

**Council – 28 February 2019**

## **Councillors' Questions**

### **Part A – Supplementaries**

1	<p><b>Cllrs Kevin Griffiths, Wendy Fitzgerald &amp; Mary Jones</b></p> <p>Will the Labour Administration be honouring their pledge to put a 3G pitch in Pontarddulais considering the fact that Swansea City Football Club are no longer in the Premier League.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>During the first phase of the strategy for sport facilities in Swansea, two new full sized 3G pitches were provided in Morrision Leisure Centre and Penyrheol Leisure Centre. I am pleased to report that both facilities have operated extremely successfully since opening in July 2017. The facility in Penyrheol in particular was considered a regional venue for the North West of Swansea and the usage suggests that this has indeed been the case. I can also confirm that four major sports clubs from Pontarddulais have made regular use of the Penyrheol site since its opening, including senior, junior and women's teams, with 9-12 hours of usage per week from these.</p> <p>Given this information, our present view is that the demand for such facilities in this particular part of Swansea has been met and given the ongoing revenue obligations for such a facility, believe that a stand-alone facility within Pontarddulais would not have enough demand to be financially sustainable; a view that is shared by the All –Wales Collaboration Group. We remain open to this view changing, should demand increase to prove the business case and have no issue with you pursuing funding from various grant bodies if you wish to do so.</p>
2	<p><b>Cllrs Brigitte Rowlands, Lyndon Jones &amp; Myles Langstone</b></p> <p>I note with interest an article in the Evening Post 1st February. "P8 – Fly-tipping fines 'not a good fit' – Swansea Council has not issued any new fly-tipping fines since adopting them last year because they are not a good fit for the cases investigated".</p> <p>I personally have reported numerous incidents of fly tipping across my ward, Mawr since I was elected in May 2017. Unfortunately this is a regular occurrence in this rural location, often a daily occurrence. On many occasions names and addresses have been provided. Why is nothing being done by this local authority to prosecute these mindless individuals.</p> <p>How much is fly tipping costing this authority. Surely Swansea Council should be taking action against these criminals. It appears that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council have a far better track record on this matter, why aren't Swansea Council doing the same or better for its residents.</p>

	<p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The ability to issue £400 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for medium scale fly tipping in lieu of direct prosecution was adopted by the council in June 2018. In order to issue an FPN or proceed with a prosecution, admissible evidence of the offence and perpetrator is required.</p> <p>Whilst since June 2018, no instances of medium level fly tipping have had sufficient evidence to issue an FPN, there have been dozens of £100 FPN issued for the deposition of black bags where/when they shouldn't be, as a low level issue. Whilst these instances were not considered severe enough to warrant the £400 FPN for fly tipping, over this time period there have also been 22 prosecutions for the deposition of black bags where/when they shouldn't be, when the FPN's have not been paid.</p> <p>At the other end of the scale there have also been a couple of direct prosecutions for serious fly tipping where a £400 FPN was considered insufficient as a sanction. One of these has led to a suspended prison sentence.</p> <p>Far from doing nothing, the Council Enforcement and Cleansing Teams are working extremely hard to both take fly tippers to task, and take preventative measures to reduce future fly tipping. An effective strategy to combat fly tipping is not only about prosecutions, it is the balance of preventative and enforcement action in order the reduce incidents of fly tipping.</p>
3	<p><b>Cllrs Lyndon Jones, Myles Langstone &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>Do the Council Employ any staff on zero hours contracts and if so, how do the numbers employed compare with the last three years.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>The Council does not offer its employees Zero Hour Contracts. However it has an agreed casual/relief policy which was updated and agreed with Trade Unions back in 2015. This recognises that there may be occasions where there could be a need to offer employment on a casual/relief basis to meet a specific business need e.g. unexpected or short notice events or temporary staff shortages. However, the policy has safeguards in place as it is not appropriate to offer this type of employment on a continual basis. These types of contract should be regularly reviewed by the Manager to ensure there is still a need and this is backed up by an annual review in conjunction with HR. The full Casual/Relief policy is available on the staff intranet.</p>
4	<p><b>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Gareth Sullivan &amp; Chris Holley</b></p> <p>In regard to the proposed LDP development at Parc Mawr Farm, Penllergaer, what provision will be included in the S106 agreements to ensure that the full development and infrastructure is completed within the envisaged timescales and in accordance with the information provided by the Council to the Inspectors, in particular the Burrows Hutchinson viability assessment.</p>

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Delivery**

Given the early stage of the application, the individual elements of the s106 agreement have not been agreed with the applicant. In determining the application and drafting the s106 agreement, the Planning Authority will refer to the placemaking requirements and development principles that are set out in the relevant LDP policy as being appropriate for the site. These requirements and principles were formulated having regard to a variety of supporting evidence such as the Burrows Hutchinson viability assessment. The LDP contains policy IO1 'Supporting Infrastructure', which states that development must be supported by appropriate infrastructure, facilities and other requirements considered necessary as part of the proposal. In order to comply with the policy, and the statutory legal requirements, any obligations that are sought to be provided in a s106 agreement must be directly related to the impact of the proposed development.

