

Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 29 September 2014

FUTURE CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSIONS

Purpose	To report on Cabinet Member changes and the arrangement of future questioning sessions.
Content	The committee is advised of the new Cabinet and portfolios.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the implication of Cabinet Member changes and arrangements for future question sessions
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Mike Day, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer(s)	Dean Taylor, Director – Corporate Services
Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the council's cabinet to account. By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and monitor performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.
- 1.2 There has been a change to Cabinet Members and portfolios which requires the committee to review its plan for future question sessions and agree arrangements for the remaining committee meetings for this municipal year, in order to ask questions on their work.

2. Cabinet Members and Portfolios

- 2.1 Announced recently by the new Leader of the Council, the new Cabinet and portfolio designations are as follows:
 - Cllr. Rob Stewart (Leader) - Finance & Strategy
 - Cllr. Christine Richards (Deputy Leader) - Services for Children & Young People
 - Cllr. Mark Thomas - Environment & Transportation
 - Cllr. Jane Harris - Services for Adults & Vulnerable People
 - Cllr. David Hopkins - Communities & Housing
 - Cllr. Jennifer Raynor – Education

- Cllr. Robert Francis-Davies - Enterprise, Development & Regeneration
- Cllr. Clive Lloyd - Transformation & Performance
- Cllr. Will Evans - Anti Poverty
- Cllr. Mark Child - Wellbeing & Healthy City

2.2 The committee schedules a Cabinet Member Question Session for each meeting in order to ensure all cabinet members appear before the committee over the course of a year. Because of the recent changes to Cabinet a new schedule for the questioning of cabinet members will need to be developed for future committee meetings.

3. Approach to Questioning Sessions

3.1 At the Cabinet Member Question Sessions the committee will generally ask cabinet members about:

- portfolio objectives
- specific activities and achievements, progress against policy commitments, key decisions taken, and impact / difference made
- headlines with regard to the performance of services within the portfolio
- key targets to measure improvement and success
- their engagement with service users / public and what influence this has had
- what they hope to achieve over the next 12 months (plans / priorities)
- challenges ahead (e.g. resources / budget)
- engagement with scrutiny on portfolio issues

3.2 Following each session the chair will write to the Cabinet Member in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the committee, and any actions for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.3 If the committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during questioning sessions then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

17 September 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard

Finance Officer: Ben Smith