



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 May 2018

### Cabinet Member Question Session

<b>Purpose:</b>	To enable the Committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore Cabinet Members' priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to areas of responsibility.
<b>Content:</b>	The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee to participate in a question and answer session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Commercial Opportunities &amp; Innovation</li></ul>
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters</li><li>• Make comments and recommendations as necessary</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith, Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Business Intelligence
<b>Report Author:</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Stephanie Williams
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Cridland

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the council's cabinet to account. The cabinet is made up of the Leader and 9 additional councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific responsibilities:

Cllr Rob Stewart	- Economy & Strategy (Leader)
Cllr Clive Lloyd	- Service Transformation & Business Operations (Deputy Leader)
Cllr Jennifer Raynor	- Children, Education & Lifelong Learning
Cllr David Hopkins	- Commercial Opportunities & Innovation

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies	- Culture, Tourism & Major Projects
Cllr Mark Thomas	- Environment Services
Cllr June Burtonshaw /	- Future Generations
Cllr Mary Sherwood	
Cllr Mark Child	- Health & Wellbeing
Cllr Andrea Lewis	- Housing, Energy & Building Services
Cllr Will Evans	- Stronger Communities

1.2 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and monitor performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.

1.3 Cabinet Member Question Sessions have become a main feature of Committee meetings. At least one cabinet member is scheduled to appear at each monthly Committee meeting, ensuring all Cabinet Members appear before the Committee over the course of a year, in order to ask questions on their work. Questions will focus on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

## **2. Cabinet Member Question Session**

2.1 The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee:

a) Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Commercial Opportunities & Innovation

Within this cabinet portfolio, he is responsible for:

- Commercial Services
- Procurement Frameworks
- Identification & Implementation of New Commercial Models
- Delivery of new income streams from Commercial Opportunities
- Planning Policy & Local Development Plan (LDP)
- New Commercial partnerships
- Funding Strategies
- Licensing & Trading Standards
- Economic Twinning
- New Local & Regional Business Opportunities
- Regional Workforce & Skills Development
- Local Business Engagement
- Business Promotion
- Local & Regional Investment Strategy (Regional Bank)
- Factory of the Future (City Deal)
- Procurement Policy Revisions (City Deal)
- Poverty Reduction

### **3. Approach to Questions**

3.1 At the Cabinet Member Question Sessions the Committee will generally ask cabinet members about:

- relevant priorities / objectives, notable activities and achievements, improvement / impact made, and service user / public engagement.
- what they hope to achieve over the coming months and challenges, including any key decisions they plan take to Cabinet over the next year.
- reflections on their engagement with scrutiny and whether there is any issue relevant to their portfolio that they would suggest for scrutiny, not otherwise covered in the work programme – to ensure scrutiny activity is aligned to priorities and focussed on the right things.

3.2 In terms of themes that cut across all cabinet portfolios, the Committee is interested in asking Cabinet Members about:

- impact of Well-being of Future Generations Act – impact on their work / decisions e.g. what they are doing to achieve the well-being goals and ways of working, whether there is a greater focus on long-term thinking, collaboration / involvement etc.
- Public Services Board (PSB) – their relationship with the work of the PSB; how the PSB impacts on their portfolio and how it is making a difference etc.

3.3 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee. The Cabinet Member has provided a report on 'headlines' in relation to the portfolio to help the Committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact – see **Appendix 1**.

3.4 Following each session the chair will write to the Cabinet Members in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for them to consider.

3.5 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during this item then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

### **4. Previous Correspondence**

4.1 This is a new Cabinet portfolio, established in May 2017, therefore first Q & A session on this specific portfolio. However the following relevant issues were discussed by the Committee during last year:

- Inward Investment – discussion about the Regional Marketing Suite established at the new University Bay campus, as an innovative approach to promote the region on an international platform, providing interactive information to potential investors.
- Planning – the Committee followed up the work of the Planning Scrutiny Working Group and raised outstanding issues in relation to the planning process, including Section 106 agreements, and the call in-process, and also discussed the preparation of the new Local Development Plan.

#### 4.2 Relevant contact with scrutiny this year:

- Whilst not directly engaged with this work there have been discussions about the role of planning in a number of scrutiny meetings held, including the Local Flood Risk Management Working Group and Roads & Footway Maintenance Working Group.

The Committee should note that the Cabinet Member will also be engaged in the following planned / future activities:

- Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel – the Cabinet Member will be invited to attend to present the Planning Annual Performance Report 2017/18 in November 2018.
- Natural Environment Inquiry Panel – the Cabinet Member's involvement would be anticipated as a session is likely to take place relating to planning processes and the natural environment / biodiversity.

### 5. Other Questions

5.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Session the Committee invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions.

5.2 On this occasion no questions have been received.

### 6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

### 7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1:** Key Headlines for the Future Generations Portfolio