

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

PART A – SUPPLEMENTARIES

1	<p>Councillors A M Day, M H Jones, P M Black Will the Cabinet Member for Education publish the average wider points score for 17 year olds in 2015/16, and tell Council how the score compares with other local authorities in Wales, with the average for Wales and with previous years.</p> <p>Response of Cabinet Member for Education Post-16 results in Swansea schools for 2016 were generally below the national average for schools with sixth forms.</p> <p>The average wider point score for Swansea students was 704.5 compared to 823.2 for Wales. For the 3A*/A measure, Swansea is approximately one percentage point above the average in Wales, which appears positive.</p> <p>However, the 3A*-C measure is approximately 12% points below the average in Wales. This has declined from being around the Welsh average four years ago. The decline has been due to mixed performance across Swansea's sixth form schools.</p> <p>In this measure, performance has declined in three sixth forms over this period, while in four schools, performance has either remained stable or improved modestly.</p> <p>Although these results, taken at face value, require improvement, particularly given the strength at key stage 4 in Swansea schools, it is important that the results are understood in context. About a third of Swansea students leaving Year 11 each summer move on to sixth forms in schools. Well over half move to Gower College, where there is extensive provision for both A-level and vocational further education.</p> <p>Other Welsh local authorities have greatly varying levels of sixth form/college provision, so the analysis covering sixth form performance needs to be seen in that context. For example, two local authorities have no sixth form provision in schools, with some (eg Neath Port Talbot) having only a couple of such schools. As of December 2016, Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil no longer have sixth forms in their local authorities. Other local authorities have retained sixth forms in all their schools and in those areas college provision is then mainly vocational.</p> <p>In Swansea, as half the secondary schools do not have sixth forms, many students transfer to the college to take A-levels, and this includes students from schools such as Bishopston and Pontarddulais who attain excellent results at key stage 4. These pupils do not therefore count in the sixth form results for Swansea.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the complex process of understanding post-16 data, the Education Department is exploring the reasons behind the varying performance across sixth form schools in Swansea. Looking at individual</p>
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schools, there does not appear to be a general entry requirement for A-Level as such, but most schools generally require a C grade or better at GCSE in the chosen subject area.

The entry requirement for sixth forms is around five GCSEs at C, whereas Gower College has a higher requirement of seven GCSEs at C or higher. The lower entry requirements in the sixth forms could well be a factor in the perceived weaknesses in outcomes. However, without a consistent value-added comparison between schools and colleges it is not possible to draw any reliable conclusions. Welsh Government is in the process of creating consistent measures at post-16, which will provide a more accurate picture from the academic year 2017-2018.

Recent work into this area has not looked at pupils resitting exams or those who have been moved back a school year. The number of pupils who move on to colleges outside Swansea is not known. However, we have requested this information from an external partner and we will evaluate this data when it is available.

Challenge advisers will be following up on the sixth form issues in ERW core visits to schools.

Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year, 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14

	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17 2015/16	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17 2015/16 RANK ORDER	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17 2014/15	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17 2014/15 RANK ORDER	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17 2013/14	Average wider points score for pupils aged 17 2013/14 RANK ORDER
Pembrokeshire	913.6	1	870.0	4	858.4	8
Ceredigion	911.9	2	914.3	1	865.1	6
The Vale of Glamorgan	897.0	3	891.7	3	923.3	1
Carmarthenshire	882.7	4	862.7	6	834.2	10
Gwynedd	877.4	5	893.9	2	883.7	4
Newport	876.1	6	825.1	10	833.9	11
Conwy	872.3	7	846.1	8	829.5	12
Cardiff	870.0	8	866	5	885	3
Isle of Anglesey	844.0	9	843.6	9	875.9	5
Monmouthshire	835.1	10	740	16	713.7	18
Bridgend	806.2	11	776.5	13	805.8	13
Powys	804.0	12	862.7	6	898.7	2
Torfaen	803.7	13	752.3	15	837.4	9
Caerphilly	784.8	14	777.1	12	784.4	14
Rhondda Cynon Taf	765.7	15	730.2	17	718.3	17
Flintshire	764.3	16	755.4	14	750	16
Wrexham	751.5	17	687	20	696.4	19
Neath Port Talbot	723.2	18	779	11	865	7
Swansea	704.8	19	692.7	18	690.8	21
Denbighshire	697.8	20	687.2	19	691.4	20
Merthyr Tydfil	33.1	21	50.5	21	755.8	15
Blaenau Gwent	8.9	22	11.7	22	13.8	22
Wales (d)	823.2		799.7		804.1	

(a) Includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 17 year old pupils, in maintained schools, achieved during the academic year and at earlier age.

