

Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching remit of the Panel is to be responsible for ongoing monitoring of council performance in relation to development and regeneration, including the 'health' of the city centre, wider economic development across Swansea and discussion about progress on the Swansea Bay City Deal.

2. Introduction

The Panel is focused on contributing to the ongoing development and regeneration of Swansea by providing a critical friend for the Cabinet, and helping to ensure accountability.

3. Key Activities

The Panel held 4 meetings between May 2018 and November 2018. These meetings included a financial update from the Section 151 Officer, two dashboard project update sessions with the Head of Service and relevant officers, a special item on the Hafod Copperworks (Penderyn) project, and pre-decision scrutiny relating to Swansea Central. This has resulted in 3 Convener's letters being sent to the relevant Cabinet Member. The issues covered were as follows:

Meeting 1 19 th July 2018	Finance and Budget
Meeting 2 12 th September 2018	Dashboard Project Monitoring
Meeting 3 7 th November 2018	Dashboard Project Monitoring Hafod Copperworks (Penderyn) Project
Meeting 4 (extra) 29 th November 2018	Pre-decision Scrutiny: Swansea Central Phase 1 Update and FPR7.

4. Achievements / Impact

Letters

The Panel is still relatively new. At the end of the first year of work, the Panel wrote a letter to the Leader to reflect on some of the observations they had made and then again after the November meeting. The following are the main points which came out of those letters:

- It is important for the Cabinet and services to engage with Scrutiny to ensure there is transparency and sufficient input from Councillors in relation to the development and regeneration of Swansea.*
- The Panel do have ongoing concerns around the affordability of the City Deal projects, especially as the Council are borrowing upfront to fund the development with the City Deal money being allocated over 15 years in instalments. This places a financial pressure on the Council.*

3. *The Panel felt that a new performance space in Swansea could overshadow The Grand Theatre and take away its ability to host larger performers and therefore make money.*
4. *The Panel is pleased to hear that green infrastructure will form part of the developments ensuring green spaces and interconnectivity of biodiversity are a priority in line with the relevant legislation.*
5. *The Panel are still concerned that there seems to be a substantial delay in signing off the business case and would have expected this to be confirmed by now.*

5. The 'Dashboard' Project Update

As a way of providing a regular 'health check' of development projects, the Panel is now being provided with a 'dashboard' style update report at each meeting to support regular monitoring.. This allows a run through from relevant officers of all of the regeneration projects and provides a quick risk check of each one, highlighting major issues/delays or successes.

This report works well and allows the Panel to ask questions without creating a new report for the department to develop.

6. Special Project Update

In order to also provide an in-depth level of scrutiny for the Panel, the second part of each meeting focuses on a specific project in Swansea. The Panel discussed and decided on the topics for the year which range from student accommodation to the Hafod Copperworks. This allows for a more intense exploration of a project and strikes the balance between checking progress of development and regeneration in general and contributing in a more detailed manner on a specific project.

7. Future Work Programme

The programme for the remainder of this municipal year is as follows:

Meeting 4 9 th January 2019 Committee Room 5	Dashboard Project Monitoring
	Planning and Student Accommodation
Meeting 5 28 th February 2019 Committee Room 5	Dashboard Project Monitoring
	Skyline Project
Meeting 6 10 th April 2019 Committee Room 5	Dashboard Project Monitoring
	Enterprise Zones and Business Parks

8. Action for the Scrutiny Programme Committee – None.