



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Performance Panel – Service Improvement & Finance

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

On: Tuesday, 6 September 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Convenor: Councillor Chris Holley OBE

Membership:

Councillors: P M Black, P R Hood-Williams, L James, J W Jones, M W Locke, H M Morris and B J Rowlands

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4	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) To receive the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and agree as an accurate record.	1 - 13
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Next Meeting: Tuesday, 4 October 2022 at 10.00 am



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday, 30 August 2022
Contact: Scrutiny Officer

Agenda Item 4



To:
Councillor Rob Stewart
Cabinet Member for Economy
Finance and Strategy

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Overview & Scrutiny

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:

01792 636292

e-Mail
e-Bost:

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

BY EMAIL

Date
Dyddiad:

16th February 2022

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Economy Finance and Strategy. This letter relates to the Annual Budget proposals. A response is required by 10 March 2022.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Reports: Annual Budget

On 15 February, the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel met to discuss the Annual Budget proposals and considered the various reports that are being presented to Cabinet on 17 February, being recommended for approval or forwarding to Council for approval, as appropriate. The Panel are grateful to Cabinet Members and Officers who attended the Panel meetings to provide information and answer questions.

We are writing to confirm the views of scrutiny for Cabinet to consider before making its decisions. This is based on discussion at the Service Improvement & Finance Panel meeting as well as input from our Education and Social Services Scrutiny Panels which met separately ahead of our Panel meeting.

Feedback:

Overall

The Panel welcomed the large increase in budget provision, noting this was the largest such increase in recent years. Panel Members look forward to expenditure across all services to benefit the people of Swansea.

The Panel welcomed an increase in spending in Education and Social Services, and additional spending to invest in services in Swansea that have experienced some reductions over recent years in line with constrained budgets. We are hopeful that this year's funding will help with repairs to the infrastructure across Swansea.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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

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

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The Panel took on board the cautionary warnings from the Section 151 Officer regarding inflation and service pressures, future lower settlements and the central pots of one off money that the Council will need to competitively bid for and which are not fully assured.

Panel Members understood that there will be a one-off large increase in funds, but are mindful these figures are not reflected equally across the three-year plan. We understood that caution will be needed moving forward, and that the Capital Equalisation Reserve may not be able to be topped up with the increased investment levels it has seen since 2016; noting there may be less in the reserve in future.

In terms of General Revenue, the Panel welcomed the amount of funds reinstated, noting the £700,000 increase in insurance.

Joint Social Services

The Panel is very encouraged to see the budget situation for Social Services this year, because of the increases and because of the savings, which look as if they are all going to be contractual. The only slight concern for the Panel is how far these contractual savings will go.

The Panel understands that the Cabinet Papers show an £8.5m increase in the Social Services Budget for 2022/23 but the actual proposed budget for Social Services for 2022/23, in the Revenue Budget summary Sheet, is £16m. The Panel understands that the £8.5m is for additional pressures and that the difference between this and the £16m is for continued growth within the Service. The Panel feels this is a great opportunity to invest to improve services.

The Panel intends to look at the transformation of services in more detail at future meetings. There is a need to have services which are economically and efficiently run, and the Panel needs to ensure we don't lose sight of this.

The Panel welcomed the improved communication between Health, Social Services and Partners over the past few years and hopes this relationship will continue to grow.

Education

The Panel welcomed the increase in the budget provision for schools for the next year but noted that the funding is heavily weighted to year 1 2022/23. We share the departments concerns in relation to the clarity of funding for schools in years 2 and 3.

The Panel heard that individual school reserves are currently at a high level. We did recognise that this is a positive thing given the challenges coming in years 2 and 3, but we agreed that this means the schools must be encouraged to have good medium term spending plans, in order for this to be used effectively.

The Panel did have concerns regarding the potentially inadequate funding from Welsh Government for:

- a. Phased roll out of Free School Meal provision to all primary pupils
- b. The emerging implications of the Additional Learning Needs Act.

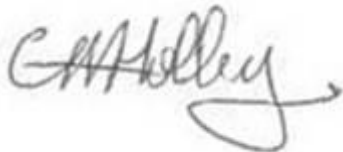
The Panel raised concerns about the potential change to the proxy measure that is based upon Free School Meal allocation which is the indicator used for extra funding in schools for vulnerable pupils like, for example, the allocation of the Pupil Development Grant and the School Uniform Grant. The Panel would be keen to see how this will be addressed in upcoming policy changes from Welsh Government so vulnerable children do not lose out.

