

## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 29 September 2014

### FUTURE TRENDS FOR SWANSEA

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide the committee with an important report which offers an insight into current understanding of future trends likely to impact the planning and delivery of Council Services.
<b>Content</b>	The report appends a paper prepared by the Sustainable Development Unit which also includes key questions for service delivery.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Consider the information to help influence the work of scrutiny in relation to sustainability and future generations.
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Mike Day, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Dean Taylor, Director – Corporate Services
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#### 1. Introduction

1.1 In March a workshop was held for all scrutiny councillors, facilitated by the Sustainable Development Unit and partners, designed to explore how the scrutiny function in Swansea can drive long term, preventative decision making through its work.

The workshop enabled members to consider:

- the role of scrutiny and current and future influences
- long term future trends, sustainable development and the role of scrutiny
- the potential impacts of the forthcoming Well-being of Future Generations Bill
- learning from others
- how the scrutiny function can make an bigger impact by using sustainability principles to ensure services are 'fit for purpose'
- next steps

1.2 The workshop was supported by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and run by PwC and Netherwood Sustainable Futures. It was part of a package of work that is being delivered as the City & County of Swansea is the pilot authority for the WLGA on Sustainable Development.

## **2. Next Steps**

2.1 The chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee recently met with officers to reflect on the workshop and to further investigate suggestions both from the event and the follow up survey in order to develop and embed long term thinking and preventative decision making into the scrutiny process.

2.2 Some of the ideas around developing scrutiny include:

- building long term thinking into the annual work planning process
- building long term thinking and future risks / sustainability principles into scrutiny activities e.g. via Terms of Reference of inquiries
- engaging at a regional and national level to encourage the development of a 'longer term' focus in scrutiny e.g. via the National Scrutiny Reference Panel.

2.3 As part of the thinking process the committee should look at the attached briefing paper shared by the Sustainable Development Unit, which should help to build a 'long-term lens' into the work of scrutiny. Further reports / discussion on this matter will be scheduled for the committee in due course over the coming year.

## **3. Legal Implications**

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

## **4. Financial Implications**

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

Background Papers: None

18 September 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard

Finance Officer: Ben Smith