CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration	*Please ask for:* *Gofynnwch am:*	**Scrutiny**
	Direct Line: *Llinell Uniongyrochol:*	**01792 636292**
	e-Mail *e-Bost:*	**scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk**
	Date *Dyddiad:*	**July 27th 2015**

Summary: This is a letter from the Economic Inactivity Scrutiny Enquiry Panel to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration, following the meeting of the Panel on the 24 June 2015. It is about the impact of the Economic Inactivity Inquiry Report and its recommendations

Dear Councillor Francis-Davies,

Economic Inactivity Scrutiny Inquiry – Impact Report, 24 June 2015

The Panel met on 24 June 2015 to consider the impact report of the Economic Inactivity Scrutiny Inquiry, which concluded in September 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the impact of the report and its recommendations. The Panel's role was to assess what has changed since the report was presented to the Cabinet, whether the agreed recommendations have been implemented and what has been the impact of the inquiry.

The Panel would like to thank you, Phil Holmes, Steve Marshall and Sarah Crawley for attending the meeting to present the report and answer our questions.

What has changed since the report was presented to the Cabinet ?

The Panel noted that there have been changes to the wider environment in relation to:

- Funding of regional and national schemes designed to tackle economic inactivity.
- Impact of UK Government austerity measures.

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1

- Factors such as; the need for more inward investment, the balance of in-work poverty against out of work poverty, sustaining successful start up businesses and matching the skills shortages to the availability of relevant training courses.

Have the agreed recommendations been implemented ?

Overall the Panel was pleased that the majority of our recommendations have been completed and that others have been addressed.

We were interested to note the work of the schemes such as Beyond Bricks & Mortar and Communities First Lift programme, specifically the work around the Workways scheme which provides paid work experience opportunities for participants.

What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry ?

One important aim of the meeting was to find out how much impact the inquiry has had. To this end the panel was pleased to hear that the report has helped to raise the profile of the many issues relating to tackling economic inactivity.

Worklessness Action Plan

The Panel were interested to learn that the Economic Equity Delivery Team is now using the driver diagram tool for delivering a 'Worklessness Action Plan,' to guide it's future work. Building upon the recommendations of the report, the team has factored in more recent activity such as developments within the City Centre and Tidal Lagoon into the first stage of the plan

Inform Swansea
We were pleased to see that our recommendation for a single point of entry to pool together information for job seekers has been echoed by other stakeholder groups and to note that our subsequent support for the 'inform Swansea' initiative has encouraged the establishment of the website which is now operational.

Youth Engagement Priority or Progression Framework Implementation Plan

We were encouraged to learn that an initiative from the Youth Engagement Priority Framework Implementation Plan is targeting the recommendation about young people who are considered at risk of becoming NEETS from an earlier age. Formally known as the 'Keeping in Touch' strategy it has resulted in a decrease in the percentage of young people at risk from 8-11% to 3.7%.

Activate your Potential

We were pleased to hear that an ESF project entitled 'Activate your Potential' has been developed to reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET amongst 11-16 year olds. The project aims to raise awareness of the relevance of school

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2

education to future work and prosperity to this group and links to the report recommendation about raising the aspirations of young people in schools.

Entrepreneurship events

We were happy to learn of the very successful response to the recommendation about encouraging entrepreneurship for young people. The Council in conjunction with Gower College has received the prestigious 'Enterprising Britain' award for Swansea. The 'Young Business Dragons' competition encourages young talent and schools compete against each other. A consortium has been formed consisting of two banks, the universities, Gower College and the Council to create a 'Swansea Seed Capital Fund.' This will provide small amounts of funding and large levels of mentoring support to young people wishing to create their own business.

Outcomes

The Panel agreed that consideration of the Inquiry report has contributed to the important work around reducing economic inactivity within Swansea. The recommendations of the report have had a direct impact on the progress and successful outcomes of a number of projects, schemes and initiatives.

Statistics, figures and further information on the outcomes of these schemes and initiatives are attached to this letter.

We are satisfied that the work of the Panel can now be concluded and monitoring of the Inquiry impact report is complete. I hope you find this letter useful and we do not require a formal response.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Chris Holley
Convener of the Economic Inactivity Scrutiny Inquiry Panel
✉ **Cllr.Chris.Holley@swansea.gov.uk**

