unemployed for 12 months+ and live outside CF Postcode areas. Participants are also matched with local businesses to gain vital experience needed to find long term employment.

5.6.6 Workways Short Term Unemployed (STU) supports participants who are over 25 years old, unemployed for under 12 months and have a work limited health condition or low skills.

5.6.7 In Swansea, Pathways to Work - funded by the UK Government - is open to local residents who are either long-term unemployed or aged 16-plus and economically inactive. It offers employability support, support for improving skills (including digital skills), volunteering and paid placements.

5.6.8 The Employment Hub in the Quadrant Shopping Centre has played an important role in this partnership approach. It was launched earlier this year and this has resulted in an increase in referrals into Employability Support. The Employability Hub has resulted in 603 new referrals for employability support in a six month period. It has recently relocated to another unit in the Quadrant.



There have been over 30 partner, employer, recruitment, Cost of Living and information events held at the venue. There have been over 150 job offers and entries to employment because of the Employment Hub.

5.6.9 In addition to our internal paid placements scheme and corporate apprenticeship programme, Beyond Bricks and Mortar (BB+M) is an important initiative to secure community benefits from all suitable council activities in Swansea for the lasting benefits of our communities. It involves introducing community benefit clauses – such as targeted recruitment and training – into Council contracts to ensure that members of our communities (especially young people and those who have been out of the job market for some time) are given opportunities of meaningful training and employment.

5.6.10 Other employability activities undertaken this year include:

- Working with prison leavers, care leavers and partners on targeted initiatives;
- Delivering group sessions with Forest schools;
- Participating in engagement activities and events;
- Sponsoring and attending the Wales Air Show;
- Supporting Ukrainian refugees including bespoke engagement sessions and;
- Sector specific recruitment days;
- Deliver a budgeting programme in the run up to Christmas to develop craft skills, learn how to budget and save money over the Christmas period.

CASE STUDY: Employability Support

Swansea Working referred a client to the Employability Mentor and after initial introductions, he met with his mentor at a library near home. He explained that he was seeking employment in the security sector and had previously served in the Armed Forces. He was now sixty-three and had been unemployed for two years after doing cash-in-hand jobs.

Due to his time in the Army, he had developed chronic Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and was taking anti-anxiety medicine. The mentor brought up various charities who provide support and confidential advice to veterans struggling with mental health difficulties. The client was not very talkative at first, eventually speaking up about his mental health.

After discussing different paths he could take into the security sector, the client decided to start by completing an SIA door supervisor course, which we could pay for in full to protect his livelihood. He was excited by the challenge however and expressed that after quite a long time not having a clear goal, it felt like he finally had purpose and direction. During this time, an Employer Engagement Officers found an employer in the security sector who was offering part time work as an event steward. They were happy to contract the client part time while he prepared for his SIA course. Following the course, they would then be able to provide him with lots of employment opportunities so he could essentially work full time.

On the final day of the client's SIA course, the client explained to the mentor that he had taken their advice to use a veterans helpline. This really helped his mental state and had changed his perspective on counselling. He was surprised that not only did he receive assistance with his employment search but that the mentor had supported him with his mental health difficulties.

5.7 Welfare Reform

Our seventh step is to **help to address the impacts of welfare reform and socio-economic disadvantage by supporting people to claim the full benefits and financial support that they are entitled to, reduce costs and make the most of the resources that they have, improving access to opportunities to improve their financial wellbeing.**

5.7.1 The Welfare Rights team is a part of the Tackling Poverty Service and is responsible for providing a second-tier service specialising in welfare benefit and tax credits law, supporting those who are providing a front-tier service and working with claimants on benefit issues.

The Welfare Rights Team continue to maximise individuals' income by claiming additional benefits where possible, but much of the work is around maintaining income and preventing claimants being sanctioned because they have been placed in the wrong work-related requirement group.

This year, the team has expanded as a result of additional temporary grant funding to offer people a more direct service (Tier 1). Since 1st April 2022, the team has dealt with:

Enquiries	620
Appointments	70
Support Workers Trained	104
Benefits secured	£484,233.23
Value of debt addressed	£87,066.21

During this year, the Welfare Rights team have:

- provided advice to individuals who have received various grants which have been administered by Welsh Government;
- continued to support the Family and Friends Fostering Team and Special Guardians;

- delivered a variety of training courses to maintain and increase welfare rights knowledge of the work force of Swansea;
- provided a welfare rights service to support Local Area Coordination, helping local people in Swansea many of whom have complex needs;
- commissioned Kin Cymru to provide a public facing welfare rights advice line service;
- maintained the Welfare Rights Adviceline three days a week, providing benefits advice, support and assistance to those working in statutory and voluntary organisations which increases and maintains their clients benefit income.

CASE STUDY: Lola's Story

The Early Help Hub, who at the time were supporting Lola's daughter, introduced her to Beth, her Local Area Coordinator. Lola was struggling with anxiety and isolation and was facing extreme financial hardship. She lives with severe anxiety; it influenced her life so much that she barely felt comfortable leaving her house, let alone holding down a job. She suffered financially as she was unable to work. As she didn't have a physical disability, she didn't realise she would be entitled to further financial help/benefits.

Beth spent time building up a trusting relationship with Lola; she eventually felt safe talking openly about her financial hardships. This was clearly contributing hugely to her anxiety. Lola ended up falling into substantial debt, taking out multiple loans, falling into rent arrears and needing food banks on a regular basis. Lola didn't feel able to pursue or even think about her 'good life' with Beth; she was just living day-to-day in fear and distress, hoping she had enough money at the end of each month.

Beth requested support from Sheila from the Welfare Rights Team. She initially supported Lola with successful DAF applications to address the immediate hardship. Lola was claiming the bare minimum, but over time, Sheila supported her to access Personal Independence Payments (PIP). She now receives £659.30 in PIP and a monthly increase in her Universal Credit (UC) of £343.63. Overall, Lola's monthly income increased by £1,002.93. Sheila was also able to access some back payments, which enabled Lola to have treats with her children, bringing both her and them pleasure.

Lola feels more relaxed knowing she can not only afford the essentials for her children but she has enough to spend on fun family activities outside the home. She doesn't have to worry that one bus or taxi trip to the seaside with her kids will leave her with nothing.

5.7.2 In September 2022, the Council launched a dedicated web-page on its internet site with advice on the financial support available to help people dealing with the Cost of Living crisis.

The screenshot shows the Swansea Council website's 'Cost of living help' page. The header includes the Swansea Council logo and navigation links for Residents, Business, Council, and Do it online. The breadcrumb trail is 'Swansea Home > Residents'. The main heading is 'Cost of living help'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'We have put together these pages to help provide information on the cost of living. We will add more information when we receive it. If you are still struggling with costs, then you can find people to talk to who can give you further advice using our [search for advice and support](#).' There are six content boxes arranged in two rows of three:

- Cost of living payments available:** There are payments available from both the UK and Welsh governments to help with the cost of living.
- Energy costs and household bills:** Support and advice on paying your energy and other household bills.
- Swansea Working:** Looking for work? We can help you.
- Debt and money worries:** The most important thing to consider if you are struggling with money is whether you are receiving all of the benefits you are entitled to.
- Food and essential items:** Find out where you can access free food and other essential items such as period products.
- Housing:** Support is available to help find you somewhere to live, prevent you from becoming homeless and help you with your rent and other bills.

5.7.3 The Revenues and Benefits team is a part of the Finance Directorate and is responsible for the administration of some benefits, the collection of council tax and business rates as well as undertaking financial assessments for a number of other schemes. At the start of 2022/23, the Revenues and Benefits service completed the 2021/22 Winter Fuel payment on behalf of Welsh Government, having dealt with 18,100 applications and paid £2,760,000 to 13,800 Swansea citizens.

During 2022/23, in addition to the Self-Isolation Payments, Unpaid Carers Payment, Cost of Living Payment and Fuel Payment illustrated in the section 1, the Revenues and Benefits Service has been administering the following schemes on behalf of the Welsh Government:

Council Tax Reductions 22/23

- Funded mostly by Welsh Government with a substantial contribution from the authority
- Scheme is open and ongoing
- 20,967 current beneficiaries of the scheme, £22,576,881.61 paid to those Swansea residents

Arising from the administration of these grants and the service's core roles is a significant amount of customer contact. Since 1st April 2022, the Revenues and Benefits Customer Service Team has dealt with:

Telephone calls	76,204
Face to face meetings with customers	5,118
Emails	60,137
Total number of customer contacts	141,459

Waiting times for telephone calls have been particularly challenging but additional temporary staff have been employed to deal with peaks of work. However, the high volumes of calls are not expected to decrease significantly for some time (if at all) during the Cost of Living crisis.

5.8 Homelessness

Our eighth step is to **prevent homelessness and support people to maintain their tenancies to help provide stability and security for families and communities, through the development and implementation of a new Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026.**

5.8.1 The vision for homelessness prevention in Swansea has been amended to reflect the Welsh Government's priorities for homelessness to be "rare, brief and unrepeated," and the Housing Support Programme Strategy now includes strategic objectives for Housing Support Grant funded services as part of an overall Housing Support Programme that encompasses both the statutory homelessness duty funded through the revenue settlement and non-statutory preventative services funded through the HSG.

5.8.2 A rapid rehousing approach has been adopted. The focus of rapid rehousing support is to help people move into settled accommodation ensuring the right support is in place. All Local Authorities are required to develop a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan in partnership with key stakeholders. The 5-year transition plan will set out how the Council will move towards providing more sustainable models of accommodation and support that meet the needs of everyone; minimise the use of temporary accommodation to a system that assesses needs quickly and identifies the most appropriate option that meets the needs and wishes of the individual.

A report on Homelessness is being submitted to Scrutiny Programme in December 2022 with further details about the wider strategic approach and performance in relation to this theme.

5.9 New energy efficient Council homes

Our ninth step is to **continue to invest to improve existing council housing, provide energy efficiency improvements / decarbonisation to reduce fuel bills and fuel poverty for council tenants and help meet local and national targets for decarbonisation.**

5.9.1 There are many ways of improving energy efficiency of new and existing homes including adding insulation, improving heating & cooling systems, upgrading appliances / lighting / equipment, and employing renewable energy systems. More efficient homes contribute to decarbonisation targets as well as being cheaper homes to run and maintain.

5.9.2 The Council has recently met the deadline for bringing its properties up the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). Welsh Government is now set to introduce new targets into its Welsh Housing Quality Standard for social housing which will make it a requirement for homes to be highly efficient (with a SAP score of 92), affordable and virtually carbon neutral places to live. The Council has provided a response to the WHQS 2023 consultation and it is anticipated a revised statutory standard will commence in April 2023, with a future policy focus on providing residents with affordable warm homes while decarbonising properties to make social housing in Wales net zero carbon.

5.9.3 The Council has already introduced energy saving measures into the specification of its major repair schemes such as external wall insulation, high performing loft insulation that goes beyond industry standards, new more efficient double glazing and highly efficient heating systems. In order work towards the new standard, the Council is currently designing a number of schemes in 2022 which will include renewable technologies such as photovoltaic solar panels, batteries to store the electricity generated by the panels as well as air source heat pumps for localities which are not on the mains gas network.

There are approximately twelve schemes in varying stages of development where the Council intends to begin rolling out in 2023/24. These will assist the Council with developing the skills and knowledge required as well as gauge tenant experience with this technology. The schemes represent a small proportion of the housing stock and achieving this across the Council's housing stock will require major additional government funding.

5.10 Affordable Housing

Our tenth step is to **build more energy efficient Council homes and support the building of affordable housing to help meet housing need, regenerate estates and bring wider economic and employment benefits.**

5.10.1 Affordable homes include social rented housing owned by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords as well as intermediate housing where prices or rents are above those of social rents but below market housing prices or rents. The Council's More Homes Programme has set a ten-year delivery ambition of 1,000 new affordable homes to be directly delivered by the Council, along with a further 4,000 properties delivered by Registered Social Landlords (RSL) in Swansea.

