

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) **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 Cabinet on 19 November.

Projected End Date: Complete

b) **School Governance** (convenor: 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

Most of the evidence gathering has now been completed. The Panel is due to meet with the Cabinet Member for Education on 2 November. This will be the final evidence along with the results of a survey of all governors and feedback from school observations.

Projected End Date: December 2015

c) **Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services** (convenor: Cllr Mary Jones)

Key Question: How is the Council working with health and other partners to reduce demand for specialist child & adolescent mental health services?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The panel has scoped the inquiry and agreed its terms of reference (attached). It will gather evidence between November and February 2016.

Projected End Date: April 2016

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:

a) Building Sustainable Communities (convener: Terry Hennegan)

The work will commence on 26 November with a pre-inquiry working group where the Cabinet Member/Officers will attend to provide an overview of the Community Action Strand. The Working Group will then plan the inquiry.

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 investment	20 Jan 2015	10	0	2	14 Jul 2015 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
Corporate Culture	15 Oct 2015	19	0	0	Jul 2016

4. Performance Panels:

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

See separate report - item 7 of the agenda.

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

The Panel met on the 14 October to carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the Cabinet report about the Future of Education Other Than At School Services. A member of the Panel then fed the comments raised to Cabinet on the 15 October.

The Panel meet on in 8 October 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.

The Panel will next meeting on the 3 November where they will look at the Annual Report of School Audits for 2014-15 and the Chair of Audit has been invited (the panel have agreed that they would like to develop better links with other bodies that are working to regulate and work with schools and the Audit Committee was highlighted as an example). The Panel will also look at the Post Inspection Action Plan progress report arising from the Estyn Inspection of Education 1 year one.

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

The Panel met on October 19th to have a workshop about their work plan for 2015/16, recap on the work they carried out so far, the next steps for the Panel and the Wellbeing & Future Generations Act. The Panel agreed a number of questions to ask each organisation that sits on the Local Service Board. These include; the contribution of each organisation to the Older People's Independence priority and the progress and outcomes of their contribution. The Panel will look at the work of other Local Service Board Scrutiny Panels and the work carried out around the terms of reference for the Public Service Board.

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

The panel met on 26th October and discussed the progress with the development of the Post-16 Service. This meeting focused on the tender process to award the contract for delivery to Barardos.

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 19 October to consider a follow up report on unit costings for local authority residential care homes and local authority domiciliary care.

b) **Education Through Regional Working** (regional scrutiny group)

A meeting for scrutiny councillors and officers from the six councils participating in ERW was held in Port Talbot on 22 September. Swansea was represented by Cllr Fiona Gordon and Cllr Cheryl Philpott. It was agreed that a scrutiny councillors group will be set up in order to coordinate scrutiny work and ensure a consistent approach. The next meeting will be held in Swansea and is being arranged for February 2016. Swansea Scrutiny Team will provide the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

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

The draft Flood Risk Management Plan has been completed. A meeting will be arranged in November/December for the working group to participate in the consultation process for the draft plan.

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

The Civic Events Working Group will meet on 12 November to consider a report on the types of events that the Council organises and manages and any issues that have arisen from recent events.

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

The members of the Working Group will be discussing which officers in addition to the relevant Cabinet Member they would like to invite to their meeting. They plan to agree what information, issues, questions and ideas they would like to be included within the report. The report will enable the Working Group to consider the Council's progress towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard within its social housing stock.

Further 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, and whether there has been any learning from examples / actions elsewhere. The Council has also received a petition which presses for a ban on the tethering of

horses on public spaces across Swansea. The Deputy Leader (in accordance with petitions protocol) has referred this to scrutiny therefore the Working Group will be asked to consider this.

Expressions of interest from scrutiny councillors have been invited and are reported to the committee for agreement. The Working Group will then be convened as soon as possible.

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.