

## City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2014-2015

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **18 May 2015**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City and County of Swansea.

<b>Councillor:</b>	Fiona Gordon	<b>Electoral Division:</b>	Castle
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### Section 1: Constituency activities

I attended ward surgeries regularly. Castle councillors met weekly at different venues across the ward, and my colleagues and I arranged attendance between us.

Constituents also contacted me via telephone and email and I dealt with matters such as housing, planning, litter, lighting, sand and other environmental issues, as well as signposting to partners for things like anti-social behaviour. I attended residents / neighbourhood / Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings in Sandfields, Brynmelyn, Marina and Mount Pleasant, and linked with Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) regularly.

I was and still am on the committee for St. Phillips community centre and attended regular meetings. I met with project leads on Sandfields Neighbourhood Renewal Area to check the progress of the housing upgrade programme and District Housing Officers to get updates as to the situation for council tenants in the ward, empty properties, rent arrears etc. I also contributed to planning applications, representing constituents in appeals against applications.

### Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance at Council body meetings is only one of the important elements of a Councillor's duties. Councillors are also active by holding surgeries, attending meetings and dealing with general electoral division enquiries.

Area 1 Development Control Committee	3	/	7	43	%
Council	17	/	17	100	%
Development Management & Control Committee	7	/	7	100	%
Engagement & Inclusion Cabinet Advisory Committee	6	/	7	86	%
Equalities Committee	5	/	5	100	%
Student Liaison Forum	1	/	3	33	%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>%</b>
Scrutiny Meetings:					
Car Parking Scrutiny Working Group	0	/	2	0	%
Economic Inactivity Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	1	/	1	100	%
Education Inclusion Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	4	/	6	67	%
Local Service Board	2	/	5	40	%
Public Engagement Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	0	/	1	0	%
School Governance (Pre Inquiry)	1	/	1	100	%
Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel	11	/	12	92	%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>%</b>

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

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### Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I was convenor for the Schools Performance Scrutiny Panel, a permanent panel which dealt with the majority of education related scrutiny work. This met at least monthly and looked at broad issues affecting schools as well as individual school case studies, across primary and secondary sectors. I represented education on the Local Service Board Scrutiny panel, and reported quarterly to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on the workplan. A further, associated line of inquiry stemmed from this panel, and I became convenor for the School Governance Scrutiny inquiry. I was a governor at Waun Wen primary school and Ysgol Crug Glas, attending meetings regularly and sat on sub committees dealing with disciplinary issues. I attended Communities First meetings to monitor progress in this work programme. I represented the council on the Welsh Books Council, attending meetings twice a year.

### Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

I was active in the development of Friends of Brynydon Park group, sitting on the committee and contributing to events in the park including linking with a local school and Natural Resources Wales for a stargazing event to showcase our star path, as well as foraging in the park and family fun days. I sat on the Purple Flag committee working towards the application for the quality award, contributing my views as a city centre ward member and assisting in preparation, linking with safer Swansea and South Wales Police to carry out a trial assessment of the nightlife, looking at safety and the range of entertainment offered by the city centre.

### Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

29/01/2015 - Making Scrutiny More Effective

09/12/2014 - Defamation

23/07/2014 - Data Protection (including role as Data Controller)

23/07/2014 - Freedom of Information

### Section 6: Other activities and issues

I work full time in a neighbouring authority as a teacher; this means that I cannot always attend meetings if they are held during the daytime. However, it enhances my understanding of education and issues affecting children and young people, and I put this to use in focussing on education scrutiny. I take a leading role in this area because I feel it is a vital element in addressing poverty and the impact of deprivation in Swansea. Our scrutiny meetings always bear in mind the corporate priorities and consider how they fit in with these, with improving pupil attainment and safeguarding vulnerable people being particularly relevant to our work, as well as tackling poverty.

### Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary: £13,300

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=0>

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=0>

<b>Date:</b>	15.03.16
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