5.10.2 The Council has developed a high specification for the properties it is building - the "Swansea Standard". The aim is to deliver energy, efficient, environmentally conscious homes that exceed current regulatory performance standards to achieve net zero carbon buildings. The homes will reduce operating energy and Co2 emissions over the building's life-time. The construction form is a 'fabric first' approach – focussed to achieve at least a 25% improvement above the thermal performance prescribed in current Building Regulations. The envelope consists of a highly insulated timber-frame with high-performance doors & triple glazed windows - ensuring homes retain heat in the winter and help keep people cool in the summer.

The aim is to provide homes that are comfortable and make a positive contribution towards health and well-being, which are highly energy efficient and cost-effective to operate, providing a positive contribution towards the drive to eradicate fuel-poverty.

5.10.3 Following on from the completion of 34 new build Council homes in 2020/21, progress during the last twelve months includes:

- Completion of Hill View Crescent in Clase – providing 25 new homes;
- Completion of Bryn House – former education centre in Uplands. Converted into four 1 bedroom flats, while the demountable outbuildings were demolished and replaced with four passivhaus pods, which are used as temporary accommodation;
- Development of 6 bungalows at West Cross is due for completion in December 2022;
- Conversion of a former social services property in Gorseinon into two 3 bedroom homes is due to complete in February 2023;
- Conversion of two decommissioned District Housing Offices (Penlan and Eastside) to create 10 one-bed and two-bed flats is due to start in January 2023;
- An on-going acquisition programme which has focused on purchasing ex-council properties to rapidly increase the social housing stock. So far during 2022/23 28 properties have been purchased. Overall, since the acquisition programme began in 2018, 99 ex-council properties, which were sold via the right to buy, have been purchased and returned to the Council's housing stock;
- Demolition of the former Clase District Housing Office has now been completed to enable the Creswell Road development of 9 new homes, with construction targeted to commence in 2023/24;

- The former Education site at Brondeg House has also been acquired by the HRA and the existing building has been demolished to make way for new affordable housing.
- Gorseinon Business Park has been acquired and demolition of the existing buildings will commence in January 2023 with further work to prepare the land for housing development taking place in 2023/24.

Future plans include preparing for the development of two large schemes, where the Council will seek a development partner to assist bringing them forward, including land at Milford Way, Blaenymaes and Brokesby Close, Bonymaen, along with a number of smaller plots in locations such as Penrhos Place (Gendros) and Heol Dynys (Ravenhill).

These schemes will form part of the Council's developments over the next four years and are anticipated to provide in the region of 300 new homes.

In addition to the Council's own building programme, we continue to work closely with RSLs partners to ensure we maximise the delivery of affordable housing through the allocation of Welsh Government Social Housing Grant (SHG) through the Programme Development Plan, which is managed by the Council. Swansea's allocation of SHG from Welsh Government was £23.7m for 2022/23.

5.10.4 Work also continues in conjunction with the Planning Department to maximise the number of planning applications approved by the Council that achieve the stated % threshold of mixed-use tenure affordable homes on residential development sites in accordance with planning policy.

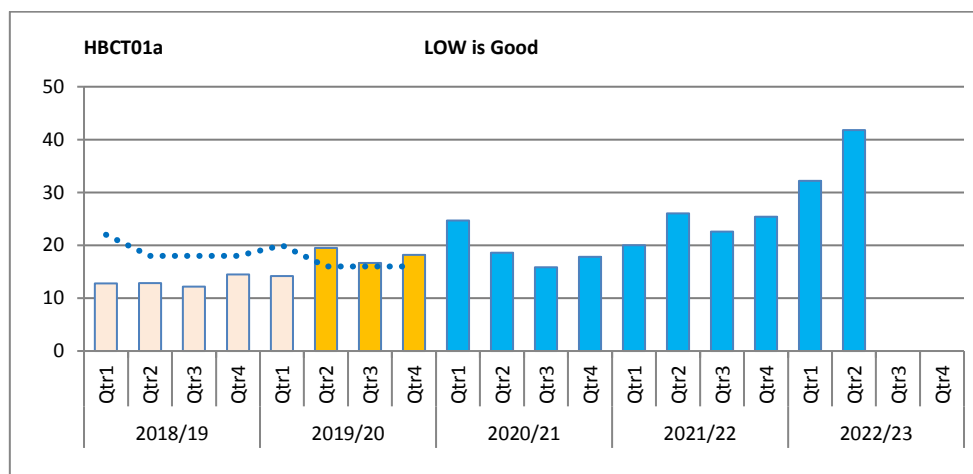
6. Corporate Performance Indicators

6.1 Benefit Entitlements

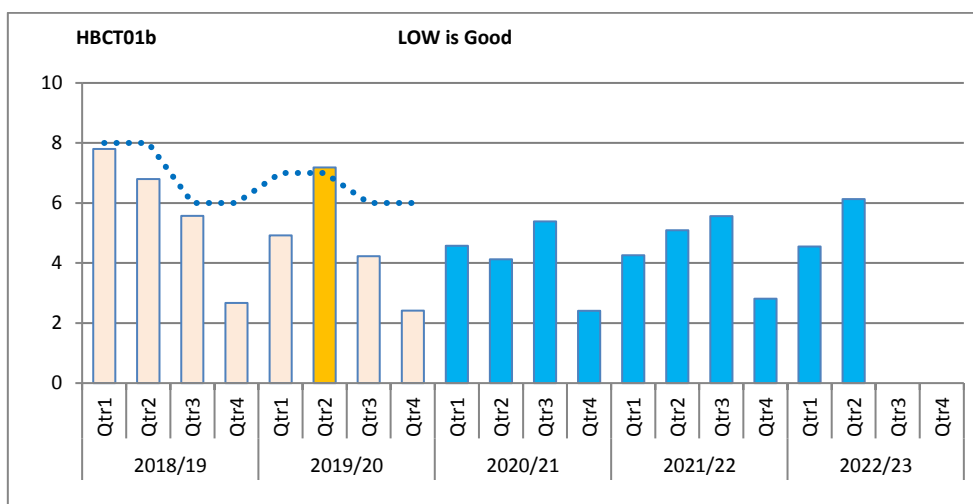
Our aim is to help people to access the benefit entitlements that will support them in dealing with the issues of poverty. Housing Benefits (HB) are designed to support eligible people who are unemployed, on low income or claiming benefits to pay rent (where they are not claiming Universal Credit). The Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme is designed to support eligible people who are on low income or claiming benefits to pay some or all of their Council Tax.

The performance data is collected to indicate how long customers are waiting before their applications for these benefits are processed. The Council is required to provide HB data to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) on whose behalf we administer the Housing Benefit scheme locally.

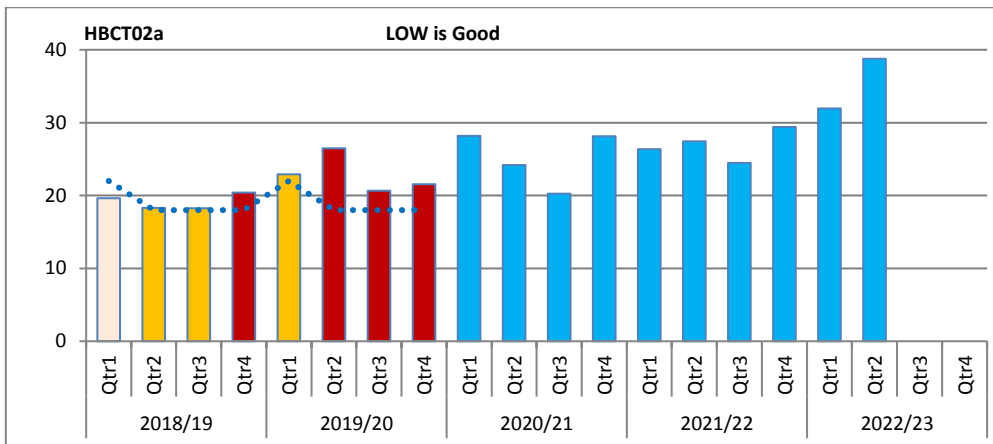
HBCT01a - Housing Benefit speed of processing: Average time for processing new claims



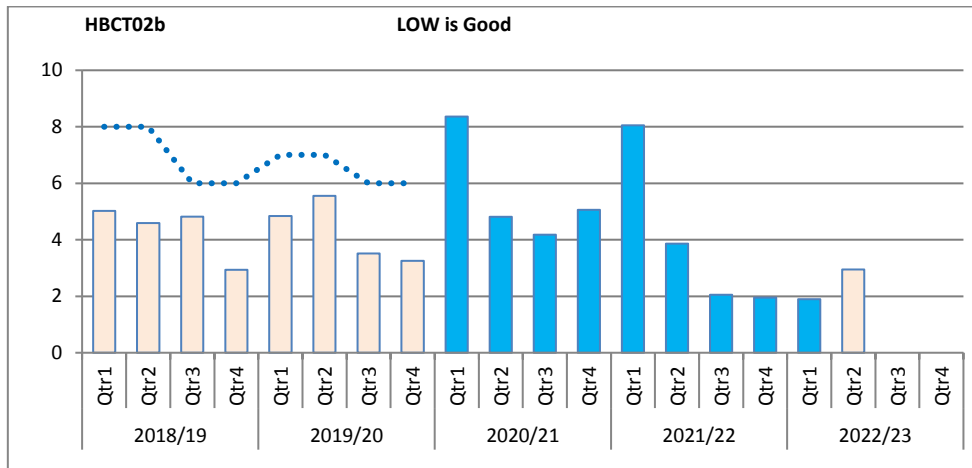
HBCT01b - Housing Benefit speed of processing: Average time for processing notifications of change in circumstances



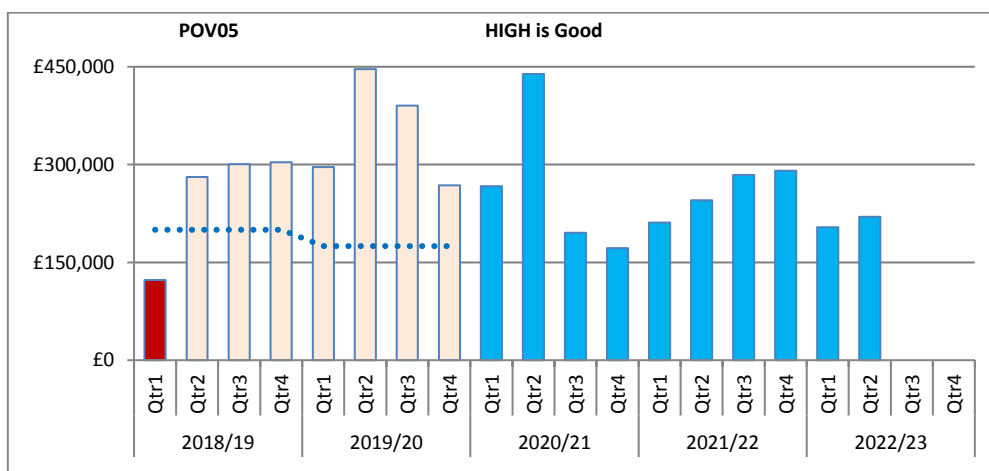
HBCT02a - Council Tax Reduction speed of processing: Average time for processing new claims



HBCT02b - Council Tax Reduction speed of processing: Average time for processing notification of change in circumstances



POV05 - The amount of welfare benefits raised through securing rights and entitlements by the Welfare Rights Team



As a result of additional work arising from the grant payments and the loss of some experienced staff to other services, the numbers of days taken to process new applications

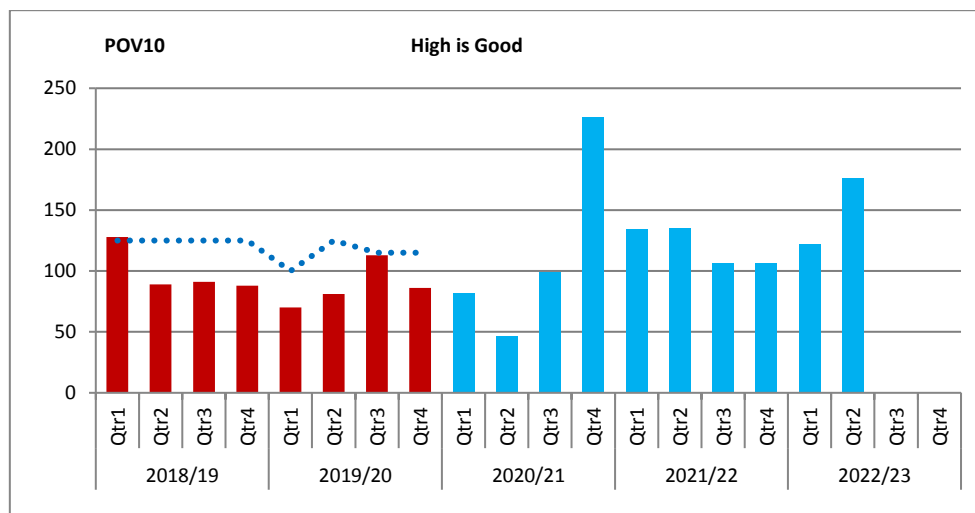
for HB/CTR and changes in circumstances has increased over the early part of the financial year and the summer. Performance is slowly improving since September 2022 and additional staff are being recruited however we do not expect to be back at previously high performance levels for some time. If further additional work is given to the Revenue and Benefits service (such as more grant schemes to administer) or the inability to maintain staffing levels, progress will be slower.

