



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Programme Committee

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

On: Tuesday, 15 February 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Peter Black CBE

Membership:

Councillors: C Anderson, E W Fitzgerald, D W Helliwell, T J Hennegan, P K Jones, H Lawson, W G Lewis, C E Lloyd, S Pritchard, G J Tanner, W G Thomas and T M White

Statutory Co-opted Members: D Anderson-Thomas and A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley, P R Hood-Williams, S M Jones, L R Jones and J W Jones

Watch Online: <https://bit.ly/343vmB7>

Webcasting: This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to be filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and / or training purposes.

Agenda

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3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.	
4 Minutes. To approve and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.	1 - 6
5 Public Question Time. Questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services democracy@swansea.gov.uk no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10 minute period.	

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 4.00 pm



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Wednesday, 9 February 2022

Contact: Democratic Services - Tel (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, 18 January 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
T J Hennegan
W G Lewis
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
P K Jones
S Pritchard
T M White

Councillor(s)

D W Helliwell
H Lawson
G J Tanner

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

C A Holley S M Jones J W Jones
P R Hood-Williams L R Jones

Also Present:

Councillor Rob Stewart	Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)
Councillor Andrea Lewis	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)
Councillor Andrew Stevens	Cabinet Member for Business Improvement and Performance
Keith Reid	Executive Director – Public Health

Officer(s)

Marlyn Dickson	Strategic Change Programme Manager
Julie Gosney	Partnership and Involvement Team Manager
Adam Hill	Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources
David Howes	Director of Social Services
Kate Jones	Democratic Services Officer
Sarah Lackenby	Chief Digital and Transformation Officer
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Helen Morgan-Rees	Director of Education
Martin Nicholls	Director of Place
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Jane Whitmore	Strategic Lead Commissioner

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): C E Lloyd
C Bija (PSB Scrutiny Co-optee), S Harrop-Griffiths (Director of Strategy, Swansea Bay University Health Board)

83 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interest was declared:

Councillor Sam Pritchard – Minute No. 88 – Councillor Sam Pritchard declared a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting for the item.

84 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

85 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on the 14 December 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

86 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

87 Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board.

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader), the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader), the Deputy Chief Executive, the Executive Director – Public Health, the Strategic Lead Commissioner and the Partnership & Involvement Team Manager were all present for Scrutiny of the Swansea Public Services Board.

The key focus was on the Public Services Board (PBS) Annual Report 2020/21, and specific discussion on the Early Years and Live Well Age Well PSB Well-being Objectives. A verbal address was given by representatives, further to the written report, including the following points: -

- The PSB Joint Committee had been improving baseline data, it was developing a new well-being assessment and a new framework that would support the reporting of performance
- The Joint Committee had agreed a scoping matrix to ensure clarity around objectives and projects being worked on in terms of the contribution of the PSB and involvement of the Joint Committee
- The past year or so had been dominated by Covid-19 response, impacting on its work
- Substantial work had been undertaken across the Live Well, Age Well and Early Years delivery groups, and reference was made to: -
 - Children's Rights Scheme
 - Children's Rights Network
 - Work ongoing to make Swansea an age friendly City
 - Age Well Steering Group

- Recruitment of a Partnership and Involvement Officer
- Engagements and consultations
- Safeguarding and Equality in the LGBTQ+ Community
- Work had commenced on encouraging voting at 16+

Questions and discussions focussed on the following: -

- Performance framework and management arrangements to evidence the difference the PSB is making as well as the reporting of achievements and outcomes of meetings
- Improvement of baseline data under the well-being assessment
- Development of a framework to support the reporting of performance
- Improved model for delivering and measuring success – hard and softer key performance indicators and the perception progress tracker for partners
- A scoping matrix had been agreed to ensure work streams and objectives were clear
- Some examples of improvements / initiatives implemented were reported such as – Commitment to Human Rights City, culture of community, mental health agenda, climate emergency and nature emergency, improvements on High Street, strengthening relationships with partners and funding from Natural Resources Wales
- Public visibility of the work of the PSB and better engagement with the public
- Arrangements for processing and using opinions collected in engagements events
- Effect of new distributor road on the air quality in Hafod – seen a 30% reduction in NO₂ since its opening in 2016 (this figure excluded the reduced traffic due to Covid-19) and a 28% reduction in traffic through Hafod on Neath Road in the first 2 years of opening
- Success of Men's Shed Scheme and Active Travel Scheme with increasing importance on green spaces
- Future of the Bay Hospital – extension of the temporary planning permission

The Chair thanked all Members, Officers and Board Members.

Resolved that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Public Service Board, reflecting the discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

88 Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Covid Recovery and Investment.

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader), the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader), the Cabinet Member for Business Improvement & Performance and Officers were all present for the Committee's consideration of the cabinet report on 'Covid Recovery and Investment'

The report contained a collection of investments and sums of money that were proposed to support a number of critical initiatives including infrastructure on the Council's IT systems to ensure resilience with movement to the Cloud. There were monies towards additional play areas across the City as well as some investments to offset some pressures which had arisen from Covid

Questions and discussions focussed on the following: -

- The delay to the implementation of the Oracle upgrade and impact on the programme and costs. It was clarified that the £3.62m investment was in addition to previous budget for the programme of £4.8m therefore would represent a total spend of just under £8.5m – It was not expected to rise further providing no further variants or unforeseen issues arose
- Impact of Covid – approx. £1 Million pounds was required for additional licences as well as the need for the provision of more devices to enable people to work from home. Systems had to be designed to provide support for businesses, administer grants, systems for payment of school meals, online payments for housing with housing portal being launched shortly etc., which all took priority over the Oracle upgrade as well as all the systems required by the Welsh Government such as Test, Trace Protect
- The resilience of the digital infrastructure and IT systems - the Oracle system was the last in a series of necessary upgrades and that all major / critical corporate systems were as robust as they could be, with resilience and recovery / continuity plans in place
- Method for the proposed investment in Skate Park Facilities across the Council area – A survey of existing facilities was being carried out by officers and interest would be invited from local councillors regarding facilities in due course, but a strategic approach would be taken to ensure effective use of funds, with facilities where there was clear demand for them. It was suggested that the feasibility of a mobile facility be included in any options for appraisal which could be shared by areas across the Swansea
- Assumptions about the longer-term of home working beyond the pandemic, and the implications for the Council in terms of future office space and associated costs – It was expected that the Council would continue with the Agile working policy with a mix of office and home working
- The Committee heard that there continued to be demand for the development of private office space
- Move to web-based telephony system – ability for the public to contact officers

The Chair thanked Members and Officers.

Resolved that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee writes to the Leader, outlining the views of the Committee ahead of Cabinet on 20 January 2022.

89 Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities - Q & A Session with Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy (Councillor Rob Stewart).

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) and the Deputy Chief Executive were present for the Scrutiny of his Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities.

Questions and Discussions focussed on the following: -

- Brexit - Expected implications for Swansea and impact on funding for Swansea with the replacement of the EU Structural Funds with the Shared Prosperity Fund

anticipated that it would have a large negative impact on the economy overall. It was estimated that around £100 Million had been lost in funding in Swansea through various partners. Detail on the Shared Prosperity Funds was still awaited

- City Centre – progress / update on empty shops / units in the City Centre particularly Debenhams and the Quadrant Shopping Centre – The Committee heard that all City Centres have been hit by Covid and national companies failing. Swansea had weathered a significant amount of that and the numerous investments ongoing around the City were helping to make Swansea an attractive place to invest. There were 7 vacant stores in the Quadrant, 4 of which have now been re-let and discussions were ongoing in respect of Debenhams
- Increasing footfall in the City Centre - student accommodation, office accommodation including Palace Theatre, Princess Way further office accommodation, re-location of Civic Centre, community hub, private sector investments accompanied with events that can be held at the new arena, Albert Hall as well as the Brangwyn Hall, Liberty Stadium and Singleton Park as well as other venues such as Public Realms, Castle Gardens and Wind Street that will also add to Swansea's offering
- Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro Programme – outline and timescales
- Re-imaging of Wind Street –£3 million public realm improvement scheme aiming to expand the appeal of the area and provide a safer, more accessible and attractive environment.
- Installation of 70 air quality monitoring sensors which use digital technology to monitor and understand air quality, and use of the information from these sensors to inform decisions and potential future transport planning
- Update on progress in relation to the future of the housing estates on Heol Emrys and Tudno Place in Penlan and the masterplan – Consultations and engagement to continue from Spring 2022
- Provision of Hotels in Swansea and the miscommunication regarding the housing of refugees at the Dragon Hotel

The Chair thanked all Members and Officers.

Resolved that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee writes to the Leader, outlining the views of the Committee.

90 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Education (Councillor Lyndon Jones, Convener).

Councillor Lyndon Jones, Convener, presented the Education Performance Panel Update Report and highlighted that the Panel, amongst other work, has been keeping a focus on: -

- The City Deal Skills & Talent project, and concerns about the opportunities for children to learn the right skills in schools to access jobs to support all City Deal projects
- The performance of those children eligible for free school meals

The Convener thanked teachers, head teachers and staff for all their hard work.

The Chair thanked the Convener for the report.

Resolved that the update be noted.

91 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

The Chair presented a report on the Membership of Scrutiny Panel and Working Groups. No changes were indicated.

Resolved that the report be noted.

92 Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Chair presented a report on the Scrutiny Work Programme.

The next Scrutiny Programme Committee was scheduled for 15 February 2022. The main item scheduled was Crime and Disorder Scrutiny – Safer Swansea Partnership.

The Chair provided an update on a public request for scrutiny regarding difficulties for those without off street parking to charge electric vehicles at home. There was no immediate action required in terms of scrutiny, however he suggested that the Committee may wish to scrutinise the Council's draft strategy for implementing electric vehicle charge points, which will take into account the issue of on street charging as part of the strategy, as it becomes available. This would be a matter for after the Local Government Elections in May.

Resolved that the report be noted.

93 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair presented a report on 'Scrutiny Letters' for information.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Letters be noted.

94 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.

The dates and times of the upcoming Panel / Working Group meetings we noted.

The meeting ended at 6.01 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 February 2022

Crime & Disorder Scrutiny – Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership

Purpose	The Scrutiny Programme Committee is the Council's designated Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee. In discharging this role, this is the Committee's annual session focusing on the performance of the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership, looking at partnership priorities, activities, and impact. This covering report contains advice and information to assist the Committee.
Content	Lead representatives from both South Wales Police and the Council, who are involved in the joint-chairing arrangement for the Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group, will attend to present information and take questions on the work of the Safer Swansea Partnership.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the Safer Swansea Partnership representatives on relevant matters• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation – Safer Swansea Partnership Lead Cllr Alyson Pugh, Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities – Safer Swansea Partnership Representative
Lead Officer(s)	Adam Hill – Deputy Chief Executive
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is designated as the Council's Crime & Disorder Committee under the Police & Justice Act 2006. The Committee must meet at least once a year to discuss crime and disorder.

1.2 The scrutiny of the local Community Safety Partnership forms a significant part of this role, which works to reduce crime and disorder, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in Swansea. Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for working with other local agencies and organisations to produce annual strategic assessments, identifying the crime and community safety priorities in the area, and an annual 3-year rolling plan, laying out the approach for addressing those priorities.

1.2 The Community Safety Partnership for Swansea is called the Safer Swansea Partnership.

1.3 Strategic Priorities

1.3.1 According to the Safer Swansea Community Safety Strategy 2018-2021, the Partnership is focussed on working together to make Swansea a safer, more cohesive and confident place to live, work and to visit.

1.3.2 The strategic priorities for the Safer Swansea Partnership are shown as:

- Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)
- Substance Misuse
- Stronger Communities
- Evening and Night Time Economy
- Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

These priorities are complemented by two over-arching themes:

- Reassurance Communication - effective reassurance provided at every available opportunity to help change perceptions of crime, reduce fear of crime, and promote positive outcomes of Safer Swansea.
- Community Engagement - improving the way partners engage with members of the public to build relationships based on trust and respect.

- 1.4 The Safer Swansea Steering Group is the management and leadership group for the Safer Swansea Partnership where all key decisions are made on behalf of the Partnership. It provides leadership on the Safer Swansea strategy and liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner on funding and strategy, and monitors overall progress against Partnership objectives. There is a joint chairing arrangement for the Steering Group, between South Wales Police and Swansea Council.
- 1.5 The Police, Council, Fire, Health and Probation Service, along with many other organisations and charities, work together to address community safety issues, and make the City a safer place with less crime. It is recognised that making communities safer and stronger cannot be achieved by one agency alone and success at partnership working will lie in significant reductions in crime and disorder.
- 1.6 The membership of the Steering Group consists of key representatives from statutory partners and other organisations with an interest and influence in community safety issues.

Statutory Members include:	Other Members include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swansea Council • South Wales Police • Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service • National Probation Service • Swansea Bay University Health Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Crime Commissioners Office • Public Health Wales • Elected Member(s) responsible for Community Safety • Regional Safeguarding Board • Welsh Ambulance Service • Higher Education /Further Education Representation • Public Health Wales • Swansea Council for Voluntary Services / Third Sector representation • Regional Area Planning Board • Serious Violence Prevention Unit

- 1.7 As shown above, although it plays a critical role, community safety is not just about the police. It involves a wide range of people and organisations, contributing to address crime and its causes. Many of the factors that can affect levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and offending are the responsibility of the local authority, such as housing, education, social services, child safeguarding / welfare, planning, and alcohol licensing. The role of scrutiny is to scrutinise the partnership as a whole.

Further information can be found at www.swansea.gov.uk/saferswansea

2. Questions on Safer Swansea Partnership Performance

2.1 The focus of crime and disorder scrutiny is on the examining the work and performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership, and not any single organisation. For example, South Wales Police is accountable to the Police & Crime Commissioner.

2.2 The following representatives of the Safer Swansea Partnership will attend in support of Partnership activities and address the Committee on performance and achievements:

- Chief Superintendent Trudi Meyrick, South Wales Police
- Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive, Swansea Council
- Superintendent Mark Brier, South Wales Police
- Paul Thomas, Community Integration & Partnership Manager, Swansea Council

2.3 Contributions from Cabinet Member(s) with community safety responsibilities are also invited. The Safer Swansea Partnership is relevant to the work of Councillor Alyson Pugh (Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities) and Councillor Andrea Lewis (Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation, and Joint Chair of Swansea Public Services Board).

2.4 Following the presentation of information by Safer Swansea Partnership representatives about the work of the Partnership, the Committee will have the opportunity to ask questions. Broadly speaking the Committee will want to explore what has been done, how well it has been done and what impact that has made, e.g.

- what are the headlines
- key activities and achievements / progress against strategic priorities
- effectiveness of the partnership working
- relevant performance and crime statistics (including trends / comparisons elsewhere)
- evidence of improvement and impact made
- key challenges ahead and plans to tackle these

2.5 This session follows from the Committee's previous meeting on crime and disorder in May 2021 (see extract of minutes at **Appendix 1**).

2.6 The following written material has been provided by the Safer Swansea Partnership to support the discussion:

- Presentation Slides (**Appendix 2**)
- Performance & Crime Statistics (**Appendix 3**)

2.7 It is up to the Committee to determine future engagement in crime and disorder scrutiny and how best to incorporate the scrutiny of the Safer Swansea Partnership into the overall scrutiny work programme.

3. Legal Implications

3.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this covering report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this covering report.

Background papers:

Welsh Government Guidance for the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – Wales, Implementing Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (Welsh Assembly Government Guidance Circular No: 001/2010)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Extract from Minutes of Scrutiny Programme Committee 18 May 2021

Appendix 2 – Safer Swansea Partnership Presentation Slides

Appendix 3 – Safer Swansea Partnership Performance and Crime Statistics

**EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
18 MAY 2021**

70 Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Partnership.

Representatives from South Wales Police and the Council attended to provide a progress report on Safer Swansea Partnership, which both organisations jointly chair, and answer questions.

The Deputy Chief Executive highlighted challenges which had arisen as a result of the pandemic. It had brought about new challenges as well as an increase in domestic incidents, neighbour related anti-social behaviour and hate crimes. Effective partnership working, which had been built during the pandemic had been key to dealing with those issues and would be essential to maintain going forward.