The Panel were concerned about the rising energy cost for schools and would like to see schools switching to more green solutions, where it is feasible.

The Panel welcomed the high level of delegated spend that has been maintained by Swansea Council. Hearing that this coming year will be 83% and will increase to 85% in 2024/25.

I will be presenting this information to you at Cabinet on 17 February 2022, however, I would be grateful if you could also provide a written response to the issues raised in this letter by 10 March 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel
✉ cllr.chris.holley@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Chris Holley
Convenor
Service Improvement & Finance
Scrutiny Panel

Please ask for: Councillor Rob Stewart
Direct Line: 01792 63 6366
E-Mail: clr.rob.stewart@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: RS/CM
Your Ref:
Date: 30 March 2022

BY EMAIL

Dear Councillor Holley

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORTS: ANNUAL BUDGET

I am grateful for the panel's acknowledgement of the record sums being invested next year.

We are very much investing substantial base funding into Schools and wider Education provision and Social Services in line with national and our own local priorities but due to several years of strong financial stewardship we can go much further. We have been able to conserve and often add to reserves and thus provide a rapid release of funds to temporarily also significantly uplift the Corporate services and Place Directorates and thus turbo charge the Swansea recovery from the pandemic.

The S151 Officer is right to draw attention to the longer term outlook and I broadly concur with his, and the panel's views. The settlement is indeed heavily front loaded but I welcome the certainty of a three year deal and personally very much consider this a base underpinning of funding, which may yet be topped up by future UK and Welsh Government announcements and of course which will be topped up by our own rapid use of reserves such as the Economic Recovery Fund, especially if, as seems certain, there will be another very strong outturn position in May.

I am sure we will all continue to follow the S151 Officer advice on the use of the Capital Equalisation Reserve as it is clear from that advice that needs to stretch for a number of years further into the future

I concur that it is right that we now pause, as long planned in the MTFP, the draws from the insurance reserve which have helped modestly improve the budget in recent years, as we now have a range of other reserves available to boost our local response and recovery. We will keep this under review. I think the right balance is struck between spending reserves, conserving reserves,

adding to reserves and setting a budget and council tax level which recognises the real financial pain residents and local communities are going to feel in areas much wider than just the Council affects whilst prudently planning and preparing for the undoubtedly harder times to come.

This record level of increased investment by both Welsh Government and Swansea Council will provide a once in a generation opportunity to recover and transform the vital social care services that the individuals, families, carers and communities of Swansea rely upon. The Covid pandemic has rightly shone a light on both the importance of social services and social care and the extraordinary efforts of our workforce. A significant part of this investment will go towards starting to properly address the pay, terms and conditions of our keyworker heroes. Whilst it is important to continue to deliver the savings we have committed to as part of our medium term transformation program, these savings are intended for reinvestment in the kinds of remodelled and modernised services that our population would expect.

I appreciate the Panel's recognition of the increase in the budget provision for schools for the next year and share the concerns raised about the level of funding in later years which reflects the overall weighting of WG funding to FY2022-2023. The current high level of school reserves will assist schools in meeting the challenges in later years and we will continue to encourage schools to develop and maintain good medium term spending plans, in order to utilise reserves effectively. Through our coherent and consistent medium term financial strategy for Education we will continue to ensure that as much funding as possible goes directly to schools where this allows the greatest flexibility and added value in terms of local spending choices. I welcome the recognition by the Panel of the high level of current a projected delegated funding levels.

It was agreed at the recent School Budget Forum that we would continue to work with the Forum and schools to press the need with both UK and WG for appropriate and explicit additional funding to meet the full additional costs of the phased roll out of Free School Meal provision to all primary pupils and the full emerging implications of the Additional Learning Needs Act.

I share the concerns raised by the Panel regarding the potential impact of potential changes to the proxy measure that is based upon Free School Meal allocation and which is used for extra funding in schools for vulnerable pupils such as through the allocation of the Pupil Development Grant and the School Uniform Grant. We will continue to work to ensure that vulnerable children do not lose out.