6.2 Employability

Our aim is to help people to overcome social, cultural, economic barriers enabling individuals to access employment opportunities. Employability means developing the skills, knowledge and experience of individuals that improve their chances of being suitable for paid work. We want to help adults of working age to gain employment and be successful in their chosen lines of work, which will enable them to contribute to their community, the local economy and support themselves and their families in dealing with the issues of poverty.

The performance data is collected to indicate how many people have been helped by our teams to gain employment through mentoring and support.

POV10 - The number of people gaining employment through Employability Support

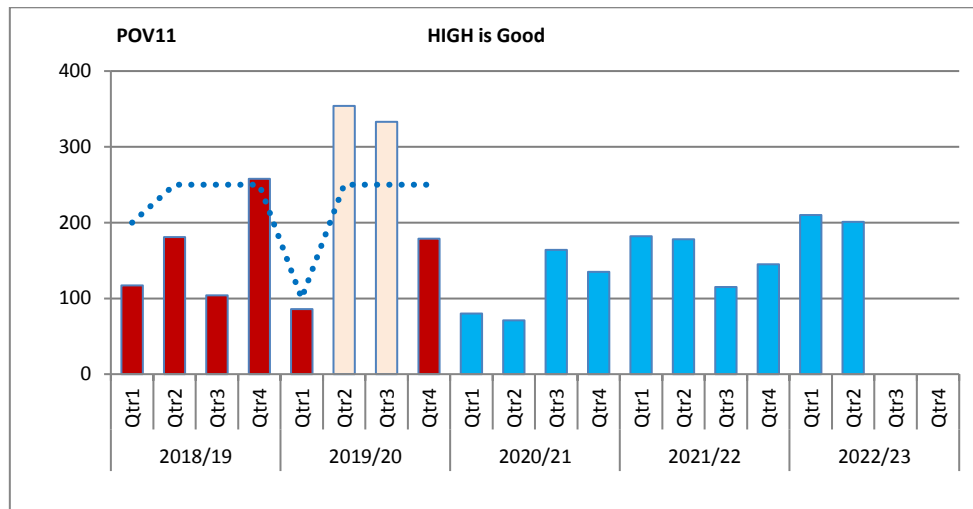


The number of people gaining employment through Employability Support has risen over the last twelve months. This covers the outcomes achieved by the following programmes; Swansea Working; Communities for Work; Communities for Work Plus; Workways STU; and Workways Plus.

6.3 Qualifications

Our aim is to help working age adults to achieve the qualifications required to achieve suitable, meaningful employment which will support them in dealing with the issues of poverty. People who improve their accredited qualifications and develop their skills and capabilities are more confident and better prepared for improving their earning potential and being successful in getting work that meets their needs and ambitions.

POV11 - The number of accredited qualifications achieved by adults with Local Authority support



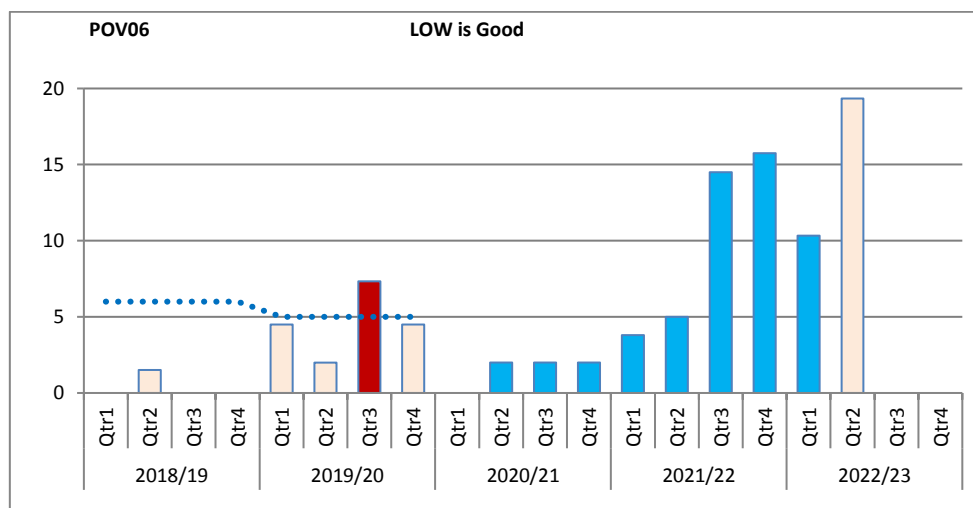
Whilst attendance at Swansea Working courses has improved and this shows on comparison to last year, the training course offer has expanded meaning more clients can access the courses.

6.4 Homelessness

Our aim is to help people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to. This is in line with Welsh Government’s priority for homelessness to be “rare, brief and unrepeated”.

The Housing Act 1996 places a legal duty on local authorities to assist people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The Council’s Housing Support Programme Strategy – which incorporates the strategic approach to homelessness – aims to ensure that every person has access to good quality advice, accommodation and support at the earliest possible opportunity in order to prevent homelessness. This target specifically aims to ensure that we reduce the number of families with children that are placed in Bed & Breakfast accommodation and to reduce the time families spend in Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

POV06 - The average number of days all homeless families with children spend in Bed & Breakfast accommodation



During the COVID-19 pandemic, people who were homeless and impacted by the Coronavirus were able to stay in local hotels and Bed & Breakfast sites with the support of the Council. The pandemic continues to have an impact on the availability of temporary accommodation; move on is slower due to wider pressures on the availability of affordable housing, and households continue to present at a time of crisis where little/no prevention work is possible prior to temporary accommodation being needed. We have also seen a number of Ukrainian families present as needing emergency accommodation which has placed added pressure on stock levels. The Housing service continues to work towards 'always a bed' although this is reliant on continued funding from Welsh Government.

7. National Strategic Drivers

7.1 Wellbeing of Future Generations

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a duty on public bodies – including the Council – to carry out sustainable development and deliver against key wellbeing objectives.



The five principles of sustainable development under the Act are:

- Collaboration
- Integration
- Involvement
- Long-Term
- Prevention

We recognise that the Council's strategic approach to tackling poverty aligns with the goals and principles of the Act. The Corporate Priority of 'Tackling Poverty' is intended to focus our actions on prosperity, resilience and equality for people who are in or at risk of poverty, while contributing to cohesive communities and improving the health and wellbeing of the population.

7.2 Time for Change – Poverty in Wales

In November 2022, Audit Wales published the ['Time for Change' – Poverty in Wales](#) report for the Auditor General. This report was the first of three strategic investigations into the national approach to tackling and alleviating poverty. Swansea Council contributed to the investigation, which ran between April 2021 and September 2022, through a series of interviews, focus groups and providing key strategic documentation for review. A number of positive reflections on the approach to tackling poverty by the Council were noted in the report including:

- Taking a council-wide co-ordination approach bringing together senior officers to address the issues relating to poverty;
- Having clear reporting data on the total investment of Welsh Government grant funding directed toward poverty initiatives;
- Establishing the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, the first of its kind in Wales;
- Partnering with neighbouring councils and other stakeholders on our campaigns and planning activities;
- Developing a comprehensive Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to inform policy decision-making;
- Developing a Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy for supporting people that have overdue personal debt with the council.

The report identified eight recommendations for improvements to be made by Welsh Government and local authorities across Wales in relation to tackling and alleviating poverty. Further detail is in Section 9 Way Forward of our actions in response to the recommendations.

8. Additional developments

8.1 Prevention

While the Council's priority for tackling poverty focuses on supporting people dealing with the impacts of poverty, we must also ensure we continue supporting people to become resilient and achieve outcomes that they want to see in their own lives, which will in turn reduce demand on services.

A preventative approach means prioritising people staying healthy, happy, independent, and connected to their communities for as long as possible. Where people do need help to do this, they are supported earlier and more effectively.

We see a clear link between the prevention and tackling poverty corporate objective because preventing people's needs from escalating is an important approach to:

- Building resilience and capacity of individuals to address their own wellbeing needs;
- Building the strengths and assets of local communities to support individuals;
- Removing barriers facing individuals such as access to early interventions;
- Reducing the demand on services which can be mitigated through early interventions;
- Giving people the knowledge, skills and confidence to take full control of their lives.

As we engage with our population to refresh our strategic approach to tackling poverty, we will seek their views on how prevention can play a part in this priority as well as the wider benefits and opportunities from focusing in on early intervention and prevention.

8.2 Volunteering

One of the key features of the COVID-19 pandemic was the response of the volunteer community during the challenges of lockdowns and increased demand on public services. There were many stories of people stepping up within their communities to help those in need, providing essential support to supplement public services and third sector organisation.

Work is underway on the development of Swansea Council's Volunteering Strategy based on existing Council-led volunteering opportunities in departments like Social Services and Cultural Services. However, there is an opportunity to enhance the potential of volunteering to support people and communities to reduce poverty, improve prosperity and mitigate the risk to service delivery.

We see an opportunity to using the implementation of volunteering to tackle poverty by:

- Delivering volunteering tasks and activities that address the impacts of poverty, such as improving wellbeing;
- Helping unemployed people to develop skills and experience that can lead to future job opportunities;
- Improving the strengths and assets of local communities through social enterprises, community interest groups and volunteer-based initiatives.

Development of the Swansea Council Volunteering Strategy is one of the work plan items for the Safeguarding and Tackling Poverty Corporate Delivery Committee (CDC).

9. Way Forward

9.1 Corporate Plan Refresh

We are entering a period of strategic review of the Corporate Plan including the Tackling Poverty priority which will allow us to revisit the steps to tackling poverty. We will work with colleagues across the organisation to develop this corporate priority including preparing an IIA and Performance Indicators to feed into the 2023-27 Corporate Plan.

9.2 Strategy Refresh

The Tackling Poverty Strategy was due to be refreshed during 2022 but as a result of the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Cost of Living crisis, this has been delayed. We plan to undertake a period of engagement and consultation with our partners and stakeholders – in particular with our population across Swansea – to inform and refresh our strategic approach. Our aim is to co-produce and publish a refreshed Tackling Poverty Strategy in 2023.