**5 Cllrs Lyndon Jones, Will Thomas & Brigitte Rowlands**

The Swansea "Leader" is produced by this Council for distribution in Swansea. What is the total cost of production, including total staff costs involved, printing and distribution costs throughout the area. These costs are obviously off-set by revenue made from advertising. If you deduct advertising income from sources, including departments and bodies connected to the Council, what is the profit / loss to the Council for the "Leader" for each of the last five years.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation & Performance**

The costs and savings per year are set out below.

Historically, the Swansea Leader provided regular opportunities for the Council to reach the population of Swansea in a timely and cost-effective way. However, increasingly the council is using social media and other digital platforms to inform and engage the public and the Swansea Leader has now ceased as the implementation of a previous budget proposal and the final edition was produced in November 2018.

We decided to cease producing the Swansea Leader due to a number of factors. We have corporate advertising deals with the local media that make it more cost-effective to advertise externally. Also, the growth of social media and digital communications has reduced the need to print materials so we can avoid these costs without having to publish information in the Swansea Leader. This has reduced the amount of savings generated by the Swansea Leader in recent years and we anticipate that trend would have continued.

**2014/15 – six editions**

Delivery budget: £45,000

Print budget: £32,000

Income generation: £14,265

Estimated value to the council of costs avoided: £114,831

Total saving to the Council: £52,096

	<p><b>2015/16 – six editions</b>  Delivery budget: £45,000  Print budget: £32,000  Income generation: £13,510  Estimated value to the council of costs avoided: £92,554  <u>Total saving to the Council: £28,510</u></p> <p><b>2016/17 – four editions</b>  Delivery budget: £31,500  Print budget: £19,500  Income generation: £10,817  Estimated value to the council of costs avoided: £53,426  <u>Total saving to the Council: £13,243</u></p> <p><b>2017/18 – four editions</b>  Delivery budget: £31,500  Print budget: £19,500  Income generation: £4,060  Estimated value to the council of costs avoided: £30,947  <u>Total cost to the Council: £15,993</u></p> <p><b>2018/19 – Two editions</b>  Delivery budget: £17,800  Print budget: £9,762  Income generation: £2,712  Estimated value to the council of costs avoided: £26,540  <u>Total saving to the Council: £1,690</u></p> <p><b>Total over the last five years</b>  Delivery budget: £170,800  Print budget: £112,762  Income generation: £54,672  Estimated value to the council of costs avoided: £318,298  Total saving to the council: <u>£79,546</u></p>
	<p><b>Part B – No Supplementaries</b></p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Cllrs Peter May &amp; Irene Mann</b></p> <p>Recently a brochure was circulated entitled "Ganges Field Community Development". Inside, it proposed the construction of "Energy-efficient, affordable, self-build homes" followed by a second phase of "single storey, over 55s supported living units."</p> <p>a. Was the council aware that this brochure was being circulated,</p> <p>b. Did any meetings take place between the author of the brochure and any council officer,</p> <p>c. If so what did the meetings discuss and how many meetings were there,</p>

