

GWŶS Y CYNGOR

Rydych dan wŷs trwy hyn i ddod i gyfarfod CYNGOR DINAS A SIR ABERTAWWE i'w gynnal yn Siambr y Cyngor, Canolfan Ddinesig, Abertawe
Dydd Iau, 24 Medi 2015 am 5.00 pm

Cynigir trafod y materion canlynol:

1. **Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.**
2. **Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.** 1 - 2
3. **Cofnodion.** 3 - 12
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4. **Cyhoeddiadau'r Aelod Llywyddol.**
5. **Cyhoeddiadau Arweinydd y Cyngor.**
6. **Cwestiynau gan y Cyhoedd.**
Rhaid i'r cwestiynau ymwneud â materion ar ran agored agenda'r cyfarfod, ac ymdrinnir â hwy o fewn 10 munud.
7. **Cyflwyniad Cyhoeddus - Cyfadeilad Botaneg Cyfeillion Dinas Abertawe.**
8. **Adroddiad y Pwyllgor Safonau.**
- 8.a Adroddiad Blynyddol y Pwyllgor Safonau ar gyfer 2014/2015. 13 - 24
9. **Adroddiad gan Aelod y Cabinet dros Adfywio a Datblygu Menter.**
- 9.a Dyraniadau tai a safleoedd strategol arfaethedig Cynllun Datblygu Lleol (CDLI) Abertawe. 25 - 102
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- 10.a Adolygu'r refeniw wrth gefn. 103 - 123
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- 11.a Adroddiad Datblygu Cynaliadwy 2014/15. 147 - 178
- 11.b Aelodaeth Pwyllgorau. 179 - 180
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13. **Cwestiynau gan y Cynghorwyr.** 192 - 195
14. **Adroddiadau Er Gwybodaeth. (Dim Trafodaeth)**

14.a Ymatebion ysgrifenedig i gwestiynau a ofynnwyd yng nghyfarfod cyffredinol diwethaf y Cyngor.

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15. Rhybudd o Gynnig: Y Cynghorwyr C A Holley, M H Jones, A M Day, J W Jones, C L Philpott, J Newbury, P M Black, P M Meara, T H Rees, L G Thomas, R J Stanton, R D Lewis

Rydym yn gwneud cais i adroddiad ar ein refeniw gael ei gyflwyno i gyfarfod nesaf y cyngor. Ein bwriad yw defnyddio £5 miliwn i ddisodli'r toriadau yn y gyllideb addysg ddirprwyedig ar gyfer 2015/16.



Patrick Arran
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Democrataidd a Chaffael
Canolfan Ddinesig
Abertawe
Dydd Mercher, 16 Medi 2015
I: Bob Aelod o'r Cyngor

- a) Details of the prejudicial interest;
- b) Details of the business to which the prejudicial interest relates;
- c) Details of, and the date on which, the dispensation was granted; and
- d) Your signature

Officers

Financial Interests

1. If an Officer has a financial interest in any matter which arises for decision at any meeting to which the Officer is reporting or at which the Officer is in attendance involving any member of the Council and /or any third party the Officer shall declare an interest in that matter and take no part in the consideration or determination of the matter and shall withdraw from the meeting while that matter is considered. Any such declaration made in a meeting of a constitutional body shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting. No Officer shall make a report to a meeting for a decision to be made on any matter in which s/he has a financial interest.
2. A "financial interest" is defined as any interest affecting the financial position of the Officer, either to his/her benefit or to his/her detriment. It also includes an interest on the same basis for any member of the Officers family or a close friend and any company firm or business from which an Officer or a member of his/her family receives any remuneration. There is no financial interest for an Officer where a decision on a report affects all of the Officers of the Council or all of the officers in a Department or Service.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON
THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 2015 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor D W W Thomas (Presiding Member) Presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
C Anderson	F M Gordon	G Owens
P M Black	J A Hale	C L Philpott
J E Burtonshaw	T J Hennegan	J A Raynor
M C Child	C A Holley	T H Rees
R A Clay	P R Hood-Williams	I M Richard
U C Clay	L James	R V Smith
A C S Colburn	Y V Jardine	R J Stanton
D W Cole	J W Jones	R C Stewart
A M Cook	M H Jones	D G Sullivan
J P Curtice	E J King	C Thomas
N J Davies	A S Lewis	C M R W D Thomas
A M Day	R D Lewis	M Thomas
P Downing	C E Lloyd	L G Thomas
C R Doyle	P Lloyd	L J Tyler-Lloyd
C R Evans	K E Marsh	G D Walker
V M Evans	P M Matthews	L V Walton
R Francis-Davies	P M Meara	T M White

44. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J C Bayliss, S E Crouch, W Evans, E W Fitzgerald, B Hopkins, D H Hopkins, A J Jones, S M Jones, E T Kirchner, D J Lewis, P N May, H M Morris, J Newbury, B G Owen, D Phillips, C Richards, P B Smith and G J Tanner.

45. **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement gave advice regarding the potential personal and prejudicial interests that Councillors and / Officers may have on the agenda.

The Head of Democratic Services reminded Councillors and Officers that the "Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests" sheet should only be completed if the Councillor / Officer actually had an interest to declare. Nil returns were not required. Councillors and Officers were also informed that any declarable interest must be made orally and in writing on the sheet.

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

- 1) Councillor D W W Thomas declared a Personal Interest in Minute 52 "Urgent Report - Constitutional Matters 2015-2016- Changes";
- 2) Councillors C Anderson, R A Clay, P R Hood-Williams, L James, J W Jones, P M Meara, G Owens, R V Smith, D W W Thomas, L V Walton and T M White declared a Personal Interest in Minute 56 "Audit Committee - Annual Report 2014-2015";
- 3) Councillor P M Meara declared a Personal Interest in Minute 57 "Councillors' Questions - Question 5".

46. **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the following Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record:

- 1) Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 July 2015.

Note: Councillor P M Meara stated that the recording of Public Questions was not sufficient and requested that in future, the name of the questioner and subject matter of the question be added to the Minute.

The Leader of the Council agreed with the suggestion and asked that it be implemented as soon as possible.

47. **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER.**

1) **Condolences**

a) **Rebekah Bartolozzi**

The Presiding Member referred with sadness to the recent death of Rebekah Bartolozzi, daughter of Councillor P B Smith and former Councillor R L Smith.

b) **Steve Lewis**

The Presiding Member referred to the recent death of Steve Lewis, former Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for St. Thomas and Swansea's Eastside.

All present were asked to stand as a mark of respect and sympathy.

2) **Councillor H M Morris - Illness**

The Presiding Member stated that Councillor H M Morris had recently undergone surgery and that there was more surgery to follow. He wished her well on behalf of the Council.

3) **Corrections / Amendments to the Council Summons**

i) **Item 8a “Membership of Committee”** - An amended report had been circulated.

ii) **Item 9a “Amendments to the Council Constitution”**. Amend the report as follows:

a) Page 15. Paragraph 4.9. End of the first line. **Delete** the word “to”. **Replace** with “in”. Sentence will then read:

“Finally, a significant amount of work has already been done in producing a new Constitution based on the Welsh Modular Constitution”.

b) Page 24. Paragraph 5.2. Middle of the first line. *Delete* the word “to”. Sentence will then read:

“Responsible Officers can only exercise delegated authority for functions for which they have budgetary and management or operational or statutory responsibility”.

iii) **Item “Urgent Report - Constitutional Matters 2015-2016 - Changes”**

The Presiding Member stated that he had agreed that an Urgent Report be considered at the meeting. Paragraph 7.1. The list of Proposed Chairs is incorrect. Amend the list as follows:

Cabinet Advisory Committee	Proposed Chair
Corporate Services	Erika T Kirchner
Development	Phil Downing
Education & Young People	Des W W Thomas
Prevention & Social Care Reform	V Mandy Evans

48. **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.**

1) **GCSE & A Level Results**

The Leader of the Council congratulated those students for their GCSE and A Level results over the summer. He stated that GCSE students in Swansea had outstripped their peers across Wales with more of them than ever celebrating the top A* and A results. The summer 2015 examinations are the best ever results for Swansea.

The figures show 22.8% of city pupils gained A* and A grades in their exams, which compares very well to 19.2% of those in Wales as a whole. Initial indications show that the Level 2 Threshold with Language/Maths has improved from 59.1% in 2014 to around 62.3% in 2015. This is the largest annual increase seen for this measure in Swansea. This indicator is the most important performance measure for key stage 4. To achieve this indicator,

students need to achieve at least five C grades or higher at GCSE (or equivalent), including mathematics and English and/or Welsh First Language.

More than 90% of students achieved the higher grades of A* to C in 24 different subjects - up from 19 in 2014. Meanwhile, the top grades of A* and A were awarded to over a third of all entrants in 26 subjects – up from 21 subjects last year.

A total of 99.2% of GCSE examination entries in Swansea were passed (grades A* to G). This is the same as 2014, and tops the Welsh pass rate for 2015 of 98.7%.

Swansea GCSE students also surpassed their counterparts in terms of the number of them gaining the higher grades in full course subjects. The figures show 76.8% of entrants here scored A* to C grades, a rise on last year's figure of 73.4% and well above the comparable figure for all-Wales for 2015 of 66.6%.

In Swansea, a total of 17,181 full course GCSE entries in summer 2015 were made in 58 different subject/syllabuses. In addition, there were 2,225 entries in 15 different subjects for GCSE short courses.

2) **Cabinet Member Changes**

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport for his dedication as a Cabinet Member following his decision to stand down from the Cabinet on 31 August 2015 due to work commitments.

He stated that Councillor D H Hopkins would be appointed as the Environment and Transport Cabinet Member from 1 September 2015. Councillor Hopkins current Cabinet Portfolio responsibilities for Communities and Housing will be included in existing Portfolios on 31 August 2015 and a new Portfolio of Next Generation Services will be created.

The Leader of the Council stated that he had appointed Councillor A S Lewis as the Next Generation Services Cabinet Member with effect from 1 September 2015.

The Leader of the Council also set out his vision of the interlinking between Cabinet Advisory Committees, Deputy Cabinet Members and Cabinet Portfolios.

49. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

A number of questions were asked by members of the public. The relevant Cabinet Member responded. Those questions **not requiring** a written response are listed below:

- 1) Dennis Green (Swansea Credit Union) asked the Transformation and Performance Cabinet Member a question in relation to Minute 57 "Councillors'

Questions - Question 3". The question related to whether the Authority would continue to financially assist the Swansea Credit Union in some way in future years.

The Transformation and Performance Cabinet Member stated that he recognised the excellent work of the Swansea Credit Union; however the Authority had a reduced budget and therefore had to reduce its spending. The allocation of future budgets would have to be aligned to the Council Priorities. As such resources would be targeted to assist the Authority in meeting those Priorities.

- 2) Peter East asked the Leader of the Council questions in relation to Minute 54 "Amendments to the Council Constitution". The questions related the possibility of extending the length of public question time; holding Cabinet Members to account and the scrutiny of them; value for money in relation to the Elba estate and the Liberty Stadium and the Authority's use of external advice.

The Leader of the Council stated that:

- i) The Presiding Member had the power to extend the length of public question time and had done so on occasion; however in reality the questions often ceased before the end of the allocated timescale.
- ii) Cabinet Members were regularly held to account and scrutinised by the Scrutiny Programme Committee and associated Scrutiny Panels. Additionally, Cabinet Members and indeed all Councillors published their contact details and can be approached directly by the public.
- iii) The Authority achieved value for money in relation to the Elba estate and settled the issue following advice given. The issue of value for money at the Liberty Stadium was ongoing and the issue of rent was being investigated.
- iv) The Authority seeks external advice as required.

Those questions **requiring** a written response are listed below:

- 1) Lis Davies asked the Leader of the Council questions in relation to Minute 54 "Amendments to the Council Constitution":

" Agenda Item 9 (a) "Amendments to the Council Constitution". Page 16. Delegation of authority to individual Cabinet Members. Paragraphs 4.13 and & 4.14 refer to the Recording & Publishing of Individual Cabinet Member Decisions and that it is proposed a decision tracker of said decisions will be published online in due course.

- 1) *Will Cabinet Members have carte blanche to make decisions without the authority of Cabinet, Council or Officers?*

2) *What time scale is attached to 'in due course'?*

The Leader of the Council stated that a written response would be provided.

2) *"Agenda Item 11 "Councillors Questions - Question 2". Page 33. The report states that during 2014/2015 the total income for Parking Enforcement was £1,240,230; associated costs of running the service were £1,172,213 which left a surplus of £68,017. Further to the above, I would appreciate answers to the following questions:*

- 1) *How many Parking Enforcement Wardens are employed by the CCS?*
- 2) *What are their contracted hours of work and hourly rate of pay?*
- 3) *What is the overtime rate of pay?*
- 4) *Actual hours of overtime claimed during 2014/2015?*
- 5) *Total costs relating to salaries & expenses paid to Parking Enforcement officers during 2014/2015?*
- 6) *Breakdown of costs associated with running the parking enforcement van?*
- 7) *How much of the £1.24 million income was attributed to the enforcement van?*
- 8) *Administration costs associated with running the Parking Enforcement service?"*

The Leader of the Council stated that a written response would be provided.

50. **PUBLIC PRESENTATION - FRIENDS OF SWANSEA HORSES.**

David Grimsell gave a presentation on the work of 'Friends of Swansea Horses'. He outlined the issues associated with tethering horses and its impact on the horses within Swansea. He asked that the Authority create a cross party working group to address the issue.

Councillor M Thomas, Environment & Transportation Cabinet Member gave thanks for the presentation.

Councillor M H Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee stated that Scrutiny would be looking into the issue during this Municipal Year.

51. **URGENT ITEM**

The Presiding Member stated that pursuant to paragraph 100B (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, he considered that the "Constitutional Matters 2-015-2016 - Changes" report should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

52. **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS 2015-2016 - CHANGES**

Reason for Urgency: There is a need to regularise the Cabinet Advisory Committees in line with the Cabinet Portfolios and the changes to the Scheme of Delegation report before Council today, which, if approved, would come into immediate effect.

The Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services jointly submitted a report which sought to outline changes to the Cabinet Advisory Committees, Senior Salaries and the list of Council Bodies.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The following Cabinet Advisory Committee be deleted from the list of Council Bodies:
 - i) Business & Administration;
 - ii) Economy & Investment;
 - iii) Engagement & Inclusion;
 - iv) Services.

- 2) The following Cabinet Advisory Committee be created, each with a membership of 13:
 - i) Corporate Services;
 - ii) Development;
 - iii) Education & Young People;
 - iv) Prevention & Social Care Reform.

- 3) The Terms of Reference of the four new Cabinet Advisory Committees as outlined in Appendix A be adopted;

- 4) The following positions be added to the list of those paid a Senior Salary commensurate with that of a Band 3 Committee Chair:
 - i) Chair of Corporate Services Cabinet Advisory Committee;
 - ii) Chair of Development Cabinet Advisory Committee;
 - iii) Chair of Education & Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee;
 - iv) Chair of Prevention & Social Care Reform Cabinet Advisory Committee.

- 5) Councillors be allocated to serve on the Council Bodies in line with the nominations received from the Political Groups;

- 6) Councillor Erika T Kirchner be elected as Chair of the Corporate Services Cabinet Advisory Committee;

- 7) Councillor Phil Downing be elected as Chair of the Development Cabinet Advisory Committee;
- 8) Councillor Des W W Thomas be elected as Chair of the Education & Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee;
- 9) Councillor V Mandy Evans be elected as Chair of the Prevention & Social Care Reform Cabinet Advisory Committee;
- 10) The Council Bodies Diary 2015-2016 be amended as outlined in Paragraph 6.2 of the report;
- 11) Any consequential amendments to the Council Constitution and / or Councillors as a result of this report be carried out.

53. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES.**

The Transformation and Performance Cabinet Member stated that an amended report had been circulated. The Head of Democratic Services added that there was a further amendment to the amended report.

He referred to the report stating that the Leader of the Council had made the following changes to the Authority's membership on Outside Bodies:

- 1) **Swansea St. Mary's Choral Trust**
Add Lord Mayor.

RESOLVED that the membership of the Council Bodies listed below be amended as follows:

- 1) **Corporate Services Cabinet Advisory Committee**
Add Councillors J E Burtonshaw, J A Hale, T J Hennegan, Y V Jardine, E J King, E T Kirchner, G Owens, M Thomas and LV Walton.
- 2) **Development Cabinet Advisory Committee**
Add Councillors J C Bayliss, D W Cole, P Downing, P Lloyd, P M Matthews, P B Smith, R V Smith, M Thomas and T M White.
- 3) **Education and Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee**
Add Councillors J P Curtice, C R Doyle, C R Evans, A J Jones, H M Morris, R V Smith, C Thomas, D W W Thomas and L V Walton.
- 4) **Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)**
Remove Councillor A S Lewis.
Add Councillor G J Tanner.
- 5) **Local Authority (LA) Governor Panel**
Remove Councillor C A Holley.
Add Councillor J W Jones.

- 6) **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Councillor Champion**
Remove Councillor J C Bayliss.
Add Councillor E J King.
- 7) **Planning Committee**
Remove Councillor A S Lewis.
Add Councillor M Thomas.
- 8) **Prevention and Social Care Reform Cabinet Advisory Committee**
Add Councillors C Anderson, U C Clay, A M Cook, N J Davies, C R Doyle, V M Evans, P Lloyd, R V Smith and T M White.
- 9) **Swansea Student Liaison Forum**
Remove Councillor M H Jones.

54. **AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION.**

The Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services jointly submitted a report which sought to make amendments in order to simplify, improve and / or add to the Council Constitution in relation to the following areas:

- 1) Part 3 – Scheme of Delegation;

RESOLVED that the changes to the Council Constitution as outlined in Paragraph 4 of the report together with any further consequential changes be adopted subject to the amendments outlined under the Announcements of the Presiding Member and those amendments listed below:

a) **Appendix B “Scheme of Delegation”.**

- i) Paragraph 1.5. **Delete** the entire paragraph. **Replace** with:

“S/he will not take part in any Scrutiny activity in relation to the specific responsibilities of the Cabinet Member s/he is assisting or any other areas to which they are assigned.”

- ii) Paragraph 5.10. **Delete** reference to “he”. **Replace** with “S/he”;

55. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting stood adjourned for a 10 minute comfort break.

56. **AUDIT COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15.**

The Chair of the Audit Committee submitted an information report which outlined the Audit Committee Annual Report 2014-2015.

57. **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS.**

1) **Part A 'Supplementary Questions'**

Seven (7) Part A 'Supplementary Questions' were submitted. The relevant Cabinet Member(s) responded by way of written answers contained in the Council Summons.

The following question(s) required a written response:

- a) Question 2. Councillor C A Holley asked the following supplementary question(s):

"Please provide Councillors with a breakdown of the Parking Enforcement central establishment cost of £1,172,213 which is referred to within the response."

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Member stated that a written response would be provided.

2) **Part B 'Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions'**

Two (2) Part B 'Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions' were submitted.

58. **WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL.**

The Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Procurement submitted an information report setting out the written responses to questions asked at the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

59. **NOTICE OF MOTION: CLLRS P M BLACK, A M DAY, C A HOLLEY, J W JONES, M H JONES, R D LEWIS, P M MEARA, J NEWBURY, C L PHILPOTT, T H REES, L G THOMAS, R J STANTON.**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor P M Black and seconded by Councillor A M Day.

'We call on Cabinet to investigate with a view to implementing a regulation to prohibit the use of sky lanterns on Council land as these are known to be a danger to animals.'

RESOLVED that Cabinet the motion as outlined above be approved.

The meeting ended at 8.11 pm

CHAIR

Report of the Chair of the Standards Committee

Council – 24 September 2015

STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Purpose:	This report sets out the work of the Standards Committee and Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee from June 2014 to May 2015.
Consultation:	Standards Committee, Access to Services, Finance and Legal.
FOR INFORMATION	

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2000 required the Council to establish a Standards Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and probity in the conduct of Councillors of the City and County of Swansea. The Standards Committee has been in operation since October 2000.
- 1.2 This Standards Committee Annual Report covers the period from June 2014 to May 2015.

2. Membership of Standards Committee

- 2.1 During the period covered by this report there were nine members on the Committee. Five of these were Independent Members and four were Councillors.
- 2.2 Adrian Novis and Clive Walton had been Chair and Vice Chair respectively since July 2012. As the term of office for two of the Independent Members namely Adrian Novis and Clive Walton expired on 21 February 2015, two new Independent Members were appointed from 1 April 2015 namely Gareth Evans and Margaret Williams.
- 2.3 Meirion Howells was appointed Chair and Jill Burgess was appointed Vice Chair of Standards Committee on 17 April 2015.

- 2.4 The membership of the Standards Committee during the period is shown below:

Independent Members	Notes
Jill Burgess	Vice Chair from 17.04.2015
Jennifer Gomes	-
Meirion Howells	Chair from 17.04.2015
Adrian Novis	Chair until 21.02.2015; Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Clive Walton	Vice Chair until 21.02.2015; Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Gareth Evans	Appointed from 01.04.2015
Margaret Williams	Appointed from 01.04.2015

Councillors	Notes
John C Bayliss	-
Phil Downing	-
Clive E Lloyd	-
L Graham Thomas	-

3. Terms of Office of Independent Members of the Standards Committee

- 3.1 The term of office for Independent Members can be for not less than four years and for no more than six years. They can be reappointed for one further consecutive term but that term cannot be for more than an additional four years.
- 3.2 The table below shows the dates of commencement and subsequent expiry dates of membership for all Independent Members of the Standards Committee. **Note:** Independent Members marked in *italics* and with “*” denotes that they are in their second term and cannot have their term extended further.

Independent Members	Appointment Terms	
	Start	End
<i>Adrian Novis</i> *	22 February 2005	21 February 2015
<i>Clive Walton</i> *	22 February 2005	21 February 2015
<i>Meirion Howells</i> *	1 August 2008	31 July 2016
<i>Jennifer Gomes</i> *	5 December 2008	4 December 2016
Jill Burgess	12 October 2013	11 October 2019
Gareth Evans	1 April 2015	31 March 2021
Margaret Williams	1 April 2015	31 March 2021

4. Membership of Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee

- 4.1 During the period covered by this report there were seven members on the Community / Town Councils Sub Committee. Four of these were Independent Members and two were Community / Town Councillors with one Community / Town Council vacancy. Clive Walton and Meirion Howells were appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively in November 2012.
- 4.2 The membership of the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee during the period is shown below:

Independent Members	Notes
Jennifer Gomes	-
Meirion Howells	Vice Chair
Adrian Novis	Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Clive Walton	Chair until 21.02.2015; Term of Office expired on 21.02.2015
Vacancy	Since 21.02.2015. Unfilled due to proposed merger with Standards Committee
Vacancy	

Community / Town Council Councillors:	Notes
Gail John	-
Philip Crayford	-
Vacancy	-

- 4.3 The Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee did not meet during this period.

5. Terms of Office of Community / Town Councillors on the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee

- 5.1 The legislation covering membership of the Standards Committee is The Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001. The Standards Committee (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 provide that the term of office of a member of a Local Authority Standards Committee who is a Community Committee member shall be no more than 4 years or until the ordinary election of the Community / Town Council, whichever is the shorter. The Regulations also provide for the reappointment of the Community Committee member for one further consecutive term provided that Community Council and Community Council association in the area are consulted prior to re-appointment.

- 5.2 The table below shows the dates of commencement and subsequent expiry dates of membership for all Community / Town Councillor Members of the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee. **Note:** Community / Town Councillors marked in *italics* and with “*” denotes that they are in their second term and cannot have their term extended further.

Community / Town Councillors	Appointment Terms	
	Start	End
<i>Gail John</i> *	26 February 2008	26 February 2016
Philip Crayford	5 October 2012	5 October 2016

6. Meetings of the Standards Committee

- 6.1 The Standards Committee met seven times during the period as follows:

18 July 2014	9 January 2015
29 August 2014	13 February 2015
10 October 2014	17 April 2015
21 November 2014	

7. Detail of the Work undertaken by the Standards Committee

- 7.1 The following paragraphs set out the work carried out by the Standards Committee during the reporting period.

8. Dispensations

- 8.1 Three requests for Dispensation were reported for consideration.

9. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report

- 9.1 The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman) issued his Annual Report 2014-2015. A link to the full report was circulated to the Standards Committee via email on 2 July 2015. <http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/>
- 9.2 Annex C of the Ombudsman report provided a Code of Conduct Complaints Statistical Breakdown of Outcomes by Local Authorities and Community / Town Councils. This is appended as **Appendix 1**.
- 9.3 There were 132 cases across Local Authorities in Wales. The City and County of Swansea had 10 cases recorded. 9 were closed after initial consideration and 1 discontinued.

- 9.4 There were 105 cases across Community / Town Councils in Wales. The Community / Town Councils within the boundaries of the City and County of Swansea had 18 cases in total; all of which were closed after initial consideration. The cases can be broken down as follows:

Community / Town Council	No. of Code of Conduct Complaints
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton Community Council	8
Mumbles Community Council	3
Pennard Community Council	7
Total	18

10. Complaints of Breach of the Code of Conduct

- 10.1 During the period June 2014 to May 2015 the following matters were reported to the Committee for information:

a) Complaints made but not investigated by the Ombudsman under the provisions of Section 69(2) of the Local Government Act 2000

Six cases were reported to the Standards Committee where the Ombudsman refused to investigate an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct following a complaint.

b) Investigations completed by the Ombudsman and reported to Standards Committee for Information where the decision was no evidence of breach or no action taken

No cases were reported to the Standards Committee this year where the Ombudsman investigated but found that there was no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct.

c) Investigations undertaken by the Ombudsman and reported to Standards Committee for Information where the decision was to discontinue the investigation

One case was reported to the Standards Committee where the Ombudsman had commenced an investigation and subsequently decided to discontinue that investigation.

d) Investigations under the provisions of Section 70 (4) of the Local Government Act 2000 – referred to the Standards Committee for consideration

Breaches of the Code of Conduct may be referred to the Monitoring Officer by the Ombudsman under the provisions of Section 69 (c) and 71(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 for consideration by the Standards Committee. Where there is a finding of a breach, public reports on such cases are published on the Council's website.

No such referrals have been received during the period of this report.

11. Annual Discussions with Political Group Leaders, Chairs of Relevant Committees and the Chief Executive

11.1 The annual discussions actually commenced in the previous reporting period; with the Leaders of the Main Opposition Group; the Independent Group and Conservative Group attending Standards Committee on 18 March 2014. The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council then attended the meeting on 4 April 2014.

11.2 The Chairs of the Regulatory Committees attended Standards Committee on 18 July 2014 and the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee attended on 10 October 2014.

11.3 The comments that stemmed from these discussions were collated into recurring themes and key issue categories and reported to the Standards Committee on 21 November 2014.

11.4 These themes and issues were ranked and timetabled on 9 January 2015 so as to form the Standards Committee Workplan for 2015-2016. The issues being:

- i) Treating People with respect;
- ii) Local Dispute Resolutions;
- iii) Declarations of Interest;
- iv) Inconsistency in Ombudsman Decisions;
- v) Councillor Training;
- vi) Standards Committee attend Committees;
- vii) Annual link with Scrutiny;
- viii) Good governance and best practice;
- ix) Merger of the Standards Committee and the Community/ Town Councils Standards Sub Committee.

12. Swansea Councillor Charter & Councillor Pledge on Standards

- 12.1 At its meeting on 9 January 2015 the Standards Committee reviewed the “*Swansea Councillor Charter and Councillor Pledge on Standards*” following comments made by Political Group Leaders and Chairs of Committee that the Committee reconsider its decision to recommend to Council that the signing of the Pledge be mandatory. Having completed the review the Standards Committee resolved to maintain the status quo in that the mandatory sign up should remain. It should be noted that there is no legal requirement for members to sign the Pledge.

13. Community / Town Council Standards Sub Committee Merger with Standards Committee.

- 13.1 On 13 February 2015, the Standards Committee considered a report recommending that the Community / Town Councils Standards Sub Committee should be merged with the Standards Committee.
- 13.2 The Committee agreed with the recommendation and recommended to Council that the two bodies be merged. Note: Council considered the recommendation at its meeting on 25 June 2015 and resolved to support the merger and instructed the Head of Democratic Services to progress the issue.

14. Code of Conduct Training

- 14.1 The Monitoring Officer provided the Standards Committee with Code of Conduct training on 17 April 2015.

15. Standards Committee meeting with Community / Town Councils

- 15.1 The Committee agreed that a meeting be arranged with representatives of the Community / Town Councils to discuss various matters identified in the workplan. This meeting would take place in during 2015-2016, thereby allowing the new Standards Committee Independent Members to be involved.

16. Councillors Local Dispute Resolution

- 16.1 The Committee considered how to raise the profile of the Councillors Local Dispute Resolution mechanism and whether it could be used for Community / Town Councils and members of the public. The views of the Ombudsman were informally sought; however the Ombudsman’s view was that it would not be appropriate to use it for Community Councils or members of the public.

17. Treating People with Respect

- 17.1 The Committee considered a report which considered how to tackle and co-ordinate the treating people with respect issue raised by a number of Political Group Leaders. The Committee suggested that specific training for Chairs and ways that the profile of the Officer / Councillor Relations Protocol could be raised and if possible, be extended to Community / Town Councils.

18. Meeting with Nick Bennett, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

18.1 The Committee invited the newly appointed Ombudsman to address them. The Ombudsman attended on 21 November 2014 in order to present his Annual Report and also to take part in a question and answer session.

19. Reports “For Information”

19.1 A number of reports were noted by the Committee, including regular updates on the progress of ongoing Ombudsman Investigations and the Ombudsman’s Annual Report 2013-2014 together with the Ombudsman’s Code of Conduct Casebook.

20. Equality and Engagement Implications

20.1 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report.

21. Financial Implications

21.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

22. Legal Implications

22.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix 1	Extract of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report - “Annex C, Code of Conduct Complaints: Statistical Breakdown of Outcomes by Local Authority.
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Annex C

Code of Conduct Complaints:

Statistical Breakdown of Outcomes by Local Authority

COUNTY/COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILS

County/ County Borough Council	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total Cases Closed
Blaenau Gwent	1			1				2
Caerphilly	4	1						5
Cardiff	15		2		1		3	21
Cardiff	15							15
Carmarthenshire	2		1					3
Ceredigion	1							1
Conwy	2							2
Denbighshire	1							1
Denbighshire	2							2
Flintshire	1	1						2
Gwynedd	6	1			2			9
Isle of Anglesey	2		3		1			6
Merthyr Tydfil	4							4
Monmouthshire	2		1					3
Neath Port Talbot	2	1						3
Newport City			1					1
Newport City								
Pembrokeshire	5	1						6
Powys	8	2						10
Rhondda Cynon Taf	7		1		2			10
Swansea	9	1						10
Vale of Glamorgan Council	7		1					8
Torfaen	7	2						9
Wrexham		1					1	2
Total	100	11	10	1	6	6	4	132

COMMUNITY/ TOWN COUNCILS

Community or Town Council	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total Cases Closed
Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community	4		1					5
Aberystwyth Town	4		1					5
Ammanford Town	1							1
Arthog Community		1						1
Bangor City	1							1
Bethesda Community	1							1
Bridgend Town	3							3
Buckley Town	4							4
Caerwent Community	3							3
Caldicot Town	1							1
Coedpoeth Community	1						1	2
Connah's Quay Town	2							2
Dinas Powys Community	2							2
Fishguard & Goodwick Town				1				1
Holyhead Town	1							1
Kidwelly Town	1							1
Llanarmon yn Ial Community	1							1
Llanbadrig Community	1			2				3
Llandulas and Rhyd y Foel Community	1	2			1			4
Llandeilo Town					1			1
Llandudno Town	2							2
Llanedi Community	1							1
Llanelli Rural	5							5
Llanfihangel ar Arth Community						1		1

COMMUNITY/ TOWN COUNCILS (CONTINUED)

Community or Town Council	Closed after initial consideration	Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Standards Committee	Refer to Adjudication Panel	Withdrawn	Total Cases Closed
Llangattock Vibon Avel Community			1					1
Llangelynnin Community	1							1
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton Community	8							8
Llanharan Community	1							1
Llanover Community Council	1							1
Llansanffraid Glan Conwy Community							1	1
Llansannan Community	2							2
Llansantffraed Community				1				1
Llansteffan & Llanybri Community	1							1
Llantwit Major Town	1							1
Llanwnda Community							1	1
Llay Community	3							3
Mumbles Community	3							3
Ogmore Valley Community		1						1
Penmaenmawr Town		3	1					4
Pennard Community	7							7
Prestatyn Town	1							1
Rhyl Town		1						1
Sully Community	1							1
Templeton Community				1				1
Tywyn Town	7		2	1	1			11
Y Felinheli Community	1							1
TOTAL	78	8	6	7	2	1	3	105

Report of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development & Regeneration

Council - 24 September 2015

SWANSEA LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) PROPOSED HOUSING AND STRATEGIC SITE ALLOCATIONS

Purpose:	To endorse the housing and strategic sites recommended for inclusion in the Deposit LDP and the next stages of the LDP process
Policy Framework:	None. This is a non-statutory process
Reason for Decision:	To guide the preparation of the Deposit LDP
Consultation:	Legal, Finance, Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended: - i) That the findings of Planning Committee in relation to proposed LDP housing and strategic site allocations are accepted, and that the recommended sites are incorporated within the Deposit LDP to be reported to Members for approval in due course. ii) That a revised LDP Delivery Agreement is prepared and agreed with the Welsh Government to confirm the timetable for delivery of the Deposit LDP and subsequent stages leading up to adoption of the Plan iii) That the Planning Authority seek to address the current housing land supply shortfall through continued negotiations with site promoters for the preparation and submission of appropriate planning applications for residential development, either on sites within settlement boundaries or on recommended Deposit LDP strategic sites
Report Author:	Tom Evans
Finance Officer:	Aimee Dyer
Legal Officer:	Christopher Allingham
Access to Services Officer:	Sherill Hopkins

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At Council on 2 December 2014 it was agreed that the Draft LDP Proposals Map should be published for public consultation and that the responses received would be considered in the preparation of the Deposit LDP. During the course of the subsequent consultation a variety of representations were submitted, including petitions of objection for certain sites.
- 1.2 At Council on 31st March 2015 it was agreed that the opportunity to present valid petitions to proposed LDP allocations should be afforded to all petitioners, and that site promoters should also be afforded the right to reply. The task of hearing petitions and other representations was directed to Planning Committee to make a recommendation to Council for final decision. As part of this process, to ensure the soundness of the Deposit LDP it was resolved that Planning Committee should also consider the remaining non-petition sites, and recommend to Council which of these should be included in the Deposit LDP.

2.0 Hearing of Petitions

- 2.1 A series of Special Planning Committee Meetings were held to hear the views of petitioners, site promoters and local ward members. All Members were invited to submit representations and/or attend Planning Committee to make their views known. In total 14 petitioners and 11 site promoters have been heard and local ward members have made representations, either in writing or at Committee, in relation to 36 of the proposed sites.
- 2.2 In response to representations received Planning Committee visited 33 sites. Where requested, local ward members were met on site and petitioners and site promoters were in attendance on most occasions.
- 2.3 Details of all formal representations have been added to the Candidate Site Assessment forms and, together with the supplementary information/ documents referred to, have been published on the Council's website: <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/LDPPA>. The representations received from petitioners and site promoters are set out in full in Appendix 1.

3.0 Sites approved by Planning Committee

- 3.1 Having considered the detailed assessments undertaken by officers for each site, and all representations made during the LDP public consultation exercises including the petition hearings process, Planning Committee has recommended 84 sites for inclusion in the Deposit LDP. A total of 9 sites were rejected for a variety of reasons, which in the view of the Committee rendered these unsuitable for allocation. A schedule of the Planning Committee's recommendations on each site is attached as Appendix 2, which includes indicative development capacities.
- 3.2 The total number of homes recommended by Planning Committee is 12285 units. When added to existing commitments (i.e. the 4956 units on sites granted planning permission or built out since the 2010 LDP base date), the

total number of homes that could be delivered through the LDP amounts to 17241 units. This meets the housing land supply requirement of 17,100 units that was previously endorsed by Council as the number to be delivered over the plan period (2010-2025). The total number of units on recommended sites provides a relatively small cushion of around 140 units, which allows for variations in site capacity and delivery.

- 3.3 Table 1 below illustrates the proposed number of new homes by Housing Policy Zone:

Table 1: Total number of homes to be delivered by Commitments and Proposed Allocations (2010-2025)

Housing Policy Zone	Commitments	Recommended Allocations	Total
Central	822	1670	2492
East	1808	1495	3303
North	354	3705	4095
Greater North West	1383	4310	5693
West	502	860	1362
Gower AONB/Fringe	87	245	332
Total	4956	12285	17241

4.0 The Deposit LDP

- 4.1 The Deposit LDP housing and strategic site allocation boundaries have been drafted in accordance with the recommendations of Planning Committee. The recommended site boundaries are illustrated on a set of maps published on the Council web pages at www.swansea.gov.uk/ldp, and are also shown in Appendix 3 of this report.
- 4.2 The recommended Deposit allocations are consistent with the sustainable settlement strategy that is at the heart of the LDP, as set out in the Preferred Strategy previously approved by Council. Central to this strategy are a number of large Strategic Sites that vary in size and character, but which collectively provide for almost 60% of the proposed housing figures. The balance of new housing requirements will be met by non-strategic sites at sustainable locations across the County, as illustrated on the maps.
- 4.3 The recommended allocations have been appraised having regard to a Strategic Transport Assessment undertaken by consultants Arup. The transport assessment has considered the in-combination impact of the LDP proposals and the potential sustainability of strategic sites in travel terms. The work undertaken by Arup involved developing a bespoke 'macroscopic' transport model to test the impact of the proposals upon the transport network, and any mitigation measures such as new infrastructure considered necessary to ensure no unacceptable impact will arise from the proposals.

- 4.4 Subject to the recommended Deposit LDP housing and strategic sites being agreed by Council, a Deposit LDP Proposals Map will be produced. As well as the recommended sites, the Proposals Map will also feature allocations for employment land, retail centres, Green Wedges, and other relevant designations. The Deposit LDP written statement will also be finalised as the compendium document to the Proposals Map. The written statement will comprise strategic and detailed planning policies relating to both site specifics and topic areas. Members will be asked to endorse both the LDP Deposit Proposals Map and Written Statement in due course for the purpose of a comprehensive public consultation for a minimum 6 week period.

5.0 Further Planning Implications

- 5.1 The Council as local planning authority has a statutory requirement to maintain a minimum 5 year housing land supply, however current supply stands at less than 3 years. It was reported to Members on 2nd December 2014 that the supply of available housing land is continually diminishing as the 2016 end date of the current Unitary Development Plan approaches. The need to address the housing land shortfall is therefore increasingly acute, particularly as it is anticipated the Council will be faced with determining 'hostile' planning applications in advance of the adoption of the LDP on Greenfield sites that conflict with UDP policies and that may be subject to particular sensitivities. Even if the Council refuses planning permission for such proposals, prospective developers may anticipate applications will be allowed on appeal as a result of the weight that may be given to the lack of housing land supply by a Planning Inspector.
- 5.2 Measures therefore need to be taken with immediate effect to try to increase the available housing land supply. At Council on 2 December 2014 it was agreed that Officers should negotiate the preparation and submission, as appropriate, of planning applications for residential development on Strategic Sites in advance of the adoption of the LDP. It is proposed that this process of negotiation and discussion with developers continues as a matter of priority to ensure that appropriate proposals come forward as initial early phases of development at large sites. This approach will serve to address the housing land supply shortage and ensure that large sites are able to be 'built out' during the plan period. It will also enable supporting community facilities and/or infrastructure to be delivered at an early stage on such sites, through the imposition of appropriate planning obligations on any such early application.
- 5.3 By focussing on strategic sites, as well as sites currently within settlement boundaries, the planning authority will be well placed to resist other applications that may be submitted in due course on Greenfield sites not currently allocated in the adopted Unitary Development Plan, since such applications can then be said to be at variance with the Council's strategy for meeting its land supply shortage. Without such a strategy in place the Council will be in an increasingly vulnerable position to prevent unsatisfactory and unpopular applications gaining planning permission.

