

## City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2016-2017

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending 4 **May 2017**. 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.

<b>Councillor:</b> Philip Downing	<b>Electoral Division:</b> Pontarddulais
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<b>Senior Salary Position:</b>	Chair of Development Cabinet Advisory Committee. Deputy Lord Mayor of Swansea (not remunerated for this role)
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### Section 1: Constituency activities

I held two advice surgeries each month at Canolfan-y-Bont between the hours of 5.00 and 7.00 pm. I regularly attended the local Police & Communities Together (PACT) meetings and addressed any complaints or queries that arose.

As a member of the Town Council I was honoured to be elected as the Towns' Mayor. I attended all but two of the Town Council meetings during the year. Minutes of these meetings and other information can be found on the council's website at [www.pontarddulaistowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.pontarddulaistowncouncil.gov.uk). I was chairman of the Finance committee, with one of our priorities was setting a Town rate, and keeping check that budget headings were not exceeded.

I was a Governor of both Comprehensive and English Primary schools. At the Comprehensive I was chairman of the Resources Committee, making sure school expenditure was kept within budget.

I have been President of Pontarddulais Football club for the last three years after being their treasurer for forty years. The club has gone from strength to strength boasting 14 junior teams including 2 girls teams, a youth side, a ladies side, and 3 senior sides.

### 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:

Council	14	/	16	88	%
Development Cabinet Advisory Committee	13	/	13	100	%
General Licensing Committee	11	/	14	79	%
Pension Fund Committee	6	/	6	100	%
Statutory Licensing Committee	3	/	3	100	%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>%</b>

#### Scrutiny Meetings:

Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Working Group	3	/	3	100	%
Planning Working Group	2	/	3	67	%
Service Improvement & Finance Panel	10	/	15	67	%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>%</b>

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### Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

I was Deputy Cabinet Member; this entailed tackling specific topics given to me by Cabinet Members. As chairman of the Development Cabinet Advisory Committee, we looked at Council Policy and made suggestions to the relevant Cabinet Member, if accepted this went forward to Cabinet for adoption.

I was Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee, which looked at all licensing applications within the City and County of Swansea.

I was also Vice Chairman of the Council's Pension Fund Panel.

One of the outside bodies I served on is The Valuation Tribunal, This looked at appeals from Businesses and individuals who had grievances against their rateable values.

I was Deputy Lord Mayor of the City and County of Swansea, I would be called upon when the Lord mayor had a double booking or was unable to attend an engagement, this gave me valued experience if I became Lord Mayor.

I received a considerable number of telephone calls, and people calling at my house seeking advice and assistance on a range of issues. With 281 Council owned houses in Pontarddulais quite a number of queries related to these. I am always prepared to listen to their concerns and offer appropriate advice and support.

I walked and drove around the ward at regular intervals, talking to constituents, and reported road and pavement defects (pot holes), street lights that were not working in residential areas, damaged road signs and fly tipping.

### Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Together with my fellow ward member I used my Councillors Community Budget to install double yellow lines at various locations in the ward. Installed a Pelican crossing on Bolgoed Road to assist children on their way to school. Painting and window replacement of many bus shelters were completed. Arranged 20mph zones in various streets around our schools in Pontarddulais.

Following representation from constituents acquired road and pavement improvements. Provided support following representation from constituents through the petition process and continuously supported and negotiated for the wishes of the population of Pontarddulais where there was evidence of concern, a potential for the development of services and an improved lifestyle and a need to support potential developments for the benefit of the community.

### Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

23/05/2017 - Well Being of Future Generations Act

19/05/2017 - Good Decision Making, Bias, Pre-determination & Rules of Natural Justice

11/05/2017 - Code of Conduct

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## **Section 6: Other activities and issues**

*This section is for you to write anything else about which you feel your constituents should be aware.*

## **Section 7: Councillors Remuneration**

Senior Salary: £22,000 Chair of Development Cabinet Advisory Committee

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>

<b>Date:</b>	19.01.2018
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