

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Work Planning Conference – COMBINED GROUP FEEDBACK SUMMARY

(topics gaining wider support in bold)

WHAT?	WHY?	HOW?	Relevant Considerations to aid prioritisation
TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY	WHAT IS THE CONCERN / PROBLEM THAT NEEDS SOLVING?	SUGGESTED APPROACH Committee / Inquiry / Performance Panel / Working Group	e.g. significance of topic, clear concerns / focus, good use of time, timely, duplication etc.
<p>COVID-19 Council response and Recovery Plan / Transformation</p>	<p>Considered the single most important area of focus for scrutiny over the next 18 months, and should be top priority</p> <p>We need to ensure that decision-making / plans (including milestones and outcomes) are adequately challenged and monitored. Need for ongoing scrutiny discussion on how the Council is dealing with the pandemic locally, including the clarity of recovery plans.</p> <p>Specific areas of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How we worked within the Council – what has changed because of the pandemic - How we worked with partners and other organisations - Health and wellbeing of people – how we worked with vulnerable people and how the community rose to the challenge – how can we harness that for the future - How we will support leisure and hospitality industry - Support for the self-employed - Issues around potential rise in unemployment - Management of regulation enforcement – how effective have we been? - Effectiveness of local information and communications - Focus on tourism as part of this recovery plan and developing inward holiday travel to aid economic recovery and promotion of Swansea as a cultural destination - Lessons learnt that we can take forward in the short, medium and long term 	<p>Committee</p> <p>Possible future Inquiry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most significant issue facing us locally, nationally and internationally. • Corporate issue. • Public issue. • But wide-ranging issues. Committee will need to take an overview and keep a watching brief, but avoid possible duplication of scrutiny that may take place in Performance Panels • Is it the appropriate time for review and reflection whilst still being in the midst of the pandemic?
<p>Brexit</p>	<p>The prospect of a no-deal brexit looms large. We need to check the Council's preparedness for the implications of Brexit. What contingency planning has been made or is underway? Implications of no-deal locally.</p>	<p>Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially significant wide-ranging impact. • Highlighted by CMT as strategic issue / challenge. • Was subject of Scrutiny Working Group on Sep 2019, but agreed need for further meeting(s) as things develop.

Anti-Social Behaviour	<p>Perceived rise in anti-social behaviour in communities across Swansea. Specific areas that could be examined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant agencies communication and relationship with ward members - Agencies ability to work together on this issue i.e.: police, housing, council departments - Neighbourhood Support Units - How the Council and the third sector housing deal more widely with ASB in and around their properties including for example supporting those in supported housing - County lines and effects on ASB and particularly young people - Data and how trends are reported to Council including the ability of Councillors to ask questions of, for example, police data - Reporting issues, including effectiveness of 101 service 	Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted by CMT as issue for scrutiny. • Could be linked to Committee scrutiny of Crime & Disorder / Community Safety. • Previously subject of Working Group – April 2019
Procurement	<p>Inquiry could be carried over from last year.</p> <p>Importance of procurement as an element of COVID-19 recovery. Concern about balance of spending outside of the local region in pursuit of lower costs versus prioritising local investment. Are we serious about supporting local businesses to thrive after COVID-related shocks?</p>	Resumption of Inquiry? Working Group or via Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already agreed Inquiry on hold and outstanding from previous work programme.
Workforce	<p>Various issues of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staff health and wellbeing – particular with majority of staff working from home as a consequence of COVID-19, and questions around how well employees are being supported, issues around isolation, impact on team working, and staff management. - sickness absence - extent of use of agency staff across the Council, reasons (links to vacancies, sickness absence, staff turnover?), and cost implications <p>Could be a focussed look at home working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact of remote working. The positives and negatives - Impact on environment/pollution of reduced car use / travel to offices - Social effects – less mixing with colleagues - Working in office can improve practice for some departments - Reduced footfall in city centre and effect on local economy - Impact on staff health & wellbeing 	Working Group Inquiry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic issue. • Issues around workforce planning & resources have emerged from discussions at Audit Committee which chair of Audit Committee suggests for scrutiny. • Working Group on Staff Health & Well-being outstanding from previous work programme.
Partnership Working	<p>We need to monitor progress / actions on how the Council is developing partnership working / regional working. Is there effective collaboration between partners?</p> <p>Discussion on relevant COVID experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 showed need to work with other people - Is Council as a whole working better as a result of COVID-19 - Look at partnerships and how we continue this good relationship post COVID-19, especially with the Health Board 	Committee / Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate issue. • Could be linked to scrutiny of the Public Services Board • Audit Committee has been looking at overall Council partnership arrangements so need to avoid duplication, though some issues arising which merit scrutiny