(c) There are no longer any sixth forms in Blaenau Gwent (as at 2013/14) and Merthyr Tydfil (as at 2014/15).

(d) Excludes further education institutions and independent schools.

2015/16 Data

Statistical First Release: Welsh Government 7 December 2016

Table 7: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year, 2015/16, by LA

2014/15 Data

Statistical First Release: Welsh Government 16 December 2015

Table 5: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year, 2014/15, by LA

2014/13 Data

Statistical First Release: Welsh Government 26 November 2014

Table 5: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year, 2014/13, by LA

2 **Councillor M H Jones, J W Jones, C A Holley**
 Wales Audit Office (WAO) confirmed that they had seen the report into the Library review. Will the Cabinet Member confirm that the report seen by WAO was the same one as referred to in the Council meeting on the 23 February where Councillors were told that the report was in draft form and that it would not be made public.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration
 The report seen by the WAO was the first draft of the Cultural Services Commissioning Review, which included Libraries. The WAO saw these reports as part of its assessment of governance in CCS and they were provided with this in order to give context to the decision by the Cabinet to remove Libraries from the Review process. The report was in draft form and was not made public. The final Cultural Services Commissioning Review report, which went to Cabinet in November 2015 did not include Libraries.

3 **Councillor P N May**
 There are a number of HMOs in the Uplands Ward which remain unlicensed. In the past, landlords have been prosecuted for failing to license their properties.
 Is it correct that the name of the landlord, the offence and the fine issued used to be publicly available on the council website. Is this still the case and if not, why not.
 Please could the following information be supplied on an annual basis, since 2008 up to and including 2016. For clarity please can this be displayed in a table with the following column headings:
 a. Year
 b. Number of successful Landlord prosecutions at the magistrates court.
 c. Total fines.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City

There used to be a prosecutions register on the website for cases taken across the former Environment Department. This register was removed by the Communications Team in 2016 as part of the restructuring and launch of the new corporate website.

The table below provides the information requested and also includes the number of 'Simple Cautions' issued to landlords. A caution is a formal warning issued where there is evidence of an offence, the defendant admits that offence, but the public interest does not require prosecution. The table details all prosecutions. The figures in brackets refer to offences specifically relating to failure to license licensable HMOs.

Year	No. successful landlord prosecutions at magistrates court	Total fines £	No. of Simple Cautions issued to landlords
2008/2009	0	0	0
2009/2010	0	0	2 (2)
2010/2011	7 (2)	20,950 (1,250)	8 (7)
2011/2012	11 (11)	12,450 (11,700)*	11 (9)

2012/2013	8 (4)	19,850 (5,000)	8 (8)
2013/2014	3 (2)	7,500 (5,000)	6 (6)
2014/2015	2 (0)	340 (0)	1 (1)
2015/2016	1 (0)	125 (0)	0
2016/2017	0	0	2 (2)

* In 2011/12 all 11 prosecutions taken related to failure to license licensable HMOs. Fines totalling £11,700 were issued for these offences. A further £750 in fines, making a total of £12,450 for the year, were issued for additional offences in relation to the same properties.

4 **Councillors M H Jones, J W Jones, C A Holley**
Will the Cabinet Member publish all the responses to the consultation on the pedestrianising of Wind Street.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

Results of Consultation – Wind Street Pedestrianisation

1.0 Questionnaire and Returns

1.1 In August 2016, the Questionnaire as at Appendix 1 was distributed to business and residential addresses in the Wind Street area to gather feedback on a proposal to pedestrianise Wind Street during the afternoon and evening period to improve the area and help develop and promote a café culture.

1.2 By 16 September 50 returns were submitted which represents a return rate of 23.5% of 213 potential respondents.

1.3 In terms of the residential versus business split – 9 surveys (18%) came from local residents. The majority (41 surveys – 81%) were however returned by the businesses with senior management completing 15 surveys (36.6%), the licensee completing 11 surveys (26.8%), the owner completing 9 surveys – 21.9%) and members of staff completing the remainder (7 surveys - 17%).

