

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

Report was presented to Cabinet on 26 August 2014. A response to the recommendations made is expected by the end of November 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's final report is being presented to Cabinet on 21 October. A response to the recommendations should then follow within 3 months.

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's final report is being presented to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 27 October. Subject to agreement it will be formally presented to Cabinet on 18 November.

d) **Social Care at Home** (convenor: Cllr Uta Clay)

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 has considered its findings. They will now meet on 28 October to consider the draft final report.

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 Education Inclusion Inquiry Panel will reconvene on 23 October 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. **Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:**

a) **Transforming Adult Social Services** (convenor: Uta Clay)

This pre-inquiry working group met on 13th October to consider an overview of the subject from the cabinet member and officers and to discuss how to take forward scrutiny involvement in the Transformation of Adult Social Services programme.

Councillor Uta Clay was appointed convenor. The Panel agreed that it would meet on a regular basis to provide scrutiny input and challenge to the ongoing transformation programme.

The Panel agreed to:

- receive an initial report which covered the rationale and the drivers for the transformation programme
- decide on a number of priorities to scrutinise
- peg its work to Cabinet decisions and the timetable for the transformation programme to ensure scrutiny has impact.

The Panel asked that the Cabinet Member provide the panel with the independent review report on older people's services as soon as possible and then panel will meet to discuss it.

b) **Corporate Culture** (convener: tbc)

This pre-inquiry working group is planning to meet on 12 November with an overview of the subject from relevant cabinet member and officers.

3. **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	20 Oct 2014
Affordable Housing	3 Dec 2013	7	2	4	3 Dec 2014
Tourism	14 Jan 2014	14	0	0	17 Nov 2014
Economic Inactivity	3 Jun 2014	7	0	0	tba
Attainment & Wellbeing	1 Jul 2014	11	0	0	tba

4. **Performance Panels:**

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

The Panel met on 15 October and received a report on the Flying Start Programme. The Panel identified this as an area they wish to drill down into in order to understand its performance and service delivery better, as it is a key element of one of the Council's Improvement Objectives "To provide support for children in the early years so that they are ready for learning and make developmental progress". They previously noted in the Corporate Improvement Plan that risks have been identified to on-going performance of the Programme due to the expansion of the Programme. In order to aid their understanding several of the Panel Members carried out a site visit to Seaview Flying Start Project (in Townhill) last week.

The Panel also received a number of performance reports including; the Council's Annual Review of Performance; 1st Quarter Performance Monitoring Report; and the Local Government Data Unit's Local Authority Performance Bulletin. The Panel have a development session arranged with the LGDU for 25 November to look at how scrutiny councillors can effectively use performance data. An invitation to this session will be extended to all scrutiny councillors.

The Panel's next meeting will take place on 17 November, where they will consider the Council's Mid-Year Budget Statement. They will also receive a detailed report on Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance Monitoring. The Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation will be invited to attend to discuss the report.

b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel met with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Challenge Advisor for Morrision Comprehensive School on the 16 October to look at their school improvement planning. The Panel will also meet on the 13 November to look at the affect of behaviour including the affect drug and alcohol issues have on school performance.

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

The Panel met on 22 September and held discussions with members of the LSB Executive Group, including Swansea Council for Voluntary Services and the Welsh Government. The discussion focussed on understanding the role of each organisation in delivering the LSB priorities and learning about key successes and challenges of LSB.

The Panel's next meeting will take place on 17 November where they plan to meet with the Health and Police representatives on the LSB Executive group to discuss their respective roles in delivering LSB properties. The Panel will also begin to consider a more detailed work plan.

d) Child & Family Services (convener: Paxton Hood-Williams)

See separate report in item 6 of the agenda.

5. Working Groups:

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

a) Planning Services (convener: tbc)

A response is awaited from the Cabinet Member to the Convener's letter sent on 2 July following the Working Group meeting on 10 June. Further to the Group's views that further monitoring is required, the Strategic Programme Committee will need to give thought to the most appropriate arrangement for any further scrutiny of performance in relation to planning enforcement, once the Cabinet Member's response has been received.

b) **Car Parks** (convener: Cllr Tony Colburn)

The Working Group met on 22 September to discuss car parks provision across Swansea, service performance, and plans for improvement. They will meet with the Cabinet Member for Environment and look at further information requested at a meeting on the 6 November.

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

- **Local Flood Risk Management** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones) – A meeting has been arranged for 13 November. 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.
- **Corporate Building and Property Services** (convener: tbc) – A meeting has been arranged for 29 October. the Head of Corporate Building and Property Services has been asked 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.