

## COUNCIL SUMMONS

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA to be held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Swansea on Thursday, 28 January 2016 at 5.00 pm.

The following business is proposed to be transacted:

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**
3. **Minutes.** 1 - 9  
To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meetings.
4. **Written Responses to Questions asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council.(For Information Report - Not for Discussion)** 10 - 15
5. **Announcements of the Presiding Member.**
6. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council.**
7. **Public Questions.**  
Questions must relate to matters on the open part of the Agenda of the meeting and will be dealt within a 10 minute period.
8. **Public Presentation - Frack Free Wales.**
9. **Adoption of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.** 16 - 25
10. **Membership of Committees.** 26 - 27
11. **Amendments to the Council Constitution.** 28 - 35
12. **Councillor Training and Development Programme 2016-2017.** 36 - 46
13. **Scrutiny Dispatches – Quarterly Impact Report.** 47 - 52
14. **Councillors' Questions.** 53 - 58
15. **Notice of Motion: Councillors R C Stewart, A S Lewis, R A Clay, M C Child, U C Clay, C Anderson. C Thomas, W Evans, J E C Harris, J P Curtice, N J Davies, T M White & C R Evans.**  
**Unconventional Gas Development**  
**(Shale Gas, Coal Bed Methane Extraction, Underground Coal Gasification and “Fracking”)**

There is a growing public concern that unconventional gas extraction entails significant risks to the environment and to the health and wellbeing of neighbouring communities. These include, but are not

limited to, potential air pollution, pollution of water resources and increased industrialisation of the countryside. There is also concern that exploration and extraction of fossil fuels by unconventional means undermines and diverts resources away from investment in a safe and secure renewable energy future.

There appears to be insufficient regulation and scrutiny of current unconventional gas extraction operations in the UK and as a consequence these operations risk irreversibly polluting fragile water courses and established nature and tourism.

The possibility of unconventional gas extraction in South Wales has led to significant concern among the local population, as evidenced by the level of objections to planning applications for test drilling and a growing number of petitions being submitted to Local Planning Authorities and the Welsh Government regarding this issue.

Council notes that it has a responsibility to protect the local environment and the wellbeing of local communities, and to play its part in supporting the ongoing renewable energy programme to provide sustainable energy for our future generations. Council aims to take steps within its statutory powers to work to harness the abundant sustainable and renewable energy resources available; such as our unsurpassed tidal range and windy hill sides. Council aims to work towards becoming fossil free by 2025 and aspires to be a leading provider of Tidal and Wind power within the UK.”

#### Notice of Motion:

Council is minded to adopt a policy which would contain a presumption that as a matter of planning policy it would not support applications for the unconventional exploration or extraction of gas, including the practice commonly known as ‘Fracking’, within the City and County of Swansea. This would also include test drilling. This would not stop planning applications being made and would take the form of a rebuttable presumption with the individual circumstances of each case considered.

Welsh Government is clearly concerned about the issue of unconventional oil and gas extraction as it has issued the Town and Country Planning (Notification) (Unconventional Oil and Gas) (Wales) Direction 2015. The effect of this Direction is that no local authority can grant an application for unconventional extraction for a period of 21 days which is to give Welsh Government an opportunity to call in the application. The Direction does not apply to test drilling and Council is of the view that Welsh Government should consider the inclusion of test drilling within the Direction.

In taking this approach Council hopes that its commitment to a cleaner energy future will show the rest of Wales how important it is to protect our environment for future generations and to allow us to stand

together with other progressive Local Authorities.

Council further resolves that:

1) The Head of Economic Regeneration and Planning prepare a detailed report for Council to consider in March setting out the implications and a recommendation as to the possibility of the adoption of a change to planning policy relating to unconventional oil and gas extraction.

2) The Head of Economic Regeneration and Planning write to Welsh Government to suggest that the Direction be extended to include drilling solely for the purposes of unconventional gas exploration and extraction.

**16. Exclusion of the Public.**

**59 - 62**

**17. Judicial Review - Jewish Human Rights Watch.**

**Next Meeting - 5 p.m. on 25 February 2016.**



Patrick Arran  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Civic Centre  
Swansea

**Tuesday, 19 January 2016**

**To: All Members of the Council**