

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: Andrea Lewis	Electoral Division: Morriston
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Senior Salary Position:	Chair of Communities Cabinet Advisory Committee (previously called People Advisory Committee)
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Section 1: Constituency activities

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) – aka “Legal Highs”

As you know over the past 18 months we have experienced problems in Swansea regarding the supply of NPS to our young, vulnerable people causing issues of anti-social behaviour and serious concerns for their health and safety.

This past year I have been extremely proactive in my role as a Councillor in trying to tackle the menace of NPS.

I played a significant role in constructing the Notice of Motion to Council in November 2014 calling upon Central Government to introduce a blanket ban to prevent the sale and distribution of these very dangerous substances. We were the first Local Authority in the UK to do so. The Notice of Motion also highlighted our concerns as a Local Authority to Welsh Government regarding the detrimental impact of these toxic products.

I have worked closely with South Wales Police and our Trading Standards Team in the Local Authority to look at ways of limiting the accessibility of NPS.

I gave evidence, at the Senedd in Cardiff, to the Welsh Government (WG) Health and Social Care Committee, and attended the launch of the WG Report which gave 14 recommendations, regarding tackling the issues of NPS. These recommendations were focussed around providing better awareness through Education and which also called on Central Government to introduce legislation to ban all New Psychoactive Active Substances as soon as possible.

I was delighted to hear the Queen's speech setting out Central Government's intention to ban all Psychoactive Substances in line with proposals which we as a Council had submitted in our Notice of Motion.

On a more local level, I met with countless local residents, families and Traders regarding the impact these substances have had on your daily lives.

I am determined that we will continue with our efforts as a Local Authority to introduce better Education and awareness of these products and tackle this issue on our High Streets. We as an Authority have no intention of waiting for legislation to catch up and we will continue to lead the way.

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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.

Appointments Committee	3	/	3	100	%
Area 1 Development Control Committee	6	/	7	86	%
Communities Cabinet Advisory Committee	3	/	3	100	%
Council	15	/	17	88	%
Democratic Services Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Development Management & Control Committee	6	/	7	86	%
General Licensing Committee	4	/	9	44	%
People Cabinet Advisory Committee	4	/	4	100	%
Planning Committee	4	/	6	67	%
Statutory Licensing Committee	1	/	3	33	%
OVERALL	49	/	63	78	%
Scrutiny Meetings					
Public Engagement Scrutiny Inquiry Panel	0	/	1	0	%
OVERALL	0	/	1	0	%

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

During the 2014-2015 municipal year I held (and at the time of writing still hold) the position of Cabinet Advisory Committee Chair for Communities, which provided support to the Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty, Councillor Will Evans and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Councillor David Hopkins. I chaired the Cabinet Advisory Committee meetings on a monthly basis.

Active member of the Planning Committee, attending meetings, training and site visits when required to do so.

Council representative of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) attending several meetings in Cardiff.

Director of Bay Leisure Ltd and member of the West Wales Valuation Tribunal.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Morrison Christmas Lights Switch On

My Ward colleagues and I worked together with the Morrison Chamber of Trade to arrange the first "Christmas Light Switch On" in Morrison which was hailed an outstanding success. I'd like to thank all those involved in making this event the success it was, with special thanks to Morrison Tabernacle for allowing us to use their premises.

Floral Displays

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My Ward colleagues and I arranged the extensive floral displays throughout the Morriston Ward and I am pleased to say this year's scheme will include wild flowers and will be even bigger and better.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training session:

19/11/2014 - Elected Members Role in Supporting & Promoting Gypsies, Roma & Travellers

In addition, I attended a Sands Conference on 12th March 2015 and a Sands Training Course on New Psychoactive Substances on 25th March 2015.

Section 6: Other activities and issues

I dealt with a high volume of ward issues on behalf of Morriston residents, including fly tipping, parking issues, housing issues and dealing with various other concerns.

I held regular Councillor Surgeries, in rotation with my Ward Colleagues, in Morriston Library. I also held surgeries in Memorial Hall, Cwmrhydyceirw, on a monthly basis.

I was and continue to be a board member for the Memorial Hall.

I attended regular PACT meetings and also several Market Street Residents Association meetings.

I attended regular meetings as a school governor for Pentre'r Graig Primary School and Morriston Primary School.

I attended several Communities First meetings including the North East Cluster Steering group and the Morriston Communities First Forum and also the meetings held for Chairs and Ward Members. I also attended the Communities First North East Cluster Celebratory Event held in March, paying tribute to local volunteers for their achievements.

I attended regular Labour Executive and Group meetings. I was and continue to be Secretary of the City & County of Swansea Labour Group.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary: £22,000 Chair of Communities Cabinet Advisory Committee (Previously called People Cabinet Advisory Committee)

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:	29.05.15
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