

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

PART A – SUPPLEMENTARIES

1.	<p>Councillors E W Fitzgerald, D G Sullivan, D W Cole, L James, S M Jones, K M Marsh, I M Richard & G D Walker</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member confirm that solar panels are being installed on 17 schools in the city in order to reduce their electricity costs. Will this project be extended to other schools as well.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member agree that it would have been better to have done this earlier when feed-in tariffs were higher.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services</p> <p>There are currently two projects the Council are currently involved in with regards to PV Solar panels.</p> <p>Under the Swansea Community Energy & Enterprise Scheme (SCEES Ltd.), solar panels have been installed on 9 schools and 1 care home. Building hosts will receive cheaper and cleaner electricity as a result and the approach shares the financial benefits between the Council & SCEES.</p> <p>The second project is looking to install Solar PV installations at the following six schools and one public building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pentrechwyth Primary• Talcopa Primary• Olchfa Comp• Clase Primary• Bishopston Primary• St Thomas Primary• Glyn Vivian Gallery <p>Feasibility studies were carried out to determine appropriateness of the building structures, wider Western Power infrastructure etc before any of the specific buildings were selected. The project is being funded from the Council's capital budget and further schemes and viability will be considered in due course.</p> <p>Installations that were installed under the old tariffs receive more financial support than those installed now. However, solar panels still have the ability to generate cheaper and cleaner electricity and the current tariffs are designed to be financially sustainable. Improvements in solar battery storage over the coming years may also be retrofitted to existing installations to improve performance.</p> <p>When the Feed-in Tariff was introduced the subsidy was much higher than it is today to reflect the maturity of the industry, the cost of the panels and the cost of installation. The feed-in tariff was intended to support the industry grow, and</p>
----	---

to encourage prices to fall.

This drop in subsidy is a reflection of the reduction in installation costs and the halving of panels costs. It also reflects the fact that the industry is much more mature than it was when the FiT was introduced and there is more certainty around what the panels will generate over their lifetime and improvements in how long the equipment is expected to last.

Installations also receive a guaranteed price (Export Tariff) for any surplus electricity that is not used on site and exported to the grid. This price has not dropped. Building hosts also benefit from reduced energy costs.

2. **Councillors E W Fitzgerald, D G Sullivan, D W Cole, L James, S M Jones, K M Marsh, I M Richard & G D Walker**

Could the Leader confirm that it is the Cabinet which is responsible for the oversight of Treasury Management and not the Audit Committee. If this is the case then, as Cabinet Member for Finance, is there not a conflict of interest.

Response of the Leader

The Audit Committee has a wide ranging remit and can at any time ask for reports into any of the Council's activities including Treasury Management.

I do need to point out that Treasury Management is one of the few functions of Council that requires direct Council approval for:-

- Annual agreement of the **Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement** at its annual budget setting meeting normally in February each year relevant to the following financial year
- A formal report to Council in December each year – the **Treasury Management - Mid Year Review Report** – normally in December each year outlining in year compliance with approved strategies for the year in question
- A formal report to Council each year - **Treasury Management Annual Report** – detailing Treasury Management performance with the Policy as approved by Council for the previous financial year.

In addition, treasury management functions and actions are normally audited annually by the Council's Internal Audit Section and will be the subject of review as part of the annual external audit of the Council's Accounts.

Day to Day Treasury Management decisions are undertaken by a small professional team within the Council's Finance Department in line with the Policy approved by Council. Any significant Treasury Management decisions – such as undertaking additional borrowing – are taken by the Council's Section 151 Officer again within the construct of the Policy agreed by Council.

It is therefore Council as a whole that sets and agrees Treasury management Policy and Strategy and receives regular formal reports on compliance.

