

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 3A, GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON
TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2015 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor R A Clay (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
D W Cole A M Cook	J P Curtice N J Davies	T J Hennegan G J Tanner

Also Present:

Councillor W Evans – Cabinet Member for Anti Poverty
Councillor A S Lewis – Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services

Officers:

M Wade - Service Manager (Housing)
C Small - Sustainable Development Officer
S Woon - Democratic Services Officer

30 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Hopkins and H M Morris.

31 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

32 **MINUTES:**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Communities Cabinet Advisory Committee held on 10 September, 2015 be approved as a correct record.

33 **SMART ENERGY.**

Fflur Lawton, Head of Policy and Communications (Wales), Smart Energy GB, Ltd provided a presentation on Smart Meter Update.

The presentation detailed:

- Great Britain needs an upgrade;
- Why Smart Meters?
- How do they work?
- The Process;

- Smart pre-payment;
- The reality;
- Our challenge;
- Partnerships;
- Smarter future.

Members and Officers asked questions of Ms Lawton who responded accordingly.

Key issues arising from discussions included:

- There are no costs to the customer associated with the installation of Smart Energy Meters;
- the relevant energy companies have responsibility to roll out the introduction of Smart Meters in line with EU legislation
- The decision to install a smart meter is at the discretion of the individual responsible for paying the utilities;
- Local Authorities have a role to play in assisting the promotion of the initiative;
- Following installation the Smart Meter will remain at the property;
- Energy companies have differing timescales for the roll-out of the scheme and will advise customers accordingly;
- Methods of payment will remain the same;
- The smart meter allows customers to set alarms and monitor spend on utilities;
- Smart meters will be installed where current meters reside. Discussions are on-going with the RNIB regarding specific display styles on the 'in home display' device and mobile phone applications;
- Engagement with 'hard to reach' groups present a challenge and Smart Energy GB is working in partnership with energy suppliers and regional and local groups;
- The replacement costs in respect of the 'in home display' device would differ between energy suppliers;
- Opportunities exist for Local Authorities to negotiate cheaper energy supplies in similar schemes adopted by Bristol, Nottingham and Haringey;
- Details of Energy companies timescales for roll out of the scheme are not shared with Smart Energy GB and vary between companies;
- Customers can decide whether to share details of their energy consumption with third parties;
- Customer savings could be £20 a year rising to £40 over subsequent years following Smart Meter adoption;
- The Smart meter produces data every half hour and could be a useful tool when monitoring the wellbeing of individuals in sheltered accommodation (with their permission); and
- Corporate technological advances are progressing to enable output and input smart meters to communicate, however, timescales are currently unknown.

The Chair thanked Ms Lawton for her informative presentation.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

34 **WORK PLAN 2015-2016.**

The Chair advised that the remit of the Committee encompassed housing, energy and anti-poverty. He referred to the housing issues already covered within the work plan and stated that he would like to concentrate on items relating to the Poverty agenda in the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Democratic Services Officer request that relevant Officers attend the next Committee to provide presentations on the following topics:

1. Welfare Reform Update incorporating Third Sector Risks; and
2. Restructuring of Communities First.

The meeting ended at 3.02 pm

CHAIR