



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

Councillor Mike Day  
Chair  
Scrutiny Programme Committee  
City and County of Swansea

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Date / Dyddiad: 8 May 2014

Dear Councillor Day

**Cabinet Member Question Session – 17 March**

Thank you for your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 highlighting a series of specific issues raised by the Committee. I have sought further clarification from the relevant officers and I have addressed my responses in the order raised by you.

**Cultural Projects (incl. Dylan Thomas Centenary)**

The Council did very well to get to the final shortlist of the UK City of Culture 2017 and despite not being successful progress is being maintained to ensure that the Swansea is recognised as the Welsh City of Culture. In particular the Dylan Thomas Centenary programme is a major project being delivered in partnership with a range of partnership including Welsh Government, Carmarthenshire Council, Arts Council of Wales, national Library of Wales and local partners such as the Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea University, University of Wales Trinity St David and the Dylan Thomas Birthplace. During the year a wide ranging programme of events will be taking place and significant national and international interest has been generated which will result in increased visitor numbers and spend locally. Notably, the Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded a grant of just over £900k to the city to redevelop the Dylan Thomas Exhibition and this will be completed by October in time for the actual centenary of Dylan's Birth. Work continues with the £9m project to refurbish the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery which is recognised as the leading regional gallery in Wales and also is a Tate Modern partner. The gallery is currently closed, but an exciting offsite exhibition and education programme has been organised and an enduring partnership has been forged with the YMCA.

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD**  
**NICK BRADLEY**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**  
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**Economic Development**

I can confirm that the new, more proactive approach to Economic Development has commenced with the joint hospitality event at the Liberty Stadium organized at the end of April – this was very well received. This is just the beginning as we, the Leader, myself and colleagues take a forward aggressive approach to encouraging new businesses.

**City Centre Event**

A stakeholder engagement proposal has been submitted for consideration which sets out a number of stages leading to a joint conference with DCfW in October.

**Boulevard**

The project is on currently on target and budget. It will be completed in November 2015 as originally agreed.

**Swansea Market**

Tenders are being sought for the roof works and work will get underway shortly.

**Future Management of Parks**

I would agree with you that it is vital to evaluate the eligibility, capacity, skills and financial circumstances as appropriate of all those who may be involved or engaged in the future management of Parks. It is clear that there will undoubtedly be a range of different types of partners in the future, from local volunteer friends support groups to full blown, formal self management service providers. As you rightly point out Community capacity will be one of the key issues surrounding any future opportunities that may be explored, and there are many sensitivities to be considered as part of this developing agenda.

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There are a number of projects underway that will help test various partnership proposals and these are being developed as we speak. Our intention is to continue to develop these partnerships and research further delivery options before we roll these opportunities out to the Communities at large. Once we are clear on the types of models available we will be more than happy to meet the Community Councils to discuss these options.

**360 Beach and Watersports Facility/Tidal Lagoon Project (Public question)**

360 beach and Watersports Centre cost £986,000 to build of which £836,000 was obtained through grant funding.

The Authority's contribution was by way of a previously agreed developer's contribution resulting from the development on the St Helen's Baths site and the removal of the public conveniences on that site. The Authority was responsible for obtaining the grant funding, project managing the building of the facility and procuring the third party operator.

Since the centre opened there have been more than 175,500 users of the facility. Considering activity levels were minimal prior to the centre being established, the level of beach sports activity is very encouraging. The beach and watersports programme continues to expand and the centre launched this year's programme on 5<sup>th</sup> April and which now includes 9 activities

The Tidal Lagoon application is being determined by PINS, not the Council; however we will be a major consultee in the process. I can confirm that I have responded to the member of the public on these issues.

I will of course be writing to Scrutiny with updates.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR NICK BRADLEY**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**

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