



Council – 24 January 2019

Councillors' Questions

Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p>Cllrs Will Thomas, Myles Langstone, Lyndon Jones & Brigitte Rowlands</p> <p>How much did Primary and secondary schools in Swansea spent on supply teachers in the last academic year of 2017/18? How much of this was agency. Could this also be broken down school by school please.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills</p> <p>Schools currently have their own delegated bank accounts and only need to provide high level financial information to the council, so we do not hold this level of detail. Schools have the autonomy to use any supply company as long as relevant checks have been made.</p>
2	<p>Cllrs Jeff Jones, Chris Holley & Peter Black</p> <p>Because of the delays in signing the business case for the City Deal are there any financial penalties due and if so are there contingencies in place to offset these penalties.</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>No, there will be no financial penalties due.</p>
3	<p>Cllrs Mary Jones, Jeff Jones & Wendy Fitzgerald</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member confirm the reasons behind the withdrawal of the wood skips at both Clyne and Garngoch and has the environmental impact been considered.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>The wood skip has been withdrawn from Clyne HWRC due to recent changes in the recording of wood recycling, changes in the wood recycling market, and uncertainty in wood classification by the regulatory bodies going forward. Wood has been diverted to the Llansamlet HWRC where there are facilities and capacity to separate different grades of wood brought in, and to react to any further changes required. This will improve the practicality and efficiency of wood disposal, reducing the impact of any changes in the classification of waste wood on our recycling and financial performance.</p>

	<p>The diversion of waste wood from Garngoch, and other HWRCs has yet to be confirmed, although the reasoning would be the same as for Clyne HWRC. It is not considered that there would be any adverse environmental impact as increased car mileage would be offset by reduced skip lorry mileage and reduced wood waste through increased re-use of wood.</p>
4	<p>Cllrs Will Thomas, Myles Langstone, Lyndon Jones & Brigitte Rowlands</p> <p>Has the council any plans to use 'Google for education' in the future.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills</p> <p>Google <i>for</i> Education (GfE) is a set of online software applications, offering similar productivity to the Office 365 apps but specifically designed and packaged for the educator community.</p> <p>Hwb will be the main educational platform offered to the schools through the <i>IT Strategy for Education</i>. Office 365/Hwb are free of charge and available to all schools in Wales as of April 2018. GfE will provide further IT tools to schools. Schools, with guidance if necessary, will make a whole school strategic decision on which platform suits their needs best to ensure collaborative working takes place across the school. These additional tools could cause a little uncertainty at first, with further training and support needed by school staff.</p> <p>A few Swansea schools that have already taken the route of using GfE and have been offered a service to transfer their own accounts/tenancy to the Hwb platform affording further security, transition opportunities and peace of mind.</p> <p>Adding GfE to the tool set already available in Hwb will be advantageous to schools that have not yet looked at the potential that GfE offers. It will be a good opportunity for them to explore the tools that it provides and make further decisions on what suits their school best.</p> <p>Applications within GfE include:</p> <p>Google Docs, Sheets and Slides: Share documents, spreadsheets, and presentations, allowing collaboration in real-time with a team or whole school.</p> <p>Google Drive: Share individual files or whole folders with specific people or team, even parents or contractors, on any device, anywhere</p> <p>Google Sites: Pupils can build project sites without knowledge of website/programming code</p> <p>Google Classroom: Specifically designed for the classroom enabling educators to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and collect assignments – designed to enable teachers to create and collect assignments paperlessly. They can see who has or has not completed the work, and provide direct, real-time feedback to individual students. • Class communications - Teachers can make announcements, ask questions, and comment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File organisation - Classroom automatically creates Drive folders for each assignment and for each student.
5	<p>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Gareth Sullivan & Susan Jones</p> <p>The Labour Party in their Manifesto for the 2017 local elections promised the reinstatement of the black bag facility at Garngoch. After its reinstatement an announcement has informed residents that this facility is being removed yet again. What exactly is Labour's policy on this.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>In 2017, the Labour Party did commit to reinstating a black bag facility at Garngoch. Prior to reinstatement, we discussed this with Local Ward Members and Officers. Some concerns were raised about the removal of some parking spaces and reduction of some skips to accommodate the black bag challenge area. Also at this time, satisfaction surveys at the site showed high levels of customer satisfaction. As a result, it was decided to reintroduce this on a trial basis to measure the impact.</p> <p>That trial period has shown that overall customer satisfaction at the site has reduced significantly, and the use of the black bag facility has been limited. This has led us to conclude that this is not good use of our scarce resources within our Waste Management Department.</p>
6	<p>Cllrs Will Thomas & Myles Langstone</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member please inform us on what activities and initiatives and being undertaken by the Council to support and grow the tourism industry in Mumbles and Gower.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism</p> <p>This council has a range of polices which support the industry across the City and County. The scope of the portfolio enables collaboration on development and marketing, resulting in the growth of the economic impact of this industry from £394M in 2014 to £417M in 2017 (source STEAM).</p> <p>Policies and Plans include the Swansea Rural Development Plan (RDP) 2014-2020 - funded through the RDP programme of the European Union and Welsh Government. It is overseen by a Local Action Group (LAG) made up from the third, public and private sectors. The programme has a development fund of £440K which is aimed at the 8 eligible rural wards of Swansea - including those on Gower. Enhancing the tourism offer is one of the three strategic aims of the Swansea RDP, which has enabled tourism-related projects that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gower Sunday Explorer - continued provision of a revised and improved bus service between Swansea and Gower on Sundays in mid and high season • Digital Marketing for Sustainable Transport in Rural Swansea - creating a first class interactive information service on more sustainable means of travel to and around rural Swansea