5.4 Subject to the recommended sites being approved for inclusion in the Deposit LDP, a revised Delivery Agreement (DA) will be prepared and submitted to the Welsh Government for approval. The DA will make clear the revised timetable for publication of the Deposit LDP, having regard to the delay to the process that arose as a result of the petitions hearing process, as well as the timescales for subsequent stages of LDP preparation.

6.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

6.1 The process followed by Planning Committee has taken account of relevant equality considerations and provided a forum to enable petitioners to exercise their speaking rights ensuring that concerns have been heard and responded to appropriately.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications arising from preparation of the LDP, its adoption could result in additional expenditure at a future time. At this time there is no budget or additional funding set aside for this expenditure so if this is seen as a priority then it will have to be located from within current resources.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Council is statutorily obliged to prepare an LDP. Meeting future housing needs is an essential element required to satisfy the test of soundness of the LDP.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Representations received from petitioners and site promoters

Appendix 2: Schedule of recommendations of Planning Committee on sites proposed for inclusion in the LDP

Appendix 3: Maps showing recommended Deposit LDP Housing and Strategic Site Allocations

APPENDIX 1: REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM PETITIONERS AND SITE PROMOTERS

Central SHPZ

Castle

CA013 Site 9 Trawler Rd, Maritime Quarter

CA013: Mr Woolliscroft (petitioner)

I would like to explain why Site 9 is so important to the residents and why its continued inclusion as a development site does not comply with your own planning guidelines. The Candidate Site Assessment Report is factually incorrect and misleading on many points. I have provided an amended copy that actually follows the Draft LDP policies.

I can't cover this in 5 minutes but full details have been provided in the MQRA report.

The residents feel very strongly about how their area develops. We would like to see a sustainable vibrant, healthy, mixed community with an emphasis on families and work. This is only possible in a sustainable environment, a point clearly stated in your draft LDP and confirmed by Planning Policy Wales guidance, the Strategic Framework Review and the Open Space Assessment.

Site 9 has been used as an amenity area for many years. The homes in the Maritime Quarter do not have gardens and Site 9 is the only local area available for small children to run around or play with a ball in safety. In the summer it is the only area where dogs are allowed run off lead. The raised area is often used for picnics, by disabled people who can't access the beach or for people to just sit and enjoy the view.

At the recent Village Green Public Inquiry it was accepted that Site 9 was used as an amenity area and when the Public Rights of Way and Commons Sub-committee confirmed the inspector's decision, they expressed the Committee's concern regarding the lack of alternative open space for recreation in the area. A point omitted from the Candidate Site Assessment Report but it does recognise that Site 9 is a green space and an amenity area.

It is not a brown field site. Planning Policy Wales figure 4.3, defines previously developed land and it also defines what land is excluded from this definition.

The relevant exclusions are:

1. Land where the remains of any structure have blended into the landscape
2. Previously developed land put to amenity use.

Clearly, Site 9 meets this criteria and therefore is not a brownfield site.

In the report I show that any future development on Site 9 would be small, with less than 30 flats. For the sake of less than 30 flats, any development will have negative

impact on the health and well-being of a few hundred residents, according to the Open Space Assessment and TAN 16.

Your **draft Local Development Plan** fully supports our arguments. Some Quotes:

- *“Development that unacceptably compromises the extent and quality of green infrastructure provision will not be supported.”*
- *“Create environments that encourage and support good health, well-being”*
- *“Development must contribute towards the creation of sustainable, active and vibrant places that benefit from a mix of appropriate uses and access to open space”*
- *“The starting point for any development should be to look beyond the site and establish how the proposal fits into the existing community and surrounding context. It is essential that all new development is positively integrated into the wider community in respect of design, layout and land use...”*

The last point is all we are really asking for

Planning Policy Wales guidance Section 9, Housing refers to:

- *“attractive landscapes around dwellings, with usable open space,”*
- *“the creation of places to live that are safe and attractive.”*
- *“Insensitive infilling or the cumulative effects of development should not be allowed to damage an area’s character or amenity”*

Section 4, Planning for Sustainability has many more references that support retaining Site 9

- *“Putting people, and their quality of life now and in the future, at the centre of decision making;”*
- *“Good design is essential to ensure that areas, particularly those where higher density development takes place, offer high environmental quality, including open and green spaces.”*
- *“Planning policies, decisions and proposals should: Promote access to open and green space, maximising opportunities for community development and social welfare”*

Technical Advice Note 16 and the Open Space Assessment; which I will just touch on.

The provision of Fields in Trust in Castle Ward is 0.1 hectares/1000 population compared to a TAN-16 recommended standard of 2.4. Less than 5% (— 0.1 and 2.4) The worst provision in the County and I couldn’t find worse in the UK after searching for an hour. TAN 16 states when referring to open space **“Only where it can be clearly shown that there is no deficiency, should the possibility of their use for alternative development be considered.”** There is a serious deficiency in all aspects Fields in Trust amenity areas which can only be addressed by confirming Site 9 as an amenity space

CA013 Mr North (Site Promoter)

This site was acquired for regeneration purposes many years ago as part of the

Marina regeneration project which at the time of acquisition was a largely derelict industrial area associated with the former docklands. The site has always been considered to be a development site and SPG exists in the form of development briefs dating from 1989 onwards which is currently being updated with a view to marketing the site together with the Sailbridge site later this year. The site was considered by the developer of the former Spontex site for inclusion within their scheme but was ultimately not pursued. The site was used in connection with the Swansea Point development, as the former Spontex Site became known, as a sales office with parking facilities. At this time the adjoining land was landscaped by way of grassing to improve the appearance of the area whilst sales of the adjacent residential apartments was ongoing. The site of the sales office was also grassed upon vacation of the sales suite from the site. It could be argued therefore that the site became an informal green area by accident rather than design as it has always been considered to be a development site and is currently aligned with the City Centre Framework proposals to link the city to the sea. The site was the subject of a village green application in recent years however the inspector found in favour of the Council's challenge rather than the applicants. The site is currently largely used as unauthorised car parking by visitors and/or workers in the locality.

Llansamlet

LS023, Fredrick Place

LS023 Mr Thornton (petitioner)

My family has been resident in Llansamlet for over 48 years and has seen many changes. Originally it was the main road to Skewen and then it was blocked off when the motorway was built. In the 70's the farm land behind Eileen Road was developed and a school and many houses were built. As the families expanded so did the need for housing. Hale construction built a large number of bungalows and soon Frederick Place started to get busy.

Around 2000 the Council approved the building of low cost housing near to Crymlyn Quarry, which added more congestion at the bottom of Frederick Place. The Welsh School was also demolished and more low cost homes were built. I believe that Frederick Place is now at full capacity, the schools are full and the Medical Centre has over 10,000 patients.

During rush hour the junction between Bethel Road, Frederick Place and Peniel Green Road is very busy and it can take up to an hour to ease. The Medical Centre has recently been updated and had lost many parking spaces, which then forces patients to park on Frederick Place when using the Doctors. Also members of the local bowling club, park at the bottom of Frederick Place on both sides of the road, which causes problems for buses turning into Frederick Place at the junction of Bethel Road.

I was recently advised by a local builder that many years ago, a contractor was denied planning permission to build on the land, due to the Mine Workings. The

recently built Medical Centre extension was also delayed because of the same problem. The Peniel Green railway tunnel runs underneath, which carried freight and passengers on a regular basis, it also has air shafts on each side of the tunnel.

At a possible site entrance for the development, is the main bus stop for Frederick Place. It is the only bus stop in Llansamlet, where the bus waits for its passengers. It waits for 3 minutes on weekdays and then 6 minutes on the weekend. It is not possible for the bus to wait at any other bus stops in the area, as they are near to shops or homes.

The fields behind our properties are not flood free. If it rains the water rises in our back gardens. We have experienced over many years, 5-6 inches of rainwater, almost up to our back door on one occasion. The culvert is always full of water, as most of the rainwater from the bungalow runs in to it. The culvert behind our garden is lower than the one that diverts water from the middle of the field, so ours has to fill up considerably before it is able to drain away. The pipework which wakes the flow of water under the houses further down the hill is too small and backfills, so the water cannot drain away easily after a heavy rainfall. This has been an issue since the 70's and on a couple of occasions the Council have had to use pumps to clear the water. We have photographic and video evidence of this should you wish to see it (refer to file for photographs).

We know from your report that you are aware that the site contains Purple Moor Grass and Rush pasture, which is becoming scarce in this country. We have a wealth of wildlife and have seen heron's, foxes, newts, birds of prey and bats.

We feel that this development along with Talycoppa Farm will stretch Llansamlet and Frederick Place to breaking point. Please note that we wish for a representative of the residents of Frederick Place be present at any future development planning meetings.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns.

LS023 Mr Bacon (Site Promoter)

The City and County of Swansea is under considerable financial pressure and is constantly reviewing all its land and property holdings. Consequently large holdings of land that are not held for operational purposes have been put forward as part of the candidate site process.

The land in question comprises approximately 2.3 hectares and the potential for development was established in the previous Unitary Development Plan.

It is within an existing residential area with potential for development. The land is not public open space and is presently let for grazing horses. There is considerable difficulty with regards to fly-tipping due to the fact the Council cannot proactively manage the site and has no resources to do so.

There may be an opportunity to development some recreational greenspace in the

development and there is also an opportunity to improve drainage in the area as a result of a development.

Highway access would be directly from Frederick Place with retained access for a pedestrian footpath.

It is accepted that the site has restrictions and there would have to be a buffer to the railway tunnel.

North SHPZ

Cockett

CO013: Land Adj Cockett Pond

CO013 Mrs Crossley (petitioner)

My name is Val Crossley, a resident of Church Gardens and I am here today to speak on behalf of many Cockett residents objecting to the proposed development plan on land known as Cockett Pond.

In 2011 a blue notice was attached to a lamppost in Church Gardens informing residents of the proposed construction of 77 houses on this land, which access to and from the new estate via Church Gardens. It is assumed that officers from the Planning Department had previously visited both the site and Church Gardens. They will have observed that access to Church Gardens is limited and only sufficient for the existing estate. The idea of access to an additional 77 houses via Church Gardens is not feasible due to the lay of the land. I would suggest that committee members visit the site and see for themselves where access could be feasible for the new estate.

We have received no further information since 2011 when the petition was drawn up. An access route to a new estate of 77 houses via Church Gardens would be a problem of monumental proportion. The volume of traffic and disruption caused by vehicles to and from the new site would have an impact on the lives of the residents.

The land in question has been a haven for flora and fauna for many years. Wildlife, nesting birds, insects and wildflowers are in abundance on this land. We are constantly being reminded through the media of the importance of protecting wildlife habitat. We should be proud and celebrate the natural history we have in our area. It is our responsibility to protect it and accommodate it. At the last count there are over 34 varieties of wildflowers growing on the site.

Farmers are setting aside pockets of their land in order to encourage wildlife to return. Farmers are prepared to make the sacrifice of losing land for the sake of our wildlife surely the same should be done in our towns and cities. We should encourage wildlife and nurture it, not destroy it.

This land known as Cockett Pond should remain as it is a wildlife haven and not a housing estate,

I hope, Mr Chairman, that you will agree to a site visit to see for yourself access and egress for the proposed development and that you will consider the issues and objections raised.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to voice our concerns.

CO013 Mr Bacon (Site Promoter)

The City and County of Swansea is under considerable financial pressure and is constantly reviewing all its land and property holdings. Any land which is not required for operational purposes has to be considered for disposal.

The land is not currently proactively managed by the Council and there are no proposals to increase or improve any management due to lack of available funding.

It is not currently open space, but it is within a fenced area used for unofficial horse grazing.

The land at Cockett Pond extends to approximately 2.87 hectares, it is understood that a development of approximately 50 units would be recommended with access improvements being necessary at the road junction subject to Highway's comments. As a result of this development there could be scope to improve public rights of way, or access, the provision of a buffer to the current industrial estate and potentially additional recreational facilities. This detail would be established at the time of the submission of any future planning application.

Greater North West SHPZ

Gowerton

GT005 Former Gorwydd Colliery, Gorwydd Rd

GT005 Mr Higgon (petitioner)

I am here today to raise our objections to the development of the above site in conjunction with Councillor Sue Jones and show how the development will have an adverse effect on the infrastructure and the wellbeing of the community of Gowerton. Gowerton is subject to intense development pressure due to its Gower fringe location. If the character of this village and the wider area is to be maintained and protected, residential development such as this needs to be resisted. The site forms part of Gowerton Mart Woodlands, the trees have a Tree Protection Order and is a SINC (site of importance for nature conservation) and is currently identified as part of

the Llan Valley Green Wedge, as identified in the Unitary Development Plan 'UDP'. Unfortunately all existing policies and previous decisions are subject to review in 2016 including the Green Wedge and it appears that there will no longer be a constraint for the development of this land. The previous Lliw Valley Authority identified these areas for conservation and enhancement for the sake of its natural heritage and resources. The removal of this status should be resisted. This site has previously been rejected on 2 occasions by the Lliw Valley Authority and the Swansea City Council for development.

Planning Policy Wales is particularly clear to offer protection for woodland.

- Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are of great importance, both as wildlife habitats and in terms of their contribution to landscape character and beauty. Local planning authorities should seek to protect trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have natural heritage value or contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality. Ancient and semi natural woodlands are irreplaceable habitats of high biodiversity value which should be protected from development that would result in significant damage.(Para 5.2.8)

Loss of Woodland

When considering the loss of woodland to development in Gowerton we must consider the other Gowerton Candidate Site and the Waunarwydd \ Fforestfach Strategic Development Area:

- GT0005 Former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery, Gorwydd Road.
- GT0006 Land east of Fairwood Terrace, Gowerton.
- Land 'North of Gowerton Railway Station, Park and Ride and Residential Development'.

The loss of woodland from each site would be as follows :-

GT0005 Former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery, Gorwydd Road.	Loss 2.66 Hectares.
GT0006 Land East of Fairwood Terrace, Gowerton,	Loss 1.14 Hectares.
North of Gowerton Railway Station, Park and Ride,	Loss 2.50 Hectares
Total Loss of Woodland	6.30 Hectares

Additional loss of woodland due to roads / cycle paths for access to these sites has not been considered. All the three sites are interlinked and comprise of semi-natural broadleaved woodland comprising of sessile oak, silver birch, ash, hawthorn, holly, hazel and goat willow. The woodland protects the environment and wildlife interests in the area and its loss would greatly affect the bio diversity of this area of Gowerton.

Practical Assessment including photographs (pics)

Pic 10 highlights the proposed development: The proposed site is littered with historic shallow mine workings and whilst biodiversity has reclaimed much of this area the site clearly has significant historic industrial constraints with respect the re-development of the site. Planning Policy Wales and Welsh Government Guidance requires Local Planning Authorities to only allocate sites which are realistically capable of being developed and delivered within the plan period. It is unclear at this point if any geotechnical ground investigations have been carried out on site, however one would assume the cost of remediating the land to ensure the site is capable of being developed would be significant which raises the question whether

the site would be commercially viable to develop and whether it is feasible at all? Welsh Government Guidance clearly states that Local Planning Authorities should not allocate sites such as this for development which have no realistic prospect of being built out.

Access to the Gorwydd Colliery Site is next to 121 Gorwydd Road. Within 10 metres of the site entrance we encounter a mature ash tree (pic 1) and this is followed by mature oak and birch trees (pic 2, 3, 4, 5.). An approximate total of 50 mature trees would have to be removed to accommodate the road access alone to the site. This figure does not account for saplings. The larger area of land for roads and the housing development (pic 6, 7, 9.) would necessitate further substantial loss of trees including mature oaks to a figure in the hundreds. The stream (pics 8) has not been mentioned in the report and runs into Gors Fach Brook. The development plan highlights two very small strips of land for mitigation; 'areas of land with potential for possible tree planting' in reality the vast majority of trees will be lost and not replaced. The woodland has a wonderful array of wildlife and although is not an ancient woodland it supports an 'assemblage of ancient woodland indicators species and diverse scrub'. Wet woodland is a habitat of principle importance for the conservation of biological diversity in Wales. Species recoded on the site include Bullfinch, Goldcrest, Spotted Woodpecker, Jays, Marsh Tit, Nuthatch and Bats. The identified area for development includes plants and trees that are essential early pollinators. The loss of this area will greatly affect the bio-diversity of this green field site.

Surface Water and the flood plain

The site also has major surface water problems which would have to be addressed through attenuation or some sort of other system which is again very costly as the site acts as a giant soakaway for the village of Gowerton. If we consider that an oak tree consumes 50 gallons of water / day, the loss of a substantial area of woodland and the construction of the housing development would result in a large increase in surface water. The increase in surface water would have a detrimental effect on the flood plain boundary. There is mounting evidence that the global climate is changing as a result of human activity. Flooding is expected to increase significantly over time. Heavy winter precipitation of rainfall is likely to become more frequent. Relative sea levels will continue to rise around most of the UK's shoreline expecting extreme sea levels to be experienced more frequently. This places the respective residential area at risk to flooding in the foreseeable future. The north east section of GT0005 Former Gorwydd Colliery is identified as a flood plain and will be subjected to the same projected expansion.

Gowerton Water Treatment

Surface water would drain into the Gowerton Water Treatment catchment area which is currently at capacity. A 'Site Specific Comment from 'Welsh Water' identifies that due to the public sewerage system in this area and the likely demands from the proposed allocation it is unlikely the public sewers will be adequate to accommodate this site, notwithstanding the other candidate site and the site North of Gowerton Station Park and Ride. The result would not only add an unsustainable amount of foul water into the already congested sewerage network but would also seriously

result in additional water run-off into the Burry Inlet. The Burry

Inlet and Loughor Estuary is an internationally protected site of the highest quality. It is part of a network of important European sites designated under the European Union Habitats and Birds Directives. The Burry Inlet is also designated Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The effect of the loss of woodland would result in an increase in noise pollution

The loss of 40% of the woodland including some of the large mature oak tree will increase noise pollution for the existing residents of Gowerton. Currently the woodland acts as a sound barrier from the noise generated by the railway line, now a two track system and industry from the IMCO / Timet site, Waunarlyydd (heard clearly in the night). The role of the woodland was a serious consideration in the planning application of IMCO.

The effect of the loss of woodland would result in an increase in air pollution.

Increase in population would result in an increase in road traffic, congestion and air pollution. Trees help improve air quality, filtering out pollutants that can cause and exacerbate conditions such as asthma. Trees can also help to keep towns and cities cool, reducing ground level ozone, which also exacerbates respiratory conditions. Consequently the loss of the woodland could have an adverse effect on the health of the residents of Gowerton and increase demand on the GP Services. Demand on the GP services would also increase with additional residential developments.

Light pollution

Light pollution from street/houses substantially affects the behaviour of bats, moths and birds resulting in the decline of these species.

Effect on Gowerton Medical Practice

The development of the both candidate sites would result in an increased pressure on services provided at the Medical Practice.

Current patient population of 12,800 patients. Since 2005 to there has been a 7 % increase in patient population. The population comprise of :

- Up to 65 years of age - 77 %
- Over 65 years of age - 23%
- Under 5 years of age - 5%

There is a high concentration of nursing home patients from four Nursing Homes presenting with complex needs and daily contact. Currently the Practice is in the process of integrating the patient population of the GP practice of Dr Werner in Penclawdd with an additional patient population of **1,800 patients**.

Total patient population of the Gowerton Practice is 14,600

Practice Area extends to Llanrhidian / Crofty - Loughor / Gorseinon - Fforestfach Waunarlyydd & Killay / Duvant

Practice comprised of 8 doctors – 3 Full Time, 5 part time with the Full Time

Equivalent of 6.5 doctors,
Waiting times for routine appointments 2 – 3 weeks depending on the time of year

Constraints on the Medical Practice

- Acute shortage of rooms to provide health care services i.e. Health Visitors / Midwives / Counselling / MH assessments and Child and Asthma Clinics
- Parking 56 parking spaces with 13 designated parking spaces for surgery staff, overspill of parking already in the Elba Housing estate.

Swansea County Council have adopted a policy on Green Infrastructure and conservation. As part of their Local Development Preferred Strategy Document:

Policy 5: Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure will be provided through the protection and enhancement of existing green spaces and the green corridors that connect them.

Key Objectives:

- Maintain and enhance green infrastructure networks
- Conserve and enhance the County's natural heritage
- Create environments that encourage and support good health and well-being

The residents of Gowerton are becoming more and more frustrated by the increase in congestion and delays on the roads with the subsequent increase in pollution with the further demands on the schools and the medical practice. They also feel exacerbated by what they describe as the disregard by the authority to their genuine concerns. "We are not being listened to".

Bermondsey, Spa Park , Plaque to commemorate the Counsellors in 1922

The inscription entitled 'Tree of Heaven can be found in the park.

This tree is dedicated to the Bermondsey Counsellors who lined the streets with 'Trees of Heaven' to ease the effect of poverty on health and the quality of life and to the working class communities who withstood much hardship with great fortitude.

We need to take that same lead and reject this development and save our woodland.

GT005 Philippa Cole (Site Promoter)

The former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery is located between Gorwydd Road and the railway line in Gowerton. Residential development borders the site on three boundaries.

The site comprises 6.5 Ha and directly abuts the adopted Gowerton settlement boundary. The site is highly sustainable in transportation terms. Bus stops are located 200m from the site on Gorwydd Road and Gowerton Station is 700m to the north of the site.

The site is privately owned and contains no public rights of way. This is evidenced in

correspondence from my client's solicitors Eversheds and provided to the Council.

The proposal is to develop 2.3 Ha of the total site for housing (approximately 35% of the site) creating between 90 and 100 new homes whilst retaining the balance circa 4.3 Ha (65% of the site area) (comprising woodland) as a nature conservation area in part and part publically accessible forest walkways"

In this respect the Pre Deposit Draft LDP Proposals Map (looked at in isolation) is misleading as it appears to suggest that the entire site will be developed for housing which has never been the intention.

The site has been the subject of extensive ecological surveys over the past year and the proposals to develop part of the site have had regard to the findings of those surveys.

The creation of the nature conservation area and its future management for conservation purposes would be funded by the residential development of part of the site. A scheme of appropriate management will be agreed with the council having regard to professional advice of ecologists and arborists and would be legally binding.

The creation of this facility would be at no cost to the public purse and would be made accessible to the wider community through the creation of appropriately designed footways.

The site will also be made safe. At present there are uncapped mine shafts on site as well as the former colliery chimney which is structurally unsound. As part of the overall development the mine shafts will be filled and capped and the chimney made safe and retained as a reminder of the sites industrial past.

4.3 Ha of the site are covered in colliery waste. It is not proposed to remove any colliery waste other than where it is necessary to allow access to the site and where necessary to link its western and eastern parts.

Part of the site is subject of woodland TPO. The majority of built development will be on land that is not subject to this categorisation. However, it will be necessary to develop in parts of the site which do carry this designation. The site has been the subject of tree surveys and the proposals will retain the good quality oak, ash and birch. The 2.3 Ha of land that are proposed to be developed are substantially level and whether inside or outside of the woodland TPO contain trees of substantially poor quality with some basal decay, liability to structural failure , partially collapsed and heavily colonised by ivy.

The green backdrop to Gowerton that the woodland on the elevated part of the site provides will be unaffected.

All other technical issues including access, drainage, pollution, schools and other local services would be addressed as part of a planning application process. Welsh Water has confirmed that drainage and sewage capacity is available. The professional advisors to the site owners have indicated that these issues are capable

of resolution and nothing has been raised through the assessment of the Candidate Site Submission by professional officers of the council which dispute this.

In summary, this highly sustainable site close to amenities and local transport facilities can deliver 90 -100 new homes in the short term. A balanced approach to development is proposed. Approximately 35% of the site area is proposed for much needed residential development whilst the remainder will be retained, improved and managed as a nature conservation area providing an accessible community resource at no cost to the public purse.

Penllergaer

PG002: Land at Parc Mawr Farm, Penllergaer

PG002 Mr Harris (petitioner)

In the time allocated we will limit our Reply to the more pertinent issues affecting the site and the inaccurate reporting to date by Officers .On all other matters we will rely on the representations already made by the Community Council .

The highway problem that currently exists in Penllergaer is clear for all to see, and objections to the development on this ground is well and quite rightly documented. Special Planning Committee Meeting dated the 4th June 2015.

The Preferred Strategy said of this site that *“This proposal is predicated on the delivery of a new road”* and *“has the potential to alleviate congestion in the area ...”*. This statement is based upon comments made in the Council’s own “Topic Paper” on transport dated August 2013.

The Topic Paper was drafted long before the so called “strategic sites” in and around Penllergaer had been identified .The impact of these sites on the transport network therefore has not properly considered.

Nevertheless, the Topic Paper identified that the M4 junction was at capacity levels, and in order to support development at Felindre major improvements were required to the motorway junction together with four other major roadwork schemes to the surrounding areas. The Topic Paper also recognised that there was limited opportunity to carry out further on the motorway junction.

One of these schemes is the new road serving this site.

What everybody is forgetting is that the development of Parc Mawr Farm is now 4 times larger than the original Candidate site upon which the Council based their report. As a consequence, the housing development despite the road will put greater strains on the highway network. The road proposed will not alleviate the problem in this area, the housing it serves **will add to it**.

The Preferred Strategy requires that prior to the Deposit and any site allocation there has to be, amongst other items, an assessment carried out for the requirement for physical infrastructure to serve that site. Such an assessment has yet to be concluded, and therefore absent from any of the recommendations made by officers to date.

The Council has completely failed to address the highway problem, and in so doing they are unable to satisfy the criteria of their own Sustainable Growth Strategy, in particular I would remind you that *“The role of the planning system in creating sustainable communities, and the general presumption in favour of sustainable development, are embedded principles within national planning policy. The LDP therefore places a strong emphasis upon the importance of ensuring that this growth is supported by appropriate and improved physical and community infrastructure”*.

Until the Council are able to demonstrate that this, this site should not be considered or debated for inclusion in the LDP.

Turning now to the matter of objections raised on the question of overcrowding and overdevelopment. Your Officers feel this is a matter that is dealt with at planning application stage, but they really are missing the point.

There are 1200 households in the Ward of Penllergaer, of which 300 are situated at Parc Penllergaer and therefore remote from the village. The village therefore has 900 houses, and the proposed development will add a further 1000 or so to this number. If this was to happen it would completely destroy the character and identity of the village.

This proposal ignores PPW guidelines 9.3.1, 9.3.2, 9.3.3 and 9.3.4 in that (a) it is not well integrated and connected to the existing pattern of settlements, (b) it is a significant incremental expansion of housing that cannot be support by public transport, (c) intensive infilling should not be allowed to damage an area’s character and amenity and (d) the planning authority should ensure that the area’s character and amenity is not damaged.

If I could now jump to the matter of the Green Wedge. We fully accept that Green Wedges do not have the same permanence as a Green Belt, but the need to protect the open land around Penllergaer has not changed and therefore its retention needs to be protected. If this is the case, PPW dictates what is acceptable, and the proposed form of this development does not meet that criteria.

The residential proposal obliterates this previously identified protection, but when the link road is then taken into consideration, question must be raised as to whether all of the Green Wedge is now lost.

Can I remind Members of Policy 5 of the Preferred Strategy in relation to Green Infrastructure which says *“Green infrastructures will be provided through the protection and enhancement of existing green spaces.....Development that unacceptably compromises the extent and quality of green provision will not be supported.”*

Finally, Offices are saying that *“Increased numbers cannot be attributed to the proposed strategic allocation near the former Felindre works site”*, arguing this is dictated by building outputs. This is annoyingly wrong. Officers have confused building outputs with achievable sales, as well as relying upon inaccurate data. Of course developers can complete more than two houses a week, the question is how many can they sell?

A Planning Inspector engaged recently in a dispute at Llandarcy decided an acceptable sales figure for this site, which is no different to that at Felindre, to be 175 units a year. This is during a distressed economic period. Accepting this precedent and that the LDP is anticipating growth, this figure will increase and in so doing could fully satisfy the relocation of housing from Penllergaer to Felindre.

PG002 Robin Williams (Site Promoter)

I represent Bellway Homes who wish to see a high quality form of residential development which will also deliver significant benefits to the local community and improve the transportation network in the area.

In the LDP Strategic Options document, published in October 2012, the general area of Penllergaer was shown diagrammatically as a potential Mixed Use Major Development Area. It was stated that opportunities existed to:

- Consolidate the existing pattern of development
- Improve the settlement's sustainability credentials,
- Provide a focus for the community, and
- Provide traffic and transportation benefits

With these aims in mind, in January 2013, Asbri Planning Ltd, on behalf of Bellway Homes, set up a team of consultants to appraise the Parc Mawr site in terms of Transport, Landscape, Ecology and Drainage and to develop options for a future 'Masterplan'. The whole corridor of land, largely in the ownership of Penllergaer Estates, was examined, with particular regard paid to potentially sensitive areas in landscape and ecological terms.

The development of a large scale option emerged as the preferred choice for several reasons, notably:

- It would achieve a more comprehensive form of development, allowing not only for a new school but for additional community and commercial uses which would form a hub which would also link with existing facilities in the area
- A link road – connecting the A4240 Gorseinon Road with the A483 – would be provided which has the potential to remove through traffic along the A4240 and A48 through Penllergaer, the potential link will also relieve congestion at Junction 47 of the M4.
- The development would avoid encroachment into the more exposed landscape areas to the south. It would also allow ecological mitigation on land to the south which would remain undeveloped.
- It would provide a site which would allow Bellway Homes to develop in the

Plan Period up to 2025 for a range and choice of housing opportunities at building rates experienced on their current Parc Penderri site to the north of Gorseinon Road. It would therefore form a major contribution to meeting the 5 year housing land supply shortfall which currently exists in Swansea.

Ongoing discussions with Council officers led to the preparation of a document, 'A Vision for Penllergaer' which was formally submitted at the draft LDP Preferred Strategy stage with the aim of supporting the proposed strategic site allocation while demonstrating to Council officers and elected members that an acceptable form of development could be achieved. Such informed proposals also allowed for positive comparison of the merits and advantages of the site with other alternatives.

Penllergaer lies in the Greater North West Swansea Housing Zone which is the largest of the Strategic Housing Policy Zones and has accommodated a significant proportion of the City's growth in recent years. The LDP Preferred Strategy recognises this and identifies the need for around 5,800 new homes in this zone which will be delivered through a combination of large scale strategic releases and smaller allocations.

The scale of housing required the identification of Mixed Use Major Development Areas, one of which corresponded with the Parc Mawr site. The Preferred Strategy, which was ratified by Full Council in August 2014, emphasises that only development on this scale can deliver the required community and infrastructure benefits and that if such sites do not emerge then a considerably greater number of smaller sites will need to release on greenfield land at edge of settlement locations throughout the County.

The subsequent identification of the site with specific boundaries shown on the draft Deposit Plan Proposals Maps was therefore welcomed by my clients, on whose behalf supporting representations were made.

It is understandable that growth of the scale proposed has generated concerns in the local community as shown by the letters of objection and a petition which were submitted in response to the consultation exercise held earlier this year.

The points made by officers in response, which are included in the site schedule, appended to the Committee Report, adequately address these concerns. However, Bellway Homes continue to acknowledge that further work is needed. With this in mind detailed studies have already been commissioned which will contribute to the LDP evidence base and which will further justify the site's selection. It is also anticipated that these will allow further clarification of matters raised, particularly by the Key Stakeholders.

I therefore urge the Committee and the Council as a whole to continue to give the site positive consideration through the LDP process and I look forward to its formal allocation in the forthcoming Deposit Plan.

Pontarddulais

PT002: Land north of Pontarddulais

PT002 Dr Susan Barnes (petitioner)

Pontarddulais is a semi-rural community which has borne the burden of significant development over the last decade. According to the ONS, the population of Pontarddulais has grown by 23% since the 2001 census and this has largely been as a result of new housing development. Pontarddulais schools (and indeed their neighbouring ones) are virtually full and Pontarddulais primary is now one of the largest primary schools in Swansea. At Ysgol Gyfun Bryniago class sizes are well above the national average and given the proximity of the schools, traffic congestion during school start and end times is notorious. The GP surgery is already struggling to cope with the demands of the population growth since 2001- as anyone who has had to participate in the 8am battle for a same day appointment will testify - recruitment of suitably qualified staff, as well as the limitation of physical facilities being an issue. At rush hours the one way system in the centre of Pontarddulais is gridlocked – and the two main exit points onto the motorway at Penllergaer and Hendy are backed up causing traffic queuing and long delays. The existing sewerage system is overloaded and does not meet existing demand.

Taken all the above into consideration, one might think that proposals to build somewhere between 700 and 1000 houses in Pontarddulais might not make much sense – particularly as over 70% are planned to be on greenfield sites. But apparently in the world of Local Development Plans and the boardrooms of profit motivated developers, it makes perfect sense. And thus we find ourselves midst a public consultation about a proposal to increase the size of Pontarddulais by approximately a third – a proposal which if approved will massively impact not just on the size of the community and its already creaking infrastructure, but also the very character of a tight knit and close community.

Consultation with the community thus far has been desultory. Time will tell if it has followed the minimum legal requirement – but even if it is proved to be legally compliant, as residents and council tax payers we expect more. The LDP process and the expertise and knowledge required to engage with the process is heavily biased towards professionals and developers. A public consultation which hides behind jargon, provides scant information in an accessible format and which requires ordinary citizens to go above and beyond what can be reasonably expected of them is no consultation at all. As a resident of Glanffrwd Rd – some 15 feet from the north end of the 500 unit housing estate on greenfield sites that Persimmon would like to impose on us – I can confirm that there has been scant communication with residents.

A small number of residents had heard about the early LDP consultations a number of years ago and registered for email updates. The majority of residents, including those who have moved in over the last year or two, only found out about the proposals as a result of a chance encounter with a member of the Town council – only to be informed that the public consultation held, incidentally, over the “good time to bury bad news” December period was closed. Eventually someone managed to

track down a photocopied and dog eared leaflet produced by Persimmon entitled “North Pontarddlais Vision” – which can only be described as a spin doctor’s valiant attempt to sell the advantages of turning Pontarddlais into a concrete jungle. It artfully told us that 30% of the development would be on brownfield site – somehow neglecting to mention that this meant that 70% of the development proposed would be on our green fields.

As someone who was naturally rather alarmed and surprised that such massive development proposal– including a 500 unit housing estate in the middle of Pontarddlais –could have reached the end of a consultation without having even heard about it, I undertook to try and find out more about it on the Council website. Not having had much luck, I then tried to find out whom to ring at the Council, but hit a brick wall. But I did find an email address to an anonymous shared email inbox. Undeterred I proceeded to write an email airing my concerns and asking a number of detailed questions about the process. My email, perhaps not surprisingly, went unacknowledged, though some seven weeks later I found myself the recipient of a round robin email thanking “those who had responded to the consultation” – which was clearly not me as the process had passed me by - and providing some bland “planning speak” information about the next stages. Which all goes to leave myself, my neighbours and fellow Pontarddlais residents bewildered and asking how, in the era of multi-media communication, where there are serious concerns about getting people to engage with the democratic process, can proposals which have the potential to massively impact our community slip under radar almost unnoticed via a complex and opaque technical planning process?. It appears that open, accessible and even handed debate is not a priority – meaning that the scales are massively tipped in favour of planning professionals and developers.

The scale of the proposed development in Pontarddlais represents a significant threat to a semi-rural, predominantly Welsh speaking community which has absorbed its fair share of housing developments over the last decade. The greed of developers who will, if unopposed, gobble up swathes of greenfield sites and maximise their return on investment by erecting as many houses as they can get away with, shouldn’t be a surprise. However we expect better from our elected representatives – and the officers who serve them. This council professes to support communities and one of the mainstays of the council’s own plans to cope with its

£80 million spending shortfall, is to look to communities to take up the slack. You call it Sustainable Communities. Foisting in excess of 700 homes on us, massively expanding our resident base by a third, building over nearly all the green spaces within the Pontarddlais boundary and burdening our infrastructure beyond breaking point is not about sustaining communities, it is about destroying them. The residents of Pontarddlais deserve and expect better. Please do not let us down and vote to reject this proposal.

PT002 Pete Sulley and Chris Jenkins (Site Promoters)

You will hopefully have received the technical summaries that Persimmon Homes has prepared recently to help Officers and Members to continue to support the allocation of North Pontarddlais in the LDP.

Members will be aware that the Preferred Strategy identifies the need to deliver 17,000 new homes and 14,000 new jobs over the Plan period therefore I will not repeat those requirements here in detail.

Members will also be aware of paragraph 6.32 of the Preferred Strategy which states that:

“In Pontarddulais there is an opportunity to capitalise on Brownfield opportunities on sites to the north west of the town centre, which in tandem with adjoining Greenfield areas, could provide new education provision and improved access around the town and to the north.”

Pontarddulais

As Members will know, Pontarddulais benefits from a number of services and facilities including two primary schools, a comprehensive school, a railway station, regular bus services, employment opportunities and a diverse range of shops and high street facilities. Pontarddulais is therefore a sustainable location for the proposed allocation, in accordance with national planning policy.

Technical Studies

Persimmon’s consultant team has undertaken a number of technical studies to demonstrate in more detail that all technical matters can be addressed adequately, and these are contained in your summary pack. The reports conclude that there are no known technical constraints that would prevent the allocation of the site in the LDP, subject to appropriate mitigation being implemented at the appropriate time.

Concept Masterplan

The technical documents have informed a Concept Masterplan, which is in the Planning Summary in your summary pack. This is an illustrative plan at present and can be revised after today’s discussion if necessary.

The development will comprise a mix of starter and family homes, as well as affordable housing. There is also a significant amount of Public Open Space.

The site will have pedestrian and cycle linkages throughout, linking the site with the local schools, railway station, bus stops and town centre.

The Proposed Link Road

A major benefit of the proposed development is the new link road from Lye Industrial Estate through the site to Water Street, which will redirect HGV traffic away from Glynhir Road. This is in line with the Council’s Economic Development Team’s “Hyder Transport and Development Study for Pontarddulais” which recommends the aforementioned link road, and which identifies the benefits the link road will bring, including improving access to existing employment areas, junction improvements and improving the physical environment in the town, particularly for pedestrians and

cyclists. Development of the allocation site will therefore secure this much needed new infrastructure to the benefit of the whole of Pontarddulais.

Welsh Language

Pontarddulais Ward has the second highest percentage of Welsh speakers in the whole of Swansea (31%) therefore it is a very important element to consider.

The allocation will comprise a mix of starter and family homes, similar in size to many of the existing homes in Pontarddulais. This will give local residents a wider choice of homes in the area, thereby reducing the prospects of existing local residents having to leave Pontarddulais to find suitable accommodation. Affordable Housing for local people will also be provided to further help existing residents to remain in the town.

In addition, the development itself will help sustain local shops, services and community groups, thereby fostering the Welsh language in Pontarddulais by supporting local amenities.

Education

Persimmon Homes is also in discussion with the Council's Education Department regarding education provision emanating from the proposed development, which could entail land for a new school north of Pontarddulais Comprehensive School. The homes will also generate children who will attend local schools, further supporting the schools and adding to the number of young Welsh speakers in the town.

Conclusion

Persimmon Homes West Wales therefore respectfully requests Members to continue to support the proposed allocation of Land north of Pontarddulais in the Swansea LDP.

Stuart Phillips, Head of Land at Persimmon Homes West Wales, will now provide Members with some further detail about Persimmon and its work to date.

Persimmon Homes

Persimmon Homes has actively engaged with Council Officers and key stakeholders since the inception of the LDP process to ensure that a deliverable and viable scheme can be developed at Pontarddulais that provides the required growth, whilst also providing any key improvements and benefits to the town as just detailed by Pete.

