

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 21 April will speak to Careers Wales West, Pathways and the Head of Key Stage 4 Transition to find out what support and work is completed with young people in EOTAS and at risk of becoming NEET prior to leaving school and at those at 16+.

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 has been 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 met 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)

The Schools Performance Panel will next meet on the 16 April 2015 when they will discuss the Schools Funding Formula with particular reference to Special Educational Needs. The Panel at this meeting will also evaluate their year's work and start work planning for the next municipal year which will be partly based upon topic suggestions from Councillors and Headteachers across Swansea.

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

See separate report in item 6 of the agenda

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

The panel met on 16 March to discuss a progress report on the review and development of a Permanence Service within Child and Family Services.

Overall the panel is supportive of the development of the permanence service and three key service areas, particularly the leaving care service which prepares our looked after children for independence.

However, the Panel expressed its concern over the length of time it is taking to finalise the arrangements for full implementation of the development of the Permanence Service, particularly in respect of finalising the contract between the City & County of Swansea Council and a third sector provider of care leaver support.

The panel agreed that performance indicators for the leaving care service provider should be included in all future monthly performance

monitoring reports and that a report on the progress of the Permanence Implementation Plan is presented to the panel in 6 months time.

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 30 March to discuss the cost information on internally provided residential, day and domiciliary care. The panel had asked for this information to be provided so that it could get a clear understanding of what the Council spends on these categories of care. The panel learned that this information is not yet available due to a number of issues including the validity of the data and an independent audit by APSE. APSE have been commissioned by the Authority to look at the Council's unit costs for these categories of care and it was agreed that once this work is complete the cost information will be reported to the panel. The APSE review will ensure that the data is valid and that there are high levels of confidence in the data to enable the Council to draw accurate comparisons between costs of the different categories of care.

The panel agreed to hold an additional meeting on 7th April to take evidence on Local Area Co-ordination and Network Hubs.

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, the group met on the 19th March. The Head of Economic & Strategic Development and the Development and the Conservation & Design Manager attended the meeting. A letter about enforcement, legal support, major developments, householder advice and building control has been sent to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Regeneration. It includes a number of conclusions and proposals, and this represents the conclusion of this working group.

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.

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

A further meeting has been arranged for 14 May where members will receive some further information on the subject. Members want to get a feel for how sustainability work is actually impacting in communities and have asked for a case study around food sustainability. They will also look at future trends and what is being done to address the challenges that arising from these.

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