A presentation was provided which included the following:-

- Background
 - Partnership Vision
 - Partnership Purpose
- Current Safer Swansea Partnership Governance
 - Public Services Board
 - Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group
 - Strategic Priorities
- Strategic Priorities
 - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
 - Substance Misuse
 - Stronger Communities
 - Evening and Night Time Economy
 - Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring
- A Journey in a Pandemic
- Pandemic: Flexibility of Response
 - Joint Enforcement Team – resource commitment between the Local Authority and South Wales Police to look at areas of key concerns such as licensing, trading standards and Covid-19 enforcement which included joint tasking and coordination – Over 1,200 fixed penalty notices had been issued in respect of Covid-19 enforcement
 - Problem Solving Groups – Objective, Scanning, Analysis, Response & Assessment (OSARA) way of solving problems for each area e.g. for Motorcycle Annoyance, Sex Workers etc.
 - Community Projects – e.g. Project at the Vetch to address issues of County Lines and Criminality which had included installing Hot Spot CCTV, cutting back of overgrowth, knocking down wall, Installation of Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and seating as well as development of a community café.
 - Partnership Meetings – Street Vulnerability Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) supported over 60 individuals who were homeless and/or begging using a more holistic solution to meet needs - Development of Pop Up Youth Clubs

- Outreach Work – Was compromised during Covid-19 but did continue – Additional funding had been secured for additional posts – engagement activities run in Cwmdonkin Park – Mid and West Wales Fire Service carried out engagement work on setting fires and hill fires – Food parcels delivered to VAWDASV – 35 hot spot cameras in and around Swansea – Paws on Patrol engagement events in parks
- South Wales Police
 - Reduction in Demand
 - Increase in Demand
 - New Internal and External Challenges
 - New Evolving Policing Context
 - Embed Learning Through Recovery
- Impact of Covid-19 (23rd March 20 – 22nd March 21) – Increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (Majority Covid-19 related) – working on early intervention and using enforcement as last resort – Hidden harms e.g. Domestic Violence not reported as much
- Total Recorded Crime Over Time – movement of crime in respect of lockdowns
- Pinch points
 - Cohesion – Voice of Wales
 - Protests – BLM, Kill the Bill and Reclaim the Streets
 - SA1 / Beaches / Hotspots
 - Impact of Homeless in Temporary Accommodation
 - Covid-19 Regulations – the 4 E's
 - Daily Business – VAWDASV / Substance Misuse / Hate Crime
- Challenges
 - Partnership
 - Practical Consequences of Regulation Change
 - Proportionate but Robust Response
 - Consent
 - Wellbeing
 - Recovery
- Performance & Crime Statistics
 - Violence against Women and Girls
 - Hate Crime
 - OP SCEPTRE – Knife Related Crime / Incidents
 - Drug Trafficking
- Future
 - Recovery
 - Keep the Good Bits
 - The Next 12 Months – Joint Challenges

Questions and discussions focussed on the following topics:

- Safer Swansea Community Strategy – the process for consultation on and renewal of Strategy
- Experience in the area of breaches of Covid-19 rules and regulations – noted that main issue was gathering indoors – 846 fixed penalty notices had been issued for gathering indoors

- Impact of Covid-19 on crime and disorder – heard about online engagement, hot spot cameras installed
- Theft of Dogs – there didn't appear to be an increase in the theft of dogs in Swansea contrary to public perception – Paws on Patrol initiative was reassuring dog owners on this
- Preparations for coming out of lockdown and the possible impacts of that – set up of youth clubs
- Increase in theft of catalytic converters – told of operation to ensure correct processes for handling such goods were being followed
- Increase in vandalism in some areas – focus of localised problem solving group
- Drink driving / anti-social behaviour on the seafront / parties on the beach - glass on beach – possible powers to prevent issues
- Public Space Protection Orders – a possible solution but careful that it does not just displace people and move the problem elsewhere
- Tackling Hate Crime – there are dedicated Hate Crime Officers which link with Cohesion
- Fear of police
- Public demonstrations in Swansea -peacefully policed where correctly organised and distancing was maintained
- Continuity of Police Inspectors and communication with Local Members to build relations
- Powers of Police Community Support Officers – nature of role and additional powers granted outside of Wales
- Action against those living off immoral earnings
- Funding of Safer Swansea Partnership – noted there is no allocated funding, but some grants had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Balance of Police Community Support Officers and Police Officers
- Reporting of information / network of data
- Provision of online outreach in the future – balance of online and face to face, there were some instances where face to face was important

The Chair thanked all those present.



Pwyllgor y Rhaglen Graffu

Sesiwn Craffu ar Droseddu ac Anrhefn

Perfformiad Partneriaeth Abertawe Mwy Diogel

15 Chwefror 2022



Safer Swansea Partnership

Scrutiny Programme Committee

Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Session
Performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership

15th February 2022

Sesiwn Craffu ar Droseddu ac Anrhefn Perfformiad Partneriaeth Abertawe Mwy Diogel

- Fel partneriaeth, ewch ati i adolygu ein sefyllfa yn ystod y cyfnod diwethaf.
- Amlinellwch y cynnydd, yr heriau a'r cyfleoedd rydym wedi'u hwynebu yn erbyn y blaenoriaethau rydym wedi'u gosod.
- Ffocws parhaus ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Session Performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership

- As a Partnership review where we have been during the last period.
- Outline the progress, challenges and opportunities that we have faced against the priorities that we have set.
- Continued focus for the future.

Cefndir

Sefydlwyd Partneriaeth Abertawe Mwy Diogel ym 1998 o ganlyniad i Ddeddf Troseddu ac Anhrefn 1998

Cyd-gadeiryddion: Adam Hill, Dirprwy Brif Weithredwr Cyngor Abertawe a Phrif Uwch-arolygydd Trudi Meyrick, Heddlu De Cymru
Rhennir y gefnogaeth ysgrifenyddol a chynhelir cyfarfodydd yn fisol

Gweledigaeth y bartneriaeth

'Man lle gall holl aelodau cymdeithas deimlo'n ddiogel ar bob adeg'

Diben y bartneriaeth

'Partneriaid Abertawe'n cyflwyno gweledigaeth ar y cyd i greu amgylchedd diogel a chroesawgar i fyw, gweithio, masnachu, astudio, ymlacio ac ymddeol ynddo ac ymweld ag ef.'

Background

The Safer Swansea Partnership was established in 1998 as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Co – Chairs: Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive Swansea Council and Chief Superintendent Trudi Meyrick, South Wales Police
Secretariat support shared and meetings held quarterly

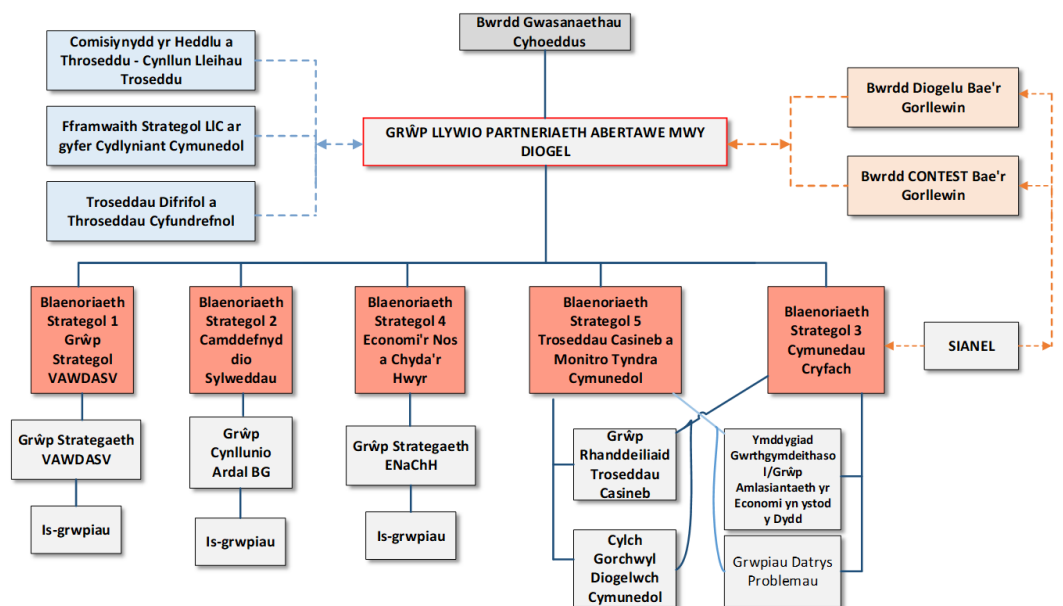
Partnership Vision

'A place where all members of society can feel safe at all times'

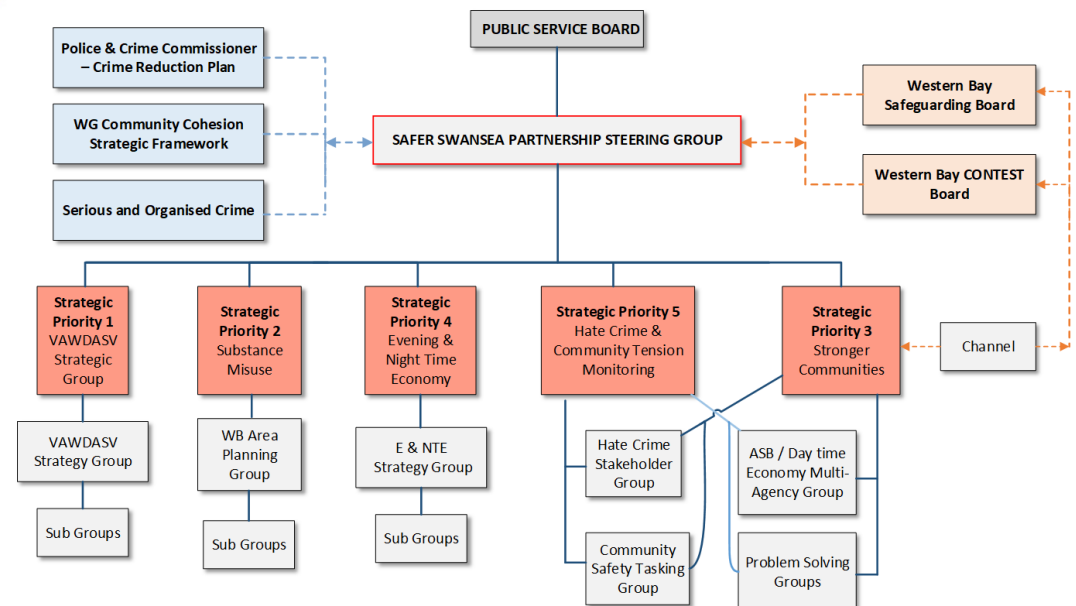
Partnership Purpose

'Swansea partners delivering a collective vision to create a safe and welcoming environment in which to live, work, visit, trade, study, relax and retire'

LLYWODRAETHU PARTNERIAETH ABERTAWE MWY DIOGEL AR HYN O BRYD



CURRENT SAFER SWANSEA PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE



Y Bartneriaeth

Sefydliad	Rôl
Cyngor Abertawe	Partner Statudol: Diogelwch Cymunedol, Addysg, Gwasanaethau Ieuencid, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Heddlu De Cymru	Partner Statudol
Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru	Partner Statudol
Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru	Cyngor a chefnogaeth broffesiynol
Y Gwasanaeth Prawf Cenedlaethol	Partner Statudol
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Bae Abertawe	Partner Statudol
Swyddfa Comisiynwyr yr Heddlu a Throsedd	Cymorth Prosiect a Strategaeth
Bwrdd Diogelu Bae'r Gorllewin	Llywodraethu
Gwasanaeth Ambwlans Cymru	Ymateb Iechyd
Cynrychiolaeth Addysg Uwch/Addysg Bellach	Colegau a Phrifysgolion
Cyngor Gwasanaethau Gwirfoddol Abertawe	Y Trydydd Sector
Bwrdd Cynllunio Ardal Bae'r Gorllewin	Camddefnyddio Sylweddau
Uned Atal Trais Difrifol	Cyngor a chefnogaeth broffesiynol
Aelodau Etholedig	Cynghorwyr

[Partneriaeth Abertawe Mwy Diogel](#)

The Partnership

Organisation	Role
Swansea Council	Statutory Partner: Community Safety, Education, Youth Services, Social Services
South Wales Police	Statutory Partner
Mid and West Fire and Rescue Service	Statutory Partner
Public Health Wales	Professional Advice and support
National Probation Service	Statutory Partner
Swansea Bay University Health Board	Statutory Partner
Police and Crime Commissioners Office	Strategy and Project support
Western Bay Safeguarding Board	Governance
Welsh Ambulance Service	Health response
Higher Education / Further Education representation	Colleges/Universities
Swansea Council for Voluntary Services	Third Sector
Western Bay Area Planning Board	Substance Misuse
Serious Violence Prevention Unit	Professional Advice and support
Elected Members	Councillors

[Safer Swansea Partnership](#)

Fel partneriaeth, ewch ati i adolygu ein sefyllfa yn ystod y cyfnod diwethaf

As a Partnership review where we have been during the last period

- Deall effaith y pandemig
 - Niwed Cudd/Camfanteisio'n Droseddol ar Blant/Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais/Trais yn erbyn menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol
- Rhagor o fflachbwyntiau ar gyfer tensiwn
- SA1/Llais Cymru
- Digartrefedd - Tai Dros Dro
- Camddefnyddio sylweddau
- Effaith economaidd gymdeithasol y cyfyngiadau symud

- Understanding the impact of the Pandemic
 - Hidden harm / CCE / DVA / VAWDASV
- Increased flashpoints for Tension
- SA1 / VOW
- Homeless - Temporary Housing
- Substance misuse
- Social economic impact of lockdown

Amlinellwch y cynnydd, yr heriau a'r cyfleoedd rydym wedi'u hwynebu yn erbyn y blaenoriaethau rydym wedi'u gosod

Outline the progress, challenges and opportunities that we have faced against the priorities that we have set

Cyd-destun sy'n berthnasol i'r pandemig parhaus

Page 23

- Effaith yr Amrywiolyn *Omicron*.
- Goblygiadau Strategol/Tactegol.
- Goblygiadau o ran Adnoddau a Gwasanaeth.
- Ni fydd y Blaenoriaethau Strategol yn newid ond yn ychwanegol, bydd -
 - Ffocws parhaus ar effaith gudd y pandemig.
 - Ffocws ar densiynau a heriau cymunedol sy'n dod i'r amlwg.
 - Ffocws ar ddiogelwch/les/wydnwch/adferiad y cyhoedd.

Continuing Pandemic Related Context

- Omicron Variant Impact.
- Strategic / Tactical implications.
- Resource and Service Implications.
- Strategic Priorities Remain Unchanged but additional -
 - Continued focus on the hidden impact of Pandemic.
 - Focus on emerging community tensions and challenges.
 - Focus on public safety / well-being / resilience / recovery.

Diweddariad ar Drosolwg Blaenoriaethau Strategol

- Trais yn erbyn menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (VAWDASV)
- Camddefnyddio Sylweddau
- Cymunedau Cryfach
- Economi'r hwyr a'r nos
- Monitro troseddau casineb a thyndra cymunedol

Strategic Priorities Overview Update

- Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)
- Substance Misuse
- Stronger Communities
- Evening and Night Time Economy
- Hate Crime and Community Tension Monitoring

Heriau

VAWG - Sbeicio

Tensiwn-
BLM / Reclaim The Streets / VOW
Cinema&co / Lloches / Anti-vax /
Clydach

Mayhill – Op Morano

Effaith Digartrefedd mewn
Llety Dros Dro

Cyd-destun Covid -
Mae'r 4 Es yn parhau
Effaith Gudd.
Difaterwch cyhoeddus

TSS

Ymateb

Strydoedd Mwy Diogel – Man
cymorth /protocol/Myfyriwr

Deialog Agored/PLO/
Bod yn Agored a
Thryloywder / Ffeithiau
cyn Facebook

Adolygiad Annibynnol
/ gwersi a ddysgwyd /
erlyniad cadarn

Monitro, Cefnogi a
Ymyrraeth partneriaeth

JET / Adnoddau /
trwyddedu / Lles
Economaidd a
Pheronol

Challenges

VAWG - Spiking

Tension -
BLM / Reclaim The Streets / VOW
Cinema&co / Asylum / Anti-vax /
Clydach

Mayhill – Op Morano

Impact of Homeless in
Temporary Accommodation

Covid Context -
The 4 Es continue
Hidden Impact.
Public apathy.

SSP

Response

Safer Streets – Help point
/protocol/Student

Open Dialogue/PLO/
Openness & Transparency /
Facts before Facebook

Independent Review /
lessons learnt / robust
prosecution

Monitoring, Support and
Partnership intervention.