We recognise the need for working with colleagues, partners and stakeholders – including people with lived experience of poverty – to inform this approach. Using a person-centred, strengths-based approach means that there are many potential ways to tackle poverty including:

- Improving wellbeing and reducing health inequalities;
- Improving educational attainment;
- Improving opportunities for community participation;
- Helping people to maximise incomes and reduce costs;
- Promoting economic growth that is accessible, inclusive and benefits everyone;
- Providing more access to green spaces and opportunities to grow food.

A big part of this effort is to focus on prevention as a key approach to tackling poverty (as well as the wider benefits to the health and wellbeing of our population). We will also align closely with the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) strategic programme, Prevention and Community Coordination (PCC), to develop a regional, strategic approach in this area.

Our next steps are to take these key approaches to our population, partners and stakeholders to gather their views.

9.3 Recommendations from the 'Time for Change' report

The Audit Wales review into poverty in Wales highlighted eight key recommendations for Welsh Government and local authorities to action. We have reviewed our local position against these recommendations and identified the following key actions:

	Recommendation	What we are going to do
1	National strategy and targets for tackling and alleviating poverty	1. Work with Welsh Government on the national strategy, targets and performance measures.

	Recommendation	What we are going to do
2	Local strategies, targets and performance reporting for tackling and alleviating poverty	2. Refresh Tackling Poverty Strategy, aiming to publish by mid 2023. 3. Develop Tackling Poverty Performance Framework, aiming to publish by mid2023. 4. Develop a Swansea-centric dashboard of data and intelligence relating to tackling poverty.
3	Leadership on the poverty agenda	5. Engage with Welsh Local Government Association Poverty Group 6. Communications campaign to promote tackling poverty leadership roles and structures with our partners, networks and communities aligned to publication of the refreshed Tackling Poverty Strategy.
4	Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of grant-funded programmes	7. Develop a Tackling Poverty Data Framework to publish by mid 2023.
5	Experience mapping to create inclusive services for people in poverty	8. Deliver programme of engagement and 'experience mapping' activities with people with lived experience of poverty. 9. Review and identify opportunities and draft proposals for addressing digital and social inclusion.
6	Single web landing page for people seeking help	10. Review feedback on web page and undertake continuous improvement of content.
7	Streamlining and improving application and information services for people in poverty	11. Develop collaborative plan of community enablement activities and commitments as part of the corporate 'Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities' priority. 12. Launch Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy to publish by April 2023.
8	Complying with the socio-economic duty	Action 4 above.

More detailed activities will be defined as part of the refresh of the Tackling Poverty Strategy and our action planning involving people with lived experience of poverty.

9.4 Performance Framework

Linking the performance of our services and actions to the outcomes for our population gives us an opportunity to clearly evidence the impact we are making in our efforts to tackle poverty in Swansea. Given the nature of the actions required, there are a number of cross-cutting outcomes owned by various departments and Corporate Performance Indicators that are linked to this priority.

We will develop a **Tackling Poverty Performance Framework** to define how we align the objectives, outcomes, indicators and measures relating to tackling poverty. A framework is required due to the complexity of how poverty align with other aspects of our service performance such as wellbeing.

This framework will provide the foundation for ongoing monitoring, measurement, demonstration and reporting of performance across departments and service delivery teams as well as aligning with relevant data from our partners and stakeholders. It will also help us

to identify trends and validate our successes by articulating more clearly how effective we are in tackling poverty (as well as the value of our total investment in tackling poverty).

9.5 Human Rights

Swansea declaration as a Human Rights City is part of the journey towards achieving a vision of vibrant, diverse, fair and safe communities built on the foundations of universal human rights. Tackling poverty emerged from the development of the proposals for the Human Rights City as the key priority for development, based on addressing the rights of people to live their lives.

We will allow us to explore different ways of ensuring that we meet the needs and rights of our population in the way we approach tackling poverty in the future.

9.6 Promotion and engagement

It is expected that through the course of the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, challenges to the perceptions of poverty will start to be addressed. Commissioners with lived experience of poverty working with Civic and Business Commissioners will focus on topics of their choosing. This is, however, just one approach to working closely with people with lived experience of poverty to shape our actions and services in the future.

One of the ongoing challenges in making this a priority for everyone is addressing the feelings about being in poverty. Such feelings can prevent people in need from reaching out for help that is readily available to them. In addition to our plans for Experience Mapping, we intend to explore the language and behaviours relating to poverty to ensure that our approaches are aligned with the needs of our population.

We see opportunities to raise the profile of our services and efforts in tackling poverty, embedding principles of co-production to get our messages right and increasing the effectiveness of our actions.

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Tackling Poverty Service

Directorate: Adult Social Services

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

This is an IIA Screening for the Report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty. The report provides a briefing to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on the delivery of the Council's Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty.

The Scrutiny Programme Committee is being asked to consider the report and give its views / make recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Member.

There is no impact for the report itself. Recommendations made by the committee to inform future activity may require further investigation through the full IIA process which would be actioned at the appropriate time.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

Corproductive approaches with stakeholders including internal and external partners and people with lived experience of poverty will continue to shape our strategic delivery going forward. The launch of the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission in October 2022 will be one of the key mechanisms for ensuring the voice of lived experience informs and shapes our priorities and activities. Examples of current coproduction include the administration of targeted Welsh Government funding such as to tackle food poverty and food insecurity. Stakeholders inform the design of the grant administration to best meet local needs. Another example is Local Area Coordination, coordinators ‘walk alongside’ people to help them to achieve their personal aspirations for a good life and make good connections the support them in their journey.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
 Yes No

- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
 Yes No

- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
 Yes No

- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
 Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Tackling Poverty is a Corporate Priority and implemented by an ‘everybody’s business approach’. Recommendations made by the committee could potentially impact other departments / services.

Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

There is no impact for the report itself.

Recommendations made by the committee to inform future activity may require further investigation through the IIA process which would be actioned at the appropriate time.

The implementation of the 'way forward' identified within the report and also the recommendations from the Audit Wales 'Time for Change – Poverty in Wales' Report will include coproduction, engagement and consultation as appropriate with a wide range of stakeholders including those with lived experience. A coproductive way of working will furthermore continue to inform service delivery and development through ongoing involvement mechanisms.

We recognise that current delivery and the next steps impact on people, families and communities with the aim of addressing or mitigating the impact of poverty.

Outcome of Screening

Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:

- Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)
- Summary of involvement (Q3)
- WFG considerations (Q4)
- Any risks identified (Q5)
- Cumulative impact (Q7)

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The Scrutiny Programme Committee is being asked to consider the report and give its views / make recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

Screening completed by:
Name: Anthony Richards
Job title: Tackling Poverty Strategy Development Manager
Date: 29/11/22
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Amy Hawkins
Position: Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty
Date: 01/11/22



**To/
Councillors Alyson Pugh &
Louise Gibbard
Cabinet Members for Supporting
Communities
BY EMAIL**

cc: Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

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SPC/2021-22/9

17 December 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Members following the meeting of the Committee on 16 November 2021. It is about the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty.

Dear Councillor,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November

We are writing to you following our scrutiny session to monitor and challenge Council action in relation to Tackling Poverty.

We thank you both, and officers, for attending the Committee meeting to present a detailed report on the delivery of the corporate priority, so we can comment on progress, achievements, and implementation of strategy.

You will be aware that there was a Scrutiny Inquiry on Tackling Poverty which reported in 2017. This was followed up in October 2018 and recorded good progress with most of the scrutiny recommendations. The inquiry was credited with generating and helping to bring a clear focus to tackling poverty activity and informed the development of the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Your report provided us with information on aims and objectives, a comparative assessment of poverty in Swansea, an outline of key plans and priorities, available resource, an overview of delivery and performance, case studies / examples of the difference made to people's lives, and key service

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
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achievements, as well as describing current challenges and risks, and future priorities.

We noted that Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy defines poverty as:

- income below the Minimum Income Standard (the Minimum Income Standard is based on what the public think people need for an acceptable minimum standard of living as researched by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation).
- inadequate access to necessary services of good quality.
- inadequate opportunity or resource to join in with social, cultural, leisure and decision-making activities.

You reported that poverty is caused by things that reduce resources or increase needs and the costs of meeting those needs. Causes of poverty can also be consequences which can then create a cycle known as the poverty trap. Causes can include unemployment or low-paid jobs lacking prospects and security, low levels of skill or education, an ineffective benefit system, high cost of housing and essential goods and services, discrimination, weak relationships, and abuse, trauma, or chaotic lives. Common triggers of poverty are often life changing events or changes in circumstances such as becoming sick, bereavement, redundancy, or relationship breakdown.

We were told that the Covid-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted low-income households, pushing more people into poverty, and those experiencing it, further into poverty resulting in an increase in demand for services including crisis support services and increased complexities for those in need; and that the Council's ongoing response to the pandemic in relation to mitigating the impacts of poverty and meeting demand continues to shape new ways of working.

You highlighted that there is a holistic approach to tackling poverty and praised the work of officers involved in the Council's Tackling Poverty Service working hard to improve people's lives, though we noted that there is a heavy reliance on grant funding with approximately 15% core funding which was an ongoing risk to service delivery. You provided a list of service achievements and case studies of support to families and individuals. You also highlighted the importance of partnership working in tackling poverty and dealing with the impacts, and felt that relationships both within the Council, and between the Council and external organisations was good, with the common aim of improving lives, and that there is an active quarterly Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum.

This letter reflects on what we learnt from the information presented, questions, and discussion. It shares the views of the Committee and highlights any outstanding issues / actions for your response - main issues summarised below.

Aims and Objectives

The Committee recognised that this is a massive agenda and poverty is of course a problem across Wales and affected to a great degree by national and UK policies and decisions. Given that the Council is limited in its powers to reduce or eradicate poverty we questioned whether the aims and objectives of the Council could be more clearly defined, i.e., was it best described as 'tackling poverty'? Looking at the range of actions being taken, you agreed that what the Council is trying to do is alleviate the problem / effects and deal with the impacts to improve people's lives, for example with welfare rights / benefits advice, lifelong learning opportunities to gain skills and qualifications, employability support, supporting health and well-being, etc.

We recognised the importance, nevertheless, of small wins, given the scope of what one Council can achieve, contributing towards a bigger goal. The Committee acknowledged that there is a lot of good work being done, as shown in the detailed report provided, but felt that the Council should be better placed to monitor, measure, and clearly demonstrate the success from all the clearly considerable efforts being made. We felt that the suite of current corporate / national performance indicators alone does not adequately tell the story, and each of the objectives the Council has should have clear targets and an effective measure, so that we can see the value from the resources being put in. We heard that this is acknowledged to be an area where more work could be done, so that it is clear what 'good' or 'success' looks like, how we measure that, and where we are in achieving that. We would welcome future reports being able to tell this clearly, tell us what the headlines are, with supporting evidence, linking investment to action and activities. Measuring the success was essential to check if actions were working and having the desired impact. An improved 'performance and delivery' report will help us to monitor and challenge whether there has been change and improvement.

As an example, there was a discussion on what the Council is doing, as part of its Tackling Poverty Strategy, to ensure poverty was not a barrier to doing well at school. It was unclear from the report whether we have been successful in achieving this. We know from performance data that children in receipt of free school meals do less well at school academically, which would tell us that poverty remains a barrier to academic success. Did we know whether the gap is widening or being closed, which will help assess the effectiveness of resources being put in and actions being taken by the Council under the Strategy? This is something which our Education Scrutiny Performance Panel can explore in more detail, particularly around the effectiveness of the Pupil Development Grant, but the overall report on the delivery of the Corporate Objective would be better if it can tell us how work

being done is helping poorer pupils to succeed, and what we mean by success. This is something that the Committee can return to next year.

Link to Well-being Goals

Your paper referred to how Swansea's Tackling Poverty actions align with the seven well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. A Resilient Wales is a key goal and is about maintaining and enhancing a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic, and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change, for example climate change. With that in mind, we asked you to clarify how tackling poverty actions support this goal, which were unclear from the report.

