

### Council - 28 January 2021

## **Councillors' Questions**

### Part A - Supplementaries

Councillors Phil Downing, Sam Pritchard, Cyril Anderson, Penny Matthews, June Burtonshaw, Mandy Evans, Mike White and Erica Kirchner

Can the Cabinet Member tell us if the licensing team have been successful in implementing the restrictions during this pandemic.

### Response of the Cabinet Member for Delivery & Operations

The licensing team have been active in the community since the first lockdown, ensuring premises were complying with the restrictions in place at any given time. This has included provision of extensive weekend and evening working as required since March 2020.

The team was heavily involved in dealing with the issues that arose following the introduction of the regulations that allowed the 'takeaway pint'. This provision was particularly challenging during the periods of good weather. Officers worked in partnership during this period, with officers from South Wales Police (SWP), engaging with businesses and providing advice and guidance to ensure the necessary public health regulations were followed by premises and the public.

The licensing team continued to visit premises, providing advice and guidance on how venues could operate safely, when outdoor hospitality opened on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and large numbers of premises took up the opportunity of adding to their existing outside areas. This coincided with high profile sporting events being screened in outside areas and again the team played a key role in enabling businesses to manage activities safely with restricted numbers, low background noise, social distancing and hygiene requirements.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> August saw the re-opening of hospitality inside. Officers continued working with premises to ensure that operational plans and risk assessments were in place and that the premises were operating safely and in compliance with the new regulations and guidance. The majority of businesses welcomed the support and implemented practices that reflected the advice and guidance offered.

The team was heavily involved in the setting up of the food and drink court at the Lacrosse Field in Singleton Park, Southend Gardens and the changes to the use of pavement licences, again dealing with queries, checking compliance and offering advice and guidance.

As well as providing advice and guidance, the licensing team carried out enforcement action where premises were not complying with the restriction

requirements including, improvement notices, voluntary closures and closure notices.

Since the onset of the restrictions the team has been responsible for coordinating the process in relation to all Covid related enquiries and complaints for the Public Health Teams. The team has logged and shared all information with SWP on a daily basis and now plays a key role in the Joint Enforcement Team (JET) set up by SWP.

A senior manager from the team has also provided Welsh Government with feedback on issues experienced by the team and our local premises relating to hospitality. There have been in excess of 20 Regulation changes/updates throughout this pandemic so far, requiring officers to amend and update advice provided to both the public and businesses on a regular basis.

The team continue to deal with the covid related service requests and complaints, provide advice and guidance to both the public and businesses and take enforcement action where it's required in addition to continuing to provide a licensing service for each of the licensing functions the Council continues to be responsible for.

## 2 Councillors Phil Downing, Sam Pritchard, Cyril Anderson, Penny Matthews, June Burtonshaw, Mandy Evans, Mike White and Erica Kirchner

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how much has been spent in communities, by Local Members, since May 2017.

## Response of the Cabinet Member for Business Improvement and Performance

The spend for the Cllr wards Community Budgets from May 2017 to date 08/01/2021 is £2086635.20.

This does not account for the proposed spend on the new approved Capital Budgets which will be in excess of a further £2m up to March 2022.

All details are updated and reported on the attached link

https://www.swansea.gov.uk/councillorcommunitybudget

## 3 Councillors Mike Day, Cheryl Philpott, Jeff Jones and Mary Jones

Will the Cabinet Member update Council on work on the current Active Travel schemes, especially the Mayals Road, Sketty Park and Olchfa Links schemes.

## Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management

### **Main Active Travel Works programme**

The majority of schemes are on site and we are utilising a number of regional SME framework contractors to attempt to complete the largest Active Travel programme in Wales within the reduced financial year and around the Covid working challenges. Whilst we have a number of teams isolating we are progressing at pace to complete by the end of March. There have been a number of challenges to this

years programme delivery, but Swansea is seen as being at the forefront of a pioneering programme to encourage healthy and sustainable modes of transport. Further acknowledgement was received earlier in the year when the Authority was awarded the Value award from Construction Excellence Wales.