	<p>d. Was the cabinet member aware of or present at any of these meetings if they took place,</p> <p>e. Do the council have any plans to try and dispose of or develop property on the Ganges.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Homes &amp; Energy</b></p> <p>a. Yes, the brochure was intended to form part of the public consultation exercise to gauge the views of local residents, to support the proposal or otherwise.</p> <p>b. Yes</p> <p>c. Two meetings were held. They formed part of wider discussions around the Council's emerging policy of supporting Co-operative Housing and liaising with grass roots organisations to enable the delivery of the policy as developed by PDC and since approved by Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> January. As would be the case if any other organisations would wish to discuss potential opportunities.</p> <p>d. I was not aware or present at these meetings, however, I was aware of the proposal and the local consultation which was undertaken.</p> <p>e. To reiterate the statements made at the public consultation meeting on the 25th January, there is no commitment from the Council to support this proposal. However, all Council assets will continue to be under consideration for future development or disposal, to try and counteract the impacts of austerity on the Council budget.</p>
7	<p><b>Cllrs Mike Day, Jeff Jones &amp; Cheryl Philpott</b></p> <p>Can the relevant Cabinet Member give Council a list of all organisations that have used Council controlled channels of communication during 2017/8 and separately to date for 2018/9 to advertise their products and services. The information should be broken down by channel, that is,</p> <p>a. Advertising on roundabouts and other council owned land</p> <p>b. on the Council's website</p> <p>c. In Council publications</p> <p>d. On Council vehicles</p> <p>and</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member inform Council how much money has been raised through such revenue streams during those periods and what the budget figure is likely to be for 2019/20.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Delivery</b></p> <p>Please find attach a list of organisations that have advertised their products and services on our Council platforms in 2018/18 and 2018/19. This has generated in the region of 17/18 = £185,000 and 18/19 £206,000. We are projecting an increase of approximately £10,000 for 19/20.</p> <p>Please note the data captures income except gained from the sponsorship of events, bus shelters and billboards.</p>

8	<p><b>Cllrs Mary Jones, Jeff Jones &amp; Chris Holley</b></p> <p>Will the Leader/Cabinet Member tell Council what are the total capital receipts received from the sale of assets over the past 2 years.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Business Transformation &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>2016/17 £3,772,390</p> <p>2017/18 £5,145,200</p>
9	<p><b>Cllrs Jeff Jones, Chris Holley &amp; Cheryl Philpott</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member give a breakdown of receipts from Singleton Park Events over the last 12 months and from any lease agreements in the park over this period.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>The revenue generated from Event hire fees in Singleton Park from the 1st April to the 7th February was £3,379. This was as a result of 8 diverse activities ranging from Cycling and Cross Country to a small circus, funfair and charity events. An advance bond is also required and which is then utilised, if necessary, to meet any reparation costs within the park as a result of the event taking place. This excludes some events, such as the Biggest Weekend, which was jointly hosted by CCS and Visit Wales, with all income going to BBC. Other large music events, of which there were none during the last year, are a combination of hire and a share of gate receipts, with some also including a service fee for event management. The format of which is negotiated on a case by case, commercial basis, with individual promoters and decisions made based on the best return for the Authority, as well as regional/ national profile.</p>
10	<p><b>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Mary Jones &amp; Kevin Griffiths</b></p> <p>The Cabinet Member has recently praised the tree planting taking place in the centre of Swansea as contributing to the greening of the city. If trees are now regarded as such valuable assets for the City could he explain why so many of them have been felled on the Civic Office site in Penllergaer, formerly owned by the Council, and a part of the Grade 2 Historic Landscape, Park and Gardens.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The impact upon trees on the site was fully considered as part of the determination of planning application Ref. 2017/0986/FUL for the erection of 80 dwellings at the form Civic Centre Site, Penllergaer, and this issue was addressed clearly in the report which was considered by Planning Committee Members prior to the decision being made on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. It should also be recognised that prior to planning permission being granted the application was</p>

also referred to Welsh Government who determined not to call in the application.

In this respect the Civic Centre site is considered to be previously developed land as defined within Planning Policy Wales and was proposed in the Emerging Local Development Plan as a residential site with a capacity for 80 dwellings. On the issue of trees the application was supported by an Arboricultural Report and significant emphasis was placed on maintaining the setting and the preservation of the higher quality trees on site whilst providing a balance in order to facilitate a sustainable and viable development.

Many of the removed trees were planted in the 1980s when the site was redeveloped as a Civic Centre or had only grown since woodland/ground clearance occurred at the time and on this basis it was considered that through suitable compensatory tree planting this loss could be offset to an acceptable degree. It should also be noted that the development retains a high proportion of the heritage trees that made up part of the former Penllergaer Estate and a large amenity meadow area which will provide the required space around the higher value heritage trees to ensure their future health is protected whilst providing a high amenity area to the development. Further to the above and specifically in respect of Root Protection Areas, with the installation of permanent no dig ground protection, no significant long term adverse impact is anticipated to the retained tree root systems or associated soil structure. The impact on the trees was considered acceptable within this context.

Please note that this response relates to the authorised tree felling that has taken place within the application site as considered as part of the application, it does not refer to the subsequent unauthorised works that took place outside the site boundary and which is currently subject to investigation.