

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) **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 Cabinet Member’s response is scheduled for Cabinet on 14 April.

b) **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 was presented to Cabinet on 20 January. A response to the recommendations is expected within 3 months.

c) **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 on 16 February agreed to resume their inquiry after seeing the proposals from the independent review. They plan to speak to Schools, Health, Social Services, Careers and the School Improvement Service.

Projected End Date: August 2015

d) **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 will at its meeting on the 8 April look at examples of good practice, the results of their Councillor Survey and will look at the findings from their inquiry so far.

Projected End Date: May 2015

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:

a) School Governance (convener: Fiona Gordon)

The initial meeting was held on the 8 February. The Cabinet Member for Education attended with the Manager of the School Governors' Unit. Members considered a service overview and looked at how the effectiveness of school governance can be improved.

The working group agreed that an in depth inquiry would be of value and will be providing this Committee with terms of reference to consider shortly. A letter will also be sent to the Cabinet Member about this. This is a topic of interest to the Audit Committee so the Chair of that Committee will be invited to comment on any proposed work.

b) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (convener: Hazel Morris)

The first working group meeting is 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) tba
Public Transport	12 Nov 2013	13	1	0	(1) 20 Oct 2014 (2) 20 Apr 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	30 April 2015
Inward investment	20 Jan 2015	10	0	2	tba
Public Engagement	17 Feb 2015	15	1	0	tba

4. Performance Panels:

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

The Panel continues its work to assess the implementation of budget savings by meeting with Cabinet Members. They are meeting with the Cabinet Member for Anti Poverty on 11 March and will meet with the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Performance on the 15 April. This meeting will also include the Panel's annual review for the year.

b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

See separate report in item 6 of the agenda

c) Local Service Board (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The Panel has completed its development phase and is now planning its work for the next few months. It has decided to select one of the LSB's 8 annual priorities for 2014/15 to look at in depth in order to extrapolate findings and conclusions on the effectiveness of the LSB. The Panel has selected "Older People's Independence" and will develop a work plan around this.

A letter will be sent to the Chair of the LSB to advise him of the Panel's planned approach. The next meeting of the Panel will take place on 23 March, where they will be consulted on the development of the revised draft of the One Swansea Plan and will agree their work plan.

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

The panel met on 16 February to discuss the development of the Western Bay Children's Safeguarding Board and the Child & Family Services performance report.

In relation to the Western Bay the panel focused its discussion on:

- Governance and membership
- Strategic priorities
- Effective scrutiny arrangements of regional services
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

In relation to the performance report the panel focused its discussion on:

- Continued support for the LAC Reduction Strategy and the Signs of Safety practice model
- Supported the continued improvement of performance in many areas of Child & Family Services
- There was a dip in performance in the time taken to complete core assessments; an increase in the number of unallocated cases; an increase in the number of children experiencing neglect; an increase in sickness levels.

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: Bob Clay)

The panel met on 2 March. The panel agreed to re-prioritise its work plan and will now considers costs of different categories of care, Local Area Co-ordination and Network Hubs first with Befriending & Volunteering and Support for Carers coming later. This was agreed because projects under Befriending & Volunteering and Support for Carers were coming later in the year.

The panel had its first discussion on costs relating to external residential fees.

The panel agreed to hold an additional meeting between this meeting and the next one on 30th March so that it can receive the costs on different care categories that were unavailable for 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 has been arranged for 19 March. The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration will attend along with the Head of Economic & Strategic Development and the Development, Conservation & Design Manager.

c) Local Flood Risk Management (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

The Scrutiny Programme Committee has agreed that an additional meeting of this working group can take place to participate in the consultation process draft Flood Risk Management Plan for Swansea. The relevant officers have been contacted to arrange a suitable meeting date. It is likely to take place in March.

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, in the following order of priority:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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