

## 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.

<b>Councillor:</b>	Erika Kirchner	<b>Electoral Division:</b>	Castle
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<b>Senior Salary Position:</b>	Chair of Engagement & Inclusion Cabinet Advisory Committee
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### Section 1: Constituency activities:

Castle Ward has some of the worst deprivation in Wales and also some of the most affluent. And it's a balance, as each part of the ward has its own problems. As Anti-Poverty is big on the council agenda, one of our 5 key priorities, we are taking steps to help relieve poverty issues with new initiatives, e.g. housing and fuel regeneration in parts of the Ward. During 2014-2015 we held weekly advise Saturday surgeries in Brynmelyn, the Marina, Mount Pleasant and the Sandfields. For the coming year we plan to do more street surgeries with the aim of meeting more of our neighbours and residents to hear what they have to say about living in Swansea and how we can improve. I regularly took calls from individuals in the Ward and tried to resolve any issues they had. These were housing issues, road markings, pot holes, neighbourhood disputes, bus routes, fly tipping, noise pollution, refuge and other issues such as planning. I attended the Residents meetings which are each held every month or bi-monthly. We listened to all concerns and also fed-back what the Council was doing. I also worked alongside the police and the PACT meetings that were held in the Ward and City Centre. I was Chair of Terrace Road Junior School and have just finished as a governor on St. Joseph's Catholic Cathedral school, after serving since 2005. Worked with the two Communities First programmes in Castle Ward, which led to us seeing excellent services develop for people in the community. I also attended events and coffee mornings in the Ward and duly respected all Veterans' days and protective services. And sadly during the year I attended six residents' funerals. Often I found myself on mediation disputes duty. This could be between residents, residents and council or any other group relating to our residents concerns.

### Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below:

Area 1 Development Control Committee	6	/	7	86	%
Corporate Parenting Forum	2	/	4	50	%
Council	15	/	17	88	%
Democratic Services Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Development Management & Control Committee	7	/	7	100	%
Engagement & Inclusion Cabinet Advisory Committee	7	/	7	100	%
Equalities Committee	1	/	5	20	%
Swansea Student Liaison Forum	3	/	3	100	%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>%</b>

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Scrutiny Meetings				
Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel	5	/	8	63 %
Corporate Culture Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	5	/	7	71 %
Transformation of Adult Social Services Scrutiny Panel	6	/	10	60 %
Wellbeing Scrutiny Performance Panel	4	/	6	67 %
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>65 %</b>

### Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

As Chair of the Cabinet Advisory Committee (CAC) I had responsibility to ensure the Cabinet Members who dedicate specific work to the committee was completed on time and accomplished the outcomes required. These pieces of work fit into the five Council Key Priorities and Values. The committee is aligned to the Cabinet Members for: Transformation and Performance, Wellbeing and Healthy Cities and Anti-Poverty. Due to continual improvements, All CAC's, will have some changes made to them in 2015-2016, including clearer titles that will reflect the five key council priorities. We will also be looking at children and young people. The changes will take place after Council in June or July 2015. We will begin the new term with Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and Social Services. We looked at issues on staff engagement, how many of our staff had appraisals, how we thank our staff and make them feel valued. Sick days and relevant causes. We went to see how the DVLA engaged their staff. We researched where we are with the Domestic Abuse in Swansea via a presentation by Ali Morris the DA Co-ordinator. I am pleased to report we take the lead in Wales, with all matters attached to DA. I visited Swansea Prison to look at the new perpetrators programme. This proved very successful with the 8 volunteers who participated. We were briefed by the Students Liaisons Officer on the work undertaken with the Universities to promote students community links. We had presentations from Swansea Bay Asylum Seekers. I participated in the Robert Rowntree Foundation on 'Why Ethnicity Matters for Local Authority Action on Poverty'. We pursued more details on the Staff Engagement. Our belief is that we need to appreciate our staff more and are looking towards a robust positive change to working culture. I ensured all the Council Champions were recognised and had the opportunity to feedback to the committee on all of their great work. I attended all the Cabinet Away Days where the running of services and departments were considered and progressed forward.

### Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Swansea is a City of multicultural cultures, each bringing with them colourful textures to our city. I sat (and still sit) on the Race Equality Council. This involved working closely with all BEM communities; I met with the BEM forum and discussed how we could work closer together. Swansea is a City of Sanctuary that I am very proud to be part of, and our CAC is all about Inclusion and Engagement. To ensure we meet our standards we will ensure Equality and Diversity are in all of Swansea's' policies. Champion against Domestic Abuse; I met regularly with the DA groups who have experienced DA. I am delighted to say in Swansea we lead the way in Wales by raising the awareness and providing excellent services, including programmes for perpetrators. We held a very successful White Ribbon Day where the Lord Mayor, the Swans, Fire Service with Fire Engine, and many others attended, including a group of young lads who all made a promise never to hurt anyone with their hands. Everyone dipped their hands in wet coloured paint and pressed them on a huge white banner. The One Stop Shop for victims of DA has now opened after a very long period - nearly two years of progressing plans. It is a huge asset to Swansea and many anonymous people are already using the service. As Champion for Diversity for Swansea I had bi-monthly meetings with all Diversity Champions across Wales. These meeting were chaired by Leighton Andrews AM. Our

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commission was to help encourage and mentor any person of ethnic background to take on political roles. Diversity sits well with Equalities and at Swansea Council we are determined to be fair to all and open up opportunities for all of our citizens of Swansea. I visited all of the residential homes across the city with the view of how our council can provide the right type of property in the future for older persons. Due to new Planning changes over the past year I was appointed one of the 12 Councillors to serve on the Planning Committee.

### Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

23/02/2015 - Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

19/11/2014 - Elected Members Role in Supporting & Promoting Gypsies, Roma & Travellers

31/10/2014 - Safeguarding

08/10/2014 - How to get the most out of your tablet / smart phone

03/07/2014 - Freedom of Information Training

I also attended the following events: Child sexual awareness conference 20/10/14;

Female justice Matters Conference 19/09/14

Spoke at Women for Change meeting 07/10/14

Supported Mental Health Day 10/10/14; Foster Carers conference 28/10/14;

Training Reforming Local Government 30/10/14

Training Safeguarding Children 31/10/14; White Ribbon Day 25/11/14;

Equality Conference 25/03/15; Drugs Conference 12/03/15; Diversity Training 19/03/15;

Anti-Slavery Human Trafficking Forum 21/03/15; Equality Conference 25/03/15;

DA Conference 27/03/15; April- May MP Elections

### Section 6: Other activities and issues

I have been so privileged to have served as a local councillor for eleven years this May. As a mother of three and now have five beautiful grandchildren. I have experienced the financial struggles families have to deal with today. Past experiences have enabled me to understand many issues affecting our residents today. I believe, I do understand some issues very clearly because of my personal experiences, and these have equipped me to represent everyone with any issue worrying them, single parents, anyone experiencing DA, Poverty with all its issues. And as an 'in-betweenner'... looking after older unwell relatives and bubbly grandchildren, what a contrast! So like so many people I know, balancing my time and energy is essential. Over time I have met wonderful people in my Ward and have become friends with them including the Police Community Service Officers (PCSO's) and Officers who helped us in our work. And I have to say this was very rewarding work and at times very frustrating! But I wouldn't want to do anything else.

### Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary: £22,000 – Chair of Engagement & Inclusion 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>	11.06.15
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