JET / Resources /
licensing / Economic
and Personal
Wellbeing

Ffocws parhaus ar gyfer y dyfodol

Continued focus for the future



Busnes Dyddiol yn Parhau

Rhai manylion penodol

- Datrys Problemau Cymunedol
- Gorfodaeth Cyffuriau – Llinellau Sirol
- Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol
- Troseddau casineb
- Troseddau sy'n cynnwys cyllyll
- Gwendid

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Daily Business Continues

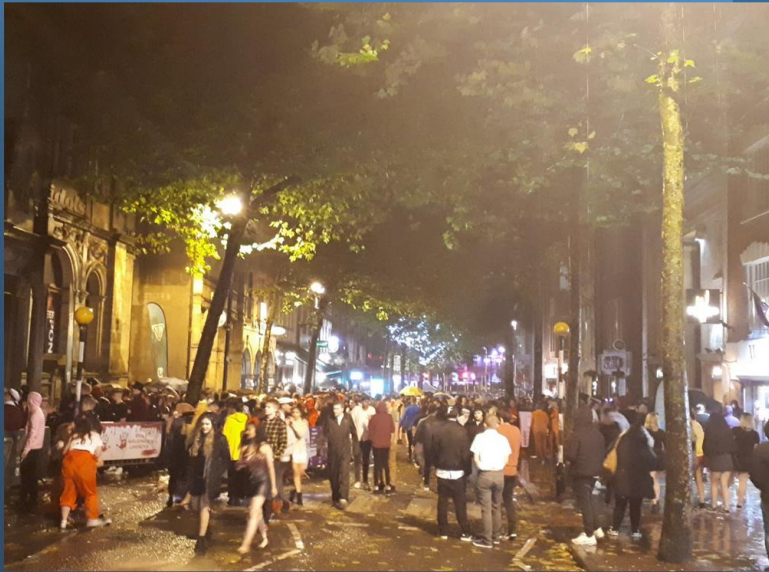
Some specifics

- Community Problem Solving
- Drug Enforcement – County Lines
- ASB
- Hate-crime
- Knife-related crime
- Vulnerability

(Appendix Crime levels tracking data)

Cymuned
Problem
Datrys

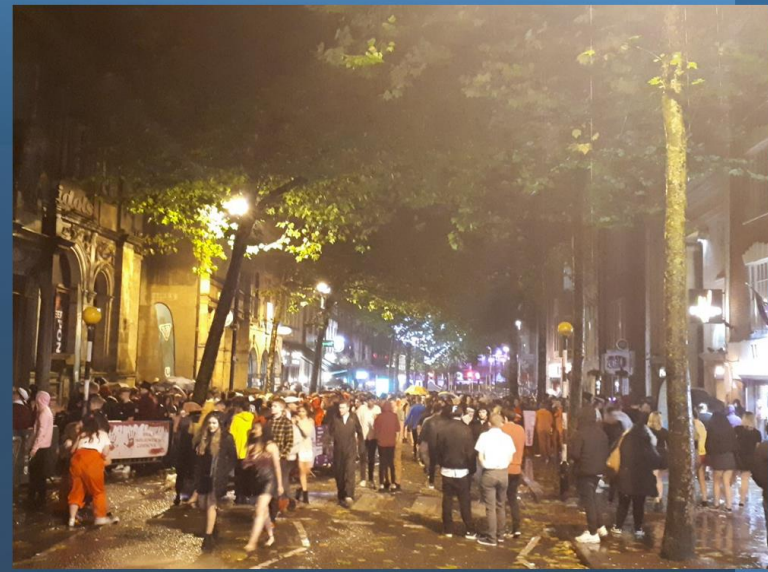
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Hwylusir gan
Bartneriaeth
Grwpiau Datrys
Problemau

Canolbwyntio ar
Ganlyniad ac
Uwchgyfeirio

Community
Problem
Solving



Facilitated by
Partnership
Problem Solving
Groups.

Focus on
Outcome
and Escalation.

(Appendix Map Swansea Neath Port Talbot - Neighbourhood Policing Priorities 1 Sep 21 to 31 Jan 22)

Cyffuriau

- Data masnachu cyffuriau - mis Ionawr i fisRhagfyr 2021.
- Ehangu Llinellau Sirol - Canlyniad Ymgyrch Tilbury
- Naloxone.
- Prosiect *Adder*.

Drugs

- Drug trafficking data - January to December 2021
- CL Intensification – Op Tilbury result
- Naloxone
- Project Adder

Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol



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- Ymyriadau fesul cam
- Atgyfeiriad Ymddygiad Gwrthgymdeithasol
- Proses gadarn ac archwiliadwy
- Uwch-gyfeirio i Orchmynion Ymddygiad Troseddol
- Partneriaethau Gwasanaeth Troseddau Ieuencid/Grwpiau Datrys Problemau

Anti Social Behaviour



- Staged interventions
- ASB referral
- Robust & auditable process
- Escalation to CBOs
- Partnership Yos / PSGs

Gorchymyn Diogelu Mannau Agored Cyhoeddus

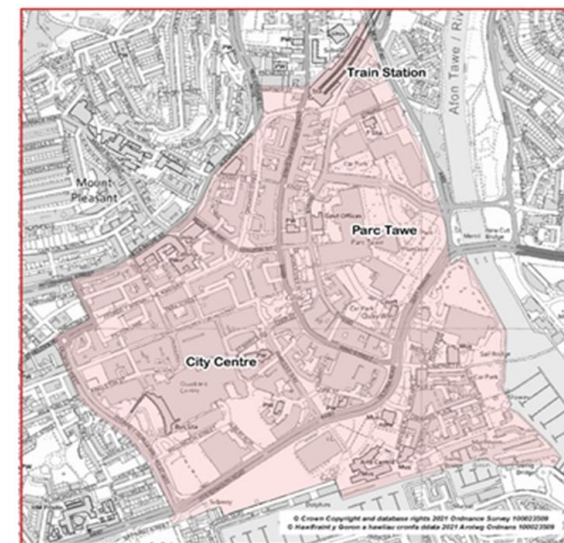
- I ddechrau, mae'r GDMAC peilot yn cynnwys yr ardal o'r orsaf drenau i'r arena gan gynnwys pen uchaf St Helens Road. Unwaith y bydd wedi'i sefydlu, ei werthuso a bod adnoddau ar gael, byddwn yn ei estyn i gynnwys SA1 a GDMAC arall yn Nhreforys.
- Mae'r Cyfnod Ymgysylltu ac Addysg rhwng mis Rhagfyr 2021 a mis Mawrth 2022
- Mae hyn yn cynnwys rhybuddion llafar, gwiriadau diamddiffynedd a chyngor a roddir i unigolion. Mae llythyr yn cael ei anfon at yr unigolyn sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth am y GDMAC a dolenni i'r wefan i gyfeirio at wasanaethau i gynorthwyo a chefnogi.
- Mae'r broses yn cael ei gorfodi gan Geidwaid Canol y Ddinas sydd wedi derbyn yr holl hyfforddiant perthnasol ar gyfer cyflwyno Hysbysiadau o Gosb Benodol.
- Hyd yma, rydym wedi cynnal 72 o ymrwymiadau gyda 31 o unigolion gwahanol:
 - 62 am gardota
 - 8 am alcohol
 - 1 am gyffuriau



Partneriaeth Abertawe Mwy Diogel

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

- Initially the pilot PSPO covers from the train station to the Arena including the top of St Helens Road. Once established, evaluated and resources are available, we will be extending it to cover SA1 and a further PSPO in Moriston.
- Engagement and Education phase is from December 2021 to March 2022.
- This involves verbal warnings, vulnerability checks and advice given to individuals. A letter is sent to the individual which includes information on the PSPO and links to the website to signpost for services to assist and support.
- This process is enforced by the City Centre Rangers who have received all relevant training to issue FPN's.
- To date we have carried out 72 engagements on 31 separate individuals:
 - 62 for Begging
 - 8 for Alcohol
 - 1 for Drugs
 - 1 for Public Order



Safer Swansea Partnership

Troseddau Casineb

- Cydlyniant
- Ymateb
- Naratif

STOP
HATE
CRIME

Hate Crime

- Cohesion
- Response
- Narrative

STOP
HATE
CRIME

YMGYRCH SCEPTRE – Troseddau/Digwyddiadau sy'n cynnwys cyllyll

- Wythnos o weithredu - Tachwedd
- Dilynwch y canlynol - Atal, Dilyn, Diogelu a Pharatoi
- Adysg/Ieuenctid/Swyddogion Cyswllt Ysgolion
- Tîr ymroddedig - sy'n seiliedig ar ymateb a deallusrwydd.

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OP SCEPTRE – Knife related crime/ incidents


- Week of action - November
- Follow the 4 Ps.
- Education/ Youth/ SLOs
- Dedicated team – response and intel led.



Bod yn agored i niwed - datblygiadau

Rhai meysydd allweddol -

- Ymyrryd yn Gynnar ac Atal – rhaglen newid bod yn agored i niwed
- Ailstrwythuro i'r Timau Ymchwilio i Dreisio ac Ymgyrch Soteria
- Gwaith parhaus *SWAN* a *SWOT*.
- Ffocws parhaus y Grwpiau Ymateb Cyflym i Hunanladdiad
- Defnyddio offer Amllder a Difrifoldeb Atgwmpo (RFG) a chyflwyno rheolwyr troseddwr cam-drin domestig.
- Canolbwyntio ar Gamfanteisio'n Rhywiol ar Blant a Chamfanteisio Troseddol ar Blant.



Vulnerability - developments

Some key areas-

- Early Intervention and Prevention – vulnerability change program
- Restructure to RIT & Op Soteria
- Continued work of Swan and Swot.
- Continued focus of Suicide Rapid Response Groups
- Use of RFG tools and introduction of DA offender managers.
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation focus.

Y Dyfodol

- Ymdrin â'r presennol fel y presennol.
- Cydlyniant a Chadernid Cymunedol.
 - Her i achub ar y blaen ac addysgu.
- Diogelu/Tarfu/Gorfodaeth ym mhob maes diamddiffynedd

- Y bartneriaeth i barhau i ddefnyddio ei chryfderau ar y cyd i ateb heriau'r presennol a'r dyfodol.
- Y bartneriaeth i barhau i weithio igysylltu anghenion a blaenoriaethau cymunedol gyda newid cynaliadwy a gweladwy ac i uwch-gyfeirio lle bo angen

The Future

- Dealing with the present as the present.
- Community Cohesion and Resilience.
 - Challenge to pre-empt and educate.
- Safeguarding / Disruption / Enforcement in all areas of vulnerability.

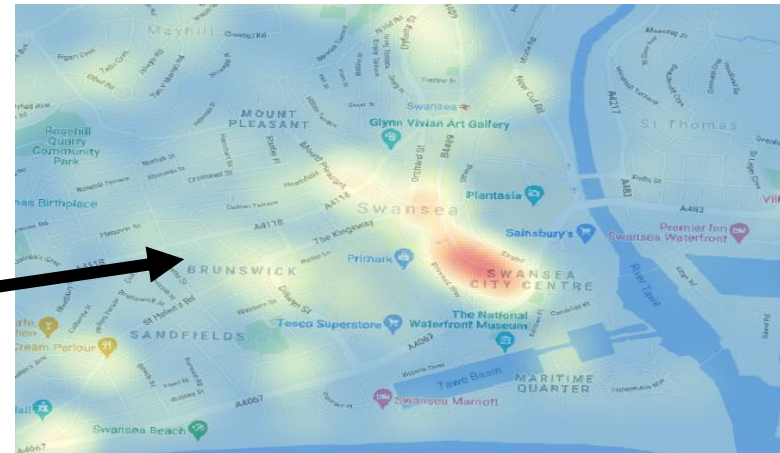
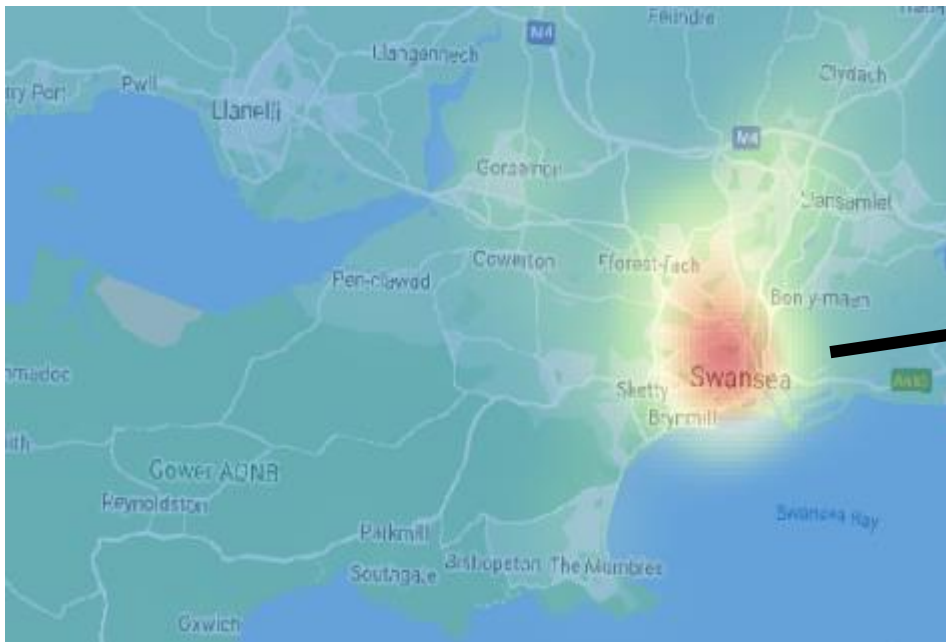
- Partnership to continue to draw on its joint strengths to meet current and future challenges.
- Partnership to continue to work to link community needs and priorities with sustainable and visible change and to escalate where necessary.

Performance and Crime Statistics

Violence against women and girls

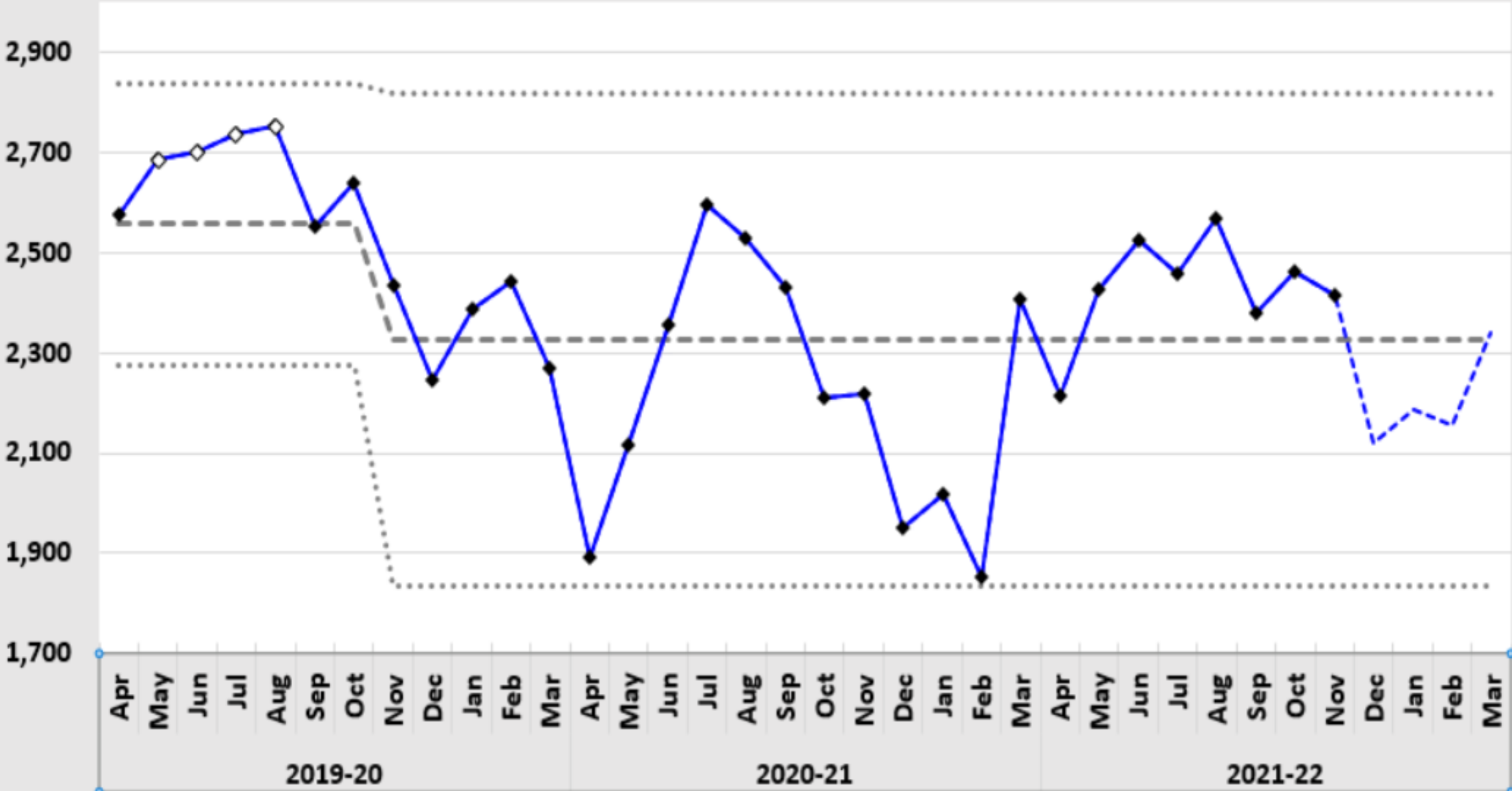
For the period of 2021 (January to December) there was a total of **2099** offences where victims of violence were female, in Swansea.