In terms of our local commitment and track record of delivering houses, Persimmon Homes West Wales has completed, or is currently on site on, nearly 500 homes across the City and County of Swansea over the last three years. This development has also seen delivery of new infrastructure associated with our developments and the provision of much needed family and affordable homes across the region.

Persimmon Homes West Wales is a significant local employer – both directly and indirectly via sub-contractors and the housing construction supply chain. We have signalled a major commitment to delivery of growth in Swansea via our newly established West Wales Regional Head Office in Penllergaer and are committed to working with local communities given our presence in the area.

Going forward, we will continue to engage with Members, the public and key stakeholders to ensure that the development proposals for Pontarddulais are delivered in a positive and beneficial manner to bring about investment and infrastructure improvements locally that have been identified as part of the LDP proposals to date.

PT017: Land at Bolgoed Rd, Pontarddulais

PT017 Dr Susan Barnes (petitioner)

Comments made in relation to PT002 also apply to this site

Upper Loughor

UL002: Land at Heol Pentre Bach

UL002 Francis Sinfield (petitioner)

As residents we were assured of no further building development on a designated green belt and a triple SI site protected under EU law due to its proximity to the Loughor Estuary. Planning consent has been refused in the past.

The new development of Parc Llys Gwynfaen and its continued spread along Gower View Road is causing a danger due to the increase of traffic on Brynafon Road. It's junction with Frampton Road is a potential death trap along with the junction at Heol Pentre Bach with its access to Queens Gate .Traffic calming measures on Frampton Road are a great irritant to the community also causing multiple diesel toxins which are now responsible for more than 50,000 deaths in this country.

Junctions on Borough Rd pose the same problems. Vehicles are parked on pavements as the roads are too narrow posing a danger to pedestrians.

The Fire Brigade was unable to attend to a fire at Clos -y-Morfa due to the narrowness of the road as a car was parked on one side, there are no pavements here.

Areas from Loughor Bridge, Loughor, Gorseinon up to Penllergaer are developing into a huge car park due to traffic hold ups. The road along the Hospital is chaotic.

Traffic lights at Loughor and at the lower end of Gorseinon cause the side roads to

become "rat runs" We are a community which could easily become a commuter town.

The whole infrastructure is inadequate.

Overcrowded roads, schools, Health Centres, Dental Practices and Hospital. Doctors are leaving due to stress

One surgery now has one part time doctor and locums when previously employed four full time staff. Does not bode well for patient care

We are in danger of losing our identity language and culture.

Further building will exacerbate the problem with sewerage systems. Present pumping systems are not coping. An increase in surface water will cause further problems.

The land concerned falls down onto Gwynfe Rd which is already a flood plain. Impassable at times due the back up of tidal water and rain. The ditch opposite the Care Bungalow fills with orange gunge, polluted by iron ore from flooded mines.

This area is an essential habitat to migratory birds, varied wild life and indigenous plants. Otters and seals have returned to the Estuary. The Osprey on its migratory flight northwards catches fish and flies to the trees in this field to eat its catch. Bats, Newts, Owls, Foxes and Badgers inhabit the area. It is illegal to destroy Badger setts.

Building permission in the past has been refused. A triple SI site cannot suddenly lose its status.

Life in all aspects is a precious gift. Quality of life should be a priority before profit.

These green areas are our lungs and must be preserved. Once gone they cannot be returned.

UL002 Robin Williams (Site Promoter)

I represent Elan Homes who wish to see a high quality form of residential development on the site, which will contribute to Local Development Plan objectives for meeting housing need in a satisfactory and sustainable manner.

In December 2010 Asbri Planning Limited submitted a candidate site request that the site be included as an LDP housing land allocation. The submission emphasised that the site is

- well related to the existing pattern of development,
- has no major constraints,
- can be accessed of the existing road network
- and is located within walking distance of a range of facilities, including primary and secondary schools.

The submission demonstrate that the site meets established site selection criteria incorporated both in Planning Policy Wales and in the Candidate Site Assessment Methodology published by the City and County of Swansea.

The Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy acknowledges that the scale of housing required in the City and County of Swansea is not capable of being accommodated on previously developed land without the need for the identification of settlement extensions including green field land.

In order to achieve a sufficient range and choice of housing land opportunities, there is a need to consider selective sites which represent viable urban extensions, which do not involve a significant intrusion into the countryside in landscape terms, and which are close to existing facilities.

Sites also need to be shown to be deliverable and can contribute to a 5 year housing land supply required by national planning policy. Currently there is a major shortfall of readily developable land in Swansea, with only 3.3 years identified.

Gorseinon is part of the Greater North West Swansea Housing Zone which is the largest of the Strategic Housing Policy Zones and has accommodated a large proportion of the City's growth in recent years. The LDP Strategy recognises this and identifies the need for around 5,800 new homes in this zone which will be delivered through a combination of large scale strategic releases and small/medium allocations at settlement edges which constitute appropriate rounding off.

The site at Heol Pentre Bach falls into this latter category. My clients have sought, and are seeking to contribute further to the LDP evidence base by commissioning study information including ecological surveys and a drainage strategy. These further demonstrate the suitability of the site. In summary:

- The site slopes gently down to Heol Pentre Bach. The western boundary of the site is formed by a mature, tree lined hedge. The site is well contained by this feature and by existing residential development at Clos Y Nant to the south and Clos Y Morfa to the north west. Consequently development will have a minimal impact on the wider open landscape to the west.
- There are no overriding ecological issues and where appropriate, existing trees and hedgerows will be maintained and additional planting of native species implemented.
- The site is well related to the to the employment, retail, education and leisure facilities in Gorseinon with good pedestrian and cycle links, including existing rights of way which in turn link with public transport routes. Vehicle access can be easily achieved off Heol Pentre Bach.
- The site can be adequately served in terms of both surface and foul drainage. Attenuated surface water can be discharged into the adjacent stream. It is intended that foul water flows be directed to the nearby Llannant Farm sewage treatment works which has recently been upgraded. Unlike sites which discharge to the Gowerton STW there is no need to identify donor sites.

All in all the development of the site would represent a logical and sympathetic extension to the existing housing development at this location.

I therefore urge the Committee and the Council as a whole to continue to give the site positive consideration through the LDP process.

West SHPZ

Killay South

KS001: Land off Rowan Close

KS001 Mrs C Thomas (petitioner)

Here is our petition which summarises the relevant concerns about the new, reduced KS001 site:

This scrubby, tilted, boggy, poor quality grazing land looks as if it has no real worth and should easily be included in the LDP as ideal for residential development.

However this green space also has other ways of being described: ancient, unimproved pasture; buffer zone; Country Park; ancient woodland; Candidate Site of Importance for Nature Conservation; and Green Wedge; and it is adjacent to and overlooked by part of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Drawback of terrain.

The plot is tilted from east to west and north to south. Rowan Close has issues due to its lesser slope: some driveways to garages are deemed unusably steep. Slope and solid clay substrate give drainage problems; such bogginess at the end of Rowan Close meant that garden and lawn became the habitat aridity of shingle. New houses would also have squelchy soils encouraging impermeable surfaces (paths, patios, parking) ...which will increase the problem. A further constructional constraint is raised by Welsh Water, warning: The site is crossed by a public sewer for which protection measures, either in the form of an easement and/or diversion may be required.

Drawback of access.

How will construction vehicles gain access? To the north, Rowan Close is a narrow, curved road with many street-parked cars. Eastward, access via adjacent fields would destroy three ancient tree-hedgerows and two more pastures: impossible.

Ancient woodland.

These woodland-delineated pastures are seen on a map drawn 2 centuries ago. The Woodland Trust explains: habitats with trees over 200 years old are very special - full of wildlife that is found nowhere else and of immense heritage and cultural value. Planning Policy Wales is clear: 'Ancient and semi-natural woodlands are irreplaceable habitats of high biodiversity value which should be protected from development.' Furthermore, Swansea Council has this area in a Woodland Grant Scheme. The agreed management plan includes: safeguarding native fauna and

flora and protecting the landscape value and the maintenance of existing [native woodlands], as well as clearly stating that 'All native veterans will be protected and preserved'. Avoiding at least a 50' distance from each veteran tree is necessary in order to avoid damage. That diminishes the development area significantly.

Wildlife buffer zone.

A Living Wales says stop focusing on small sites: species protection needs to look at the wider habitat. Clyne Valley is home to breeding populations of many, many protected species, including toads, slowworms, snakes, and lizards as well as butterflies, moths and other invertebrates. There are at least 12 NERC (Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006) Section 42 bird species that use these fields and trees for breeding or food sources and 9 bird species which are in decline. Badgers use the pasture. Besides many internationally protected species of bats, there are also breeding polecats (also NERC Section 42) foraging in this area. It is the duty of the government NOT to interfere with the reproduction of these creatures.

Need to protect River Clyne environs.

There are breeding otters in adjacent Clyne River, ranging year-round for foraging. Not only a Welsh NERC Section 42 mammal, the otter has protection through Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act. Otters do not appear to breed CONSISTENTLY anywhere else in the Swansea area. The local otter population also use the Valley as a corridor for access, allowing movement towards North Gower. We MUST NOT affect their breeding by destroying their foraging areas. Sewage still continues to enter Clyne River. Unpleasant, hazardous and polluting. Further residential development will add to the issue. Natural Resources Wales warns for this site: Advise a Pollution Strategy is required. South west corner of site subject Part Zone C2. Clyne River vulnerable. Consider WFD (Water Framework Directive)

Historic interest.

There is a pillbox within the site. This should be protected as part of our heritage.

Clyne Valley Country Park.

This Green Wedge site has no 'defensible boundary' which would act as a physical barrier to prevent further undesirable encroachment. The LDP Issues Paper on Landscape urged: 'Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are important as wildlife habitats There needs to be a review of trees to be protected within the County to formally protect those that are vulnerable to development pressure'.

Furthermore, this candidate site was part of Site 144/HC22, which was turned down by Planning in 2005. 'This site forms part of the well-established Clyne Valley Green Wedge, and development would be contrary to the primary aims of the policy, and would create intense pressure for further releases. It contains many mature trees and hedgerows. There are severe limitations also for vehicular access - single access onto Gower Road at junction with visibility problems.'

SK017: Cefn Coed Hospital

SK017 Paul Vining (Site Promoter)

Thank you for allowing me to address Committee.

THE LHB's PLANS

As you will know, the ABMU is responsible for providing health care services in Swansea and neighbouring boroughs.

Cefn Coed Hospital is part of the NHS estate in Swansea and over the last few years ABMU has made a big investment in new mental health care facilities at Cefn Coed. This is in line with the Council's own adopted UDP policies, under which the Cefn Coed Hospital site is already allocated for redevelopment for health care and housing. The UDP allocation is for 200 units. The LDP proposal is for a total of 575 units, of which the Council recently granted planning permission for 73 units on what is termed Development Area A (application no. 2014/0969).

Some patients at Cefn Coed Hospital are still accommodated in the original hospital buildings and will be until new purpose-built facilities are provided elsewhere in the Health Board's area. That will then release the remainder of the Cefn Coed Hospital site for housing later in this decade, well within the LDP plan period of 2025.

ABMU has begun planning for that and, in consultation with your planning and highway officers, has produced a draft master plan showing how the overall site will be developed. An outline planning application is expected to follow next year, after the LDP has been on deposit and after bat surveys at the hospital have been carried out.

Subject to the Council granting planning permission for that application, ABMU will dispose of a large part of the site and proceeds from the sale will be reinvested in health care services and facilities in the Health Board's area.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In anticipation of a planning application next year, ABMU has agreed to the Ward Member's suggestion that a public consultation event be held in September this year. This will comprise an exhibition of the draft proposals for the Cefn Coed Hospital site, which will give local residents and others an opportunity to discuss them with ABMU representatives and to comment on them before they are finalised and submitted for planning permission.

MEETING THE REQUIREMENT FOR NEW HOMES

There is a substantial requirement for new homes in Swansea over the plan period and the Cefn Coed Hospital site can make an important contribution to meeting that need for housing, including affordable housing. (As part of the recent planning permission granted for Development Area A, ABMU agreed to provide 30% affordable housing as well as making a substantial financial contribution to education

and also to local highway improvements.)

THE MERITS OF ALLOCATING THE SITE FOR HOUSING

The site has substantial merits as a site for housing:

1. The site comprises previously developed or “brownfield” land, which lies within the existing built-up area. The development of such land is preferred by national planning policy. It will not involve development in the open countryside.
2. The site is free of flood risk, being located in Zone A.
3. The site is free of any significant environmental constraints. Detailed studies of the site’s ecology, archaeology, heritage, trees, drainage and ground conditions have been carried out already. Further, more detailed studies are being carried out over the Summer. And ABMU has contributed to the Council’s own LDP transport study.
4. The site is already allocated for residential development in the adopted development plan. Allocating the site in the LDP would be a continuation of the Council’s long-standing existing policy as contained in the adopted UDP.
5. The site is included in the Council’s Joint Housing Land Availability Study, and is therefore expected to contribute to meeting housing needs in Swansea in the period from 2015.
6. Development on the site can be accessed and drained satisfactorily, and laid out in an acceptable manner, having regard to topography, site features and neighbouring development and without detriment to local amenity.
7. Although the hospital buildings are not listed, ABMU proposes to retain the water tower – which is a landmark – and to convert some of the existing hospital buildings to residential use.
8. Development of the site will enable it to provide a useful contribution to Swansea’s housing stock in the LDP plan period and in an area that is proven to be attractive to house builders and purchasers.
9. The site is sustainably located and development of the site will be sustainable. The site has performed well in the Council’s own candidate site assessment, including the assessment against LDP objectives and the SEA/SA objectives.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would respectfully ask you to confirm the allocation of the Cefn Coed Hospital site for 575 units. It will be of enormous benefit to ABMU’s plans for improving health care in Swansea as well as providing Swansea with much-needed housing land to cater for the city’s housing and affordable housing needs.

West Cross

WC004: Chestnut Avenue

WC004 Betty Ballman (petitioner)

Firstly may I ask all Committee members to read in full Representation 43326 (refer to JDi. It is a professional appraisal of land at Clyne Common, off Chestnut Avenue, West Cross (candidate site WC004). It was carried out by CDN Planning (Wales) for Mumbles Community Council.

I quote one line from the conclusion of that report, paragraph 10.2. This report finds that there are several reasons why this site is not a suitable or sustainable housing allocation.

The report draws attention to possible flood risk. Please note that there have been reported events of flooding at the bus stop on the Common side of Chestnut Avenue near the junction with Mulberry Avenue. Highways could not stop the water coming off the Common and so installed a raised platform for bus passengers to stand on. Highways may have a record of this work.

Candidate site WC004 lies at the foot of sloping marsh land. This land has rising springs and is slow to drain. If in order to build on this land is must be drained, the composition of the land will change and all flora and fauna dependant on wet land will die. In other words a small but sad ecological disaster.

The public have a right to walk registered common land and the West Cross petitioners ask the Committee to note that this section of Clyne Common, off Chestnut Avenue is the only adult recreational amenity available to residents at this location of Upper West Cross.

It has been brought to my attention that there is a need for affordable housing so that young people can get a foot on the housing ladder. To assess the extent of this need I checked the 574 candidate sites for a similar need and found only one other site MA001 which calls for affordable housing. Combined with site WC004 it works out that only 0.35% of candidate sites have claimed this particular need. Does this percentage justify building on sensitive registered common land?

May I, with respect, add that the UK Government scheme to provide financial help for young people to get a foot on the housing ladder sits comfortably alongside the England Right to Buy scheme. However many Council tenants in Wales have had their hopes of owning their home quashed by the Welsh Government decision to close the Right to Buy scheme. Is it fair to run a scheme for the young that is based solely on age because it is what they want but not necessarily what they need?

I believe there has been a good record with West Cross privatised Council flats and houses being passed on to younger people either to buy or to rent.

Perhaps there could be a way of encouraging this trend.

I close with one simple statement:

Clyne Common is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and should be registered, accordingly.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

ADDENDUM

In response to the statement that my house was built on former farmland I made the following comments –

1. I had not taken my full five minutes.
2. Farming is a business activity. Farm land has been bartered, bought and sold since farming first began. It has no connection with taking common land.

WC004 Geraint John (Site Promoters)

Good morning Members, my name is Geraint John, planning consultant on behalf of the site promoter – Edenstone Homes.

As Members will be aware, the Council seeks to allocate land off Chestnut Avenue as a 'Gower Fringe (Affordable / Older Persons) Housing Site'. It is evidenced within the Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which supports and underpins the emerging LDP, that there is a pressing need for such accommodation.

The LDP Preferred Strategy identifies that the only opportunities for housing in this part of the City are through small scale rounding off 'Rural / Urban Fringe Extension' sites (such as this).

Importantly the allocation of this site would 'free up' under-occupied homes in the settlement, and provide much needed 'churn' to the housing market in this part of the City.

The proposed allocation, which has of course been rigorously assessed by Council Officers through the Candidate Site process, is located immediately adjacent to the settlement, with a number of key local facilities and services being accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.

The site is subject to Common Land designation, and therefore in order to release the land for development, replacement common land will be necessary. Such replacement land, of equal (if not better) quality and quantum can and is being proposed and secured. The wider benefits derived from the allocation of the site in order to provide much needed affordable housing are considered to outweigh the small loss of common land – not least given the compensation measures provided.

The site is not within the AONB, nor is it subject to a Greenbelt designation. The site does fall within the Clyne Common Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. In addition, any scheme will be appropriately configured and designed to ensure the Swansea Bay vista achievable across the site is maintained and not interrupted. It is important to note that the site area defined occupies a low lying position, and therefore visibility of the site within the open landscape will be limited.

The southern boundary of the site is formed by Chestnut Avenue onto which a new junction will be formed in order to provide access to the site. An initial highway assessment has been undertaken by appropriately qualified professionals which indicates that there are no highway capacity issues in the surrounding road network. The extensive frontage on Chestnut Avenue and Mulberry Avenue provides significant opportunity for new accesses to any future development. Although further highway assessment work can and will be provided in due course highway considerations are not considered to represent a fundamental constraint to the development of the site, not least given the highly sustainable and accessible location of the site. This is a position confirmed by the response of the Highway Department – subject to retention of existing rights of way and provision of new pedestrian facilities.

The site is not subject to any fundamental environmental designations or constraints, albeit it is acknowledged that the land has, akin to any Greenfield site, ecological sensitivity. Accordingly, an ecological management plan will be needed and will be put in place in order to assess and demonstrate how the loss of priority habitats would be compensated for. Again, this is not considered to represent a fundamental constraint to the deliverability of the site.

Services, utilities and drainage serving the site are available and have adequate capacity, thereby ensuring the deliverability of the site. The site is outside of any flood zone, and appropriate drainage work and measures can and will be incorporated in order to ensure no adverse impacts.

In light of the above, the proposed allocation of the site presents a suitable, viable and deliverable development opportunity that can provide for, and is wholly in line with, the policy provisions and aspirations of the Plan. Accordingly, the site will make a significant contribution to achieving the housing aspirations for much needed affordable and older persons housing in the Gower fringe area, and it is respectfully requested that the site's continued allocation in the Plan is endorsed as such.

Gower SHPZ

Gower

GW002: Land Adj Boarlands, Port Eynon

GW002 Mr Herbert (petitioner)

Good morning, I speak on behalf of a petition by hundreds which was submitted in

2011 with reference to the LDP review, specifically for site GW 002 – Port Eynon.

I am going to speak briefly about this important matter but I have also provided a background document with illustrations from which these comments are drawn.

In order that we can focus on the most critical issues I would like to first deal with the predictably **negative** reasons for rejecting this application:

Spoiling the landscape

Impacting tourism

Impacting residents

Impact on local services including water and sewerage, roads and services

Begin the coalescence of Port Eynon with Overton

Open up the floodgates of further applications based on this precedence

Resulting in the great urbanisation of the unique Gower coastline... once lost, **never** recoverable

Focusing now on **positive** issues to continue safeguarding this national asset, I would make the following observations.

1 Ensure that Gower plays its part of delivering a return on investment for the unique Coastal Path of Wales

2 Recognise the investment in and safeguarding already provided for the highly valuable coastal landscape of Gower and ardently continue with this

We are a small country that needs to maximise our competitive advantage, our coastline is a differentiator for Wales; it's part of what makes Wales one of the top five countries in the world to visit¹. Developing any part of the Gower coastline would detract from that unique natural heritage².

3 People from the greater Swansea continue to enjoy a local unspoilt amenity and visitors from further afield keep coming back to a familiar landscape that attracted them in the first place

A decision to reject the application will send a positive message that our local representatives care about the same things that the vast majority of their electorate do and that our environment means something more than quick gains for land owners and developers.

4 We do our bit to support the Welsh government's agenda to protect and promote the national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty of Wales² and not undermine this valuable economic engine.

Make a positive investment decision for the next generation of residents in the greater Swansea and Gower area as well as the significant number of visitors to the region by keeping Gower special for the benefit of the many, and not the few. Tourism is estimated to be worth some 6 billion to Wales and Swansea desperately needs its part of this income³. Petition for GW002 A Presentation by RH

To be fair, the council has itself described this wonderful asset on its own website⁴:

“Gower-a land apart... A precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty is so outstanding that it is protected for future generations ... “

Gower was the first AONB in the UK -nothing can change that historical first place but the asset needs cherishing so it still deserves this highly prized honour

And... sought to protect it thus far:

Three separate planning applications for this site were refused for good reason and those reasons remain as valid today as they have done in the past⁵

Even appeals to the Planning Inspector were rejected on substantive grounds in line with the above comments⁵

The decision to approve this application would be, in effect, an act of coastal vandalism (strong words, but true) - a permanent blight on our unique landscape - something that the people of Swansea would find hard to let go of and forget those that approved it... It would be **permanent**

We therefore sincerely urge the Planning Committee to reject this LDP application

GW002 Mr Attwell (petitioner)

1. I am the lead petitioner for one of the two petitions submitted. That petition objected in principle to any development at GW002.
2. I believe it is a perfectly acceptable objective on the part of the City Council to promote a new scheme for social affordable housing in Port Eynon. This was previously done some 40 years ago with the development of orchard Close, behind St Cattwgs Church. These houses which are in short terraced blocks of 3 and 4 homes currently sell between £150K and £160K. Of the original 11 houses some 5 are now second/holiday homes or holiday lets.
3. On the map of Port Eynon showing the caravan site to the south east of the candidate site some wooden chalets have recently completed, selling with a price tag “from £135K”.
4. Given that there are significant infrastructure costs e.g. main sewer relocation etc. the likelihood is that the price per unit on this GW002 site will be a minimum of “225K, perhaps more if sold on the open market without constraints. Does this really equate with affordable housing, which in a Swansea context would be between £85K and £100K?
5. A recent real life example is a young couple where the young man was brought up in Overton. Despite wanting to stay in the area to remain close to family and friends, the houses prices here made it impossible and he and his wife have bought a terraced house in Manselton for around £86K. Wages for young people working on Gower are no higher (and in many cases lower as work is primarily tourism or agricultural based and is often only seasonal) than those

working in the city.

6. To guarantee the scheme as affordable housing would require planning constraints similar to those applied some 25 years ago in Llangennith where the sale and resale of the houses was ring fenced to locally employed people who live in the houses as their principal residence. Operation is via a Housing Association.
7. Price creep will almost certainly occur if the GW002 scheme goes ahead, and this would mean the houses becoming second homes or holiday lets. Port Eynon and Horton have an abundance of such properties already. No more are needed.
8. I submit that the scheme is UNSUSTAINABLE as affordable housing and should be turned down now.

GW002 Mr King (Site Promoter)

Introduction

This statement has been prepared in response to the note on Hearing of Petitions issued by the LPA dated 14th May. The site in question lies adjacent to Boarlands Estate in Port Eynon and is proposed for affordable housing by Coastal Housing Group. It has been identified for development in the LDP preferred Strategy (see attached diagram) following the earlier estimate of affordable housing need identified in the Strategic Options Report which stated in para 7.11 that a shortfall of affordable housing across the county is a significant issue. In this respect the Swansea Bay Housing Market Study 2013 identified the need for 7100 additional affordable houses to be built in the LDP period, i.e. 44% of the total housing requirement. Gower was identified as a rural area with special housing need.

This statement is in two parts – the first dealing with the planning merits of the site; and the second part dealing with affordable housing need and policy. The City & County of Swansea have identified the need for 250 affordable homes in Gower and an additional 350 units in the Gower fringe.

The Site

The advantages of the 3 acre site were clearly set out in the original submission as a candidate site, viz:

- (a) It is conveniently located on the edge of Port Eynon village, bounded by development on three sides, representing a natural rounding off of the village, as clearly shown on the map in the Gower Design Guide;
- (b) It is in a highly sustainable location, close to public transport and all facilities, with a direct footpath to the village;
- (c) Furthermore the site lends itself to the provision of affordable housing for this part of Gower.

Issues

Two issues needed assessing: the question of access, and impact on the landscape of the AONB. Dealing with access, a consultation with the Highway Engineer confirmed that traffic uses the lane safely by pausing in passing bays as necessary, a situation prevalent in many parts of Gower. As such there was no objection. Concerning landscape impact, a photograph of the site taken from the bay demonstrates that while the site is visible, it is not overly obtrusive, being framed by the housing at the rear, Boarlands to the right, and camping and tents in the foreground in the summer.

In planning terms the site is favourably located in Port Eynon. To concentrate all development in Scurlage as the original strategy proposed would be wrong – the key village approach is an outmoded model of planning, which should, rather, encourage modest growth throughout the villages in the interests of encouraging a web of sustainable rural life. Physically the site has been inspected and it is regarded as suitable for housing development.

The proposal will incorporate a mix of bungalows that will be situated on the lower part of the site, thus lessening the visual impact, with traditional housing occupying the remainder of the site. It is anticipated that a balanced mix of two, three and four bedroom houses will be provided to meet local needs. The tenure of the accommodation will be subject to ongoing negotiation with the Local Authority.

Oystermouth

OY003: Land at Thistleboon Caravan Park

OY003 Mr Smith (petitioner)

Our position is that we object to proposals in the LDP that greatly reduce the likelihood of the site continuing to be used as a caravan park in the future.

As our formal objection stated, the LDP proposal could have ensured that the current leisure / tourism use would be protected but the proposal initially to consider the site as a Candidate site for Housing and subsequently to include the site wholly within the settlement boundary suggests that the council is sending a message that the major obstacles to future residential development are removed to secure the potential for sale to the highest bidder.

We recognise that the planning officer's report says that there is a "need to provide greater clarity of the status of the land" but the recommendation that the site is brought into the settlement as "white land" without any designation ignores the current use of site. It is neither a green field nor a brown field site, it is a successful & sustainable development which makes a positive contribution to the local community is reaping the rewards financially for the investment made by the Council.

The site has been used as a caravan park for over 50 years and a strong community of caravaners has developed which since the redevelopment of the site in 2003 has generated income of rent alone of £1.5m which is an increase of 3 times the combined income of the Plunch Lane and the current site then known as Thistleboon.

Economic viability is a significant criteria in the LDP and the income from the caravan park is guaranteed year on year come rain or shine with a significant waiting list for plots on the site which has been completely filled since the redevelopment 13 years ago. The current change to undesignated "white land" could jeopardise this income by introducing doubt about the security of the tenancy of the caravan users.

Local businesses have directly benefited as the tenants have between them made an ongoing investment of well in excess of £1m to date for caravans purchased from local suppliers.

In answer to a question from Councillor Colburn in a minuted Council meeting in December 2014, the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration stated that "whilst the (site) OY003 is nor specifically allocated, it could nevertheless become a windfall site in future should the Council wish to dispose of the land".

It seems clear that rather than straightening out an anomaly in planning law to protect the current use, the opportunity has been taken to leave the door wide open for offers from residential property developers whose aim will be to maximise profit and not the protection of existing character of the site. We are not sure that the local residents are fully aware of this.

The LDP Stage 2 Planning Assessment in many instances reports the benefits of the proposed change to the settlement boundary on the basis of change to residential use – it even cites the benefit of 100% affordable housing because part of the site it is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

No detriment to the environment is identified in the LDP Stage 2 Planning Assessment but any residential development would see a large amount of the open grass area and hedgerows replaced by housing which would aim to cram as many houses as possible onto the site imposing itself onto the Conservation Area & Nature reserve in a way the current site simply doesn't.

In summary we ask that in order to maintain the benefits of the ongoing site as a Caravan Park bringing revenue into the Council and affording a buffer between the urban development and the adjacent conservation areas, that the Council directs their officers to prepare proposals to amend the LDP to designate site OY003 as to be for the purpose of a static caravan site to properly protect the benefits to all of the current use.

OY016: Land at Higher Lane

OY016 Mrs Burgess (petitioner)

Good morning Chairman and members of the Panel. My name is Jill Burgess, I reside in Langland and I am here today in the capacity of Lead Petitioner, representing 4 thousand + petitioners who are against the proposed development of Candidate Site referenced OY016, Land at Higher Lane Langland for the proposed provision of 30 units for affordable/older persons housing. The land being in the ownership of the Somerset Trust, and is wholly within the Gower AONB.

As time today is limited, I would wish to proceed not by reciting our specific objections submitted on our 4,042 Candidate Site Comment Forms, but to comment upon a few of the City and County of Swansea's written Responses to Representations (objections) Against Development, contained within the Council's Site Assessment Reports.

I will proceed firstly with the CCS comment in response to our objection on developing this area of the AONB, they state **“There has been degradation of this part of the AONB due to close proximity of the urban form through prominence of domestic paraphernalia/outbuildings within existing adjoining rear curtilages such as Beaufort Avenue which has a far greater visual impact on the AONB and coastline than this site.”**

Dear Chairman, this built environment, let us not forget, was created by the same landowner working within a planning and design framework who then sought to obtain planning approval for residential development, on the land that we are now objecting to, resulting in an appeal being held in 2007.

The Planning Inspector concluded that **“To include these (candidate) sites within the Gower and Gower fringe housing policy zones which are particularly sensitive to development pressure, would be contrary to the Plans approach of not relying on sites within these areas to help meet the general estimated new housing requirement of the Plan area as a whole.”** The Planning Inspector therefore concluded that these sites are not suitable for development.

So, a fair and reasonable question still remains to be asked as to why the CCS continues in its endeavours to pursue the planned erosion and in their words, degradation of this vital green buffer zone lying within the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the first designated and nationally protected AONB within the British Isles which was formed in 1956 by a group of local passionate people who fought against, as we are here today, the degradation and erosion of cliff land green open space.

It is also relevant here in quoting recently what Carl Sargeant, Welsh Minister for Natural Resources had to say in response to the possibility of AONB's status being re designated in an effort to afford more rigid protection, he states **“These areas are highly valued. They are integral to Wales national identity and are recognised Internationally as part of a global family of protected areas. I am proud that a**

quarter of Wales is recognised in this way. They are assets that we should celebrate and protect.”

And in respect of our concern that a precedent would be established should approval be forthcoming for this site, the CCS states, **“The release of land at this location would be as an exception and not set precedent”**, and I would combine this with another stating **“The landowners are aware that only exception housing will be permitted. The site remains outside the settlement boundary to ensure this is the case and be able to resist future pressure for revised schemes for high end market housing following grant of any planning permission for affordable/older persons housing.”**

Firstly it is a fact that there is land within the immediate area which at the start of the LDP process was outside the settlement boundary. This land is now in the process of being brought within boundary lines and thus will be designated as residential development land. Therefore it gives no comfort whatsoever in Council statements suggesting that they are able to control land by settlement boundary definitions, when clearly this is not the case.

Secondly, considering the site is in the ownership of the Somerset Trust who, adopting a commercial view, and not adopting philanthropic ideals, would only in our view, pursue a non-profitable planning permission, if it formed part of a much larger comprehensive development, or viewed it as a leverage for further development opportunity beggars the question as to why the CCS when it has other immediate comparable options within its ownership, capable of accommodating the Plans Strategic Housing Policy needs, wishes to place a real and unnecessary risk on compromising the continued existence, of this unique and extremely important cliff land area.

I would like to complete this particular issue by stating that in some parts of the country where LDP processes have been completed, Developers have, through legal loopholes borne out of an amended National Planning Policy where the presumption is in favour of development, have to-date obtained residential planning approval for a current total of 25 thousand dwellings within the green belt, and outside of the Plans designated housing zones.

Again this affords little comfort in relying upon policy which has been proven, can be challenged, so please CCS, do not provide a foothold for unintended but very serious consequences that will bring about ongoing risk to our AONB.

We are not alone in our efforts objecting against this proposal, not, I must emphasise, against the housing market need, but for the provision to be met on such an important site.

I would like to quote from Mumbles Community Council comprehensive commissioned report on the proposal, undertaken by Carlisle, Davies and North Planning Consultants which incorporates a number of our concerns, and states, ***“From the above appraisal of the site, it is evident that there are significant flaws in the proposed allocation of this site. Most obviously, it will result in around 30 dwellings being built on land within the defined AONB. Even if the site was outside of the AONB, it clearly is part of a significant landscape area***

that serves an important purpose in dividing the urban edge of Swansea from the sensitive coastal area between Limeslade Bay and Langland Bay. This encroachment of urban form towards the coastline across valued open land would also likely have an effect upon users' enjoyment of the open access land and of the rights of way that are within and near to the candidate site. There will be associated visual effects upon local residents as well as members of the public rights of way.

Parts of the site also appear to be at risk of flood from surface water run-off, a fact that would be amplified by the introduction of built development to a currently greenfield site; the increased risk of pollution along the run off to the sea is also a noteworthy issue. Moreover, there are potentially ground conditions that could have a considerable effect on any development of this site, and indeed in turn could be accentuated by development taking place. They further state that "We understand that the entire undeveloped area of Thistleboon is subject to subsidence. There are Roman mines in the area that lead underground from cliffs into the land beneath the site. There are also sink holes and collapsed caves including surface water flood risk. Indeed we are advised that much of the local area is characterised by fissures, active sinks and collapsed cave chambers.

Another significant issue affecting this site they state is the access problem and related transport and highway issues. Development of around 30 units would continue to add to traffic problems within Mumbles, particularly because there is no route to the site that avoids complex junctions, pinch points, steep hills or Mumbles Road. Although an hourly bus service does pass the site it is inevitable that there will be an increase in the use of private car as a consequence of development, especially due to the relative inaccessibility of community facilities and shops from the site by foot or by bicycle.

The highway network in the immediate vicinity of the site is also extremely substandard. Substantial works would be required to improve this, which even if they could be achieved, would likely be at the expense of residential amenity and ecological/landscape features.

Their final and concluding narrative states, "It is concluded that on the basis of the current available evidence this allocation would render the LDP unsound and as such we object to the proposed allocation.

On that note Chairman we submit our oral presentation which we respectfully request you will take into consideration for review. Thank you.

OY016 Mr Geraint John (Site Promoter)

Good morning Members, my name is Geraint John, planning consultant on behalf of the site promoter – Edenstone Homes.

As Members will be aware, the Council seeks to allocate land at Higher Lane as a 'Gower Fringe (Affordable / Older Persons) Housing Site'. It is evidenced within the

Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which supports and underpins the emerging LDP, that there is a pressing need for such accommodation.

The LDP Preferred Strategy identifies that the only opportunities for housing in this part of the City are through small scale rounding off 'Rural / Urban Fringe Extension' sites (such as this). Importantly the allocation of this site would 'free up' under-occupied homes in the settlement, and provide much needed 'churn' to the housing market in this part of the City.

The proposed allocation, which has of course been rigorously assessed by Council Officers through the Candidate Site process, is located immediately adjacent to the settlement, with a number of key local facilities and services being accessible by walking, cycling and public transport.

In terms of site designations, the site is not designated as a SSSI, or part of a green belt, and furthermore, as outlined within the Council's assessment of the site, occupies a low lying position which is not visible from the coastal path or sea.

The site is bound by residential development to the northern, eastern and western boundaries, and therefore occupies a suitable and acceptable 'pocket' of land within an existing development pattern, which is well screened by existing vegetation. This has been confirmed by the Officers' Candidate Site Assessment. The assessment records that the prominence of existing residential development, has "a far greater visual impact on the AONB and coastline than this site".

Furthermore, landscape and visual assessment undertaken by appropriately qualified professionals, concludes that the site has "a limited visual envelope...wider views are limited, and the site is viewed within an existing baseline of residential development".

In terms of highways and access, the existing highway alignment would be retained with minor improvements (to continue to act as a traffic calming measure), and that adequate capacity exists in the surrounding network to cater for the development. An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey has been undertaken by appropriately qualified professionals, which has concluded that the land is of low intrinsic ecological value, and consequently represents a suitable area to accommodate development.

It is noted that a public right of way crosses the site - leading south down to the cliff tops and connecting with the Wales Coastal Path. A slightly amended route will be provided within any proposed layout to ensure that this public right of way is not discontinued, and continues to integrate with the existing network. There are no constraints in regards to other infrastructure, services, and utilities, meaning there are no limitations to the deliverability of the site. The site is outside of any flood zone, and, appropriate drainage measures can and will be incorporated within any development of the site.

It is noted within the commentary associated with the Candidate Site Assessment process that Officers' do not consider the "loss of agricultural land would impact on viability of a wider agricultural holding." Indeed, Officers consider that the "New development would add to vitality/viability of the existing settlement, particularly if it

enabled families to move into currently under occupied homes vacated by older persons”.

In light of the above, the proposed allocation of the site presents a suitable, viable and deliverable development opportunity that can provide for, and is wholly in line with, the policy provisions and aspirations of the Plan. Accordingly, the site will make a significant contribution to achieving the housing aspirations for much needed affordable and older persons housing in the Gower fringe area, and it is respectfully requested that the site’s continued allocation in the Plan is endorsed as such.