1.4 Demographic analysis of those responding show the majority of respondents to be male, an average age of 36.8 years and 77.7% of the post codes being from the immediate SA1 area.

2.0 Data Results & Analysis

2.1 The key data results are outlined below in the order they were presented to the respondents. Basic statistical analysis of this data is also provided for evaluation purposes.

2.2 In terms of general awareness of the proposal to pedestrianise Wind Street 66% of those surveyed said they were aware of the project. Equal levels of awareness were expressed among both residents and businesses and Swansea BID was reported as the main source of this information (29.4%).

2.3 Overall, the principal of pedestrianising Wind Street was supported by a

majority of 66%. Analysis of the returns made by businesses shows 68.2% being in favour whilst those submitted by local residents are higher at 88.8% although this group represent a significantly smaller sample.

2.4 Respondents were asked to explain the reasons for their answer and these were quantified into several categories in Table 1

2.4.1 There is a general theme about improving the attractiveness and appeal of the area and increasing safety whilst concerns about access particularly for the elderly and disabled people are cited.

2.5 A series of questions were posed in order to develop an understanding of the practical issues associated with the pedestrianisation proposal and the implications that this might have for businesses and residents.

2.5.1 16 returns (32.6%) provided positive comments and/or reported no practical issues. 15 responses (30.6%) set out practical suggestions as to how the scheme could be managed most of which related to deliveries and loading provisions. 8 people (16.3%) provided a negative response most of which highlighted concerns about traffic congestion and deliveries and 10 others (20.4%) gave no response.

2.6 Views were invited on closing Wind Street daily from 11am until 6am the following morning, the results on which are summarised in Table 2.

2.6.1 In summary 22 respondents commented in support of the 11am-6am closure, however, 12-6pm was quoted as the preferred time for 2 respondents and 2-5pm by another.

2.6.2 The main body of negative comments received in this section were mainly about access and the ability of businesses to service their premises.

2.7 A series of questions were put to the businesses about their current servicing arrangements.

2.7.1 9 respondents stated they are served via a back entrance, 6 via a front entrance and 3 indicating both front and rear access.

2.7.2 Specific access and/or delivery and servicing times were stated by 11 businesses, 7 of which indicating that this usually takes place before noon.

2.8 The businesses were asked to comment on whether they would be interested in using the pedestrianised area of Wind Street if the scheme was implemented.

2.8.1 24 out of 39 respondents said 'yes' with 14 (82.3%) citing using it for outdoor seating.

2.9. The questionnaire provided space for any additional comments or suggestions to be made about the pedestrianisation proposal.

2.9.1 Whilst these section was not completed by 57.9% of the returns; the remaining 42.1% were split into 6 (12%) positive comments, 6 (12%) practical

	<p>comments, 3 (6%) negative comments, 1 (2%) neutral comment and 5(10%) stating N/A.</p> <p>2.9.2 In this section many of the participants took the opportunity to reinforce views previously expressed but a number highlighted other issues relevant to the management of the area. For example, the use of plastic glasses outside premise and the need for additional bins and policing were among the points put forward. <u>Also See Appendix 1.</u></p>
5	<p>Councillors P M Black, C A Holley, M H Jones Will the Leader outline the timetable and the costings for establishing a new Civic Centre on the site of the car park opposite the Grand Theatre.</p> <p>Response of the Leader Costings and timings are not known at this stage as work is required to secure a detailed design and planning consent. Funding to progress the Civic relocation to detailed planning consent is being sought from WG. In the meantime an allocation of £200k is sought to complete the flood mitigation work and detailed feasibility work.</p>
6	<p>Councillor P N May Fees that landlords pay for HMO licensing directly fund the costs of the scheme. This means that should be no drain on the council budget. It should also mean that, there should be no profit made from the scheme to fund other budget lines.</p> <p>Having fewer HMO licensing officers leads to a reactive, rather than a proactive, service. This is noticeable in the Uplands ward where for example, unsightly frontages and refuse problems only get dealt with if a neighbour complains.</p> <p>During the recent scrutiny inquiry, the following information was supplied about the financing of HMO licensing:</p> <p>The fee income for 2015-2016 was £263,000</p> <p>The staff costs were: Clerical Officer – Grade 5 (with on costs) = £25,700 Technical Officer – Grade 7 (with on costs) = £35,500 Environmental Health Officer – Grade 9 (with on costs) = £47,200 Team Leader – Grade 11 (with on costs) = £59,400 Divisional Manager – Grade 12 (with on costs) = £65,800</p> <p>This gave a total wage cost of £233,600</p> <p>In questioning it was revealed that the actual wage bill was lower. This was because some officers were only spending a proportion of their time on HMO licensing.</p> <p>Even after the cost of stationary and consumables there is a profit of around £30,000.</p> <p>Further, the council increased the licensing fee in March 2016 so an even</p>

larger fee income will now be recorded.