In relation to the rising energy costs the future budget have been to mitigate the increases as far as is possible but the depends on the likelihood of energy prices not remaining at their record high level in the medium to longer term. In the meantime officers are working with schools as part of the climate change strategy to look to introduce a range of measures from housekeeping to investment in new technology and renewables. A number of schools have already benefitted from the approach with further opportunities being explored using the Re:Fit initiative which allows capital investment to be accessed and repaid from energy savings.

In addition I can confirm that 100% of the Council's electricity, including schools is currently sourced from evidenced renewable sources.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
ARWEINYDD/LEADER**



To:
Cllr David Hopkins
Cabinet Member for Delivery and Operations

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:
Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:
e-Mail
e-Bost:

Date
Dyddiad:

Overview & Scrutiny

01792 636292

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

2 March 2022

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Delivery and Operations, regarding the update report presented *in camera* in relation to the Property Investment Fund Strategy.

Dear Cllr Hopkins,

On 15 February, the Panel met in closed session to discuss the Property Investment Fund Strategy Report. The Panel were grateful to all who attended to provide information and answer questions. We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion and to share some of the observations of the Panel.

The Panel heard that the role of the Property Investment Board, chaired by yourself, looks into the acquisition of property as and when applicable opportunities arise.

Officers explained to the Panel that, in the past, opportunities have been presented to the Board regarding investments outside of the City and County of Swansea, however these opportunities were turned down in favour of local investments.

Officers highlighted that there exists a broad range of highly skilled staff within this department, taking responsibility for the management of Swansea Council's portfolio of commercial interests.

The report presented to the Panel outlined various examples of property yields, taking into account the strategic reasoning behind such acquisitions. Officers explained the strategic reasoning behind various projects, including longer-term leasehold agreements, encompassing low-risk and secure investments.

The Panel asked questions surrounding Swansea Council's involvement in both SA1 and the Marina areas, raising queries over the proposed new road network.

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Members also raised queries about the Council's leasehold interests in the City Centre and the ongoing examination of such, having consideration to the Council's freehold interests.

The Panel raised questions surrounding the process of property acquisition and the financial procedures involved in this process. Officers explained that a stringent and rigorous financial process is involved in any acquisition.

Your response:

We are interested in any thoughts you may have on the contents of this letter but, in this instance, we require no formal written response.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ cllr.chris.holley@swansea.gov.uk

To:
Councillor Rob Stewart
Cabinet Member for Economy
Finance and Strategy

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Overview & Scrutiny

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:

01792 636292

e-Mail
e-Bost:

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

BY EMAIL

Date
Dyddiad:

2 March 2022

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Economy Finance and Strategy. This letter relates to the verbal update received regarding the Sustainable Swansea Programme.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

On 15 February, the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel met to discuss the Sustainable Swansea Programme. The Panel are grateful to yourself and to Ben Smith, Director of Finance / S.151 Officer, for attending the Panel meeting to provide information and answer questions.

The Panel received a verbal update outlining the financial aspects of the programme, understanding that a full report was not yet available for Scrutiny.

Members noted that in future, a comprehensive examination of the commissioning reviews is needed and further updates on the Sustainable Swansea Programme required. The Panel would value the opportunity to hold detailed scrutiny discussions in the near future, and look forward to receiving further information as soon as it becomes available.

We are interested in any thoughts you may have on the contents of this letter but, in this instance, we require no formal written response – other than any relevant information as and when applicable.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ cllr.chris.holley@swansea.gov.uk

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City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Service Improvement & Finance**

Remotely via MS Teams

Tuesday, 15 February 2022 at 9.30 am

Present: Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

P M Black
B J Rowlands
J W Jones

Councillor(s)

P Downing
L James
I E Mann

Councillor(s)

P R Hood-Williams
P K Jones

Other Attendees

Rob Stewart
David Hopkins

Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)
Cabinet Member Delivery and Operations

Officer(s)

Geoff Bacon
Alex O'Brien
Tom Rees

Head of Property Services
Property Manager
Property Investment Manager
Director of Finance

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M H Jones and D W W Thomas

63 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

64 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

65 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Panel considered letters and minutes from previous meetings and agreed the minutes of the meeting on 18 January 2022 as an accurate record of the meeting.

