

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2014-2015

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **18 May 2015**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City and County of Swansea.

Councillor: Mark Thomas	Electoral Division: Penclawdd
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Cabinet / Executive Portfolio:	Environment & Transportation
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Section 1: Constituency activities

During the 2014-2015 municipal year I held monthly surgeries shared between Penclawdd and Llanmorlais. I represented views and concerns of residents affected by the new flood defences and liaised with NRW to try to get them resolved.

I continued to work with the owners and future developers of the Railway Inn to restore the building as a restaurant / public house.

I had sheep wire installed around both playing fields at Craig-y-Coed to prevent sheep spoiling the playing surfaces.

I continually dealt with everyday issues that concern constituents, such as pot holes, street lights, hedge and grass cutting, etc. Due to popular demand I had ever more wild flowers planted.

Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance at Council body meetings is only one of the important elements of a Councillor's duties. Councillors are also active by holding surgeries, attending meetings and dealing with general electoral division enquiries.

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below:

Area 2 Development Control Committee	6	/	8	75	%
Cabinet	10	/	11	91	%
Council	16	/	17	94	%
Development Management & Control Committee	6	/	7	86	%
Pension Fund Committee	5	/	6	83	%
Scrutiny Programme Committee	5	/	8	63	%
Trustees Panel	1	/	3	33	%
OVERALL	49	/	60	82	%
Scrutiny Meetings:					
Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel	1	/	4	25	%
OVERALL	1	/	4	25	%

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Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

During the year I was appointed Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation. This role covers a vast area of the Council from Highways to buses, the Marina, Footpaths, Hedges, Grass cutting, public toilets, etc.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Many of my special activities and initiatives have centred around my new role as Cabinet Member, for example through the Budget process I was involved in the Consultation process with Colleagues, Officers, Staff and Members of the Public. Through this process I attended some Public events where we talked and listened to the views of the Public. This helped to form the proposals that finally went before Council to be agreed upon.

I also looked at reviews of services within my Portfolio so that they were able to meet the challenges of reducing budgets whilst still delivering the services that the residents of Swansea rely on.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training sessions:

09/12/2014 - Defamation

23/10/2014 - Safeguarding

14/08/2014 - How to get the most out of your tablet / smart phone

04/08/2014 - Public Engagement

03/07/2014 - Freedom of Information Training

03/07/2014 - Data Protection (Including role as Data Controller) Training

Being appointed as the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation has required a huge amount of time and learning. My time as a Councillor has helped me greatly.

My background as a Union representative has also helped me hugely.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

My new role as Cabinet Member has helped me have a greater understanding of the Council on a County-wide basis, which has been a good learning curve.

I still remain first and foremost the Councillor for the Penclawdd ward and for my constituents, it is business as usual. I continue to be available to address any issues raised by anyone.

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Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Basic Salary: £13,300 (up to 16 September 2014)

Senior Salary: £32,000 Cabinet Member – Environment & Transportation (From 17 September 2014)

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=0>

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=0>

Date:	03.06.15
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