	<p>I can see no possible conflict of interest in the above arrangements which are required under the CIPFA code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services.</p>
3.	<p>Councillors C A Holley, L G Thomas & J W Jones Will the Cabinet Member tell Council what the current position is with the Council house building programme.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services The Council has identified two ‘pilot’ sites where the construction of new housing is proposed. The first site is in Milford Way, Penderry and site set up has taken place, designs are fully complete and planning approval was obtained on the 8 July, subject to a number of conditions. These have since been signed off and as such, full construction works are due to commence on Monday 7 November by the Council’s Corporate Building and Property Services. The other ‘pilot site’ is in Parc Y Helig, Birchgrove. The initial design has been completed, with a planning application submitted.</p>
4.	<p>Councillors E W Fitzgerald, D G Sullivan, D W Cole, L James, S M Jones, K M Marsh, I M Richard & G D Walker In view of the proposed closure of the 1,800 MW steady power flow Power Station at Aberthaw, will Swansea Council be helping to promote an alternative source of electricity for South Wales within the Swansea area? Would this be Renewable Energy. If so, bearing in mind that the proposed Swansea Bay Lagoon could only produce four brief peak power flows per day of 299 MW with four lows of zero per day, can we have estimates of how many Wind Turbines, at 25% effective, and how many hectares of Solar Panels, at 10% effective, could realistically replace the polluting mass power from Aberthaw. Could we also be told what allocated Swansea land areas could take such massive numbers of Renewable Energy installations in view of the fact that the great expanse of Mynydd y Gwair is now only likely to produce an average of just 8 MW of flow electricity. Could we also be told what power sources will be available at balanced sea tides and calm, windless days and dark nights when no tidal power or wind power or solar power will be produced.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services The Authority has recently adopted an Energy Strategy, key objectives of which include carbon reduction and exploration of renewables on council owned building stock and land. An action plan has also been developed and this is due to be debated at the Communities CAC from which a priority programme of delivery will be determined. Please refer to a previous council question [Q7] in regard to Mynydd y Gwair, as this may provide some background information. (Appendix B)</p>
5.	<p>Councillors L G Thomas, P M Black & R J Stanton How many voids does the Council currently have and which areas are they in.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services There are currently 354 void properties and the table below shows the areas</p>

where they are situated. The properties are at various stages of preparatory works with a number of them undergoing major refurbishment works and having new kitchens and bathrooms installed. Those areas where the majority of the works/installations are ongoing are highlighted* in the table. In addition, numerous properties are actively being offered to prospective tenants.

Number of Voids by Area as at w/c 31/10/16

AREA	No. of voids
BIRCHGROVE	0
BLAENYMAES	8
*BONYMAEN	*10
BRONDEG	3
CLASE	12
CLYDACH	12
CRAIGCEFNPARC	3
CWMRHYDYCEIRW	11
FFORESTFACH	1
FFORESTHALL/RAVENHILL	6
GENDROS	7
GORSEINON	4
GOWERTON	2
LLANGENNITH	1
LLANSAMLET	4
LOUGHOR	2
MAYHILL	17
MORRISTON	15
PENFILIA/TREBOETH	4
*PENLAN	*61
PENLLERGAER	2
PLASMARL	2
PONTARDULAIS	4
PONTLLIW	1
PORTMEAD	10
PORT TENNANT	7
*SKETTY	*57
ST. THOMAS	4
SWANSEA TOWN CENTRE	16
THREE CROSSES	1
TOWNHILL	45
UPPER KILLAY	1
WAUNARLWYDD	7
WEST CROSS	8
WINCH WEN	6
Total	354

6. **Councillors C A Holley, M H Jones & P M Black**
 Will the Leader explain his comment in the Evening post on Monday 31st October in which he said “the Lib Dems frustrated Swansea University to such

	<p>an extent that they went and built their new campus in Neath Port Talbot rather than Swansea”</p> <p>Response of the Leader I am surprised that this statement needed further explanation. I am sure that with the right support Swansea University would have wished to expand within Swansea’s boundaries. I do not know why the Lib Dem / independent coalition of the time were unable or unwilling to find a way to support this happening. It is clear that the excellent relationship this Labour administration has built with both universities is delivering investment in new campuses within Swansea’s boundary, as well as enabling other collaborations in the city. The relationships have never been stronger. The investment going into Swansea University’s Singleton campus and the fantastic new UWTSD campus at SA1 is to be warmly welcomed.</p>
7.	<p>Councillors E W Fitzgerald, D G Sullivan, D W Cole, L James, S M Jones, K M Marsh, I M Richard & G D Walker Given the increasing concerns about the impact of traffic pollution on health and especially in respect of children, could the Cabinet Member inform Council how many pollution surveys have been carried out on roads alongside schools in Swansea and what the results of these surveys were. Could the Cabinet Member also name the schools affected.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City Since 1985 many thousands of measurements have been made of air pollution across the City and County, especially targeting road vehicle emissions. All schools have been included in that process at some point over the last 10 years, and currently no Swansea schools are at risk of failing the European and national air quality objectives. This is unlikely to change in the short term, but is kept under continuous review. Each year the monitoring network is reviewed taking into account the traffic flow for an area along with residential and public exposure, and the site positioning of any monitoring is undertaken in line with detailed guidance from DEFRA and Welsh Government. Only one School site is still being monitored, however this is to cease as it is compliant with the current air quality objectives. As a result of previous assessments all schools have been removed from the monitoring network as the areas fall below the criteria required by the DEFRA and Welsh Government guidance. The detailed information on all 250 sites monitored last year is published in the Council's annual air quality review and assessment, which is audited by independent experts appointed by DEFRA and Welsh government. This information can be found on the Council’s website at, http://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/2850/Local-air-quality-management-reports</p>
8.	<p>Councillors J W Jones, M H Jones & P M Black Will the Cabinet Member tell Council what action the Council will be taking to mitigate the removal of the Community First grants.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty & Communities We are working with Welsh Government, Officers and Stakeholders both internal and external to identify the risks and impact of the Communities First</p>

