

**Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups**

**1. Inquiry Panels:**

a) **Corporate Culture** (convener: 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:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Panel's final report was presented to Cabinet on 20 August. A decision on the recommendations is expected at Cabinet on 15 October.

b) **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:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Panel's final report is being presented to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 12 October prior to submission to Cabinet.

Projected End Date: Complete

d) **School Governance** (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

Key Question: How can the Council ensure that school governors provide effective challenge for their schools?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

Four evidence gathering sessions have now been completed. The Panel is due to meet with three good practice schools on 5 October and the Cabinet Member on 2 November. This will be the final evidence gathered along with the results of a survey of all governors and a meeting with new governors.

Projected End Date: December 2015

## 2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:

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

The Working Group met 29th September. Sian Harrop-Griffiths, Director of Strategy, ABMU, and Dr. Claire Ball, Clinical Director, CAMHS, Cwm Taff Health Board presented a report on the current arrangements for the planning and provision of services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs in the ABMU area. The Cabinet Member for Services for Children and Young People and the Head of Child & Family Services also attended the working group meeting.

The working group agreed that a scrutiny inquiry should take place. It discussed a number of high level areas it thought the inquiry should address. The Convener will meet with relevant officers and partners to further develop the draft terms of reference which will then be agreed by the working group.

## 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	15 Jul 2014 (Follow up complete)
Public Transport	12 Nov 2013	13	1	0	20 Oct 2014 (Follow up complete)
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	24 Jun 2015 (Follow up complete)
Attainment & Wellbeing	1 Jul 2014	11	0	0	11 Jun 2015 (Follow up complete)
Inward	20 Jan 2015	10	0	2	14 Jul 2015

investment					Further follow up tba (March 2016)
Public Engagement	17 Feb 2015	15	1	0	25 Aug 2015 (Follow up complete)
Streetscene	14 Apr 2015	14	4	3	Nov 2015
Social Care at Home	20 Aug 2015	16	5	1	May 2016

#### 4. Performance Panels:

##### a) Service Improvement & Finance (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

The Service Improvement & Finance Panel met on September 16 to have a Cabinet Member session about performance indicator GTC4, the City Centre Regeneration Programme and to look at the end of the Year Budget Report and the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Monitoring Report

The Panel discussed:

- The mix of one night shows, longer show runs and the length of the pantomime season. The difficulty of balancing these in order to cater for the needs of the public.
- Marketing the Grand Theatre and the impact of budget restrictions on this.
- The role of cultural venues as a regeneration tool for the city centre.
- The need and value of a cultural element for the regeneration of the City Centre.

The Panel would like to undertake further scrutiny of:

- The cost of catering and bar facilities at the Grand Theatre.
- Arts and Leisure activities in Swansea
- Which organisations receive subsidies from the Arts Council Wales and a breakdown of the subsidies.

The Panel looked at the end of year Budget report and the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Monitoring Report with the Head of Finance & Delivery. The Panel raised a question about the progress of the work of the commercial team. The Panel agreed to change the time of its meetings from 1.30pm to 11.00am and will next meet on October 14. During this meeting the Panel will look at the end of year performance 2014/15 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter performance monitoring report.

##### b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel met on 10 September to look at the education outcomes and support for gypsy and traveller children.

The Panel was pleased to hear about the skills and specialisms being developed in working with gypsy and traveller children communities in particular:

- The programme/tailoring of the curriculum so that children and young people and the families of gypsy traveller children can feel able to engage in education.
- Gaining understanding of the culture of and developing a good rapport with the gypsy traveller community which is also helping to break down the barriers to education.
- Using a holistic approach that will result in improved academic outcomes.
- The whole council approach to working with different communities.

The Panel recommended that skills learnt at Cefn Hengoed be shared and used by other parts of the education service like in for example Education Other Than At School services.

The Panel also looked support for and education outcomes of looked after children. On 21 September the Panel met to look at the pending curriculum changes and to review the work of the school improvement service.

The Panel will next meet in 8 October where they will meet with the Challenge Advisor, the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of a Swansea Primary School to discuss their school improvement plan and prospects for improvement.

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

See separate report - item 7 of the agenda.

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

The panel met on 28<sup>th</sup> September and discussed the effect that prevention and early interventions services had on children and families accessing social services. The Head of Poverty and Prevention, Sian Bingham, Early Years Strategy and Carol Ward, Team Around the Family, attended the panel.

The panel was impressed by the work and results of the prevention and early intervention service. Families are supported when their needs are great, but not great enough for social services intervention, which in turn helps prevent their needs escalating to involvement by social services.

Officers were clearly enthusiastic and committed to the successful delivery of their services and the panel felt that they had a good understanding of the performance and effect of the prevention and early intervention services.

## **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 in a closed session on 21<sup>st</sup> September to consider an initial report on unit costings for local authority residential care homes and local authority domiciliary care.

The panel made a number of amendments to its work plan in light of its discussions.

October:

- Further work on Unit Costing
- Local Area Coordination Evaluation Report (if available).

November:

- Section 33 Performance Update.
- Domiciliary Care Review Update

b) **Local Flood Risk Management** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

The relevant officers have been contacted to arrange a suitable meeting date as soon as the draft Flood Risk Management Plan is completed. The working group will then meet to participate in the consultation process for the draft plan.

c) **Civic Events** (convener: Cllr Anthony Colburn)

The relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report to enable the Working Group to discuss and consider the organisation, support for and management of civic events.

d) **Welsh Housing Quality Standard** (convener: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

This was a request from the Affordable Housing Scrutiny Inquiry Panel. The relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report to enable the Working Group to consider the Council's progress towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard within its social housing stock.

Working Groups to be convened in the future as time and resources allow, in the order of priority shown:

1. **Tethered Horses**

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering policy and practice in relation to issue of tethered horses, and extent of problem. Issues have been raised about horse welfare, impact on local communities and

council resources. Questions to be put, including whether any learning from examples / actions elsewhere.

**2. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)**

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering assessment of current service in relation to TPOs (objectives, procedures and practice, challenges, improvement plans etc.) for questions and discussion. Some issues raised about the identification / maintenance of TPOs, enforcement process and sanctions, also in relation to the interface with local members about information relevant to their areas.

**3. Corporate Building Services**

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering assessment of current service (objectives and achievements, procedures and practice, value for money, challenges, improvement plans etc) for questions and discussion. Some issues raised in relation to procurement, costs / competitiveness, joined up working across the Council.

**4. Roads / Highway Maintenance**

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.