

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC CENTRE, SWANSEA ON
MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2015 AT 4.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor M H Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
R A Clay	J P Curtice	A J Jones
A C S Colburn	N J Davies	J W Jones
D W Cole	P Downing	P M Meara
A M Cook	E W Fitzgerald	R V Smith
S E Crouch	T J Hennegan	

Co-opted Members

S Joiner

138 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G J Tanner and Mr D Anderson-Thomas.

139 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTEREST.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interest was declared:

Councillor A J Jones - personal - Minute No. 142 – Cabinet Member Question Session – Personally referred to by the Cabinet Member for Services for Adults and Vulnerable People as someone who works in the sector of social enterprises and not for profit organisations during a discussion which included the possible use/development of social enterprises to delivery public/social services.

140 **PROHIBITION OF WHIPPED VOTES AND DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPS.**

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

141 **MINUTES.**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 22 December, 2014, be agreed as a correct record.

142 **CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION.**

The Committee took the opportunity to question Councillor M C Child, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City and Councillor J E C Harris, Cabinet Member for Services for Adults and Vulnerable People.

Members' noted the short report on 'headlines' provided by the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City.

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Health City provided an informative description of the meaning of 'wellbeing'.

He stated that a key factor in keeping people healthy was addressing the needs of those who were vulnerable and increasing community's capacity to support vulnerable people. An approach called Local Area Co-ordination is being adopted to provide key professional staff to work in areas across Swansea. This approach originated from Australia and is evidenced as having a significant effect. It seeks to support disabled, older people and those with mental health issues to be strong, safe and contributing, be in control of their lives and build solutions for them within their communities. If successful it will prevent, delay or reduce the need for Social Services or Health intervention. The model suggests about 15 needed for Swansea, of which 3 are soon to be appointed and the areas they will work in determined.

In response to Member questions, the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City stated that:

- a. There is an element of cross cutting between his portfolio and that of the Cabinet Member for Services for Adults and Vulnerable People;
- b. The role of Community Connectors will remain and will compliment the role of Local Area Co-ordinators;
- c. Pre-decision scrutiny in relation to Underhill Park was a very useful exercise and he was supportive of more of this type of work being done in the future;
- d. Work is still ongoing in relation to the Community Asset Transfer and a package (which included officer assistance) to help and encourage 'friends of' groups was being developed;
- e. Work was ongoing in respect of application for Purple Flag Status;
- f. The cumulative impact policy will be reviewed as part of a natural review process in January 2016 and South Wales Police had made representations to delegate the Uplands area of Swansea as a cumulative impact policy area, however, evidence would be required prior to the Council being able to consult;
- g. All proposals to reduce funding were contained within the budgetary proposals which was currently out for consultation;
- h. The work in respect of 'Giving every child the best start in life' was underpinned by initiatives such as working in partnership with other organisations; enabling children to start school at the age of 3 and introducing skills such as socialising and verbal skills. The Strategy takes the best elements out of Flying Start;

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Vulnerable People circulated a document which detailed her Portfolio Objectives; Activities & Achievements, Progress, Decisions and Impacts; Performance; Service User Engagement and Challenges.

The Cabinet Member for Services for Adults and Vulnerable People specifically referred to:

- a. The Social Services and Wellbeing Act;
- b. Older People Review;
- c. Previous budget decision and new budget;
- d. Local Area Co-ordination;
- e. Sustainable Swansea Fit for the Future;
- f. Integration with Health.

In response to Member questions, the Cabinet Member for Services for Adults and Vulnerable People stated that:

- a. With regards to the budget pressures (existing budgets and next year) services were to be as effective as possible by looking at areas of best practice and different delivery models;
- b. Local Area Co-ordinators would have greater responsibility in their communities and engage people who are willing to help (e.g. neighbours). The use of Local Area Co-ordinators in Derby resulted in a reduction in people wanting to access social services;
- c. A great deal of work was being undertaken behind closed doors in relation to Local Area Co-ordinators, however any assistance scrutiny could give would be greatly appreciated.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Members for attending.

RESOLVED that the Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee write to both Cabinet Members reflecting the discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

143 **SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL PROGRESS REPORT - CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL (COUNCILLOR PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS, CONVENER - ATTENDING).**

The Convenor of the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel provided a further update to the committee on the work of the Panel and its effectiveness. He referred to the key activities and achievements/impact.

He detailed the future work programme and answered Members' questions in relation to the Panel's examination of how agencies react and deal with allegations of abuse from children and young people.

The Chair thanked the Convenor for his update.

144 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014 - 15.**

The Chair presented the Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15. The report explained the background and purpose of the Scrutiny Work Programme and the current position of all scrutiny activities. The Work Programme referred to the work currently active, showing progress with the established Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups. The Work Plan Timetable for future Committee meetings was also provided.

RESOLVED that:

- a. The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Regeneration Question Session be moved to the meeting on 13 April, 2015;
- b. The session on Crime & Disorder to look at the work of the Safer Swansea Partnership be moved to the beginning of the agenda for the meeting on 16 February, 2015;
- c. The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Culture Scrutiny Inquiry be **APPROVED**;
- d. The councillor suggestion for scrutiny in relation to planning approvals and job creation be referred to the Planning Services Scrutiny Working Group – the convener to follow up and determine whether Working Group discussion is necessary.

145 **MEMBERSHIP OF SCRUTINY PANELS AND WORKING GROUPS.**

The Chair presented a report which advised of changes required to the membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

RESOLVED that Councillor R A Clay be **AGREED** as new Convenor for the Transformation of Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

146 **SCRUTINY LETTERS.**

The Chair reported the updated Scrutiny Letters Log and referred to the recent correspondence between Scrutiny and Cabinet Members.

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator referred to the request from the Local Flood Risk Management Working Group to hold further meetings in order to be participate in the consultation process on the draft flood risk management plan and be involved in the planned annual monitoring process of the Plan.

RESOLVED that the Local Flood Risk Management Working Group be re-convened to examine the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan and be involved in the annual monitoring process of the Plan.

147 **REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE.**

The Vice Chair referred to the Special Scrutiny Programme Committee in relation to Gypsy Travellers and plan to meet on 9 February, 2015. In order to prepare it was suggested that a special committee meeting take place beforehand (week commencing 26 January) to:

- Determine arrangements for future evidence gathering; and
- Consider any outstanding questions the Committee may wish to ask.

RESOLVED that the Special Committee be agreed that part of the meeting may require the exclusion of the public.

148 **SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT SESSION: MAKING SCRUTINY MORE EFFECTIVE.**

The committee was reminded of the Scrutiny Development Session: Making Scrutiny More Effective, taking place on 29 January. It was noted that the session was going to be facilitated by Ian Bottrill, a former council leader. Members were asked to confirm their attendance with the Member Support Office.

149 **FOR INFORMATION: AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PLAN.**

The chair stated that this was provided as part of plans to develop the relationship between scrutiny and the Audit Committee, aiming to ensure:

- mutual awareness and understanding of the work of scrutiny and audit committee
- respective work plans are coordinated and avoid duplication / gaps
- a clear mechanism for referral of issues, if necessary

RESOLVED that the Audit Committee Work Plan be **NOTED**.

150 **DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2014/15 MUNICIPAL YEAR (ALL AT 4.30 P.M. EXCEPT WHERE NOTED).**

The dates and times of future meetings for 2014/15 Municipal Year were submitted for information.

151 **DATE AND TIME OF UPCOMING PANEL / WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.**

The date and time of upcoming Panel/Working Groups meetings were submitted for information to help increase the visibility of this work and encourage participation.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm

CHAIR