66 Public Questions

There were no public questions

67 Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Reports: Annual Budget

Overall

The Panel welcomed the large increase in budget provision, noting this was the largest such increase in recent years. Panel Members look forward to expenditure across all services to benefit the people of Swansea.

The Panel welcomed an increase in spending in Education and Social Services, and additional spending to invest in services in Swansea that have experienced some reductions over recent years in line with constrained budgets. We are hopeful that this year's funding will help with repairs to the infrastructure across Swansea.

The Panel took on board the cautionary warnings from the Section 151 Officer regarding inflation and service pressures, future lower settlements and the central pots of one-off money that the Council will need to competitively bid for and which are not fully assured.

Panel Members understood that there will be a one-off large increase in funds but are mindful these figures are not reflected equally across the three-year plan. We understood that caution will be needed moving forward, and that the Capital Equalisation Reserve may not be able to be topped up with the increased investment levels it has seen since 2016; noting there may be less in the reserve in future.

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Joint Social Services

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The Panel understands that the Cabinet Papers show an £8.5m increase in the Social Services Budget for 2022/23 but the actual proposed budget for Social Services for 2022/23, in the Revenue Budget summary Sheet, is £16m. The Panel understands that the £8.5m is for additional pressures and that the difference between this and the £16m is for continued growth within the Service. The Panel feels this is a great opportunity to invest to improve services.

The Panel intends to look at the transformation of services in more detail at future meetings. There is a need to have services which are economically and efficiently run, and the Panel needs to ensure we don't lose sight of this.

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departments concerns in relation to the clarity of funding for schools in years 2 and 3.

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The Panel were concerned about the rising energy cost for schools and would like to see schools switching to more green solutions, where it is feasible.

The Panel welcomed the high level of delegated spend that has been maintained by Swansea Council. Hearing that this coming year will be 83% and will increase to 85% in 2024/25.

68 Sustainable Swansea (verbal update)

The Panel received a short verbal update from The Leader and S.151 Officer, regarding the Sustainable Swansea programme, noting that a full report will be made available to the Scrutiny Panel in due course.

69 Work Plan 2021-22

The Panel accepted the Work Programme for 2021/2022

70 Annual Review

- The Panel considered the annual review documents.
- The Panel commented on what had gone well this year, including the scrutiny of the Annual Planning Performance Report and the attendance of lead officers and Cabinet Members when requested.
- Members commented on the lack of up-to-date performance data, as a result of the effects of the pandemic.
- Members commented on the difficulty of reading/analysing agendas and reports on screen, noting a preference for printed paper copies.

- 71 Letters**
- 72 Exclusion of Public**
- 73 Property Investment Fund Strategy**

Letter to Cabinet Member

The meeting ended at 11.00 am

Chair

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Convener

Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel – 6 September 2022

Role of the Performance Panel

Purpose:	As it is the first meeting of the municipal year (and Council term) this report has been written to help to give clarity and ensure understanding of the role of the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel. It is also designed to aid the discussion on effective working.
Content:	A description of the role of Performance Panels is provided, the focus of the Service Improvement and Finance Panel, and link to relevant Council Priorities / Policy Commitments.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the role of the Panel and effective working
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Chris Holley, Convener of the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Rachel Percival, Scrutiny Officer E-mail: rachel.percival@swansea.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Within the Council's arrangements for Overview & Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing a Scrutiny Work Programme and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.
- 1.2 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
- 1.3 At the same time the Committee must ensure that the work of scrutiny is:
 - manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available to support activities
 - relevant to council priorities
 - adding value and having maximum impact
 - coordinated and avoids duplication

- 1.4 In order to discharge the work of Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Programme Committee can establish informal Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

There are two types of Panel:

- Inquiry Panels will undertake discrete in-depth inquiries into significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis.
- Performance Panels will provide ongoing in-depth monitoring and challenge to particular services / service areas

- 1.5 The Committee has established six Performance Panels, each with a specific focus:

- Service Improvement & Finance
- Education
- Adult Services
- Child & Family Services
- Development & Regeneration
- Climate Change & Nature

- 1.6 Panel meetings will typically involve consideration / assessment of service performance reports from Cabinet Members, with support from lead officers, and discussion of issues arising. Where necessary, Panels will drill down into specific matters. Panels may request relevant reports on activities, performance and information that will help it to assess progress regarding the Council's work, commitments, and implementation of agreed plans.