	<p>programme closing and how any adverse impacts could be mitigated. It is likely that the period between April and December 2017 would be a transitional period between the current programme and the implementation of provision going forward.</p> <p>This is the start of a consultation period that will inform future decisions regarding the programme at a National and local level. We will provide an informed corporate response to the National Consultation as well as encourage and support our key delivery partners and communities to take part in this process.</p>
9.	<p>Councillors C A Holley, P M Black & J W Jones</p> <p>Will the Leader/Cabinet Member update Council on what progress has been made on the City Deal.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Background</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 City Deals are bespoke packages of funding and decision-making powers negotiated between the UK Government (and additionally in Wales, Welsh Government), local authorities and other local bodies. 2. <u>Swansea Bay City Region's City Deal</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 In February 2016, the Swansea Bay City Region (SBCR) Board submitted a high-level City Deal proposal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Communities. The SBCR Board's proposal was to agree with UK and Welsh Governments a City Deal to generate in excess of £500m investment over 20 years, transform the SBCR economy and reduce significantly its widening productivity gap with the UK. This investment would be used to develop key areas of economic opportunity and activity, creating a competitive regional economy, with Swansea established as a vibrant regional capital and SBCR increasingly regarded as a low carbon economy and international centre for renewable energy production and conservation. 2.2 The SBCR Board City Deal proposal was praised by UK and Welsh Governments for its imaginative, innovative and distinctive approach. Officers from both Governments were appointed to continue to advise on the SBCR's proposals and the SBCR Board was invited to submit a more detailed programme of City Deal projects to address the city region's structural challenges. 2.3 Significant work has since been undertaken by the SBCR Board, its representative partners and supporting organisations, together with helpful advice from Government Officers. The SBCR Board established an Oversight Group to prioritise the City Deal projects, and on 20th October 2016 an SBCR Phase 1 City Deal proposal was submitted to UK and Welsh Governments. Swansea University carried out an impact analysis of the Phase 1 proposal and also coordinated the narrative to include in the SBCR's City Deal bid documentation.

	<p>2.4 Swansea University's impact analysis reveals that the Phase 1 City Deal projects could deliver 10,245 gross direct jobs and £2bn GVA contribution (Gross Value Added, an estimation of the economic value added at each stage of production), with over £1.5bn of further thematic benefits identified over a 15-year horizon.</p> <p>2.5 Subject to a positive response from UK and Welsh Governments to the submission, the immediate aim is to secure an announcement on the Swansea Bay City Deal in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement in November 2016.</p> <p>2.6 A copy of the February 2016 City Deal proposal can be downloaded from the following Swansea Bay City Region web site page link: -</p> <p>http://www.swanseabaycityregion.com/en/city-deal.htm</p> <p>See Appendix A for further information</p>
10.	<p>Councillors M H Jones, J Newbury & Paul Meara As the lease for Swansea Airport is due to expire very shortly what plans are there for the airport.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Finance & Strategy On 17 March 2016 Cabinet approved the renewal of the current lease (Minute 208). The statutory renewal process has been initiated and is ongoing.</p>

