



City and County of Swansea

**Minutes of the Special Scrutiny Programme
Committee**

Council Chamber - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 1 October 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor M H Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
L S Gibbard
P K Jones
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)

M Durke
D W Helliwell
W G Lewis

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
T J Hennegan
S Pritchard

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

P M Black
P R Hood-Williams

J W Jones
M Sykes

Officer(s)

Rosie Jackson
Kate Jones
Brij Madahar
Steve Porter
Debbie Smith

Senior Policy & Leasehold Officer
Democratic Services Officer
Scrutiny Team Leader
Housing Operations Manager
Deputy Chief Legal Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): G J Tanner
Statutory Co-opted Member(s): D Anderson-Thomas
Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley

52 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

53 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

54 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

55 Consultation on Draft Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022.

The Cabinet Member for Homes & Energy, the Operations Manager – Community Housing Services and the Senior Policy and Leasehold Management Officer were present for the Committee's consideration of the Draft Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan.

The Operations Manager – Community Housing Services provided a presentation, which highlighted some key aspects of the Draft Homeless Strategy and Action Plan, which included: -

- Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- Emerging Themes
- Key Priorities
- Draft Aim
- Draft Objectives & Actions
- Action Plan
- Next Steps

The Committee asked questions of the Cabinet Member who, together with the Operations Manager – Community Housing Services and the Senior Policy and Leasehold Management Officer, responded accordingly.

Questions, discussion, and observations on the draft Strategy and Action Plan from the Committee, to feed into the consultation process, focused on the following:-

- Service user involvement and co-production
- Developing a Homelessness Charter
- Developing an education programme to increase knowledge of housing and homelessness issues
- The development of pre-eviction protocols
- Use of private rented sector / loss of rented accommodation / relationship with private landlords
- Houses to Homes Loan Scheme
- Shortage of one bedroom properties
- Working with Registered Social Landlords to alleviate homelessness
- The Housing First approach
- Barriers for accessing temporary accommodation and supported temporary accommodation e.g. pets
- Proposals and timescales to meet the increased need for support for people with mental health / complex needs
- Assisting those ineligible for homelessness and housing assistance due to immigration status
- The plan to carry out a feasibility study to look at developing a holistic "solutions centre" for services for rough sleepers

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- Support to children affected by parental homelessness / ensuring the Strategy support the UNCRC
- Links with other strategies
- Housing costs for supported accommodation
- Monitoring, evaluation and review of success / impact of the Strategy

The Cabinet Member thanked the Officers for their hard work undertaken on the Homelessness Strategy

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers.

Resolved that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee writes to the Cabinet Member / Officers outlining the views of the Committee, for consideration.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm

Chair