



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**  
**DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE**

Councillor Mike Day  
Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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Our Ref / Ein Cyf: JEB/SH  
Your Ref / Eich Cyf: SPC/2013-14/12  
Date / Dyddiad: 29 April 2014

**If you require this or any other information in another format e.g. Braille, audio tape or a different language, please contact me**

Dear Cllr Mike Day

**Response to Scrutiny Programme Committee -  
Cabinet Member Question Session - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

Thank you for your letter in which you set down what you learnt from the discussion at the meeting. I am pleased that you found the meeting and the note I circulated useful. Whilst your letter does not ask for specific further clarification on the matters discussed I thought that in some areas I could provide you with some updated information.

In relation to responding to bad weather I have asked officers to review the information pertaining to poor weather, flooding and the provision of sand bags on the Council's web-site to ensure it is clear. On the specific issue of blowing sand a report on this matter has been considered, as this is becoming an increasing problem. This has resulted in an external expert on sand movements being engaged to produce a report. A balance is required between the ecology of the beach and the operational responsibilities of the Authority in terms of the highway and leisure use. A group of officers will be meeting in May to discuss the findings of the report. This matter is being led by Deborah Hill of the Conservation Team.

On the issue of dangerous trees I can confirm that the point of contact for all tree safety issues is the Parks Department. The Tree Service also operates an out of hours service (the contact number **out of hours** for dangerous/fallen trees is 07850 824951).

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD  
JUNE BURTONSHAW  
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE  
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In terms of waste management I am delighted to report that we have now gone live with the three bag limit and the initial indications are that this is showing very positive results. In the first week of household waste collections since the limits were brought in, refuse crews picked up 69.3 tonnes less black bag waste than they did two weeks before the introduction of the limit. The primary focus of the campaign is on education and engagement with communities and this is going very well, with the message on the new limits seeming to have been taken up by communities. Where households are putting out more than three bags waste crews are putting stickers on the bags and then officers are speaking to the householders to advise them of the new limits. Any ongoing issues will be logged and where necessary officers will take action to establish the source of the waste.

On the commercial waste side we will shortly be introducing a system where we will require all commercial premises to separate out food waste from their waste prior to collection. We will also be targeting businesses that do not currently recycle and encourage them to take part, with an initial focus on cardboard recycling.

Your letter also references the outcomes that have been achieved in relation to the spend on repairs to our council housing stock. The 2013 /14 HRA Capital programme, which is projected to spend approx. £25.5m, has achieved the following headline outcomes (the figures are approximate as completions are still being formally recorded at the time of writing):

- The external refurbishment (wind and weatherproofing) of 309 properties
- The refurbishment of 111 non-traditional dwellings
- The installation of 230 new external doors
- The installation of 183 new kitchens and bathrooms
- The installation of 1,112 new boilers
- Electrical rewiring to 506 properties
- The replacement of 364 smoke alarms
- 343 roof renewals
- 594 property adaptations for tenants with a disability.

Funding for the HRA Capital programme is normally via a combination of Major Repairs Allowance (a Welsh Government capital grant), contributions from the revenue account, capital receipts and balances on the account (i.e. reserves).

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As approved by Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014, slippages in the 2013/14 programme (mainly as a result of the detailed preparations needed for the high rise refurbishment programme) meant that funding from reserves was not required. However, the approved 2014/15 programme of £38.5m will in part be funded by the full balance of reserves above the reasonable contingency level of £4m.

On public transport matters, since the meeting we have looked further at the Quality Bus Contract/Partnership for Swansea and it has been decided not to progress with the Quality Contract approach but to look at more informal partnerships with the bus company, like we currently use for the metro service.

I am pleased to report that the extension of cycling routes in the city centre has also been agreed. Further information and maps showing the proposed new routes are available from Ben George in the Transportation Team.

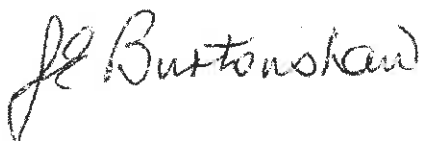
I can confirm that I have already responded by email to the question raised by the member of the public in relation the public transport issue in Fforestfach.

In terms of the District Heating Scheme, if you need further information on this the Cabinet Member for Sustainability will be able to assist.

I note your request for a councillor briefing session on the issue of fracking and underground coal gasification and I will speak to the Cabinet Member for Sustainability about the possibility of putting on an information session for councillors on this issue.

I hope this letter helps to clarify the issues raised, if you required anything further please let me know.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR JUNE BURTONSHAW**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE**

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