	<p>PART B - None</p>
11.	<p>Councillors M H Jones, J Newbury & P M Meara Swansea Market is very well respected throughout the area and with all the works that have taken place to enhance the shopping experience will the Cabinet Member tell us if all the stalls are let and also if there are any rent arrears from any of the current stall holders.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration Currently all stalls in the Market are let except for 3 units which are vacant and available to prospective tenants which represents an occupancy rate of approx. 98%. Applications have been received for two of these stalls and are in the process of undergoing review and the required consultation.</p> <p>Current stallholder rent arrears total £32,412 which represents 3% of the total annual target rental income. The treatment of these is subject to a consistent arrears management procedure which has seen a significant reduction in arrears and rents paid in full and on time in recent years.</p>

APPENDIX A

The Swansea Bay City Region (SBCR) Deal Proposal has been built around the concept of an “Internet Coast” incorporating four sectoral “Internet” themes – Economic Acceleration; Energy; Life Science, Health & Wellbeing; and Smart Manufacturing. Each Phase 1 City Deal proposal is listed under its relevant Internet theme

INTERNET OF ECONOMIC ACCELERATION

Joint Cabinet Committee Support Organisation (Governance) – This will provide project management and communications support across the entire regional proposition and an integrated regional approach to support enterprise and innovation, with sector-specific initiatives against all themes of the City Deal. The Joint Cabinet Committee will be controlled by, and accountable to, 8 regional Partners – the four City Region Local Authorities as well as Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Swansea University, Hywel Dda University Health Board and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David Group. Partners will carry different responsibilities and obligations and the Committee’s meetings will be structured with separate agenda blocks. The four Local Authorities will take responsibility for City Deal Fiduciary and Collaborative Local Authority Working agendas, whilst all 8 Committee Member organisations will have an equal voice and voting rights on Strategy.

Swansea City & Waterfront Digital District – The Digital District aims to create a vibrant and sustainable city centre that facilitates the growth of higher value activities (particularly technology businesses) and acts as a key driver for the regional economy. It will create incubation space and co-working areas for start-ups and small businesses at the Waterfront development; create a new City Centre Business District to support the growth of tech businesses and other higher value added activities, and develop a Digital Square and Arena to revitalise the City Centre.

Yr Egin (Creative Digital Cluster) – Building on the decision by S4C, the Welsh language broadcaster, to establish a significant presence in Carmarthen, Yr Egin will develop a new digital creative cluster to attract creative SMEs to start up or expand through providing next generation digital infrastructure, business accelerator facilities, incubation space, and networking opportunities.

Centre for Excellence in Next Generation Services – The Centre will act as a systems and solutions hub for the Internet Coast, bridging the gap between research and innovation and the ability to launch, develop and grow commercial opportunities.

Skills and Talent Development – This initiative, delivered through the collaborative Regional Learning and Skills Partnership comprising private and public sector membership, will ensure the creation, attraction and retention of a workforce equipped to deliver each of the City Deal strands, alongside contributing to a broader uplift in productivity across the wider economy.

A regional Digital Infrastructure and Test Bed – This intervention deliver 5G regional Test Beds and enhancements to existing communications infrastructure such as G.Fast and the development of an internationally significant Data Lake. These infrastructure investments will underpin and enable improvements in GVA, productivity and the commercialisation of the regional asset base. The aim is to realise the vision of a hyper-connected region and 100% coverage and access to next generation Broadband services.

INTERNET OF ENERGY

Homes as Power Stations – This initiative will be led by the four local authorities and supported by Swansea University to address the fuel poverty experienced by many communities across the region, while supporting an emerging industry cluster that exploits opportunities to utilise a building's fabric to generate and store solar energy.

Pembroke Dock Marine – The project harnesses port infrastructure to develop a marine energy test area, an energy engineering centre of excellence and wave energy demonstration zone. By creating a cluster of resources, knowledge, and capabilities the Catapult will accelerate technology development, enhance the sectors success, and ensure continued investment and development in other test sites across the UK.

INTERNET OF LIFE SCIENCE, HEALTH & WELLBEING

A new Health and Wellbeing Campus and Village Network will be created to support the growth of the life science sector and healthcare innovation. Life science/health innovation hubs and satellite sites will be created across the region, in hospital and primary care settings, strengthening the region's capacity to commercialise research, attract additional inward investment, and further increase the export of high value services and goods, such as medical devices.