APPENDIX 2: DETAILS OF HEARINGS PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS

- The summaries do not include observations made by members of Planning Committee during consideration of the proposed allocations.
- Sites not recommended for allocation by the Committee are highlighted grey in the schedule and the site capacity recorded as 0

Central SHPZ

Castle

Candidate Site (CS) Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
CA012	Sailbridge Site, East Burrows Rd	50	Reported: 1 June 2015 – deferred for site visit Site visit: 29 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan subject to displaced car parking needs being addressed in the future development brief
CA013	Site 9, Trawler Road PETITION SITE	30	Reported: 1 June 2015 Mr Woolliscroft (petitioner) and Cllr Crouch spoke against the site being included. Mr North (CCS Corporate Property) addressed Committee as site promoter Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan subject to greenspace being included in the development. Reconsidered at the meeting on 8 June 2015 and deferred for site visit. Site visit: 29 June 2015 attended by petitioners Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan and that the site be subject of a development brief including retention of as much of the site as open space and limiting unit numbers to 30
CA014	Vetch Field, Glamorgan St	40	Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Crouch spoke against the site being included Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

			Reconsidered at the meeting on 8 June 2015 and deferred for site visit. Site visit: 29 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CA022 [Strategic Site I]	Central Area and Waterfront (non-specific sites)	1000+	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		1120	

Landore

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
LA001	Land at 66-70 Morfa Road	50	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LA002	Land at former Unigate Dairy, Morfa Rd	60	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LA005	Former Hafod Morfa Copperworks	40	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LA007	Pipehouse Wharf Council Depot	50	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		200	

Uplands

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
UP004	Llwyn Y Bryn Campus	200	Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Bayliss reiterated his comments contained within the report. A submission by Cllr May was reported Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
UP005	Townhill Campus	150	<p>Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Bayliss and Cllr Davies raised concerns in respect of the site. A submission by Cllr May was reported Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan, subject to the development brief seeking to access the site from Townhill Road and secure the non-listed retention of the original main building.</p>
Total		350	

Central Total		1670	
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East SHPZ

Bonymaen

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
BM002	Land between Bog Rd and Cefn Hengoed Rd, Llansamlet	70	<p>Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Evans raised concerns on behalf of local ward members in relation to all sites in the ward Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
BM007	Land at Upper Bank, Nantong Way	180	<p>Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Evans raised concerns on behalf of local ward members in relation to all sites in the ward Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
BM012	Land north of Cefn Hengoed School	0	<p>Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Evans raised concerns on behalf of local ward members in relation to all sites in the ward Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 – Capacity reduced from 100 to 80 units. Deferred for further information Reported: 14 July 2015 Not recommended for inclusion, but settlement boundary to be redrawn along Cefn Hengoed Rd to include site as white land</p>

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
BM013	Land at Jersey Rd, opp no's 16 – 38	20	Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Evans raised concerns on behalf of local ward members in relation to all sites in the ward Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
BM017	Land at rear of 17-93 Carmel Rd, Winch Wen	65	Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Evans raised concerns on behalf of local ward members in relation to all sites in the ward Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
BM025	Land at Ty Draw Road and Llanerch Rd	55	Reported: 1 June 2015 Cllr Evans raised concerns on behalf of local ward members in relation to all sites in the ward. Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		390	

Clydach

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
CL007	Land at Graigola Road	25	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CL008	Land at Tanycoed Road	20	Reported: 8 June 2015 - deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan subject to omission of easternmost field and reduction of site capacity from 70 to 20 units
CL011	Land at Ramsey Road	60	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
CL015	Former Teachers Centre, Gellionnen Rd	10	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		115	

Llansamlet

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
LS008	Talycoppa Farm, Llansamlet	150	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LS009	Land adj. Heol Las, Birchgrove	50	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LS015	Land at Midland Place, Llansamlet	30	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LS021	Heol Ddu Farm, Llansamlet	10	Reported: 11 August 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LS022	Gwernllwynchwyth House, Llansamlet	50	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LS023	Fredrick Place, Llansamlet PETITION SITE	20	Reported: 1 June 2015 Mr Thornton (petitioner) spoke against the site being included. Mr Bacon (CCS Corporate Property) addressed Committee as site promoter Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by Cllr U Clay and Cllr Matthews Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LS031	Former Four Seasons Club, Trallwn	30	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		340	

St Thomas

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
ST006 [Strategic Site]	Fabian Way Corridor	525+	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
ST010	Former St Thomas Station, Pentreguinea Rd	110	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
ST012	Land at David Williams Terrace	15	Reported: 1 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		650	
East Total		1495	

North SHPZ

Cockett

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
CO003	Former Walkers Factory, Pontarddulais Rd, Cadle	100	Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CO004	Land adj. 114 Brithwen Road, Waunarlyydd	15	Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CO010 [Strategic Site]	Land north, south west and west of Titanium Road; north of Ystrad Road; north and south of Carmarthen Road and south of Swansea Road and west of Hospital Road	800+	Reported: 4 June 2015 A statement by Cllr W Evans was reported Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CO013	Land adj Cockett Pond, Cockett PETITION SITE	50	Reported: 4 June 2015 Mrs Crossley (petitioner) spoke against the site being included. Mr Bacon (CCS Corporate Property) addressed Committee as site promoter Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by petitioner Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CO018	Land off Penrhos Place, Gendros	60	Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CO027	BT Depot, Gors Avenue, Townhill	30	Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
CO037	Land at Cockett House, Cockett	30	Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		1085	

Cwmbwrla

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
CW004	Manselton Primary School, Manor Road	30	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
CW005	Cwmbwrla Primary School, Stepney St	20	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		50	

Morrison

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
MR011	Land at Rhyd Y Pandy Rd Pantlasau	0	<p>Reported: 4 June 2015 - deferred for site visit Cllr Sullivan spoke against the site being included Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by Cllr Sullivan and Cllr Jardine Reported: 30 June 2015 Not recommended (10 units) for inclusion within the Deposit Plan. Proposed settlement boundary to redrawn along Mynydd Gelliwastad Rd</p>
MR015	Land at rear of Glyncollen Primary School, Morrison	35	<p>Reported: 4 June 2015 - deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 - deferred for further information Reported: 14 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
MR017	Land at Brayley Road, Morrison	15	<p>Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
MR019	Land at Enfield and Cwmrhydyceirw Quarry, Morrison	300	<p>Reported: 4 June 2015 - deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by petitioners (except on site), site promoter and Cllr Evans Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
Total		350	

Mynyddbach

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
MB005 [Strategic Site]	Land off Clasemont Road, Morryston	675	Reported: 4 June 2015 - deferred for site visit Cllr Sullivan spoke against the site being included Site visits: 23 June 2015 and 14 July 2015 Reported: 14 July 2015. Capacity reduced from 750 to 600 units Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan Reported: 11 August 2015. Site expanded to the east and capacity increased by 75 units Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
MB009	Land at Mynydd Garnllwyd Rd, Morryston	95	Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		770	

Penderry

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
PD001	Land at Cadle, Fforestfach	50	Reported: 11 August 2015 as part of a mixed residential/commercial scheme Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
PD002	Land between Eppynt Rd and Bettws Rd, Penlan	10	Reported: 4 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
PD024	Land north of Milford Way	40	Reported: 11 August 2015 as extension of strategic site PD039 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
PD039 [Strategic Site]	Land north of Mynydd Newydd Road	750+	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Sullivan spoke against the site being included Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan Reported: 11 August 2015 with proposed increased yield of 600 units following discussions with prospective developers - increasing capacity from 750 to 1350 units Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		1450	
North Total		3705	

Greater North West SHPZ

Gorseinon

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
GO001	Land east of Pontarddulais Road	90	<p>Reported: 8 June 2015 Cllr D Lewis raised concerns in relation to this site Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 6 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
GO007	Parc Melin Mynach	0	<p>Reported: 8 June 2015 Cllr D Lewis raised concerns in relation to this site Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 6 July 2015 – reduced in capacity from 250 to 150 units and site area redrawn. Deferred for further information Reported: 14 July 2015 – deferred for further information Reported: 11 August 2015 - removal proposed given viability and deliverability concerns Not recommended for inclusion, but retained as white land within settlement boundary</p>
GO008	Land at Parc Melin Mynach & Heol Eifion	25	<p>Reported: 8 June 2015 Cllr D Lewis raised concerns in relation to this site Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 Reported: 6 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
Total		115	

Gowerton

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
GT005	Former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery, Gorwydd Rd, Gowerton PETITION SITE	90	Reported: 4 June 2015 Mr Higgon (petitioner) and Cllr Jones spoke against the site being included. Philippa Cole (site promoter) spoke in favour of the site Deferred for site visit Site visit: 29 June 2015 attended by petitioners and Cllr Jones Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
GT006	Land to the east of Fairwood Terrace, Gowerton	35	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Jones spoke against the site being included Deferred for site visit Site visit: 29 June 2015 attended by local residents and site promoter Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		125	

Kingsbridge

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
KB012 [Strategic Site]	Land at Garden Village	750	Reported: 8 June 2015 A statement by Cllr W Evans was reported Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
KB014	Land at West Street, Gorseinon	20	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
KB015	Land to south of Highfield, Loughor Road	60	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan Site Visit: 23 June 2015 for information Reported: 11 August 2015 to clarify amended site area. Capacity unchanged Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		830	

Llangyfelach

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
LF001	Walters Yard, off Swansea Road, Pontlliw	65	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Sullivan spoke against the site being included Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by Cllr Sullivan and site promoter Reported: 6 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LF002	Land at Carmel Rd and Bryntirion Rd, Pontlliw	100	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Sullivan spoke against the site being included Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
LF009 [Strategic Site]	Land adj Former Felindre Tinplate Works	850+	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Sullivan spoke against the site being included Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
LF011	The Poplars, Pontlliw	15	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Sullivan spoke against the site being included Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by Cllr Sullivan Reported: 6 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		1030	

Lower Loughor

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
LL003	Beili Glas, Glebe Road	60	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		60	

Penllergaer

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
PG002 [Strategic Site]	Land at Parc Mawr Farm PETITION SITE	750	Reported: 4 June 2015 Mr Harris (petitioner, on behalf of Penllergaer Community Council) and Cllr Fitzgerald spoke against the site being included. Robin Williams (site promoter) spoke in favour of the site Deferred for site visit Site visit: 14 July 2015 attended by petitioners, site promoter and Cllr Fitzgerald Reported: 14 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
PG004	Land at Penllergaer Civic Offices	80	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Fitzgerald spoke against the site being included Deferred for site visit Site visit: 14 July 2015 Reported: 14 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
PG006	Land north of Llewellyn Road	50	Reported: 4 June 2015 Cllr Fitzgerald spoke against the site being included. Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		880	

Penyrheol

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
PY012	Land at Tyrisha Farm, Grovesend	45	Reported: 8 June 2015 - deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by site promoter and Community Councillor Reported: 6 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
PY013	Land at Brynafon Rd, Gower View Rd, Clos Cwrt Y Carne	225	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		270	

Pontarddulais

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
PT002 [Strategic Site]	Land north of Pontarddulais PETITION SITE	720	Reported: 8 June 2015. Dr Susan Barnes (petitioner) and Suzy Davies (AM) spoke against the site being included. Pete Sulley and Chris Jenkins (site promoters) spoke in favour of the site. Cllr Downing and Cllr Harris raised concerns in respect of traffic infrastructure in the locality. Deferred for site visit Site visit: 23 June 2015 attended by petitioners, site promoters, Cllr Downing and Cllr Harris Reported: 6 July 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
PT017	Land at Bolgoed Road PETITION SITE	50	Reported: 8 June 2015 Dr Susan Barnes (petitioner) spoke against the site being included. Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
PT023	Land east of Carreg Teilo	30	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		800	

Upper Loughor

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
UL001	Land South of former Cae Duke Colliery	30	Reported; 11 August 2015 Cllr Robert Smith raised concerns in relation to the site Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
UL002	Land at Heol Pentre Bach PETITION SITE	40	Reported: 8 June 2015 Francis Sinfield (petitioner) spoke against the site being included. Robin Williams (site promoter) spoke in favour of the site Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
UL008	Land off Borough Rd, Loughor	0	Site Visit: 11 August 2015 Reported: 11 August 2015 Cllr Robert Smith spoke against the site being included Not recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
UL015	Land south of Glebe Road	130	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		170	
Great North West Total		4310	

West SHPZ

Dunvant

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
DU003	Land r/o 104 Killan Rd	15	Reported: 11 June 2015 Cllr Raynor raised concerns in relation to the site. Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		15	

Killay South

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
KS001	Land off Rowan Close PETITION SITE	0	Reported: 8 June 2015 Mrs C Thomas (petitioner) and Cllr J Jones spoke against the site (10 units) being included. Deferred for a site visit Site Visit: 29 June 2015 attended by petitioner and Cllr Jones Reported: 30 June 2015 Not recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		0	

Killay North

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
KN004	Hendrefoilan Student Village	300	Reported: 8 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		300	

Sketty

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
SK011	Land to north of Llwyn Mawr Road, Tycoch	25	Reported: 11 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
SK017	Cefn Coed Hospital, Cockett PETITION SITE	500	Reported: 11 June 2015 Petitioners did not take up invite to address committee Cllr Philpott on behalf of Sketty ward members and Paul Vining (site promoter) spoke in relation to this site Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		525	

West Cross

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
WC004	Clyne Common off Chestnut Avenue PETITION SITE	0	Reported: 11 June 2015 Betty Ballman (petitioner) spoke against inclusion of the site. Geraint John (site promoter) and Cllr Child spoke in favour of the site (50 units) Deferred for site visit Site visit: 29 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 Not recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
WC009	Former Eastmoor Nursery, Chestnut Avenue	20	Reported: 11 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		20	
West Total		860	

Gower SHPZ

Gower

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
GW002	Land adj Boarlands Estate, Port Eynon PETITION SITE	10	Reported: 11 June 2015 Mr Herbert (petitioner) and Mr Attwell (petitioner) spoke against the site being included. Mr King (site promoter) spoke in favour of the site Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
GW010	Land at Tyle House Farm, Burry Green	0	Reported: 11 June 2015 - deferred for site visit (10 units) Site visit: 29 June 2015 - community councillor attended Reported: 30 June 2015 Not recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
GW023	Land at Monksland Road, Scurlage	25	Reported: 11 June 2015 - deferred for site visit Site visit: 29 June 2015 Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		35	

Oystermouth*

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
OY003	Land at Thistleboon Caravan Park PETITION SITE	Boundary change	<p>Reported: 11 June 2015 Mr Smith (petitioner) spoke against inclusion of the site within the settlement boundary Deferred for site visit</p> <p>Site visit: 29 June 2015 attended by petitioners and community councillor</p> <p>Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended that the boundary change is not included within the Deposit Plan and that the existing settlement boundary remains unchanged</p>
OY016	Land at Higher Lane, Thistleboon PETITION SITE	30	<p>Reported: 11 June 2015 Mrs Burgess (petitioner) spoke against the inclusion of the site. Mr Geraint John (site promoter) spoke in favour of the site Deferred for site visit</p> <p>Site visit: 29 June 2015 attended by petitioners and community councillor</p> <p>Reported: 30 June 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan</p>
Total		30	

* Sites located within or partly within Gower AONB

Pennard

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
PN001	Land adjoining Pennard Drive, Pennard	60	Reported: 11 June 2015 Cllr James submitted written representations and spoke against the site being included Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan Site Visit: 29 June 2015 for information. Petitioners attended
Total		60	

Gower AONB Total		125	
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Gower Fringe SHPZ

Bishopston

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
BI002	Land to the rear of 51B Bishopston Rd	0	Reported: 8 June 2015 Cllr Marsh spoke against the inclusion of the site (30 units) Deferred for a site visit Site Visit: 29 June 2015 local residents, site promoter and Cllr Marsh attended Reported: 30 June 2015 Not recommended for inclusion in the Deposit Plan
Total		0	

Fairwood

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
FA008	Fairwood Hospital, Gower Road, Upper Killay PETITION SITE	25	Reported: 11 June 2015 Petitioners did not take up invite to address committee Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
FA010	Land to the East of Gowerton Rd, Three Crosses PETITION SITE	15	Reported: 11 June 2015 Petitioners did not take up invite to address committee Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
FA011 & FA014	Land adjoining Tirmynydd Rd, Three Crosses PETITION SITE	20	Reported: 11 June 2015 Petitioners did not take up invite to address committee Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
FA019	Northern end of Gowerton Road, Three Crosses PETITION SITE	Boundary change	Reported: 11 June 2015 Petitioners did not take up invite to address committee Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan
Total		60	

Newton*

CS Ref	Location	Site Capacity	Hearings process and Recommendation
NE011	Land at Summerland Lane, Caswell	60	Site Visit: 29 June 2015 Reported: 11 August 2015 Recommended for inclusion within the Deposit Plan

* Site located within Gower Fringe

Gower Fringe Total		120	
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Total Number of Units for Recommended Allocations	12285
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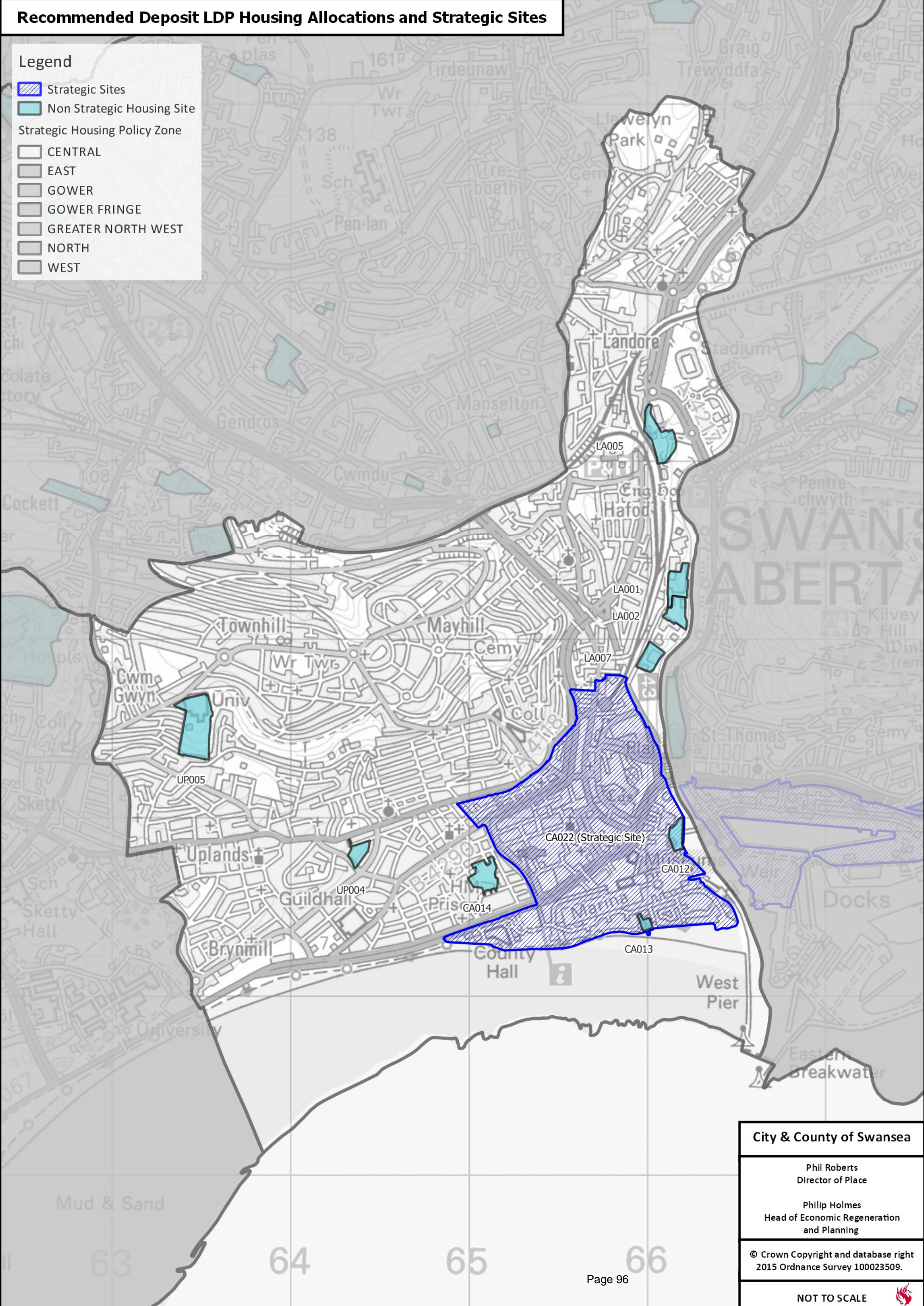
Recommended Deposit LDP Housing Allocations and Strategic Sites

Legend

-  Strategic Sites
-  Non Strategic Housing Site

Strategic Housing Policy Zone

-  CENTRAL
-  EAST
-  GOWER
-  GOWER FRINGE
-  GREATER NORTH WEST
-  NORTH
-  WEST



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Director of Place



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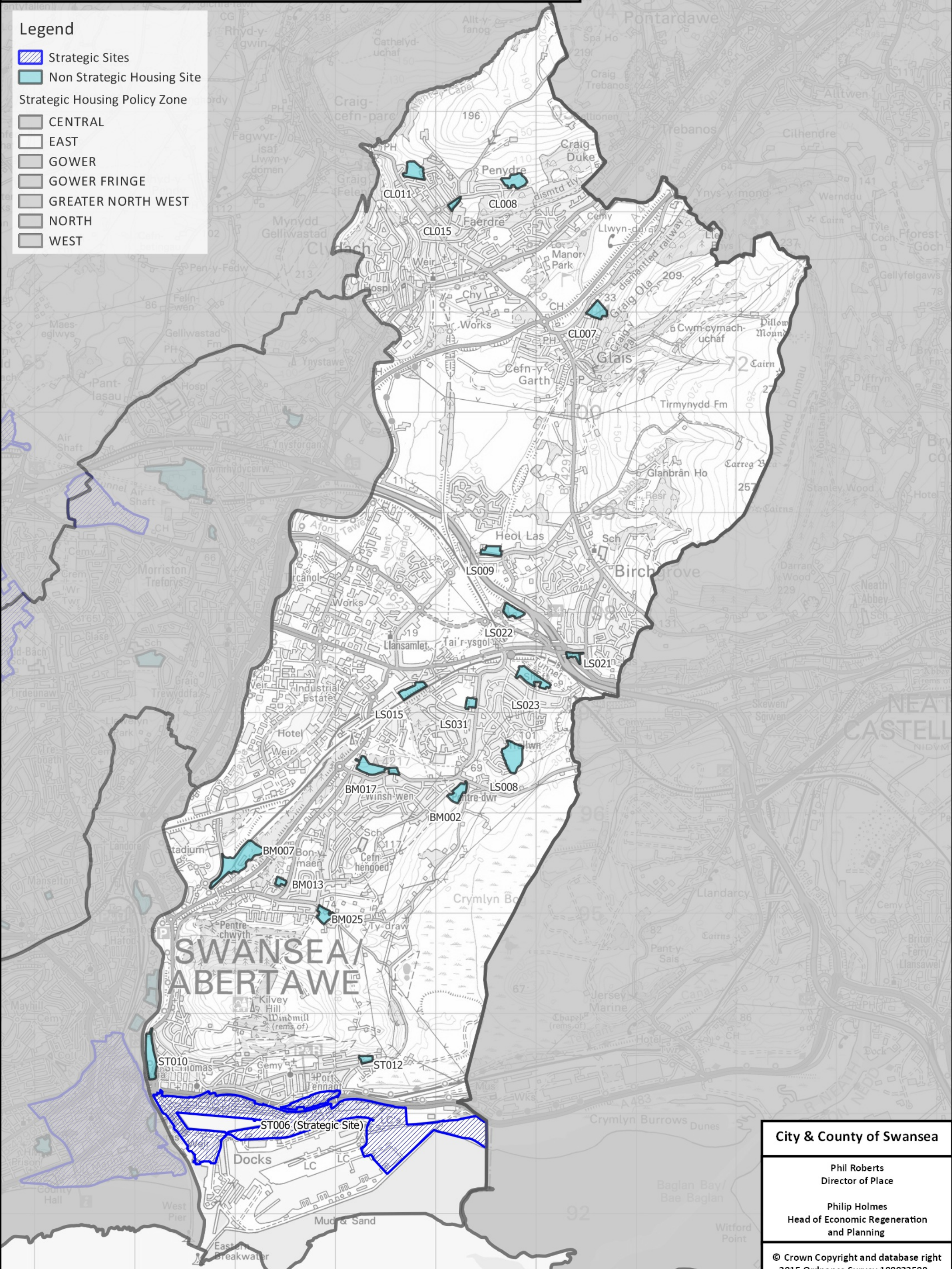
Recommended Deposit LDP Housing Allocations and Strategic Sites

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Strategic Housing Policy Zone

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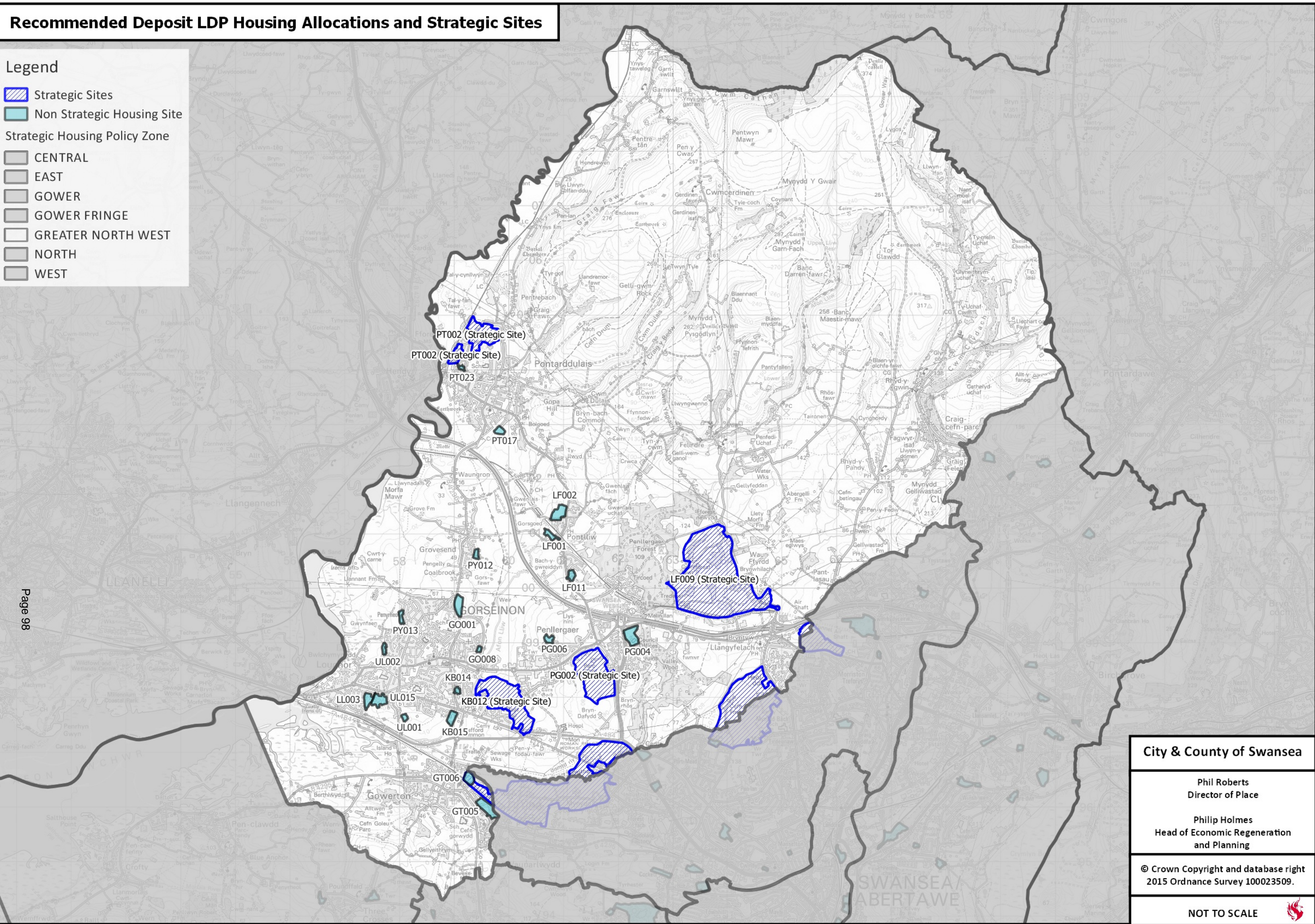
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
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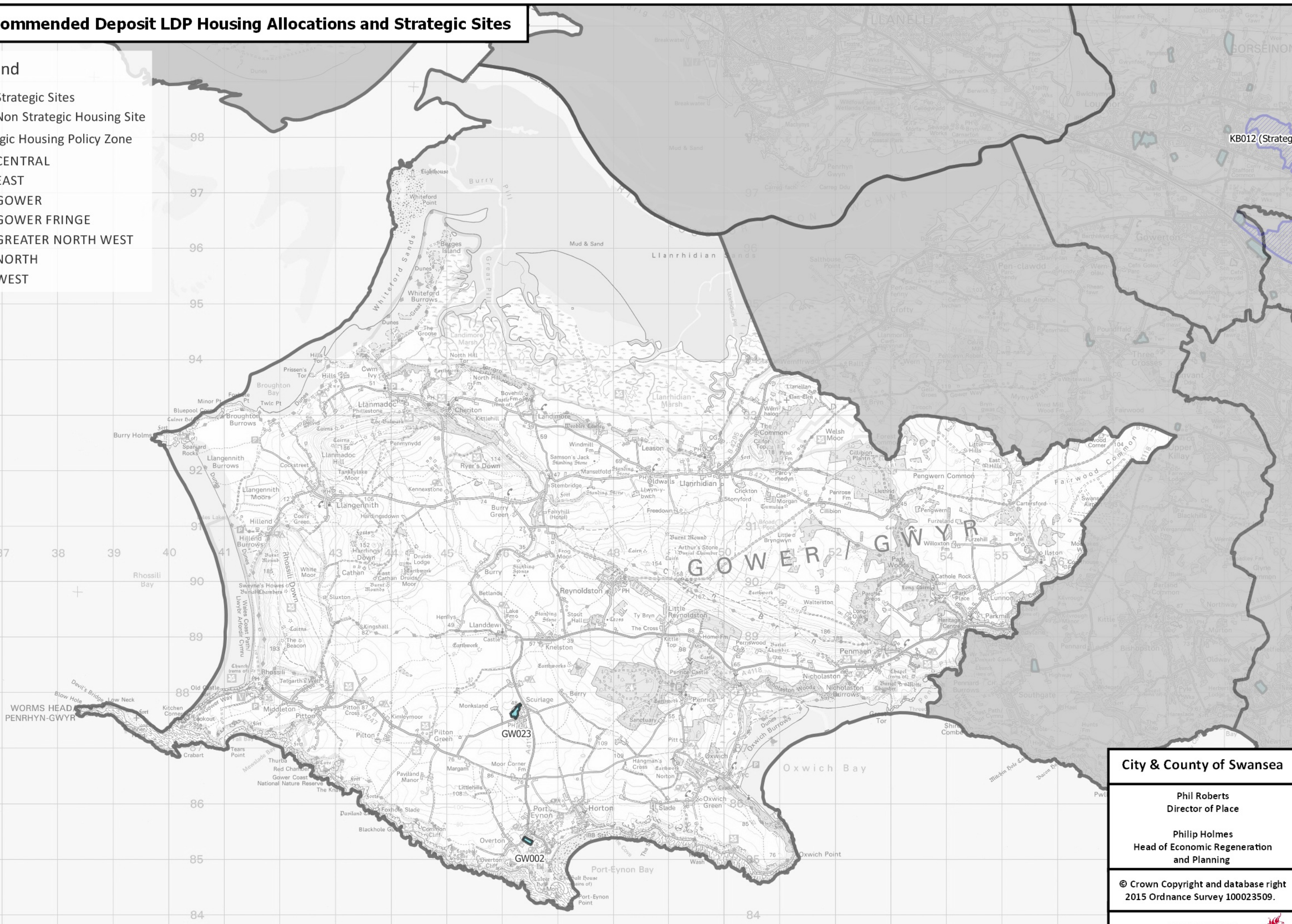



Recommended Deposit LDP Housing Allocations and Strategic Sites

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





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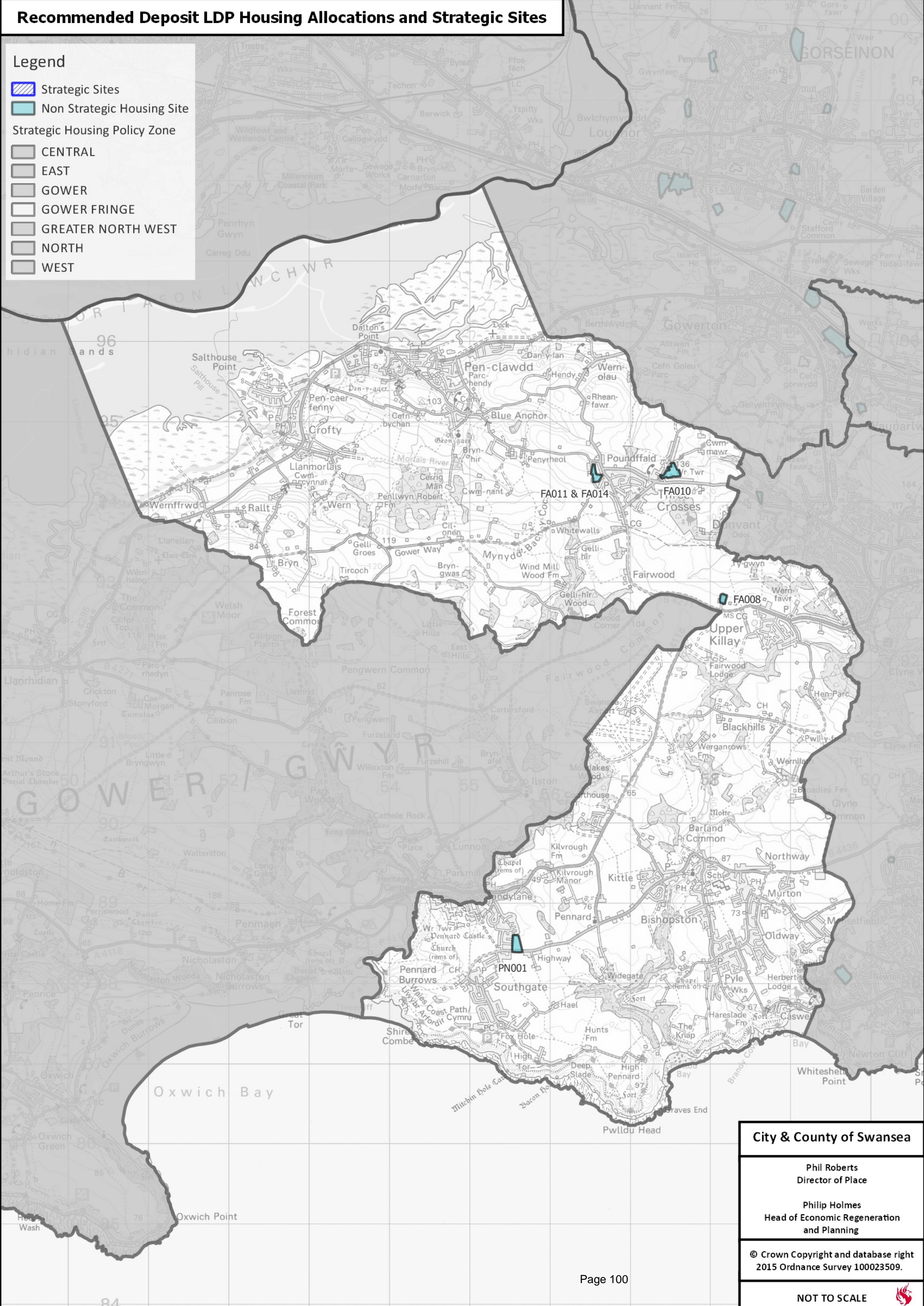


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Recommended Deposit LDP Housing Allocations and Strategic Sites

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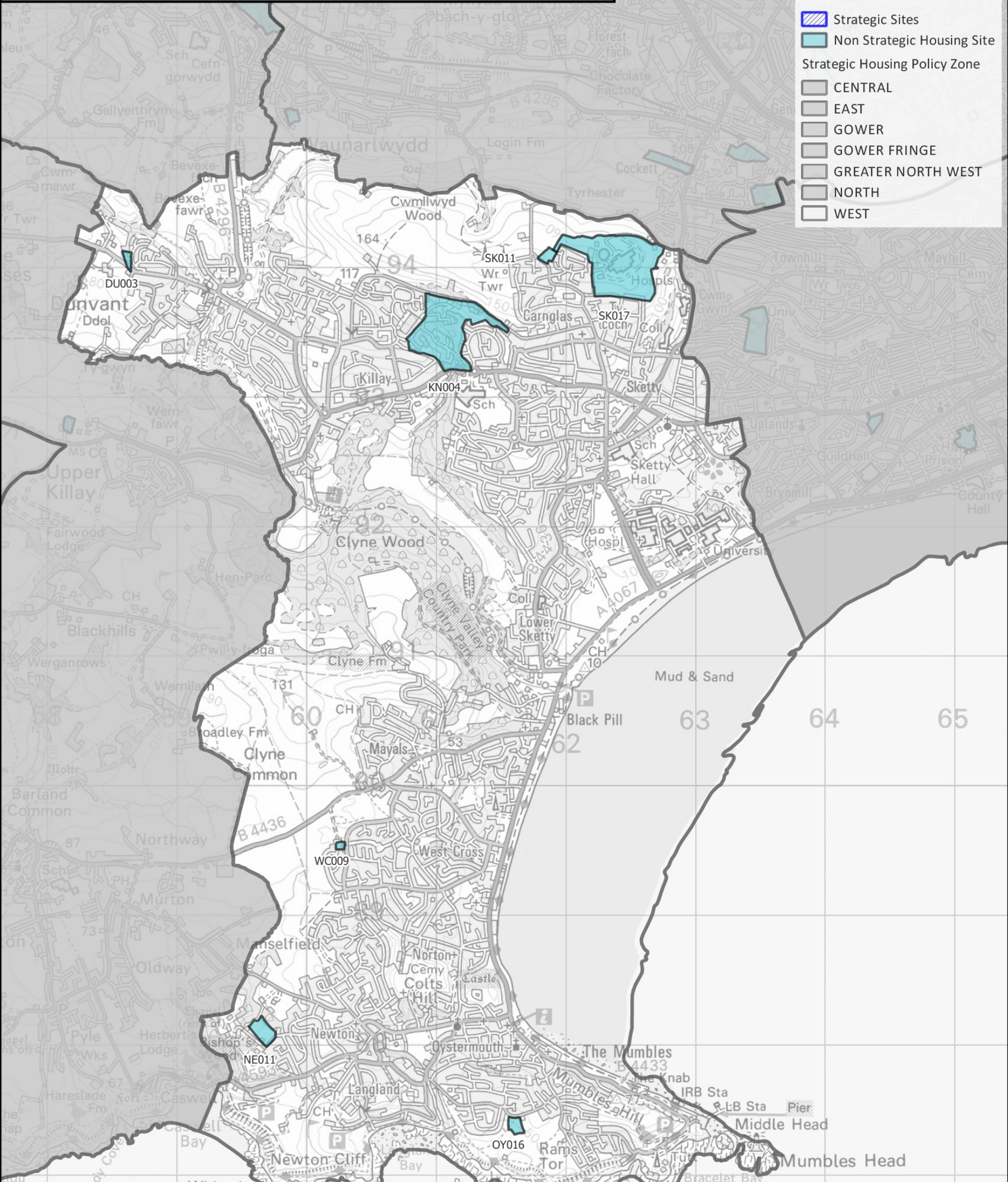
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Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council - 24 September 2015

REVIEW OF REVENUE RESERVES

Purpose:	To inform Council of the decision by Cabinet on 20 th August 2015 to agree a reclassification of Revenue Reserves of the Council following a review by the Section 151 Officer of existing and future risk.
Policy Framework:	Sustainable Swansea Budget Plan 2015/16
Reason for Decision:	It is a requirement of the Section 151 Officer to regularly review both the level of Earmarked and General Reserves held by the Council and the purpose for which they are held in the light of an ongoing assessment of future financial risks facing the Council
Consultation:	Cabinet Members, Executive Board, Legal Services and Access to Services.
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the comments made in this report and the decision of Cabinet on 20 August 2015 to approve the reclassification of Revenue Reserves as detailed in Section 3.12 of this report, are noted
Report Author:	Mike Hawes
Finance Officer:	Mike Hawes
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Equalities Officer:	Sherill Hopkins

1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a corporate responsibility to operate within available resources and to remain financially sound over the short, medium and longer term.
- 1.2 One of the key tools available to Authorities in managing its affairs is the creation and use of both General and earmarked reserves to assist in delivering services over a period longer than one financial year..
- 1.3 In terms of guidance on the review and management of reserves, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), via the Local Authority Accounting Practice, issued a bulleting in July 2014 (LAAP 99) intended to give guidance to Local Authorities on the

management and review of Reserves. This bulletin is considered best practice in terms of Local Authority Financial administration and effectively must be followed. A copy of the bulletin is at Appendix 'A' to this report.

- 1.4 Within the existing statutory and regulatory framework, it is the responsibility of Chief Financial Officers to advise Local Authorities about the level of reserves that they should hold and to ensure that there are clear protocols for their establishment and use. Reserves should not be held without a clear purpose.
- 1.5 It is the duty of the Chief Finance Officer to specifically report on the robustness of estimates and reserves when the Council considers its budget requirement and, as such, the Revenue Budget approved by Council in February 2015 made specific references to the adequacy of Reserves at that point in time.
- 1.6 Notwithstanding that specific statutory requirement, it is the duty of the Chief Finance Officer to regularly review the position regarding available reserves of the Authority having specific regard to:
 - a) The original and current need for each category of reserve held
 - b) An assessment of current and future risks (both operationally and financially) facing the Council
 - c) The impact of known and predicted funding levels likely to impact on the Council going forward.
- 1.7 This report considers the position regarding both General and earmarked reserves as at 31st March 2015 and makes specific recommendations in respect of reclassification of elements of those specific reserves.

