

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.

Councillor: David Hopkins	Electoral Division: Townhill
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Cabinet / Executive Portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing (from 17 September 2014)
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Section 1: Constituency activities

I held monthly surgeries in Mayhill and Gors.

I was a Member of (and at the time of writing this) Plasmarl Governing Body.

I held regular meetings with the Housing Manager of Townhill Housing Office.

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.

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below :

Area 2 Development Control Committee	2	/	8	25	%
Cabinet	9	/	11	82	%
Council	15	/	17	88	%
Development Management & Control Committee	2	/	8	25	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum	1	/	3	33	%
OVERALL	29	/	47	62	%
Scrutiny Meetings:					
Services for Looked after children Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	0	/	1	0	%
OVERALL	0	/	1	0	%

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I had regular meetings with the Police to discuss ward issues.

I Chaired public meetings when required.

I met with the three Community Centre Management Committees and also the Phoenix Centre.

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Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

I have been very active in relation to relocation of Mayhill Surgery and Mayhill Family Centre on the Old Mayhill Park. The new centre will replace the current surgery on Pen-y-Graig Road and the Family Centre on Mayhill Road.

I was also involved in the removal of road blocks across the Hill and road calming measures.

Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) programme - to improve the stock by 2020. Capital expenditure in 2014/15 was £24.5m to help meet WHQS. This year's Capital Programme will be just under £52m with a total of £290m earmarked for spending between this year and 2020.

Continued Research - research into new funding models and specifications for more Council housing was undertaken and is ongoing. Recently there have been visits to Camden Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Homes to look at innovative ways of delivering new Council housing.

More Homes - In 2014/15 work started regarding developing a formal strategy for using Housing Revenue Account (HRA) resources to support the provision of more affordable homes. The strategy will include an assessment of the type of accommodation to be built, where they should be provided, the likely profile of available funds from year to year and the options for ensuring the right type of housing is provided in the locations where they are needed. Current work is focused on assessing the suitability of HRA sites for early development in the overall programme.

Draft Local Housing Strategy - A draft Local Housing Strategy was developed. The Cabinet Advisory Committee are currently considering this in depth with the aim of bringing it forward for formal consideration by the Council by the end of the year.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I have attended training sessions when possible. However, I do have a wealth of knowledge and experience gained over my many years of being a Councillor.

I attended Child Protection training in my role as School Governor.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

Over the many years that I have been a Councillor at Townhill, I have always been there for my constituents and taken on board their problems and tried to solve them. At the time of writing this it is my intention to continue to be there for the people of Mayhill, Townhill and Gors.

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Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary: £13,300 (up to 16 September 2014)

Senior Salary: £32,000 Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (from 17 September 2014)

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:

01.06.15