

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) 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 drafting its final report

Projected End Date: September 2016

b) 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

The Panel will meet on the 17 August to discuss their draft final report.

Projected End Date: September 2016

c) Tackling Poverty (convener: Sybil Crouch)

Key Question: How can the Council’s Tackling Poverty Strategy be improved?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Panel has agreed its work plan and an initial Poverty Awareness session (delivered by the Council’s Tackling Poverty Unit) took place on 25th July, this was open to all Councillors. The Panel’s evidence gathering sessions will commence in September.

Projected End Date: December 2016

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups

a) Partnerships & Collaboration (membership / convener: tbc)

Preparations for this potential inquiry will begin shortly.

Key concerns:

- how are we currently working with others?
- how effective is it?
- how could the Council's collaboration with other authorities/ partners be further developed & improved?
- are we learning from examples elsewhere?

b) Preparedness for School (membership / convener: tbc)

Preparations for this potential inquiry will begin shortly.

Key concerns:

- how can support for 0-3 year olds be improved so that they arrive at school ready to learn?
- are we getting this right e.g. effectiveness of Flying Start

NB - Expressions of interest from non-executive members in leading / participation in these potential inquiries are being reported to the committee for agreement (see agenda item 12).

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	
Social Care at Home	20 Aug 2015	16	5	1	September 2016
Corporate Culture	15 Oct 2015	19	0	0	6 Jul 2016 (complete)
Education Inclusion	21 Jan 2016	19	0	1	Oct 2016
School Governance	16 Jun 2016	10	2	4	tba

4. Performance Panels:

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

The Panel continues its focus on carrying out pre-decision scrutiny of the Commissioning reviews. Up-coming meetings will look at the Corporate Building and Property review and Highways and Transportation review. The Panel is also due to consider a report on the Fees and Charges made by the Council, as it considers this to be a significant area of finance that requires a deeper understanding from scrutiny. It continues to keep a close eye on quarterly performance and finance reports.

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

In September the panel will meet on the 1st with the Chief Executive of ERW and the Hub Head of School Improvement Service to discuss the ERW Business Plan and progress being made locally, they will also look at progress of the School Improvement Service. On the 29th they will meet with the Headteacher from Sketty Primary School to discuss tool and techniques for intervention.

c) **Public Services Board** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The first meeting of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel has been arranged for 28th September. The majority of external members have been recruited including representatives from SCVS, ABMU Health Board and the Police and Crime Panel. A nominee is expected shortly from the Fire Authority. The Panel will discuss its draft work plan and will also hear from a representative from the Future Generations Commissioner's Office on the role of the Commissioner in monitoring the work of the Public Services Board and the links with scrutiny.

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

See separate report – agenda item 9.

e) **Adult Social Services** (convener: Uta Clay)

The panel met on July 5 to examine the Adult Services Improvement Plan and to receive an overview of directly provided services. The panel agreed to use the improvement plan to help develop its work plan. It will discuss the work plan at its next meeting on 2 August. The Committee should note that the Panel has agreed to co-opt Mr Tony Beddow, who was previously involved in the TASS Panel, onto the Performance Panel.

5. Other Panels / Working Groups:

A number of topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Panels / Working Groups.

a) 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 27 September 2016. Swansea Scrutiny Team will provide the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

b) 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.

c) 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.

Further Working Groups to be convened, in the order of priority shown (membership / conveners to be appointed in due course):

1. **Planning & Section 106 agreements**

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering this aspect of the planning service e.g. objectives, procedures, effective use / achievements, challenges, for questions and discussion. The meeting will also provide opportunity to ask questions about the current planning system, including the call-in process.

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 / impact of budget cuts, 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.

3. Corporate Building Services

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report to provide a briefing about Corporate Building Services to enable questions and discussion e.g. about value for money provide, costs / competitiveness for works including councillor ward requests.

4. Digital Inclusion

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report on digital inclusion for discussion and questions e.g. many council services will be digital in future but is the quality of services being preserved? how can we ensure that people are not being excluded from services once they become digital? what is the Council's strategy to ensure that all can access and are not excluded from services?

5. Dog Fouling

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report on dealing with dog fouling, e.g. community initiatives, support for dog owners, deterrents, dealing with complaints, enforcement, resources, achievements etc.