- Gower Community Tourism Ambassador Pilot and Feasibility Study - To coordinate, deliver and manage a pilot community tourism ambassador scheme on Gower
- Port Eynon Foreshore Feasibility Study - To coordinate, deliver and manage a pilot community tourism ambassador scheme on Gower

The Council also maintains and improves the extensive network of footpaths and bridleways on Gower, including 38 miles of the Wales Coast Path between Mumbles and Crofty. This network is a key tourism asset for the area (e.g. half (49%) of overnight visitors take part in low level walking during their stay - Swansea Bay Visitor survey, 2015).

The Council also supports sustainable tourism through the implementation of the Gower AONB management plan. For example, we are currently pursuing formal recognition for Gower as a 'Dark Sky Community' - this includes a business engagement programme to ensure that rural businesses (particularly tourism-related) are aware of the 'Dark Sky' concept and its potential business benefits/opportunities; businesses are actively participating in - and supporting the designation.

Strategically, the **Destination Management Plan**

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/dmp> is our overarching Plan for the destination overall, which together with Visit Wales and the private sector, assists us in coordinating and delivering the aspirations of stakeholders and management of our natural and built assets to support the industry. This is overseen by a steering group with stakeholder representation and is reviewed annually. A number of successful initiatives have been secured both by the Council and the private sector, thanks to us ensuring funding opportunities and our priorities are aligned. This is critical as Tourism projects requesting funding support from Welsh Government will only be considered / supported if they are referenced within the DMP. There have been numerous projects across Mumbles and Gower that have received such support and details can be provided on request.

A recent example is that we have secured funding from Welsh Govt. to introduce a "Changing places" facility at Caswell Bay. This came about as a result of significant cooperation from tourism stakeholders across Mumbles & Gower and will bring a much needed accessible changing facility to a popular Gower beach.

Our success is due to our policy to retain Tourism development and marketing within the Authority, committed to working with the private sector on **Destination Marketing**. We work with approximately 150 private sector partners, who feature as part of our annual campaigns – many of whom are based in Mumbles & Gower.

The Team develop long-term strategic marketing campaigns and are considered a leading service in Wales, collaborating with Visit Wales to deliver national and international campaigns to drive up Tourism. Last year, this was termed Year of the Sea, and for 2019, we are prepared for the Year of Discovery, with marketing material and key messages at the ready for launching Swansea, Mumbles and Gower as a destination for a short break or holiday.

	<p>Our marketing strategy is focussed on increasing our digital presence and reach, using www.visitswanseabay.com, social media and e-marketing activity, where we again work with the private sector to promote their product/s. We have a significant following on social media, where we showcase businesses from Mumbles and Gower.</p> <p>A significant part of our destination marketing is the delivery of our annual major events programme which benefits the wider economy as well as other events which take place directly within communities e.g. Outdoor Theatre at Oystermouth Castle, Mumbles Duathlon etc. In total, the destination welcomed 4.6M visitors in 2017.</p> <p>This is supported by our ability to attract and host PR visits from major newspapers, lifestyle magazines, bloggers, vloggers and we receive excellent support from partners in hosting visits across Swansea, Mumbles and Gower. 14 businesses across Mumbles and Gower also help us provide Visitor Information Points (VIP's). By way of reciprocal support, we in turn, help promote them to visitors as a place to obtain information on things to do and places to visit. https://www.visitswanseabay.com/visitor-information-points/</p>
7	<p>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Gareth Sullivan & Mary Jones</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member consider giving better publicity to the nappy collection service provided by the Council. Can he confirm that nappies are recycled if collected through this service.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>The Council does not have a domestic nappy collection service. The Council does operate an Exemption service to the 3 black bag limit for those households which produce more than 3 bags of non-recyclables waste a fortnight, and as the vast majority of exemptions are due to nappies, those exemptions are collected separately for recycling through an extension of the Councils adult Absorbent Hygiene Products collections.</p> <p>The Council also offers a separate commercial nappy collection service for nurseries, and has installed nappy containers at all Household Waste Recycling Centres.</p> <p>The provision of a Council wide separate collection service for all households with nappies, not just those which qualify for an exemption, is considered totally unaffordable. A similar sized council estimates it's collection cost for all households with nappies to be in the region of £500K per year.</p>
8	<p>Cllrs Will Thomas & Myles Langstone</p> <p>Is the City and County of Swansea the landowner of all of Bracelet Common (CL3) as stated in the Commons Register.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Delivery</p> <p>Yes, Swansea Council is the landowner of all of Bracelet Common.</p>
9	<p>Cllrs Will Thomas & Myles Langstone</p>

How and when was the AONB boundary in the Mumbles Pier area determined and is the current line in this area considered to be the legal AONB boundary.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Delivery

The designation of the Gower AONB was made by Order under the provisions of the 1949 National Parks and Countryside Act (1949 Act); Section 87 (1) of which states that:

'The [National Parks] Commission may by order made as respects any area in England or Wales.....designate the area for the purposes of this Act as an area of outstanding natural beauty; and references in this Act to such an area shall be construed as references to an area designated under this section.'

