



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Council Chamber - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 13 January 2020 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor M H Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
L S Gibbard
E T Kirchner

Councillor(s)

M Durke
D W Helliwell
W G Lewis

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
P K Jones

Also Present

Councillor Rob Stewart Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

P M Black C A Holley

Officer(s)

Adam Hill	Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources
Kate Jones	Democratic Services Officer
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): G J Tanner and W G Thomas

Statutory Co-opted Member(s): D Anderson-Thomas and A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Members: L R Jones and J W Jones

89 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

90 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

91 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 11 November 2019 and the Minutes of the Special Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 18 November 2019 be approved and signed as a correct records.

92 Public Question Time.

There were a number of questions from a member of the public which focussed on

- 1) National Park City initiative
- 2) Swansea Bay Metro project
- 3) Relationships between Ministers and Planning Inspectors – Statutory challenges under s288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- 4) Embedding the Universal Charter of Human Rights into service delivery

The Leader and Deputy Chief Executive responded to the questions accordingly. Further information in respect of challenges under s288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 would be provided in writing, if held.

93 Cabinet Member Question Session: Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy (Councillor Rob Stewart).

The Leader presented a report on the key headlines of the Economy and Strategy Portfolio. The Deputy Chief Executive was also present to support the Question and Answer session.

Questions and discussions focussed on the following:-

- Foreshore Sites - land / potential development at Langland
- National Park City – criteria and process
- Brexit – current position and impact on the Council; concern over loss of funding and support following exit from the EU as ensuring a fair share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and certainty of funding; discussions at regional / national level; continued use and disadvantage of the five case business model and the HM Treasury Green Book; continued risk on no-deal brexit; progress on advice to employees on the EU settlement scheme
- 5G network roll out - requirements for the roll out; potential need for more masts as well as possible alternatives; benefits of 5G; current health advice in respect of 5G and ongoing monitoring; independence of International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)
- Climate Emergency – progress since the Council declaration in June 2019 and action plan
- Castle Square - update and timescales for the Castle Square Development
- Felindre Strategic Employment Site – further investment or potential for housing; desired improvement to traffic and congestion at Motorway junctions 44-47 inclusive
- Hafod Morfa Copperworks – new masterplan being prepared links with the Skyline project and leisure facility at Kilvey Hill
- Student accommodation – Mariner Street scheme and other developments in the city centre; effect on Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) numbers; reported drop in student numbers nationally

Resolved that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Leader, reflecting the discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

94 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports.

Councillor Chris Holley presented the updates for the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel (as Convener of the Panel) and the Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel (on behalf of the Convener, as a member of the Panel). He specifically highlighted the remit of each Panel and their key activities.

Resolved that the updates be noted.

95 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

The Chair presented a report on 'Membership of Scrutiny Panel and Working Groups'

Resolved that Councillor Steve Gallagher be added to the Natural Environment Performance Panel.

96 Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20.

The Chair presented the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20.

The Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well and the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management were due to attend the next Scrutiny Programme Committee on 10 February 2020.

The Chair urged Committee Members to consider topic areas ahead of the meeting.

As convener of the Tourism Scrutiny Working Group, Councillor Peter Jones referred to the report on 'Scrutiny Inquiry on Tourism Cabinet Member Responses and Action Plan' included in the agenda which outlined Cabinet's response to the Working Group's recommendations and its action plan. It was noted that not all scrutiny recommendations were agreed, mainly due to resources. The potential to follow up on progress of agreed recommendations in March was noted, as the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism would be attending for a Q & A session.

Resolved that the report be noted.

97 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair presented a report on 'Scrutiny Letters' for information.

The Scrutiny Letters report was **noted**.

98 Audit Committee Work Plan (For Information).

The Chair provided the Audit Committee Work Plan for information and noted that she was due to attend the Audit Committee on 11 February 2020 to talk about the scrutiny work programme.

The Audit Committee Work Plan was **noted**.

99 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.

The dates and times of upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings were **noted**.

The meeting ended at 5.50 pm

Chair