

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) 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 Panel's final report was presented to Cabinet on 17 March. A response to the recommendations from Cabinet is expected within two months.

Projected End Date: Complete

b) 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 is due to meet in early May to consider its findings

Projected End Date: May 2016

c) Building Sustainable Communities (convenor: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: How can the council best support residents to run services in their own communities?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

In the panel will speak to representatives from Council and non-council community centres across Swansea. The Panel will then meet in early June to discuss their findings and to begin to conclude the inquiry.

Projected End Date: June 2016

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups:

a) Tackling Poverty (convener: Sybil Crouch)

A pre-inquiry Working Group took place on 20 April, where Members received an overview report and relevant information from the Cabinet Member and officers. The group agreed to proceed with an in depth inquiry into this topic and came to a view about the focus for the inquiry. Draft terms of reference have been produced and are attached.

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

Corporate Culture	15 Oct 2015	19	0	0	6 Jul 2016
Education Inclusion	21 Jan 2016	19	0	1	Oct 2016

4. Performance Panels:

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

The Panel met on 13 April. The main item on the agenda was the Cabinet report (January 2016) on the closure of the ICT project to bring the service back in-house. The Panel identified a continuing interest in the work that is being done around service continuity and resilience. They also noted that the innovation work being developed is essential to the future delivery of the Council's services. Therefore, the Panel plans to include the new Digital Strategy in its work programme for 2016/17 in order to ensure that it can keep abreast of the work being undertaken to develop the service and to provide an on-going critical friend challenge.

The Panel also considered the 3rd Quarter performance monitoring report. They noted the limited amount of performance data available for the Tackling Poverty priority and are in the process of preparing a letter to the Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty outlining their concerns on this.

The Convener met with the Cabinet Member for Transformation & Performance (Cllr Clive Lloyd) and the Director of Place (Martin Nicholls) in order to discuss scrutiny involvement in the Commissioning Review Process. It has been agreed that the relevant scrutiny performance panels will carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the Commissioning Reviews as they become available. The first review will be Waste Management, which is due to go to Cabinet on 16 June; therefore a meeting will be arranged for early June in order to carry out pre-decision scrutiny.

The Panel's next meeting is on 11 May where they will consider their Annual work plan review and draft work plan for 2016/17.

b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel will meet on the 11 May to start to plan their work for the new municipal year. They have consulted with Councillors, Officers and the public to look for the most relevant topic within the field of education. The Panel in June will speak to a school that has been assessed by Estyn as sector leading Cefn Hengoed Secondary School.

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 11 April to discuss the Independent Residential Placement Provision and the Development and Implementation of the Post-16 Service.

Independent residential placement provision

The panel was pleased with the significant progress that has been made since 2010 in substantially reducing the number of out of county placements, which clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of the Placement Strategy. The panel had no significant concerns to feedback on this service.

Post-16 service

The panel was updated on the development of the new partnership with Barnardo's (following a tendering process). The panel has followed this work since the former Child and Families Overview and Scrutiny Board carried out an in-depth review to look at the support provided to care leavers, which was completed in March 2012. An area of concern raised in the review was the effectiveness of the Council's contract with Barnardo's to provide leaving care support and the review made the following recommendation to improve the service:

Ensure the contract with Barnardo's is clear about the level of service expected, including the monitoring of delivery and performance, and work with Barnardo's to develop a common set of performance measures for the care leaving service, including a process for evaluating success.

The development of the new Post-16 service is a progressive step and goes beyond the expectations of this recommendation.

Whilst the panel expressed concern about the length of time the process has taken, it was pleased that the establishment of the Post-16 service was now making substantial progress. However, the panel had some concerns about the following issues:

- The need to develop a robust performance management framework to closely monitor the new service.
- The need to develop mechanisms to ensure that children and young people continue to be consulted and involved in the development and on-going delivery of the new service.

Officers agreed to attend a future meeting to provide the following:

- A presentation on the performance framework which is currently being developed to support the new service, including information on the Outcome Star package.
- The implementation plan/timeline for the development of the new services, along with the new organisational structure.

We will build these issues into our work plan for 2016/17.

A new work plan for the panel is currently in development.

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 agreed its final report at its meeting on 4 April and this has been sent to the Cabinet Member for a response. This concludes the work of the panel.

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

A meeting for scrutiny councillors and officers from the six councils participating in ERW was hosted by Swansea on 11 March. Swansea was represented by Cllr Fiona Gordon. It was agreed that a scrutiny councillors group will be set up in order to coordinate scrutiny work and ensure a consistent approach. The group agreed its terms of reference, discussed individual Councils scrutiny education work programmes, looked at the ERW Business Plan for 2016-19, shared good practice in relation to individual schools scrutiny and looked at the data for school standards and categorisation. The next meeting will be hosted by Pembrokeshire Council and is being arranged for September 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 Committee previously agreed that the Local Flood Risk Management Working Group can continue to meet on an annual basis in order to provide an on-going scrutiny involvement in the annual review of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan. The Head of Highways and Transportation has been contacted and asked to provide a timescale for future scrutiny involvement.

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

The Convener of the Civic Events Working Group requested a follow-up meeting to address a number of issues that the Working Group felt needed further consideration. This is being arranged.

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

The Working Group has concluded its work and a letter with their findings and recommendations has been sent to the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City and the Cabinet Member for Services for Children and Young People. The response will be reported to the Committee once it is received.

f) **Tree Preservation** (convener: Cllr David Cole)

The Working Group met on 21 April. Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration, attended along with the relevant offices, and provided an assessment of the current service in relation to the tree preservation process, and information on objectives, procedures/practice, challenges, and improvement plans etc. The Panel is now in the process of preparing a letter to the Cabinet Member containing its findings and recommendations.

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

1. 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.

2. 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.