This Order and accompanying Order Map are cited as 'The Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Designation) Order, 1956' and are dated 9 May 1956. The Order covered the whole of the AONB boundary including the Mumbles Pier area.

However, the Order could not come into effect on this date, because of Section 87 (3) of the 1949 Act, which states that:

'An order.....shall not come into operation unless and until submitted to and confirmed by the Minister, and in submitting any such order to the Minister the Commission shall forward to him any observations made by a local authority consulted

That consultation was made under the requirements of Section 87 (2) of the 1949 Act. Therefore although the Order was made 9 May 1956, it did not come into effect at that time. From the recorded correspondence, it is clear that the Commission and relevant local authorities had discussions regarding the final boundary and that those consultations were forwarded to the Minister.

Section 87 (4) of the 1949 Act states that:

'The Minister may confirm an order submitted to him under this section either as submitted or with such modifications as he thinks expedient'

In this context – the Order and Order Map are confirmed by the signature and seal of the relevant Minister and dated 10 December 1956 – with modifications and exclusions shown on the Order. This was therefore the date that the Order came into effect.

NRW have confirmed that the map published with the Designation Order is the formal legal boundary. Questions have been raised about the accuracy of updating mapping from paper to digital or updating of digital boundaries to new basemaps, however this does not represent a legal change as no boundary variations have been made, it is merely the transfer of data from paper to digital media. Furthermore, NRW advise that any change to the existing boundary would require a boundary Variation Order to have been submitted by them or a predecessor organisation under s82 Part IV Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to the relevant Welsh Government Minister. No such boundary Variation Orders have been submitted and the original boundary remains unchanged since the Designation Order was confirmed on 10th December 1956.

	<p>The AONB boundary as shown on the UDP Proposals Map and the LDP Constraints Map are considered to accurately interpret the line as shown on the Order Map. However only the original Dec 1956 Order and Order Map can be regarded as the legal AONB boundary and this is held by NRW in their Bangor office. The Council's Certified True Copy is available to the public at the West Glamorgan Archives in Swansea Civic Centre.</p>
	<p>Part B – No Supplementaries</p>
10	<p>Cllrs Mary Jones, Peter Black & Chris Holley</p> <p>In view of the downtime we have experienced over the last 6 months with IT issues will the Cabinet Member inform Council what impact has been on staff and Councillors and likewise what impact has it had on the public with the complete breakdown of the telephone service. What has been done to finally resolve these issues</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation & Performance</p> <p>During the past six months there were three major outages that were dealt with by Digital Services. The first two were telephony issues, occurring at the same time but unrelated to each other. The third issue was an intermittent email outage due to the Council operating a hybrid environment, with some staff still on the 'old' system and agile workers on the new Office 365 platform. In the first and third cases, the answer is to accelerate migration and decommission the older systems. Office 365 migration will be completed before the end of January through a series of bulk migrations, the telephony migration is aiming to complete in the first quarter of 2019.</p> <p>During the telephony issues staff had to interact with each other and the public using the new digitally enabled solutions, e.g. website, skype and mobile. This saw productivity, in some areas, increase by 25% and highlighted to service areas the importance of digitally transforming their service.</p> <p>Digital services have worked hard to increase resilience of systems across the board over the past three years, and this is a constant focus for teams. The Council's IT infrastructure is the most resilient it has ever been, and with the migration of more systems to cloud, investment in resilient internet connections, and the growing ability for staff to work from any location, this will continue to improve.</p>
11	<p>Cllrs Mary Jones, Jeff Jones & Susan Jones</p> <p>Can the Leader/ Cabinet member confirm if there are any plans to reinstate on street disabled parking on The Kingsway.</p>

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management

During the public consultation on the Kingsway Project (which includes The Kingsway, De la Beche Street, Mansel Street, Newton Street, Alexandra Road, Pleasant Street, Craddock Street, Belle Vue Way, Union Street, Portland Street, Grove Place) traders wished to have any parking on The Kingsway dedicated for loading, with side streets having some disabled parking.

Disabled car parking will be provided on the following streets:

Belle Vue Way (4);
Orchard street (2);
Craddock Street (3);
Alexandra Road (12).

There will be loading provision on most streets, however with the majority of these will include provision for shared-use limited-waiting for all motorists, including blue badge holders.

The dedicated blue badge disabled car park at Park Street will remain and access will be improved by the introduction of 2 way traffic on The Kingsway, with the scheme designed to enable better access for all.

In addition, there are numerous off-street car parks, with adequate disabled parking spaces, in close proximity to Kingsway.