2. Position as at 31st March 2015

- 2.1 The draft Statement of Accounts as presented to our external Auditors as at 31st March 2015 included the following entries in respect of reserves:

Usable Reserves	£'000	Purpose
General Fund	12,360	Used as an overall contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies and as a means of smoothing out annual budgets where there is significant change
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	52,782	Consisting of sums set aside for specific purposes to support Corporate and Service needs
Earmarked Capital Reserves	3,904	Consisting of sums set aside to fund known and ongoing Capital Projects
Capital receipts Reserve	12,935	Capital monies received by the Council set aside for funding ongoing Capital schemes per the Capital Programme. These sums

		are committed to current schemes and cannot be used to support Revenue expenditure
Capital Grants unapplied Account	20,965	Relates to committed funding on Capital schemes and cannot be used to support Revenue spending
Housing Revenue Account	17,135	Exists to support expenditure for Housing Revenue Account purposes only and cannot be used to support general Council Revenue or Capital Expenditure
Total usable reserves	120,081	

- 2.2 In addition the Council holds some £162.2m in unusable reserves arising purely from accounting technicalities. These cannot be used to support revenue or capital expenditure of the Council.
- 2.3 The General Fund Balance of the Council as detailed above is as per the Revenue Outturn report presented to Cabinet on 16th July 2015.
- 2.4 The draft Statement of Accounts as presented to our external Auditors (PWC) on 30th June included an analysis of earmarked reserves with the proviso that each reserve was subject to strategic review by the Section 151 Officer based on an analysis of current need and changing Council risks.
- 2.5 This report is the result of that strategic review.

3. Outcomes and recommendations

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Plan approved by Council in February 2015 forecast a cumulative deficit on General Fund Revenue Expenditure of some £85m by 2018/19 with an immediate savings requirement of £35m for 2016/17. This is in addition to the current year Directorate savings requirement of £17.167m
- 3.2 Whilst notional Directorate Savings for 2016/17 in the sum of £12.772m have been agreed, these include incremental savings across all Directorates which are dependent on meeting current year savings targets.
- 3.3 However, there is clear and compelling evidence that savings planned in the areas of Social Services and Education are unlikely to be achieved in the current year which puts future years in jeopardy. Savings targets for the current year also included a notional sum of £3m relating to reductions in asset costs and procurement savings.
- 3.4 To put it into context, if all planned savings for 2016/17 are achieved it still leaves a gap of £22.332m to be addressed.
- 3.5 The Council's strategy for dealing with ongoing budget reductions and Service reforms – Sustainable Swansea – is ongoing and it is clear that, whether as a result of commissioning reviews or emergency

action being required to produce a balanced budget going forward, there is likely to be considerable cost in relation to change,

- 3.6 Dealing with the cost of future structural change is a significant financial risk facing the given the scale and pace of budget reductions to be addressed by the Council.
- 3.7 Traditionally exit costs in relation to downsizing the organisation has been dealt with through the use of the annual contingency fund, currently standing at an annual contribution of £5.4m. However, early indications in the current year indicate substantial probable overspends in People Directorate Services and it is likely that, in future, use of the contingency fund will be required to mitigate the effect of service spending variations.
- 3.8 In assessing both the level and use of Earmarked and General reserves The LAAP bulleting sets out some of the factors that should be considered including:-
- The treatment of demand led pressures
 - The treatment of planned efficiency savings/productivity gains
 - The financial risks inherent in any significant new funding Partnerships or changes in service delivery
 - The general financial climate to which the Authority is subject.
- 3.9 Having considered the above, and in the context of a medium term financial plan that shows ongoing and sustained budget reductions, it is the opinion of the Section 151 Officer that the Council needs to prepare for significant changes in service delivery that will inevitably impact on direct employment levels going forward.
- 3.10 Indications from Local Authorities in England typically suggest a reduction in the directly employed workforce of around 30% based on experience of the austerity agenda, which includes transfers where appropriate to alternative service providers and/or job losses.
- 3.11 Changes on such a scale will inevitably come with substantial up-front costs and it is important at this time that the Council plans operationally and financially to meet those changes.
- 3.12 **To this extent, and following a review of current earmarked reserves, the following re-classification of earmarked reserves is recommended:-**

Category of Earmarked Reserve	Current Balance 31/3/15 £'000	Proposed Change £'000	Recommended Position £'000
Technical/Third party	1,465	0	1,465
Insurance	18,775	-4,000	14,775
Job evaluation	2,234	0	2,234
Transformation and efficiency	2,525	0	2,525
Schools delegated reserves	9,754	0	9,754

Equalisation reserves	3,121	-2,471	650
Commutated sums	4,945	0	4,945
Repair and Renewal funds	3,706	0	3,706
Profit share on disposals	1,027	0	1,027
Service earmarked reserves	5,230	-1,374	3,856
Restructuring costs reserve	0	7,845	7,845
Total earmarked reserves	52,782	0	52,782

3.13 The effect of this is to create a specific earmarked revenue reserve of £7.845, which is intended to be used exclusively for direct one-off costs relating to service transformation.

4. Legal implications

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires each Local Authority to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and that the Chief Finance Officer (in our case the Head of Finance and Delivery) has responsibility for those affairs.

4.2 Under guidance detailed at Appendix 'A' to this report the Chief Finance Officer is required at all times to monitor the purpose and use of Reserves.

5 Access to Service implications

5.1 Having assessed the current planned use of earmarked reserves there are no significant equalities implications arising from these proposals

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 'A' – LAAP bulletin 99

LAAP BULLETIN 99

Local Authority Reserves and Balances

July 2014

The Local Authority Accounting Panel issues LAAP Bulletins to assist practitioners with the application of the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, SeRCOP and Prudential Code, and to provide advice on emerging or urgent accounting issues. Bulletins provide influential guidance that is intended to be best practice, but are not prescriptive and do not have the formal status of the Code, SeRCOP or Prudential Code.

Please address any queries to CIPFA Technical Enquiry Service for CIPFA members and students
technical.enquiry@cipfa.org.uk

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. LAAP Bulletin 55 (Guidance note on local authority reserves and balances) was issued in February 2003. This was followed by its replacement in 2008 by LAAP Bulletin 77. LAAP Bulletin 77 included a number of events and changes that occurred including the publication of the Prudential Code and the beginnings of the financial downturn. Since the issue of LAAP Bulletin 77, the IFRS-based Code¹ has been published and this bulletin has been updated to reflect the new requirements of that Code. In addition, during a period of financial austerity for the public sector, the Local Authority Accounting Panel considers that it is necessary to update the guidance on local authority reserves and balances.
2. The “New Reporting Framework” described in LAAP Bulletin 55 has now largely been overtaken by statutory requirements, but is included in Appendix A for information.
3. The advice previously provided by LAAP Bulletin 77 which focussed on the financial impact of flooding is included in Appendix B.
4. Further resources and information are provided at Appendix C.
5. Relevant extracts from the IFRS–based Code are provided at Appendix D.

PURPOSE

6. This bulletin provides guidance to local authority chief finance officers in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales on the establishment and maintenance of local authority reserves and balances.

APPLICATION

7. In England, Scotland and Wales the guidance is applicable to local authorities, joint committees and joint boards of principal authorities.
8. In England and Wales the guidance is applicable to Police and Crime Commissioners, Chief Constables and fire and rescue authorities.
9. In Northern Ireland the guidance applies to all district councils.
10. The general principles set out in this guidance apply to an authority’s General Fund, Council Fund, Police Fund and, where appropriate, to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
11. The advice in this bulletin relates to reserves, not provisions. The Code definitions of provisions and reserves are included in Appendix D to this bulletin for information.
12. This bulletin replaces LAAP Bulletin 77.

¹ *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* (the Code).

LEGISLATIVE / REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

13. The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. Sections 31A, 32 42A and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require billing and precepting authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. Section 93 of the 1992 Act requires Scottish authorities, in calculating council tax, to take into account 'any means by which those expenses may otherwise be met or provided for'. This includes reserves.
14. In Scotland there are explicit statutory powers under schedule 3 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 permitting certain local authorities to establish a renewal and repair fund, an insurance fund and a capital fund alongside a requirement, as in England and Wales, to maintain a General Fund (section 93 of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973). LASAAC has published guidance on reserves which is available from the LASAAC website. In Northern Ireland, Section 9 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 enables councils to maintain other funds in addition to the General Fund. Local authorities may however ' earmark' specific parts of the General Fund reserve. This earmarking of a proportion of the General Fund is referred to in this Bulletin as Earmarked Reserves.
15. There are also a range of safeguards in place that help to prevent local authorities over-committing themselves financially. These include:
 - the balanced budget requirement:
 - England, sections 31A, 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended
 - Wales, sections 32 and 43 and Scotland, 93 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and
 - section 85 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999
 - chief finance officers' duty to report on robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves (under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003) when the authority is considering its budget requirement (England and Wales)
 - chief finance officers' duty to report on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves (under sections 4 and 6 of the Local Government and Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
 - the legislative requirement for each local authority to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and that the chief finance officer / proper officer has responsibility for the administration of those affairs section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 1 of the Local Government and Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
 - the requirements of the Prudential Code.
16. These requirements are reinforced by section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 which requires the chief finance officer in England and Wales to report to all the authority's councillors if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget. This would include situations where reserves have become seriously depleted and it is forecast that the authority will not have the resources to meet its expenditure in a particular financial year. The issue of a section 114 notice cannot be taken lightly and has serious operational implications. Indeed, the authority's full council must meet within 21 days to consider the s114 notice and

during that period the authority is prohibited from entering into new agreements involving the incurring of expenditure.

17. Whilst it is primarily the responsibility of the local authority and its chief financial officer to maintain a sound financial position, external auditors will confirm that there are no material uncertainties about going concern. Even where as part of their wider role auditors have to report on an authority's financial position, it is not their responsibility to prescribe the optimum or minimum level of reserves for individual authorities or authorities in general.
18. CIPFA's Prudential Code requires chief finance officers in local authorities to have full regard to affordability when making recommendations about the local authority's future capital programme. Such consideration includes the level of long term revenue commitments. Indeed, in considering the affordability of its capital plans, the authority is required to consider all of the resources available to it/estimated for the future, together with the totality of its capital plans and revenue forecasts for the forthcoming year and the following two years.

ROLE OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (PROPER OFFICER IN SCOTLAND)

19. Within the existing statutory and regulatory framework, it is the responsibility of chief finance officers (proper officer in Scotland) to advise local authorities about the level of reserves that they should hold and to ensure that there are clear protocols for their establishment and use. Reserves should not be held without a clear purpose.
20. CIPFA and the Local Authority Accounting Panel consider that local authorities should establish reserves including the level of those reserves based on the advice of their chief finance officers. Authorities should make their own judgements on such matters taking into account all the relevant local circumstances. Such circumstances vary. A well-managed authority, for example, with a prudent approach to budgeting should be able to operate with a level of general reserves appropriate for the risks (both internal and external) to which it is exposed. In assessing the appropriate level of reserves, a well-managed authority will ensure that the reserves are not only adequate but are also necessary. There is a broad range within which authorities might reasonably operate depending on their particular circumstances.
21. Section 26 of the Local Government Act 2003 gives Ministers in England and Wales a general power to set a minimum level of reserves for local authorities. However, the government has undertaken to apply this only to individual authorities in the circumstances where an authority does not act prudently, disregards the advice of its chief finance officer and is heading for serious financial difficulty. This accords with CIPFA's view that a generally applicable minimum level is inappropriate, as a minimum level of reserve will only be imposed where an authority is not following best financial practice (including the guidance in this bulletin).

TYPES OF RESERVE

22. When reviewing their medium term financial plans and preparing their annual budgets local authorities should consider the establishment and maintenance of reserves. These can be held for three main purposes:
 - a working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing – this forms part of general reserves;
 - a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies – this also forms part of general reserves;

- a means of building up funds, often referred to as earmarked reserves (or earmarked portion of the general fund in Scotland - see below), to meet known or predicted requirements; earmarked reserves are accounted for separately but remain legally part of the General Fund.

Category of Earmarked Reserve	Rationale
Sums set aside for major schemes, such as capital developments or asset purchases, or to fund major reorganisations	Where expenditure is planned in future accounting periods, it is prudent to set aside resources in advance.
Insurance reserves (note that the Insurance Fund is a statutory fund in Scotland)	Self-insurance is a mechanism used by a number of local authorities. In the absence of any statutory basis (other than in Scotland) sums held to meet potential and contingent liabilities are reported as earmarked reserves where these liabilities do not meet the definition of a provision under the requirements of the Code's adoption of IAS 37 <i>Provisions, Contingent Assets and Liabilities</i>).
Reserves of trading and business units	Surpluses arising from in-house trading may be retained to cover potential losses in future years, or to finance capital expenditure.
Reserves retained for service departmental use	Authorities may have internal protocols that permit year-end underspendings at departmental level to be carried forward.
Reserves for unspent revenue grants	Where revenue grants have no conditions or where the conditions are met and expenditure has yet to take place. The Code Guidance Notes recommend that these sums are held in earmarked reserves (see paragraph 29 below).
Schools balances	These are unspent balances of budgets delegated to individual schools.

FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR RESERVES

23. The IFRS-based *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* (the Code) introduced the Movement in Reserves Statement to local authority financial statements in the 2010/11 financial year. This Statement presents the movement in the year of the reserves of the authority analysed into usable reserves, (eg General Fund, HRA Balances and earmarked reserves) and unusable reserves (see paragraph 24 below).
24. Unusable reserves arise out of the interaction of legislation and proper accounting practice either to store revaluation gains or as adjustment accounts to reconcile accounting requirements driven by reporting standards to statutory requirements.

These reserves², which are not resource-backed and cannot be used for any other purpose, are described below:

Revaluation Reserves

- The Revaluation Reserve - this is a reserve that records unrealised gains in the value of property, plant and equipment. The reserve increases when assets are revalued upwards, and decreases as assets are depreciated or when assets are revalued downwards or disposed of. Local authorities might benefit from these gains in the future from the continued use of the assets or from their sale. The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.
- The Available-for-Sale Financial Instruments Reserve – this is a reserve that records unrealised revaluation gains arising from holding available-for-sale investments, plus any unrealised losses that have not arisen from impairment of the assets. Local authorities might benefit in the future from the gains when the investments mature or are sold or they might be lost in falls in value.

Adjustment Accounts

- The Pensions Reserve – this is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the payments made for the year to various statutory pension schemes in accordance with those schemes' requirements and the net change in the authority's recognised liability under the Code's adoption of IAS 19 – *Employee Benefits*, for the same period. A transfer is made to or from the pensions reserve to ensure that the charge to the General Fund reflects the amount required to be raised in taxation. For example, the debit balance on the Reserve shows that an authority has made commitments to fund pensions that the Government has permitted it to fund from contributions to be made in future years.
- The Capital Adjustment Account - this is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the different rates at which assets are depreciated under proper accounting practice and are financed through the capital controls system. Statute requires that the charge to the General Fund is determined by the capital controls system. For example, the credit balance on the Account shows that an authority has generally financed capital investment in advance of receiving the benefits of that investment. The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.
- The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account – this is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the different rates at which gains and losses (such as premiums on the early repayment of debt) are recognised under proper accounting practice and are required by statute to be met from the General Fund. For example, the debit balance on the Account shows that an authority has incurred expenses on borrowings that the Government has permitted it to spread over future years.

² In addition to the Reserves included in this list authorities may hold the deferred capital receipts reserve and the accumulated absences account. Further details on these reserves are included in the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom Guidance Notes for Practitioners 2013/14 Accounts*.

- The Unequal Pay Back Pay Account - this is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the different rates at which payments in relation to compensation for previous unequal pay are recognised under proper accounting practice and are required by statute to be met from the General Fund. This account is not applicable to Scotland.
 - Collection Fund Adjustment Account – this is a specific accounting mechanism used to reconcile the differences arising from the recognition of council tax and non-domestic rates income (England)) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to those amounts required to be charged by statute to the General Fund. For example, the credit balance on the Account shows that more tax has been collected on behalf of the authority and the precepting bodies (and central government in England for non-domestic rates income) than an authority is permitted to transfer out of the Collection Fund by 31 March. This account is not applicable to Scotland.
25. Other such reserves may be created in future where developments in local authority accounting result in timing differences between the recognition of income and expenditure under proper accounting practice and under statute or regulation.
26. In addition authorities will hold the following two usable reserves:
- a Major Repairs Reserve (England and Wales), where relevant – in England this reserve records the unspent amount of HRA balances for capital financing purposes in accordance with statutory requirements for the Reserve. In Wales this represents the amounts unspent from the Major Repairs Allowance capital grant.
 - a Capital Receipts Reserve (Capital Fund in Scotland³) – this reserve holds the proceeds from the sale of assets, and can only be used for those purposes specified in the capital finance and accounting regulations⁴ in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and for capital purposes in Scotland.
27. The Code recommends that earmarked reserves are reported on the face of the Movement in Reserves Statement. Particularly significant movements might need to be reported individually on the face of the Statement to ensure key messages are presented clearly to users. However, effective reporting may either as an alternative or as a supplementary report necessitate similar disclosures in the notes to the financial statements (see paragraphs 3.4.2.41 and 3.4.2.42 of the Code which are also included in Appendix D for ease of reference).
28. When establishing reserves, local authorities need to ensure that they are complying with the Code and in particular the need to distinguish between reserves and provisions. Definitions of reserves and provisions are included in Appendix D of this Bulletin.
29. The introduction of the IFRS-based Code on 1 April 2010 has meant that grant income should be recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (and therefore against the General (Council) Fund or HRA Balances for

³ *The Statutory Basis for Accounting and Disclosing Reserves in Local Authorities in Scotland* [LASAAC, 2005] states "Useable capital receipts reserves are considered to be allowable under the power contained within Schedule 3, para 22 of the 1975 Act. Such a reserve effectively acts as a subset of the capital reserve specifically permitted by legislation."

⁴ The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003, as amended and the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.

revenue grants) where grant payment is unconditional or grant conditions have been satisfied⁵. The Code Guidance Notes recommend⁶ that where these grants have been received prior to the expenditure having taken place authorities should consider establishing earmarked reserves. This will ensure that amounts are set aside from the General (or Council) Fund and HRA balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing to meet the requirements of the grant. The amounts set aside will be posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund and HRA expenditure in future years. It is likely therefore that since the introduction of the IFRS-based Code there is an increased tendency to hold earmarked reserves.

30. The statutory reporting regime described earlier and effective financial management underpin the need for clear, transparent reporting arrangements for reserves and therefore in addition to the financial reporting requirements above, LAAP recommends that for each earmarked reserve (earmarked portion of the general fund in Scotland) held by a local authority there should be a clear protocol setting out:
- the reason for / purpose of the reserve;
 - how and when the reserve can be used;
 - procedures for the reserve's management and control; and
 - a process and timescale for review of the reserve to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.

PRINCIPLES TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

31. In order to assess the adequacy of unallocated general reserves when setting the budget, chief finance officers should take account of the strategic, operational and financial risks facing the authority. Where authorities are being reorganised, this assessment should be conducted on the basis that the services will continue to be provided, and adequate reserves will therefore be required by successor authorities. The assessment of risks should include external risks, such as flooding, as well as internal risks, for example, the ability to deliver planned efficiency savings. In England and Wales, statutory provisions require authorities to review at least once in a year the effectiveness of their system of internal control, which will include risk management. The CIPFA/SOLACE framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government* details an approach to giving assurance that risk, control and governance matters are being addressed in accordance with best practice.
32. The Codes of Audit Practice in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland make it clear that it is the responsibility of the audited body to identify and address its operational and financial risks, and to develop and implement proper arrangements to manage them, including adequate and effective systems of internal control. The financial risks should be assessed in the context of the authority's overall approach to risk management.

Budget Assumptions	Financial standing and management assessment/impact
The treatment of inflation and interest rates	The overall financial standing of the authority (level of borrowing, debt outstanding, council tax collection rates)

⁵ See Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom Section 2.3.

⁶ See *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom Guidance Notes for Practitioners 2013/14 Accounts*, paragraphs C39 and C40.

	etc.). Rises in the prices of some commodities, eg fuel, highlight the relevance of using a number of inflation rates in the budget and financial strategy, and considering whether general reserves are adequate to deal with unexpected increases. Volatility in the financial markets also points to the need to consider investment and borrowing risks and their impact on income.
Estimates of the level and timing of capital receipts	The authority's track record in budget and financial management including the robustness of the medium term plans. Authorities will also need to take into account changes in the property market, and adjust estimates and assumptions for reserves accordingly.
The treatment of demand led pressures	The authority's capacity to manage in-year budget pressures, and its strategy for managing both demand and service delivery in the longer term.
The treatment of planned efficiency savings/ productivity gains	The strength of the financial information and reporting arrangements. The authority should also be in a position to activate contingency plans should the reporting arrangements identify that planned savings or gains will either not be achieved or be delayed.
The financial risks inherent in any significant new funding partnerships, major outsourcing arrangements or major capital developments	The authority's virement and end of year procedures in relation to budget under/overspends at authority and department/directorate level. Risk management measures in relation to partnerships, including consideration of risk allocation. Contract provisions designed to safeguard the authority's position in the event of problems arising from outsourcing arrangements.
The availability of reserves, government grants and other funds to deal with major contingencies and the adequacy of provisions	The adequacy of the authority's insurance arrangements to cover major unforeseen risks. When considering insurance cover, the structure of the cover as well as the overall level of risk should be taken into account. Risk assessments should be used when balancing the levels of insurance premiums and reserves.
The general financial climate to which the authority is subject	External factors, such as future funding levels expected to be included in Spending Reviews and expected referenda principles and limits, will influence an authority's ability to replenish reserves once they have been used. Any plans for using reserves will

	need to consider the need and ability of the authority to replenish the reserves, and the risks to which the authority will be exposed whilst replenishing the reserves.
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Whilst many of these factors relate to setting the annual budget, the level of risk and uncertainty associated with these factors will be relevant in determining an appropriate level of reserves.

33. Authorities have been faced by increasing financial pressures since 2008. This has been followed by a period of significant reduction in government funding which is anticipated to continue for some time, ie the spending review 2013 announced that the government will reduce total spending in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 in real terms at the same rate as during the spending review 2010 period. Demands on local government services continue to increase. In addition to reduction in government funding other pressures include:

- councils striving to constrain council tax increases,
- reductions of income,
- new service demands and responsibilities such as:
 - the transfer of public health functions
 - the localisation of non-domestic rates retention, council tax freezes and council tax benefits/support
- severe weather and floods.

Furthermore, events such as the losses in Icelandic banks and the problems in global financial markets are likely to mean that Councils will focus on cautious investment strategies. Council budgets and reserves have remained under pressure and are likely to continue to do so for some time.

34. The many factors involved when considering appropriate levels of reserves can only be assessed properly at a local level. A considerable degree of professional judgement is required. The chief finance officer may choose to express advice on the level of balances in cash and/or as a percentage of budget (to aid understanding) so long as that advice is tailored to the circumstances of the authority. The Audit Commission Report (December 2012) *Striking a Balance* makes a number of recommendations to both Chief Finance Officers and elected members to better assist councils in their decision making. Similarly the Accounts Commission in its report *An overview of local government in Scotland 2014*⁷ commented that more needs to be done to provide information on why reserves are held, how this fits with the councils financial strategy and how they will be used. The principles and financial reporting established in this and the previous LAAP bulletins on reserves will provide for the information requirements and an appropriate framework for this.

35. The advice should be set in the context of the authority's risk register and medium term plans and should not focus exclusively on short-term considerations. Balancing the annual budget by drawing on general reserves may be viewed as a legitimate short-term option. However, it is not normally prudent for reserves to be deployed

⁷ Issued by the Accounts Commission in March 2014

to finance recurrent expenditure. CIPFA has commented⁸ that Councils should be particularly wary about using one off reserves to deal with shortfalls in current funding. Where such action is to be taken, this should be made explicit, and an explanation given as to how such expenditure will be funded in the medium to long term. Advice should be given on the adequacy of reserves over the lifetime of the medium term financial plan, and should also take account of the expected need for reserves in the longer term.

36. Events such as the floods and severe weather that occurred earlier this year (2014) and previously in the floods during the summers of 2007 and 2008 have emphasised the need for authorities to be prepared for major unforeseen events. Adequate insurance cover combined with appropriate levels of reserves will enable authorities to manage the demands placed on them in such circumstances. However, these arrangements need to take account of all possible scenarios. An example quoted in the Audit Commission report *Staying Afloat* is that the total cost of the flooding was reduced where authorities had specifically considered the impact of a wide scale, serious event affecting many assets, and had taken appropriate action, for example, negotiating insurance policies that capped the total excesses linked to one event.
37. Part of the risk management process involves taking appropriate action to mitigate or remove risks, where this is possible. This in turn may lead to a lower level of reserves being required, and it would be appropriate to consider reducing the level of balances held where appropriate action to mitigate or remove risks has been successfully undertaken. A balance will need to be found between maintaining adequate levels of reserves and investing in risk reduction measures. This balance should form part of the risk management process and be considered as part of the annual budget process.
38. Emergency financial assistance from central government may be available to assist authorities in dealing with the immediate consequences of major unforeseen events, normally under the Emergency Financial Assistance to Local Authorities scheme (commonly known as the 'Bellwin' scheme). However, there is no automatic entitlement to financial assistance, and where financial assistance is given, it will not cover all of the costs even in exceptional circumstances. Further details of the scheme are available on the relevant government web sites (links can be found in Appendix C of this bulletin). Authorities should plan to have access to sufficient resources (through reserves, insurance or a combination of both) to cover the costs of recovering from events that are likely to be unavoidable.
39. When considering the level of reserves, it would be appropriate for authorities to take into account the likely level of Government support that would be available, and to consider how the balance would be funded in the event of an unforeseen event occurring.
40. Flooding, the effects of severe weather and the impact of the problems experienced by the global financial markets are examples of external risks which local authorities may need to take into account in setting levels of reserves and wider financial planning. An assessment of external risks should not be limited to those issues, but should range more widely, to take account of all significant external risks identified through the authority's risk management processes.

⁸ See comments by CIPFA Chief Executive *Building up council reserves to protect the public from future financial problems is good financial management* – CIPFA <http://www.cipfa.org/about-cipfa/press-office/latest-press-releases/building-up-council-reserves>

EXTRACT FROM LAAP BULLETIN 55

7 A New Reporting Framework

- 7.1 The finance director has a fiduciary duty to local taxpayers, and must be satisfied that the decisions taken on balances and reserves represent proper stewardship of public funds.
- 7.2 The level and utilisation of reserves will be determined formally by the Council, informed by the advice and judgement of the finance director⁹. To enable the Council to reach its decision, the finance director should report the factors that influenced his or her judgement, and ensure that the advice given is recorded formally. Where the finance director's advice is not accepted this should be recorded formally in the minutes of the council meeting.
- 7.3 It is recommended that:
- the budget report to the Council should include a statement showing the estimated opening general reserve fund balance for the year ahead, the addition to/withdrawal from balances, and the estimated end of year balance. Reference should be made as to the extent to which such reserves are to be used to finance recurrent expenditure
 - this should be accompanied by a statement from the finance director on the adequacy of the general reserves and provisions in respect of the forthcoming financial year and the authority's medium term financial strategy
 - a statement reporting on the annual review of earmarked reserves (including schools' reserves) should also be made at the same time to the Council. The review itself should be undertaken as part of the budget preparation process. The statement should list the various earmarked reserves, the purposes for which they are held and provide advice on the appropriate levels. It should also show the estimated opening balances for the year, planned additions/withdrawals and the estimated closing balances.

⁹ LAAP Bulletin 99 normally refers to Chief Finance Officers – previous editions of this Bulletin referred to Finance Directors.

EXTRACT FROM LAAP BULLETIN 77

27. "...Alternative arrangements, for example mutual aid agreements, may help to reduce the reliance on reserves or insurance. The Pitt Review into the 2007 floods, although specifically focused on England, will be of relevance to all local authorities. This recommended that "Local authorities should continue to make arrangements to bear the cost of recovery for all but the most exceptional emergencies, and should revisit their reserves and insurance arrangements in light of last summer's floods." The Government's position remains that it is primarily the local authority's responsibility to bear such costs, and authorities should note this position when considering the appropriate level of reserves."

28. "... However, both the Pitt Review and Staying Afloat noted that most central government assistance provided to local authorities in relation to the 2007 floods was ad hoc in nature. The government has been keen to stress that they should not be seen as setting a precedent and should not be relied on in the future. Authorities will therefore need to make their own assessments of the likely level of support. "

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The Pitt Review can be downloaded from:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807034701/http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/thepittreview/final_report.html

Staying Afloat can be downloaded from:

http://archive.audit-commission.gov.uk/auditcommission/SiteCollectionDocuments/AuditCommissionReports/NationalStudies/StayingAfloat_REP14Dec07.pdf

Both reports provide additional advice to local authorities on planning for and managing the financial impacts of exceptional events.

LASAAC Guidance on Reserves in Scotland can be downloaded from:

<http://www.cipfa.org/regions/scotland/policy-and-technical/local-authority-scotland-accounts-advisory-committee/guidance-and-publications/accounting-for-interest-on-reserves>

Details of the Emergency Financial Assistance (Bellwin) Scheme can be downloaded from:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210953/The_Bellwin_Scheme_of_Emergency_Financial_Assistance_to_Local_Authorities.pdf

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/17999/Bellwin>

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/finandfunding/emergency/publications/efas-guidance-notes-14-15/?lang=en>

The Audit Commission Report *Striking a Balance* can be downloaded from:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/2012/12/striking-a-balance-improving-councils-decision-making-on-reserves/>

Accounts Commission *An overview of local government in Scotland 2014* (March 2014) can be accessed at:

http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/docs/local/2014/nr_140327_local_government_overview.pdf

Appendix D

CODE OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DEFINITIONS (AND RELEVANT EXTRACTS OF) RESERVES AND PROVISIONS

CHAPTER TWO: CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES

2.1.2.25 Reserves – the residual interest in the assets of the authority after deducting all its liabilities. The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the true economic cost of providing the authority's services, represented by the line 'Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services'. Some income and expenditure is required to be recognised on a different basis or in a different accounting period (ie in accordance with legislation) in the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. These differences are shown in the line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'. Voluntary transfers to or from the General Fund Balance and Housing Revenue Account Balance also affect the amount to be funded from council tax or council dwelling rents; these are shown in the line 'Transfers to or from reserves available to fund services'. The Movement in Reserves Statement also shows Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure, for example revaluation gains.

CHAPTER THREE: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3.4.2.41 The classification of reserves presented in the Movement in Reserves Statement shall include the following items; authorities may choose to present additional items on the face of the statement:

- a) General Fund Balance (in Scotland, includes earmarked portion of General Fund Balance)
- b) Earmarked General Fund Reserves (not Scotland) (recommended but not mandatory)
- c) Housing Revenue Account Balance (in Scotland, includes earmarked portion of Housing Revenue Account Balance)
- d) Earmarked Housing Revenue Account Reserves (not Scotland) (recommended but not mandatory)
- e) Major Repairs Reserve (England and Wales)
- f) Revenue statutory funds (Scotland)
- g) Capital Receipts Reserve (England and Wales); Capital statutory funds (Scotland)
- h) Capital Grants Unapplied Account
- i) Total usable reserves
- j) Unusable reserves
- k) Total reserves of the authority
- l) Authority's share of the reserves of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures (Group Accounts only)
- m) Total reserves (Group Accounts only).

3.4.2.42 A local authority shall present, either in the Movement in Reserves Statement or in the notes, an analysis of the amounts included in each item of the classification of reserves required by paragraph 3.4.2.41. This analysis shall present amounts held for capital purposes separately from those held for revenue purposes, and shall separately identify the total reserves held by schools.

CHAPTER EIGHT: LIABILITIES

8.2.2.9 A **provision** is a liability of uncertain timing or amount.

8.2.2.12 A provision shall be recognised when:

- an authority has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event
- it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation, and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

8.2.2.13 If the above conditions are not met, no provision shall be recognised.

8.2.2.14 In some cases it is not clear whether there is a present obligation. In these cases, a past event is deemed to give rise to a present obligation if, taking account of all available evidence, it is more likely than not that a present obligation exists at the reporting date. A past event that leads to a present obligation is called an obligating event.

Agenda Item 10.b

Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 24 September 2015

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15

Purpose:	The Council is required to approve the 2014/15 accounts on or before 30 th September 2015.
Policy Framework:	Budget and Accounts 2014/15.
Reason for Decision:	To comply with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the 2014/15 Statement of Accounts be approved.
Report Author:	Mike Hawes
Finance Officer:	Mike Hawes
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Sherill Hopkins

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The attached Statement of Accounts for the year 2014/15 is recommended to Council for approval.

2.0 Timetable for completion and audit of the 2014/15 accounts

2.1 The key dates in relation to the 2014/15 accounts process are as follows:-

29 th June 2015	The draft Statement of Accounts was completed and certified by the Section 151 Officer in line with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
17 th September 2015	Cabinet will formally consider the Auditors reports to those charged with governance in respect of both the Council and Pension Fund Accounts.

21 st September 2015	Audit Committee will consider the Auditor's reports as presented to Cabinet together with any amendments arising from audit work undertaken up to 21 st September 2015.
24 th September 2015	Council is asked to formally approve the 2014/15 Statement of Accounts.
30 th September 2015	Statutory date for the completion of the external audit of the Statement of Accounts.
20 th October 2015	Audit Committee will further consider the Auditor's reports as presented to Cabinet together with any amendments arising from audit work undertaken up to and including 30 th September 2015.

3. Changes to the format and content of the Statement of Accounts

3.1 There are no changes to the format and content of the 2014/15 Statement of Accounts.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

6. Equalities and Engagement Implications

6.1 There are no Equalities or Engagement implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: Statement of Accounts given as an Appendix to the Council Agenda.

Agenda Item 10.c

Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council - 24 September 2015

TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Purpose:	This report provides details of the Council's Treasury Management activities during 2014/15 and compares actual performance against the strategy laid down at the start of the year.
Policy Framework:	Treasury Management Policy Statement approved by Council 22 February 2010
Reason for Decision:	This report is made to Council to comply with the requirements of CIPFA's Codes of Practice and as such, there is no decision required.
Consultation:	Finance, Access to Services and Legal
Recommendation:	The report is for information. Members are asked to note the details contained in the report
Report Author:	J. Dong
Finance Officer:	M. Hawes
Legal Officer:	T Meredith
Access to Services Officer	S. Hopkins
FOR INFORMATION	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Under the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services, there is a requirement: "...for the Council to receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities".

This report summarises the activities for the year. The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities also requires the reporting of outturn Prudential Indicators for the year.

2 Executive Summary of Activities During The Year

- 2.1 The revised indicative net borrowing requirement for 2014/15 was £20.643M. Due to capacity constraints and low investment returns achievable, it was determined to utilise internal funds on an interim basis to fund capital requirements. As such no new external borrowing was undertaken in 2014/15.
- 2.2 The average interest rate on outstanding Council borrowing was 5.45%.
- 2.3 Internally Managed investments achieved a return of 0.60%. This represents an outperformance of +0.10% from the 7 day uncompounded LIBID benchmark rate of 0.50%.
- 2.4 The Council has operated within the determined treasury limits outlined in the appendices.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

5 Equality Impact Assessment Implication

- 5.1 There are no equality impact assessment implications arising directly from the report

Appendices:

Appendix A – Treasury Management Annual Report 2014/15

Background Papers:

- Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy & Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2014/15 (Feb 2014)
- Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy & Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2015/16 (Feb 2015)

Treasury Management Annual Report

2014/15

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Section

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. Introduction and Background**
- 3. Debt Portfolio**
- 4. Treasury Strategy 2014/15**
- 5. Actual Borrowing 2014/15**
- 6. Compliance with Treasury Limits**
- 7. Capital Financing Charges 2014/15**
- 8. Investment Strategy for 2014/15**
- 9. Actual Investments 2014/15**
- 10. Early Debt Repayment**

Appendices

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The net borrowing requirement identified for 2014/15 was £20.643M. Due to capacity constraints and low investment returns, it was determined to utilise internal funds on an interim basis. As such no new external borrowing was undertaken in 2014/15.
- 1.2 The average interest rate on outstanding Council borrowing was 5.45%.
- 1.3 Internally Managed investments achieved a return of 0.60%. This represents an outperformance of +0.10% from the 7 day uncompounded LIBID benchmark rate of 0.50%.
- 1.4 The Council has operated within the determined treasury limits outlined in the appendices.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Treasury Management in local government is regulated by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services (the Code). The City and County of Swansea has adopted the Code and complies with its requirements. A glossary of terms used throughout this report is included at Appendix 3.
- 2.2 The primary requirements of the Code are the:
 - § Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's Treasury Management activities
 - § Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives
 - § Receipt by the Council of an annual Treasury Management strategy report for the year ahead , a mid term update report and an annual review report of the previous year
 - § Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring Treasury Management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of Treasury Management decisions
 - § Treasury Management, in this context, is defined as:

"The management of the local authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of the optimum performance or return consistent with those risks."
- 2.3 The Council has previously received in February 2014 the Treasury Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy for 2014/15.
- 2.4 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities has been developed as a professional code of practice to support local authorities in determining their programmes for capital investment. Local authorities are required by Regulation under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 to comply with the Prudential Code.

2.5 The objective of the Code is to provide a framework for local authority capital finance that will ensure for individual local authorities that:

- Capital expenditure plans are affordable
- All borrowing and long term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels
- Treasury Management decisions are taken in accordance with professional good practice

2.6 The Code includes a set of Prudential Indicators, which are designed to support and inform local decision-making. The 2014/15 Prudential Indicators are detailed in Appendix 1.