#### **Olchfa Links**

Works postponed until after Christmas to address comments from the community and members. This approach also enabled the community to utilise more of the area during the Christmas period, and limit disruption to the community who are keen to maximise available green spaces during the covid period. We are working with the Rights of Way team to incorporate a number of additional items such as seating, historic reference signage and share with care signs.

### **Mayals**

Works started before Christmas, although the main element of works along Mayals Road to commence from January. A number of objections to the scheme are still being received, but the majority are based on misleading information prepared by a limited number of objectors.

#### St Helens

Finalising works information with the aim of briefing members and residents next week and starting next month. The scheme will also incorporate other programmed improvements supported by Road Safety and Highway Maintenance. This will include new crossing and traffic calming facilities s along Guildhall Road South as well as the resurfacing of a section of the carriageway.

#### The Ravine

Currently awaiting a response from Planning, with the aim of starting work at the end of February. Works will extend beyond March and into next financial year.

#### **Townhill Road**

Works are on site and progressing well. Additional trees are to be provided to enhance the corridor and support the authorities Green Infrastructure ambitions. The scheme will link up with recent enhancements at Broadway and along Cockett Road

## **Swansea Central Bridge**

The bridge is on site and works are on track for the structure to be installed next month

## **Sketty Park Links**

Works are on site and progressing well. We are continuing to work with the adjacent school and were attempting to align their environmental educational programme with the Green Infrastructure programme, as part of new tree planting along the route. This is likely to be compromised by the ongoing pandemic situation

### **Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response Programme**

### **Employer Active Travel Accreditation Scheme**

All of the above Contractors have signed up to provide resource an financial support towards the authority's Employer accreditation scheme, which will be working with a number of employers across the city to improve the prominence of the active travel programme and enhance facilities through incentives and promotion. Subject to employers attain a predetermined standard for enabling their

staff to utilise Active Travel commute options, they will be form part of a wider promotional campaign and our contractors have offered to provide free 'community benefit' donations towards incentivise greater participation. This will include free bike training, locks, lights and a number of additional items, as well as entry into competitions for free bikes.

## **Secure Cycle Storage**

We have recently ordered a number of new cycle shelters and pump/maintenance stands to be located across the authority. We will also be installing a number cycle hub/storage building at the Civic Centre to provide enhanced storage for staff. We will also be providing nw cycle lockers in the Quadrant multi storey car park to address requests from employees within the city centre keen to utilise active travel modes.

## **Cycle Hire Programme**

A tender is due to out shortly to commission new hire bikes, similar to that previously provided by Santander. Ebikes are also being considered as part of this programme.

## Park and Cycle initiative

A new cycle hub building is to be erected in the Fabian Way Park and Ride site, to enable people to park and cycle into work, whilst leaving their bike a secure facility. The programme will be run through our car parks team whereby individuals will be able to purchase an access card for a predetermine period to facility access to the car park and their secure bike store.

## **Core Allocation**

The team are developing a number of feasibility projects which will form the basis of the 21/22 bid, all of which have previously been identified on the Integrated Network Map. Bid documents were received just before Christmas for submission at the end of January. The value of grant being put forward is circa £50m. It is proposed that further information will be circulated to members within the coming months of the development proposals.

### 4 Councillors Will Thomas & Brigitte Rowlands

Would the Cabinet Member consider making the velcro on the pink plastic recycling bags more substantial. When we have a windy day during plastic recycling pickup there is plastic all over the road, that doubles the work for our team and is obviously bad for the environment.

# Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

The Waste Service are continually reviewing the design of the pink bags. The bags currently in wide circulation were the top specification industry standard bags, which had proved successful in the trial areas. After the county wide roll out it has become apparent that more velcro would be advantageous, so the Council worked with bag manufacturers to innovate and lead on the design of a new type of bag. We already have the new bag being rolled out, as required, that has the more secure fastening arrangement.

Councillors Phil Downing, Sam Pritchard, Cyril Anderson, Penny Matthews, June Burtonshaw, Mandy Evans, Mike White and Erica Kirchner

Could the Cabinet Member update the council on the implementation of the new Broadway Junction improvement works on Cockett Road, and can he advise, have these roadworks been the resounding success that he and his team had envisaged.

# Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management

The roundabouts at Broadway and Vivian Road were identified as a key barrier to traffic movement, both pedestrian and vehicular, during the transport modelling work carried out to support the LDP.

Many different options were considered, due in main to the irregular geometry and gradients. Realignment of the junctions and conversion to traffic signals emerged as the preferred solution. Detailed analysis predicted significant reductions in congestion and queue lengths, whilst allowing safe pedestrian crossings to be implemented on established desire lines, and establishing an active travel link from the college to link up with the scheme on Cockett Road.

Both traffic signal installations were commissioned in August 2020, and whilst the current Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on peoples' travel habits makes direct before and after comparison difficult. However, during September and October traffic levels did broadly return to levels experienced in 2019. During this period the queues and delays on all approaches were observed to be significantly less than that experienced previously.

The signal junctions employ the latest adaptive control systems allow them to react quickly and automatically to changes in traffic patterns, and employ dynamic linking to coordinate the adjacent sets of lights. This maximises throughput on the arterial routes, minimises wait times, reducing vehicle idling which in turn helps reduce the negative effects of congestion, and impact on air quality.

What has been particularly pleasing is the widespread support from drivers and non-motorised users.

Junction performance monitoring of the revised highway arrangements indicate the Authority is in an excellent position to deal with future travel demands along the corridor, both post Covid-19, and in support of delivery of the current LDP aspirations, which will in turn assist economic recovery.

## 6 Councillors Chris Holley, Peter Black and Jeff Jones

Can the Leader tell Council if the legal case for compensation against the surveyors that were employed on the Oceana building to provide the report on the asbestos in the building has been completed and did we receive any compensation.

## **Response of the Leader**

The Council is continuing to exchange correspondence with the solicitors representing the firm of surveyors who undertook the asbestos survey work on the former Oceana building and the dispute and potential litigation is ongoing. Due to the confidential nature of the dispute the Council is unable to release any further details at this time.

### 7 | Councillors Will Thomas & Myles Langstone

With well over 1,600 signatures to the petition it is safe to say the community think that Swansea Council selling the fourth tennis court at Langland Bay is excessive. We think that a sensitive commercial development on the toilet block site with community benefits such as new and improved public toilets, changing rooms and extra sports facilities would be beneficial to the area and local people.

However it is very frustrating to see that an extra tennis court has been added into the proposed footprint. There is plenty of space for development without taking yet another tennis court.

Langland has a long history of tennis and it is an aspiration of mine to bring back the prestigious juniors tournament, for this we would need four courts as a minimum. Do cabinet members not want to see this tournament that was very beneficial for the local economy return.

The LTA have also indicated that they recommend a minimum of four courts need to remain and have communicated this to Swansea Council. Does cabinet respect the opinion of the LTA.

We ask the leader to compromise here and not destroy an iconic part of Langland's character. There would still a very big area to potentially develop without this extra court.

There was also an offer from Mumbles Community Council to take over all 6 tennis courts and the toilet block at Langland, could I please have detail on where this was discussed and why this offer was turned down.

### Response of the Leader

Historic data regarding the use of the Tennis Courts at Langland has informed our decision to explore development opportunities that would benefit the public through improved new beach and visitor facilities, whilst retaining some tennis courts under a community asset transfer arrangement and in line with previous and anticipated future demands.

The area proposed for potential development currently includes the double court plus additional nearest single court, which is currently with an agent. Proposals will have to demonstrate how the developer will provide and maintain improved public toilet and shower facilities for the destination overall, but we currently have no understanding of the scale, type and size of any proposals.

Mumbles Community Council's (MCC) offer to take over all six courts, and the toilet block, was previously considered by officers and Members as part of its Asset Transfer protocol, and discussed in detail with Community Council members. At that time it was determined to not to be land surplus to requirement, or at risk of disuse, and therefore the Council pursued the option to explore the potential of this destination, through sympathetic development, on the open market before agreeing a transfer to MCC.