In my previous question to council the cabinet member stated that the number of HMO officers has in fact reduced since their previous levels. This was despite there being fee increases.

a. How much extra money has been accumulated since 2012-2013 to 2015-2016 inclusive? Please could this information be supplied in a table with the following column headings:

Financial year, Income from Licensing fees, Officers wage bill (please make sure that this only includes the wage for HMO licensing and not other pro rata employment activities).

b. On the face of it, current 2015-16 year shows a surplus. Is this allowed and where has the money gone.

c. Will the cabinet member now consider employing extra officers using any current and historic surpluses to fund them.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City

a). Annual HMO licence fee income fluctuates depending upon the housing market, the number of new licence applications and licences requiring renewal. Fees vary upon the size of the property (the larger the property, the higher the fee). In recent years, fee income has been as follows:

Financial Year	Income from Licensing Fees (£)
2012 – 2013	£205k
2013 – 2014	£193k
2014 – 2015	£250k
2015 – 2016	£263k

As stated, Officers undertaking HMO licensing duties also carry out other functions not related to licensing. There is no separate 'wage for HMO licensing' so it is not possible to provide that information in that format. Monitoring systems are in place however to ensure HMO licensing fees are only used for that purpose.

Information provided at the Scrutiny Working Group referred to the range of officer posts involved with HMO licensing and their typical salary costs. These are the five posts listed by Cllr May: Clerical Officer, Technical Officer, Environmental Health Officer, Team Leader and Divisional Manager. Information provided did not say that £233,600 was the total wage bill.

Whilst there is one Clerical Officer, one Team Leader and one Divisional Manager there are in fact two Technical Officers and 3.98 FTE Environmental Health Officers who spend a proportion of their time on HMO licensing. In addition, one of the Technical Officer posts has recently been converted to an Environmental Health Officer post.

	<p>b). Licence fees are required to be paid in full when an HMO licence application is made. The fee paid covers a maximum five year period (i.e. the life of an HMO licence). A proportion of the fee is therefore carried across that period as 'receipts in advance'. This means even though the fee is paid in full in one particular financial year, it is able to be utilised in that year and subsequent years over the term of the licence.</p> <p>This is permitted and should not be interpreted as a surplus. As stated, HMO licence fees are not used for other purposes.</p> <p>c). From 1st April 2017, there will be one additional Environmental Health Officer dealing with HMOs and other private sector housing enforcement matters. It is anticipated this will equate to approximately 0.8FTE on HMO licensing, which will be funded by HMO licensing fees. The situation will be kept under review.</p>
7	<p>Councillors P M Black, M H Jones, C A Holley</p> <p>Is it planned that the replacement for the Central library is to be incorporated in the new Civic Centre Oxford Street building. If not where is this to be placed.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration</p> <p>Officers in Regeneration and Culture are working together to understand the opportunities for a library offer as part of the City Centre regeneration. This could support footfall and vibrancy as part of a mixed use development, but there is no definite proposal or option for consideration at this time. Any decisions around a City Centre library will be contingent on the overall development plans, affordability and the future of the Civic Centre, which is as yet not clear.</p>
8	<p>Councillors C A Holley, P M Black, L G Thomas</p> <p>Will the Leader tell Council what has been the cost of consultants for the St David's scheme, the Arena scheme and the City Deal. Will he also say whether payment was made from the Council or from Grants from the Welsh Government.</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>The work up costs to date for the St Davids site (north of Oystermouth Road) is £1,073,361.93 and the cost fees for the LC car park area, including Arena is £535,701.50. These fees have been temporarily met by the Council on the understanding that Welsh Government will reimburse the work up costs for the scheme. We are waiting for a final formal response from Welsh Government.</p> <p>The City Deal application was mainly completed by Council officers with professional advice coming from existing contract arrangements.</p>
9	<p>Councillors C A Holley, L G Thomas, M H Jones</p> <p>We have been told by the Leader that the Council was to be given money by the Welsh Government for redevelopment of the St David's scheme. Will he tell Council if we have had any monies and whether it is in the form of a Grant or a Loan. If it is a Loan what are the repayment conditions.</p>