- **975** violence with injury (**504** domestic related);
- **1124** violence without injury (**585** domestic related);
- Of the **1669** unique female victims identified; **260** were repeat victims with almost a third of these (29.6%, **77**) being a repeat victim on 3 or more separate offences.



Recorded Crime - All Crime - Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot - Monthly

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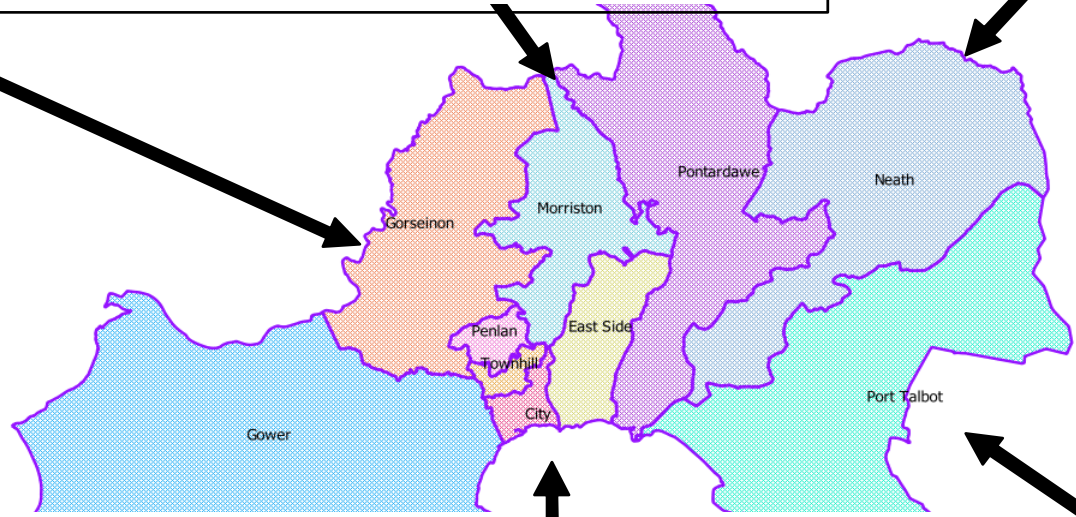
Swansea Neath Port Talbot - Neighbourhood Policing Priorities 1 Feb 22 to 31 June 22

Gorseinon /Penlan
 ASB - Develop Pontarddulais Youth diversionary project.
 ASB -Instil a Safer Gorseinon initiative
 Substance Misuse – The Firs
 ASB - Broughton Ave
 ASB /Crime - Gendros Community centre
 ASB/ Crime - Penlan – Youth club initiative.

Morrison/Eastside
 Drug issues – St Thomas / Clase / Copper Quarter
 Youth Engagement – Clase (POP in place)
 ASB – McDonalds / Clase Road – (POP in place)
 Off road MCYs – Clydach / Bonymaen – (Op. Pistache)
 E-scooters – Bonymaen (education following Christmas)
 Shoplifting /ASB – Morfa
 ASB issues Primrose park, Trallwn.

Neath/Pontardawe

- **Op Lilieum** - Crime/ASB – Neath Town Centre
- **Op Bridport** – Child exploitation linked to county lines.
- **Op Alkana** – VAWG & ASB linked to NTE Pontardawe & Neath
- Off Rd Bikes – Neath valleys.
- ASB & concerns around drug activity Briton Ferry.



• **Gower/Townhill**
 ASB/Criminality – Singleton Park
 RTC's / Road safety – Gower Common
 ASB / Speeding – Mumbles Road
 Community engagement – Trust & Confidence - Op Morano
 ASB/ Drug use - Paradise View, Townhill
 Drug use/drug dealing CK's, Cwmbwrla
 ASB – Near to Shops at Penygraig Road, Townhill

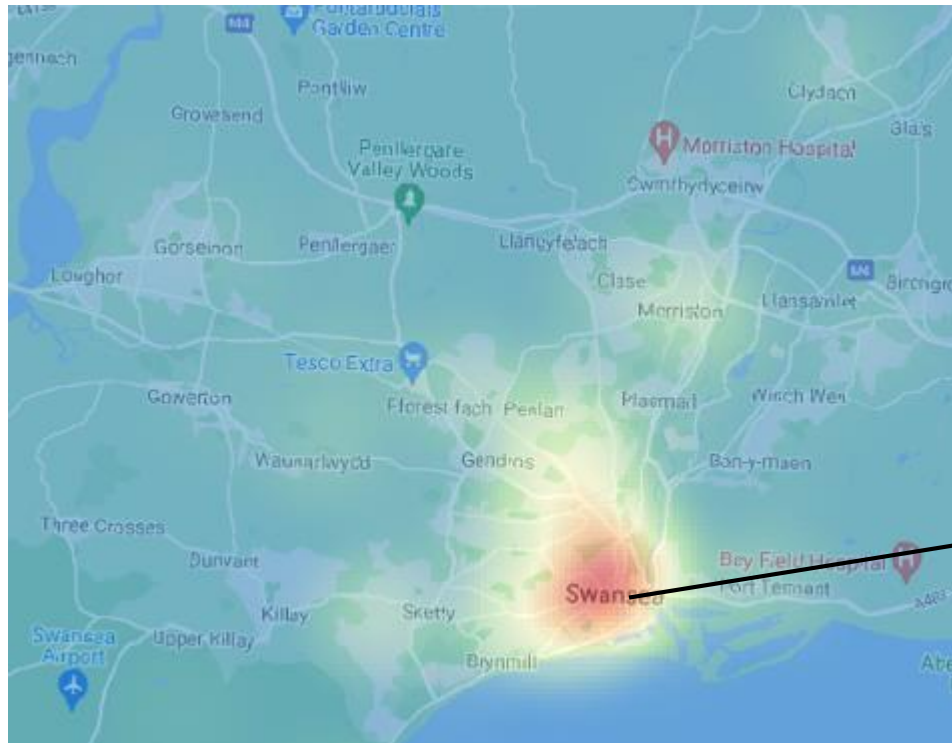
City Centre
 Repeat behaviour/demand around Daniel James
 - ASB and noise issues @ Glamorgan Street, Sandfields
 - ASB outside YMCA, ST Helens Road
 - Increase in cannabis factories in Mt Pleasant/Sandfields/Uplands areas
 - Increase in graffiti in the Marina
 - Youth ASB issue @ Superbowl and Vue cinema @ Ten pin bowling and Odeon cinema
 - Increase in graffiti @ Palace theatre, High Street
 - ASB and begging @ Uplands Crescent, Uplands
 - ASB resulting from care home @ [REDACTED]
 - Issue with resident [REDACTED] in multi-occupancy building @ [REDACTED] Sandfields

Port Talbot
 Off Road Motorcycles - Forestry areas
 ASB youths - Port Talbot town centre and Oriol
 ASB e scooters Cwnavon (Pop)
 ASB Tai bach Community Centre (pop)
 ASB/prevention/Engagement - Aberavon Beach

Performance and Crime Statistics

Drug trafficking

Over the period of January to December 2021 there were **184** drug trafficking offences recorded in Swansea.



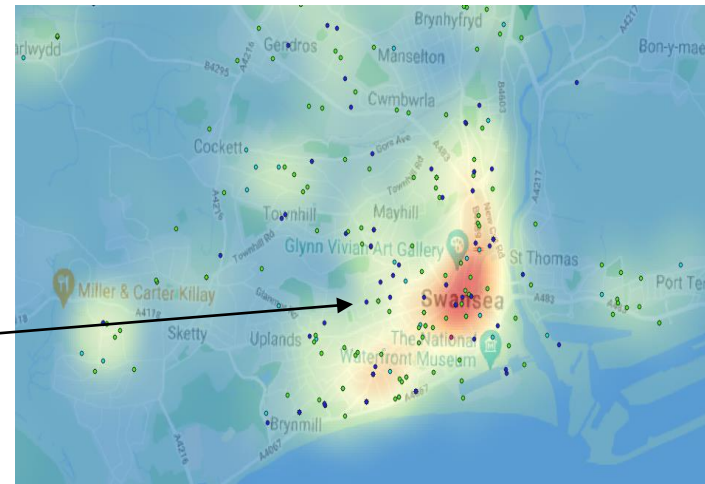
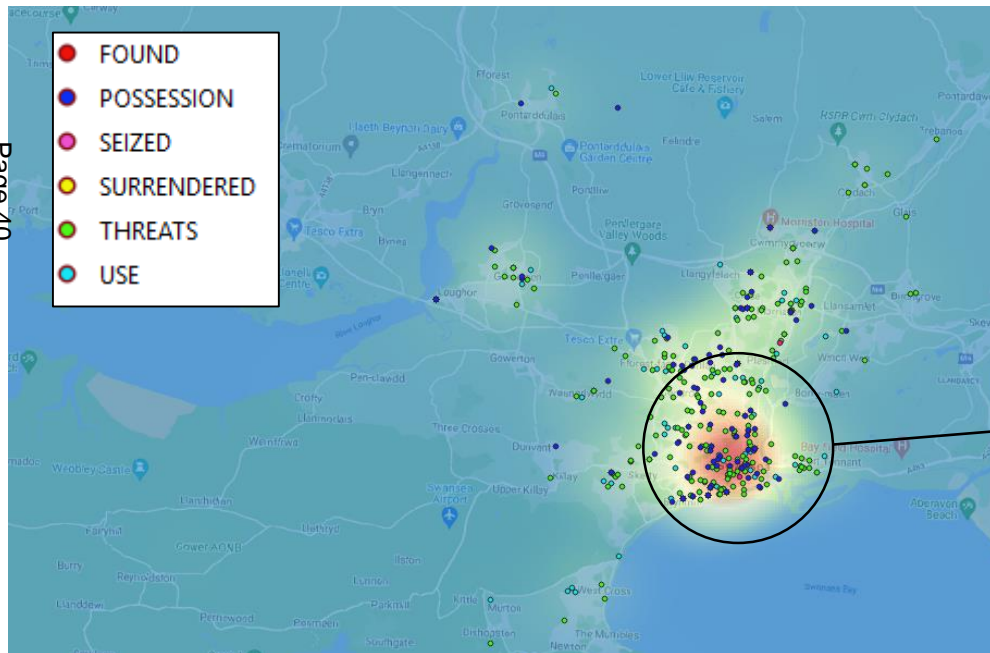
Performance and Crime Statistics

FYI – this is not official data as the information is based on keyword searches as there is no specific category for knife crime. The extraction method has changed since last year, with the data source being the Force Knife Crime dataset, filtered on Swansea. This could be the reasoning behind the decrease in the figures from 2020.

Op Sceptre – Knife related crime/ incidents

Over the period of January to December 2021, there were **612** knife related occurrences reported in Swansea (**342** crimes and **270** incidents)

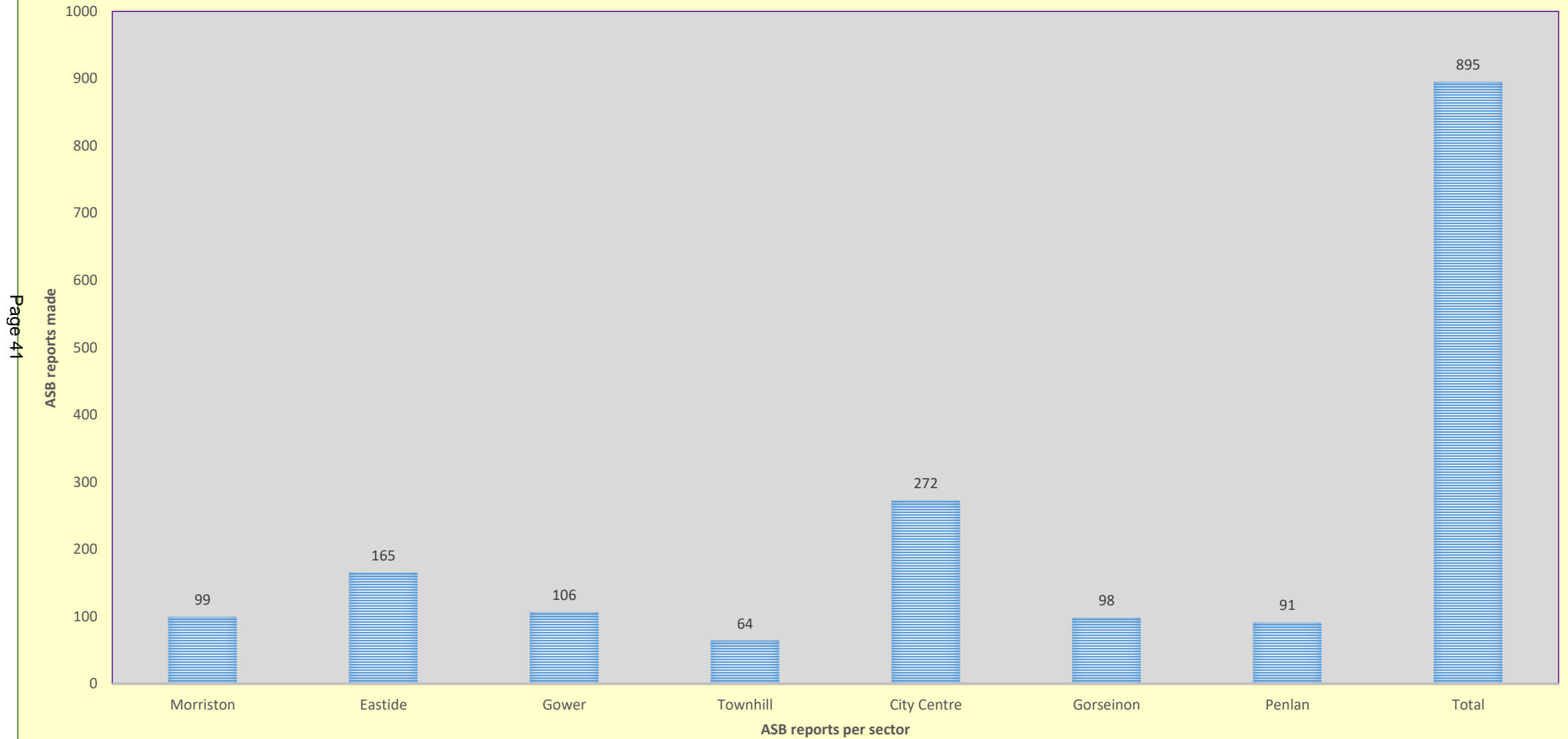
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Type/Sub Category	Swansea
Crime	342
Possession	171
Seized Weapon	2
Threat	130
Use	39
Non Crime	270
Found Weapon	2
Possession	135
Threat	106
Use	27



ASB FIGURES FOR SWANSEA NOVEMBER 21 TO JANUARY 2022.