3. Debt Portfolio

3.1 The Council's external borrowing position at the beginning and end of the year was as follows:

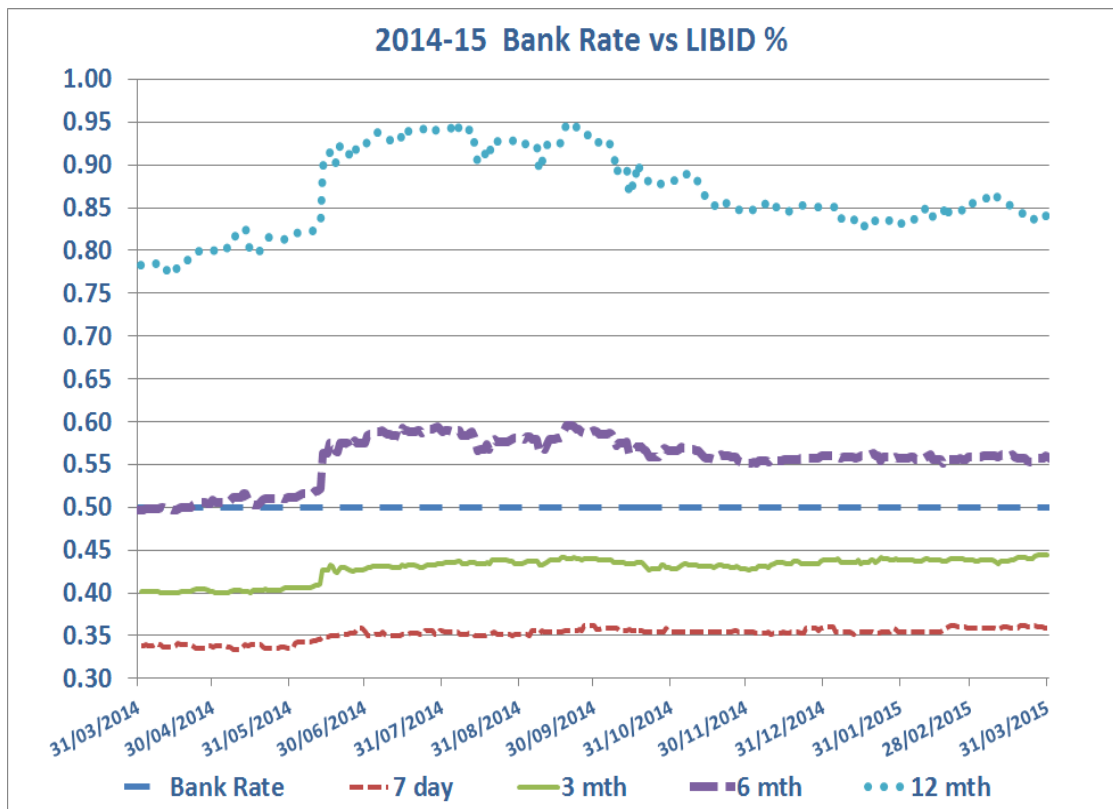
	1 April 2014		31 March 2015	
	Principal £'000	Interest Rate %	Principal £'000	Interest Rate %
Long Term Debt				
PWLB - fixed rate	220,305	6.16	212,981	6.10
Money Market (LOBO)	98,000	4.10	98,000	4.10
Local Bonds				
Short Term Debt				
Money Market	20	0.52	20	0.37
External Bodies	707	1.03	1,229	0.59
Total Debt	319,032	5.51	312,230	5.45

3.2 The average external debt portfolio interest rate was 5.45%.

4. Treasury Strategy 2014/15

- 4.1 The original market expectation at the beginning of 2014/15 was for the first increase in Bank Rate to occur in quarter 1 2015 as the unemployment rate had fallen much faster than expected through the Bank of England's initial forward guidance target of 7%. In May, however, the Bank revised its forward guidance. A combination of very weak pay rises and inflation above the rate of pay rises meant that consumer disposable income was still being eroded and in August the Bank halved its forecast for pay inflation in 2014 from 2.5% to 1.25%. Expectations for the first increase in Bank Rate therefore started to recede as growth was still heavily dependent on buoyant consumer demand. During the second half of 2014 financial markets were caught out by a halving of the oil price and the collapse of the peg between the Swiss franc and the euro. Fears also increased considerably that the ECB was going to do too little too late to ward off the threat of deflation and recession in the Eurozone. In mid-October, financial markets had a major panic for about a week. By the end of 2014, it was clear that inflation in the UK was going to head towards zero in 2015 and possibly even turn negative. In turn, this made it clear that the MPC would have great difficulty in starting to raise Bank Rate in 2015 while inflation was around zero and so market expectations for the first increase receded back to around quarter 3 of 2016.
- 4.2 Gilt yields were on a falling trend for much of the last eight months of 2014/15 but were then pulled in different directions by increasing fears after the anti-austerity parties won power in Greece in January; developments since then have increased fears that Greece could be heading for an exit from the euro. While the direct effects of this would be manageable by the EU and ECB, it is very hard to quantify quite what the potential knock on effects would be on other countries in the Eurozone once the so called impossibility of a country leaving the EZ had been disproved. Another downward pressure on gilt yields was the announcement in January that the ECB would start a major programme of quantitative easing, purchasing EZ government and other debt in March. On the other hand, strong growth in the US caused an increase in confidence that the US was well on the way to making a full recovery from the financial crash and would be the first country to start increasing its central rate, probably by the end of 2015. The UK would be closely following it due to strong growth over both 2013 and 2014 and good prospects for a continuation into 2015 and beyond. However, there was also an increase in concerns around political risk from the general election due in May 2015.
- 4.3 The Funding for Lending Scheme, announced in July 2012, resulted in a flood of cheap credit being made available to banks which then resulted in money market investment rates falling drastically in the second half of that year and continuing throughout 2014/15.
- 4.4 The UK coalition Government maintained its tight fiscal policy stance but recent strong economic growth and falling gilt yields led to a reduction in the forecasts for total borrowing in the March budget. The EU sovereign debt crisis had subsided since 2012 until the Greek election in January 2015 sparked a resurgence of fears. While the UK and its banking system has little direct exposure to Greece, it is much more difficult to quantify quite what effects there would be if contagion from a Greek exit from the euro were to severely impact other major countries in the EZ and cause major damage to their banks.
- 4.5 PWLB certainty maturity borrowing rates - the graphs and table for PWLB

rates below show, for a selection of maturity periods, the average borrowing rates, the high and low points in rates, spreads and individual rates at the start and the end of the financial year



- 4.6 The expectation for interest rates within the strategy for 2014/15 anticipated low but rising Bank Rate (starting in quarter 1 of 2015), and gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2014/15. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period. Continued uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis promoted a cautious approach, whereby investments would continue to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations, resulting in relatively low returns compared to borrowing rates.
- 4.7 In this scenario, the treasury strategy was to postpone borrowing to avoid the cost of holding higher levels of investments and to reduce counterparty risk
- 4.8 The actual movement in gilt yields meant that PWLB rates saw little overall change during the first four months of the year but there was then a downward trend for the rest of the year with a partial reversal during February

5. Actual Borrowing 2014/15

- 5.1 The Treasury Management strategy 2014/15 agreed by the Council in February 2015 was £20.643M.
- 5.2 No new PWLB or market borrowing was undertaken during the financial year 2014/15 as set out in the 2014/15 strategy above in 4.7.
- 5.3 As reported to Council in December 2014, the Council (in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)) was to enter into a financial transaction

with Welsh Government and HM Treasury to buy itself out of the HRA Subsidy system in April 2015 effective in financial year 2015/16

- 5.4 In order to facilitate the HRA Subsidy buyout in 2015/16, borrowing in respect of the HRA of £73.580M was authorised and arranged on March 31st 2015 for receipt and remittance to Welsh Government on April 2nd 2015.

6. Compliance with Treasury Limits

- 6.1 During the year, the Council operated within the limits set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 under the Prudential Code. The outturn for the prudential indicators are shown in Appendix 1.

7. Capital Financing Charges 2014/15

- 7.1 The capital financing charges made to the Council's accounts for 2014/15 including capital repayments net of discounts/premiums and interest receivable are detailed below.

	Actual 2013/14		Actual 2014/15	
	£'000	Interest Rate %	£'000	Interest Rate %
Housing Revenue A/c	4,694	4.80	4,329	4.52
General Fund	27,009	4.68	27,454	4.38

- 7.2 The interest rates charged differ from the average rate of interest for external debt due to the fact that part of the Council's borrowing for capital purposes is funded by the investment of internal reserves and the use of internal balances and application of discounts/premia.

8. Investment Strategy for 2014/15

- 8.1 Bank Rate remained at its historic low of 0.5% throughout the year; it has now remained unchanged for six years. Market expectations as to the timing of the start of monetary tightening started the year at quarter 1 2015 but then moved back to around quarter 3 2016 by the end of the year. Deposit rates remained depressed during the whole of the year, primarily due to the effects of the Funding for Lending Scheme
- 8.2 Overlaying the relatively poor investment returns were the continued counterparty concerns, most evident in the Euro zone.
- 8.3 As a result of the above, a cautious borrowing and investment strategy was implemented in 2014/15. The paramount consideration in making investments was the security of the investment. Given the low interest rates achievable on Council investments, a decision was made to internally finance any new capital borrowing requirement. This resulted in a lower net interest charge to the Council and reduced risk in relation to security of investment without incurring cost of carry (i.e borrowing at a higher rate than is available for investment)

- 8.4 The Council's investment policy is governed by WAG guidance, which was implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on February 2015. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on our Treasury Advisors' investment matrix based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies supplemented by additional market data such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps information, bank share prices etc. New investments were restricted to UK only institutions which satisfied these criteria.

9. Actual Investments 2014/15

- 9.1 The Council manages its cashflow and core balance investments internally, having realised its cash balances held with its external cash fund manager during the financial year. These balances were invested on the Money Market via brokers or directly with banks and building societies, other local authorities and the Debt Management Office (DMO) within the criteria set out in 8.4 above. The balances held during the year were as follows:

Balance 1 April 2014	Balance 31 March 2015	Average Value 2014/15	Interest	Rate of Return	Benchmark 7 day LIBID
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	%
64,999	53,837	73,373	437	0.60	0.50

- 9.2 The interest achieved on internally managed investments was £0.437m or 0.60%. This return outperformed the benchmark seven-day rate by +0.10%.
- 9.3 As a further measure to mitigate and control risk following the financial crisis, the Authority determined to restrict investments to UK domiciled only banks and financial institutions in October 2008 resulting in an even smaller number of available counterparties to invest with. This policy was maintained in light of continued sovereign debt crises throughout Europe. The list of investments as at 31st March 2015 is attached at Appendix 4.

10. Debt Repayment/Rescheduling

- 10.1 Market conditions are constantly monitored for opportunities to repay or reschedule debt in line with good Treasury Management. No such opportunities arose in 2014/15.

Prudential Indicators

Capital Prudential Indicators	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Actual	Revised Estimate	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure			
GF	59,047	92,257	67,169
HRA	24,981	26,907	24,582
TOTAL	84,028	119,164	91,751
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	%	%	%
GF	7.29	6.55	7.96
HRA	9.04	8.07	8.01
Incremental Impact on Council Tax (Band D) or Council House Rent	£	£	£
GF	84.17	85.50	86.94
HRA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Financing Requirement	£'000	£'000	£'000
GF	314,815	330,430	333,683
Credit Arrangements	2,600	2,259	2,472
HRA	66,378	66,054	63,485
TOTAL	383,793	398,743	399,640

Treasury Management Prudential Indicators			
	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15
	Actual	Revised Estimate	Actual
	£'000 or %	£'000 or %	£'000 or %
Authorised limit for external debt	319,032	500,561	312,230
Operational boundary for external debt	319,032	454,260	312,230
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	69.28%/ £221,032	100%/ £500,561	68.61%/ £214,230
Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure	30.72%/ £98,000	40%/ £200,224	31.39%/ £98,000
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days	0	40,000	0

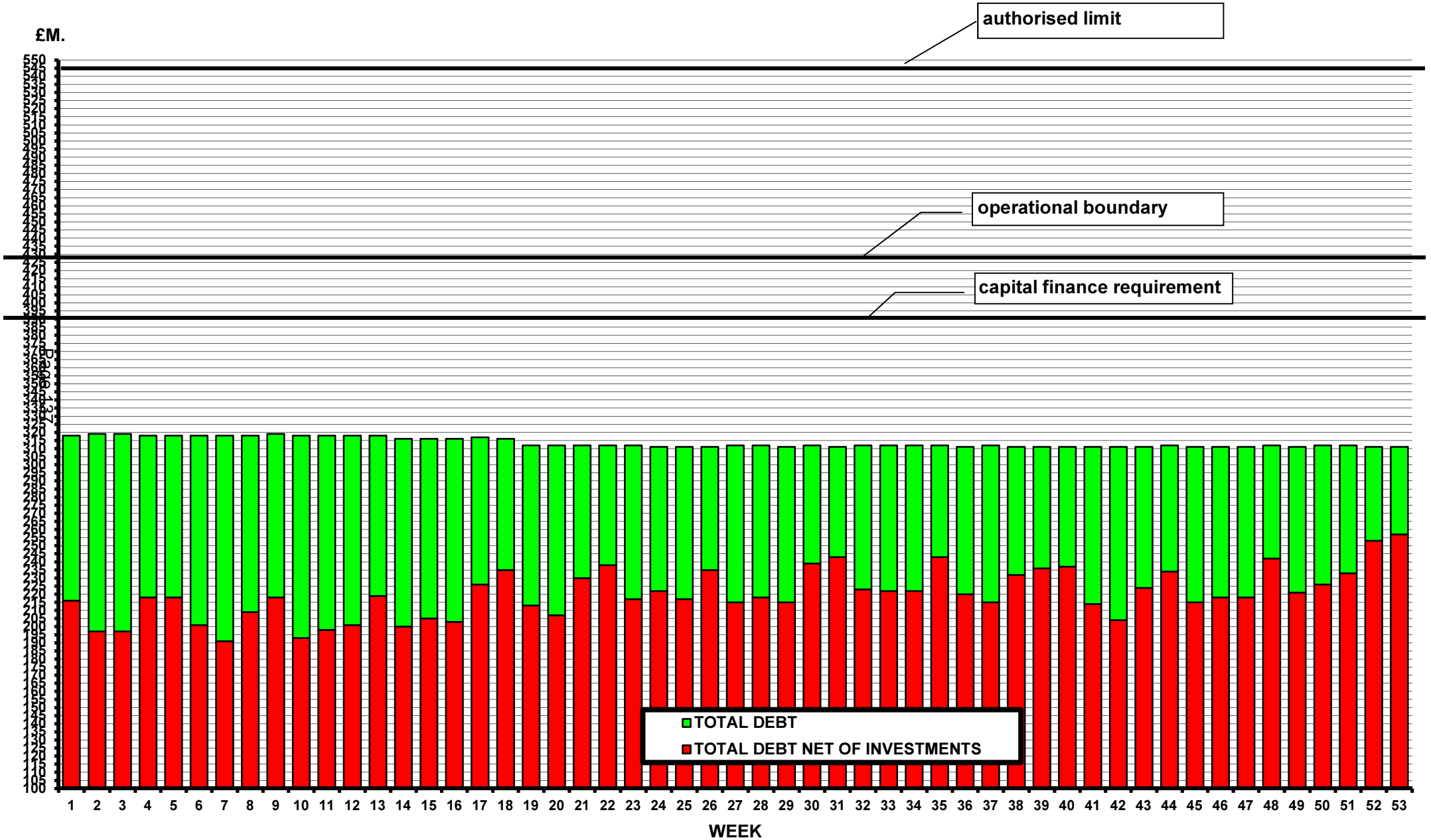
Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing in 2014/15			
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual
Under 12 months	50%	0%	12.86%
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%	13.24%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%	9.42%
5 years and within 10 years	85%	0%	0%
10 years and above	95%	15%	64.47%

The Treasury Management Prudential Indicators identified above as:

- Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure
- Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure
- Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days
- Maturity Structure of fixed rate borrowing in 2014/15

are shown as at balance sheet date 31st March 2015, however it can be reported that none of the above limits were breached during 2014/15. The level of outstanding debt throughout 2014/15 is shown in Appendix 2 and can be seen to be within the capital financing requirement, operational boundary and authorised limit for the whole of 2014/15.

TOTAL DEBT OUTSTANDING - 2014/2015



Treasury Management – Glossary of Terms

Annualised Rate of Return	Represents the average return which would have been achieved each year.
Authorised Limit <i>(can also be considered as the affordable borrowing limit)</i>	The authorised limit must be set to establish the outer boundary of the local authority's borrowing based on a realistic assessment of the risks. The authorised limit is certainly not a limit that an authority will expect to borrow up to on a regular basis. It is crucial that it is not treated as an upper limit for borrowing for capital expenditure alone since it must also encompass borrowing for temporary purposes. It is the expected maximum borrowing need, with some headroom for unexpected movement.
Bank Rate	The Official Bank rate paid on commercial bank reserves i.e. reserves placed by commercial banks with the Bank of England as part of the Bank's operations to reduce volatility in short term interest rates in the money markets.
Base Rate	Minimum lending rate of a bank or financial institution in the UK.
Basis Points (bp)	A basis point is 0.01 of 1% (100 bp = 1%)
Borrowing	In the Code, borrowing refers to external borrowing. Borrowing is defined as both:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrowing repayable with a period in excess of 12months • Borrowing repayable on demand or within 12months
Capital Expenditure	The definition of capital expenditure starts with all those items which can be capitalised in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). To this must be added any items that have/will be capitalised in accordance with legislation that otherwise would not be capitalised. Prudential indicators for current and future years are calculated in a manner consistent with this definition.

Capital Financing Charges (see financing costs also)	These are the net costs of financing capital i.e. interest and principal, premium less interest received and discounts received.
Capital Financing Requirement	The Capital Financing Requirement is simply the total outstanding capital expenditure, which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need.
CIPFA	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. One of the leading professional accountancy bodies in the UK and the only one which specialises in the public services.
Counterparty	The organisations responsible for repaying the Council's investment upon maturity and for making interest payments.
Credit Rating	<p>This is a scoring system that lenders issue people with to determine how credit worthy they are.</p> <p>The Credit Rating components are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The AAA ratings through to C/D are long-term rating definitions and generally cover maturities of up to five years, with the emphasis on the ongoing stability of the institution's prospective financial condition. AAA are the most highly rated, C/D are the lowest. This Council does not invest with institutions lower than AA- for investments over 364 days 2. F1/A1/P1 are short-term rating definitions used by Moody's, S&P and Fitch Ratings for banks and building societies based on their individual opinion on an institution's capacity to repay punctually its short-term debt obligations (which do not exceed one year). This Council does not invest with institutions lower than F1/A1/P1 for investments under 364 days.
Debt	For the purposes of the Code, debt refers to the sum of borrowing (see above) and other long-term liabilities (see below). It should be

	noted that the term borrowing used with the Act includes both borrowing as defined for the balance sheet and other long terms liabilities defined as credit arrangements through legislation.
Discounts	Where the prevailing interest rate is higher than the fixed rate of a long-term loan, which is being repaid early, the lender can refund the borrower a discount. This is calculated on the difference between the two interest rates over the remaining years of the loan, discounted back to present value. The lender is able to offer the discount, as their investment will now earn more than when the original loan was taken out.
Financing Costs	The financing costs are an estimate of the aggregate of the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest payable with respect to borrowing • Interest payable under other long-term liabilities • Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing credited or charged to the amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers (premiums and discounts) • Interest earned and investment income • Amounts required in respect of the minimum revenue provision plus any additional voluntary contributions plus any other amounts for depreciation/impairment that are charged to the amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers
Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs)	These are standards set by governing bodies on how the financial statements should look and be presented.
Investments	Investments are the aggregate of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term investments • Short term investments (within current assets) • Cash and bank balances including overdrawn balances <p>From this should be subtracted any</p>

	investments that are held clearly and explicitly in the course of the provision of, and for the purposes of, operational services.
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LOBO (Lender's Option/ Borrower's Option)	Money Market instruments that have a fixed initial term (typically one to ten year) and then move to an arrangement whereby the lender can decide at pre-determined intervals to adjust the rate on the loan. At this stage the borrower has the option to repay the loan.
London Inter-Bank Bid Rate (LIBID)	The interest rate at which major banks in London are willing to borrow (bid for) funds from each other.
Managed Funds	<p><u>In-House Fund Management</u> Surplus cash arising from unused capital receipts can be managed either by external fund managers or by the Council's staff in-house. The in-house funds are invested in fixed deposits through the money markets for periods up to one year.</p> <p><u>Externally Management Funds</u> Fund managers appointed by the Council invest surplus cash arising from unused capital receipts in liquid instruments such as bank certificates of deposit and government stocks. The fund managers' specialist knowledge should ensure a higher rate of earnings on the managed funds than would be otherwise obtained.</p>
Maturity	The date when an investment is repaid or the period covered by a fixed term investment.
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	The amount required by statute to be principal repayment each year.
Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)	This is a body set up by the Government in 1997 to set the repo rate (commonly referred to as being base rate). Their primary target (as set by the Government) is to keep inflation within plus or minus 1% of a central target of 2% in two year time from the date of the monthly meeting of the Committee. Their secondary target is to support the Government

	in maintaining high and stable levels of growth and employment.
Money Market	<p>Consists of financial institutions and deals in money and credit.</p> <p>The term applied to the institutions willing to trade in financial instruments. It is not a physical creation, but an electronic/telephone one.</p>
Net Borrowing	For the purposes of the Code, net borrowing refers to borrowing (see above) net of investments (see above).
Net Revenue Stream	Estimates for net revenue stream for current and future years are the local authority's estimates of the amounts to be met from government grants and local taxpayers.
Operational Boundary	This is based on expectations of the maximum external debt of the authority according to probable not simply possible – events and being consistent with the maximum level of external debt projected by the estimates. It is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary for short periods.
Other Long Term Liabilities	The definition of other long term liabilities is the sum of the amounts in the Council's accounts that are classified as liabilities that are for periods in excess of 12months, other than borrowing (see definition above).
Premature Repayment of Loans (debt restructuring/rescheduling)	A facility for loans where the Council can repay loans prior to the original maturity date. If the loan repaid has a lower interest rate than the current rate for a loan of the same maturity period the Council can secure a cash discount on the repayment of the original loan. If the loan replaced has a higher rate of interest than the current rate for a loan of the same maturity period, a cash penalty is payable to the lender.
Premia	Where the prevailing current interest rate is lower than the fixed rate of a long term loan, which is being repaid early, the lender can

	charge the borrower a premium. This is calculated on the difference between the two interest rates over the remaining years of the loan, discounted back to present value. The lender may charge the premium, as their investment will now earn less than when the original loan was taken out.
Prudential Code	The Prudential Code is the largely self regulatory framework outlined by CIPFA for managing/monitoring capital investment in local government.
Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)	A Government agency which provides loans to local authorities. Each year, it issues a circular setting out the basis on which loans will be made available. Loans can be either at a fixed rate or on a variable rate basis. They can be repaid on either an annuity, equal instalment of principal or maturity basis. The interest rate charged is linked to the cost at which the Government itself borrows.
Range Trade Accrual	A Callable Range Accrual is so called because it is callable or cancellable by the bank after the initial period, as above. However, where it differs, is that interest accrues only as long as Libor (London Interbank Offer Rate, or another independently derived and published benchmark rate) stays within a pre-agreed range. The lender can choose the range, the non-call period, the Libor they wish to use, the call periods and the potential return they wish to receive.. The bank has the right to cancel this trade after the first 3 months, and every 3 months thereafter. With a range trade, the lender is backing his judgement on interest rate movements and in exchange for that can achieve a significantly enhanced return. This is done as part of portfolio management. The risk of rates going above Libor on a small part of the portfolio (and therefore none, or little payment on a range accrual) will be offset by the fact that the rest of the portfolio will be returning more than expected. The key risk to a callable range accrual is obviously that the contractual Libor rate goes outside the specified range. It is possible to mitigate this risk by analysing the historical behaviour of any specified Libor

	relative to base rate. By taking a view on expected base rate (which is done on all deposits), a lender can minimise exposure, and choose a range to match his risk appetite.
Risk	<p><u>Counterparty Credit Risk</u> The risk that a counterparty defaults on its obligations.</p> <p><u>Inflation Risk</u> The risk that growth in the Authority's investment income does not keep pace with the effects of inflation on its expenditure.</p> <p><u>Interest Rate Risk</u> The risk that changes in rates of interest creates an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the Council's finances.</p> <p><u>Liquidity Risk</u> The risk that cash will not be available when it is needed.</p> <p><u>Operational Risk</u> The risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption, system failure or other eventualities in Treasury Management dealings, and failure to maintain effective contingency management arrangements.</p> <p><u>Refinancing Risk</u> The risk that the Authority is unable to replace its maturing funding arrangements on appropriate terms.</p>
Set Aside Capital Receipts	A proportion of money received by the Council for the sale of fixed assets must be set aside to repay debt.
SORP	Statement of Recommended Practice, published by CIPFA (Local Authority Accounting Body). This sets out guidelines regarding the Council's financial matters.
Specified/Non Specified investments	Specified investments are sterling denominated investments for less than 364 days in line with statutory investment regulations. Non- specified investments are all other investments identified in line with statutory investment regulations.

Supranational Bonds	These are bonds issued by institutions such as the European Investment Bank and World Bank. As with Government bonds (Gilts) they are regarded as the safest bond investments with a high credit rating.
Temporary Borrowing and Investment	Loans which are capable of being repaid within one year. The term of the loans will be negotiated from overnight to 364 days.
Treasury Management	<p>Treasury Management has the same definition as in CIPFA's code of Practice of Treasury Management in the Public Services.</p> <p>"The management of the organisation's cash flows its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."</p>
Yield Curve	The line resulting from portraying interest rate graphically for a series of periods, e.g. 7days, 1month, 3, 6, 9, and 12months. When longer-term interest rates are higher than short-term rates the yield curve slopes upwards and is described as positive. When the opposite prevails the yield curve is referred to as inverse.

Portfolio of Outstanding Investments as at 31 March 2015

	£
Bank of Scotland	7,836,944
Birmingham City Council	5,000,000
Goldman Sachs International Bank UK	2,000,000
Leeds Building Society	2,000,000
Lloyds Bank	7,000,000
Nationwide Building Society	8,000,000
Santander	20,000,000
United Bank Of Switzerland (UBS) UK	2,000,000
Total	53,836,944

Report of the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Performance

Council - 24 September 2015

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2014/15

Purpose:	To present a draft of the Sustainable Development Report for discussion
Policy Framework:	Sustainable Development Policy
Reason for Decision:	To progress the publication of the Sustainable Development Report alongside the Annual Statement of Accounts.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) A final version of the Sustainable Development Report is published online alongside the accounts (timings prevent inclusion as an unassured appendix in the annex of the Annual Statement of Accounts this year). 2) The Council integrate the sustainable development principle within its corporate planning, finance and performance framework in accordance with the emerging requirements of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act.
Report Author:	Tanya Nash
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Patrick Arran
Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Reporting on sustainable development publicly demonstrates the Council's commitment to sustainability and helps embed the principle in practice across services. Sustainable development reporting results in considerable reputational benefits, improved performance, greater transparency and provides accountability for the Sustainable Development Policy.
- 1.2 Swansea is an Early Adopter of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and influenced the development of the Act as the WLGA model authority for sustainable development. The Council's work on reporting has disseminated across Wales and continues to make a valuable contribution in helping the public sector prepare for becoming subject to the Act in April 2016.
- 1.3 This is the fifth year of sustainable development reporting. In 2011, Swansea was the first local authority to publish a report on carbon emissions and energy use within its Annual Statement of Accounts. In 2012, a sustainable development reporting methodology was developed with consultancy support from PwC to include indicators reflecting outcomes relating to social, economic and environmental wellbeing. In 2014/15, this model will be used to report on progress alongside the Annual Statement of Accounts.

2.0 The Rationale for Sustainable Development Reporting

- 2.1 Reporting explicitly meets the existing requirement within the Local Government Measure 2009 which places a duty on local authorities to promote and improve on sustainable development performance. From April 2016, the Council will be subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act's and have a duty to 'carry out sustainable development' and to report explicitly on how it contributes to well-being in line with the 'sustainable development principle'.
- 2.2 Reporting on Sustainable Development creates closer connections between policy and performance. The report is a means of providing public accountability for sustainable development and provides a tangible measure of the Sustainable Development Policy's effectiveness.
- 2.3 The process of sustainable development reporting engages services and helps them to have a better understanding of their impact in delivering sustainable development. Involving services in the collection and analysis of data focusing on sustainable development highlights and improves performance eventually influencing the outcomes achieved.
- 2.3 The publication of a Sustainable Development Report creates considerable reputational benefits demonstrating good governance and transparency. Sustainable development (and specifically work on reporting) was praised as an example of positive action within the 2015 Corporate Assessment Report

2.4 The connection between the report and the Statement of Accounts demonstrates publicly the link between financial management and sustainable performance, impacting decision making. The Council can mitigate risk and identify opportunities based on information highlighted through the reporting process.

3.0 The Methodology

3.1 In 2012, the Council was supported by PwC to develop a bespoke methodology based on the concept of integrated reporting using the principles of Accounting for Sustainability. The approach has been adhered to in 2015 for consistency and comparability. This 'connected reporting' approach is based on three steps:

- Identification of material sustainability issues and connection to business strategy
- Identification of Key Performance Indicators
- Production of a Connected Performance Report

3.2 In order to assure the data, an audit trail has been created recording the source of data. A sample has been internally scrutinised and the robustness of information confirmed. Internal indicators have been certified by a compiling officer and agreed by a Head of Service.

4.0 The Report Structure

4.1 An introductory front page sets the context of the report and details the methodology developed. This is followed by a summary sheet in tabular form defining each of the Seven Priority Areas and the number of indicators in that section. The number of indicators varies reflecting the nature of the Priority Area and availability of relevant data. The main body of the report brings together performance, financial information and targets.

4.2 The arrow based assessment assigned to each indicator indicates direction of travel in the past year rather than the achievement of specific targets. Although it should be noted where targets have been set they are included as a means of embedding sustainable development into day to day operations and driving progress. An arrow summarising each Priority Area's status is alongside each heading.

Drivers and Trends Impacting Future Reporting

5.1 Both the internal transformation agenda and external legislation are driving significant changes in reporting. To meet these challenges the Council will need to consider how it further integrates sustainability within the Council's corporate planning, financial and performance framework in line with legislative requirements as they become known.

5.2 *“Sustainable Swansea - Fit For the Future”*

- a. “Sustainable Swansea - Fit for the Future” is based on sustainable development principles and acknowledges the longer term context in making decisions for the short and medium term. Taking explicit account of the programme’s principles and outcomes is an integral element of future corporate planning and reporting.

5.3 *The Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*

- a. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in common with the Council’s sustainable development policy aims to ensure sustainable development is a central organising principle. By extending this principle to 44 devolved public bodies, the Act is effectively changing the way that the Welsh public sector does business.
- b. The Act aims to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies in Wales take account of the needs of future generations while making decisions securing social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being. The Act requires that public bodies demonstrate they have considered or taken account of five governance approaches closely aligned to those underpinning “Sustainable Swansea - Fit for the Future”; integration, the long term, collaboration, prevention and involvement.
- c. From April 2016, the Council must publish an annual statement setting out well-being objectives which contribute to the progress of seven well-being goals. The extent to which objectives are achieved in line with the sustainable development principle and governance approaches must also be demonstrated. It is widely anticipated that existing corporate reporting mechanisms will be used to evidence this activity.
- d. Reporting is imperative as progress in accordance with the sustainable development principle is to be reviewed by the Future Generations Commissioner and examined by the Auditor General for Wales.
- e. The specific requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act in terms of reporting will be detailed within Statutory Guidance. Draft guidance is due to be issued for consultation in Autumn 2015.

5.3 *Integrated Reporting*

- a) Swansea is exploring how integrated reporting techniques might complement without compromising, overburdening or replacing the balanced scorecard approach. Along with the Wales Audit Office, Welsh Government and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, Swansea is a member of the Integrated Reporting Welsh Public Sector Pilot Steering Group investigating the benefits of this approach as a means of responding to potentially more thematic, outcome based budgets in the future. Further investigation and work would be needed to establish if the principles could be applied to current

financial and performance frameworks in a pragmatic and realistic fashion. The approach represents current world class best practice in reporting.

- b) Integrated Reporting is a way of reporting on the creation of value from six capitals; financial, human, natural, manufactured, intellectual and social and relationship capital. In the current environment, Swansea cannot afford to neglect any resources that can contribute to outcomes.

5.4 *The Single Corporate Plan*

- a. The focus of sustainability reporting principles on the concise communication of material issues, taking into account risk complements the move towards a single Corporate Plan.
- b. The Council is exploring how sustainability principles and the legislative requirements of the WFG Act can be further integrated into the Council's existing planning, performance and financial frameworks but using a pragmatic and realistic approach. To this end, a critical path has been developed, which will be reviewed as further detail around the implementation of the WFG Act becomes known. The four year timeframe of this plan reflects the extent of the work necessary to genuinely integrate sustainable development principles.

7.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

- 7.1 A Screening for EIA has identified relatively low impacts and minimum implications with regard to Equalities and Engagement. Appropriate measures in line with Council policies will be taken in terms of ensuring access to the document.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Online publication and translation costs are expected to be minimal and will be contained within the existing budget.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no specific legal implications at this stage. The existing and proposed legislative frameworks are referred to in the Report itself.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – City and County of Swansea Sustainable Development Report 2014/15

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

2014/15

**City and County of Swansea
Dinas a Sir Abertawe**



Sustainable Development Unit

City and County of Swansea Sustainable Development Report 2014/15

The Sustainable Development Principle

Sustainable development is the 'central organising principle' that underpins the planning and delivery of services resulting in sustainable outcomes for Swansea's communities.

The 'sustainable development principle' takes a long term perspective, is evidence based, seeks to balance economic, social, cultural and environmental costs and benefits, while prioritising a collaborative, citizen centred, preventative, approach. This is defined within the Council's Sustainable Development Policy as

'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

This principle guides the Council in working towards a 'safer, greener, smarter, fairer, healthier, richer Swansea'.

In April 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) also embraced this approach legislating that from April 2016, 44 devolved public sector bodies will work to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Wales in accordance with the 'sustainable development' principle.

Reporting on Sustainable Development

This is the fifth year of reporting on sustainable development in Swansea. Progress is measured against seven priority areas for action defined within the Council's Sustainable Development Policy. Following the Report's adoption by Council, it is published alongside the Annual Statement of Accounts. This enables Council Members, Officers and the Public to benefit from a joined-up view of the year's outcomes in terms of impacts on well-being.

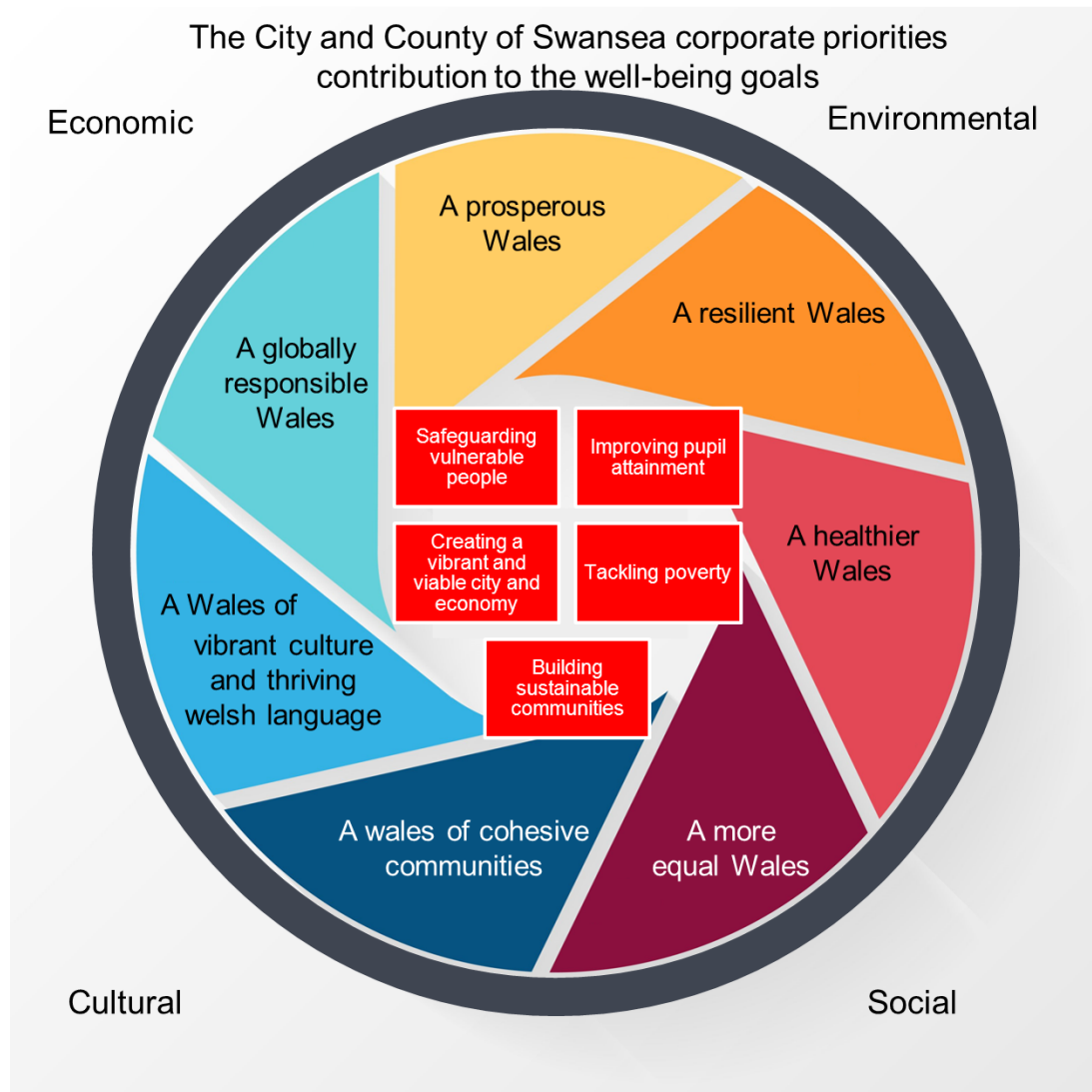
The current methodology was developed in 2012 with PwC influenced by CIPFA's 'Sustainability Reporting' guidance, The Prince's 'Accounting for Sustainability Connected Reporting' and, where practical, HM Treasury 'Public Sector Annual Reports: Sustainability Reporting Guidance'.

The reporting framework aims to connect strategy with material sustainability issues. Where possible the selected indicators are outcome rather than process focused. Indicators were selected and developed via relevance to the aims of the Council's Sustainable Development Policy and a Service Challenge Panel. All data presented within the report has been subject to a robust, internal and auditable certification and assurance process.

The report highlights key sustainable development issues and consists of two elements. A summary of sustainable development performance in the seven Priority Areas identified within the Sustainable Development Policy. This is followed by detailed information on individual metrics, grouped under Sustainable Development Priority Areas, analysed and displayed to best reflect their individual qualities.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The 'sustainable development principle' underpinning this Act increasingly defines how services are planned and delivered at Swansea. Our corporate priorities each contribute both directly and indirectly to the Act's well-being goals.



The Act also sets out five governance approaches by which these outcomes are to be achieved. These ways of working include taking account of the long term, prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement. All are clearly demonstrated as fundamental elements of Swansea's transformation programme which aims to create a Sustainable Swansea - Fit for the Future.

Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future

The scale of the financial, demographic and sustainability challenges facing Swansea require not only that the Council 'do things differently' but that it 'does different things'. Sustainable Swansea - Fit for the Future's budget principles and commitment to innovation, form a robust means of building the resilience of Swansea's communities.

Integrating Sustainable Development

In challenging financial times, Swansea recognises the need to draw on all its resources. This includes often undervalued or under-utilised resources such as our natural environment, the capabilities and capacity of our citizens and partners, and the innovative ideas and thinking of service users, employees and residents. Sustainable development reporting is the first step towards a wider appreciation of how value is created in Swansea.

The introduction of the balanced scorecard as a means of reporting on corporate priorities offers a way to consider wider resources. In addition, the Council is exploring the potential benefits of complementary integrated reporting techniques through the [International Integrated Reporting Council](#) Integrated Reporting Welsh Public Sector Pilot Programme.

The Long Term Context

A long term perspective is essential to make decisions today that continue to benefit generations of tomorrow. In order to work towards the 'Swansea we want' an understanding of future challenges based on current and future trends is necessary. Examples of foresighting undertaken in 2014 and key issues can be found in the WLGA [Generation 2050](#) Report. A regularly updated Future Trends report informs decision-making and represent the first steps towards the development of the Swansea 2040 Plan.

Key trends which impact how Swansea reconfigures its services for the future include:

- The aging population and increasing demand for care – The number of people aged 65 and over is estimated to increase by 44.1% or 19,000 by 2036.
- An increased birth rate – It is estimated the number of children aged 0-15 will grow by 3.5% or 1,500 by 2036.
- The number of obese adults in Swansea is projected to rise by almost 4,000 (8.5%) from 2015 to 2030. Obesity in children is projected to increase by 500 (6%)
- There will be a projected increase of 5.7% of adults in Swansea aged 19-64 with any mental health problem by 2030.
- The number of households in Swansea is projected to increase by 21.1% from an estimated 103,500 in 2011 to 125,300 in 2036.
- Summer temperatures are likely to increase in Wales between 1.2°C-4.1°C by 2050.

