

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

PART A – SUPPLEMENTARIES

1.	<p>Cllrs Chris Holley, Mary Jones, Jeff Jones</p> <p>Given that we have a very good Contact Centre with a Café, Library and Archive Service currently in our Civic Centre will the Cabinet Member confirm that none of these excellent services will be lost to the public of Swansea when and if the current location is sold?</p> <p>Response of Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration</p> <p>The developers bids are due to be submitted later this month. A full evaluation of all the submissions will then take place to establish the financial viability of redeveloping the Civic Centre Site. The future floor space requirements, uses, costs and location options for a relocated office and ancillary uses are being fully considered as part of this process. I will be able to comment in greater detail following receipt of bids and full evaluation in due course.</p>
2.	<p>Cllrs Chris Holley, Graham Thomas, Cheryl Philpott</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member please tell Council which community assets have been transferred and to whom they have been transferred to?</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City</p> <p>a. Forge Fach Resource Centre</p> <p>Forge Fach Resource Centre is being transferred to the charity Walsingham under a 99 year lease, Walsingham is a national charity that supports adults with disabilities to live independent lives. The site will remain open for community use and will also house the Walsingham Welsh Headquarters in the upstairs offices. They are looking to reopen both the play area and the café in the near future.</p> <p>b. GraigFelin Hall, Clydach</p> <p>Additionally Graigfelen Hall, in Graigelen, Clydach is in the process of being handed over to Clydach Community Council under a 99 year lease, the hall will continue to operate as a community centre.</p> <p>c. Underhill Park, Mumbles</p> <p>Areas of the Park are in the process of being transferred to Mumbles Community Association under a 125 year lease to enable them to develop new community facilities such as a 3G sports pitch and community building with changing rooms.</p>

d. Oystermouth Bowling Green

The Bowling Green is in the process of being transferred to Mumbles Community Council under a 25 year lease

e. Ynystawe Park Football and Cricket Pitch.

The Football and Cricket pitch and associated facilities are in the process of being transferred to Ynystawe Cricket and Football Club.

f. Coedbach Bowling Green, Pontardulais

The Bowling Green is in the process of being transferred to Coedbach Bowls Association under a lease agreement which is yet to be finalised

g. Tir Canol Playing Fields, Morryston

Negotiations are ongoing with Morryston RFC to purchase 2 pitches currently leased to the club

h. Swansea Indoor Bowls Centre

The Indoor Bowls Centre is in the process of being transferred to Swansea Indoor Bowls Ltd on a 15 year full repairing lease.

3.

Cllrs. P R Hood-Williams, A Colburn, M Thomas and L Tyler-Lloyd

One of the five main objectives, of this Council, is 'Improve the attainment of school pupils'. Can the Cabinet member explain how schools are expected to achieve this, when the proposal going forward is to cut school budgets by 5% per annum over the next three years, i.e. a 15% budget cut? What is the anticipated impact on school staffing levels of a budget reduction of this magnitude?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Education

Ann Keane, who recently retired as Chief Inspector of Estyn when interviewed in May of this year clearly stated she believed schools can improve standards despite budget cuts.

Schools will be expected to maintain and raise standards with less resources. Effective and efficient use of resources can be achieved by ensuring that there is a clear sight on learners' outcomes and that these are delivered through high-quality teaching to meet the needs of all pupils.

Schools make decisions individually on their delegated budgets including staffing and redundancies. Many of our schools have been forward looking and have planned for the three year period including their staffing needs.

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	<p>The City and County of Swansea remains committed to ensuring that education is prioritised whenever it is faced with reductions in the budget. Figures available to date indicate that 12 teachers and 7 support staff have been subject to compulsory redundancy and 39 teachers and 59 support staff have opted for early or voluntary redundancy. These figures amount to less than two per cent of school staff.</p> <p>It appears that the Westminster Government is having problems delivering its manifesto commitments to improve the English NHS. I hope the Conservative Councillors are working hard to persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer that funding for Wales should not be cut.</p>
4.	<p>Cllrs Mary Jones, Jeff Jones Mike Day</p> <p>Flying start has been seen as one of the few success of the Welsh government will the Cabinet Member please tell Council how many places there are in Swansea and how many are in the pipe line for the future.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Opportunities for Children & Young People</p> <p>There are currently 2,679 0-3 year olds benefiting from the Flying Start Programme. The Programme is expected to be provided to 2,903 by the end of March 2016. In terms of childcare places there are approximately 620 places available with places expected to increase by approximately a further 70 by year end subject to registration and demand.</p>
5.	<p>Cllrs Paul Meara, Chris Holley, Peter Black</p> <p>Is the Leader aware of the recent Foresight report <i>Newcastle City Futures 2065</i> (M Tewdwr-Jones et al 2015) and does he consider that this report might have implications for the future regeneration of Swansea?</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>Swansea's future regeneration is being guided by the draft City Centre Strategic Framework review and the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy. Both of these documents are evidence based and provide up to date proposals for economic and physical regeneration. I do recognise that it is important to keep strategies up dated, and as part of any future reviews we will consider best practice from other parts of the UK as relevant, including the Newcastle City Futures 2065 publication that I have shared with the Swansea Bay City Region secretariat for consideration.</p>

6. Cllrs Mary Jones, Paul Meara, Jeff Jones

In response to the written answer provided by the Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty can he tell us if there is any tracking done to see if the people helped are still in employment for 6 months or longer?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty

Currently this data is not formerly tracked for Communities First.

However, the LIFT programme which is an employment focused Welsh Government pilot project in the North West Communities First Cluster does record information on participants who enter employment. Participants are informally contacted within 3 months of commencing employment, after initial regular contact during the first few weeks of employment to support individuals through the transition period. There is a requirement to try to make contact at 6 months and again at a year but the individuals are under no obligation to engage with the officers

The programme has only been running for just over a year and many of the participants who have been supported into employment have not yet been in employment for a year or more. However, of the 23 who found employment in 2015, only 2 participants are no longer in employment.

There is potential with the new Communities 4 Work programme which will be delivered in Partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions that a resource will be in place to track participants following gaining employment.

It is worth noting that care needs to be taken when analysing information about the length of time a person stays in employment. Consideration needs to be given to the length of the employment contract given, is this seasonal work for example. A person might have gained employment with the support of anti – poverty services and be out of work six months later for a multitude of reasons, including the successful fulfilment of the contract or a realisation that a return to further/higher education would provide more opportunities in the longer term .

PART B - None