



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 10 February 2020

Cabinet Member Question Session

Purpose:	To enable the Committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore Cabinet Members' priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to areas of responsibility.
Content:	The following Cabinet Members will appear before the Committee to participate in a question and answer session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management b) Councillor Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters • Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the Council's Cabinet to account. The Cabinet (also known as the Executive) is made up of the Leader and other councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific portfolio responsibilities.

1.2 There are 10 Cabinet portfolios:

	Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member
1	Economy & Strategy (Leader of the Council)	Cllr Rob Stewart

2	Delivery & Performance (Joint-Interim Deputy Leader)	Cllr David Hopkins
3	Homes, Energy & Service Transformation (Joint-Interim Deputy Leader)	Cllr Andrea Lewis
4	Better Communities	Cllr Alyson Pugh (People – Lead) Cllr Andrew Stevens (Place – Lead)
5	Care, Health & Ageing Well	Cllr Mark Child
6	Children Services	Cllr Elliott King (Early Years - Lead) Cllr Sam Pritchard (Young People – Lead)
7	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Cllr Jennifer Raynor
8	Environment & Infrastructure Management	Cllr Mark Thomas
9	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
10	Resilience & Strategic Collaboration	Cllr Clive Lloyd

NOTE:

- All Cabinet Members have responsibility for Lead Elements of Sustainable Swansea & Poverty Reduction
- Better Communities and Children Services Portfolios operate under a job share system with two named Councillors sharing the workload, split into 2 specialist knowledge areas, however, formally they remain as one cabinet portfolio. Each individual holds office for a rolling 3 month period and during that time assume responsibility for the overall portfolio. However, the workload in gathering information and learning will be shared.

1.3 By acting as a ‘critical friend’ scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the Cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.

1.4 Cabinet Member Question Sessions have become a main feature of Committee meetings. At least one cabinet member is scheduled to appear at each monthly Committee meeting, ensuring all Cabinet Members appear before the Committee over the course of a year, in order to ask questions on their work. Questions will focus on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

2. Cabinet Member Question Session

2.1 The following Cabinet Members will appear before the Committee:

- a) Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management
- b) Councillor Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well

2.2 The Cabinet portfolio responsibilities are set out below:

Environment & Infrastructure Management (Cllr Mark Thomas)	Care, Health & Ageing Well (Cllr Mark Child)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Defence, Marina, Foreshore & Beach Maintenance • Cycleways • Environmental Health • Estates Maintenance Management (non HRA) • Fleet Renewal & Maintenance • Fly Tipping Task Force • Highways & Engineering • Infrastructure Repairs & Maintenance • Parking Policy & Control • Parks & Cleansing • Pothole Task Force • Public Protection • Public Transport • Regional Collaborations for Transport, Highways & Waste • Regional Transport Policy • Streetscene • Trading Standards • Waste Management & Recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to Promote Independence & Aging Well • Adult Social Services Modernisation • Assessment / Care Management • Elderly Care • Healthy City Partnership • Integration of Health & Social Care • Joint Equipment • Leader's Representative on West Glamorgan RPB • Learning Disability • Local Area Coordination Implementation - Lead • Mental Health • Physical & Sensory Impairments • Safeguarding • Supporting People • Wellbeing

3. Approach to Questions

3.1 At each Cabinet Member Question Session the Committee will generally ask Cabinet Members about:

- relevant priorities / objectives (e.g. policy commitments), notable activities and achievements, improvement / impact made, and service user / public engagement.
- what they hope to achieve over the coming months and challenges, including any key decisions they plan take to Cabinet over the next year.
- reflections on their engagement with scrutiny and whether there is any issue relevant to their portfolio that they would suggest for

scrutiny, not otherwise covered in the work programme – to ensure scrutiny activity is aligned to priorities and focussed on the right things.

3.2 In terms of themes that cut across all cabinet portfolios, the Committee is interested in asking Cabinet Members about:

- Well-being of Future Generations Act – impact on their work / decisions e.g. what they are doing to achieve the well-being goals and ways of working, e.g. focus on long-term thinking, collaboration / involvement etc.; any regional / collaborative working relevant to their portfolio responsibilities.
- Public Services Board (PSB) – their relationship with the work of the PSB; how the PSB impacts on their portfolio and how it is making a difference etc.
- Poverty Reduction – their contribution to the commitment to tackle poverty.
- Sustainable Swansea – their contribution to the transformation programme.