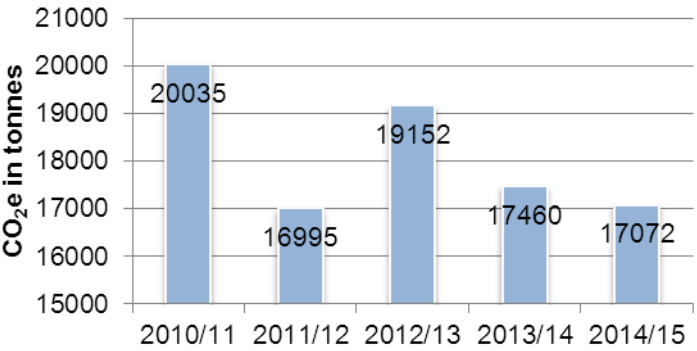
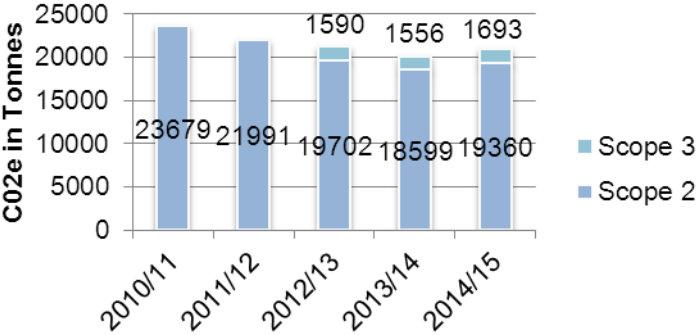
The Future

Swansea has consistently led Wales in sustainable development, being recognised as an example of positive practice within the 2015 Wales Audit Office Corporate Assessment Report. The Local Authority was the first in Wales to report on carbon emissions and energy consumption before extending the scope of reporting to include economic, environmental and social indicators. The next phase of embedding sustainable development practice as the organisation's standard operating procedure focuses on the further development of a single corporate plan built around sustainable governance principles and evidenced at all levels of the organisation. Moving forward, a critical path towards integrating sustainable development into corporate planning and performance has been developed.

SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE

Priority Areas identified in Sustainable Development Policy 2012 and Direction of Progress ⤴ Improving, or at best performance ⤵ No change, no prior or insufficient information , ⤶ Declining	Number and Status of Indicators in Priority Area		
Climate Change / Decarbonisation (6 in total) ⤶	02	01	03
The City and County of Swansea (CCS) is a participant in the <u>Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme</u> (CRC) and has developed a reporting system to ensure compliance. Energy and Carbon data are collated and reported in the Council's Carbon Footprint and Annual Report submitted to the Environment Agency* annually in line with CRC legislation. The data is also used to drive behavioural change and efficiencies aimed at reducing carbon emissions and associated energy costs. Investment in 'low carbon' technologies such as LED building & street lighting, renewable energy and electric vehicles demonstrate Swansea's ambition is to be among the greenest cities in the UK. Swansea was the first authority in Wales to sign the Climate Local Commitment. <small>*The CRC Registry for the whole UK is administered by Environment Agency in England rather than Natural Resources Wales</small>			
Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (8 in total) ⤴	04	02	02
Considerable efforts have been made to minimise the single use and disposal of finite resources and maximise the use of sustainable raw materials and energy in more efficient ways. A 'Municipal Waste strategy 2011-16' has been developed to meet Welsh Government targets set out in the <u>Towards Zero Waste</u> Strategy and the 'Municipal Sector Plan'. Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) are now operated in house. The Baling Plant & HWRC in Llansamlet has achieved a range of quality standards and is recognised as a UK leader. This best practice is being rolled out to other sites. Swansea works with four neighbouring local authorities as South West Wales Waste Partnership to find the most sustainable, cost effective and practical solutions to treat waste. New Welsh Government criteria has amalgamating funding previously issued to specific departments for specific tasks into a single Environment and Sustainability Grant which requires a collaborative approach based on integrated objectives.			
Natural Environment (4 in total) ⤶	02	00	02
Swansea has a wide diversity of landscapes and habitats that make up over 80% of the County's total area. The Council aims to maximise the economic and social value created by our urban and rural environments and ensure that this asset is effectively managed for the future. Swansea is leading Wales in natural resource planning having mapped five existing and potential eco-system services such as carbon storage and food production, developing an approach that can be used across Wales. Swansea Biodiversity Partnership works to promote and protect natural habitats and resources. The Council is a key partner in a new Tawe Trial Project which explores an ecosystems approach to natural resource management. The forthcoming Environment Bill will strengthen protection. Increasingly cross organisational approaches are being adopted. Tree planting is being used to reduce flood risks through Coed Cymru and an urban tree survey aims to ensure climate change and pollution are mitigated.			

Social Inclusion (3 in total) ☺	01	01	01
The Local Authority is committed to ensuring people from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities and that social exclusion based on income, access to services and participation poverty is addressed. The Poverty and Prevention Service ensures policies and strategies across the Council reduce social exclusion and mitigate the impact of welfare reform on the vulnerable. Services build the resilience of local communities equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to create self-aware, independent, and resilient communities. Training and support for both staff and our partners builds capacity and highlights the direct and indirect impacts of poverty. There is also recognition of the need to support and work with the community both geographically and with communities of interest, by providing networks, local resources, and advice. The focus is on early intervention and preventative measures that reduce the long term need for more serious and costly action.			
Economic Resilience (5 in total) ☹	02	02	01
Sustainable Swansea – Fit For the Future is a mechanism which ensures sustainable financial policies and procedures contribute to the continued financial viability of the City and County of Swansea as an organisation. 2014 saw the continuation of the biggest ever budget consultation with employees, the public and partners engaged in the continuously ongoing and rolling three year transformation programme which is set against a backdrop of distinctly challenging future public sector finances. The medium term financial plan (3 years) is an increasingly robust and responsive document which influences short term decision making. Longer term forecasting is still generally based on a service level analysis of trends although corporate level foresighting is in development. Collaborative economic planning led towards the development of the Swansea Bay City Region.			
Governance (6 in total) ☹	03	00	03
Structures are adopted which ensure good government, management and leadership, characterised by openness, participation, accountability, predictability, and transparency. Extensive consultation takes place with residents on both corporate and service specific issues. The Swansea Standard was introduced following research undertaken with citizens and sets customer service guidelines for staff. The Council is the first in Wales to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child placing a duty on the Authority to have due regard to the rights of children and young people placing them at the centre of decisions affecting them.			
Procurement (5 in total) ☹	03	02	00
Sustainable Procurement aims to achieve more than simply obtain best value from the purchase of goods and services while acting legally, ethically and transparently to minimise risk. The full integration of sustainable principles into procurement practice has the potential to add significant value in terms of social, economic and environmental benefits for the community. The Commercial and Commissioning Service has been set up to ensure the principles of Sustainable Swansea are integrated within procurement activity Every service over a three year cycle is to undergo a full commissioning review in line with these values.			
Total - 37 Indicators ☹	017	08	012

Climate Change /Decarbonisation	Information, Initiatives and Targets	Progress																														
<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)</p> <p>(1) Scope 1 Includes fossil fuel use in buildings (gas and heating oil) and fuel used in the Council's fleet (5% biodiesel mix).</p> <p>(2) Scope 2 Includes electricity use. Note: In previous years, conversion factors combined electricity generation and transmission and distribution (T&D) data, (T&D is now recorded in Scope 3).</p>	<p>Scope 1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Scope 1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>CO₂e in tonnes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>20035</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>16995</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>19152</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>17460</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>17072</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Generated from Electricity Consumption</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Generated from Electricity Consumption</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Scope 2 (CO₂e in Tonnes)</th> <th>Scope 3 (CO₂e in Tonnes)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>23679</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>21991</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>19702</td> <td>1590</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>18599</td> <td>1556</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>19360</td> <td>1693</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) is a universal unit of measurement that allows the global warming potential of different GHGs to be compared.</i></p>	Year	CO ₂ e in tonnes	2010/11	20035	2011/12	16995	2012/13	19152	2013/14	17460	2014/15	17072	Year	Scope 2 (CO ₂ e in Tonnes)	Scope 3 (CO ₂ e in Tonnes)	2010/11	23679	0	2011/12	21991	0	2012/13	19702	1590	2013/14	18599	1556	2014/15	19360	1693	<p>Scope 2 carbon emissions have increased despite falling energy usage. However the overall trend over the past five years is positive. This is due to the UK energy mix being more carbon intensive reflecting a reliance on coal. Dependence on external energy sources can be reduced by reducing demand and generating energy in-house using renewables.</p> <p>The Council is currently developing projects to explore how community-scale renewable energy projects may be used as a platform to develop enterprise, skills for local people and potentially an income stream for CCS (Community Renewable Energy and Enterprise Scheme - CREES).</p> <p>CCS is a key player in <u>Low Carbon Swansea</u>, an initiative which coordinates carbon reduction across all sectors in Swansea. The Carbon Reduction Strategy 3% carbon emissions reduction target per annum has been set and met from a base year of 2009/10. This uses comparable conversion factors and excludes transport.</p>
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		<p>Scope 1</p> <p>↑</p> <p><i>Scope 1 emissions have decreased</i></p> <p>Scope 2</p> <p>↓</p> <p><i>CO₂e Emissions have increased in Scope 2 despite falling consumption</i></p>																														

(3) Scope 3
Includes business mileage, indirect electricity emissions and disposal of construction waste

	Business Travel Mileage (miles)	Emissions Generated (tonnes CO _{2e})	Expenditure (£)
2014/15	3,220,074	982	1,579,722
2013/14	3,648,983	1117	1,984,875
2012-13	3,654,429	1,145	1,973,849
2011-12	3,865,675	1,273	2,095,853
2010-11	3,839,919	1,287	2,030,271

**In 2012 the methodology was improved to capture wider data*

There has been a further reduction in the use of own vehicles for business use. This is excellent especially as fleet fuel emissions have also declined within The Council's pool bike scheme operates at the Civic Centre and Guildhall sites.

Construction waste emissions have also fallen by 72.4 tonnes to 27 tonnes CO_{2e}. This is due partly to a contractor disposing of waste as energy rather than landfill and data recording changes under ISO 14001.

Indirect carbon emissions resulting from the transmission and distribution of electricity are account for 1,693 tonnes CO_{2e}.

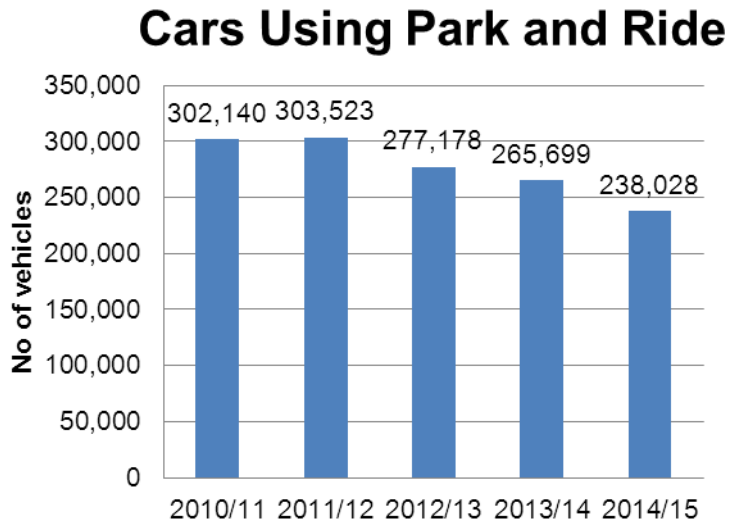


Scope 3 emissions have fallen

Notes

- 1 Electricity and Gas data is based on utility billing information, some of which will be estimated.
- 2 Fossil fuel (gas and oil) is presented as absolute figures and is not corrected for weather
- 3 Business travel data is for road miles only.
- 4 Carbon emissions are calculated using appropriate Defra/DECC GHG Conversion factors for Company Reporting.
- 5 Our Carbon Footprint has been restated for all years in order to account for material changes to the conversion factors provided by Defra for company reporting purposes'

(4) Number of Cars Using Park and Ride Services



'Swansea has 3 Park and Ride sites located at Landore, Fabian Way and Fforestfach resulting in a significant reduction in traffic to the City Centre.

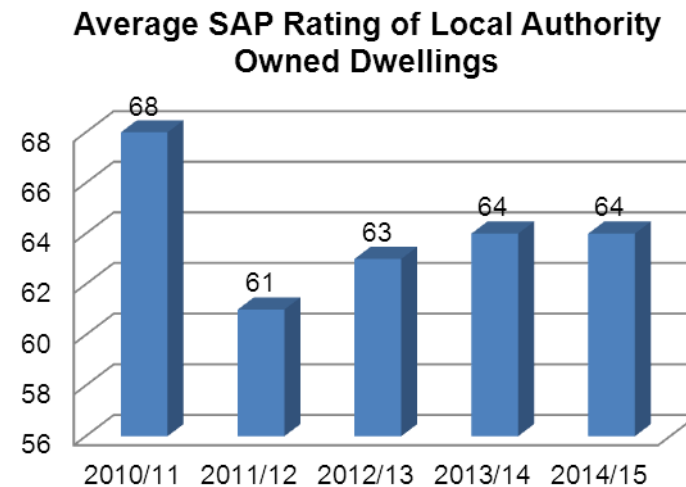
A subsidy scheme encourages staff to commute using this service. Investment in 'pay by foot' technology has provided more convenience and choice when making payments whilst reducing operating costs.

Prepayment and season tickets offer discounts with direct debit introduced. Collaborative working with the private sector has resulted in an effective service.



A 'below target' decline in use reflects the wider economic, shopping and the competitive parking environment

(5) The average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating of local authority owned dwellings. (HSG4)






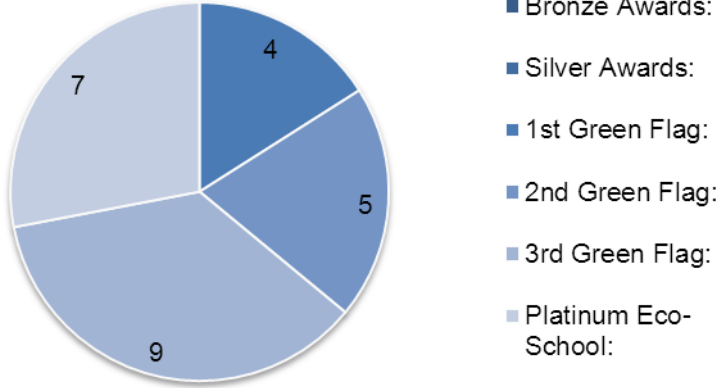

The SAP rating of a house measures its energy efficiency performance and represents the average of Energy Performance Certificates carried out since October 2008. The Wales Housing Quality Standard which the Council is committed to work towards includes a SAP rating of 65.

Initiatives to increase council house energy efficiency included the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) which part funded loft insulation to properties. The installation of new efficient boilers and external wall

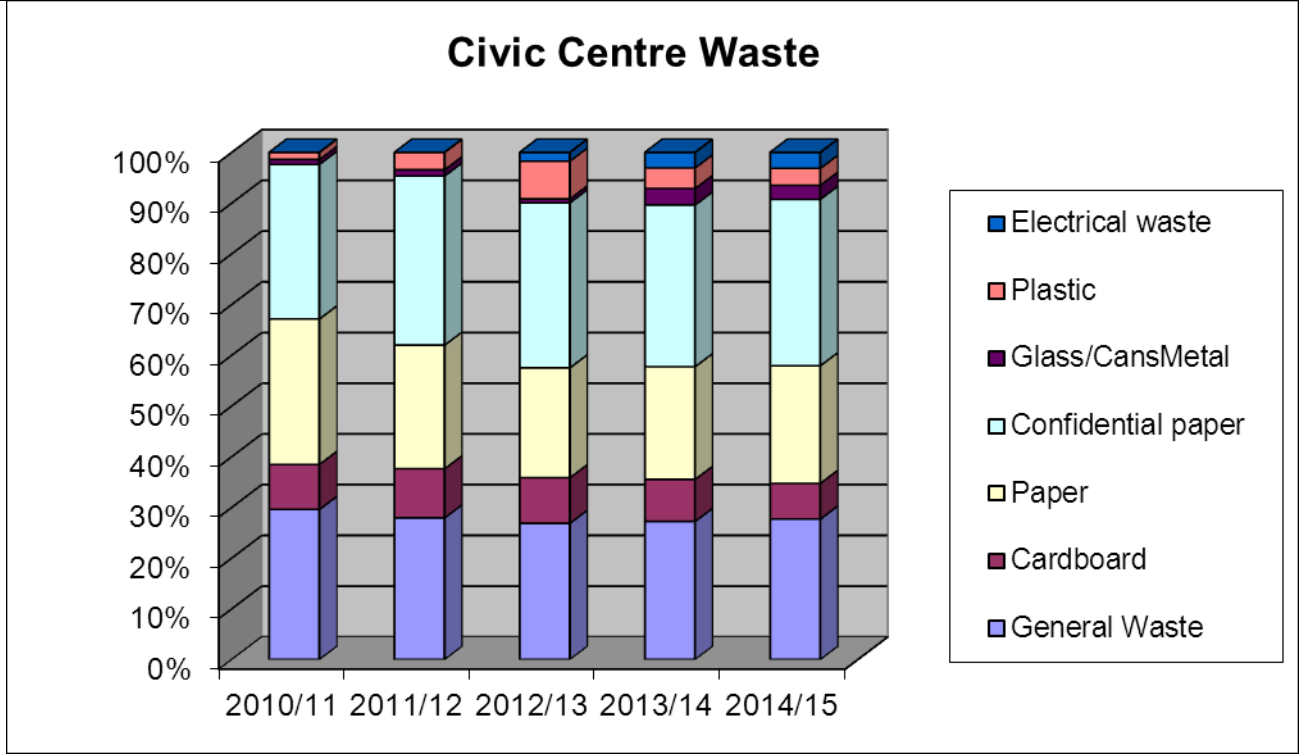


This rating does not necessarily reflect new measures introduced due to the data collection methodology which is currently

		insulation is also to be part funded by (ECO) as well as Welsh Government funding.	being updated																		
(6) Average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating in the Council's public buildings	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Rating</th> <th>Grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>87.1</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>86.5</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>92.6</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>94.6</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>98.7</td> <td>D</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>A 'D' Grade is awarded to sites with a Display Energy Certificate rating of between 76 to 100.</i></p>		Rating	Grade	2014/15	87.1	D	2013/14	86.5	D	2012/13	92.6	D	2011/12	94.6	D	2010/11	98.7	D	<p>All public buildings over 1000m² must display a DEC. Buildings are graded from "A" to "G" with an "A" rating being the most energy efficient. An average grade of "D" has been maintained however the rating on which this grade is based has significantly improved.</p> <p>In addition all public buildings over 500m² have a ten year Display Energy Certificate and some smaller buildings have been issued with Voluntary DEC's.</p>	 <p><i>The average rating score has increased slightly but met target by maintaining a D grade scoring below 100</i></p>
	Rating	Grade																			
2014/15	87.1	D																			
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Sustainable Use of Natural Resources		Information, Initiatives and Targets	Progress																		
(7) Water and sewage expenditure <i>Includes an informed estimate relating to a minority of schools in prior years</i>	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£1,160,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>£1,318,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>£1,040,872</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>£961,266</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>£777,098</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>While data over the past four year's is not fully comparable it reflects work to improve the accuracy and scope of reporting. A more meaningful comparison of expenditure is now possible in relation to a 2013/14 baseline..</p>	2014/15	£1,160,000	2013/14	£1,318,000	2012/13	£1,040,872	2011/12	£961,266	2010/11	£777,098	<p>Discussions are ongoing with Welsh Water to introduce centralised billing and automatic metering (AMR). In the absence of these tools it is not possible to fully understand water consumption other than in terms of expenditure.</p> <p>Detailed billing is currently only recorded for 30 corporate buildings precluding greater analysis and the effective monitoring and control of consumption.</p>	 <p><i>Recorded expenditure has decreased</i></p>								
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<p>(8) Consumption of water at key civic offices (Civic Centre and Guildhall)</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="488 229 1646 534"> <thead> <tr> <th>Civic Centre</th> <th>Expenditure £</th> <th>Cubic metres</th> <th>Guildhall</th> <th>Expenditure £</th> <th>Cubic metres</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£31,273</td> <td>10,304</td> <td>2014/15</td> <td>£18,228*</td> <td>5,433</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-14</td> <td>£30,528</td> <td>10,244</td> <td>2013-14</td> <td>£77,336</td> <td>26,444</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>£28,237</td> <td>9,732</td> <td>2012-13</td> <td>£16,603</td> <td>5,740</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-12</td> <td>£30,651</td> <td>11,013</td> <td>2011-12</td> <td>£16,114</td> <td>5,811</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>£57,272</td> <td>21,094</td> <td>2010-11</td> <td>£17,485</td> <td>6,244</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="488 571 1809 678">*A leak at the Guildhall was promptly identified at the end of 2013. A rebate of £29,500 was agreed on the sewerage element of the water bills which has been offset against payments in 2014/15</p> <p data-bbox="495 719 1756 756"><i>Usage does not take into account refurbishment activity and changes in staffing numbers</i></p>						Civic Centre	Expenditure £	Cubic metres	Guildhall	Expenditure £	Cubic metres	2014/15	£31,273	10,304	2014/15	£18,228*	5,433	2013-14	£30,528	10,244	2013-14	£77,336	26,444	2012-13	£28,237	9,732	2012-13	£16,603	5,740	2011-12	£30,651	11,013	2011-12	£16,114	5,811	2010-11	£57,272	21,094	2010-11	£17,485	6,244	 <p data-bbox="1868 301 2063 592"><i>Slight increase in consumption at the Civic Centre, slight decrease at Guildhall on 2012/13</i></p>
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<p>(9) Number of schools attaining Eco Schools International Green Flag Programme Awards</p>	<p data-bbox="622 778 1211 858">25 Green Flag Scheme Awards Gained in 2014/15</p>  <ul data-bbox="1039 853 1256 1225" style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bronze Awards: 4 ■ Silver Awards: 5 ■ 1st Green Flag: 9 ■ 2nd Green Flag: 7 ■ 3rd Green Flag: 9 ■ Platinum Eco-School: 0 		<p data-bbox="1294 762 1839 943">The Eco Schools programme is a student led, environmental management system which provides a structure for sustainable development activities in schools.</p> <p data-bbox="1294 981 1839 1353">The number of schools registered has risen slightly to 87 but is still down from a high of 100. The activity in Swansea schools' demonstrates a clear commitment from participants with higher numbers of higher level awards. Future work will focus on re-engaging with those schools that have previously registered providing dedicated support and training.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1877 868 2047 1050"><i>Number of awards comparable to previous year</i></p>																																							

(10) Waste recycled at Civic Centre

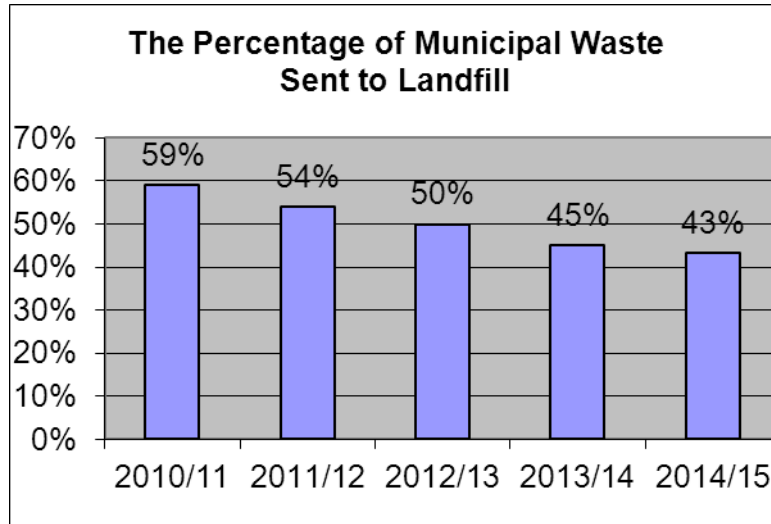


The total amount of waste produced has increased, total amount of recycling has increased However the percentage recycled has reduced slightly.

A review of all council buildings' recycling is planned for next year.

	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
Total Rubbish and Recycling (tonnes)	211.85	202.73	231	194	188
Total Recycling (tonnes)	153	148	169	140	133
Recycling Rate %	72	73	73	72	70



(11) The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill (WMT004b)







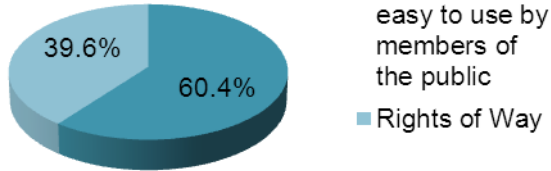

A range of initiatives contributed to a reduction in waste sent to landfill including Swapshop and the Real Nappy Campaign. Innovations include the trial of pop up recycling sites at community sites and micro-pilots testing the viability of reusable bags. The Reuse shop has proved popular and has improved reuse levels the project reclaims and sells items destined for landfill. While the SWAT Team break down household items for recycling. Sammy Seagull heads up the schools recycling programme, while targeted campaigns help students recycle effectively. Surveying followed up by targeted door-knocking campaigns, thanking and helping residents increase their recycling has again been effective.





In 2014/15 performance more than met the target of 45%. A target of 42% or below is in place for 2015/16.

<p>(12) The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way (WMT009b)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Waste Collected by Local Authorities and Prepared for Reuse and /or Recycling</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>57%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage	2010/11	40%	2011/12	45%	2012/13	48%	2013/14	53%	2014/15	57%	<p>Recycling targets are increasingly challenging and require the support of the public if they are to be met. The overall re-use/recycling/composting statutory target is set to rise to 64% by 2019/20. Whilst the Authority has met the statutory target of 52% in 2014/15 much work needs to be undertaken to ensure the Authority meet the future statutory targets.</p> <p>Public engagement in 2014/15 has focused on the 'keep it to 3' strategy launched in April 2014 which limits collection of general waste. A free smartphone app 'Connect Swansea' which helps people access recycling information was launched and now has over 6,500 users.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p><i>The 2014/15 performance target was set at 55% and achieved. In 2015/16 the target is 58%.</i></p>
Year	Percentage														
2010/11	40%														
2011/12	45%														
2012/13	48%														
2013/14	53%														
2014/15	57%														
<p>(13) The percentage of local authority collected municipal waste used to recover heat and power (WMT/012)</p>	<p>The percentage of waste used to recover heat and energy for 2014/15 is 5.6% which is made up of the tonnage of food waste sent for anaerobic digestion and material sent for incineration with heat/energy recovery, This achieves the target of 4% but is lower in percentage terms than the 7.3% achieved the previous year. The reduction in percentage terms is down to the fact very little material was sent for incineration with heat/energy recovery as other forms of recycling etc. are also in use.</p> <p>The target for 2015/16 has been set at 5% based on the tonnage of food waste likely to be sent for anaerobic digestion as there are no firm plans to send materials for treatment to Energy from Waste, carpets for example are instead being recycled wherever possible.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p><i>Target achieved but lower overall percentage</i></p>													

<p>(14) Percentage of biodegradable municipal waste landfill allowance used</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="577 233 1182 533"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Allowance used (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>75.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>85.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>81.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>72.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>78.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This significant reduction is credited to the keep it to three campaign, door knocking campaigns and a focus on trade waste.</p>	Year	Allowance used (%)	2014/15	75.89	2013/14	85.1	2012/13	81.2	2011/12	72.6	2010/11	78.2	<p>The Authority has an annual Landfill Allowances Scheme allowance which governs the amount of biodegradable municipal waste it can send to landfill in any given year. The lower the percentage used of this allowance, the less landfill is created.</p> <p>This allowance reduces each year making each year more challenging. The authority risks fines if it fails to meet its target.</p>	 <p><i>The target of less than 100% has been achieved and last year's outcomes Improved.</i></p>
Year	Allowance used (%)														
2014/15	75.89														
2013/14	85.1														
2012/13	81.2														
2011/12	72.6														
2010/11	78.2														
<p>Natural Environment</p>		<p>Information, Initiatives and Targets</p>		<p>Progress</p>											
<p>(15) Number of Green Flags and Blue Flags awarded to local authority operated areas</p>	<p>Singleton Botanical Gardens, Victoria Park, Brynmill Park, Clyne Gardens, Cwmdonkin Park and for the first time Park Llewelyn were awarded the Green Flag Award. The Parks Development and Outreach team work closely with schools enabling children to benefit from the educational value of green space, help visitors access valuable cultural amenities and engage residents in regenerating local greenspace creating health well-being benefits.</p> <p>The team facilitates community action by supporting the development of Friends groups. These groups have been supported in accessing over £200,000 of external grant funding this year.</p>	<p>Four beaches were awarded the Blue Flag, Port Eynon, Caswell, Langland and Bracelet.</p> <p>At Swansea Bay predicted water quality information is posted thrice daily at the slip, meeting EU standards. It is anticipated that in 2015/16 Swansea Marina will return to the scheme having explored alternative environmental standards.</p>	 <p><i>Park Llewelyn attained the standard in 2014/15 bringing the total of Green Flag Parks to 6.</i></p>												
<p>(16) Number of biodiversity training sessions delivered, action</p>	<p>In 2014/15, it was not possible to deliver targeted NERC training sessions, producing bespoke action plans due to the loss of the Biodiversity Officer post. However, follow up support was provided to groups which had previously completed training in implementing their action plans. Provision has been made within the 2015/16 budget for the delivery of this provision. This</p>	 <p><i>Resource</i></p>													

<p>plans produced and employees trained</p>	<p>action aims to help the Local Authority and other public bodies to understand their obligations for biodiversity under the <u>Natural Environment and Rural Communities</u> Act 2006, and to provide information and advice on ways in which they can adopt relevant working practices which help to conserve and enhance biodiversity. A pilot project 'Wild about your Ward' maps natural resources at a local level making visible opportunities for potential economic, health and social benefit and enabling efforts to be concentrated where there is most impact. In 2014, a Biodiversity Champion at Council was appointed reflecting the importance of the issue</p>	<p><i>constraints meant that NERC training could not be maintained.</i></p>	
<p>(17) Number of Local Nature Reserves (LNR)s</p>	<p>The Authority currently has 6 Local Nature Reserves which are managed by the Nature Conservation Team in partnership with other organisations with help from local volunteers. LNRs are areas of high biodiversity value which are accessible to people and provide opportunities for people to enjoy nature where they live.</p>	<p>Progress toward the designation of a seventh LNR at Garth Farm is on target. A draft management plan has been prepared and consultation is underway.</p>	
<p>(18) The percentage of total length of Rights of Way which are easy to use by members of the public</p>	<p>The Percentage of Total Length of Rights of Way Easy to Use by Members of the Public</p>  <p>■ Rights of Way easy to use by members of the public ■ Rights of Way</p> <p><i>The target of 67.5% has not been met (as predicted last year) due to the nature of the survey methodology. It is therefore expected to improve in 2015/16.</i></p>	<p>The Countryside Access Team are responsible for nearly 400 miles of public rights of way. Partnership working with stakeholders helps fund this work. While the active engagement of citizens and groups as volunteers helps improve existing and develop new routes.</p> <p>Initiatives such as the Love Your Countryside festival, Swansea Nature Network and Countryside Connections Project promote access, understanding and enjoyment of local green spaces and wildlife sites. Rural assets are leveraged to provide urban economic, social and other outcomes</p>	 <p><i>The percentage has decreased from 66.8% the previous year</i></p>

Social Inclusion	Information, Initiatives and Targets		Progress												
<p>(19) Percentage of young people (at 16 years) not known to be in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</p> <p><i>(this is local PI EDCP18c and not the nationally published figures)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Percentage of Young People Known to be NEET</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for NEET Percentage Chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>4.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>3.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>2.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>3.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>3.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Target was not met in 2014/15 as a result of changes to the co-ordination of identification and support for potential NEETs, reduced funding and reduced provision. This included a reduction in year of the WG grant for learning provision provided by the Council, along with a substantial change in the delivery of traineeships, as well as a move towards provision by National providers such as A4E and Rathbone. This transition led to a lot of upheaval and reduction in the number of young people with clear destinations.</i></p>	Year	Percentage	2010/11	4.2%	2011/12	3.1%	2012/13	2.0%	2013/14	3.2%	2014/15	3.7%	<p>The 'Keeping in Touch' partnership continues to work with young people at risk of becoming NEET utilising the WG Youth Progression and Engagement Framework. The partnership is working on new arrangements for more flexible provision with Gower College, along with changes in the structure and function of elements of the Youth Service to target vulnerable young people through a lead worker approach. There is also a prospective ESF bid for Pre and post 16 year olds to provide additional support. (2014/15 figures relate to the academic year 2013/14.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p><i>Target of 3% not met. The aim is to minimise the % of NEETS.</i></p>
Year	Percentage														
2010/11	4.2%														
2011/12	3.1%														
2012/13	2.0%														
2013/14	3.2%														
2014/15	3.7%														

<p>(20) Learners leaving Employment Training with a positive outcome</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Percentage of Learners Leaving Employment Training with a Positive Outcome</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>82.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>83.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>83</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage	2010/11	82.5	2011/12	81	2012/13	83.5	2013/14	83	2014/15	83	<p>Lifelong Learning and Employment Training Service (LLETS) provides young people and adults with apprenticeship opportunities from foundation to highest levels. Cross cutting themes in 'Environmental and Sustainability Global Citizenship' and 'Welsh Language and Culture' have been identified and specific officers have the responsibility to embed these into curriculum.</p> <p>Work is progressing with Gower College to develop work based learning (WBL) opportunities across Swansea. LLETS is looking to build resilience and independence of learners benefiting the local economy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Target met in 2014/15</i></p>
Year	Percentage														
2010/11	82.5														
2011/12	81														
2012/13	83.5														
2013/14	83														
2014/15	83														
<p>(21) Percentage of pupils of statutory age claiming Free School Meals (FSM)</p>	<p>Snapshot data reported at January 2015 indicates Free School Meals are claimed by 19.8% of statutory age pupils. This rate is lower than estimated entitlement to this benefit, a situation attributed to cultural and language factors. While the rate of claims has fallen 0.1% last year and 0.8% the previous year, this positive trend may not translate into an improvement in child poverty. Schools report the impact of welfare reform has reduced entitlement to FSM. Changes in entitlement to benefits which trigger FSM have impacted eligibility although family circumstances have not changed. School based initiatives motivated by the link to the Pupil Deprivation Grant ensure parents and carers are aware of this benefit and have the opportunity to apply.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Small decrease</i></p>													

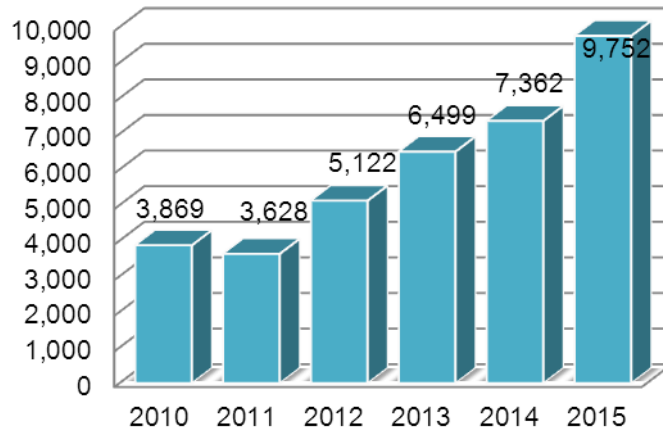
Economic Resilience

Information, Initiatives and Targets

Progress

(22) Level of funds in reserve (£,000)

Schools Delegated Reserves £'000

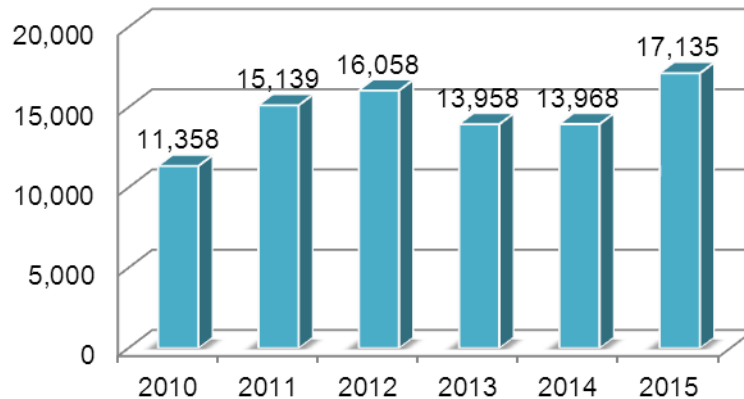


The Housing Revenue Account Reserves will be used to fund the capital works to meet the Welsh Quality Housing Standard more quickly, apart from £4m which is held as a general HRA contingency fund.

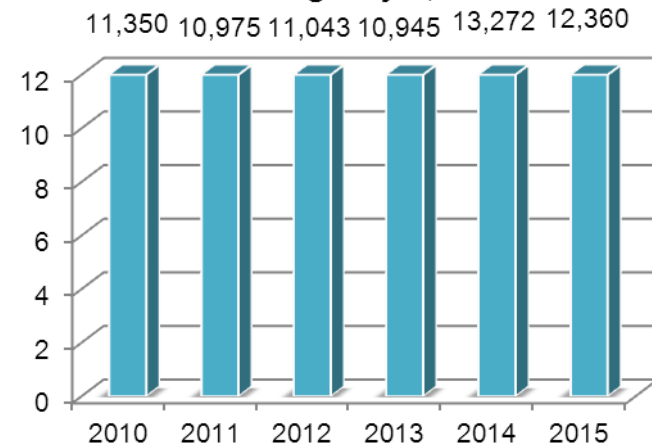
Schools Delegated Reserves have increased.

