



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel - Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance**

**Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS**

**Teams**

**Tuesday, 12 December 2023 at 10.00 am**

**Present:** Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

P M Black  
P R Hood-Williams  
M W Locke  
T M White

**Councillor(s)**

C M J Evans  
D H Jenkins  
B J Rowlands

**Councillor(s)**

E W Fitzgerald  
M Jones  
M S Tribe

**Other Attendees**

Cllr Rob Stewart  
Cllr Cyril Anderson

Cabinet Member for Economy Finance and Strategy  
Cabinet Member for Community Services

**Officer(s)**

Ben Smith  
Chris Howell  
Sarah Lackenby  
Rachel Percival

Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer  
Head of Waste Management  
Head of Digital and Customer Services  
Scrutiny Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): L James, M H Jones, S M Jones, J W Jones and W G Thomas

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**39 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

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

Councillor Chris Holley declared a personal interest in Minute Item 45.

**40 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**

None.

**41 Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

#### **42 Public Questions**

There were no public questions received.

#### **43 Review of Revenue Reserves**

Cllr Rob Stewart and Ben Smith attended and the report which was presented to Council on 7 December was noted.

#### **44 Mid Term Budget Statement 2023/24 (Verbal)**

Cllr Rob Stewart and Ben Smith attended, and the following was discussed.

- There are budget monitoring pressures in the current year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Monitoring report will be presented to Cabinet on 21 December.
- The Welsh Government budget will be announced next week followed by the Local Government settlement.
- The Council continue to lobby Welsh Government through the Welsh Local Government Association.

#### **45 Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring Report**

Cllr Cyril Anderson and Chris Howell shared the report, the following was noted.

- In 2022, the Council adopted a new waste strategy setting out a range of principles and actions to achieve the statutory recycling targets set out in Welsh Government plans by 2024/25.
- In 2022/23 the Council exceeded the current statutory recycling target of 64% by achieving 71.8%. This was an increase of 6.7% on the previous year. This increase was principally due to switching black bag disposal from landfill to energy from waste. Swansea Council is first in the recycling performance league table across Wales.
- Welsh Local Government Association financial benchmarking from 2021/22 showed Swansea Council to have the lowest net expenditure per household-on-household waste services across Wales.
- Welsh Government are considering the introduction of several schemes including a deposit return scheme, workplace recycling legislation and extended producer responsibility.
- Swansea Council are currently trialling reusable containers for cans/glass and paper/cardboard in the St Thomas area which so far has been received positively. If rolled out across Swansea, the cost would be neutral.

#### **46 Audit Wales Report - Digital Strategy Review**

Sarah Lackenby attended to share the Councils response to the Audit Wales report. The following was discussed.

- The report highlights the Audit Wales review of all Council digital strategies across Wales. It looked to seek assurance that digital strategies are delivering well-being objectives in accordance with the Future Generations Act.

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Cont'd

- There was one recommendation for improvement which was to bring any review findings to relevant committees. This does normally occur, but normal process was affected by the pandemic.

The digital strategy is reviewed annually, the Panel requested that this review is also brought to scrutiny.

**47 Work Plan**

The work plan was noted.

**48 Letters**

The meeting ended at 11.08 am

**Chair**