	<p>Response of the Leader The Council's original requirement for £6.2m of work up costs for Swansea Central was requested from WG. During further discussions with Welsh Government they have linked this to the City Deal and a formal response is expected shortly.</p>
10	<p>Councillors J W Jones, P M Black, C A Holley Given concerns raised by Councillors from all parties over the complexity of the public consultation on the Service Model for Adult Social Care will the Cabinet Member tell us what regard has been paid to these concerns and what level of responses have been received to date.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People I note the concern over the complexity of the public consultation into the model for adult social care and linked commissioning review into future domiciliary care arrangements. There is a necessary balance to be struck between providing enough information to the public to ensure that they are aware of the complex issues about which they are being consulted whilst striving to simplify that complexity to promote wide engagement. Arrangements were put in place to provide assistance to members of the public if they experienced difficulties in understanding the questions being asked. An example of this included the Head of Adult Services meeting with a group representing individuals with disabilities. These consultations have generated 476 responses. Approximately 85% of respondents identified themselves as direct recipients of care or as the family and carers of direct recipients of care. This response rate compares well with similar consultation exercises including the recent budget consultation.</p> <p>Given the concern that despite this positive response rate, Councillors report that they themselves and some constituents found the consultation documents too complex, I have asked officers in social services, the legal team, access to services and communications to review the process for future consultation exercises. This review will consider whether further simplification of the documentation and questions can be achieved without leaving the local authority at risk of legal challenge.</p>
	<p>PART B – NO SUPPLEMENTARIES</p>
11	<p>Councillors P M Black, P M Meara, T H Rees Will the Cabinet Member provide details of how the £500,000 for additional new 3G pitches will be spent and what criteria was applied in prioritising this expenditure.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Well Being & Healthy City The Welsh Rugby Union, Welsh Football Trust and Welsh Hockey, in conjunction with Sport Wales commissioned the 'All Wales Artificial Turf Pitch Vision and Guidance' report, the findings of which indicate that Swansea is the least resourced county in Wales for 3G facilities. The county has a vast sports club infrastructure but has no full sized 3G facilities.</p> <p>Following meetings and site visits with members of the National Collaborative Sports Facilities Group sites were identified for consideration for the</p>

introduction of new, strategically located 3G facilities based on the following criteria;

- *Centres of population/Latent demand* – Using local information and knowledge, as well as the findings of the All Wales collaboration report, clear areas of latent demand have been identified. This is particularly but not exclusively in relation to the local club infrastructure in the areas surrounding the proposed priority sites, where there is little or no access to appropriate all weather playing and training facilities. The sites considered are all in strategic geographic locations within easy access of high proportions of the county's population centres.
- *Physical nature of proposed site* (E.g. flat, current playing surface, existing utility availability, access etc.). We are fortunate to have identified sites where there are suitable existing areas of sufficient size which could be developed and which will significantly reduce construction costs.
- *Current facility management arrangements*- Prioritisation has been given to sites which have existing facility management infrastructures. The sites considered would have little or no need for ongoing additional revenue costs for management or staffing in the short or long term.
- *Match funding* – Some sites provided the opportunity to access existing, or apply for additional match funding towards the development of new facilities.
- *Timescale for delivery* – Sites have been selected based on their readiness factor and the ability to progress with approvals and construction as quickly as practicable.

Based on the above criteria, the following priority sites have been selected for development;

- Morryston Comprehensive School/Community Leisure Centre
- Penyrheol Comprehensive School/Community Leisure Centre
- Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive School/Community Leisure Centre

The total cost of this provision will be in the region of £1.45m. The cost for delivering Penyrheol and Morryston has been financed through grant funding and Council commitments. An additional £500,000 has been underwritten by the Council towards the provision of a full-sized, floodlit and fenced 3G facility at Cefn Hengoed. This has been supplemented by a £50,000 contribution from National Collaborative Sports Facilities Group.