We acknowledge that the initial dialogue included the transfer of all 4 single use courts to MCC, but on review, Cabinet Members decided it was prudent to include the 4<sup>th</sup> court within the advertised area for potential disposal, to maximise all improvement opportunities and to enable use as a temporary development compound space, if not forming part of a more permanent disposal. MCC are now offered the lease of the remaining 3 single courts, with the full knowledge that the 4<sup>th</sup> Court may become available should it not be needed for a future scheme. We expect to receive interest from the market by early spring, after which an assessment of the scope and scale, and decision on the options for the 4<sup>th</sup> court can be made.

Acknowledging the LTA and Tennis Wales may have previously advised the Community Council on the optimum facility for an accredited Tournament, we are also aware that this would require additional infrastructure and facilities to meet the current criteria for tennis development, players, officials and spectators. We agree there is an historic relationship to build upon, but the event was last held at Langland in the early 2000's, at which time, our systems and ways of managing the site were unsustainable. It has more recently moved to the Swansea Tennis Centre in Landore, operated by T365 in partnership with Swansea Council, and built with support from the LTA. The Tennis Centre offers fit for purpose indoor and outdoor provision, with ancillary facilities for hosting players and officials as befits an LTA calendar tournament, we agree we need to make more of the kudos of this event. We appreciate this may not directly raise the profile of Langland courts, but we would hope that the uplift of the destination at Langland, along with the Community Council's investment in the community tennis facilities overall, would mean that we can work together to attract funding from the LTA to develop grass roots participation at Langland, and other community courts, so that all our communities can benefit equally from our tennis facilities and relationship with the LTA.

## 8 Councillors Peter Black, Mike Day and Susan Jones

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that once the current Covid crisis is behind us that Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration events will continue to be based in local schools.

### **Response of the Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities**

All local authorities are required to constitute a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and they have been fully involved with Schools in Holocaust Memorial Day as part of their role and have been working with the Council for a more appropriate way of marking Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) as a whole city event rather than it just be left to schools organise.

In light of Covid, this year's event has had to be planned in a different way, but very much with our schools, colleges and communities being at the heart of the planning and activities arranged for the day, which will be evaluated after the event to inform future HMD commemoration events.

Being physically together whilst living with the challenges of coronavirus is not be possible for 2021, therefore Swansea Council is hosting a virtual Holocaust Memorial Day Event on Wednesday 27 January 2021, asking schools, colleges, universities, community groups, faith groups and citizens to share how they mark HMD in meaningful ways with other people. This could be in a poem, in a song, in artwork, photography or just lighting a candle.

Examples of content planned are as follows;

- Items from 16+ Swansea schools (music/ choirs/ monologues/ drama) collated and edited together by UWTSD.
- Testimony of experiences given by two Swansea Y13 students who visited Auschwitz in 2020 as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project
- Candle lighting and reading of statements representatives from the SACRE faith communities
- Poem to be read by individual primary school pupils in their own language and collated together

- Documentary on the Jewish community
- Series of 45-second Instagram videos on issues that arise from the HMD theme (light in the darkness is the theme).

We do this every year, not just to remember the Nazi persecution during the second world war and more recent genocides, but also take steps to build a better future. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all. We do this as part of our commitment to become a Human Rights City and this year's theme is 'Be the light in the darkness' is a message that resonates even louder as we continue to live through the coronavirus pandemic.

These utterly unprecedented times show the very best of which humanity is capable, but also the much darker side of our world as well. We can all stand in solidarity and be the light in the darkness.

## 9 Councillors Steve Gallagher and David Helliwell

Ongoing deficit costs relating to WNPS - A number of residents who are also users of the Pool have been in touch in relation to the bailout cost and deficit a possible bailout of £1.8m cost to the Council and Swansea taxpayers and a likely additional £350.000 for running costs to 31.03.2021 owing to a lack of income due to Covid-19. (Cabinet report Nov 2020) Currently there appear to be increasing costs to be faced by the Authority and taxpayers. I accept the Authority are contractually bound until December 2023 and that the Pool has numerous benefits to Well-Being. Can this total deficit be placed at the hands of Covid-19 as it appears a deficit occurs year on year. Is it now time to consider contracting out the operation to a private supplier as we have done with other Leisure facilities. However, at the very least can the Cabinet Member satisfy our taxpayers that best use of its money is being used and what checks are being made that the facility is being used to its full potential.

### Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

The Wales National Pool Swansea Ltd, is already established as an independent company, set up in the early 2000's by Swansea Council and Swansea University for the specific purpose of operating Wales National Pool Swansea (WNPS). Under the agreement, which consists of a Lease and management agreement, both partners have a legal and financial obligation to support the company to operate as a public leisure and elite training facility.

WNPS operates like most public leisure facilities in the UK and runs on an agreed net deficit (£) per annum, which in this instance is supported financially on a 50%/50% shared basis by the two parties. This NET deficit forms part of the structural budget forecasts of the authority due to its contractual basis, but efficiencies through performance management are targeted each year and agreed by the Board, over a medium term financial plan. The Pool Board consists of an independent Chair, and Company Directors from the stakeholder partners, including Members of Swansea Council, who are advised by officers from both organisations, facility managers and as needed, independent representatives of the industry and governing bodies. As with all leisure, recreational and cultural facilities operating in the public sector landscape, the objectives of the provision are largely charitable and focused on participation and progression, requiring grants and subsidies from governing bodies and local authorities to meet the high overheads of such facilities, whilst remaining affordable for residents, local groups and education partners. There is however a regular review of the business plan and strategies for

increasing income and lowering controllable costs are regularly introduced – e.g. catering, hires, memberships, efficient timetabling of classes, shared marketing and digital platforms and capital investments for maximising income and achieving energy/ personnel efficiencies.

Pre-covid, the facility was performing well and had made financial improvements through new and sustained income generation and good cost management. The pandemic has resulted in long term closures, through no fault of and outside the control of WNPS Ltd., meaning income generation and building improvements have been disrupted, resulting in a potentially catastrophic losses. This has been the case for all leisure operators in the city, not just the WNPS, and so partners, including Welsh Govt. and governing bodies, have facilitated financial intervention to avoid closure, facility and job losses across the sector. The majority of the support needed by the WNPS and other leisure operators in the city and nationally, has been facilitated by Welsh and UK Government schemes to date, which has secured the facilities for Swansea residents and value for the local taxpayer, by getting a fair share of the national purse available for the sector. Looking to the future we continue to work with the partners on future operating and governance models and examples of best practice in the sector, so that we achieve the most sustainable and fit for purpose facilities for future generations to enjoy and benefit from equally.

# Councillors Phil Downing, Sam Pritchard, Cyril Anderson, Penny Matthews, June Burtonshaw, Mandy Evans, Mike White and Erica Kirchner

Can the Leader tell us what are the prospects for job growth and recovery in Swansea for 2021.

#### Response of the Leader

While the economic situation is currently very difficult, the prospects for job growth and recovery in Swansea in 2021 are very positive.

The UK Economy Beyond Coronavirus: UK Powerhouse report published by Irwin Mitchell and the Centre for Economics and Business Research at the end of November 2020, lists Swansea as the sixth placed UK city in terms of employment growth in 2021, with 8.1% year-on-year growth projected by the end of the year. Swansea has a large workforce in the public sector (over 28%), in health, education and public administration. This sector has been one of the least affected by coronavirus with job opportunities continuing to be created (for example in health) and these are contributing to the positive job growth in the city.

In addition to this, the Council is pursuing an ambitious regeneration programme, with major projects such as Copr Bay, 71-72 The Kingsway, the regeneration of Hafod Copperworks and restoration of the Palace Theatre progressing at pace despite the pandemic. Schemes such as these will provide a boost to the local economy and support economic growth and employment in Swansea.

WG Transforming Towns regeneration funding has been repurposed to provide Swansea Outdoor Premises Adaptions Grants to over 200 local businesses to enable them to adapt to trading in line with social distancing requirements, helping to directly safeguard in excess of 500 jobs in the local economy. The Council has also administered over £110m of business grants to support local businesses through the pandemic.

## 11 | Councillors Chris Holley, Wendy Fitzgerald and Graham Thomas

The legal department of the Council used to use a system of 15 minutes slots to cost their services. Is that system still in use and is it used in other departments of the Council.

