

**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 Convener of the Panel will present the final report to the January meeting of the Committee.

Projected End Date: Complete

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 met on 15 December. It gathered evidence from:

- Cllr Harris on the impact of Western Bay on CAMHS services

- Janice Hall, Swansea Locality Manager, Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.

The Panel next meets on 2 February and will engage with the SCVS Mental Health Forum.

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 will discuss their scope, work timetable and consultation activity at a meeting on 14 January.

## 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 (3 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 9 December to consider the Annual Performance Report and return for Libraries and the Welsh Public Library Standards. It also looked at the Annual Performance Monitoring report for Recycling and Landfill and an overview of the work of Procurement. The Panel noted the successes and issues of performance in both areas and discussed the role of procurement strategy, category management and procurement collaboration within the authority. The Panel identified a number of issues from the performance information considered at the meeting and will invite officers to meetings at a later date to discuss these in more detail

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

See separate report - item 7 of the agenda.

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

The Panel will next meet on January 4<sup>th</sup> for a briefing from Cllr Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services and Cllr Jane Harris, Cabinet Member for Services to Adults and Vulnerable People. Both Cabinet Members will give the Panel members an overview of how their portfolios contribute to Older People's Independence

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

The Panel met on 23 November and examined September's child and family services performance report. There was good performance in a number of areas, some examples are: 100% of initial assessments in timescale; continued downward trend in re-referrals; children in need allocations performing well above target; good levels of foster care provided within Swansea; recruitment of local foster carers; continued downward trend of children in residential care; reduction in the number of red performance indicators due to improvements in practice.

The Panel had a number of concerns in the following areas and requested that the Cabinet Member address these in her response: core assessments, referrals, contacts, re-registrations, staff supervision, adoption orders.

The Panel learned that there will be changes to the performance report and the data collected to reflect the principles of the Act. The Panel welcomed this opportunity to refresh the performance report and would like the opportunity to provide its views and comments on any new format.

The Panel discussed the changes to the performance report and the data collected to reflect the principles of the Act. The panel welcomed this opportunity to refresh the performance report and agreed that it would provide its views and comments on the new format.

The Panel meets again on 21 December and this meeting will look at performance in the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.

## **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: Uta Clay)**

The Panel met on 14 December and considered performance data related to a range of service agreements in the terms of the Section 33 agreement. The data related to the common access point/intake, performance of reablement and the assessments beds service. The panel also considered a report on income achieved through older people's day, domiciliary and residential care and the Local Area Evaluation report.

The Panel agreed that it would review its function after Christmas to better align its work plan with the new performance framework that Adult Services is developing.

The Panel agreed to carry out pre-decision at its meeting on 11 January on the review of the Beeches and Abergelli day services.

### **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 11 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 Local Flood Risk Management Working Group met on December 14<sup>th</sup> to consider the Local Flood Risk Management Plan. The Group identified a number of issues and recommendations which will be included in their letter to the Cabinet Member. They felt that the authority should have a joined up, holistic and strategic approach to the management of flood risk. The Working Group will also write to the Committee requesting further meetings to review the plan in nine months time and to look at the priority measures within it.

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. The Working Group's letter and the Cabinet Member's response are included in the committee agenda papers.

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

The Working Group will be meeting in January/February, 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 Working Group is meeting on 7 January to consider the Council's overall approach to the issue of tethered horses and make recommendations about a petition, submitted to the Council by Friends of Swansea Horses, which presses for a ban on the tethering of horses on public spaces across Swansea.

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.