- 1.7 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant Cabinet Members in order to share views and recommendations, arising from monitoring activities, holding them to account for service performance, quality and improvement.

- 1.8 The Committee also determines the frequency of Performance Panel meetings that can be supported within the overall Scrutiny Work Programme. Performance Panels will meet on an on-going basis during the Council term until otherwise agreed by the Committee. Accordingly, Panels will develop a work plan for meetings that effectively discharge their responsibilities and Committee expectations.

- 1.9 Non-executive councillors who are not members of the Committee have the opportunity to participate in Panels and other informal task and finish groups. The membership of Panels and Working Groups is determined by the Committee. The Committee will appoint Panel Conveners in the first year of a Council term, however, has agreed for Performance Panels to then re-confirm / appoint their Convener at the start of every subsequent municipal year. There are no fixed number of seats on Panels, however, more than one political group should be represented on each and should be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning. A minimum of 3 members should be present at all meetings.

- 1.10 Performance Panel Conveners are required to provide the Scrutiny Programme Committee with regular progress reports on the work and

impact of their Panels. Performance Panel conveners can attend meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Committee as co-opted members.

- 1.11 Panels and Working Group meetings are accessible to the public, just as the Scrutiny Programme Committee. Agendas, reports, letters relating to scrutiny activities are published on the Council's modern.gov online platform:
<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

2. The Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel

2.1 The Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel is responsible for ongoing monitoring of the Councils finance and performance matters. Last year the Panel looked at:

- Pre-decision of the Annual Budget and medium term financial plan
- Quarterly Financial Budget monitoring
- Quarterly Performance monitoring
- Welsh Language Standards
- Byelaws
- Revenue Reserves
- Planning Performance
- Revenue Outturn, HRA Outturn and Capital Outturn and Financing
- Peer review and Self-Assessment of Local Government Elections Act 2021
- Swansea Airport
- Recycling and Landfill
- Potholes and Carriageways
- Sustainable Swansea
- Property Investment Fund Strategy

2.2 The Panel currently has a membership of 8 councillors.

2.3 In accordance with the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme, the Panel will meet monthly.

2.4 The Panel will write to the relevant Cabinet Members, to convey its views including suggested action, arising from meeting discussions. Letters, and responses where requested, are reported back to the Panel for comments and discussion as necessary.

2.5 Corporate Objectives / Council Policy Commitments:

2.5.1 The Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives are:

- **Safeguarding** people from harm – so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- Improving **Education & Skills** – so that everyone in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- Transforming our **Economy & Infrastructure** – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- **Tackling Poverty** – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.

- Delivering on **Nature Recovery and Climate Change** – so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.
- **Transformation & Future Council** development – so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

2.5.2 Policy Commitments 2022-27 recently adopted by Council (7 July 2022) are **appended**.

2.5.3 Progress / achievement against objectives, commitments, and implementation of agreed plans will need to be monitored between the Performance Panels. The Service Improvement & Finance Panel has overview of corporate performance and finance, but will need to avoid duplication with the other Panels, who may be looking at specific objectives / policy commitments.

3. Support

3.1 Performance Panels have the dedicated support of a member of the Council's Scrutiny Team. This lead Scrutiny Officer will assist with work planning and project-manage scrutiny activities and help to ensure that things run smoothly, for example by:

- directly supporting meetings
- liaison with Cabinet Members, departments, partners and the public
- contacting and arranging witness sessions
- carrying out research and arranging evidence gathering
- carrying out and assisting with any consultation and public engagement exercises
- helping to keep the work to time
- capturing and reflecting back the ideas, evidence gathered and any key issues that have been highlighted
- assisting in the drafting of scrutiny letters and reports
- promoting work using social media and other methods of communication

3.2 The Corporate Management Team and Service Departments are also an essential source of advice and support. Engagement with departments will be important in providing context for areas of work, knowledge about policies and service delivery, and technical expertise.

3.3 The Committee should recognise that resource constraints may have an impact on the scrutiny activity and delivery of work plans. Being focussed, proportionate and flexible will be important as we carry out scrutiny.