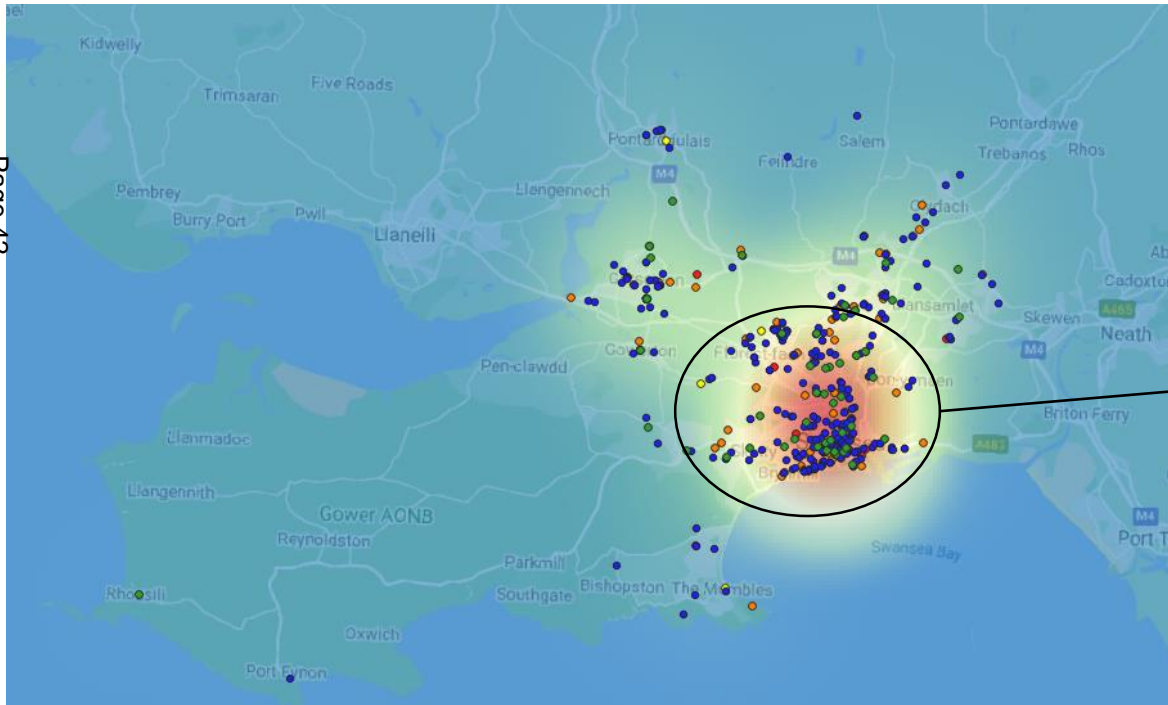


Performance and Crime Statistics

Hate crime

Over the duration of January to December 2021, there were **456** hate crimes reported in Swansea.

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- Disability
- Racial
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Transgender

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 February 2022

Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report

Purpose	The Committee is responsible for managing the overall work of scrutiny and its effectiveness. Performance Panel conveners will regularly provide a progress report, updating the Committee on headlines from their Panel's work and impact.
Content	This report focuses on the following Performance Panel: a) Service Improvement & Finance
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure awareness and understanding of the work of the Panel• Consider its effectiveness and impact• Consider any issues arising and action required
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Chris Holley (Panel Convener)
Lead Officer & Report Author	Emily-Jayne Davies Tel: 01792 636292 E-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

- 1.1 There are six Performance Panels which have been established by the Committee. Whilst the work of an Inquiry Panel leads to the production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet based on evidence gathered on a specific issue, the work of a Performance Panel represents regular monitoring of, and challenge to, particular services / service areas and issues.
- 1.2 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant cabinet / lead members in order to share views and recommendations, arising from monitoring activities, about the performance of services and service delivery.

1.3 The Committee is responsible for managing the overall work of scrutiny and its effectiveness. Performance Panels Conveners will therefore provide a regular progress report to the Committee to enable:

- a discussion on the work of each Panel, achievements, effectiveness and impact
- the Committee to consider any issues arising from Panel activities which may have an impact on the overall scrutiny work programme
- awareness amongst the Committee as well as visibility across the council and public.

1.4 This report is about the following Performance Panel:

- a) Service Improvement & Finance – this is an update on work carried out since the previous update provided in August 2021.

To focus the discussion a short, written report has been provided by the Convener and is **attached**. This includes a summary of Panel activities, correspondence between the Panel and relevant Cabinet Members, recommendations and impact.

1.5 The Service Improvement & Finance Panel involves the following members:

Labour Councillors: 3

Phillip Downing	Des Thomas
Peter Jones	

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 5

Peter Black	Mary Jones
Chris Holley (CONVENER)	Jeff Jones
Lynda James	

Conservative Councillors: 2

Paxton Hood-Williams	Brigitte Rowlands
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Uplands Councillors: 1

Irene Mann	
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2. Legal Implications

2.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Performance Panel – SPC Update

Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching purpose of the Panel is to ensure that the Council's budget, corporate and service improvement arrangements are effective and efficient. The Panel meets on a monthly basis.

2. Key Activities

Meetings have included a range of issues such as budget monitoring and annual performance reports as outlined in the table below.

Since the last update, in August 2021, meetings have resulted in a number of convener's letters to Cabinet Members. The issues covered were as follows:

Meeting	Topic(s)
20 th September 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q1 Budget Monitoring Report – 2021/22 2. Peer Review & Self-Assessment (Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)
19 th October 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q1 2021/22 Performance Monitoring Report 2. Overview from Ben Smith: Understanding Financial Reporting (Reserves) 3. Review of Revenue Reserves
16 th November 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid-term Budget Statement 2. Planning Annual Performance Report 3. Pre-decision Scrutiny: Cabinet Report on Swansea Airport
15 th December 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring 2. Potholes & Carriageways 3. Q2 Budget Monitoring 2021/22
18 th January 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Q2 2021/22 Performance Monitoring Report 2. Budget Proposals 2022/23 – 2025/26

3. Achievements / Impact

Financial Monitoring

The Panel heard that within the Recovery Plan Service Transformation Programme, work continues to develop service delivery plans linked to savings targets and prioritisation of services.

Panel Members queried ongoing issues with Council Tax collection, referring to the £2M shortfall reported. Members questioned whether Welsh Government will meet this shortfall. Officers acknowledged this was an on-going issue, given the strain on people's finances and confirmed that Welsh Government continues to monitor this issue.

The Panel requested a statement regarding the energy price increases, and the effect on Swansea Council. Officers undertook to provide a briefing note, which has now been received with thanks.

Performance Monitoring

The Panel asked questions in order to explore this work and provide challenge on performance in relation to the relevant indicators.

The Panel heard that, overall, 81% of indicators have improved or stayed the same. We understood that the Council's response to the pandemic, whilst not necessarily reflected in the established performance indicators, has been extraordinary.

Panel Members queried some indicators and why they have improved in such adverse circumstances, asking how indicators are selected. Officers explained that the indicators help to measure priorities within the corporate plan and are selected specifically for that purpose.

Members raised their concerns over the general use of the term 'tackling poverty' as a descriptor, suggesting this term be reviewed in the near future. Members also queried how poverty is measured by Swansea Council and the standard definition used.

Peer Review & Self-Assessment (Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)

The Panel received an overview of the guidance in Part 6 Performance and Governance provisions of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Officers explained that the essence of Part 6 is to see local Councils as 'self-improving organisations through a system based on self-assessment and panel performance assessment'.

Panel Members commented on the nature of the process, challenging the role of Scrutiny in this, and Councillors in general. Officers explained that an external Panel will be assessing the Council as a whole, via the panel performance assessment. Officers also explained that scrutiny will have a clear and important role to play in this process.

Planning Department Performance

Panel Members queried why the Welsh Government had not required Annual Performance Reports to be submitted this year. Officers explained that workloads last year were too onerous across Local Authorities, and, additionally, a number of issues have arisen this year in terms of introduction of temporary legislation for businesses to deal with pandemic adaptations.

Panel Members queried whether the Council had filled vacancies within the planning department. The Panel heard that the department is fully staffed as of November 2021, however, some officers are employed on temporary contracts. Members noted the issue of staff recruitment / retention across the Council, commenting that the use of temporary contracts may not retain staff long-term.

The Panel held a detailed scrutiny discussion focused on the Planning Department, in addition to the Planning Annual Performance Report. Members felt that the investigation was very informative and helpful, suggesting that this should arise each year concurrently with the Annual Performance Report.

Swansea Airport

The Panel undertook pre-decision Scrutiny regarding the Update Management Report on Swansea Airport. Due to commercial sensitivities and the likely disclosure of exempt information (under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, paragraphs 14 and 16), the report was heard in private session. Further reports will be available in due course.

Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring

It was reported to the Panel that the recycling target of 64% was achieved last year, despite the challenges of the Pandemic. Members noted this as an incredible effort by crews and praised the efforts by all staff involved.

The Panel heard that Swansea Council will move away from landfill operations, towards an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility. We understand that more details on this will follow in the New Year, pending finalisation of contracts. Panel Members queried the EfW scheme and whether there would be savings in landfill costs. Officers explained that EfW is a more costly process, however, by closing the landfill site the operational costs are reduced, thereby being more cost efficient going forward.

4. Future Work Programme

The meeting on 15 February is expected to be the Panel's final meeting of this municipal year, and Council Term:

Meeting	Topic(s)
15 th February 2022	1. Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Annual Council Budget 2. Sustainable Swansea

Agenda Item 8



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 February 2022

Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

Purpose:	The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established. This report advises of relevant matters that need to be considered.
Content:	This report is provided to facilitate any changes that need to be made.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• agree the membership of Panels and Working Groups reported, and any other changes necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

1.1 In accordance with Council report 18 October 2012, when current scrutiny arrangements were agreed, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established.

2. Proposed Revision to Current Scrutiny Panel / Working Group Membership

2.1 None

3. Guiding Principles

3.1 When determining membership / conveners or agreeing any changes there are some key considerations for the Committee:

- It is necessary for more than one political group to be represented on each Panel / Working Group.
- These bodies also need to be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning.
- To ensure that all political groups have opportunities and are engaged.
- Good scrutiny practice places emphasis on respect for minority party wishes around both chairing of such bodies and the work programme.
- Being fair and balanced in the appointment of conveners, when there is interest from more than one councillor, e.g. giving opportunity to those who have not acted as convener previously.
- The Committee should reflect on the existing 'balance' of conveners to help inform future appointments.
- A minimum of three members should be present at all Panel / Working Group meetings.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 9



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 February 2022

Scrutiny Work Programme

Purpose	This report presents the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/22, which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.
Content	The agreed work programme is attached, which shows the topics that will be examined by scrutiny through various Panels and Working Groups. A plan for future Committee meetings is also attached. Progress against the agreed work programme is shown.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• plan for the Committee meetings ahead• consider opportunities for Pre-decision Scrutiny• review the Scrutiny Work Programme (including progress of current Panels and Working Groups)
Lead Councillor	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing the Council's scrutiny work programme and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.
- 1.2 A report is provided to each meeting to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of agreed scrutiny activities, monitor progress, and coordinate work as necessary.
- 1.3 The broad aim of the scrutiny function is to engage non-executive councillors in activities to:

- provide an effective challenge to the executive
- help improve services, policies, and performance
- engage the public in its work

1.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme is guided by the overriding principle that the work of scrutiny should be strategic and significant, focussed on issues of concern, and represent a good use of scrutiny time and resources.

It also needs to be:

- manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available to support activities
- relevant to Council priorities
- adding value and having maximum impact
- coordinated and avoids duplication

1.5 The work of scrutiny is undertaken primarily in three ways – through the Committee itself, by establishing informal Panels (for in-depth activities) or via one-off Working Groups. Panels and Working Groups would be open to all non-executive councillors - the Committee will determine membership and conveners following expressions of interest.

1.6 Scrutiny will regularly send letters to Cabinet Members communicating findings, views and recommendations for improvement and, where appropriate, by producing reports. Inquiry panels will always produce a final report at the end of the inquiry with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers), informed by the evidence gathered. Inquiry panels will reconvene to follow up on the implementation of agreed recommendations and the impact of their work – usually 6-12 months following cabinet decision.

1.7 Although much of the work of scrutiny is carried out by informal Panels and Working Groups these meetings are accessible to the public. Agendas, reports and letters relating to all such scrutiny activities are published, in the same manner as the committee, on the Council's modern.gov online platform:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/22

2.1.1 The agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/22 is set out in **Appendix 1**.

2.1.2. The following paragraphs break down the work programme by specific ways of working to provide a brief overview.

2.2 Scrutiny Programme Committee:

- 2.2.1 The Committee's own work plan is attached as **Appendix 2**. This should be kept under review to ensure it represents a robust, manageable, and effective plan. As well as keeping an oversight on all scrutiny activities, the Committee plan covers a broad range of policy and service topics and aims to ensure coverage of scrutiny across all cabinet portfolios and address any gaps in the overall work programme. The Committee is also the designated Council Committee for scrutiny of the Public Services Board, and Crime & Disorder Scrutiny.
- 2.2.2 Committee members should always review and confirm items for the next and future meetings giving specific consideration to who should attend so that meetings are always well planned and prepared for, e.g., information required and key questions that the Committee wishes to ask.
- 2.2.3 The main item(s) scheduled for the next meeting on 15 February, which will be the final Committee meeting of the municipal year, are:
- Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry – Final Report
 - Annual Work Programme Review
- 2.2.4 Pre-decision Scrutiny – this is carried out by the Committee unless delegated elsewhere. The Committee is invited to consider the available information on future Cabinet business and any opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny, taking into account strategic impact, public interest, and financial implications (see Cabinet Forward Plan attached as **Appendix 3**). Any requests will require discussion with relevant Cabinet Member(s) to confirm timescales and window of opportunity for scrutiny involvement. Pre-decision scrutiny enables scrutiny to develop understanding about and ask questions on proposed Cabinet reports to provide 'critical friend' challenge and influence decision-making.
- 2.2.5 The Committee can review scrutiny priorities and introduce issues of concern as and when they arise, e.g., pre-decision scrutiny or call-in, which may require extra meetings or adjustment to the work plan. Therefore, the Committee Work Plan remains flexible and subject to change to accommodate such requests and any urgent issues arising during the year, to ensure each meeting is manageable.

2.3 Inquiry Panels:

- 2.3.1 Once membership and a convener have been appointed the first task of an Inquiry Panel is to have a briefing on the issue and then determine the key question and terms of reference for the inquiry. Once the planning stage is complete, the inquiry will be evidence gathering, with the last stage being to develop the final report.

In Progress	Completed (follow up stage)
1. Procurement (drafting final report)	1. Equalities (followed up 28 Jan 2021 & further follow up 26 Jan 2022)

2.3.2 The Equalities Inquiry Panel met on 26 January and concluded formal monitoring of the inquiry recommendations and impact – see Scrutiny Letters (agenda item 10).

2.4 Performance Panels:

2.4.1 The following Performance Panels, which enable regular and structured monitoring of performance within these key areas, have been agreed and will meet on an ongoing basis until otherwise agreed by the Committee (frequency of meetings in brackets):

Performance Panel	Convener
1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)	Cllr. Chris Holley
2. Education (monthly)	Cllr. Lyndon Jones
3. Adult Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Susan Jones
4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Paxton Hood-Williams
5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)	Cllr. Jeff Jones
6. Natural Environment (every two months)	Cllr. Peter Jones

2.4.2 Performance Panel conveners are scheduled to provide a regular update to the Committee to enable discussion on key activities and impact.

2.5 Working Groups:

2.5.1 The following Working Groups are in the work programme. Dates of meetings already held, or planned for the year ahead:

1. Workforce (29 Mar 2021, further meeting 2 Feb 2022)	3. Bus Services (7 Jul 2021, further meeting 14 Mar 2022)
2. Digital Inclusion (11 May 2021)	

2.6 Regional Scrutiny:

2.6.1 **New Education Partnership ‘Partneriaeth’** – A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, comprising of Education Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs or equivalent from Swansea, Carmarthenshire, and Pembrokeshire Councils (like the previous scrutiny arrangement for ERW) will scrutinise the work of the new regional Partnership which will support the delivery of school improvement, and ensure greater public accountability over decisions made. Scrutiny will seek reassurance and

consider if the Partnership is operating according to the Joint Committee Agreement, and its Business Plan, and is being managed effectively. Responsibility for scrutiny support, as well as responsibility for other functions, will be determined in due course by the Partnership Joint Committee, comprising the Leaders of the three Councils, as the strategic decision-making body.

