

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 is currently scheduled for 20 January Cabinet Meeting.

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 was presented to Cabinet on 21 October. A response to the recommendations is expected in February.

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 was presented to Cabinet on 16 December. A response to the recommendations is expected within 3 months.

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’s final report is being presented to Cabinet on 20 January.

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 again once the action plan arising from the independent review is available for discussion. The Panel will then consider whether / what further scrutiny activity is required. Any specific proposals will be reported back to the committee for agreement.

f) **Corporate Culture** (convenor: Cllr Andrew Jones)

Key Question: How can the City and County of Swansea ensure that service delivery is always supported by a can do culture?

Progress Bar:

Scoping				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel met with a group of Innovations Leads, staff from across the organisation who have volunteered to be leads, on 12 January. The Panel will on the 28 January look at the results of the staff survey and at how we communicate key messages to/from staff.

The Terms of Reference developed by the Panel in December are included in the papers (Appendix 5) for the committee’s approval.

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:

a) **School Governance** (convenor: tbc)

The initial meeting is in the process of being arranged.

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) Jan 2015
Public Transport	12 Nov 2013	13	1	0	(1) 20 Oct 2014 (2) April 2015
Affordable Housing	3 Dec 2013	7	2	4	3 Dec 2014 (Follow up complete)
Tourism	14 Jan 2014	14	0	0	17 Nov 2014 (Follow up complete)
Economic Inactivity	3 Jun 2014	7	0	0	tba
Attainment & Wellbeing	1 Jul 2014	11	0	0	April 2015

4. Performance Panels:

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

The panel met on 7 January to discuss the draft budget proposals with the Leader and the Head of Finance & Delivery. This forms part of the budget consultation period due to end on 21 January. Following the publication of the final budget proposals the Panel will meet in early February to consider these ahead of the Cabinet and Council budget meetings.

The panel met on 14 January where it held a Q&A session with Cllr Jennifer Raynor, Cabinet Member of Education, in order to specifically focus on achievement and impact of savings targets for 2014/15 within the Education portfolio. At this meeting the panel also received the 2nd quarter budget and performance monitoring reports.

b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Schools Performance Panel will meet on the 22 January with the Challenge Advisor, Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Clwyd Primary School to discuss their School Improvement Plan.

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

The Panel's next meeting will take place on 26 January where they will meet with Councillor Rob Stewart, the new Chair of the LSB in order to gather his views on the LSB and plans for taking it forward.

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

See separate report in item 6 of the agenda.

5. Other Panels / Working Groups:

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

a) **Transformation of Adult Social Services** (convener: Uta Clay)

The working group met on 8 December to discuss its work plan and the rationale behind the TASS programme. The working group met again on 17 December to discuss the independent review report. The working group met on 5 January to receive a presentation on the Health & Social Care Act.

The working group is meeting on 9 January to finalise its work plan, establish some broad lines of inquiry, identify areas of focus and agree a broad strategy for community engagement. Ed Hammond from the Centre for Public Scrutiny will attend this meeting.

b) **Planning Services** (convener: Cllr David Cole)

Following the Scrutiny Programme Committee's agreement that an additional meeting of this working group can take place for further scrutiny of performance in relation to planning enforcement, a meeting will be arranged for late January/early February.

c) **Car Parking** (convener: Cllr Tony Colburn)

The Working Group met on 22 September and on 6 November to discuss car parks provision across Swansea, service performance, and plans for improvement. The group made a number of recommendations to the Cabinet member including for example developing a signage strategy for car parks, having a more flexible pricing policy and finding a different use for the four lower floors of High Street multi storey car park. A letter has been sent to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport and a response is awaited.

d) **Local Flood Risk Management** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

The Cabinet Member's response to the Convener's letter is included in the agenda.

In terms of next steps, the working group proposes that the Scrutiny Programme Committee agrees for it to meet again in February in order to participate in the consultation process on the draft Flood Risk Management Plan for Swansea. It also recommends that scrutiny is involved in the planned annual monitoring process of the Flood Risk

Management Plan and suggests that the working group would be an appropriate mechanism to do this.

e) **Sustainability** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

A meeting has been arranged for 9 March. The relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide an assessment on current plans, priorities, activities and achievements. 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, taking account of specific future risks e.g. food security, climate change, energy supply.

f) 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.
- **Civic Events** (convener / membership tbc) – this was identified at the committee meeting in December. The Working Group will consider the organisation, support for and management of civic events.
- **Welsh Housing Quality Standard** (convener / membership tbc) – this was identified at the committee meeting in December following a request from the Affordable Housing Scrutiny Inquiry Panel. The Working Group will consider the Council's progress towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard within its social housing stock