



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Inquiry Panel - Natural Environment**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 26 March 2018 at 10.30 am

Present: Councillor P K Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
E W Fitzgerald
Y V Jardine
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)
L S Gibbard
J W Jones

Councillor(s)
P R Hood-Williams
I E Mann

Officer(s)
Bethan Hopkins
Richard Rowlands

Scrutiny Officer
Corporate Performance Manager

Apologies for Absence
Councillor(s): L V Walton

1 Apologies

2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

The Panel raised queries over memberships of groups, organisations etc which have an interest in the natural environment in some way.

I will find out if any of these memberships constitute a conflict and feedback to the Panel.

3 Public Questions

None

4 Swansea Council and the Future Generations Act

- Richard Rowlands came to present his report on what Swansea Council are currently doing to meet their requirements under the WFGA (Future Generations Act)
- The report aimed to provide the background of the WFGA – it is the legislation which underpins how Councils improve wellbeing
- A key part of the act is around culture and behaviour
- Richard discussed what the Council is already doing

- There was some discussion around how the public are consulted when it comes to policy development. Comments made that there needs to be more public input into policy development
- The KPI measures for working around the WFGA are not stand alone. It is assessed via a collective look at all KPIs

5 Discussion

- The Wellbeing Plan has an objective 'Working With Nature' and it seems that the Corporate Plan is incompatible as it does not have a designated target for nature and so the profile is not as high as it could be
- Any relevant findings from other Scrutiny activities will be fed back into the Panel to avoid duplication of work and to help create an up to date picture of what is going on
- Some conversations around how planning is decided and how issues around nature and biodiversity are considered and whether these considerations are at the right stage of the process
- There are integrated impact assessments to make sure that policies are linking in with the WFGA
- The Panel discussed the impact of noise and air pollution on health and the concern that schools would be impacted by these issues
- There is a reliance on grants to fund a lot of the work around nature and biodiversity and there is concern about the impact of loss of grants
- The Panel will have a Service Policy Overview at the next meeting and this will conclude the planning aspect of the inquiry and inform direction and scope of the work

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chair