We heard that work across the Council in supporting that goal, with links to 'tackling poverty', has focussed on things like improving access to green space to improve people's environment and health, the development of energy efficient houses that will reduce the cost of heating, and employability support in relation to the green economy.

Swansea Poverty Truth Commission

One of the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Inquiry was to create a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, with real input from people who have experienced poverty, to provide challenge and promote culture change. The evidence the Inquiry Panel heard from the Leeds Poverty Truth Commission persuaded the Panel that this was a model which Swansea should follow and should be at the heart of our Strategy. It is pleasing that this has been progressed and that it is planned to launch the Poverty Truth Commission in 2022. We noted that it has been developed based on learning from Leeds Poverty Truth Commission and the Poverty Truth Commission Network, who have provided valuable assistance in our work on this here and ours would be the first in Wales.

We discussed the benefits of having an independent Poverty Truth Commission and how it will add value and improve lives, by bringing together key multi-agency decision makers with people who have direct lived experience of poverty to work together to bring about change, based on issues raised by those experiencing poverty. This will be a good example of co-production, with partners and the public involved in shaping the solutions to poverty, which we welcome.

You reported that although the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the pace of delivery, a Commission is establishing, which includes a mix of Community Commissioners with lived experience of poverty and key decision makers, known as Civic/Business Commissioners. A Facilitation Team has been recruited, hosted by SCVS (Swansea Council for Voluntary Service) and work

is currently underway to identify the themes that the Poverty Truth Commission will focus on.

Access to Advice & Support

We asked about sources of advice and support for people and whether there was any intention of setting up a one-stop-shop in communities to support families, e.g., in a school or community centre, where people can access a range of information and advice? We are aware of the development of a Community Hub within the City Centre and asked whether that could also be utilised.

It was explained to us that a range of methods are employed to offer advice and support, with much of this available on-line, and that the one-stop-shop approach already exists in some quarters but is also being developed further. You referred to the Common Access Point and Early Help Hubs within Social Services, Local Area Coordinators supporting communities, projects in Libraries, and the development of a multi-agency facility within Dyfatty shops which will grow organically. You stated that there are still discussions around which front-facing services will be delivered out of the new City Centre Community Hub.

Food Poverty

The Committee noted plans to focus on improving opportunities for people to grow food. It has already been a Policy Commitment of this Council to 'Support Community Enterprises, Growing and Cooking Skills to help people escape food poverty'. Your report told us that there has been grant funding to many organisations to tackle food poverty and food insecurity. We asked about the impact this has made, how successful this support been in the development of community gardens, etc, and which areas of Swansea have benefited most.

We heard that over the last three years, a total of £463,484 of funding has been allocated to over 100 applications supporting organisations, with projects right across Swansea, to tackle food poverty and food insecurity from ensuring crisis food parcels and hot meals are available to those in need, to building on opportunities for community food growing and developing cooking skills, which is hoped to reduce dependency on food banks or other food support. You felt that it may be too early to be able to show the impact, but referred to some good examples, including the St. Johns Day Centre in Cwmbwrla and Matthew's House and Swansea Together in the City Centre, with positive feedback from organisations which have helped people during the pandemic. We also noted the Council's emergency food support effort, and help to food banks and other organisations, provided during the lockdown. The Committee praised the number of people volunteering to support vulnerable people their communities. We also noted that there is a Swansea Food Poverty Network, facilitated by the Council, which meets

monthly to discuss food crisis support and how best resources can be co-ordinated to deal with food poverty.

You told the Committee that, with increasing interest, you were looking at developing a community food growing policy that would be able to facilitate the development of community gardens more quickly and easily than might be possible under the Council's existing Community Asset Transfer policy, where there may be parcels of suitable land that could be utilised for growing. You stated that more work on this would be done by the Policy Development Committee and wanted the Council to be pro-active in identifying suitable areas across Swansea. Councillors will be interested in hearing more on this and opportunities in their local areas.

Our Education Scrutiny Panel could also investigate practice in Swansea following concerning reports in the national media that pupils have been denied school meals through no fault of their own because of accounts being in debt, as no child should be left hungry at school.

Earnings

We note from the Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings, which you included in your report data showing that the Swansea median full-time figure (2020) of £27,480 is 2.8% lower than the Wales average, although both Swansea and Wales figures are below the UK average (in Swansea by 12.6%). Over the year 2019–2020, average annual full-time earnings in Swansea fell by 2.3%, whilst Wales and UK figures increased. We asked whether it was likely to be the case that many people in Swansea would need to work more than one job to earn that median income amount. You agreed that this would be the case for some people, and of course the data shows that some earn much less than the median figure and are struggling. You stated that the pandemic has made matters worse for many and officers in the Welfare Rights Service have had contact from many new people. We can see the spike in claimant count totals / rates since March 2020 which have not come down to pre-pandemic levels. You stated that there were many people in 'in-work' poverty when they work more hours or hold down more than one job, but then reach a certain threshold and benefits stop. You talked about the various employability projects to support people.

We also asked about the key issues that are affecting employability, and whether there were any areas of concern that was making it difficult for people to gain employment, e.g., access to transport. You stated that transport – lack of personal transport and public transport - was a significant issue making it difficult for some people to take up employment, particularly shift work. Childcare is also a significant problem for some. Both issues were made worse by the pandemic. You also talked about lack of experience (and opportunities to gain experience) and the gap in receiving pay after starting work as barriers to employment, where people cannot wait until they are paid.

It is clear that the transition from unemployment to work is difficult for many people.

We will re-visit work on Tackling Poverty at least annually within the Committee and will advise on meeting arrangements in due course. This will enable us to keep close watch regularly on progress, follow up on the issues we have raised, and enable scrutiny views to influence action and improvement. We acknowledge that tackling poverty cuts across the whole organisation therefore this is something that our Scrutiny Panels can also explore with other Cabinet Members, during their scrutiny work, about their efforts and contribution. The Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel will regularly review poverty performance indicators as part of corporate performance monitoring reports.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and would welcome any comments on any of the issues raised within; however, we do not expect you to provide a formal response.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 8



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 December 2022

Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

Purpose:	The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established. This report advises of relevant matters that need to be considered.
Content:	This report is provided to facilitate any changes that need to be made.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• agree the membership of Panels and Working Groups reported, and any other changes necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Council report 18 October 2012, when current scrutiny arrangements were agreed, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established.

2. Proposed Revision to Current Scrutiny Panel / Working Group Membership

- 2.1 Road Safety Working Group – REMOVE Councillor Lynda James.

3. Guiding Principles

- 3.1 When determining membership / conveners or agreeing any changes there are some key considerations for the Committee:

- It is necessary for more than one political group to be represented on each Panel / Working Group.
- These bodies also need to be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning.
- To ensure that all political groups have opportunities and are engaged.
- Good scrutiny practice places emphasis on respect for minority party wishes around both chairing of such bodies and the work programme.
- Being fair and balanced in the appointment of conveners, when there is interest from more than one councillor, e.g. giving opportunity to those who have not acted as convener previously.
- The Committee should reflect on the existing 'balance' of conveners to help inform future appointments.
- A minimum of three members should be present at all Panel / Working Group meetings.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 9



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 December 2022

Scrutiny Work Programme

Purpose	This report presents the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23, which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.
Content	The agreed work programme is attached, which shows the topics that will be examined by scrutiny through various Panels and Working Groups. A plan for future Committee meetings is also attached.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• plan for the Committee meetings ahead• consider opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny• review the Scrutiny Work Programme (including progress of current Panels and Working Groups)
Lead Councillor	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing the Council's Scrutiny Work Programme and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.
- 1.2 A report is provided to each meeting to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of agreed scrutiny activities, monitor progress, and coordinate work as necessary.
- 1.3 The broad aim of the scrutiny function is to engage non-executive councillors in activities to:

- provide an effective challenge to the executive
 - help improve services, policies, and performance
 - engage the public in its work
- 1.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme is guided by the overriding principle that the work of scrutiny should be strategic and significant, focussed on issues of concern, and represent a good use of scrutiny time and resources.

It also needs to be:

- manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available to support activities
 - relevant to council priorities
 - adding value and having maximum impact
 - coordinated and avoids duplication
- 1.5 The work of scrutiny is undertaken primarily in three ways – through the Committee itself, by establishing informal Panels (for in-depth activities) or via one-off Working Groups. Panels and Working Groups would be open to all non-executive councillors - the Committee will determine membership and conveners following expressions of interest.
- 1.6 Scrutiny will regularly send letters to Cabinet Members communicating findings, views and recommendations for improvement and, where appropriate, by producing reports. Inquiry panels will always produce a final report at the end of the inquiry with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers), informed by the evidence gathered. Inquiry panels will reconvene to follow up on the implementation of agreed recommendations and the impact of their work – usually 6-12 months following cabinet decision.
- 1.7 Although much of the work of scrutiny is carried out by informal Panels and Working Groups these meetings are accessible to the public. Agendas, reports and letters relating to all such scrutiny activities are published, in the same manner as the committee, on the Council's modern.gov online platform:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

- 2.1.1 The agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 is set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.1.2. The following paragraphs break down the work programme by specific ways of working to provide a brief overview.

2.2 Scrutiny Programme Committee:

2.2.1 The Committee work plan for the year ahead is attached as **Appendix 2**. This should be kept under constant review to ensure it represents a robust, manageable, and effective plan.

2.2.2 Committee members should always review and confirm items for the next and future meetings considering who should attend and confirm expectations so that meetings are always well planned and prepared for, e.g., information required and key questions that the Committee wishes to ask.

2.2.3 The main item(s) scheduled for the next Committee meeting on 17 January are:

- Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities: Q & A with Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy. Councillor Rob Stewart will attend along with relevant officer(s) to report to the Committee and answer questions.

2.2.4 The Committee will have the opportunity to review priorities and introduce issues of concern as and when they arise, e.g., pre-decision scrutiny or call-in which may require extra meetings.

2.2.5 Pre-decision scrutiny – this is carried out by the Committee unless delegated elsewhere. The Committee is invited to consider the available information on future Cabinet business and any opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny, taking into account strategic impact, public interest, and financial implications (see Cabinet Forward Plan attached as **Appendix 3**). Any requests will require discussion with relevant Cabinet Member(s) to confirm timescales and window of opportunity for scrutiny involvement. Pre-decision scrutiny enables scrutiny to develop understanding about and ask questions on proposed Cabinet reports to provide ‘critical friend’ challenge and influence decision-making.

2.3 Inquiry Panels:

2.3.1 Once membership and a convener have been appointed the first task of an Inquiry Panel will be to have a briefing on the issue and then determine the key question and terms of reference for the inquiry. Once the planning stage is complete, the inquiry will be evidence gathering, with the last stage being to develop the final report.

In Progress / Planned	Completed (follow up stage)
1. Anti-Social Behaviour (initial meeting held on 24 Nov)	1. Procurement (Follow up tba June / July 2023)

2.4 Performance Panels:

2.4.1 The following Performance Panels, which enable regular and structured monitoring of performance within these key areas, have

been agreed and will meet on an ongoing basis until otherwise agreed by the Committee (frequency of meetings in brackets):

Performance Panel	Convener
1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)	Cllr. Chris Holley
2. Education (monthly)	Cllr. Lyndon Jones
3. Adult Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Susan Jones
4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Paxton Hood-Williams
5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)	Cllr. Chris Holley
6. Climate Change & Nature (every two months)	Cllr. Hannah Lawson

2.4.2 Performance Panel conveners are scheduled to provide a regular update to the Committee to enable discussion on key activities and impact.