3.3 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee. The Cabinet Member has provided a report on 'headlines' in relation to the portfolio to help the Committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact - see **Appendices 1 and 2**.

3.4 Amongst key themes / questions from the Committee is the intention to ask about Highways & Engineering - the delivery of members highway schemes (for Cllr. Thomas).

3.5 With reference to agreed Scrutiny Improvement Objectives the Committee should ensure the Q & A Session also enables it to:

- Follow up, where necessary, on progress with relevant Scrutiny Working Group recommendations to assess impact / outcomes
- Raise any outstanding actions in respect of any other scrutiny activities / recommendations.
- Ask about future key decisions so the Committee can identify any issues which they may want to discuss at an earlier stage than cabinet reporting.
- Encourage Cabinet Members to consider reporting to scrutiny / consulting on significant issues and planned decisions at an early stage to enable views of scrutiny to be taken.

3.6 Following each session the chair will write to Cabinet Members in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for them to consider.

- 3.7 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during the Q & A session then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

4. Previous Scrutiny

- 4.1 The correspondence with Cllrs. Mark Thomas & Mark Child following last year's Q & A session is **attached**. Taking account there have been portfolio changes since last year, the following issues still relevant to the current portfolio were discussed, and Committee Members may wish to follow up:

Cllr Mark Thomas	Cllr Mark Child
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Collection • Fly Tipping • Environmental Health • Highways & Infrastructure • Burials & Cremations • Countryside Access • Marina, Foreshore and Beach Maintenance • Nuclear Waste Disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Bay Health & Social Care Programme (<i>now called West Glamorgan Regional Partnership</i>) • Public Services Board • Funding for Health & Social Care • Local Area Coordination

- 4.2 Members may also wish to follow up, as necessary, on the Cabinet Member's engagement with relevant Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups over the past year.

Councillor Mark Thomas:

Performance Panels:

- Development & Regeneration Performance Panel (Transport – Aug 2019)
- Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel (Recycling & Landfill Annual Report – Nov 2019)
- Natural Environment Performance Panel
 - Gull Nuisance (Nov 2019)
 - Weed Management (Dec 2019)
 - Air Pollution Control (Dec 2019)

Working Groups:

- Environmental Enforcement Working Group (Feb 2019)

The Working Group, convened by Councillor Jeff Jones, met on 5 February to look at what is being done in relation to the enforcement / prevention of environmental issues such as fly

tipping, dog fouling, litter, pavement parking and branches and undergrowth overhanging public footpaths and highways etc.

As a result of this scrutiny the Cabinet Member confirmed the action(s) that will be taken, including the following:

- The Authority will seek to promote the estimated cost of fly tipping to the public
- The fact that dog fouling can be disposed of in own black bags at home will be added to the website and include in future street cleansing campaigns
- They will continue to publicise fly tipping prosecutions and highlight successes
- Tender documentation for the current enforcement contract will be provided to the Working Group as this would provide the starting point for any replacement contract.
- Cabinet Member will send a letter to the Post Office about dropping elastic bands on pavements
- Cabinet Member is happy to consider any change of emphasis put forward by the Working Group i.e. to strengthen the enforcement of dog fouling, but would also ask for help in determining lower priority areas.
- Informed by Cabinet Member that work is currently underway, with the assistance of legal colleagues, to develop a policy for the enforcement of verge and pavement parking. However it is a challenging objective and could take a number of months to refine before seeking member approval.

- Local Flood Risk Management Working Group (Apr 2019)

The Working Group, convened by Councillor Sam Pritchard (in Councillor Peter Jones' absence), met on 4 April. This was an additional meeting to receive an update on progress made on the recommendations from the Working Group's meeting on 8 October 2018.

As a result of this scrutiny the Cabinet Member confirmed the action that will be taken, including the following:

- Providing opportunity for Working Group members to visit the natural flood risk management site in Neath Port Talbot.
- Updating scrutiny on the Green Infrastructure project.
- Improving information available by providing general advice on the Council's website to minimize effects of flooding and to promote best practice and prevention.
- Co-ordinating with National Media e.g. Wales Online, so that live updates on flooding can be made available, in addition to

Council's own social media, particularly when incidents are out of usual working hours.

- Amending flooding advice pages to reflect that Swansea Council Advice is given priority.
- Commitment to providing scrutiny with a comprehensive annual update on progress with both the Sustainable Drainage and Flood Risk Management Plan.