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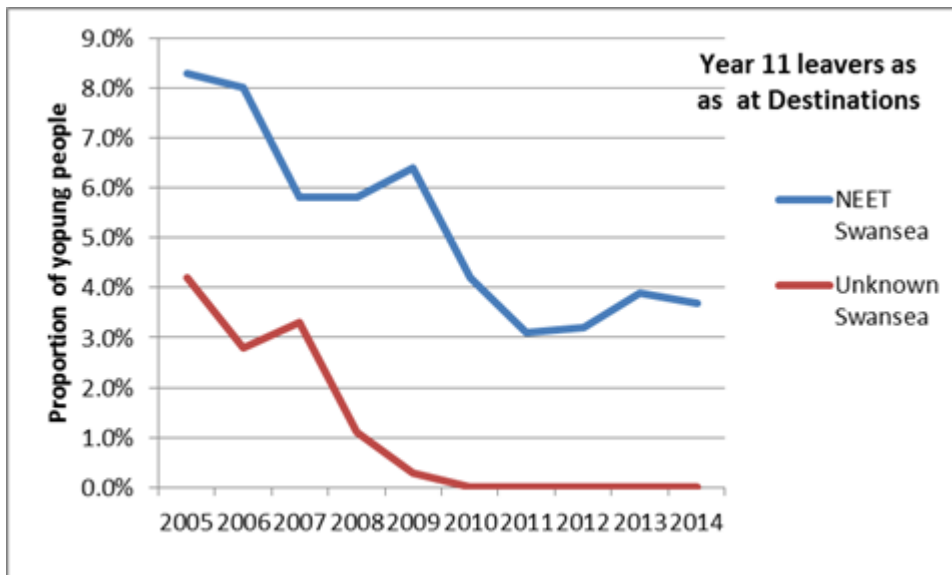WWW.SWANSEA.GOV.UK/SCRUTINY

3

Additional Information

Workways and Beyond Bricks and Mortar

Over the life of the South West Workways project the team engaged with 3230 people, 1041 of whom gained employment and 1500 gained other positive outcomes such as training and job interviews, moving them closer to the workplace.

Beyond Bricks and Mortar has been creating work and training opportunities by putting social benefit clauses into 99 contracts issued by the Council and other public sector bodies. 200 people have had jobs and training with 35% being retained after the contract, creating sustainable work for Swansea citizens.

'Keeping In Touch' strategy

Communities First LIFT Programme

See attached table

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4

Communities First Employment Related Performance Measures 2014-15

Priority and Performance Measure	EAST			WEST			SOUTH			NORTH EAST			NORTH WEST			CITY WIDE		
	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date
Helping People to Develop Employment Skills and find Work (ages 25+)																		
PC-PM.1.2 Gaining an Employment related qualification													86	86	74	**86**	**86**	**74**
PC-PM.1.3 More Positive and improved confidence about seeking work	80	80	80	45	45	120	119	119	161	80	80	122	180	180	207	**504**	**504**	**690**
PC-PM1.5 Regularly volunteering as a route to work										4	4	8						
PC-PM.1.6 Completing a work experience placement													43	43	39	**43**	**43**	**39**
PC-PM.1.8 Entering Employment	20	20	20	15	15	32	22	22	39	21	21	36	59	59	62	**137**	**137**	**189**
SUB TOTAL	**100**	**100**	**100**	**60**	**60**	**152**	**141**	**141**	**200**	**105**	**105**	**166**	**368**	**368**	**382**	**770**	**770**	**992**
Reducing Youth Unemployment and disengagement (ages 16-24)																		
PC-PM.2.2 Gaining an Employment related qualification	8	8	11	8	8	27	8	8	22				13	13	11	**37**	**37**	**71**
PC-PM.2.3 More Positive and improved confidence about seeking work	20	20	20	20	20	127				20	20	28	40	40	39	**100**	**100**	**214**
PC-PM.2.5 Completing a work experience placement													7	7	7	**7**	**7**	**7**
PC-PM.2.9 Entering Employment										8	8	11	26	26	29	**34**	**34**	**40**
SUB TOTAL	**28**	**28**	**31**	**28**	**28**	**154**	**8**	**8**	**22**	**28**	**28**	**39**	**86**	**86**	**86**	**178**	**178**	**332**
TOTAL	**128**	**128**	**131**	**88**	**88**	**306**	**149**	**149**	**222**	**133**	**133**	**205**	**454**	**454**	**468**	**948**	**948**	**1,324**

Priority and Performance Measure	NORTH WEST - LIFT ONLY			NORTH WEST- Non-LIFT ONLY		
	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date	Annual Target	Target to Date	Actual to Date
Helping People to Develop Employment Skills and find Work (ages 25+)						
PC-PM.1.2 Gaining an Employment related qualification	86	86	74			
PC-PM.1.3 More Positive and improved confidence about seeking work				180	180	207
PC-PM1.5 Regularly volunteering as a route to work						
PC-PM.1.6 Completing a work experience placement	43	43	39			
PC-PM.1.8 Entering Employment	14	14	14	45	45	48
SUB TOTAL	**143**	**143**	**127**	**225**	**225**	**255**
Reducing Youth Unemployment and disengagement (ages 16-24)						
PC-PM.2.2 Gaining an Employment related qualification	13	13	11			
PC-PM.2.3 More Positive and improved confidence about seeking work				40	40	39
PC-PM.2.5 Completing a work experience placement	7	7	7			
PC-PM.2.9 Entering Employment	10	10	10	16	16	19
SUB TOTAL	**30**	**30**	**28**	**56**	**56**	**58**
TOTAL	**173**	**173**	**155**	**281**	**281**	**313**