2.6.2 **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal** – Swansea Scrutiny is also involved in the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee established during 2018/19. This formal arrangement involves three Councillor representatives from each of the four Councils involved in the City Deal, meeting to scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee responsible for delivering the City Deal programme. Swansea’s Councillor representatives, appointed by Council, are: Jan Curtice, Phil Downing & Jeff Jones. As per Joint Agreement, the Joint Scrutiny Committee is serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council. Although originally scheduled to meet quarterly meetings, additional meetings are being arranged as required.

2.6.3 **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee** – Following establishment of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), the first meeting of the Committee took place on 13 January. The CJC involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, and will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea Council) was appointed Chair and Cllr Emlyn Dole (Carmarthenshire Council) appointed Vice Chair of the CJC. The Committee has agreed to set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which will consist of three elected members from each Council which will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to be serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council, will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Scrutiny arrangement will not preclude scrutiny within constituent Councils in order to discuss the impact of the CJC on their Council and locality. The CJC also met on 25 January in order to establish its budget for the 2022/2023 financial year.

3. **Monitoring the Work Programme**

3.1 The Committee is responsible for monitoring progress against the agreed work programme, and this includes work undertaken by the informal Panels and Working Groups and findings to ensure that this work is effective and has the required visibility.

3.2 **Appendix 4a** provides a timetable of all scrutiny activities (projected or actual where dates are known). Lead councillors and officers are also noted within.

3.3 **Appendix 4b** provides a snapshot of progress with all of the Panels and Working Groups established by the Committee and their current position.

3.4 Although a work programme has been agreed, with activities identified to take things up to the end of the current Council term (May 2022), the work programme is kept under constant review by the Committee, with changes made as necessary. The Committee will always retain the flexibility to adapt and re-prioritise the work of scrutiny, to ensure the continued relevance of the programme.

4. Public Requests for Scrutiny / Councillor Calls for Action

4.1 None.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Any costs that arise out of work plan activities, for example expenses for witnesses or transport costs, are not envisaged to be significant and will be contained within the existing Scrutiny Budget.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/22

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Programme Committee Work Plan 2021/22

Appendix 3: Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix 4a: Scrutiny Work Programme – Projected Timetable of Activity

Appendix 4b: Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

Appendix 1 – Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/22

New Inquiry Panel (time-limited in-depth scrutiny – six months)	New Working Groups (light-touch scrutiny / one-off meetings)	Performance Panels (ongoing in-depth performance / financial monitoring & challenge)	Issues for Scrutiny Programme Committee (Overall work programme management; discussion of broad range of policy and service issues)
<p>1. Procurement (previous Terms of Reference / Key Question to be reviewed / updated - What is the Council doing to ensure it procures locally, ethically, and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?)</p> <p>2. Anti-Social Behaviour (Terms of Reference to be agreed by Panel but would focus on how we can reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities, look at factors behind rising anti-social behaviour; inter-agency working, the role of elected members, reporting, etc.)</p> <p>Follow Up of Previous Inquiries:</p> <p>1. Equalities</p>	<p>1. Workforce (how the Council supports health & well-being of staff; issues around home working; staff sickness; staff turnover; use of agency staff, pressures, etc.)</p> <p>2. Digital Inclusion (follow up on previous discussion around digital transformation, the Council's digital inclusion strategy, and how well prepared both the Council and the public is to use and communicate / engage via digital technology to avoid exclusion / poor access, etc.)</p> <p>3. Bus Services (discussion about bus network coverage and levels of service; community transport provision; integration with other forms of transport, etc.)</p> <p>4. Healthy City (exploration of activities, promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.)</p>	<p>1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)</p> <p>2. Education (monthly)</p> <p>3. Adult Services (every 6 weeks)</p> <p>4. Child & Family Services (every 6 weeks)</p> <p>5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)</p> <p>6. Natural Environment (every two months)</p> <p>Specific issues to cover within wider work plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Improvement & Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Plan – Review / Progress - Council Byelaws - Budget Scrutiny - Performance Management - Waste Management & Recycling – incl. questioning on fly-tipping experiences & council activity - Welsh Housing Quality Standard • Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21st Century Schools - Additional Learning Needs - Children Educated at Home - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Remodelled Education Other Than at School Provision • Adult Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 and Community Mental Health - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Domestic Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Council response and Recovery Plan / Transformation • Brexit Preparedness • Specific reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children & Young People's Rights Scheme - Corporate Safeguarding - Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty Homelessness Strategy – progress (incl. discussion on Young People's Supported Housing Provision) • Leader Q & A Session(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brexit - Partnership Working - Great Western Gateway • Other Cabinet Member Q & As (issues to pick up): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tbc • Public Services Board • Crime & Disorder (Community Safety)Scrutiny: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incl. Community Cohesion / Hate Crime • Wales Audit Office Reports • Follow Up on Previous Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism

Appendix 1 – Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/22

	<p>Reserve List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Safety (hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls; safety of cycling routes; partnership working, etc.) • Active Travel (are we meeting obligations of Welsh Government Active Travel Act; encouragement of cycling / walking; particular focus on cycling given experience during pandemic – are we making the most of opportunities to embed increased cycling, etc.) • Accessibility for the Disabled / Elderly (to look into concerns around mobility around city centre and access, e.g. and whether there is sufficient curb dropping to help mobility scooters, and other facilities to improve access and wellbeing, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child & Family Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Forced Marriages – Safeguarding issues • Development & Regeneration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City Deal and effects of COVID-19 - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Economic Regeneration Strategy - Foreshore Developments - Historic / Listed Buildings • Natural Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Change - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Environment Bill 2020 Implications - Nature Conservation – regular monitoring of activity and performance
<p>Regional Scrutiny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERW (Education through Regional Working) Specific issues to pick up: ERW Replacement organisation – post April 2021 • City Deal (Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee) 		

Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2021/22

ACTIVITY	15 Jun 2021	13 Jul 2021	17 Aug 2021	14 Sep 2021	19 Oct 2021	16 Nov 2021
Scrutiny Work Programme					Audit / Scrutiny Relationship – Discussion w/ Chair of Governance & Audit Committee	
Cabinet Member Q & A Sessions						
Specific Cabinet Member / Officer Reports	Scrutiny of Public Services Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways and Engineering Infrastructure Repairs and Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism, Destination Management, and Marketing Business and City Promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Policy (incl. Generation, Supply & District Heating) Litter and Community Cleansing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery & Transformation Plan Progress Update Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 	Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports		Education	Service Improvement & Finance	Adult Services	Child & Family Services	Development & Regeneration
Pre-decision Scrutiny						
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.			Follow Up on Tourism Working Group recommendations			
Scrutiny Reports to Council	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report		Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report		

ACTIVITY	14 Dec 2021	18 Jan 2022	15 Feb 2022	15 Mar 2022	19 Apr 2022 (to be cancelled)	
Scrutiny Work Programme				Work Programme Review		
Cabinet Member Q & A Sessions		Leader / Economy, Finance & Strategy (focus on COVID response / recovery, Brexit effects / response, Budget, City Centre Regeneration, Developments in Partnership / Regional Working)				
Specific Cabinet Member / Officer Reports	Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement	Scrutiny of Public Services Board, incl. Annual Report	Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership			
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports	Natural Environment	Education	Service Improvement & Finance			
Pre-decision Scrutiny	Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way	Covid Recovery and Investment				
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.				Procurement Inquiry Final Report		
Scrutiny Reports to Council	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report			Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report		

* denotes extra meeting

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 3rd Quarter 2021/22.	To note any significant variations from the agreed budget 2021/22 and savings plan and the actions planned to achieve a balanced budget.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open
Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2021/22.	This report sets out the annual review of Swansea Council's charges (social services), providing a transparent framework for the setting of charges and the application of allowances to citizens who receive managed care and support, provided or arranged by the council.	Simon Jones	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open
Swansea Council Tree Management Strategy.	Adoption of a strategy for the management of trees on/affecting land/property in Council ownership and setting out the Council's duties in relation to protected trees	Paul Meller	Mandy Evans, Andrea Lewis	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open
Promoting Affordable Credit Policy.	To adopt a policy which embeds the promotion of affordable credit.	Anthony Richards	Cabinet Members - Supporting Communities	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
<p>West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board Framework.</p>	<p>The West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Governance Framework has been developed to support the governance of the partnership arrangements for the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board.</p> <p>The report asks cabinet to approve the adoption of a Governance Framework for the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership.</p>	David Howes	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open
<p>Optimised Retrofit Programme, Land and Building Development Fund and Intermediate Care Fund Applications.</p>	<p>This report seeks the retrospective approval by Cabinet for recently submitted, Optimised Retrofit Programme, Land and Building Development Fund and Intermediate Care Fund Applications.</p>	David Meyrick, Carol Morgan	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
FPR7 Report - The Welsh Government Transforming Towns - Placemaking Grant.	Report seeking cabinet approval for the proposed Placemaking grant scheme under the Welsh Government Transforming Towns (TT) Programme, the associated Financial Implications and add these schemes to the capital programme.	Richard Horlock	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open
Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme 2022/23.	To provide details of Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme and to seek approval to include schemes in the 2022/23 Capital Programme.	Darren Williams	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Open
Quarter 3 2021/22 Performance Monitoring Report.	To report the performance indicator results and summarise the Council's performance meetings its priorities for the third quarter period October 2021 – December 2021.	Richard Rowlands	Cabinet Member - Business Improvement & Performance	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Open
Leisure Partnerships Annual Report 2020/2021.	To advise Cabinet of the partnership operations of key facilities within the Cultural Services portfolio	Jamie Rewbridge	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Building Capital Maintenance Programme 2022/23.	This report sets out the way in which the Capital Maintenance resources for 2022/23 will be deployed.	Nigel Williams	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Open
Capital Programme Authorisation for the Cefn Hengoed Community Hub Project.	The report will update on the; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated cost plan forecast • Progress and revised project plan and timeline • Revenue business plan for operation 	Jamie Rewbridge, Louise Herbert-Evans	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Open
Capital Allocation to Highway Infrastructure Assets 2022-23.	To confirm the Capital work programmes for highway infrastructure assets	Bob Fenwick	Cabinet Member - Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Adoption of the APPG Definition of Islamophobia by Swansea Council.	The purpose of this report is to provide members of Cabinet with information on the All Party parliamentary group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of islamophobia. Cabinet is asked to consider if the All Party parliamentary group on British Muslims' definition of islamophobia should be adopted by Swansea Council	Rhian Millar	Cabinet Members - Supporting Communities	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Open
Disposal of Highway Land at Mumbles.	The report updates members on progress to date and the necessity to adopt a revised approach in respect of the potential disposal of the land identified	David Turner	Cabinet Member - Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Fully exempt
FPR7 Report - Hafod Copperworks Powerhouse Redevelopment Project Update Report.	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule No.7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) - to commit and authorise the addition of schemes to the Capital Programme.	Richard Horlock	Cabinet Member - Business Improvement & Performance, Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	17 Mar 2022	Fully exempt

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Scrutiny Work Programme 2021-22 – Projected Timetable of Meetings (actual dates shown)

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	
SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Brij Madahar Lead Cabinet Member: cross-cutting Lead CMT: cross-cutting Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	18 2020/21 year	15	13	17	14	19	16	14	18	15	15	19 to be cancelled	
INQUIRY PANELS:		Planning	Evidence Gathering					Findings/Final Report		SPC	Cabinet		
Procurement Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: David Hopkins Lead CMT: Adam Hill Lead Head of Service: Chris Williams		24	27	16	13 27	20	10 24		31**	21	15	21	
Equalities Follow Up *COMPLETE* (Cabinet decision: 21 November 2019) First follow up - 28 Jan 2021 Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Alyson Pugh / Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Adam Hill / Sarah Lackenby Lead Head of Service: Lee Wenham									26				

Appendix 4a

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
PERFORMANCE PANELS:												
Service Improvement & Finance (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Emily Davies Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / Andrew Stevens Lead CMT: Adam Hill / Ben Smith Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	10 & 17* <small>2020/21 year</small>	11 & 23			20	19	16	15	18	15 Budget		
Education (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	13 <small>2020/21 year</small>	24	15		1 30	21	18	9	20	14 Budget	15	
Adult Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Sue Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Mark Child Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Amy Hawkins / Helen St John		2	14			20	30		12	14 Budget (Joint with CFS)	2	
Child & Family Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Paxton Hood-Williams Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Elliot King Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Julie Davies	25	22		11	21			13	25	14 Budget (Joint with Adult)	9	

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Topic 3 – Bus Services Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Mark Thomas Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls Lead Head of Service: Stuart Davies			7								14	
REGIONAL SCRUTINY:												
ERW - Education through Regional Working (quarterly) Lead Scrutiny Councillors: Lyndon Jones / Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead ERW: Ian Altman / Greg Morgan / Gareth Morgans Lead Cabinet Member: Jennifer Raynor Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Regional Lead: Phil Roberts (Lead Director for ERW)		28										
Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Rob James (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Jan Curtice / Phil Downing / Jeff Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Stacy Curran, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Phil Roberts / Martin Nicholls Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes			20				9 23		25		7	

* denotes extra meeting

** not public

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

These will undertake in-depth inquiries into specific and significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis and will be expected to take around six months to complete to enable wide-ranging evidence gathering, and production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers).

a) **Procurement** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

Key Question: What is the Council doing to ensure it procures locally, ethically, and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel met on the 31 January to discuss the first draft of their final report to Cabinet. The Panel will finalise their report at a Panel meeting on the 21 February when it will be referred to the Scrutiny Programme Committee for agreement.

(Inquiries may take up to six months to complete, as they will call for wide ranging evidence, and will lead to a report with conclusions and recommendations that will be presented to Cabinet)

2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
Equalities	21 Nov 2019	18	0	0	28 Jan 2021 26 Jan 2022 MONITORING NOW COMPLETE

3. Performance Panels:

Performance Panels enable regular and structured in-depth monitoring of performance and challenge within these key areas:

a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every month. A progress report appears separately under Agenda Item 7.

b) **Education** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Panel meets every month. On the 20 January the Panel met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors from Penyrheol Comprehensive school to discuss their improvement journey. The Panel will next meet on the 14 February where they will discuss this years Annual Budget as it relates to Education and also receive a briefing on education of Refugee and Asylum Seeker pupils.

c) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel last met on 12 January to receive an update on the management of Covid and Performance Monitoring.

The next meeting on 2 March will receive an update on the West Glamorgan Transformation Programme. It will also discuss the latest Performance Monitoring Report, Social Services Complaints Annual Report 2020-21 and receive a verbal update on management of Covid.

There will also be a Joint Social Services Panel meeting on 14 February to discuss the draft annual budget in relation to Social Services.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel last met on 25 January to discuss the Performance Highlight Report and Emergency Staffing Plan.

The next meeting will be held on 9 March and is planning a discussion on the recently published IICSA report on Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks. The Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report and an update from the Regional Safeguarding Board is also scheduled for this meeting.

There will also be a Joint Social Services Panel meeting on 14 February to discuss the draft annual budget in relation to Social Services.

e) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel last met on 25 January, receiving an update presentation from Swansea BID. The Panel also held some discussions regarding Foreshore Developments.

The Panel will next meet on 8 March to discuss the South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan, as well as the Project Update Report. For information only, the Panel will also receive a briefing note regarding the 'Impact of Brexit on Rural Development Programme and Funding Update (Post 2023)'.

f) **Natural Environment** (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel last met on 12 January to discuss Management of Green Space / Weed & Verge Management.

The Panel will next meet on March 15 to receive an update from the Nature Conservation Team regarding ongoing and planned projects.

4. **Regional Scrutiny:**

This is collaborative scrutiny with other Local Authorities for topics / issues of shared interest or concern, and models of regional working.

a) **Regional Education Partnership**

The new regional education partnership called 'Partneriaeth' will commence shortly, and will include Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils. Following recent approval of a legal agreement by each Council's Cabinet, the next step will be for the new Partneriaeth Joint Committee to meet to agree responsibility for functions / organisational support for the Partnership and other arrangements. Within the agreed governance structure, there will be a Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, similar to that which existed to scrutinise the Education Through Regional Working (ERW) Regional School Improvement Consortium.

b) **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee met on 25 January and focussed on the Skills & Talent regional project and reviewed quarterly programme monitoring documents.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 March, expected to focus on Digital Infrastructure, as well as carry out its quarterly programme monitoring.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

c) **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee**

Following establishment of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), the first meeting of the Committee took place on 13 January. The CJC involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, and will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. Cllr Rob Stewart (Swansea Council) was appointed Chair and Cllr Emlyn Dole (Carmarthenshire Council) appointed Vice Chair of the CJC. The Committee has agreed to set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which will consist of three elected members from each Council which will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to be serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council, will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Scrutiny arrangement will not preclude scrutiny within constituent Councils in order to discuss the impact of the CJC on their Council and locality. The CJC also met on 25 January in order to establish its budget for the 2022/2023 financial year. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2022.