4. Effective Working

4.1 The Panel is encouraged to consider how it can work more effectively, for example in its preparation for meetings, and think about its approach to issues including the following:

- Developing Questions and Questioning Strategy
- Use of short Pre-meetings / Post meetings

- Team / Inclusive Working and Communication
- Decorum at meetings
- Meeting times / length
- Any other practical considerations

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA POLICY COMMITMENTS STATEMENT 2022 – 2027

1. This **Policy Commitments Statement** covers a broad range of topics, as outlined within paragraph 1. In addition, paragraph 2 outlines commitments in the context of meeting objectives within the first one hundred days of term.

Education

- 1.1 Swansea Council will commit to investing £1 billion for better education, including £150 million investment in new and better schools.

Better care

- 1.2 Swansea Council will commit to investing £750 million for better care in Swansea.
- 1.3 The Council will commit to fairer pay for care workers.
- 1.4 Swansea Council will strive to provide new children's care facilities within Swansea.
- 1.5 We will seek to provide better day care opportunities and respite services across the City.
- 1.6 Swansea Council will continue to develop and operate a network of Local Area Co-ordinators (LAC) to cover the whole of Swansea.

Climate Change

- 1.7 Swansea Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 1.8 We will support delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project.
- 1.9 We aim to progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site.
- 1.10 The Council will strive to install more electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the county, supporting a move to more EV ownership.
- 1.11 We will install more LED street lighting.
- 1.12 We will develop a new city-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees in communities.

- 1.13 We aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements.
- 1.14 Swansea Council will continue to review the council transport fleet to maximise opportunities for use of a green fleet in line with its green fleet strategy.

Communities

- 1.15 Swansea Council will ensure the availability of dedicated resources to tackle weeds, litter and minor works in every community; recruiting local ward operatives.
- 1.16 We commit to investment in our towns and villages.
- 1.17 We shall promote the free use of sports pitches for local sports clubs.
- 1.18 Swansea Council will commit to improving public toilets.
- 1.19 The Council will continue to invest in parks and play areas.
- 1.20 We will complete work with partners and communities across Swansea to become a Human Rights City and to continue to embed our commitment to values of equality and diversity in everything we do.

Housing

- 1.21 Swansea Council commit to providing more energy efficient homes and more affordable homes, alongside more investment in social housing.
- 1.22 We will deliver on the refurbishment and upgrade of remaining tower blocks.
- 1.23 The Council shall commit to taking strong action against disruptive tenants.
- 1.24 The Council will offer immediate support for people who become homeless and a commitment to shorter housing waiting lists.

Regeneration

- 1.25 The Council will deliver on a £1 billion regeneration of the City Centre and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash to develop seven key strategic sites.
- 1.26 We shall introduce new public and local services hubs in communities.
- 1.27 Swansea Council is committed to helping create thousands of new jobs for the people of Swansea, aiming to provide high quality and secure employment.

- 1.28 We will progress the Palace Theatre and Albert Hall developments to secure our historic buildings for future generations and seek an innovative solution to secure the future of the Elysium building.
- 1.29 Swansea Council will develop and promote more city living, including new hotels, retail, office space and food and beverage facilities.

Attractions

- 1.30 Swansea Council will seek to deliver the biggest ever events programme each year, for the next five years.
- 1.31 Swansea Council will continue to deliver an annual programme of community safety / Community Engagement events across the city.
- 1.32 Working in partnership with Penderyn Distillery, we will support a new whisky distillery attraction at Landore.

2. 100 days target: Commitments

- 2.1 In addition to the above, we seek to achieve the following commitments during the first one hundred days of term:

Education

- 2.2 We commit to mapping out future priorities, in line with our Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.
- 2.3 Swansea Council will commence the upgrade works at Cefn Hengoed Community School, progressing our £7million investment in a new Community Sports Barn in Bonymaen.
- 2.4 We shall begin delivery of new special school facilities.
- 2.5 The Council will seek to expand free school meal provision and implement a freeze on school meal prices.
- 2.6 We will commence the new regional partnership arrangements; the South West Wales Education Partnership will be a regional collaborative arrangement designed to promote excellence in all of our schools.
- 2.7 We will keep school leadership standards high in Swansea.

