

**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 was presented to the Cabinet on 19 November. A response to the recommendations from Cabinet is expected within two months.

Projected End Date: Complete

b) **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

The evidence gathering has now been completed and the Evidence Pack has been published on the scrutiny publications page. The Panel is considering its final report and expects this to be presented to the January meeting of the Committee.

Projected End Date: January 2015

c) **Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services** (convener: 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 started gathering evidence. The panel met with Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services, to understand the types

of CAMHS services the authority accesses, what works well and what could be improved.

Projected End Date: April 2016

## 2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:

### a) Building Sustainable Communities (convener: Terry Hennegan)

The work commenced on 26 November with a pre-inquiry working group where Officers attended and provide an overview of the Building Sustainable Communities Corporate Priority and particularly the Community Action Strand. The working group has agreed to have an inquiry and are now in the process of scoping this piece of work.

## 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	20 Jan 2016

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)

The Panel met on the 11 November for an ICT update, an overview of the mid-year budget statement and to consider the Local Government Performance report for 2014-15. The Panel noted the transition and implementation work of the ICT project and discussed the mid-year budget statement. The Panel agreed to further explore the figures within the Local Government Performance report.

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

The Panel met on the 3 November to look at the Annual Report of School Audits for 2014-15 (*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 also discussed the Post Inspection Action Plan progress report to Cabinet arising from the Estyn Inspection of Education 1 year one.

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

The Panel will next meet on December 7<sup>th</sup> to have an overview of Healthy Cities (phase VI 2014-2018 – specifically referring to theme of Older People) and Premature Mortality Rates. The Panel will also consider and discuss the draft statutory guidance for the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act – SPSF3 – Collective role (Public Services Boards).

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

See separate report - item 7 of the agenda.

#### 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 on 16 November to review its work plan. The panel agreed to review the evidence it has collected to date to identify its key findings and conclusions and present these to the Cabinet Member for consideration in the relevant commissioning reviews.

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 March 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 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 met on 12 November and considered a report on the types of events that the Council organises and manages and issues that had arisen from recent events. Overall the panel agreed that the role of the Lord Mayor needed to be safeguarded and that the position should be more widely promoted. The panel was specifically asked for its views on the role of the Lord Mayor in leading Holocaust Memorial Day which has wider appeal than a civic event. The panel recommended that the event be transferred with a small budget to a host school each year. The panel has written to the Cabinet Member with its conclusions and recommendations.

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

The Working Group will be meeting in January, with the relevant Cabinet Member and officers, to consider the Council's progress towards achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard within its social housing stock.

e) **Tethered Horses** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

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.

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

**1. 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.

**2. 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.

**3. 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.