



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 March 2024 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

P M Black
L James
S M Jones
B J Rowlands
T M White

Councillor(s)

C M J Evans
D H Jenkins
J W Jones
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
M Jones
M W Locke
M S Tribe

Cabinet Member(s)

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism

Officer(s)

Mark Wade	Director of Place
Paul Relf	Strategic Economic Regeneration Manager
Katy Evans	City Centre Team Leader
Rachel Percival	Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M H Jones

67 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

There were no disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

68 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None.

69 Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

70 Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

71 Audit Wales Report - "Cracks in the Foundations" Building Safety in Wales

This item was deferred until the Panels next meeting on 9 April.

72 Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments for Development and Regeneration

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies and Paul Relf talked through the report which summarised the work areas and the achievements within planning and city regeneration departments.

- Work on the Regional Economic Delivery Plan is ongoing with funding support provided through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up.
- Several strategic grants are available to enable stability to the private sector and third sector with the city centre benefitting from town centre loans, placemaking and strategic grants.
- A new hotel is in discussion and would be situated between the Arena and the LC, this is likely to be 4 star / higher end Hotel.
- Seven districts outside the city centre have a placemaking plan in development. These will be progressed as quickly as possible using available funding and with limitations to design and contractor capacity.
- Job creation is growing through start up and business development/improvement grants and UK Shared prosperity funding. Job retention of funded posts and attracting new companies to the area was also discussed.
- The Panel asked questions and development updates on the former Debenhams site, Castle Square, the Dragon Hotel, the Dolphin Hotel, the Civic Centre and Copr Bay.

73 Regeneration Project(s) Update 71-72 The Kingsway

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies and Katy Evans presented the report. It was noted that:

- Practical completion of the site has been delayed a few weeks from its original target of end of March.
- Discussions with potential tenants continue and it is anticipated that the building will be fully let within a reasonable time scale but not on practical completion.
- The development has benefitted from 13.7m of City Deal funding.
- The Panel asked questions about Picton Arcade, bike storage, the demand for office space, marketing and City Deal funding.

74 Work Plan

The work plan was noted with mention of the changes to next month's agenda.

75 Letters

76 Exclusion of the Public

The public were excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

77 Regeneration Project(s) Update 71-72 The Kingsway

The meeting ended at 11.32 am

Chair