Better care

- 2.8 The Council will undertake a review of post-pandemic care provision.

- 2.9 We will begin options appraisal and move to increase council direct delivery of care.
- 2.10 Swansea Council will engage with Health to ensure care plans align with health recovery.
- 2.11 We will progress a new children's care facility.

Communities

- 2.12 The Council will complete bus shelter installations.
- 2.13 Swansea Council commit to installing new bins and to replace dog waste bins with larger general bins.
- 2.14 We commit to roll-out new drainage teams and new PATCH (Priority Action Team for Community Highways) programmes.
- 2.15 The Council will commence the £10 million local road upgrades.
- 2.16 Swansea Council will revise community budget rules.
- 2.17 We will progress roll-out of free public Wi-Fi.
- 2.18 We will investigate options for a Substance Use Truth Commission.
- 2.19 The Council shall agree a Local Library Plan including the community hub developments.
- 2.20 Swansea Council will seek to expand Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).
- 2.21 We will engage with the Police to improve visibility of local policing.
- 2.22 Swansea Council will prepare to receive more refugees.
- 2.23 We will progress the roll-out of next generation CCTV systems.

Housing

- 2.24 The Council shall complete Welsh Quality Housing Standard (WQHS) 1 and begin planning WQHS 2.
- 2.25 The Council will begin its review of its council housing lettings policy.
- 2.26 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.

- 2.27 Swansea Council will continue onto the next phase of the More Homes build, whilst maintaining progress on further retrofitting of council homes.

Regeneration

- 2.28 Working with our regional partners, we will progress a £1 billion regeneration and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash as our new strategic partner, with an initial focus on Copr Bay Phase 2, the Civic Centre site and St Thomas site.
- 2.29 We will secure a major new tenant for the Debenhams unit in the Quadrant Shopping Centre, securing the use of this unit for the future.
- 2.30 The Council will progress work on the new Castle Square Gardens project.
- 2.31 The Council will progress work on the new Central Library project.
- 2.32 Swansea Council will begin the phased demolition of Ty Dewi Sant and the old multi-storey car park.
- 2.33 We shall progress the build of 71-72 The Kingsway, to create an innovation hub which will be home to new businesses and up to six hundred new jobs.

Finances and Resources

- 2.34 We shall continue making cost of living payments on behalf of Welsh Government until the scheme closes or the fund is spent in full.
- 2.35 The Council will agree the outturn position and where possible provide more resources for reinvestment.
- 2.36 Swansea Council commit to replenish the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) from the outturn position and ensure continued focus on the fund to aid economic recovery and part fund many of the items in this policy commitments statement.
- 2.37 We will commit to reviewing the 'Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme' goals.
- 2.38 The Council will commence a senior pay and grading review and ensure it fits with the wider workforce pay and grading scheme.
- 2.39 We will ensure planned savings are secured.
- 2.40 The Council will agree a post-pandemic working model.

Attractions

- 2.41 We will continue to progress development and investment through the Skyline park attraction on Kilvey Hill, hosting the Skyline board visit during June 2022.
- 2.42 We will progress hotels discussions for the City Centre and Stadium.
- 2.43 We are committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons expected by Winter 2022.
- 2.44 Swansea Council will deliver new promenade improvements and developments, as well as new lighting around Swansea Bay.
- 2.45 We are committed to delivering a range of new and exciting immersive attractions, summer concerts and a new phase of Arena shows; encapsulated in a larger than ever events programme (including the half Iron Man event), which commenced with community support for Platinum Jubilee events.
- 2.46 The Council is committed to retaining the Wales National Air Show in Swansea, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to the City for this annual event and reviewing how its delivery can align with its net zero carbon targets.
- 2.47 Swansea Council is committed to progressing discussions for the new interactive aquarium, aiming to offer an immersive experience for visitors and a wider educational resource.

Transport and Energy

- 2.48 The Council will announce progress on the Blue Eden project.
- 2.49 We will continue the 'free bus ride' scheme for 2022 school summer holidays and consider further extensions.
- 2.50 Swansea Council will support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.
- 2.51 We will continue to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with its agreed green fleet strategy.
- 2.52 Swansea Council will commence the review of its disabled parking bay policy.
- 2.53 We will strive to progress discussions regarding a new ferry service linking Wales with the South West of England.
- 2.54 We will progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub.