5. Working Groups:

A number of new topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups. These enable a 'light-touch' approach to specific topics of concern and will be planned as a one-off meeting (in the order shown below) primarily involving discussion with relevant cabinet member(s) / officer(s), and any other persons called, to gather information, ask questions, and give views / raise any concerns.

a) **Workforce** (convener: Cllr Cyril Anderson)

This Working Group met on 29 March 2021 and asked about the impact of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of staff; how the Council is supporting this; issues around home working; staff sickness; staff turnover; use of agency staff and pressures. A range of information was considered by the Working Group, with input from relevant Cabinet Member(s) and officer(s). A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations was sent to the relevant Cabinet Members and this letter together with the Cabinet Members response was reported to the Committee in June.

The Working Group met again on 2 February in order to revisit the topic and consider the latest position, information and experience including the results of the further staff survey carried out by the Council. The outcome of the meeting will be reported in due course to the Committee.

b) **Digital Inclusion** (convener: Cllr Lesley Walton)

This Working Group met on the 11 May where they congratulated officers for the good work done so far in relation this, especially through the difficult Covid period. Overall the Working Group were of the view that the Council is on the right track with its Digital Inclusion Strategy and do recognise that the Council is keen to make the right improvements moving forward. The Digital Inclusion Framework/Strategy and the Council Website is currently being reviewed and members of the Working Group asked to be included in this process. The letter from the Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Business Improvement & Performance was reported to the Committee in June.

The Working Group felt that further oversight of work on Digital Inclusion is necessary as things develop, perhaps annually, whether through the Working Group or other method of scrutiny. This will be factored into future work planning discussion.

c) **Bus Services** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Working Group met on 7 July when a range of information was considered, including bus network coverage and levels of service, community transport provision and integration with other forms of transport. Relevant Cabinet Member and officers participated in the meeting together with representatives of First Cymru and Cardiff Bus.

A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations was sent to the relevant Cabinet Member and this letter together with the Cabinet Members response was reported to the Committee on 19 October. It was agreed that a further meeting of the Working Group be held before the end of the municipal year to enable follow up on the Group's recommendations and see what changes / improvements had been made. This further meeting will be held on 14 March.

d) **Road Safety** (convener: Cllr Steve Gallagher)

Following adjustment to the Scrutiny Work Programme this Working Group was brought forward.

The meeting will enable information, questions and discussion to understand the Council's role and responsibilities on road safety, e.g., asking about hot spots; work to improve road safety; preventative measures; speed controls; safety of cycling routes; partnership working, etc.

A meeting was planned for February 2022 but has had to be cancelled due to service pressures affecting ability to report and support the meeting at that time. This topic will be carried forward and held at the

earliest opportunity, subject to agreement of a new Scrutiny Work Programme after May 2022.

e) **Healthy City** (convener: Cllr Jennifer Raynor)

This will enable information, questions and discussion on Swansea as a healthy city, exploring in particular the provision, and promotion of, outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.

Due to Covid pressures this Working Group will no longer be held in this municipal year.

Reserve Working Group List:

- Active Travel
- Accessibility for the Disabled / Elderly

Agenda Item 10



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 February 2022

Scrutiny Letters

Purpose:	To ensure the Committee is aware of the scrutiny letters produced following various scrutiny activities, and to track responses to date.
Content:	The report includes a log of scrutiny letters produced this municipal year and provides a copy of correspondence between scrutiny and cabinet members where discussion is required.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the scrutiny letters and responses• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The production of scrutiny letters has become an established part of the way scrutiny operates in Swansea. Letters from the chair (or conveners) allow scrutiny to communicate directly and quickly with relevant cabinet members.
- 1.2 These letters are used to convey views and conclusions about particular issues discussed, and provide the opportunity to raise concerns, ask for further information, and make recommendations. This enables scrutiny to engage with Cabinet Members on a regular and structured basis.

2. Reporting of Letters

- 2.1 All scrutiny letters, whether they are written by the Scrutiny Programme Committee or conveners of Panels / Working Groups, are published to ensure visibility, of the outcomes from meetings, across the council and public.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agenda also includes a copy of letters to/from Cabinet Members where specific discussion is required, e.g. letters relating to the Committee, Working Groups, and Inquiry Panel follow ups. Letters are included when cabinet member responses that were awaited are received or where a scrutiny letter did not require a response.
- 2.3 Where requested Cabinet Members are expected to respond in writing to scrutiny letters within 21 calendar days. The response should indicate what action (if any) they intend to take as a result of the views and recommendations made.
- 2.4 Letters relating to the work of Performance Panels are part of an ongoing dialogue with Cabinet Members and are therefore reported back and monitored by each Panel. However, all Performance Panel conveners will provide a progress report to the Committee, including summary of correspondence with Cabinet Members and outcomes.

3. Letters Log

- 3.1 This report contains a log of scrutiny letters produced to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of letters activity over the current municipal year – see **Appendix 1**. The letters log will show the average time taken by Cabinet Members to respond to scrutiny letters, and the percentage of letters responded to within timescale.
- 3.2 The following letter(s), not already reported to the Committee, are **attached** for discussion:

	Activity	Meeting Date	Correspondence
a	Committee (Discussion on Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement)	14 Dec	Letter to / from Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management
b	Committee (Pre-decision Scrutiny – Covid Recovery & Investment)	18 Jan	Letter to Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)
c	Equalities Inquiry Panel – follow up	26 Jan	Letter to Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities

3.3 Equalities Inquiry Follow Up

3.3.1 The Inquiry Panel has concluded formal monitoring of the inquiry recommendations and impact.

3.3.2 The Panel were happy with the progress made to date and were pleased with the positive impact that the inquiry, and the commitment to it by the Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities and officers, has made in helping to move this important agenda forward in Swansea. They heard for example that a new Strategic Equality Plan had been developed and published, a new Strategic Equality and Future Generation Board had been created, the Council's website has been updated and the mandatory equalities training refreshed, amongst other things.

3.3.3 The Panel recognised the Covid-19 pandemic continues to bring challenges to the Council and that many officers have had to shift focus to ensure that Council services were maintained and those most vulnerable were supported during the crisis. The Panel were pleased to see the huge amount of work completed throughout that time, with and for, our local communities.

3.3.4 The Panel agreed to finish their formal follow up involvement with the inquiry after satisfying themselves that good progress has been made with all the recommendations. They heard that seven of the recommendations are now complete and that good progress has been made with those recommendations that are outstanding. They were reassured to hear that all the necessary pieces are in place to ensure ongoing improvement in those areas where the recommendations are incomplete.

3.3.5 The Panel would like to refer one area to the Scrutiny Programme Committee for potential follow up in the new municipal year. This is relating to Recommendation 13 - *Build upon the development of a Co-production Strategy with inclusion of a Toolkit for use by staff across the authority.*

4. **Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. **Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Letters Log – 2021-22

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Letters / Responses

Scrutiny Letters Log (2021-2022)

Ave. Response Time (days):

18 (target within 21 days)

% responses within target:

71

No.	Committee / Panel / Working Group	Meeting Date	Main Issue(s)	Cabinet Portfolio	Letter Sent	Response Received	Days Taken
1	Working Group	11-May	Digital Inclusion	Business Improvement & Performance	26-May	n/a	n/a
2	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	10-May	Welsh Housing Quality Standard Annual Report	Climate Change & Service Transformation	26-May	n/a	n/a
3	Education Performance Panel	13-May	New Curriculum and progress with ALN reform	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	26-May	n/a	n/a
4	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	25-May	Update on CAMHS; Youth Offending Service	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	14-Jun	n/a	n/a
5	Natural Environment Performance Panel	19-May	Climate Change Action Plan	Climate Change & Service Transformation	16-Jun	n/a	n/a
6	Adult Services Performance Panel	02-Jun	Transformation Programme; WAO Report actions; Review of Social Services Charges	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	23-Jun	16-Jul	23
7	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	11-Jun	Revenue Outturn, HRA Outturn and Capital Outturn and Financing 20-21	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	30-Jun	n/a	n/a
8	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	22-Jun	Regional Adoption Service, Initial feedback from CIW Assurance Visit	Children Services	01-Jul	n/a	n/a
9	Committee	15-Jun	Public Services Board	Chair of Public Services Board	16-Jul	n/a	n/a

10	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	23-Jun	Welsh Language Annual Report	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	22-Jul	n/a	n/a
11	Natural Environment Performance Panel	29-Jun	Air Quality	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	22-Jul	n/a	n/a
12	ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group	28-Jun	Education Partnership moving forward	Chair of ERW Joint Committee	20-Jul	28-Jul	n/a
13	Education Performance Panel	15-Jul	Delegated spend and the Behaviour Strategy and new Education Partnership	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	02-Aug	23-Aug-21	21
14	Working Group	07-Jul	Bus Services	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	09-Aug	17-Aug	8
15	Adult Services Performance Panel	14-Jul	Performance Monitoring; Initial feedback CIW Assurance Visit	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	09-Aug	14-Sep	36
16	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	01-Jul	Project update report	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	18-Aug	20-Sep	33
17	Committee	13-Jul	Highways & Engineering and Infrastructure Repairs & Maintenance	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	19-Aug	07-Sep	19
18	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	11-Aug	Performance monitoring; CIW Assurance Visit; Ty Nant CIW Inspection	Children Services	25-Aug	n/a	n/a
19	Natural Environment Performance Panel	26-Aug	Ash Dieback	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	16-Sep	n/a	n/a

20	Education Performance Panel	01-Sep	Estyn changes, Regional Consortia and Covid recovery	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	17-Sep	n/a	n/a
21	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	07-Sep	Project update report & Swansea University	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	30-Sep	n/a	n/a
22	Committee	17-Aug	Tourism, Destination Management & Marketing and Business & City Promotion	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	30-Sep	18-Oct	18
23	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	21-Sep	Child and Family Improvement Programme; Corporate Parenting Board; Appreciative Inquiry video	Children Services	04-Oct	22-Oct	18
24	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	20-Sep	Q1 Budget Monitoring Report	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	12-Oct	n/a	n/a
25	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	20-Sep	Peer Review & Self-Assessment (Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	Business Improvement & Performance	12-Oct	n/a	n/a
26	Committee	14-Sep	Litter & Community Cleansing	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	14-Oct	21-Oct	7
27	Education Performance Panel	30-Sep	Education Improvement	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	18-Oct	n/a	n/a
28	Committee	14-Sep	Energy Policy	Climate Change & Service Transformation	20-Oct	n/a	n/a
29	Natural Environment Performance Panel	06-Oct	Water Pollution	Delivery & Operations	27-Oct	n/a	n/a

30	Natural Environment Performance Panel	06-Oct	Flood Risk Management	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	27-Oct	n/a	n/a
31	Education Performance Panel	21-Oct	Welsh in Education, New Curriculum	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	04-Nov	01-Dec	27
32	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	19-Oct	Q1 Performance Monitoring	Business Improvement & Performance	09-Nov	n/a	n/a
33	Adult Services Performance Panel	20-Oct	Workforce Support Programme; Update on management of Covid and Performance Monitoring	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	10-Nov	n/a	n/a
34	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	16-Nov	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Swansea Airport	Delivery & Operations	17-Nov	n/a	n/a
35	Committee	19-Oct	Recovery & Transformation Plan	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	23-Nov	n/a	n/a
36	Committee	19-Oct	Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	24-Nov	n/a	n/a
37	Education Performance Panel	18-Nov	Morrleston Comprehensive School	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	24-Nov	01-Dec	7
38	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	02-Nov	City Centre Travel Plan	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	01-Dec	21-Dec	20
39	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	02-Nov	Dashboard Project Monitoring Report	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	01-Dec	07-Dec	6
40	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	16-Nov	Planning APR	Delivery & Operations	08-Dec	n/a	n/a

41	Committee	14-Dec	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Proposed Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 - 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way.	Joint Delivery & Operations & Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	15-Dec	11-Jan	27
42	Committee	16-Nov	Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty	Supporting Communities	17-Dec	n/a	n/a
43	Adult Services Performance Panel	30-Nov	Update on management of Covid and performance monitoring	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	20-Dec	20-Dec	0
44	Education Performance Panel	09-Dec	School meals, Performance against objectives (RAG), Swansea Skills Partnership and Partneriath	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	21-Dec	n/a	n/a
45	Committee	14-Dec	Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	05-Jan	26-Jan	21
46	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	15-Dec	Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance Report 2020-21	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	06-Jan	n/a	n/a
47	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	15-Dec	Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2nd Quarter Report 2021/22.	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	06-Jan	n/a	n/a
48	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	13-Dec	Performance Highlight Report and Emergency Staffing; Update on Ty Nant	Children Services	10-Jan	26-Jan	16

49	Committee	18-Jan	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Covid Recovery & Investment	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	19-Jan	n/a	n/a
50	Education Performance Panel	20-Jan	Penyrheol Comprehensive School	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	28-Jan	n/a	n/a
51	Natural Environment Performance Panel	12-Jan	Weed Management / Green Space	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	28-Jan	n/a	n/a
52	Adult Services Performance Panel	12-Jan	Update on management of Covid and performance monitoring	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	31-Jan	n/a	n/a
53	Inquiry Panel	26-Jan	Equalities Inquiry Impact/follow up report	Supporting Communities	03-Feb	n/a	n/a
54	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	18-Jan	Budget	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	07-Feb	n/a	n/a
55	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	25-Jan	Foreshore Developments	Delivery & Operations	07-Feb		
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**To/
Councillor Mark Thomas
Cabinet Member for Environment
Enhancement & Infrastructure
Management
BY EMAIL**

cc: Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
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Scrutiny

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SPC/2021-22/10

05 January 2022

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the meeting of the Committee on 14 December 2021. It is about Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement. A response is required by 26 January.

Dear Councillor Thomas,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 December

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session, which focussed on a specific aspect of your wide-ranging cabinet portfolio, namely Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement.

We wanted to gain a greater understanding of these specific responsibilities, your priorities, resources, performance measures, key headlines / achievements against objectives, and overall assessment (including how we compare with others, challenges / risks) and impact / difference made.

We thank you and officers for attending the meeting and providing a written report on these responsibilities and the Council's work. The Committee asked questions to explore this work and provide challenge on actions and performance, as well as future thinking.

This letter reflects on what we learnt from the information presented, questions, and discussion. It shares the views of the Committee and highlights any outstanding issues / actions for your response - main issues summarised below.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement

Your report on Parking Services covered work in relation to Off Street Car Parks, Civil Parking Enforcement (on street parking restrictions), Park and Ride Sites, and the Abandoned Vehicle Service. This included the operation of 48 public use car parks throughout the City & County area.

Specific aspects to our discussion noted below.

Finance

You provided details of the Parking Services Operational Budgets (cost of running the service), Income Targets and Actual Income for Civic Parking Enforcement, Car Parks, and Park & Ride, and explained their inter-relationship.

It was clarified that there is no specific income target for Civil Parking Enforcement, but the operation is required by legislation to be self-financing, not at cost to the Council itself. Any revenue from Parking Charge Notices (PCNs), over and above operating costs, are required to be ring-fenced to support Environmental and Transportation service areas. Figures provided for 2020/21 showed a surplus of just over £300k, against an operational budget of £1.389m. We were told that this surplus was not used exclusively within Parking Services, such as for the maintenance of road markings for parking bays, nor set aside for specific improvement work, but would supplement the overall Highways & Transportation budget and delivery of services within that. As an example, we asked whether the surplus could in the future be used to reduce the charges for Park & Ride, and you confirmed that this would be a legitimate use. Monies, however, could not be used for other Council services. On the question of re-painting road markings, you stated that this would be addressed on an as-and-when required basis not a rolling programme.

Residents Parking

We discussed potential difficulties with the enforcement of residents parking bays given that there are now paperless permits. This means that it is impossible for residents to check that vehicles in the bay are legitimately parked. However, given that certain information is already available to the public on-line, such as typing in a vehicle registration number to check whether a vehicle is taxed or has a MOT, we suggested it would help if information on whether a vehicle had a residents parking permit was also accessible, so that people can then call for enforcement if necessary. We were told that officers would investigate this but suspected issues around privacy / data protection. We would be grateful for a response on whether this would be feasible. Nevertheless, you stated that members of the public can contact the Council about any residents parking issue and whilst they would not be told whether a vehicle was permitted or not the Enforcement Team would action as appropriate. You stressed that you would not want members

of the public challenging individuals themselves but leave enforcement to the Council. You highlighted the benefits of paperless permits, not least in keeping the scheme free for residents.

