

**Progress Report – Current 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 are due to meet on 2 July to discuss the draft final report.

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 final report is being drafted and a meeting will take place in early July to agree the final report and recommendations.

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 has one final evidence gathering session which will take place on 14 July.

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 has arranged a further 3 evidence gathering sessions (8 July, 15 July and 5 August) in order to talk to representatives from the Carer's Centre, the Red Cross and to receive Social Services complaints data. The Panel is also organising home visits with people who have recently been through the home care assessment process in order to understand the process from the point of view of service users.

## 2. Performance Panels:

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

The Panel met on 16 June with the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing. The Panel discussed the quarterly adult services performance monitoring report. The Panel also discussed Telecare and Community Alarms and requested that the Cabinet Member and officers provide further information relating to this subject. The Panel will meet again on 30 June to discuss unallocated cases in Child & Family Services.

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

The Panel met on 11 June. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources attended along with the Head of Finance and Performance. The Panel received a report on Budget Control and Monitoring for 2014/15, which explained how the Authority is ensuring that the challenging savings targets set in the Budget will be met.

The next meeting will take place on 16 July. The Panel will receive a presentation from the Corporate Improvement Manager on the Corporate Improvement Plan 2013-17.

### c) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel will meet on the 3 July with the Chief Education Officer, Arwyn Thomas and Human Resources to look at how we advise and assist schools and governing bodies in relation to tackling poor performance of teachers and the recruitment of senior staff in schools.

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

The Panel Members attended a meeting of the LSB during June in order to observe how it works at first hand. They are still in their development stage and the next few meetings (21 July and 22 September) will be dedicated to meeting with members of the LSB Executive Board (the main statutory partners including the Local Authority, ABMU Health Board, South Wales Police, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services and the Welsh Government). The purpose will

be to gather information about the respective role of key partners in the work of the LSB.

### 3. Working Groups:

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

a) **Planning Services** (convener: Cllr Mark Thomas)

The Working Group met on 10 June and received feedback on their previous recommendations and updated performance indicators.

There were a number of issues arising which the Group felt merited further discussion, including:

- performance in relation to planning enforcement
- significant changes in the planning system forthcoming with the anticipated Planning Bill
- the planned restructure of the Planning Service

The convener is giving thought to appropriate arrangements for any further scrutiny, which the Scrutiny Programme Committee will need to consider in due course.

b) the following Working Groups will be convened in the next few months:

- **Car Parks** (convener: Cllr Tony Colburn) – this will be to discuss provision across Swansea, performance, and plans for improvement
- **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.