2.5 Working Groups:

2.5.1 The following Working Groups will be convened during the year ahead, in the order shown (date where known in brackets):

1. Road Safety (7 Dec)	3. Healthy City
2. Co-production (7 Feb)	4. Customer Contact

2.6 Joint / Regional Scrutiny:

2.6.1 **Partneriaeth** - A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, comprising of Education Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, or equivalent, across Swansea Council, Carmarthenshire Council and Pembrokeshire Councils will scrutinise the work of the new regional Partnership which will support the delivery of school improvement, and ensure greater public accountability over decisions made. Scrutiny will seek reassurance and consider if the Partnership is operating according to the Joint Committee Agreement, and its Business Plan, and is being managed effectively. The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and Convener of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel are participating in the Scrutiny of Partneriaeth. The Partneriaeth Joint Committee, comprises the Leaders of the three Councils, as the strategic decision-making body. The Swansea Scrutiny Team will support the Scrutiny of Partneriaeth.

2.6.2 **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal** – Swansea scrutiny is also involved in the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee, approved by Council in July 2018. This arrangement involves three councillor representatives from each of the four Councils involved in the City Region, meeting to scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee responsible for delivering the City Deal programme. As per the Joint Committee Agreement, the Scrutiny Committee is serviced by Neath

Port Talbot Council. Swansea Scrutiny Councillor representatives are currently: Jan Curtice, Victoria Holland & Chris Holley.

2.6.3 **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee** – Following establishment of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), which involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, the CJC has agreed to set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which will consist of three elected members from each Council which will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council, will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The CJC will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. Swansea Scrutiny Councillor representatives are currently: Peter Black, Wendy Lewis & Mike White.

2.6.4 The Scrutiny Programme Committee will need to ensure that there is no duplication between local and regional scrutiny. A regular update on regional scrutiny activity will be provided to Committee members to ensure awareness. Regional scrutiny arrangements will not, however, preclude Councillors within constituent Councils discussing the impact of the regional body on their Council and locality, and holding Cabinet Members to account for their involvement / Council's involvement and engagement in regional bodies, and relevant local decision-making.

3. **Monitoring the Work Programme**

3.1 The Committee is responsible for monitoring progress against the agreed work programme and this includes work undertaken by the informal Panels and Working Groups and findings, to ensure that this work is effective and has the required visibility.

3.2 A timetable of all scrutiny activities (projected or actual where dates are known) is attached as **Appendix 4a**. Lead councillors and officers are also noted within. Also provided as **Appendix 4b** is a snapshot of progress with all Panels and Working Groups established by the Committee, as well as Regional Scrutiny, and their current position. These will be updated and provided to every Committee meeting.

3.3 The work plans of the individual Performance Panels, once agreed, will also follow to improve Committee oversight of topics being examined, check coverage across cabinet portfolios, and help avoid duplication of effort between the Committee and Panels and between Panels etc.

3.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme will be kept under constant review by the Committee, with changes made as necessary. The Committee will always retain the flexibility to adapt and re-prioritise the work of scrutiny in response to changing circumstances and/or urgent issues which

may arise in-year, to ensure the continued relevance of the programme.

- 3.5 To ensure awareness and avoidance of any issue of duplication it is beneficial for the Committee to receive information about the work plans of relevant Council bodies. The work plans of the Council's Corporate Delivery Committees will also be reported when these are available. Any issues regarding possible overlap / duplication will be discussed between the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and relevant Chairs.

4. Public Requests for Scrutiny / Councillor Calls for Action

- 4.1 Members of the public are able to make requests for scrutiny by contacting the Chair or Scrutiny Team in writing detailing the issue of concern, its impact, and suggested action. This can be via the Council's website: www.swansea.gov.uk/raiseanissuetoscrutiny or email to scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk. In accordance with agreed protocol the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee will consider any requests received and bring about proposals to deal with these to the Committee for consideration. Taking into account relevant advice, any such issues may merit inclusion in the work programme, referral elsewhere, or no action.

- 4.2 No public requests for scrutiny have been received.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 5.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by

taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

5.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5.2 An IIA screening has been undertaken noting there are minimal impact assessment implications associated with this report (IIA can be viewed in **Appendix 5**). The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The Work Programme takes into account a range of factors, including Council priorities and community concerns. The public were invited to input scrutiny topic suggestions. The work of Scrutiny will involve examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers). Scrutiny activities have the potential for engagement to ensure public views can feed into the Scrutiny process. Each Scrutiny Inquiry and report will be subject to its own IIA process.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Any costs that arise out of work plan activities, for example expenses for witnesses or transport costs, are not envisaged to be significant and will be contained within the existing Scrutiny Budget.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Programme Committee Work Plan 2022/23

Appendix 3: Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix 4a: Scrutiny Work Programme – Projected Timetable of Activity

Appendix 4b: Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels, Working Groups, Regional Scrutiny

Appendix 5: IIA Screening Form

Appendix 1 - AGREED Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

New Inquiry Panel (time-limited in-depth scrutiny – six months)	New Working Groups (light-touch scrutiny / one-off meetings)	Performance Panels (ongoing in-depth performance / financial monitoring & challenge)	Issues for Scrutiny Programme Committee (overall work programme management; discussion of broad range of policy and service issues)
<p>1. Anti-Social Behaviour (Terms of Reference / Key Question to be agreed by Panel, but could focus on the effectiveness of partnership working in tackling anti-social behaviour in our communities; look at factors behind rising anti-social behaviour; powers & resources; reporting and response; current approaches; good practice elsewhere; the role of elected members, etc.)</p> <p>Reserve / Alternate Topic:</p> <p>2. Domestic Abuse (Terms of Reference / Key Question to be agreed – but would concern the quality of support for victims and what could be done better, taking internal & external evidence)</p>	<p>1. Road Safety (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls – use of signs / humps / cameras; proposed new 20mph limits; condition of roads; safety of cyclists & pedestrians; partnership working, etc.)</p> <p>2. Co-production (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress, helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc.)</p> <p>3. Healthy City (enabling focussed questioning & discussion exploration of the Healthy City Partnership, key activities and achievements, work in relation to health promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.)</p> <p>4. Customer Contact (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on user experience when contacting the Council /</p>	<p>1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)</p> <p>2. Education (monthly)</p> <p>3. Adult Services (every six weeks)</p> <p>4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks)</p> <p>5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)</p> <p>6. Climate Change & Nature (every two months)</p> <p>Specific issues to consider including within wider Panel work plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Improvement & Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Plan - Scrutiny of Budget Proposals - Overall Performance Management - Welsh Housing Quality Standard - Planning Services - Waste & Street Cleansing - Recycling of Business Waste • Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Follow up post Education Estyn LEA inspection - Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning - Additional Learning Needs (ALN) - School New Curriculum - Outdoor Learning in Primary Schools - Music Provision in Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific annual reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children & Young People’s Rights Scheme - Corporate Safeguarding - Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty • Leader Q & A Session(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘Achieving Better Together’ Recovery / Transformation Plan - Policy Commitments / Council Priorities • Other Cabinet Member Q & As (issues to pick up): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archives / Community Hub - Fly Tipping - Homelessness - Houses of Multiple Occupation - Parks - Community Growing - Community Groups, Engagement & Development • Public Services Board • Crime & Disorder (Community Safety) • Follow Up on Previous Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus Services - Workforce (including discussion on Workforce Development Strategy)

Appendix 1 - AGREED Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

<p>Follow Up of Previous Inquiries:</p> <p>1. Procurement</p>	<p>accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / though digital means; provision for off line and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.)</p> <p>Reserve List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on the Council's Active Travel Plans and outcomes; current & future developments; improvements to community consultation; how well we are meeting obligations of Welsh Government Active Travel Act; usage - impact on numbers cycling / walking; and relevant issues) • Racism in Schools (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on the extent of the issue; how schools deal with suspected racist incidents; reporting arrangements, rates etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Relationship between Health & Social Care • Child & Family Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Supported Living for Young People - Quality Assurance Framework • Development & Regeneration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - City Deal 'Swansea specific' Projects - City Centre Retail / Development - New Build Housing Towers (e.g., student accommodation) - Historic / Listed Buildings - SA1 development & supporting infrastructure / services • Climate Change & Nature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments - Progress against Net Zero 2030 - Use of Glyphosate - Air Pollution - Green Vehicle Adoption & Provision for public / residential EV Charging - Flooding / Local Flood Risk Management
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Joint / Regional Scrutiny

- **Partneriaeth** (Education / School Improvement – Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group)
- **City Deal** (Development / Regeneration - Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee)
- **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee** (Land Use Planning; Regional Transport; Economic Well-being – Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee)

Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2022/23

ACTIVITY	19 Jul 2022	16 Aug 2022	13 Sep 2022 CANCELLED	18 Oct 2022	15 Nov 2022	13 Dec 2022
Scrutiny Work Programme	Agreement of Scrutiny Work Programme	Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22				
Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q & A Sessions		Archives / Community Hub (CM for Equalities & Culture)	Fly Tipping (CM for Community Services)	Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board	Fly Tipping (CM for Community Services)	Homelessness (CM for Service Transformation)
Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports					Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report (CM for Care Services / Director of Social Services)	Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty (annual item) (Leader / CM for Wellbeing)
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports						
Pre-decision Scrutiny				Oracle Project Investment Update		
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.					Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group - Workforce (CM for Corporate Services & Performance)	

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ACTIVITY	17 Jan 2023	14 Feb 2023	14 Mar 2023	18 Apr 2023	16 May 2023	June 2023
Scrutiny Work Programme					Work Programme Review	Work Planning Conference
Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q & A Sessions	Leader / Economy, Finance & Strategy (incl. focus on Policy Commitments / Council Priorities; Recovery & Transformation Plan; Council Budget)	Houses in Multiple Occupation (CM for Corporate Services & Performance)			Parks (CM for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism)	
Specific Cabinet Member / Officer Reports		Scrutiny of Public Services Board (Draft Local Well-being Plan)	Children & Young People's Rights Scheme (annual report) (CM for Care Services / Education & Learning)	Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership		
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Improvement & Finance Education 	Adult Services	Child & Family Services	Development & Regeneration	Climate Change & Nature	
Pre-decision Scrutiny						
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.			Follow Up on Bus Services Working Group recommendations (CM for Environment & Infrastructure)			

Other topics to schedule:

- Cabinet Member Q & A: Community Growing (Cabinet Member for Community Support); Community Groups, Engagement & Development (Cabinet Member for Community Support)
- Audit / Scrutiny Relationship – Discussion w/ Chair of Governance & Audit Committee
- Periodic 'Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Reports'

