



## Report of the Convener

### Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel

## Annual Review of Work

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| <b>Purpose:</b>                          | As the municipal year comes to an end it is good practice to reflect on the Panel's work, experience, and effectiveness.  |
| <b>Content:</b>                          | A summary of the year's activities and achievements is provided.  |
| <b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect on the year's work; and</li><li>• Share ideas to improve the effectiveness of Development and Regeneration scrutiny</li></ul> |
| <b>Lead Councillor:</b>                  | Councillor Jeff Jones<br>Convener of the Development and Regeneration Performance Panel.  |
| <b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author:</b> | Bethan Hopkins - Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01792 636292<br>E-mail: Bethan.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk  |

### 1. Background

1.1 As this is the final meeting of this municipal year the Panel is invited to reflect on the year's scrutiny work, experience and effectiveness. Any ideas that will improve the effectiveness of the scrutiny of the Development and Regeneration Panels work are welcome.

1.2 To help panel members a summary of the year's work is attached.

1.3 Some of the questions the Panel may want to consider:

- What went well?
- What did not go so well?
- Has the Panel's work focused on the right things?
- What have we learnt that will help us with future scrutiny?

## **2. Overview**

- 2.1 The Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel was established in 2017 to monitor development which is taking place in Swansea. It is intended to take a 'health check' of the regeneration projects and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member as appropriate.
- 2.2 The Panel has a core membership of 15.

## **3. Remit of the Panel**

- 3.1 The Panel will 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 initial discussion about progress on the Swansea Bay City Deal.
- 3.2 The Panel can request relevant performance reports and information that will help it to assess progress and implementation of agreed development and regeneration plans and relevant service improvement plans.
- 3.3 On behalf of the Panel, the convener will write to the relevant Cabinet Member raising issues of concern, comments and recommendations for response as appropriate following Panel meetings. This will facilitate the ongoing performance conversation with cabinet members.

## **4. Supporting Data**

- Number of Panel meetings = 9
- Number of Conveners letters = 7

## **5. Future Work Programme**

- 5.1 The future work programme will continue to monitor the dashboard report and receive updates. Much of this will focus on the City Centre regeneration.
- 5.2 It will also link in with departmental work plans to ensure the Panel are scrutinising activity which is timely and relevant. This may include projects across Swansea and complimentary work such as transport projects, digital projects and general development.

Appended:

- Completed Work Plan 2018-2019
- Panel Update for Scrutiny Programme Committee November 2018

**Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel**  
**Work Plan 2018/19**

| Date  | Agenda  |
|---|---|
| <p><b><u>Meeting 1</u></b></p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 1pm<br/>Committee Room 3B</p> | <p><b>Finance and Budget Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Smith - Head of Financial Services &amp; Service Centre</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b><u>Meeting 2</u></b></p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> September 2018<br/>Committee Room 5</p> | <p><b>Dashboard Project Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b><u>Meeting 3</u></b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> November 2018<br/>Committee Room 5</p>   | <p><b>Dashboard Project Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul>  |
|   | <p><b>Penderyn – An Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Relf - Economic Development and External Funding Manager</li> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> <li>•</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b><u>Special</u></b></p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> November<br/>Committee Room 5</p>         | <p><b>Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Swansea Central Phase 1 and FPR7 Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Rob Stewart</li> <li>• Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>• Ben Smith – Head of Financial Services and Service Centre</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><u>Meeting 4</u></b></p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> January 2019<br/>Committee Room 5</p>    | <p><b>Dashboard Project Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul>  |
|   | <p><b>Planning and Student Accommodation</b></p>  |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Meller - Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager</li> <li>• Ryan Thomas - Development Conservation and Design Manager</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b><u>Special</u></b></p> <p>Budget Meeting<br/>11<sup>th</sup> February 2019<br/>Guildhall Council Chamber</p> | <p><b>Budget Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel to discuss their thoughts on the 2018/19 budget relating to Development and Regeneration matters.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b><u>Meeting 5</u></b></p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> March 2019<br/>Committee Room 5</p>                              | <p><b>Dashboard Project Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul>  |
|  | <p><b>The Arena (Phase 1)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Rob Stewart – Cabinet Member for Economy and Strategy</li> <li>• Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><u>Meeting 6</u></b></p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> April 2019<br/>Committee Room 3A</p>                             | <p><b>Dashboard Project Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phil Holmes – Head of Planning and City Regeneration</li> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul>  |
|  | <p><b>Business Case Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Strategic Manager</li> </ul>  |

**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 3 meetings between May 2018 and November 2018. These meetings included a financial update from the Section 151 Officer, two dashboard project update sessions and a special item on the Hafod Copperworks (Penderyn) project. This has resulted in 2 Convener's letters being sent to the Cabinet Member. The issues covered/to be covered are as follows:

**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 update. The following are the main points which came out of those letters;

- 1. 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.*
- 2. 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 that regular 'health check' of the development projects, the Panel asked for the departmental update report to be made available to them at each meeting. 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 that 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.