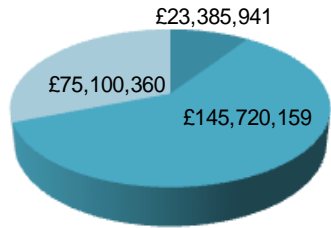

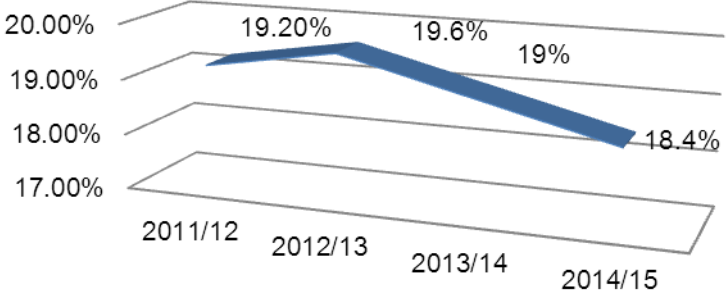





Housing Revenue Account £'000







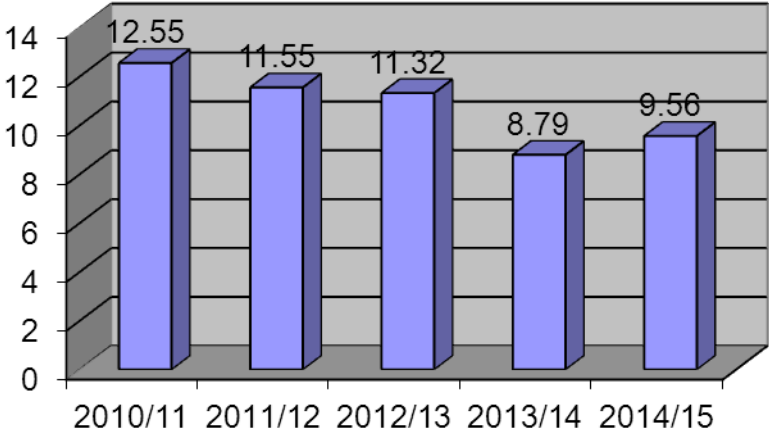

General Reserves and Contingency £,000



<p>(23) Asset management – The total value of required maintenance for the Local Authority’s buildings assigned to works of priority level</p>	<p>The Total Value of Required Maintenance for the Local Authorities Buildings Assigned to Works of Priority Level</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Priority Level</th> <th>Value (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Urgent</td> <td>£145,720,159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essential</td> <td>£75,100,360</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Desirable</td> <td>£23,385,941</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Priority Level	Value (£)	Urgent	£145,720,159	Essential	£75,100,360	Desirable	£23,385,941	<p>The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority’s buildings in condition categories considered good is 7%, satisfactory - 47%, poor – 45% and bad – 1% in 2014/15.</p> <p>The total value of required maintenance was approximately £245,133 million compared to approximately £268.393 million in the previous year.</p>	 <p><i>Total value of required work has decreased.</i></p>		
Priority Level	Value (£)												
Urgent	£145,720,159												
Essential	£75,100,360												
Desirable	£23,385,941												
<p>(24) The percentage of void properties in the City Centre</p>	<p>Number of Vacant Properties Within the City Centre in 2014/15*</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>19.20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>19.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>18.4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*</p>	Year	Percentage	2011/12	19.20%	2012/13	19.6%	2013/14	19%	2014/15	18.4%	<p>The percentage of void properties in the wider City Centre decreased to an average of 18.4% during 2014/15. The Council works closely with Swansea’s Business Improvement District (BID) to actively promote a vibrant City Centre to overcome the national trend in increasing empty properties. The City Centre’s development presents both a risk and long term opportunity regarding the concentration of the retail core, development of City Living and designation of the Kingsway as an area designated for business and office use. This can be seen in the appearance of voids on the Kingsway as retail relocates.</p>	 <p><i>Not directly comparable to previous years due to change in survey methodology</i></p>
Year	Percentage												
2011/12	19.20%												
2012/13	19.6%												
2013/14	19%												
2014/15	18.4%												

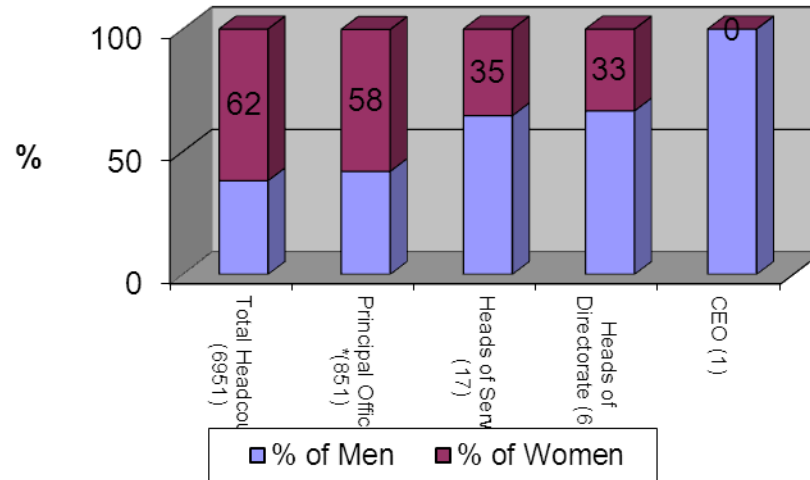
<p>(25) Percentage of children in Poverty (under 16)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Percentage of Children Living in Poverty</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Percentage of Children Living in Poverty</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Children Living in Families with above 60% Median Income</th> <th>Children Living in Poverty</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>15.2%</td> <td>24.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>16.5%</td> <td>23.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>17.1%</td> <td>23.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>18.3%</td> <td>21.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p> ■ Children Living in Families with above 60% Median Income ■ Children Living in Poverty </p> <p><i>The 'Children in Low Income Families Measure' defines a child as being in relative poverty if they live in a household where income is less than 60 per cent of the national median income. This includes working families in receipt of tax credits as well as families claiming out of work benefits. (Snapshot August 2012)</i></p>	Year	Children Living in Families with above 60% Median Income	Children Living in Poverty	2011/12	15.2%	24.8%	2012/13	16.5%	23.5%	2013/14	17.1%	23.1%	2014/15	18.3%	21.7%	<p>This indicator mirrors national trends by decreasing each year. However, the recorded improvement is a comment on 'relative rather than absolute' poverty. In an environment where average living standards have declined and welfare reforms have been made to tax credits, the decrease does not necessarily reflect an improvement in the circumstances of Swansea's children.</p> <p>While the "poverty line" is 60% of the median, most household types actually require nearly 75% of median income to have an acceptable standard of living in the UK. Swansea's Poverty Profile gives a wider insight into the impact and impacts of poverty in Swansea.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  <i>Decrease in relative poverty of 1.4%</i> </p>
Year	Children Living in Families with above 60% Median Income	Children Living in Poverty																
2011/12	15.2%	24.8%																
2012/13	16.5%	23.5%																
2013/14	17.1%	23.1%																
2014/15	18.3%	21.7%																
<p>(26) The percentage of clients returning home after residential re-ablement</p>	<p>This indicator demonstrates how Social Services are being redesigned with service users to be more resilient in the face of rising demand.</p> <p>A residential re-ablement service has been developed to help older people who need a short period of care to help them recover after a fall or illness. There are now 20 Step up/ Step down assessment beds at Bonymaen House and 8 at Ty Waunarllydd. In 2014/15, 51.2% of</p>	<p>The Promoting Safer Independence programme for older people and vulnerable adults in Swansea aims to safely reduce or prevent the need for citizens to require a formal adult services intervention or 'managed care' and to improve safety and independence for Swansea's most vulnerable citizens.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  <i>Decrease from 54% in 2013/14</i> </p>															

	<p>people receiving a residential re-ablement service returned home rather than being admitted to long term or hospital care.</p> <p><i>The nature of pressures of the NHS during 2015/15 led to an increase in discharges into re-ablement beds (aka assessment beds) Such service users are likely to have had a higher level of need and lower potential for re-ablement. Nonetheless, these placements were preferable to immediate admission to a long term care home.</i></p>	<p>The Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme facilitates collaborative working with health partners based on a regional strategy and analysis of demand.</p> <p>Further work to strengthen joint working with the Health Service via the establishment of the Hubs is set to continue over the coming year.</p>		
Governance		Information, Initiatives and Targets		Progress
<p>(27) The percentage of citizens satisfied with the overall standards of services provided by the Local Authority</p>	<p><u>Swansea Voices</u> Citizens' Panel consists of a representative sample of 1,250 residents who are regularly consulted by the Council about its services and local issues. The most recent survey recorded 71% of respondents were satisfied with overall standards of service provided by the Local Authority.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on the development of a more comparable source of reputational and customer satisfaction awareness.</p>		<p></p> <p>3% improvement</p>	
<p>(28) Number of complaints upheld</p>	<p>Complaints provide a valuable opportunity to improve services by learning from this information. In 2014/15, 1076 corporate complaints were recorded by the Authority. A new central recording mechanism was adopted by all Service Areas on 1 April 2013 which is now providing a much richer analysis of complaint outcomes than has ever previously been available.</p> <p>For complaints received in 2014/15, 25.2% of complaints were found to be justified, 20.9% were part justified and 51.8% were not justified. Outcomes were not specified in 2.1% of cases and work continues to ensure that all outcomes are recorded. During the year, corporate complaints were referred for further investigation to 'Stage 2' of the complaints process. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales provides an annual report which shows that his office received a total of 59 complaints in respect of Swansea, only 1 of which was upheld.</p>		<p></p> <p>Only one complaint was upheld by the Ombudsman in 2014/15</p>	

<p>(29) Attendance at meetings by Councillors</p>	<p>Average attendance at meetings has been affected by resignations and a dispensation for long term absence through ill health for one member. Due to these reasons attendance averaged 79%, attendance and with Committee meetings (for which agendas are published online excluding scrutiny) averaging 74%.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  <i>5% decrease in attendance at Council</i> </p>													
<p>(30) The gender of Councillors (% female)</p>	<p>The Member Support Unit recorded 72 members in April 2013 of whom 27 or 37.5% were female Councillors following the resignation of a female and election of a male Councillor. Cabinet consists of 10 Members, 3 of whom are female, including the Deputy Leader.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  </p>													
<p>(31) The number of working days/shifts per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence (CHR/002)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Number of Working Days/Shifts per Full Time Employee lost due to Sickness Absence</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Working Days/Shifts per Full Time Employee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/11</td> <td>12.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>11.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>11.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>8.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>9.56</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Working Days/Shifts per Full Time Employee	2010/11	12.55	2011/12	11.55	2012/13	11.32	2013/14	8.79	2014/15	9.56	<p>The Council aims to be an excellent organisation to work for and in, by creating a culture that encourages employees to attend work and in doing so provides the best possible services to our customers. Early intervention and preventative approaches include mandatory Employee Health and Wellbeing training for managers, stress management interventions, monthly Health Fairs and a prompt and supportive occupational health service. Innovative approaches such as the volunteer based 'Helping Hands' service and closer collaboration with external agencies/providers are supported.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  <i>Increased supportive contact with employees with short term sickness is planned for 2015/16</i> </p>
Year	Working Days/Shifts per Full Time Employee														
2010/11	12.55														
2011/12	11.55														
2012/13	11.32														
2013/14	8.79														
2014/15	9.56														

(32) The gender of senior staff (% female)

Gender of Staff in the Non-School Workforce



The general workforce columns exclude employees on alternative salary schemes (e.g. Soulbury) and include some anomalies within the system due to legacy terms and conditions. CEO, Directors and HOS are also on a separate scheme. *Principal Officers are based on Salary points 35-55. This data is based on ISIS Non schools workforce data on 4 April 2015 (includes educational psychologists, advisors, inspectors and social workers).



Changes reflect Senior Management Team restructuring and reductions in staffing levels. The percentage of women at Principal Officer level has remained consistent but has increased in both absolute and percentage terms at senior levels

Procurement

Information, Initiatives and Targets


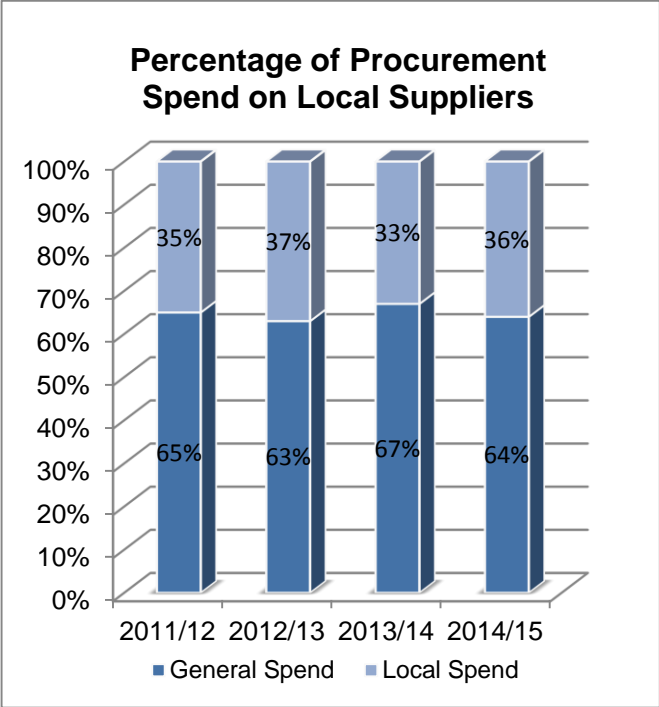

Progress



(33) Increase in the number of projects with social benefit clause & Beyond Bricks and Mortar in

The Beyond Bricks and Mortar scheme uses social benefit clauses in public sector contracts to maximise benefits of Council's regeneration programme by providing work experience, jobs and training for the economically inactive and unemployed. Extensive collaboration work with the Local Service Board and Economic Regeneration Partnership resulted in 19 projects in 2013/14. This equates to £45million in value. Social benefit clauses have resulted in over 1500 person weeks of training taking place during the financial year and 53 people benefiting from opportunities to train and work.



This is an increase of 3 on the previous year's 16 projects.

<p>their contracts (BBMA1)* now includes previous indicator 34 as same outcomes)</p>	<p>This indicator includes both Council and wider public sector contracts. It has merged with the previous indicator measuring the Increase in the number of appropriate Council contracts that contain social benefit clauses (BBMA2). This reflects increased collaborative working and integration in Swansea's public sector. Beyond Bricks and Mortar won the Welsh National Procurement Awards Community Benefit Award for 2014.</p>																	
<p>(34) Percentage of e-invoices as a percentage of total invoices</p>	<p>E-Invoices refer to transactions where invoices are electronically received and processed resulting in a more effective use of human, financial and natural resources. Additionally included are internal interfaces and Purchasing Card transactions from departments. The percentage of electronic transactions continues to increase significantly from 21% in 2013/14 resulting in efficiencies and reduced environmental impact. This year's target of 30% has been exceeded with an increase to 40% planned for 2015/16.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">  <i>Increased to 33% of transactions</i> </p>															
<p>(35) Percentage of procurement spend on local suppliers</p> <p>It should be noted that large spends such as large development schemes cannot be obtained locally, although they sub-contract suppliers and use local labour this data is not captured.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Percentage of Procurement Spend on Local Suppliers</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>General Spend (%)</th> <th>Local Spend (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011/12</td> <td>65%</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/13</td> <td>63%</td> <td>37%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/14</td> <td>67%</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/15</td> <td>64%</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	General Spend (%)	Local Spend (%)	2011/12	65%	35%	2012/13	63%	37%	2013/14	67%	33%	2014/15	64%	36%	<p>£93 million of a total procurement spend of £257 million was placed with local suppliers (registered with a Swansea postcode) in 2014/15.</p> <p>The Opening Doors Charter has been adopted and is implemented to make contracts more accessible to Small to Medium Enterprises and the Third Sector.</p> <p>Initiatives such as a standard set of suitability questions (SQuID), streamlining low value contracts and the simplification of tender documentation has encouraged small local business to bid for contracts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  <i>3% increase on previous year's local spend</i> </p>
Year	General Spend (%)	Local Spend (%)																
2011/12	65%	35%																
2012/13	63%	37%																
2013/14	67%	33%																
2014/15	64%	36%																

<p>(36) Number of suppliers attending sustainable development training courses</p>	<p>Swansea is committed to maximising the percentage of expenditure with micro, small and medium SMEs (without contravening EC Procurement Directives) and is proactive in local supply chain development.</p> <p>The Commercial and Commissioning Service works in partnership with Business Wales Tendering Support to deliver events designed to improve the capability and capacity of local SME's. In 2014/15 businesses attended tendering events, tender specific workshops offering general advice on applying for advertised contracts, in addition to briefing sessions designed to alert potential local suppliers to relevant forthcoming opportunities.</p>	<p></p> <p>Specific numbers have not been recorded in 2014/15</p>
<p>(37) Public Sector Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework (SPAF) Score</p>	<p>The Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework against which Swansea consistently scored highly and set a benchmark for local authorities has been discontinued by Value Wales. The Initiative has been superceded by the <u>'Wales Procurement Policy Statement'</u> 'which aims to maximise the impact of Welsh procurement policy' and is based on sustainable principles. In future years, the public sector will undertake an annual Procurement Fitness Check to measure themselves against a 'maturity model' and action plan for improvement.</p> <p>The Council aims to maximise Community benefit from project and uses the Welsh Government Community Benefit Measurement Tool (applied on the Morryston Comprehensive Project) which records the wider impacts of key development projects on local communities.</p>	<p></p>

For further information please visit www.swansea.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentreporting

Report of the Cabinet Member for Transformation & Performance

Council – 24 September 2015

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Purpose:	Council approves the nominations/amendments to the Council Bodies.
Policy Framework:	None.
Reason for Decision:	To agree nominations for Committee Membership.
Consultation:	Political Groups.
Recommendation:	It is recommended that: 1) The amendments to the Council Bodies listed in paragraph 2 be approved.
Report Author:	G Borsden
Legal Officer:	T Meredith
Finance Officer:	P Cridland
Access to Services Officer:	N/A

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Meetings of Council regularly agree and amend the membership of the various Committees/Council Bodies as reflected in the lists submitted by the Political Groups.

2. Changes to Council Body Membership

- 2.1 The Political Groups have indicated that they have changes to Council Bodies as indicate below.

Chief Executives Appraisal & Remuneration Committee

Remove Councillor M Thomas
Add Councillor A S Lewis

Corporate Services CAC

Remove Councillors E J King & G Owens
Add Councillors A J Jones & D J Lewis

Communities CAC

Remove Councillor A S Lewis
Add Councillor N J Davies

Development CAC

Remove Councillors R V Smith & M Thomas

Add Councillors C Anderson & C Thomas

Education & Young People CAC

Remove Councillor A J Jones

Add Councillor F M Gordon

Prevention & Social Care Reform CAC

Remove Councillors C Anderson & N J Davies

Add Councillors J P Curtice & E J King

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: Local Government & Housing Act 1989, the Local Government (Committees & Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Appendices: None

Joint Report of the Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services

Council – 24 September 2015

AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Purpose:	To make amendments in order to simplify, improve and / or add to the Council Constitution.
Policy Framework:	None.
Reason for Decision:	A decision of Council is required to change the Council Constitution.
Consultation:	Finance, Legal
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The changes to the Council Constitution as outlined in Paragraph 4 of the report together with any further consequential changes be adopted.
Report Author:	Huw Evans
Finance Officer:	Carl Billingsley
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Euros Owen

1. Introduction

1.1 In compliance with the Local Government Act 2000, the City and County of Swansea has adopted a Council Constitution. A number of issues have arisen since adoption and in order to maintain the aims, principles and procedures set out in Articles 1 and 15 of the Council Constitution, it is proposed that the amendments set out below should be made to the Constitution.

2. Delegated Minor Corrections to the Council Constitution

2.1 There are no delegated minor corrections to the Council Constitution.

3. Amendments to the Council Constitution

3.1 This report outlines a number of suggested amendments to the Council Constitution. The amendments are within the following area of the Council Constitution:

a) Part 3 - Scheme of Delegation.

4. Scheme of Delegation - “Local Choice Functions”

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 2000 makes the Cabinet responsible for all functions of the Council save those functions specified in the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007 as amended as not being the responsibility of the Cabinet.
- 4.2 Schedule II to the Regulations sets out those functions that may be (but need not be) the responsibility of the Cabinet. These functions are known as “Local Choice” functions. These functions are allocated to either Council or Cabinet and may be delegated to Officers.
- 4.3 The “Local Choice” functions have been added to by way of amendments to the legislation and the Scheme of Delegation needs to reflect those changes.
- 4.4 The current Local Choice Functions are set out within Paragraph 1.16 “Local Choice Functions, Part 3 “Scheme of Delegation” of the Council Constitution. These are appended as **Appendix A**.
- 4.5 The proposed Local Choice Functions are set out at **Appendix B**.
- 4.6 The proposed changes to the Local Choice Functions will necessitate the Key to the Scheme of Delegation table to be amended. The new key would be as follows:

PC	Planning Committee
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
Div Off (Taxis)	Divisional Officer (Taxis)
DoCS	Director of Corporate Services
DoP	Director of People
DoPI	Director of Place
HoER&P	Head of Economic Regeneration & Planning
HoFS	Head of Financial Services
HoH	Head of Highways
HoH&PP	Head of Housing & Public Protection
HoHR&OD	Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
HoLDS&P	Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement

5. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening process took place prior to the consultation period. The outcome indicated that it was low priority and a full report was not required.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report. The amended version of the Council Constitution will be available at www.swansea.gov.uk/constitution

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A	Paragraph 1.16 “Local Choice Functions, Part 3 “Scheme of Delegation” of the Council Constitution;
Appendix B	Proposed - Paragraph 1.16 “Local Choice Functions, Part 3 “Scheme of Delegation” of the Council Constitution.

Appendix A

**Current Version - Paragraph 1.16 “Local Choice Functions, Part 3
“Scheme of Delegation” of the Council Constitution**

No	Function	Provision of Act or Statutory Instrument	Delegated To
J1	Calculation of council tax base in accordance with any of the provisions opposite.	(a) the determination of an amount for item T in Sections 33(1) and 44(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;	Council
		(b) the determination of an amount for item TP in Sections 34(3), 45(3), 48(3) and 48(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;	Council
		(c)The determination of an amount required for determining an amount for the item mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) above.	Council
J2	Licensing functions.	Part 2 of the Licensing Act 2003 except Sections 6 and 53A to 53C.	HoH&PP / CD(E) / DoPI (save for the approval of Licensing Policy) / Statutory Licensing Committee
J2a	Licensing functions.	Part 2 of the Licensing Act 2003 Sections 53A to 53 C.	Statutory Licensing Committee
J3	Gambling		
J3a	A resolution not to issue Casino licenses.	Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005. Cannot be delegated.	Council * Cannot be delegated
J3b	Three year licensing policy, which describes the principles to be applied in exercising the various licensing functions – Issuing of premises licenses, temporary use notices and a range of permits.	Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005. Cannot be delegated.	Council * Cannot be delegated

No	Function	Provision of Act or Statutory Instrument	Delegated To
J4	Making orders in respect of gaming machines dis-applying Section 279 on 282 (1) of the Gambling Act 2005.	Section 284 of the Gambling Act 2005.	Council
J5	Duty to provide Licensing Authority Information	S29 Gambling Act 2005	HoH&PP / CD(E) / DoPI
J6	Gambling Commission Power for Other Exchange of Information	S30 Gambling Act 2005	HoH&PP / CD(E) / DoPI
J7	Power for Exchange of Information	S350 Gambling Act 2005	HoH&PP / CD(E) / DoPI
J8	Registration and Regulation of Small Society Lotteries	Part 5 Schedule 11 Gambling Act 2005	HoH&PP / CD(E) / DoPI
J9	Powers related to Public Rights of Way, Commons Registration and Village Greens.	Commons Act 1965; Commons Act 2006; Section 53 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Section 26, 118, 119 of the Highways Act 1980.	PC
J10	Powers related to the Diversion, Extinguishment and Creation of public rights of way where no objections have been received, and all other functions relating to public rights of way not delegated to the Planning Committee.	Highways Act 1980; Countryside Act 1968; National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.	HoER&P
J11	Family Absence	Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013.	Council

Appendix B

Proposed Version - Paragraph 1.16 “Local Choice Functions, Part 3 “Scheme of Delegation” of the Council Constitution

SCHEDULE 2 Functions which May be (but Need Not be) the Responsibility of an Authority's Executive Regulation 4

No.	Function	Delegation of Function
J1	Any function under a local Act other than a function specified or referred to in Schedule 1.	All Cabinet Members
J2	The determination of an appeal against any decision made by or on behalf of the authority.	Appeals and Awards Committee save: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In respect of approvals to drive school transport and licensing functions and matters of a licensing nature which will be heard by the General Licensing Committee.
J3	Functions in relation to the revision of decisions made in connection with claims for housing benefit or council tax benefit and for appeals against such decisions under section 68 of and Schedule 7 to the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000.	CFO
J4	The making of arrangements in relation to appeals against the exclusion of pupils in maintained schools under section 52 of the Education Act 2002.	Independent Exclusion Appeals Panel
J5	The making of arrangements pursuant to section 94(1), (1A) and (4) of, and Schedule 24 to, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (admission appeals).	Independent Admission Appeals Panel
J6	The making of arrangements pursuant to section 95(2) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (children to whom section 87 applies: appeals by governing bodies).	Independent Admission Appeals Panel
J7	The making of arrangements under section 20 (questions on police matters at council meetings) of the Police Act 1996 for enabling questions to be put on the discharge of the functions of a police authority.	Cabinet

No.	Function	Delegation of Function
J8	The making of appointments under paragraphs 2 to 4 (appointment of members by relevant councils) of Schedule 2 (police authorities established under section 3) to the Police Act 1996 .	Cabinet
J9	The conducting of best value reviews in accordance with the provisions of any order for the time being having effect under section 5 (best value reviews) of the Local Government Act 1999 .	Cabinet
J10	Any function relating to contaminated land.	DoPI
J11	The discharge of any function relating to the control of pollution or the management of air quality.	DoPI
J12	The service of an abatement notice in respect of a statutory nuisance.	DoPI
J13	The passing of a resolution that Schedule 2 to the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 should apply in the authority's area.	Council
J14	The inspection of the authority's area to detect any statutory nuisance.	DoPI
J15	The investigation of any complaint as to the existence of a statutory nuisance.	DoPI
J16	The obtaining of information under section 330 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as to interests in land.	DoPI
J17	The obtaining of particulars of persons interested in land under section 16 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.	DoPI
J18	Any of the following functions in respect of highways—	HoER&P & HoH: Save as to those matters to be referred to Planning Committee as set out in the paragraph entitled Public Rights of Way Matters in Part 3 of the Council Constitution.
	(a) the making of agreements for the execution of highways works;	

No.	Function	Delegation of Function
	<p>(b) the functions contained in the following provisions of Part III of the Highways Act 1980 (creation of highways)—</p> <p>(i) section 25—creation of footpath, bridleway or restricted byway by agreement;</p> <p>(ii) section 26—compulsory powers for creation of footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways;</p>	
	<p>(c) the functions contained in the following provisions of Part VIII of the Highways Act 1980 (stopping up and diversion of highways etc)—</p> <p>(i) section 116—power of magistrates' court to authorise stopping up or diversion of highway;</p> <p>(ii) section 117—application for order under section 116 on behalf of another person;</p> <p>(iii) section 118—stopping up of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways;</p> <p>(iv) section 118ZA—application for a public path extinguishment order;</p> <p>(v) section 118A—stopping up of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways crossing railways;</p> <p>(vi) section 118B—stopping up of certain highways for purposes of crime prevention etc;</p> <p>(vii) section 118C—application by proprietor of school for special extinguishment order;</p> <p>(viii) section 119—diversion of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways;</p> <p>(ix) section 119ZA—application for a public path diversion order;</p>	

		<p>(x) section 119A—diversion of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways crossing railways;</p> <p>(xi) section 119B—diversion of certain highways for purposes of crime prevention etc;</p> <p>(xii) section 119C—application by proprietor of school for special diversion order;</p> <p>(xiii) section 119D—diversion of certain highways for protection of sites of special scientific interest;</p> <p>(xiv) section 120—exercise of powers of making public path extinguishment and diversion orders;</p> <p>(xv) section 121B—register of applications;</p>	
	(d)	<p>the functions contained in the following provisions of Part IX of the Highways Act 1980 (lawful and unlawful interference with highways and streets)—</p> <p>(i) section 130—protection of public rights;</p> <p>(ii) sections 139—control of builders' skips;</p> <p>(iii) section 140—removal of builders' skips;</p> <p>(iv) section 140A—builders' skips: charges for occupation of the highway;</p> <p>(v) section 142—licence to plant trees, shrubs etc in a highway;</p> <p>(vi) section 147—power to authorise erection of stiles etc on footpath or bridleway;</p> <p>(vii) section 147ZA—agreements relating to improvements for benefit of persons with mobility problems;</p> <p>(viii) section 149—removal of things so deposited on highways as to be a nuisance etc;</p> <p>(ix) section 169—control of scaffolding on highways;</p>	

		(x) section 171—control of deposit of building materials and making of excavations in streets; (xi) section 171A and regulations made under that section—works under s169 or s171: charge for occupation of the highway; (xii) section 172—hoardings to be set up during building etc; (xiii) section 173—hoardings to be securely erected; (xiv) section 178—restriction on placing of rails, beams etc over highways; (xv) section 179—control of construction of cellars etc under street; (xvi) section 180—control of openings into cellars etc under streets, and pavement lights and ventilators;	
	(e)	exercising functions under section 34 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (limestone pavement orders); and	
	(f)	exercising functions under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (duty to keep definitive map and statement under continuous review).]	
J19	The appointment of any individual—		Cabinet – Leader subject to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
	(a)	to any office other than an office in which he is employed by the authority;	
	(b)	to any body other than— (i) the authority; (ii) a joint committee of two or more authorities; or	
	(c)	to any committee or sub-committee of such a body,	
		and the revocation of any such appointment.	
J20	Power to make payments or provide other benefits in cases of Maladministration etc.		DoPI, DoCS DoP
J21	The discharge of any function by an authority acting as a harbour authority.		Cabinet

No.	Function	Delegation of Function
J22	Functions in respect of the calculation of council tax base in accordance with any of the following—	Council
	(a) the determination of an item for T in section 33(1) and 44(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;	
	(b) the determination of an amount for item TP in sections 34(3), 45(3) 48(3) and 48(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ;	
	(c) the determination of an amount required for determining an amount for the item mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) above.	
J23	Licensing functions in accordance with Part 2 of the Licensing Act 2003 except section 6 and 7 (2).	Statutory Licensing Committee/HoH&PP/DoPI
J24	Functions in respect of gambling under the following provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 —	
	(a) section 29—licensing authority information;	HoH&PP & DoPI
	(b) section 30—other exchange of information;	HoH&PP & DoPI
	(c) section 166—resolution not to issue casino licences;	Council
	(d) section 212 and regulations made under that section—fees;	Cabinet
	(e) section 284—removal of exemption;	Council
	(f) section 304—authorised persons;	DoPI
	(g) section 346—prosecutions by licensing authority;	DoP
	(h) section 349—three-year licensing policy	Council
	(i) section 350—exchange of information;	HoH&PP & DoPI
	(j) Part 5 of Schedule 11—registration with local authority.]	HoH&PP & DoPI
J25	Functions in respect of approval by a local authority under section 51 or a determination by a local authority under section 53 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 .]	Council where objections are made. Cabinet where there are no objections.
J26	Family Absence. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013.	Council

Agenda Item 13.

Council – 24 September 2015

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

PART A – SUPPLEMENTARIES

1.	<p>Cllrs Chris Holley, Mary Jones, Jeff Jones</p> <p>Given that we have a very good Contact Centre with a Café, Library and Archive Service currently in our Civic Centre will the Cabinet Member confirm that none of these excellent services will be lost to the public of Swansea when and if the current location is sold?</p> <p>Response of Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration</p> <p>The developers bids are due to be submitted later this month. A full evaluation of all the submissions will then take place to establish the financial viability of redeveloping the Civic Centre Site. The future floor space requirements, uses, costs and location options for a relocated office and ancillary uses are being fully considered as part of this process. I will be able to comment in greater detail following receipt of bids and full evaluation in due course.</p>
2.	<p>Cllrs Chris Holley, Graham Thomas, Cheryl Philpott</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member please tell Council which community assets have been transferred and to whom they have been transferred to?</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City</p> <p>a. Forge Fach Resource Centre</p> <p>Forge Fach Resource Centre is being transferred to the charity Walsingham under a 99 year lease, Walsingham is a national charity that supports adults with disabilities to live independent lives. The site will remain open for community use and will also house the Walsingham Welsh Headquarters in the upstairs offices. They are looking to reopen both the play area and the café in the near future.</p> <p>b. GraigFelin Hall, Clydach</p> <p>Additionally Graigfelen Hall, in Graigelen, Clydach is in the process of being handed over to Clydach Community Council under a 99 year lease, the hall will continue to operate as a community centre.</p> <p>c. Underhill Park, Mumbles</p> <p>Areas of the Park are in the process of being transferred to Mumbles Community Association under a 125 year lease to enable them to develop new community facilities such as a 3G sports pitch and community building with changing rooms.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 192</p>

d. Oystermouth Bowling Green

The Bowling Green is in the process of being transferred to Mumbles Community Council under a 25 year lease

e. Ynystawe Park Football and Cricket Pitch.

The Football and Cricket pitch and associated facilities are in the process of being transferred to Ynystawe Cricket and Football Club.

f. Coedbach Bowling Green, Pontardulais

The Bowling Green is in the process of being transferred to Coedbach Bowls Association under a lease agreement which is yet to be finalised

g. Tir Canol Playing Fields, Morryston

Negotiations are ongoing with Morryston RFC to purchase 2 pitches currently leased to the club

h. Swansea Indoor Bowls Centre

The Indoor Bowls Centre is in the process of being transferred to Swansea Indoor Bowls Ltd on a 15 year full repairing lease.

3.

Cllrs. P R Hood-Williams, A Colburn, M Thomas and L Tyler-Lloyd

One of the five main objectives, of this Council, is 'Improve the attainment of school pupils'. Can the Cabinet member explain how schools are expected to achieve this, when the proposal going forward is to cut school budgets by 5% per annum over the next three years, i.e. a 15% budget cut? What is the anticipated impact on school staffing levels of a budget reduction of this magnitude?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Education

Ann Keane, who recently retired as Chief Inspector of Estyn when interviewed in May of this year clearly stated she believed schools can improve standards despite budget cuts.

Schools will be expected to maintain and raise standards with less resources. Effective and efficient use of resources can be achieved by ensuring that there is a clear sight on learners' outcomes and that these are delivered through high-quality teaching to meet the needs of all pupils.

Schools make decisions individually on their delegated budgets including staffing and redundancies. Many of our schools have been forward looking and have planned for the three year period including their staffing needs.

Cont'd over....

	<p>The City and County of Swansea remains committed to ensuring that education is prioritised whenever it is faced with reductions in the budget. Figures available to date indicate that 12 teachers and 7 support staff have been subject to compulsory redundancy and 39 teachers and 59 support staff have opted for early or voluntary redundancy. These figures amount to less than two per cent of school staff.</p> <p>It appears that the Westminster Government is having problems delivering its manifesto commitments to improve the English NHS. I hope the Conservative Councillors are working hard to persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer that funding for Wales should not be cut.</p>
4.	<p>Cllrs Mary Jones, Jeff Jones Mike Day</p> <p>Flying start has been seen as one of the few success of the Welsh government will the Cabinet Member please tell Council how many places there are in Swansea and how many are in the pipe line for the future.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Opportunities for Children & Young People</p> <p>There are currently 2,679 0-3 year olds benefiting from the Flying Start Programme. The Programme is expected to be provided to 2,903 by the end of March 2016. In terms of childcare places there are approximately 620 places available with places expected to increase by approximately a further 70 by year end subject to registration and demand.</p>
5.	<p>Cllrs Paul Meara, Chris Holley, Peter Black</p> <p>Is the Leader aware of the recent Foresight report <i>Newcastle City Futures 2065</i> (M Tewdwr-Jones et al 2015) and does he consider that this report might have implications for the future regeneration of Swansea?</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>Swansea's future regeneration is being guided by the draft City Centre Strategic Framework review and the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy. Both of these documents are evidence based and provide up to date proposals for economic and physical regeneration. I do recognise that it is important to keep strategies up dated, and as part of any future reviews we will consider best practice from other parts of the UK as relevant, including the Newcastle City Futures 2065 publication that I have shared with the Swansea Bay City Region secretariat for consideration.</p>

6. Cllrs Mary Jones, Paul Meara, Jeff Jones

In response to the written answer provided by the Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty can he tell us if there is any tracking done to see if the people helped are still in employment for 6 months or longer?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty

Currently this data is not formerly tracked for Communities First.

However, the LIFT programme which is an employment focused Welsh Government pilot project in the North West Communities First Cluster does record information on participants who enter employment. Participants are informally contacted within 3 months of commencing employment, after initial regular contact during the first few weeks of employment to support individuals through the transition period. There is a requirement to try to make contact at 6 months and again at a year but the individuals are under no obligation to engage with the officers

The programme has only been running for just over a year and many of the participants who have been supported into employment have not yet been in employment for a year or more. However, of the 23 who found employment in 2015, only 2 participants are no longer in employment.

There is potential with the new Communities 4 Work programme which will be delivered in Partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions that a resource will be in place to track participants following gaining employment.

It is worth noting that care needs to be taken when analysing information about the length of time a person stays in employment. Consideration needs to be given to the length of the employment contract given, is this seasonal work for example. A person might have gained employment with the support of anti – poverty services and be out of work six months later for a multitude of reasons, including the successful fulfilment of the contract or a realisation that a return to further/higher education would provide more opportunities in the longer term .

PART B - None

Agenda Item 14.a

Report of the Head of Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement

Council – 24 September 2015

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

The report provides an update on the responses to Questions asked during the last Ordinary Meeting of Council on 27 August 2015.

FOR INFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It was agreed at Council on 8 April 2010 that a standing item be added to the Council Summons entitled “Written Responses to Questions Asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council”.
- 1.2 A “For Information” report will be compiled by the Democratic Services Team collating all written responses from the last Ordinary Meeting of Council and placed in the Agenda Pack;
- 1.3 Any consequential amendments be made to the Council Constitution.

2. RESPONSES

- 2.1 Responses to questions asked during the last ordinary meeting of Council are included as Appendix A.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A (Questions & Responses)

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council –
27 August 2015**

1.	<p>Mrs Lis Davies</p> <p>Questions: Agenda Item 11 “Councillors Questions - Question 2”. Page 33. The report states that during 2014/2015 the total income for Parking Enforcement was £1,240,230; associated costs of running the service were £1,172,213 which left a surplus of £68,017. Further to the above, I would appreciate answers to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How many Parking Enforcement Wardens are employed by the CCS? 2) What are their contracted hours of work and hourly rate of pay? 3) What is the overtime rate of pay? 4) Actual hours of overtime claimed during 2014/2015? 5) Total costs relating to salaries & expenses paid to Parking Enforcement officers during 2014/2015? 6) Breakdown of costs associated with running the parking enforcement van? 7) How much of the £1.24 million income was attributed to the enforcement van? 8) Administration costs associated with running the Parking Enforcement service?” <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There are 32 designated CEO’s and one Supervisor. Four of the CEO’s are designated as Senior Civil Enforcement Officers and are responsible for the day to day management of the three shifts and operation of the car parks. 2) Officers are contracted to 37 hours per week. They work between 7am and 10pm, five out of seven days a week including bank holidays. Officers are on Grade 5 SCP’s 17 to 20 currently £17,372 to £19,048. The mid range hourly rate is £9.18 3) Officers receive the agreed Council’s rate of overtime where applicable – this is time and a third Monday to Saturday and time and a half for a Sunday. Officers also receive time and a third unsocial hours payments for time after 7pm 4) £18,579 was paid in overtime although a report is not available to split this into the various elements listed above
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	<p>5) Total cost, identified within the Civil Parking Enforcement budget, relating to salaries and expenses paid to Civil Enforcement Officers is £518k</p> <p>6) For the last three months of 14/15 that the camera car was operational, the cost of the van itself for the three months of 2014/15 over which it was operational (Jan15 – March 15) is approximately £1,092 plus 1 x FTE driver for three months at a cost of £4,428 and £875 software. Total £6,395</p> <p>7) £27,735</p> <p>8) Estimated Management and Admin Employee costs are £222k Supplies and Services Costs £206k, Total: £428k</p> <p>A significant proportion of these costs are incurred dealing with appeals and associated costs to the adjudication service, which is the industry standard procedure of dealing with appellants who wish to challenge the decision of initial unsuccessful appeals against penalty charge notices. A systems thinking approach has been adopted to reduce the amount of appeals and subsequently reduce the associated legal and administrative costs.</p>
2.	<p>Mrs Lis Davies</p> <p>Questions: Agenda Item 9 (a) “Amendments to the Council Constitution”. Page 16. Delegation of authority to individual Cabinet Members. Paragraphs 4.13 and & 4.14 refer to the Recording & Publishing of Individual Cabinet Member Decisions and that it is proposed a decision tracker of said decisions will be published online in due course.</p> <p>1) Will Cabinet Members have carte blanche to make decisions without the authority of Cabinet, Council or Officers?</p> <p>2) What time scale is attached to ‘in due course’?”</p> <p>Response of the Leader: 1) Cabinet Members will have delegated authority to make decisions within their own portfolio subject to the restrictions set out in the Scheme of Delegation. 2) The purpose of the tracker is to provide Cabinet with an outline of what decisions have been made in the preceding month. All decisions will be published much in the same way they are at the moment, it is just a matter of ensuring that the current level of transparency is maintained.</p>
3.	<p>Councillor C A Holley</p> <p>Question: Please provide Councillors with a breakdown of the Parking Enforcement central establishment cost of £1,172,213 which is referred to within the response.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport: Employee Costs £908,044 Premises Costs £6,852</p>

Transport Costs	£4,530
Supplies & Services	£205,935
Internal Debts	£65,175 *
Internal Credits	-£18,322 *
Total:	£1,172,214
*(Management and Overhead costs ie HR, Finance and departmental adjustments)	