

Progress Report – Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) **Inward Investment** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

Key Question: What can the Council do to influence inward investment into Swansea and the South West Wales region?

Progress Bar:

Scoping				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel plan in March to meet with a representative from Swansea University Professor Marc Clement. They will then draw together all the evidence gathered and discuss their findings at a meeting in April.

b) **Public Engagement** (convenor: Cllr Joe Hale)

Key Question: How can the Council improve its engagement practices with the public, staff and external stakeholders?

Progress Bar:

Scoping				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The panel has completed its evidence gathering. It will meet at the end of April to consider its findings and identify conclusions and recommendations for the final report.

c) **Streetscene** (convenor: Cllr John Bayliss)

Key Question: How well does the Council maintain and keep clean the roads, footways and verges in Swansea, and what changes should it make?

Progress Bar:

Scoping				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The panel recently met with the Cabinet Member to discuss policy commitments in this area. The panel will next meet on 30th April to gather evidence from residents on their experiences of street scene services.

d) **Social Care at Home** (convenor: Cllr Jane Harris)

Key Question: How can Swansea Council and its partners support elderly people to enable them to remain in their own homes?

Progress Bar:

Scoping				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel conducted a series of visits to Day Centres during March in order to gather the views of older people who are in receipt of social care at home.

The Panel held a meeting on 11 March where they spoke to external providers of home care in order to gain their perspective on the current system. They also met on 1 April with the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing to discuss the Council's Policy Commitments in this area; and Paul Littlewood, Senior Principle Officer for Adult Services and Deborah Dennis, Intake Team Manager to discuss issues around the provision of care and contract management issues.

The next meeting will take place on 30 April where the Panel will consider the evidence it has gathered so far and discuss the emerging themes and early areas for conclusions.

e) **Education Inclusion** (convenor: Cllr Cheryl Philpott)

Key Question: Why do some children require education other than at school, and what can be done to improve their education?

Progress Bar:

Scoping				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel last met on 27 March, with the SEN Manager to look at a selection of anonymous case studies of young people using the service. Since then it has been note that the newly appointed Chief Education Officer has launched his own review into these services, so the Panel will suspend its work to allow that review to be concluded. Then it will continue by considering the outcome of the review alongside its own work in this important area.

2. Performance Panels:

a) **Wellbeing** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

The panel has its final meeting of the current work plan on 7th April. It will consider the Adult Services performance monitoring report. The panel will then need to devise a new work plan for the next 12 months.

b) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The next meeting will be held on 10 April. During this meeting the Panel will look at Financial and Performance monitoring for the 3rd Quarter of 2013/14.

c) **Schools Performance** (convener: Cllr Jennifer Raynor)

The Panel will meet on the 10 April with the Chief Education Officer, Arwyn Thomas to discuss the Estyn Inspection Post Implementation Action Plan and the Education Business Plan. They will then meet again on the 1 May to evaluate the year and plan their next years work.

d) **Local Service Board** (convener: Cllr Mike Day)

The first meeting of the Panel was held on 2 April. Rebecca David-Knight from the Centre for Public Scrutiny attended to provide the Panel with a development session to help them understand their role and remit along with useful scrutiny tools. They also received a presentation from Dave Mckenna, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, regarding the development and work of the Local Service Board to date. The next Panel meeting will take place on 12 May and will continue to develop the Panel's role and consider its future work plan.

3. **Working Groups:**

A number of topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups.

a) the following Working Group will be convened in the next few months:

- **Local Flood Risk Management** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones) – this will be a further meeting, following initial meeting in January 2013, to discuss Environment Agency flood risk and flood hazard maps and specific areas of risk. The Council has not yet received the maps in a format which can be used. It is likely that information will be ready to be presented to scrutiny by the summer.
- **Car Parks** (convener: Cllr Tony Colburn) – this will be to discuss provision across Swansea, performance, and plans for improvement
- **Planning Service** (convener: Cllr Mark Thomas) – this will be a reconvened meeting following initial meeting on 17 December to follow up on outstanding issues.