Campus Network – The Campuses Phase 1 project will create expanded infrastructure with wider capabilities allowing more and larger opportunities to be captured, ranging from major inward-investment opportunities to HE/NHS commercialisation activities: -

- A **Morrison Campus** will expand research and innovation infrastructure in the field of genomics and proteomics alongside world-leading clinical delivery. Working alongside a regional centralisation of pathology services at Morrison Hospital, the Campus development will support creation of research collaboration and industry engagement facilities. World-leading research capacity in health and bio-informatics, together with a cluster of SMEs and multinational ICT/Pharma partners, provides a strong foundation and UK Unique Selling Point for this high-growth sector.
- In parallel, the reconfiguration of Swansea University's real estate will facilitate expansion of the **Singleton Campus** where a growing cluster of medical and other health technology companies/collaborations are focused. The Campus expansion will allow currently oversubscribed RD&I facilities to engage in

prospective partnerships and projects attracted by the regional strengths in academic, clinical and industrial collaboration.

Village Network – This network will comprise a primary/community care facility, an ILS satellite and an education and skills development capability. A Health & Wellbeing village network will be constructed and operational during the first five-year period of the programme, with its first centre located at Llanelli. The villages will be digitally connected to the campuses through the Internet of Economic Acceleration capability and the network will drive local and regional economic activity.

INTERNET OF SMART MANUFACTURING

Steel Science Innovation Centre – The Centre will address the current and future challenges of sustaining primary steel-making capacity in the region and the UK. In doing so it will place the region at the cutting edge of low carbon production and the utilisation of locally generated waste products such as chemical and raw materials feedstock. This is a model that could be exported to all developed economies ensuring a vibrant, sustainable and profitable steel sector with regional and national product specialisms.

Factory of the Future – This initiative will support SMEs to invest in leading edge technologies and harness the opportunities associated with a digital manufacturing revolution. Informed by “Industry 4.0” design principles (incorporating increased automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies e.g. the application of cyber-physical systems, the Internet of Things and Cloud Computing), and supported by world class industrial innovators, this initiative will put the region and its enterprises at the forefront of this digital and data-based manufacturing movement creating a regional integrated manufacturing ecosystem.

APPENDIX B

The Mynydd y Gwair Wind Farm was granted planning permission 10 March, 2014 subject to conditions (ref:2012/1221). The Local Planning Authority are currently considering 16 pre-commencement conditions. The MYG onshore wind farm will comprise 16 turbines, each capable of generating between 2 and 3 MW of electricity, giving a total installed capacity of between 32 to 48MW.

Innogy are proposed to establish a community benefit fund with the proposed payments of up to £5,000 per MW of installed capacity, which based on the installed capacity, would be in the region of £160,000 to £240,000. It is stressed, however, that the community benefit fund does not constitute part of the planning permission.

The effectiveness of any form of electricity generation system will be influenced by a wide variety of factors and it is not considered appropriate to compare the effectiveness of wind turbines with the capacity of tidal or nuclear power in this respect.

The planning application Ref: 2012/1221 was accompanied by a Carbon Balance Report. It concluded that the results of the carbon calculator for the proposed wind farm development at Mynydd y Gwair show that the wind farm development itself is estimated to produce annual carbon savings in the region of 45,202 tonnes of CO₂ per year through the displacement of grid electricity (based on a counterfactual emission factor of 0.43 kg CO₂/kWh). This was calculated on an assumed turbine capacity of 2.5MW. This represents displacing grid electricity generated by combined cycle gas turbines, a source of electricity used as balancing power within the grid and the most likely source to be displaced as additional generation sources are added to the grid. Based on the proposed life expectancy of the wind farm of 25 years this would equate to 25 x 45,202 tonnes of CO₂ per year = 1,130,050 tonnes of CO₂.

The assessment of the carbon losses has estimated an overall loss of around 50,356 tonnes of CO₂ due to the construction of the wind farm and the impact of drainage on the peat. The estimated payback period of the wind farm is therefore **1.1 years**, with a minimum/maximum range of 0.8 to 1.6 years. The sensitivity analysis shows that this estimate is robust with respect to key parameters; altering these does not significantly increase the payback period, increasing the confidence in this estimate.

The key area of anticipated carbon loss (59.3%) is from the turbine manufacture. Soil organic matter, in particular the CO₂ loss from excavated peat contributes to approximately 37.8% of carbon losses (assuming some worst case parameters). The wind farm has been specifically designed to minimise the impacts on the peatland habitat and to reduce the volume of excavated peat removed by avoiding peat or by locating on shallow peat deposits <0.3m. Mitigation measures such as blocking drains to restore degraded bogs are not proposed. However it is anticipated that any gains from site restoration would be relatively small compared to anticipated losses and would only marginally reduce losses.