

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

Inquiry completed. Final Report was considered by the Committee on 4 August 2014 and is being presented to Cabinet on 26 August 2014.

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 agreed its final report. It is scheduled for the next Scrutiny Programme Committee on 29 September

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 drafted its conclusions and recommendations and the final report is being prepared.

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 completed its evidence gathering and is due to meet on 2 September to discuss emerging conclusions. Following this, a Findings Report will be produced further meetings held to develop the Panel's final conclusions and recommendations.

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

Key Question: How can the Council improve education for those children who are other than at school?

Progress Bar:

Scoping	Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The committee had agreed to suspend the work of the Panel earlier this year to allow a departmental review to be concluded. The Education Inclusion Inquiry Panel is expected to reconvene in September to consider the findings and outcomes of the departmental review, which will then inform whether / what further scrutiny activity is required. The Panel will report back to the committee on the headlines and any need for scrutiny.

2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
Services for Looked After Children	17 Sep 2013	14	1	0	(1) 15 Jul 2014 (2) tba
Public Transport	12 Nov 2013	13	1	0	tba
Affordable Housing	3 Dec 2013	7	2	4	tba – September/October
Tourism	14 Jan 2014	14	0	0	1 Oct 2014
Economic Inactivity	3 Jun 2014	7	0	0	tba
Attainment & Wellbeing	1 Jul 2014	11	0	0	tba

3. Performance Panels:

a) Service Improvement & Finance (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The Panel met on 20 August and held a session with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources to discuss the Sustainable Swansea Strategy & Delivery Programme. The Panel also received the End of Year Performance Monitoring Report.

The Panel's next meeting will take place on 15 October where the Panel will hold a Q & A session with the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills in order to explore the impact of budget savings on services within his portfolio. The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources is also scheduled to attend to discuss the Budget Consultation Strategy. The Panel will also receive several financial monitoring reports.

b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel will meet with the Chief Education Officer and the New Head of School Improvement on the 18 September to look at how we are ensuring consistency in the support given to schools by the School Improvement Service.

c) Local Service Board (convener: Cllr Mike Day)

The Panel's next meeting is on 22 September where they will meet with members of the LSB Executive Group, including South Wales Police, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services and the Welsh Government. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- develop an understanding of the role of each organisation in delivering the LSB priorities
- learn about key successes
- learn about key challenges
- seek ideas for possible items to include in the Panel's work plan

d) Wellbeing (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

The Panel met on 11 August to consider the monitoring and performance outcomes for disability services for adults.

As reported elsewhere, the Scrutiny Programme Committee has agreed to split the work of the Panel into two areas, with Child & Family Services being the first focus. Work on the Adult Services area will begin with an Inquiry Panel looking at the transformation agenda, before consideration is then given to establishing an Adult Social Services Performance Panel. Reports will be made to the Scrutiny Programme Committee in future.

4. 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)

A response is awaited from the Cabinet Member for Place to the Convener's letter sent on 2 July following the Working Group meeting on 10 June. Further to the Group's discussion at the meeting the convener is giving thought to the most appropriate arrangement for any further scrutiny of performance in relation to planning enforcement, which the Scrutiny Programme Committee will need to agree upon.

b) the following Working Groups have been given priority and will be convened in the next few months:

- **Car Parks** (convener: Cllr Tony Colburn) – this has been arranged for 22 September with the purpose of discussing provision across Swansea, service 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 early autumn.
- **Corporate Building and Property Services** (convener / membership tbc) – the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a service briefing (what we do, why we do this, budget, performance, risk and challenges, assessment etc.) to enable questions about the effectiveness of the whole service, and follow up specific issues already raised including cost of services / charges relating to schools and community centres.
- **Sustainability** (convener / membership tbc) – the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide an assessment on current plans, priorities, activities and impact. This will enable questions on how this work is impacting on policies, service delivery and planning, and whether the authority is planning longer term / being preventative / considering future generations. The Working Group may wish to focus on specific future risks e.g. food security, climate change, energy supply.

c) the following Working Groups have also been identified and will be convened in the future as time and resources allow:

- **Target Areas** (convener / membership tbc) – the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide an assessment on progress with target areas work. This will enable questions about achievements and the impact of the new approach.
- **Roads / Highway Maintenance** (convener / membership tbc) – the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering service practices and procedures (e.g. dealing with pot holes), use of resources, prospects for improvement. This will enable questions about the quality and effectiveness of highway maintenance and repair, and also issues relating to the relationship with utilities and strategic planning / co-ordination of works to minimise disruption to major access roads
- **Young Carers** (convener / membership tbc) – the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report on young carers. This will enable questions about the support available to young carers to minimise the impact on their personal development, education, employment and training.