

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2013-2014

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **7 May 2014**. 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.

Councillor: DAVID PHILLIPS	Electoral Division: CASTLE
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Cabinet/Executive Portfolio:	Leader of Council & Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty
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Section 1: Constituency activities

Our principal public surgeries were and are still held every Saturday morning in various regular places geographically spread across the ward in Marina, Sandfields, Brynmelin and Dyfatty. I attended such surgeries as my Leader's and external council responsibilities permitted. Additionally I have attended various residents and PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings across the ward.

I responded and dealt with a significant number of electorate issues and complaints. Principally, Street Scene, (litter, dog mess, waste collections, footpaths and yellow lines for example), anti-social behaviour and alcohol and drug related problems, housing issues (both allocation and condition). Although not a member of the relevant area Planning Committee, I took a close interest in ward planning issues and represented resident's concerns at both the Area and main Committees, or covered colleagues absent on other council business etc. I also attended the full Planning Committee. I attended meetings of Communities First Cluster Groups based in Castle.

I was and still am a Governor of Gower College.

With ward colleagues I have been involved with ward campaigns, for example, the consequential anti-social behaviour problems arising from the multiple drugs and alcohol facilities in the ward.

With my colleagues I was involved in the development of the Sandfields Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

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.

Appointments Committee	22	/	25	88	%
Cabinet	17	/	18	94	%
Chief Executive's Appraisal & Remuneration Committee	2	/	2	100	%
Community / Town Councils Forum	0	/	3	0	%
Constitution Working Group	0	/	1	0	%
Council	14	/	15	93	%
Development Management & Control Committee	4	/	8	50	%
Student Liaison Forum	1	/	3	33	%
OVERALL	60	/	75	80	%

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown above.

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In addition to all of the above, as Leader, I attended a very large number of other meetings, both formal and informal, within the Council and externally on Council business, such as (and amongst other things) meetings with Welsh Government and its Ministers, LSB (Local Service Board), City Region Board, ERW (Education Through Regional Working) and the Council's Education Improvement process in addition to some significant external organisations such as the WLGA (Welsh Local Government Association) and LGA (Local Government Association), the World Heritage Forum, businesses, the third sector plus many internal and external speaking engagements.

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

Leader of the Council and held the Cabinet Portfolio for Anti-Poverty.

The responsibilities of the former are significant and there is insufficient space in this report to describe it in detail. However, in addition to the meetings described (in part) elsewhere in this report, I took the lead on the development of Council policy and the delivery of the Council's policy priorities which derive from our Manifesto commitments. This involved large numbers of meetings and significant research. It is clearly a truism that I have to 'lead', but this has to mean both inside and outside the authority. Consequently, I consider that one of my main responsibilities is to be an active 'Ambassador', representing the council to the world outside (both in and outside of the Authority's boundaries) and reflecting that world into the council. As a consequence I make regular visits to schools (the first Leader to have done so), businesses and business Groups, civic and social functions, voluntary & professional organisations, sister councils, Welsh and National government and many more. This provides a significant call on my time. However, I believe that the Authority now has the most prominent and significant profile for many years. I consider that it is now batting closer to its abilities and has become a council to watch. We are now leading the field in many areas, Scrutiny, Youth Offending, NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training), anti-poverty work, UNCRC (United National Convention for the Rights of the Child) and many others.

Swansea's Scrutiny model is held up by Welsh Government as an example of outstanding best practice. Our Youth Offending programme is the basis of the programme now instituted by the Westminster Government, whilst our success in reducing the number of NEETS 16-18 is also considered to be a model of best practise.

I initiated and led the bid to become the UK City of Culture.

In regards to my Cabinet Portfolio, 'Anti-Poverty' I was and still am the Council's Anti-Poverty Champion and am responsible for delivering a step change in the way we address anti-poverty work and providing linkages across departments and external organisations. Using the 'Total Place' spending model I am seeking to bring all agencies in the field together to provide a more focussed attack on reducing the effects of poverty and deprivation. This is a long-term project, at least a generation if not two, before substantial and sustainable change can be effected.

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Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

As Council Leader, I was and still am a member of many bodies, some of which I chair. The most significant of these are ERW, the LSB and the Swansea Bay City Region.

I represented Swansea on ERW, the Regional Educational Improvement agency, which is charged with supporting and directing education improvement across the South West Wales region.

I chaired and still chair the Swansea LSB which meets quarterly. I commissioned a substantial review of its operation, which seeks to bring together all the member agencies, NHS (National Health Service), Police, Fire, Job Centre+, Universities and Colleges, third sector and so forth behind a set of robust, sustainable shared outcomes, providing a holistic solution to the problems the City & County faces.

I also Chaired the Swansea Bay City Region (which meets formally bi-monthly with other informal meetings as necessary), and comprises the council areas of Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire. It is made up of representatives from those Councils and significant sector business representatives from those areas. We are still in the early stages but have identified a shared developmental model, with projects to drive forward the economy of the whole region.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training session:

28/10/2013 - Personal Development Review

Various dates - LGA Leadership Academy

I have significant cross-disciplinary experience having worked professionally in the public, private and third sectors. I was an Officer in HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) for twenty years, then a tax Manager with one of the leading accountancy firms and Chief Executive of a national Charity. I have a particular interest and expertise in governance issues.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I am a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts & Business.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary - £52,700 per annum.

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>

Date:

28.07.14