Cycling	<p>Are we making the most of opportunities to embed increased cycling across the city, seen during the pandemic?</p> <p>Discussion around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are we doing enough to promote / facilitate? Could we do more as a Council? - Health and environmental benefits - Will investment pay off? Investing enormous amounts of money into improving cycling links but what if there are fairly low numbers of people using these facilities. Are there more important things we should be doing with this money? - Lack of infrastructure may be why people have not taken up cycling? - What is our policy direction on this? As use of cycle paths is to be encouraged and maintained it would be prudent to have a clear set of guidelines and standards relating to cycling / cycleways - General concerns have been raised about the road safety aspect of cycling and danger to pedestrians, including speed limits. 	Working Group / Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topical and timely given increased outside activity as a result of covid-19 • Need to check whether relevant Policy Development Committee is doing work on active travel, cycling routes etc
COVID-19 and Community Mental Health	<p>Concerns about impact during the pandemic on people's mental health and wellbeing, questions around mental health services and provision. Concerns over the isolation of elderly people and those shielding during the pandemic.</p>	Adult Services Performance Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant issue.
Homelessness	<p>Progress on new / revised Council strategy, agreed in November 2019, should be followed up.</p>	Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate issue. • Public issue.
Wales Audit Office Reports	<p>We need to ensure that scrutiny of all reports and effort is co-ordinated between the Audit Committee and Scrutiny function, and strengthen monitoring of Council action plans in response to audit recommendations. Respective chairs should discuss regularly to plan activity so that relevant reports are effectively covered and not missed.</p>	Committee / Performance Panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Committee has raised concerns about monitoring processes and needs more assurance about arrangements in place.
Following Up on Scrutiny Recommendations	<p>We need to make sure that the implementation of recommendations / agreed actions are more effectively monitored, particularly recommendations made by Working Groups, so we can assess the impact.</p>	Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny improvement objective.
Tourism	<p>Felt to be of increasing importance to the local area and economic future – are we making the most if it, given less overseas travel and Brexit on the horizon etc.</p>	Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group on aspects of tourism held in May 2019. Could follow up in order to discuss current / future activities and challenges
Domestic Abuse	<p>Concerns raised over the increase in domestic abuse and violence since the Pandemic. What support is available and what the Council can do to help.</p> <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support agencies and charities have also been affected by the impacts of 	Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public issue. • Clear concerns raised in connection with the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

	<p>Covid-19 and questions were raised over how these agencies are coping in the current circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns over how support agencies are managing to continue to provide services (charities in particular) and if the levels of support can be maintained sufficiently and adequately. - Issues raised about isolation and uncertainty due to the Pandemic. - Very few people get to 'see' children / adults who are being abused. 		
Bus Services	<p>Concerns about bus network coverage and levels of service.</p> <p>Issues around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Few bus services running in the evening after 6 o'clock, especially in more rural areas. - Reliance on buses to visit friends/family and commute to work. - There will likely be more interest in travel within the UK and Swansea so need to have a bus service able to cope with an increase in demand. - Increased local travel may place higher demands on the bus network. - Integration with railway station 	Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public issue. • Rural development and access to communities remains a topic for regeneration.
Community Transport	Concerns about sufficiency of community transport provision given limited private bus network coverage.	Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could link with public concern about bus services, and any scrutiny thereof, if not in isolation
Active Swansea	<p>Discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycling and active travel in Swansea - Sporting facilities for young people 	Working Group	
Swansea's By-laws	What are the by-laws in Swansea and are they suitable for purpose	Working Group	
Forced Marriages	Concern for children gone overseas that have not returned, how we track and ensure safeguarded.	Child and Family Services Performance Panel	
Foreshore Developments	Need to keep a watching brief on this issue including sites coming up for sale	Working Group or Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue already being looked at by Development & Regeneration Performance Panel
City Deal and effects of COVID-19	Effects of COVID-19 on City Deal including projected completion and projected income	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic issue • Issue already being looked at by Development & Regeneration Performance Panel
Children Educated at Home	<p>Concerns around the rise in the numbers of children taken out of school and being educated at home, particularly resulting from COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are we tracking and ensuring they are safeguarded? - Are they all receiving appropriate education? - How are we working with others to ensure safeguarding i.e.: Social Services 	Education Performance Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Priority area

Nature Conservation	Need for regular monitoring of Council activity and performance	Natural Environment Performance Panel	Corporate Priority area.
Climate Change (Environment Bill 2020)	Need to challenge the Council on this. Important to reduce our carbon footprint – in council homes etc.	Natural Environment Performance Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Priority area – declaration of climate emergency. • Public Issue. • This topic requires ongoing monitoring, and is probably best dealt with by the Performance Panel.
Drug Use and Abuse	<p>Concerns around increased drug usage amongst people in Swansea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the extent of drug use / abuse in the area?. - What is the Council role and perspective. What about drug activity in areas that Council is responsible for e.g. parks. - How does the Council deal with council tenants involved with drugs? - Is this a social rather than a police (crime) problem? - The serious issue is drug taking and people becoming addicts. How can Council help with this issue? - County Lines activity 	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant issue. • Public issue • Difficult issue - need to carefully consider on how best scrutiny can engage with this issue – and whether potential to make a difference
Fly-Tipping	Concerns over the increase in this problem during lockdown and what can be done do eradicate such problems going forward. Issues relating to council powers.	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More prevalent an issue during the lockdown period, however remains a concern for the general public.
Dilapidated Buildings	<p>Concerns about the state and maintenance of buildings, some of historical importance, giving poor impression to people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So much to be proud of in terms of heritage and culture - Untapped potential - Links to inward tourism - Widen the tourism marketing strategy (i.e not just Gower) - Importance of Copperopolis Swansea 	?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public issue.
Accessibility for disabled / elderly	Concerns around mobility around city centre and access, e.g. and whether there is sufficient curb dropping to help mobility scooters.	?	Public issue.