Safety

Your report stated that one of the key reasons for on street enforcement is safety, to discourage vehicles from stopping and parking in areas which could compromise the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. We asked about the action taken by the Council with motorists who have blatantly parked their vehicles on pavements, including the new pavements in the City Centre, which is a problem for pedestrians and the disabled as well as causing damage. You stated that where vehicles are found to be contravening traffic orders action would be taken (e.g., PCNs) however highlighted that there are limited powers of enforcement on unrestricted roads. In such cases, obstruction / pavement parking would be a matter for the Police, not the Council.

Given the desire to have an attractive City Centre, we noted that actions like the placement of street furniture can be taken to improve the aesthetics whilst also discouraging parking on pavements.

Changing Travel Choices

In view of the climate emergency and need to reduce carbon emissions we welcomed proposals to invest in the provision of secure cycle parking. We were happy that consideration is being given to customers at Park & Ride sites being able to park their vehicles at the sites and complete their journey by bicycle, with the obvious benefits to health, wellbeing, and the environment. You informed the Committee that two secure cycle parking areas were being developed and almost complete at Fabian Way and the Quadrant Car Park. There would also be secure cycle parking in the new Arena car parks. As well as that, you were looking at the expansion of cycle hubs / bike hire in the City Centre, such as by the McDonalds at Castle Square. The pandemic has slowed progress, but you told us that you were very much behind encouraging cycling.

Staffing

There is a staffing complement of 52 officers in Parking Services, of which 37 carry out Civil Parking Enforcement, with others involved in attending / patrolling car parks. You clarified that 24 officers are involved in the actual issuing of PCNs. Although noting that Civil Parking Enforcement is self-financing and officer numbers reflect the 'demand', a remark was made within the Committee around relative priorities and shortage of enforcement within the Council in other important areas such as the protection of nature. Whilst understanding the concern, you remarked that comparisons were not applicable and that some people feel we do not have enough Civil Parking

Enforcement officers as it is, e.g., enforcement around schools and suburban areas and being responsive to issues. The service was aware of hot spots which would see greater patrols, and inevitably included areas within the City Centre. You stated that unfortunately officers could not be everywhere at the same time, and the Camera Enforcement Van is limited to specific offences but would be happy to hear from councillors and consider their requests if they felt certain areas needed attention.

We also asked about the prevalence of abuse, threats, and hostility towards Civil Enforcement officers. Although officers are provided with bodycams, we noted that due to such risks and safety of officers being paramount, officers patrolled in pairs though may split off for short periods within a small, designated area for efficiency.

Cleanliness

We sought clarity around responsibility for the cleanliness of Car Parks, something which Councillors receive complaints about. We heard that officers within Parking Services would be involved in the general cleaning / maintenance of car parks, attending to the basics to ensure car parks were tidy, however major cleaning was the responsibility of the Council's Parks & Street Cleansing Team. Issues would be referred to that Team if they otherwise cannot be dealt with by Parking Services. We felt the issues around litter were perhaps more of a problem in the summer months and hoped that patrols and cleaning regimes were more frequent during that period.

Investment

We discussed how technology can be utilised to improve parking operations and make car parking smarter, and to what extent this Council was adopting this, not just for the benefit of the Council but user. For example, with camera technology drivers only paying for actual use rather than by the hour or having to pre-pay for a specific time, etc. Whilst entirely possible you questioned the appetite for moving away from hourly charging, e.g., per 20 or 30 minutes, in car parks. This method of charging was already used exclusively in areas of very short term on-street parking. Nevertheless, you assured the Committee that as members of the British Parking Association and having close contact with other Councils and operators, public and private, our services matched current practice in this sector but would be improved further as technology evolves.

We noted that two new multi-storey car parks would be available next year, within the Copr Bay / Arena Development, Copr Bae North and South. The North Car Park will have 630 spaces and the South 355. However, this development has resulted in the loss of two surface car parks (St Mary's and Oystermouth Road car parks) plus St David's will soon be lost to make way for future development as part of the City Centre Regeneration Strategy. We noted that overall, the net impact on available car parking spaces is a

reduction of 15 spaces. We were told that the new car parks would utilise ANPR technology on entry with payment on return to the vehicle with hourly charges applicable, offering several methods of payment (cash, card, contactless and phone/app, etc.) providing flexibility and choice to users.

You reported that the Park & Ride operation has been hard hit during the pandemic, with concern amongst customers over the risks of sharing a bus with strangers and infection. You stated that the current location of the Landore Park & Ride site is under review given that new developments such as the SkyLine and other commercial, retail and leisure developments are being considered in the area. A commission was underway to consider any alternative locations for a Park & Ride site to serve the lower Swansea Valley. We know that the Council has been considering additional Park & Ride sites, particularly to serve the west of Swansea, for many years and noted that further work will be necessary to determine the feasibility of potential park and ride sites to the northwest and west of the city and assess suitable locations.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome comments on any of the issues raised within. We would be grateful, however, if you could specifically consider our views on residents parking and provide response on the feasibility of information about residents parking permits being made public.

Please provide your response to this and any other comments about our letter by 26 January. We will then publish both letters in the agenda of the next available Committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Black
Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee

(By Email)

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Thomas
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E-Mail: cllr.mark.thomas@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: MT/JG
Your Ref:
Date: 26 January 2022

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 December 2021, Parking Policy, Control and Enforcement - Response to Feedback

Dear Councillor Black,

Thank you for your letter dated 5th January 2022, which was your committee's response to the Scrutiny meeting I and Officers attended on 14th December 2021.

I felt that we were able to respond to most questions raised at the meeting but there was one outstanding query for which I committed to provide you with a response to.

Your question and my response are laid out below and I hope that will satisfy the Members of the Committee.

- 1. We discussed potential difficulties with the enforcement of residents parking bays given that there are now paperless permits. This means that it is impossible for residents to check that vehicles in the bay are legitimately parked. However, given that certain information is already available to the public on-line, such as typing in a vehicle registration number to check whether a vehicle is taxed or has a MOT, we suggested it would help if information on whether a vehicle had a residents parking permit was also accessible, so that people can then call for enforcement if necessary. We were told that officers would investigate this but suspected issues around privacy / data protection. We would be grateful for a response on whether this would be feasible.***

a) The Council stopped issuing paper based Residents Parking permits in August 2016 and began issuing virtual permits instead.

Resident Parking Permit details are held in the Chipside MiPermit system. The system is a data base that holds the residents personal details such as name, address and Vehicle Registration Mark, (VRM). The Mipermit system then produces a virtual permit that exists on the system and appears on a Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's) handheld computer. When checking resident parking bays the CEO will enter the VRM into the

handheld computer. The handheld will tell the officer if the vehicle has a valid permit or not. If the vehicle does not hold a valid permit then the handheld alerts the officer and begins the PCN issuing process. The handhelds database is updated when docked overnight as permits are added and removed every day.

At present there is no facility within the software to export certain data onto the internet that would allow members of the public to check if a vehicle has a Residents Permit or not. At present Chipside are unable to do this as there is a security risk to other information kept on the database being accessed. For this reason we are unable to provide this service in similar way that the DVLA currently do. Chipside have said it might be possible to make changes within the software that will protect the information but this will need some further development time. Officers plan to discuss with other Local Authorities that use the MiPermit system to see if this is a function they would be interested in and will raise this matter at the next meeting of the Chipside user group.

In the meantime Officers would ask that residents and members report any concerns they have relating to residents parking to the Council's Parking Services department by emailing car.parks@swansea.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Mark Thomas
Aelod Y Cabinet Dros Wasanaethau'r Amgylchedd
Cabinet Member for Environment Services

To/
Councillor Rob Stewart,
Cabinet Member for Economy,
Finance & Strategy (Leader)

BY EMAIL

cc: Cabinet Members

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:

e-Mail
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SPC/2021-22/11

19 January 2022

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the Committee meeting on 18 January 2022. It is about the proposed Cabinet decision on Covid Recovery and Investment. A response is not required.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

Pre-decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Report: Covid Recovery and Investment

The Scrutiny Programme Committee met on 18 January 2022 to consider the report that you intend to present and recommend to Cabinet on 20 January. We thank you and other Cabinet Members and Officers for attending the meeting to present the report and answer questions.

Your Cabinet report relates to progress with Covid recovery and approval of future plans and investment proposals. It highlights challenges, risks, and issues regarding specific projects within the work streams. We understood that the range of issues reported on were all linked to the Council's Recovery & Transformation Plan 'Swansea – Achieving Better Together', hence presented under the umbrella of Covid Recovery and Investment.

We are writing to confirm our views on the proposed decision for Cabinet to consider before making a decision.

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The Cabinet report includes proposed decision to:

- authorise a new £2m scheme onto the capital programme for the data centre move from the Civic Centre to the Guildhall, to deliver Digital Strategy objectives with the appropriate use of cloud services for resilience and solutions which will continue to support agile and hybrid working in the longer term. We note from the report that:
 - The Guildhall would provide a stable location and resource where Digital Services can plan future networking and infrastructure requirements for the long term.
 - It is anticipated the relocated data centre can reduce the footprint of the original space by around 60% of its current size. This in turn will reduce the energy costs and the carbon footprint to maintain the controlled environment required to protect the Council's vital ICT systems.
- approve a revised plan and timeline for the implementation of the Oracle programme together with further investment of £3,620,412. We note that the earlier Cabinet decision in Sep 2019 on the Oracle system upgrade was impacted by Covid, requiring pause and re-plan (agreed by Cabinet in November 2020), and that go-live is now planned for October 2022.
- allocate £2.05m of Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) monies for the purpose of enhanced play facilities and skate park facilities across the Council area, as a new capital budget.

Your report also provides information about spending of £3,161,000 on Social Care to deal with pressures / meet identified need, up to the end of March 2022, following award of Social Care Recovery Grant in Sep 2021.

A number of questions were asked at the meeting which were responded to, relating to concerns around:

- The delay to the implementation of the Oracle upgrade and impact on the programme and costs. We understood the reasons for the delay to the programme and consequential financial implications. It was clarified to us that the £3.62m investment was in addition to previous budget for the programme of £4.8m therefore would represent a total spend of just under £8.5m – an unavoidable increase but a figure that would not be expected to rise further.
- The resilience of our digital infrastructure and IT systems. We were told that the Oracle system remained the last in a series of necessary upgrades and that all major / critical corporate systems were as robust as they can be, with resilience and recovery / continuity plans in place.

- Method for the proposed investment in Skate Park Facilities across the Council area. We noted the proposed allocation of £0.5m to assess and improve Skate Park facilities across Swansea, filling gaps in provision where identified. We were told that a survey of existing facilities was being carried out by officers and that in due course interest would be invited from local councillors regarding facilities, but that a strategic approach would be taken to ensure effective use of funds, with facilities where there is clear demand for them. It was suggested to you that the feasibility of a mobile facility be included in any options appraisal which could be shared by areas across the city and county, which you were happy to take forward in discussions.
- Assumptions about the longer-term of the continuation of home working beyond the pandemic, and the implications for the Council in terms of future office space and associated costs. We heard that the likely future for Council staff was a hybrid of office / workplace environment and home working where appropriate, and continuation of investment in agile working. However, you told the Committee that evidence points to strong demand for dedicated office space as we emerge from the pandemic and lifting of restrictions; and looking at private sector investments would suggest a resurgence of office working.

Committee Feedback

In the time available to review your report and ask questions, the Committee had no significant issues with the proposed Cabinet decision. As such, I do not intend to attend the Cabinet meeting on Thursday to speak, however please acknowledge the feedback from scrutiny as contained in this letter.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful. No response is required.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk



To:
Councillor Louise Gibbard
Cabinet Member for Better Communities

CC: Cllr Alyson Pugh

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Michelle Roberts
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office 01792 637256
Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrchol:
e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date 3 February 2022
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to the Cabinet Member for Better Communities following the meeting of the Panel on 26 January to look at impact and progress with the recommendations arising from the Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry.

Dear Cllr Gibbard,

Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – 26 January 2022

We would like to thank you and Rhian Millar from the Access to Services Team for attending our meeting. We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion and to share the views of the Panel.

You updated us on the progress made with regard to the recommendations as contained in the Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry report and that were agreed by Cabinet on 21 November 2019.

We heard that:

- A new Strategic Equality Plan for 2020/24 was developed and published in April 2020. The plan was developed in line with Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance and incorporates the key recommendations from the Scrutiny Inquiry.
- A new Strategic Equality and Future Generation Board has been established which has a key responsibility for the actions and recommendations within the Strategic Equality Plan and Scrutiny Inquiry. We were pleased that these elements have been included in the work plan for the board.
- A post to support the board has been created and filled and the board meets once a month. Some of the examples of areas the board have looked at to date include

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workforce data, consultation and engagement strategy and positive campaigns around equalities.

- On the 10 December 2021, Swansea Council along with all members of the Public Service Board (PSB) signed their intention to become a Human Rights City. We heard that this is a shared intention and it is important that local communities and the citizens of Swansea are involved. We were pleased to hear that engagement with a large number of people has already taken place, including local community groups. We were informed that there is currently a public survey open, which will run until March and you asked us to promote this in our local communities where we can.
- In order to meet our ambition to become a Human Rights City we will need to make human rights the foundation of our service planning and delivery. A steering committee has been established to drive this aim which includes local authority officers and representatives from all of the PSB organisations.
- In response to the recommendation to improve our workforce data, a new Workforce Equalities Group to support the delivery of equality solutions has been established, to support the Council in being an exemplar employer. Some of the initial activities identified for this Group include, for example, to collect updated data on employee protected characteristics and also being part of the development of the Council's Recruitment and Selection policy and approach to create a more representative and inclusive workforce.

We were also pleased to hear about some more of the other work that has been completed in relation to the 18 recommendations like for example:

- Restarting of both the Councillor Champion and of the Equalities Representatives meetings.
- The ongoing communication with equalities groups throughout the Pandemic, all be it remotely.
- Creation of and progress with the Interfaith Forum.
- Completion of the Carers Strategy which was developed using co-production.
- Refresh of the mandatory equalities training and recognition that next steps will be to monitor uptake and target areas where staff uptake is not complete.
- Completion of the new Swansea Council Website and consultation in the development of this.
- Social services completion of their co-production strategy and the aim to use this learning for improving use of co-production right across the council.

We did recognise the Covid-19 pandemic continues to bring significant challenges to the Council and that many officers have had to shift focus to ensure that Council services were maintained and those most vulnerable were supported during the crisis. We were pleased to see the huge amount of work completed throughout that time, with and for, our local communities.

We were happy with the progress made to date and were pleased with the positive impact that the inquiry and the commitment to it by the Cabinet Member for Better Committees and officers has made in helping to move this important agenda forward in Swansea.

We agreed to finish our follow up involvement with the inquiry after satisfying ourselves that good progress has been made with all the recommendations. We heard that

seven of the recommendations are now complete and that good progress has been made with those recommendations that are outstanding. We were reassured to hear that all the necessary pieces are in place to ensure ongoing improvement in those areas where the recommendations are incomplete.

We would like to refer one area for follow up in the future. This is relating to Recommendation 13 - *Build upon the development of a Co-production Strategy with inclusion of a Toolkit for use by staff across the authority*. We will refer this to the Scrutiny Programme Committee to suggest the creation of a one-off working group to look at the issue of co-production and how it is progressing.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative and welcome your comments on any of the issues raised but do not on this occasion require a formal written response.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR LYNDON JONES

Convener, Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Cllr.lyndon.jones@swansea.gov.uk



Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 February 2022

Date and Time of Upcoming Scrutiny Panel Meetings

15 February – 15 March

- a) 15 February at 9.30am – Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel
- b) 21 February at 10.00am – Procurement Inquiry Panel
- c) 2 March at 3.30pm – Adult Services Performance Panel
- d) 7 March at 2.00pm – Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee
- e) 8 March at 10.00am – Development & Regeneration Performance Panel
- f) 9 March at 4.00pm – Child & Family Services Performance Panel
- g) 14 March at 11.30am – Bus Services Working Group
- h) 15 March at 10.00am – Natural Environment Performance Panel
- i) 15 March at 2.00pm – Education Performance Panel

Meetings will be held remotely via MS Teams