

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council –
2 December 2014**

1. Mr T Beddow asked the Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People

Question

Mr T Beddow submitted a written question in advance of the meeting as per Council Procedure Rule 26 “Public Presentations and Question Time” asking the Services for Adults and Vulnerable People Cabinet Member questions in relation to Minute 142 “Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) - Performance Evaluation Report 2013-2014”.

The CSSIW report states in its first paragraph that "The Council is making significant progress with its plans for transformational change within adult and children's services and has gained strong political and corporate support for the changes being undertaken".

In relation to the planned increase in the availability of home care referred to on page 20 in the first right hand box of the table, would she be able to confirm the scale of the increase in carer hours that were delivered in the third quarter of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People

All care provided in the home	July - September		Difference
	2013	2014	%
Total Hours delivered	239,463	255,540	6.7%
People who received support	1,757	1,960	11.6%
Average Hours per week	10.5	10.0	-4.3%

The above relates to all domiciliary care, ie, externally commissioned, in house home care which includes long term care, re-ablement, and the Integrated Gower Team.

2. Councillor SM Jones asked the Cabinet Member for Enterprise , Development & Regeneration

Question

Whether the consultation period scheduled to end on 16 January 2015 could be extended.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

This is a non-statutory stage of plan preparation for which a 28 day period of consultation would be normal; however this has been extended to 44 days to

allow for the Christmas and New Year period. Late objections from organisations such as Community Councils are always accepted, but a general extension of the consultation period would delay the delivery of the LDP contrary to the agreed timetable with the Welsh Government.

3. Councillor ACS Colburn asked the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

Question

With reference to Appendix 1 “Schedule of Proposed Housing Allocations”, Page 45, No. 73, Ref OY016 ‘Land at Higher Lane, Langland’ of the report why had this remained in the plan yet the Council owned land at Thistleboon, Mumbles had been removed.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

The sites are not comparable in nature or in planning policy terms; however both potentially allow development to be brought forward over the LDP period. OY016 at Higher Lane is an area of agricultural land beyond settlement limits which could be developed as an exception site for local needs affordable housing. OY003 is a static caravan site at Thistleboon previously outside the urban settlement limits, but which has now been incorporated within the settlement boundary shown on the Draft LDP Proposals Map.

Therefore whilst OY003 is not specifically allocated, it could nevertheless become a windfall redevelopment site in future should the Council wish to dispose of the land.

4. Councillor PM Black asked the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

Question

With reference to Page 38, Paragraph 1.3 of the report. He asked what the sustainable community facilities would be and how the Council will achieve balanced communities.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

Paragraph 1.3 states that land is being made available “... *to support anticipated levels of future growth, encourage the regeneration of areas and the development of more sustainable balanced communities...*” These are linked objectives of current national and local planning policy (the Unitary Development Plan) and form the basis of the emerging LDP.

The objectives for sustainable balanced communities operate at two levels. At the local level communities should benefit from a range and choice of good quality accommodation including affordable housing, supporting physical and social infrastructure, community facilities (such as retail, leisure and education), opportunities for employment and recreation.

At the strategic County-wide level, the focus is on directing new development to economically viable sites close to employment centres with good public transport links. Such proposals will need to embrace sustainable development principles in their design, construction and land use mix, as well as help to address any identified deficiencies in existing community facility provision.

The LDP as a strategic document establishes principles to be applied and is not prescriptive about what specific facilities, percentage of affordable housing, etc will make a balanced community – this will emerge through the masterplanning of strategic sites and the planning application process.

5. Councillor JW Jones asked the Cabinet Member for Transformation & Performance

Question

In relation to Councillor Q2:-

I see that in one of the work streams for Sustainable Swansea you mention Social Enterprise ETC as one of the delivery models.

- i) What is meant by 'ETC'?
- ii) Would all Departments be considered within the scope of a Social Enterprise?
- iii) How will Social Enterprises be affected by proposals in the Williams Report."

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transformation & Performance

I assume you meant that other models are also possible which could include staff mutuals, community interest companies and trusts. The Co-operative Council model is another area we could look at.

Yes each case on its merits but there is no reason why we could not apply these models to any services in principle but it is important that a full pre-evaluation is undertaken to ensure we apply the right model to the right service.

Any reorganisation is a long way off so we need to do what is right for Swansea here and now. But if we did merge with another authority there would be a wide range of contracts, delivery models etc that would be inherited by the new authority and these would continue until a decision was made about their future. However, I read recently that the Minister for Public Services has commented in the positive use of Social Enterprises within Wales going forward so whatever happens with the outcome of Williams, Social Enterprises are likely to form part of the delivery model in the future.

6. Councillor PM Meara asked the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City

Question

In relation to Councillor Q5:-

Given the Council's stance on gambling and casinos; how does the New Years Eve Ball with 'Vegas' most famous tribute acts performing LIVE, including the king himself! Fabulous fun casino including roulette wheels, black jack, slot machines, american craps and our famous wheel of fortune' sit with the Council Policy"

Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City

The event to which Councillor Meara refers is a New Year's Eve party at the Brangwyn Hall. This is a private hire event and as part of the evening's varied programme, and in line with other events of this type, the organiser has included an element of Casino style entertainment. This aspect of the event is provided by contracted specialist companies who bring in all the necessary resources to operate this "fun casino". Guests play with tokens and fake or "monopoly" type money and no cash changes hands.

Due to the nature of the casino events proposed at this particular event, there are no licensing requirements in respect of gambling.

7. Councillor PM Black asked the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

Question

In relation to Councillor Q7:-

Will the Cabinet Member please outline the timescale for the review of libraries?"

Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

The library review was first commissioned to produce a draft report by autumn of 2014, but was delayed due to changes within the Council, including within the team tasked with producing the report. We are comfortable that the body of information produced so far is a good starting point for the new team to consider in preparation of a draft report by end January 2015. This timeline will enable the findings to be part of a body of work on budget and service reduction proposals across the Council that will then go through a process of public consultation and Member assessment before any decisions are arrived at.