

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council –
15 April 2014**

1. Councillor MH Jones asked the Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Question

What the Board of the Wales National Pool Swansea had done and were doing in order to offset the difficult challenges it faced following the removal of its International Training Camps (ITC) status?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration

The Board and management representatives have held a number of meetings with Swim Wales to consider the impact of the loss of the ITC status at the Wales National Pool. Swim Wales have indicated that they are intent on maintaining a centre of excellence at the pool for both able bodied and disabled swimmers. In addition, an extensive pool space review has been undertaken and alternative users and additional space has been identified in order that income can be generated to offset the income lost as a result of British Swimming's decision to reduce the number of ITC's in the UK

2. Councillor PR Hood-Williams asked the Cabinet Member for Regeneration

Question

Page 102, Paragraph 4.8 "Liberty Stadium" which states "Before any distribution of profit could be considered the Company would have to be in a position of net profitability taking account of past accumulated losses. There is therefore considerable progress to be made in terms of profitability before any distribution could be made."

1) How much has the loss been and what is the current amount of the loss i.e. how much is left?

2) The actual income 2012-2013 from the Swans is £1,306,544 and from the Ospreys is £207,450. The turnover of the Swans and Ospreys is far higher. How the income amount is therefore calculated.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration

The 2012/13 performance by SSMC was that the Company reported post-tax profit for the year of £269,992; this is based on turnover of £3,103,936 against turnover of £2,692,304 in the previous financial year, and a post-tax profit of £159,891 in the previous financial year. At the start of the 2012/13 financial year SSMC carried forward accumulated losses of £396,426; when the post-tax profit is considered against that figure the accumulated losses at the 2013 financial year end reduced to £126,764. As per the report, SSMC envisage to clear this deficit by the end of their 2013/14 financial year (May 31st).

Total Income was £3,103,936 which includes apportioned income from gate receipts at Swans and Ospreys matches, including apportioned season ticket sales, and also Premier Club including Executive Boxes, catering concession fee, rentals, concert and event income and other sundry commercial income.

3. **Mrs L Davies asked the Cabinet Member for Learning & Skills**

Question

In relation to Minute 223 "Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017".

- 1) Has the council received any such grant funding? [If yes];
- 2) What was the total amount of grant funding awarded for 2013-2014?
- 3) Which schools were the recipients of the grant funding?
- 4) How will the introduction of the Welsh Education Strategic Plan benefit those children living in Swansea who are being denied the opportunity to take the full course Welsh GCSE through normal educational channels and are having to take twilight classes, after school?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Learning & Skills

- 1) All authorities in Wales receive Welsh in Education grant funding.
- 2) In Swansea in 2013-14 £342,881 was received from Welsh Government.
- 3) All schools benefit from part of the WEG. The grant covers Welsh-medium schools where it supports Welsh as a first language and English-medium schools. In English-medium primary schools the grant is very important because it supports the training of teachers to deliver Welsh as a second language which some schools find it difficult to provide. The allocation across English and Welsh medium, primary and secondary, schools is agreed each year by the consultative group Partneriaeth Addysg Cymraeg Abertawe (PACA).
- 4) The WEG funds a Welsh in Education Officer who works in English-medium secondary schools promoting and supporting Welsh as a second language. She has been successful in raising the profile of Welsh and provision is increasing. She has encouraged some schools to provide the required time for Welsh second language within the curriculum, to make it a compulsory subject at GCSE and to offer the full course and not just the short course.

In other schools, where changing the curriculum is taking more time, additional classes have been offered after school so pupils who wish to can sit the full course at GCSE.

4. **Councillor PM Meara asked the Cabinet Member for Learning & Skills Question**

Page 17, Paragraph 3 refers to Partneriaeth Addysg Cymraeg Abertawe (PACA).

- 1) Is PACA a decision making body?
- 2) Are there any Elected representatives on PACA?
- 3) What are the Authority's Scrutiny arrangements for PACA?
- 4) How effective and reliable is that data?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Learning & Skills

1) The consultative group Partneriaeth Addysg Cymraeg Abertawe (PACA) guides the authority's development of most of the requirements of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The QEd 2020 programme guides the requirements to do with school organisation and the provision of places. PACA is required to advise on decisions, for example, on the use of the Welsh in Education Grant (WEG) funding or changes in practice.

2) The membership of PACA is stated in 1.6 in the WESP and does not include any Elected Members

3) The work of PACA is to deliver the WESP which is focused on raising standards in Welsh in Education, specifically pre-school and in-school. There has not been any scrutiny of the mandatory WESP so far. The authority's performance in *all* areas of Education is reported to Scrutiny annually in late autumn.

The data used in this report is based on that provided by the Fisher Family Trust.

4) Fischer Family Trust information is used by both English and Welsh governments and by all local authorities in both countries. The huge volume of pupil data collected over more than a decade means that the models used are sufficiently robust for use in estimating and prediction. Fischer now claim 85% reliability which is a very good rating (previously c. 70%). Swansea has developed such a high standard of data in its schools, following many years of guidance by the authority, that the accuracy is probably even higher here. Attached is a document provided by Fischer which you may find useful.