NB – this topic is now covered by and will be subject of annual monitoring by the Natural Environment Performance Panel

Councillor Mark Child:

- Adult Services Performance Panel - there is regular contact / correspondence with the Cabinet Member to give scrutiny views following performance monitoring activities. Over the past year the Cabinet Member has been written to about the following:
 - Performance Monitoring (Dec 2018, Mar, Sep, Nov 2019)
 - Review of Charges (Dec 2018)
 - Wales Audit Office report on Accommodation for Additional Needs / Learning Disabilities (Dec 2018)
 - Social Care Practice Framework (Jan 2019)
 - Complaints Annual Report (Mar 2019)
 - Policy Commitments for Adult Services (Mar 2019)
 - Adult Services Improvement Plan and follow up on recommendations in WAO report on commissioning of accommodation services (May 2019)
 - Update on West Glamorgan Transformation Programme Arrangements (Sep 2019)
 - Review of Final Budget Outturn (Sep 2019)
 - Care Inspectorate Wales Local Performance Review and Letter (Sep 2019)
 - Outcomes of re-procurement process - domiciliary care and respite at home (Sep 2019)
 - Supported Living Developments and Procurement Practice and Assurance (Oct 2019)
 - Commissioning of Residential Care (Nov 2019)
 - Adult Services Transformation Programme (Nov 2019)
 - Telecare and community alarms commissioning review (Dec 2019)
 - Workforce Development Plan (Dec 2019)
 - Improving Performance Data (Dec 2019)
 - Carers Assessments (Jan 2020)
 - Local Area Coordination (Jan 2020)
- Scrutiny Programme Committee – Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report (Oct 2019)

5. Future Scrutiny

- 5.1 The Committee should note that the Cabinet Members will be engaged in the following planned / future activity:

Councillor Mark Thomas:

- Natural Environment Performance Panel – Local Flood Risk Management

Councillor Mark Child:

- Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – the Cabinet Member will continue to be involved as the Panel monitors and challenges relevant service delivery, policies and performance. Specific discussion is planned on:
 - Draft Budget proposals for Adult Services
 - West Glamorgan Transformation Programme (case studies)
 - Adult Services Complaints Annual Report 2018-19
 - Staff Sickness in Adult Services
 - Update on Transformation Programme

6. Other Questions

- 6.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Session the Committee invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions. It is up to the Committee how to deal with any suggested questions within the Session.

- 6.2 On this occasion, the Committee has been requested by a councillor not on the Committee to raise the following:

- Cycleways (for Cllr. Mark Thomas) - When will the cycle route from Grovesend and Pontarddulais be started?
- Parking Policy & Control (for Cllr. Mark Thomas) - Will the council be enforcing a policy to stop pavement parking throughout our communities as it is getting out of hand?

- 6.3 The following question has been submitted by a member of the public:

- Street Lighting: Fabian Way is a major road artery into the city and the first impression many visitors coming into the city from the east will get. Hopefully, with the redevelopment of the city the number of visitors will increase. The number of pedestrians and cyclists using the mandatory pavement/cycle path has also increased dramatically since the university campus was built. Sadly, there have also been a number of road traffic accidents on this road, some including fatalities. In a recent survey, I counted almost 60% of lights were not working and as well as creating a poor first impression for visitors I believe there is a significant safety issue for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers from this poor illumination.

Will you therefore please:

1. Investigate the number of inoperative street lights on Fabian Way between the junction with Crumlin Borrows and the junction with Wind Street?

2. Review the decision to switch off alternate "columns" on this stretch of road?

6.4 Public feedback on the scrutiny work programme last May included concerns about the following topics, which the Committee could raise with the relevant Cabinet Member:

- Fires on Kilvey Hill
- Beach / Cliff Incidents

7. Next Session

7.1 The next scheduled Cabinet Member Question Session, on 9 March, is with the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism, Councillor Robert Francis-Davies. The Committee should identify specific questions / key themes, which it wishes to cover in this session. This can be discussed under Item 19 – Scrutiny Work Programme.

7.2 As usual, all scrutiny councillors and members of the public will be able to suggest questions.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Key Headlines: Environment & Infrastructure Management Portfolio

Appendix 1a: Previous Correspondence

Appendix 2: Key Headlines: Care, Health & Ageing Well

Appendix 2a: Previous Correspondence