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Budget Proposals 2023/24 – 2026/27.	To consider budget proposals for 2023/24 to 2026/27 as part of the Council's Budget Strategy within the Achieving Better Together Framework. To enable consultation to take place with residents, employees, partners and other interested parties.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open
Quarter 2 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report.	To report the performance indicator results and summarise the Council's performance meetings its priorities for the first quarter period July 2022 – September 2022.	Richard Rowlands	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2nd Quarter 2022/23.	To note any significant variations from the agreed budget 2022/23 and savings plan and the actions planned to achieve a balanced budget.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Swansea Council – Net Zero 2030.	The report seeks to gain approval for a Swansea Council Net Zero 2030 delivery plan. To also acknowledge the work on Nature Recovery and Swansea Net Zero 2050 programmes.	Geoff Bacon	Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open
Swansea Council Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Monitoring Report to Welsh Government December 2022.	Summary of Council nature recovery actions over the past 3 years. It is a key action under the Council's Climate Change and Nature Recovery Corporate Priority and will help inform the Section 6 Action Plan for the next 3 years which will be subject of a separate report.	Mark Barber	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open
Update on Statutory Compliance in the Council's Operational Portfolio.	Report sets out an update on the structured programme of premise inspections to help ensure compliance with statutory requirements.	Geoff Bacon	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
<p>Capital Programme Authorisation for the Commitment of Funding to Support the Rollout of Universal Primary Free School Meals.</p>	<p>Welsh Government have awarded funding to the Council of £2,526,996.00 for capital expenditure on the school meal infrastructure.</p> <p>The aim of the grant is to support the rollout of universal primary free school meals.</p> <p>This report is seeking authorisation to commit the full balance of grant funding</p>	Louise Herbert-Evans	Cabinet Member - Education & Learning	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open
<p>Capital Programme Authorisation for the Commitment of Capital Grant Funding Awarded to Support Learners with Additional Learning Needs.</p>	<p>Welsh Government have awarded funding to the Council of £1,443,998 for capital expenditure on the support of learners with additional learning needs .</p> <p>The aim of the grant is to support learners with additional learning needs.</p> <p>This report is seeking authorisation to commit the full balance of grant funding</p>	Louise Herbert-Evans	Cabinet Member - Education & Learning	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Financial Procedure Rule 7 - Additional Capital Allocation to Highways Works Programme 2022-23.	Additional Capital Allocation to Highways Works Programme 2022-23, details of proposals and forward planning.	Bob Fenwick	Cabinet Member - Environment & Infrastructure	Cabinet	15 Dec 2022	Open
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Implementation.	Report outlines SPF Regional Investment Plan and implementation approach including Swansea lead for South West region and request approval to proceed.	Paul Relf	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism, Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open
Updated FPR7 for Palace Theatre Refurbishment.	We will be submitting an updated FPR7 report to summarise the current situation regarding the Palace Theatre project and its expenditure and funding. This report will provide detail of the progress so far and the requirements to complete.	Tracy Nichols, Elliott Williams	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open
Car Parking Charges.	To seek approval of City Centre Car Parking Charges for the new Copr Bay North and South Multi Storey Car Parks.	Gavin Newman	Cabinet Member - Environment & Infrastructure	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
General Building Materials Framework.	Framework agreement is required for Building Services to carry out day to day work. This framework covers: Heavy Building Material, Timber, Doors, Paint, Ironmongery, Fixings, Roofing materials, PVC Fascia and miscellaneous items. This will allow Building Services on behalf of Swansea Council to carry out works to our Housing stock and Schools and other public buildings.	Nasir Shahzad	Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open
Tabernacle Morrison Community Resilience Hub.	Grade 1 listed Tabernacle Chapel renovation & improvements, to widen community / business usage. 3rd Sector asset. Council's role purely to manage the capital construction project and associated funding sources.	Jacquelyn Box	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Proposal to Publish Cumulative Impact Assessment – City Centre.	The report sets out the background to and changes in the requirements for dealing with cumulative impact, the current legislative requirements regarding Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA) and details of the basis for the proposal to publish a CIA for the city centre areas.	Lynda Anthony	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open
Review of the Statement of Policy for Licensing.	The report sets out the legislative requirements in respect of producing, publishing and reviewing the Council's Licensing Policy. Provides information on when the Licensing Policy was last reviewed, details of the basis for the current review of the policy and the proposed changes.	Lynda Anthony	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Review of the Policy on the Licensing of Sex Establishments.	The report sets out the legislative background to the licensing of sex establishments, the aim of the policy on the Licensing of Sex Establishments, details the proposed changes to the policy and matters for consideration.	Lynda Anthony	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Open
Update Management Report on Swansea Airport.	Update management report at Swansea Airport, including works carried out to date, lease obligations and independent legal opinion.	Geoff Bacon	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	19 Jan 2023	Fully exempt
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 3rd Quarter 2022/23.	To note any significant variations from the agreed budget 2022/23 and savings plan and the actions planned to achieve a balanced budget.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	16 Feb 2023	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2022-23

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2022/23.	This report sets out the annual review of Swansea Council's charges (social services), providing a transparent framework for the setting of charges and the application of allowances to citizens who receive managed care and support, provided or arranged by the council.	Simon Jones	Cabinet Member - Care Services	Cabinet	16 Feb 2023	Open
Quarter 3 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report.	To report the performance indicator results and summarise the Council's performance meetings its priorities for the third quarter period October 2022 – December 2022	Richard Rowlands	Cabinet Member - Corporate Service & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	16 Mar 2023	Open

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Appendix 4a

Activity / Month	JUN 2022	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2023	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
PERFORMANCE PANELS:												
Service Improvement & Finance (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / David Hopkins Lead CMT: Ness Young / Ben Smith Lead Head of Service: Lee Wenham				6	4	8	6	17	14	14	18	9
Education (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting					27	17	15	19	13	16	20	11
Adult Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Sue Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Amy Hawkins / Helen St John				27		8	20	31	13 Joint SS	21		2
Child & Family Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Paxton Hood-Williams Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Julie Davies					11	1	5	24	13 Joint SS	7	25	

Activity / Month	JUN 2022	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2023	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Development & Regeneration (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / Robert Francis-Davies Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes				5		14		23		20		15
Climate Change & Nature (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Hannah Lawson Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Andrea Lewis Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting						9		10		8		2
WORKING GROUPS:												
Topic 1 – Road Safety Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Hazel Morris Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Andrew Stevens Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Stuart Davies							7					
Topic 2 – Co-production Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Hayley Gwilliam Lead CMT: cross-cutting / Ness Young Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting / Marlyn Dickson									7			

Activity / Month	JUN 2022	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2023	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Topic 3 – Healthy City Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Mary Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Elliot King Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting												
Topic 4 – Customer Contact Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Rebecca Fogarty Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Andrea Lewis Lead CMT: Ness Young Lead Head of Service: Sarah Lackenby												
REGIONAL SCRUTINY:												
Partneriaeth Regional Scrutiny Councillor Group (Education / School Improvement) (quarterly) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Lyndon Jones (chair) / Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Partneriaeth: Ian Altman / Gareth Morgans Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Regional Lead: (Lead Director for Partneriaeth)					24				13			

<p>Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Rob James (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Jan Curtice, Victoria Holland, Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Stacy Curran, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls / Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes</p>		5		6			6		28			
<p>South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee (quarterly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Russell Sparks (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Peter Black, Wendy Lewis, Mike White Lead Scrutiny Officer: Stacy Curran, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls / Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes</p>						8		27				

* denotes extra meeting

** not public

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups / Regional Scrutiny

1. Inquiry Panels:

These will undertake in-depth inquiries into specific and significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis and will be expected to take around six months to complete to enable wide-ranging evidence gathering, and production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers).

a) **Anti-Social Behaviour** (convener: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: to be determined

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Pre-Inquiry Working Group met on the 24 November, were they received a strategic overview of the matter. They then discussed and agreed their Terms of Reference and Project Plan. Their first evidence gathering session will take place on the 17 January where they will speak to Community Safety, Community Inclusion and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

(NB - Inquiries may take up to six months to complete, as they will call for wide ranging evidence, and will lead to a report with conclusions and recommendations that will be presented to Cabinet)

2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
Procurement	20 Oct	14	0	0	tba June/July 2023

3. Performance Panels:

Performance Panels enable regular and structured in-depth monitoring of performance and challenge within these key areas:

a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every month. On 8 November the Panel considered the Review of Revenue Reserves, Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report, Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Performance Report and the Welsh Housing Quality Standards Annual Update. On 6 December the Panel looked at the Mid Term Budget Statement 2022/23, Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report, Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021/2022, Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring 2021/22 and Recycling of Business Waste Briefing and the Councils response to the Audit Wales Report – “Making Equality Impact Assessments more than just a tick box exercise”.

b) **Education** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Panel meets every month. At the meeting on the 17 November, they looked at progress with Additional Learning Needs Reform, Pupil Development Grant Spend, the school improvement service and receive an update on the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales in Swansea. In December, they will look at the Annual Education Performance against priorities including a Q&A with the Cabinet Member. They will also discuss the Music Service and receive an update on Harassment in Schools.

c) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel met on 8 November to discuss actions following the Audit Wales report on Direct Payments for Adult Social Care, receive a briefing on recent CIW Inspection Reports, and discuss the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22. At its next meeting on 20 December the Panel will discuss the latest Performance Monitoring Report, receive an update on the Adult Services Transformation Programme and the Options Appraisal for Assistive Technology and Community Alarms.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel met on 1 November to receive an update on the Corporate Parenting Board and to discuss Residential Care Services. At the next meeting on 5 December the Panel will receive an update on the Child and Family Improvement programme and Performance Monitoring, discuss how regional arrangements are working with the Regional Safeguarding Board and look at the Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report.

e) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every two months. On 14 November the Panel reviewed the Regeneration Programme/Project Monitoring Report as well as a focussed look on City Centre Retail Development. At the next meeting on 23 January the Panel will focus on the Tourism Destination Management Plan / Swansea Bay Strategy (incl. Foreshore Developments) and continue reviewing progress on the Regeneration Programme/Projects.

f) **Climate Change & Nature** (convener: Cllr Hannah Lawson)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel met on 9 November to receive an overview on the subject matter and information on relevant priorities, plans and challenges and to discuss Water Quality and Management. The Panel also agreed the Work Programme for the year ahead. When the Panel next meets on 10 January it will receive an update on Climate Change including the response to Audit Wales report on Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Panel will also discuss Green Vehicle Adoption and Public/Residential Electric Vehicle Charging and receive a briefing on Weed Management/Use of Glyphosate.

4. **Regional Scrutiny:**

This is collaborative scrutiny with other Local Authorities for topics / issues of shared interest or concern, and models of regional working.

a) **Partneriaeth - Regional Education Partnership**

Following approval of a legal agreement by each Council's Cabinet, the new regional education partnership called 'Partneriaeth' includes Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils. Within the agreed governance structure, there is a Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, similar to that which existed to scrutinise the Education Through Regional Working (ERW) Regional School Improvement Consortium.

The first Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group took place on the 24 October 2022 where they looked at the legal agreement, received feedback on items on the agenda for the Partneriaeth Joint Committee agreed their work plan for this school year.

Partneriaeth Scrutiny is expected to take place every school term, mirroring meetings of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee. Two further meetings have been scheduled so far in February and June 2023.

b) **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets every two months. On 6 September the Committee focussed on financial monitoring and looking at the City Deal Annual Report for 2021/22 which provides

summary of key activity for the last 12 months and forthcoming 12 months planned activity along with case studies of completed work and various other aspects covering delivery achievements and planned benefits/outcomes.

The next meeting takes place on 6 December, which will focus on the Homes as Power Stations City Deal project, as well as overall programme / project monitoring including the latest financial position. There will also be discussion on the independent Gateway Review carried out in July and associated action plan.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=417>

c) **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee**

The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, and will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. The Committee has agreed to set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, is being serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council, and will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Scrutiny arrangement will not preclude scrutiny within constituent Councils in order to discuss the impact of the CJC on their Council and locality. The first CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting took place on 8 November 2022 (re-arranged from 23 September) to appoint a Chair (Cllr Russel Sparks – Carmarthenshire Council and Vice-Chair (Cllr Tim Bowen – Neath Port Talbot Council). The Sub-Committee was provided with an overview on the structure of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, functions of the Sub-Committee, and discussed a work plan for scrutiny. The next meeting is scheduled for 27 January 2023.

The Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=499>

5. Working Groups:

A number of new topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups. These enable a 'light-touch' approach to specific topics of concern and will be planned as a one-off meeting (in the order shown below) primarily involving discussion with relevant

cabinet member(s) / officer(s), and any other persons called, to gather information, ask questions, and give views / raise any concerns.

a) **Road Safety** (convener: Cllr Hazel Morris)

This Working Group will meet on 7 December to enable information, focussed questioning & discussion to understand the Council's role and responsibilities on road safety, e.g., asking about hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls – use of signs / humps / cameras; proposed new 20mph limits; condition of roads; safety of cyclists & pedestrians; partnership working, etc. A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations will then be sent to the Cabinet Member, or report to Cabinet as considered appropriate.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

b) **Co-production** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Working Group has been arranged for 7 February 2023. It will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress, helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners, and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc.

c) **Healthy City** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion exploring the Healthy City Partnership, key activities and achievements, work in relation to health promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

d) **Customer Contact** (convener: Cllr Rebecca Fogarty)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on the user experience when contacting the Council / accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / through digital means; provision for off line and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.

Appendix 5 - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence

Directorate: Resources

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Information / monitoring report on the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme and progress.

