

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council –
4 November 2014**

1. Mr P East asked the Section 151 Officer

Questions

1. What percentage of salary currently representing Employers contributing to Employee and Councillor Pension Scheme.
2. What was the value of employer contributions made in respect of the Chief Financial Officer.

Response of the Section 151 Officer

1. The percentage rate for employers contributions for 2013/14 was 22.4% which remains the same in the current year.
2. The value in 2013/14 was £10,946 based on a part year term of Office based on the above percentages. This figure was reported as part of the Councils Statement of Accounts for 2013/14. Salary figures for senior officers including employer pension contributions are reported on annually within the published Statement of Accounts.

2. Councillor MH Jones asked the Cabinet Member for Anti Poverty

Question

Councillor MH Jones referred to a Welsh Government initiative whereby each Primary School child is provided with toothpaste and a toothbrush and encouraged to clean their teeth. She queried why this was not referred to in the report.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Anti Poverty

The initiative Councillor MH Jones is referring to is called Designed to Smile. Designed to Smile is a national Oral Health Improvement programme to improve the dental health of children in Wales run by the NHS funded by the Welsh Government.

The Action plan as part of the poverty strategy refers to new actions the Council will be undertaking. The performance management framework refers to existing actions the Council is undertaking to deliver against the outcomes and targets. As this is a national Health programme not run by the Council this has not been referred to in the strategy.

3. Councillor AM Day asked the Cabinet Member for Education

Question

In relation to Councillor Question 2 - What are the key milestones in order to meet the set targets.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Education

What are the key milestones in order to meet the set targets?"

Education's challenges and priorities are those of our single integrated plan, One Swansea, and the Corporate Improvement Plan 2013-17, namely to:

- 1. Raise attainment and achievement for all learners 3-19*
- 2. Improve Attendance levels*
- 3. Improve Literacy in English and Welsh to enable all pupils to take full advantage of the curriculum and to reduce the gap between boys and girls.*

Section 1 of the **Education Business Plan 2014-15 / Post-Inspection Action Plan** contains targets for 2014 for a range of indicators which were set at 6th/10th/14th ranking in national performance, based on Swansea performance in 2013 and trends plus challenge. The Business Plan/PIAP is at: <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/estyninspections>

Ref	Business Area	Expected Outcomes
	Raise Standards	
S1	Foundation Phase, age 7	<p>Improve our national local authority position to 14th</p> <p>Reduce the number of schools in the bottom quartile and below the median</p> <p>To achieve 14th position performance outcome 5 targeted to improve to:</p> <p>Foundation Phase Indicator 82.3%</p> <p>PSD 93.3%</p> <p>LCE 85.1%</p> <p>MDT 86.8%</p>
S2	Key Stage 2, age 11	<p>Improve our national local authority position to 10th</p> <p>Reduce the number of schools in the bottom quartile and below the median</p> <p>To achieve 10th position performance in Level 4 targeted to improve to:</p> <p>Core Subject Indicator 85.4%</p> <p>English 88.0%</p> <p>Maths 88.2%</p>
S3	Key Stage 3, age 14	<p>Improve our national local authority position to 10th</p> <p>Reduce the number of schools in the bottom quartile and below the median</p>

		<p>To achieve 10th position performance in Level 5 targeted to improve to:</p> <p>Core Subject Indicator 78.5%</p> <p>English 84.2%</p> <p>Welsh 89.4%</p> <p>Maths 85.9%</p>
S4	Key Stage 4, age 16	<p>Improve our national local authority position to 6th</p> <p>Level 1 Threshold 94.9%</p> <p>Level 2 Threshold Inclusive 56.0%</p> <p>No qualifications 0.00%</p>
S5	Post-16 performance	<p>Improve Key Stage 5 performance</p> <p>At Level 1</p> <p>At Level 2</p> <p>At Level 3</p>
S6	Performance of disadvantaged pupils	<p>All measures in S1,2,3,4 to the following groups of pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free school meals • Boys <p>Maintain reduction in NEETS at 16 <i>[performance not expected to reduce much below c 3.0 as the remaining young people are the hardest to find provision for]</i></p> <p>Reduce NEETS 16-18</p>
S7	Attendance	
	(a) Primary	<p>Improve our national local authority position to 14th</p> <p>Reduce the number of schools in the bottom quartile and below the median</p> <p>To achieve 6th position (2013 value) performance targeted to improve to:</p> <p>- Primary 94.1%</p>
	(b) Secondary	<p>Improve our national local authority position to 10th</p>

		Reduce the number of schools in the bottom quartile and below the median To achieve 6 th position (2013 Value) performance targeted to improve to: - Secondary 93.3%
S8	Reduce Exclusions	
	(a) Permanent	0
	(b) Fixed Term more than 6 days (rate/1000)	Improve ranking to 14 th - 4.0 No permanent exclusions in the Primary Sector Reduction of permanent and managed moves out of mainstream education in the Secondary sector by xxxx? Fixed term exclusions not to rise (number of days lost/ average number of days?)

4. Councillor PM Meara asked the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Performance

Question

In relation to Councillor Question 4 - Can you please provide specific examples of your outcomes in relation to Sustainable Development.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Performance

Specific examples of outcomes in relation to sustainable development as a result of the Council's work with the WLGA on their Sustainable Development Framework include:

- The co-design and implementation of a leadership training course for Cabinet and Executive Board members which is now available for all local authorities to use from the WLGA. Training has also been developed and delivered for Scrutiny on sustainable development and futures resulting in the incorporation of Sustainable Development principles into Scrutiny processes.
- A methodology for Sustainable Development Reporting piloted by City and County of Swansea and which now forms part of our annual reporting process.
- Work with the Cabinet, Top Managers and the Local Service Board on foresighting has resulted in the collection of evidence and building of understanding around the interdependencies and contradictions across future trends and the impact of these trends on the planning and delivery of Council Services.

- The development of future ward scenarios for six wards and a future trends paper identifying the key long term trends that will impact on the Local Authority over the next 20-30 years.
- The work on foresighting has guided the development of Sustainable Swansea -Fit for the future resulting in the commitment to developing a Swansea 2040 plan.
- Innovation workshops examined the barriers to aspiration of faced by children facing poverty, resulting in a pilot Tackling Poverty training programme for Council employees and issues around home to school transport for pupils with SEN resulting in an independent travel training pilot.
- A Review of carbon implications regarding the office accommodation strategy.
- The Inclusion of sustainability criteria within Council service business plans.
- The development of a diagnostic tool to benchmark council performance which has been used to inform the WLGA's Early Adopter's programme for the Well-being of Future Generations Bill.