



## Report of the Convener

### Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel

## Annual Review of Work 2023-24

<b>Purpose:</b>	As the municipal year ends, it is good practice to reflect on the Panel's work, experience, and effectiveness.
<b>Content:</b>	A summary of the year's activities and achievements is provided.
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect on the year's work; and</li><li>• Share ideas to improve the effectiveness of Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance scrutiny</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Chris Holley Chair / Convener of the Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel.
<b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author:</b>	Rachel Percival, Scrutiny Officer E-mail: rachel.percival@swansea.gov.uk

## 1. Background

- 1.1 As this is the final meeting of this municipal year, the Panel is invited to reflect on the year's scrutiny work, experience and effectiveness. Any ideas that will improve the effectiveness of the scrutiny of Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance are welcome.
- 1.2 To aid panel members, a summary of the year's work is attached.
- 1.3 Some of the questions the Panel may want to consider:
  - What went well?
  - What did not go so well?
  - Has the Panel's work focused on the right things?
  - What have we learnt that will help us with future scrutiny?

## 2. Overview

2.1 The Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel merged with the Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel in July 2023.

2.2 The Panel memberships were merged and now has a membership of 17 councillors.

### **3. Remit of the Panel**

3.1 The overarching remit of the Panel is to ensure that the Council's budget, corporate and service improvement arrangements are effective and efficient, acting as a critical friend for the Cabinet and helping to ensure accountability. In addition, this Panel is responsible for ongoing monitoring of Council performance in relation to development and regeneration, including the 'health' of the city centre, wider economic development across Swansea and discussion about progress on the Swansea Bay City Deal.

3.2 The Panel has written to relevant Cabinet Members, to convey its views including suggested action, arising from meeting discussions. Letters, and responses where requested, were reported back to the Panel for comments and discussion as necessary.

### **4. Supporting Data**

4.1 The Service Improvement and Finance and Development and Regeneration Panels met once this municipal year before merging. The Service Improvement, Regeneration Finance Panel have held 10 Meetings. In total these 12 meetings have produced 22 Conveners letters sent to Cabinet Members. Average attendance from the merged Panel over the year has been 75%.

### **5. Future Work Programme**

5.1 Next year's plan will include most of the same performance and finance items it has received in the previous year and additionally a number of annual reports. The Welsh Language Standards and Complaints annual reports are now presented to the SPC. As part of it oversight of Development and Regeneration, the Panel will focus on an area of development 3 times per year and receive a quarterly update on all regeneration projects by email. The future work plan will be discussed at the first Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance Performance Panel in the new municipal year 2024/2025.

### **Appended:**

A. Completed Work Plan 2023-2024

Appendix A

**Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance Work Plan 2023/24**

<p><b>Meeting 1</b> Tuesday 10am 27 Jun 2023</p>	<p><b>Last meeting of Service Improvement and Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Road Repairs</b> Cllr Andrew Stevens – Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Stuart Davies – Head of Highways and Transportation Bob Fenwick – Group Leader Highways Maintenance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting 2</b> Tuesday 10am 11 July 2023</p>	<p><b>Last meeting of Development and Regeneration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Focussed Topic: Project Review - Swansea Arena</b> Cllr Rob Stewart – Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Cllr Robert Francis-Davies - Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism Lee Richards – City Centre Team Leader /Lisa Mart – Venue Director</li> <li>• <b>Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report</b> Cllr Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events &amp; Tourism Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting 3</b> Tuesday 10am 5 Sept 2023</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Revenue Financial Outturn 22-23 and Revenue Outturn 22-23 (Housing Revenue Account)</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> <li>2. <b>Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2022/2023</b> Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annual Review of Performance 2022/2023</b> Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting 4</b> Tuesday 10am 26 Sept 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Capital Outturn and Financing 2022/23</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> <li>• <b>Quarter 1 2023/24 Performance Monitoring Report</b> Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting 5</b> Tuesday 10am 17 Oct 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Audit Wales Report – Setting of Wellbeing Objectives</b> Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</li> <li>• <b>Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Performance Report</b> Cllr Elliott King – Cabinet Member Culture, Human Rights and Equalities Karen Gibbins – Library Services Manager Bethan Lee – Principal Librarian</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting 6</b> Tuesday 10am</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report – 2023/24</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> </ul>

14 Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Regeneration Project(s) Update – Skyline/Copr Bay</b> Cllr Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events &amp; Tourism Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 7</b> Tuesday 10am 12 Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mid Term Budget Statement 2023/24</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> <li>● <b>Review of Revenue Reserves</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> <li>● <b>Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring Report</b> Cllr Cyril Anderson– Cabinet Member Community Services Chris Howell – Head of Waste Management and Parks Matthew Perkins – Group Leader, Waste</li> <li>● <b>Audit Wales Report – Digital Strategy Review</b> Andrea Lewis – Cabinet Member for Service Transformation Sarah Lackenby – Head of Digital and Customer Services</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 8</b> Tuesday 10am 16 Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Budget Proposals 2024/25 – 2027/28</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> <li>● <b>Q2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> <li>● <b>Q2 Performance Monitoring Report 2023/24</b> Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</li> <li>● <b>Tourism Destination Management Plan Update</b> Cllr Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events &amp; Tourism Steve Hopkins – Tourism and Marketing Manager</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 9</b> Tuesday 10am 13 Feb 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Reports: Annual Budget</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> <li>● <b>Q3 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24</b> Cllr Rob Stewart - Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy Ben Smith – Director of Finance / S.151 Officer</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 10</b> Tuesday 10am 12 Mar 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Regeneration Project(s) Update 71-72 The Kingsway</b> Cllr Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Investment Regeneration, Events &amp; Tourism Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>● <b>Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments for Development and Regeneration</b> Cllr Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events &amp; Tourism Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting 11</b> Tuesday 10am 9 Apr 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Annual Review of Wellbeing Objectives</b> Cllr David Hopkins - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</li> <li>● <b>Q3 Performance Monitoring Report 2023/24</b></li> </ul>

	<p>Cllr David Hopkins - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance  Richard Rowlands – Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Audit Wales Report – “Cracks in the Foundations” Building Safety in Wales</b></li> </ul> <p>Cllr David Hopkins- Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance  Carol Morgan – Head of Housing and Public Health</p>
<p><b>Meeting 12</b>  Tuesday  10am  7 May 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planning Annual Performance Report</b>  Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance  Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration  Ian Davies - Development Manager  Tom Evans – Place making and Strategic Planning Manager</li> <li>• <b>Audit Wales report “Springing Forward” - Workforce</b>  Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance  Rachael Davies – Head of HR and Service Centre</li> <li>• <b>Pre Scrutiny of Updated FPR7 for Palace Theatre Refurbishment</b>  Cllr Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events &amp; Tourism  Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> </ul>

**Welsh Housing Quality Standards Annual Update** – WHQS has now been achieved therefore there is no update for 23/24 however new WHQS standards are due end of 2024 therefore update on new standards can be given in 24/25.

**Annual Complaints Report** – Moved to SPC

**Welsh Language Standards Annual Report** – Moved to SPC