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix 5 - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

- Q3** What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The Work Programme takes into account a range of factors, including Council priorities and community concerns. The public were invited to input scrutiny topic suggestions.

- Q4** Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes No

-
- Q5** What is the potential risk of the initiative? (*Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...*)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

-
- Q6** Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No If yes, please provide details below

The work of Scrutiny will involve examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers).

-
- Q7** What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

Low impact because there are no decisions within the report which will directly affect service users, people and/or communities, but scrutiny activity described within the report have the potential for engagement to ensure public views can feed into the Scrutiny process. Each Scrutiny Inquiry and report will be subject to its own IIA process.

Appendix 5 - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The Work Programme takes into account a range of factors, including Council priorities and community concerns. The public were invited to input scrutiny topic suggestions. The work of Scrutiny will involve examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers). Scrutiny activities have the potential for engagement to ensure public views can feed into the Scrutiny process. Each Scrutiny Inquiry and report will be subject to its own IIA process.

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

Screening completed by:
Name: Brij Madahar
Job title: Scrutiny Team Leader
Date: 5 December 2022
Approval for Head of Service:
Name: Debbie Smith
Position: Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Date: 6 December 2022

Agenda Item 10



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 December 2022

Scrutiny Letters

Purpose:	To ensure the Committee is aware of the scrutiny letters produced following various scrutiny activities, and to track responses to date.
Content:	The report includes a log of scrutiny letters produced this municipal year and provides a copy of correspondence between Scrutiny and Cabinet Members for discussion as required.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the scrutiny letters and responses• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The production of scrutiny letters has become an established part of the way scrutiny operates in Swansea. Letters from the chair (or conveners) allow scrutiny to communicate directly and quickly with relevant Cabinet Members.
- 1.2 These letters are used to convey views and conclusions about particular issues discussed, and provide the opportunity to raise concerns, ask for further information, and make recommendations. This enables scrutiny to engage with Cabinet Members on a regular and structured basis.

2. Reporting of Letters

- 2.1 All scrutiny letters, whether they are written by the Scrutiny Programme Committee or conveners of Panels / Working Groups, are published to ensure visibility, of the outcomes from meetings, across the Council and public.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agenda also includes a copy of letters to/from Cabinet Members for its attention and discussion as required, e.g., letters relating to the work of the Committee, Working Groups, and Inquiry Panel follow ups. Letters are included when Cabinet Member responses that were awaited are received or where a scrutiny letter did not require a response.
- 2.3 Where requested Cabinet Members are expected to respond in writing to scrutiny letters within 21 calendar days. The response should indicate what action (if any) they intend to take, or have taken, as a result of the views and recommendations made.
- 2.4 Letters relating to the work of Performance Panels are part of an ongoing dialogue with Cabinet Members and are therefore reported back and monitored by each Panel. However, all Performance Panel Conveners will provide a progress report to the Committee, including summary of correspondence with Cabinet Members and outcomes.

3. Letters Log

- 3.1 This report contains a log of scrutiny letters produced to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of letters activity over the current municipal year – see **Appendix 1**. The letters log will show the average time taken by Cabinet Members to respond to scrutiny letters, and the percentage of letters responded to within timescale. During the previous year (2021/22) 66 letters were sent to Cabinet Members, of which 24 required a written response. The average time taken to respond was 18 days, with 71% responded to within the 21 days target.
- 3.2 The following letter(s), not already reported to the Committee, are **attached** for discussion:

	Activity	Meeting Date	Correspondence
a	Committee (Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board)	18 Oct	Letter to Chair of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee

- 3.3 Further to this letter, the Committee can consider and give views on the draft Public Services Board Local Well-being Plan at its meeting on 14 February, enabling feedback ahead of formal decision-making and approval of the Plan. The Committee should note that public consultation on the Plan has recently been launched:
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/wellbeingstrategysurvey>

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Letters Log – 2022-23

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Letters / Responses

Scrutiny Letters Log (2022-2023)

Ave. Response Time (days): 28 (target within 21 days) % responses within target: 0

No.	Committee / Panel / Working Group	Meeting Date	Main Issue(s)	Cabinet Portfolio	Letter Sent	Response Received
1	Committee	16-Aug	Community Hubs / Archives	Equalities & Culture	12-Sep	n/a
2	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	05-Sep	Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	17-Oct	n/a
3	Committee	18-Oct	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Oracle Project Investment Update	Joint Economy, Finance & Strategy and Service Transformation	19-Oct	n/a
4	Adult Services Performance Panel	27-Sep	Service Overview	Care Services	24-Oct	n/a
5	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	04-Oct	Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report 22/23	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	27-Oct	28-Nov
6	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	04-Oct	Annual Performance Monitoring Report 21/22	Corporate Services & Performance	27-Oct	n/a
7	Education Performance Panel	27-Oct	Service Overview, Partneriaeth, Pupil Manifesto	Education & Learning	07-Nov	n/a
8	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	11-Oct	Overview of CFS, Draft work programme	Care Services	08-Nov	01-Dec
9	Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group	24-Oct	Legal Agreement, Joint Committee on 7 Oct, work programme	Education & Learning	10-Nov	n/a

10	Education Performance Panel	17-Nov	Additional Learning Needs Reform, Curriculum for Wales update, Pupils Development Grant spend, School Improvement Service	Education & Learning	25-Nov	n/a
11	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	01-Nov	Residential Services; Corporate Parenting Board	Care Services	28-Nov	n/a
12	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	08-Nov	Welsh Housing Quality Standards Annual Update	Service Transformation	29-Nov	n/a
13	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	08-Nov	Annual Review of Performance 2021/22	Corporate Services & Performance	29-Nov	n/a
14	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	08-Nov	Welsh Public Libraries Standards Annual Performance Report	Equalities & Culture	29-Nov	n/a
15	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	08-Nov	Review of Revenue Reserves	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	29-Nov	n/a
16	Committee	18-Oct	PSB Scrutiny	Chair of Public Services Board Joint Committee	29-Nov	n/a
17	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	14-Nov	City Centre Retail and Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring	Joint Economy, Finance & Strategy; Investment, Regeneration & Tourism; and Corporate Services & Performance	01-Dec	n/a
18	Adult Services Performance Panel	08-Nov	Audit Wales report on Direct Payments; CIW Inspections, Director of Social Services Annual Report	Care Services	05-Dec	
19						
20						



**To/
Councillor Andrea Lewis,
Chair of Swansea Public Services
Board**

BY EMAIL

cc: Vice-Chair of Swansea PSB

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

01792 637257

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

SPC/2022-23/3

29 November 2022

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Chair of Swansea Public Services Board following the meeting of the Committee on 18 October 2022. It is about the performance of the Public Services Board. A formal written response is not required.

Dear Councillor Lewis,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 October

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session on the Public Services Board (PSB) with our views, reflecting on information presented, questions, and discussion.

As part of our ongoing scrutiny, the Committee considered the PSB Annual Report 2021/22 in relation to overall progress and performance of the PSB. We thank you for also providing information on work being done to improve the PSB's performance framework (following issue raised by the Committee); the new Assessment of Local Well-being (published in May 2022), and the development of a new Local Well-being Plan which we understand must be in place by May 2023.

We thank you for attending the meeting, and appreciated the input provided by the PSB Vice-Chair, Roger Thomas, Leader of the Council, Councillor Rob Stewart, Richard Rowlands, Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager, Swansea Council, and the various partner representatives (PSB strategic / operational leads) who were able to contribute giving the Committee a more rounded view of the PSB and its effectiveness.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE

www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

This was further evidence to the Committee on how the PSB is performing and making a difference for citizens, and follows on from the January 2022 PSB Scrutiny session, at which we considered the previous annual report and took the opportunity to focus on the delivery of the 'Early Years' and 'Live Well, Age Well' PSB well-being objectives with relevant leads.

We also took the opportunity to follow up on previous issues raised by the Committee, communicated to you within previous letters.

Scrutiny Views

From our discussion, the Committee would highlight the following issues in terms of providing 'critical-friend' challenge to the PSB for improvement:

1) Performance Framework

The Committee over recent PSB sessions has called for the PSB to improve the way it measures its performance. Given that PSBs have been in operation since 2016, you acknowledged that this has taken time to develop. However, we welcomed the efforts you reported being made to improve this, to facilitate Scrutiny, but also noted the challenges you outlined around this. Nevertheless, the Committee looks forward to seeing more progress in developing the performance framework, as the PSB develops its new Well-being Plan, which will make it easier for Scrutiny to monitor PSB activity and performance against indicators, stated actions, expected outputs / outcomes, and its effectiveness.

We noted that the pandemic has hindered progress in the last few years, as well as the ongoing funding and resource challenges that PSBs (and individual partners) face that impact ability to focus on the work necessary in the development, collection, processing, and reporting of data. As such, it is important that the PSB focuses on what it can deliver, and less about aspirations, to be able to see results from partnership activity and the investment of time and resources. We accept that quantitative data (KPIs) alone will not be sufficient, and in many cases reporting on outcomes will require qualitative information.

2) PSB Annual Report

The Committee suggested that future Annual Reports would benefit from highlighting more about the work that PSB partners are doing together. We appreciate that individual PSB statutory members are leading on the delivery of specific well-being objectives / work streams, and that is of course important to report on, but giving prominence to demonstrating the partnership / collaborative working to tackle issues, with examples of successes, would be more satisfying when assessing the difference that the PSB is making and added value.

You took the opportunity to talk about some of those things, such as work on developing Green Infrastructure, dealing with the impact of Wildfires, and partner commitments to Carbon Reduction. Contributions during the session from other PSB members painted a positive picture of effective networking and strong links / connections that have developed between partners, with the PSB helping to bring organisations together. For example, enabling Swansea Council for Voluntary Service to get more involved in supporting partner activities, such as work on Swansea as a Human Rights City, as well as develop closer connections with Swansea Council, the Local Health Board, and Fire & Rescue Service, and others.

The Committee also asked about the reference to National Well-being Indicators within the Annual Report. Of the 50 or so national indicators, it was unclear why the Annual Report included the specific ones highlighted in the section on 'Swansea's Local Well-being' (this included performance in relation to community safety and air quality), and how they relate to PSB objectives. It would help if national well-being indicators could more explicitly linked to PSB priorities / well-being objectives that are reported on, so the relevance and value of these is clearer.

3) Development of the new Well-Being Plan and Public Engagement

We heard that the PSB's new Well-being Plan must be published by May 2023. The Committee will need to be consulted in the development of the Plan to give views on any draft Plan. Please ensure that this is factored into the PSBs decision-making timetable so that there is sufficient time for meaningful scrutiny.

As well as Committee input, the PSB will also need to engage the public. Whilst public consultation is never easy when it comes to strategic documents, the PSB should consider how opportunities to engage can be more accessible with methods will maximise reach, learning and building upon previous experience with the development of the Assessment of Local Well-being over the last year. We suggested looking at how social media can be best utilised and piggybacking off existing community events to talk to people about the Plan. The volume of information to review can be off putting, even for those most keen to input views, so would encourage you to consider producing 'executive summaries' and / or easy read documents to facilitate public feedback.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response. However, we do expect the PSB to consider our views. Please report our letter to the PSB Joint Committee. The Committee will follow up on progress in addressing these issues at our next PSB Scrutiny session.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Black', written in a cursive style.

COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK
Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee
✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 11



Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 December 2022

Date and Time of Upcoming Scrutiny Panel / Working Group Meetings

13 December – 17 January

- a) 15 December at 4.00pm – Education Performance Panel
- b) 20 December at 4.30pm – Adult Services Performance Panel
- c) 10 January at 10.00am – Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel
- d) 17 January at 10.00am – Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel
- e) 17 January at 2.00pm – Anti-Social Behaviour Inquiry Panel

Scrutiny Meetings will be multi-location meetings, held in the Gloucester Room, Guildhall or accessed remotely via MS Teams, unless otherwise stated.