

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council
25 January 2024**

1	<p>Councillor C A Holley</p> <p>In relation to Minute 88 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Setting 2024/25</p> <p>Stated that he agreed that Swansea Council should not be charging for a Service Charge; however he would like an explanation of what Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) do in relation to Service Charges.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</p> <p>The Welsh Governments Rents Policy requires social housing providers to charge a separate charge for the services that they provide which are over and above those covered by the general rent charge. The types of services charged for varies from provider to provider.</p>
2	<p>Councillor P M Black</p> <p>In relation to Minute 88 – Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Setting 2024/25</p> <p>Asked if there was a service charge in lace for the Warden Service.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</p> <p>Yes, a separate service charge is charged to all tenants living in Independent Living (sheltered) accommodation for the warden service. The current charge is £14.26 a week which will increase to £15.12 a week in 2024/25. This charge is eligible for Housing Benefit.</p>
3	<p>Councillor S J Rice</p> <p>In relation to Minute 92 – Councillors Questions (Q3)</p> <p>What is the breakdown between what the Council had spent on the Arena and what had come from external funding.</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>The Council will spend £46,170,544 on the Arena and will receive £17,779,460 in funding from City Deal. Therefore, the Council will contribute £28,391,084.</p>
4	<p>Councillor S Bennett</p> <p>In relation to Minute 92 – Councillors Questions (Q8)</p> <p>What action was being taken to remove plastics from River Tawe prior to high tides taking them into the sea.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance</p>

Swansea Council's Marina employs a cleaner on a part time basis. In addition to building cleaning duties, they also cleanse the Marina waters and the impounded waters of the River Tawe when needed. The Cleaner dedicates about 25% of their working time to cleansing the Marina and impounded waters. The waters are cleansed using a small workboat and any debris is collected by hand using a rake and is placed into large bins for separation into various waste streams, including plastics, before disposal.

The River Tawe is a mixed bag in terms of responsibilities. Swansea Council is responsible for the impounded waters immediately above the Tawe Barrage, and the waters upstream of this are the responsibility of Natural Resources Wales. Rubbish accumulations tend to occur during periods of bad weather combined with higher than normal river levels due to either rainfall or tidal overtopping of the Barrage. The higher than normal water level causes debris lying on the river banks to become waterborne, and the natural flow of the river and the fact the Barrage is a choke point means that the debris accumulates in the impounded waters immediately above the Barrage. The final position of the accumulations is then determined primarily by wind direction. It should perhaps be noted that the majority of debris is likely to enter the water somewhere in the miles and miles of upstream river that is not under Swansea Council control.

Unfortunately the nature and position of the Barrage means that the vast majority of debris gets stuck in this location.