Well – Being

- 2.55 Swansea Council will progress delivery of all-weather sports pitches.
- 2.56 We commit to progress discussions with partners regarding the International Sports Science Village.
- 2.57 The Council commits to complete play area upgrades.
- 2.58 Swansea Council will work towards announcing new Active Travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity.
- 2.59 We are committed to delivering better skate-park facilities within Swansea.

Other

- 2.60 We shall progress work of the new Corporate Joint Committee.
- 2.61 The Council will seek to commence a review of delegated decisions that can be taken by both Officers and Councillors.
- 2.62 Swansea Council will agree a new Swansea Bay Strategy.
- 2.63 The Council will update the recognition and naming policy.
- 2.64 We shall progress TAN15 discussions with Welsh Government to find a solution that supports appropriate development.

END

Agenda Item 9

Service Improvement and Finance – Scrutiny Performance Panel

Work Plan 2022/23

<p>Meeting 1 6 Sep 2022 10am</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role of the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Panel 2. Overview: <i>Understanding Financial Reporting</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer 3. Overview: <i>Understanding Performance Monitoring</i> Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery and Performance Manager 4. Work Plan 2022/23 Panel to discuss/agree work plan topics for the coming year.
<p>Meeting 2 4 Oct 2022 10am</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q1 Budget Monitoring Report – 2022/23 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy 2. Annual Performance Monitoring Report for 2021/2022 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance 3. Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report <i>Invited to attend:</i> Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance
<p>Meeting 3 8 Nov 2022 10am</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Revenue Reserves <i>Invited to attend:</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy 2. Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Performance Report <i>Invited to attend:</i> Karen Gibbins – Library Services Manager Cllr Elliott King – Cabinet Member Culture and Equalities 3. Welsh Housing Quality Standards Annual Update <i>Invited to attend:</i> Dave Bratley – Housing Asset Manager Cllr Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Transformation
<p>Meeting 4 6 Dec 2022 10am</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid Term Budget Statement 2022/23 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy 2. Annual Review of Performance 2021/2022 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance 3. Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021/2022 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Sarah Lackenby - Chief Transformation Officer Cllr Elliott King – Cabinet Member Culture and Equalities Cllr Robert Smith – Cabinet Member for Education and Learning 4. Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring 2021/22 and Recycling of Business Waste Briefing

	<p><i>Invited to attend:</i> Cllr Cyril Anderson/Cllr Hayley Gwilliam – Cabinet Member Community Chris Howell – Head of Waste Management and Parks Matthew Perkins – Group Leader, Waste</p>
<p>Meeting 5 17 Jan 2023 10am</p>	<p>1. Draft Budget Proposals 2022/23 – 2025/26 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy</p> <p>2. Q2 Budget Monitoring 2022/23 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy</p> <p>3. Q2 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report <i>Invited to attend:</i> Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance</p>
<p>Meeting 6 Feb 2023 tbc</p>	<p>1. Annual Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan: Pre-Decision Scrutiny <i>Invited to attend:</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy</p>
<p>Meeting 7 14 Mar 2023 10am</p>	<p>1. Q3 Budget Monitoring 2022/23 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy</p> <p>2. Planning Annual Performance Report 2021/2022 <i>Invited to attend:</i> Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration Ian Davies - Development Conservation and Design Manager Tom Evans – Placemaking and Strategic Planning Manager</p>
<p>Meeting 8 18 April 2023 10am</p>	<p>1. Q3 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report <i>Invited to attend:</i> Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager Cllr David Hopkins - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance</p> <p>2. Annual Review of Well-being Objectives and Corporate Plan <i>Invited to attend:</i> Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy</p>
<p>Meeting 9 9 May 2023 10am</p>	<p>1. Progress update on the Local Government Use of Data Action Plan (delayed due to pandemic impacts / diversion of resources) - tbc</p> <p>2. Annual Complaints Report <i>Invited to attend:</i> Sarah Lackenby - Chief Transformation Officer Cllr David Hopkins - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance</p> <p>3. Sustainable Swansea Update - Transformational delivery aspects - tbc</p>