### Response of the Leader

The Legal Service operates a time recording system to record the chargeable time spent on undertaking legal work on the various work types handled by the Service. The system records 6 minute units of chargeable time in a similar way to private sector law firms.

There are also other service areas where time recording takes place for example HRA, capital works and grant schemes in areas of the Place directorate such as building, highways and the grant funding team. This is to allow accurate allocation of costs and /or recharging where appropriate.

## 12 Councillors Ryland Doyle, Penny Matthews, Cyril Anderson and Mike White

Could the Cabinet Member outline the measures being taken by the Council to protect residents from domestic abuse during the pandemic.

## **Response of the Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities**

As a Council and the wider VAWDASV (Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Partnership we have worked together to ensure that we protect residents from all forms of domestic abuse, especially throughout the pandemic, and this continues to be a priority.

Some examples of the measure put in place are as follows;

- We have worked with Microsoft to develop a 24 hour interactive 'Chatbot' to allow members of the public to access advice, information and signposting to specialist agencies in their local area
- Promotions of the 'Live Fear Free' campaign and other WG campaigns through regular social media campaigns reminding citizens that support is still available, despite restrictions
- Fortnightly meetings with specialist providers to identify and respond to emerging trends, needs and gaps in provision
- The Council Domestic Abuse service provision have continued to operate throughout the pandemic, providing direct support through the IDVA project, Domestic Abuse Hub and Equilibrium Project
- We have secured funding for electronic equipment to provide families and individuals with access to support and safety measures online i.e. Tablets and Mobile phones
- We have secured funding for additional home security measures including outdoor lighting, video doorbells etc to further secure victims in their homes
- Home visits are being conducted in special circumstances with police when considered essential and following health & safety risk assessment
- VAWDASV partnership meetings all continuing remotely to ensure effective communication and strategic planning between key partners including police, probation, housing, education, specialist providers, substance misuse agencies etc

- Regional funding opportunities are considered by the regional VAWDASV Commissioning Board and in consultation with the specialist providers to ensure that any funding is placed where it needs to be
- Ask & Act training is being prioritised and coordinated across the region with rollout due to start in January 2021. This will take place in virtual format, and will be targeted at those council staff who are likely to encounter DA victims, starting with social services staff.

The Live Fear Free new campaign phase 'Home shouldn't be a place of fear' has just be relaunched as with the latest restrictions across Wales, it is important that those at risk of abuse know they can still get in touch with Live Fear Free 24/7.

## 13 Councillors Ryland Doyle, Penny Matthews, Cyril Anderson and Mike White

Can the Cabinet Member for Investment outline the history of site 9 in Swansea Marina.

### Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

Please see response at Appendix A.

### 14 Councillors Ryland Doyle, Penny Matthews, Cyril Anderson and Mike White

Would the Leader or Councillor Mark Thomas Cabinet Member, clarify the council position regarding an incinerator in Llansamlet. Now that BIFFA have withdrawn their appeal to the decision of the planning committee to turn down the application for the Incinerator in Llansamlet, do the council have any plans to build an incinerator in Llansamlet to deal with waste when Ty John closes.

## Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management

I can confirm that the Council does not have any plans to build an incinerator in Llansamlet to deal with waste when Tir John closes.

## 15 Councillors Chris Holley, Graham Thomas and Wendy Fitzgerald

Why are we building new council flats and then allowing Housing Associations to run them.

## Response of the Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy & Service Transformation

Prior to construction, strategic discussions between Regeneration and Housing teams took place regarding the 33 flats being delivered as part of the Copr Bay development. The dialogue was held prior to Welsh Government's formal lifting of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap and as such was not affordable within the HRA Business Plan for development as potential Council housing at the time. The site was subsequently marketed and a sale was agreed to a Housing Association. Now that the HRA has additional borrowing capacity, consideration is currently being given to potentially delivering further Council

housing in the City Centre as part of the Shaping Swansea marketing process and linkages to the More Homes Development Plan. Part B – No Supplementaries **Councillors Lynda James, Kevin Griffiths and Mary Jones** 16 The council is rolling out many defibrillators across the city, these are easy to use. However, many people are uncertain about using them on a patient. What training is also being provided to members of the public who may want to be certain in how to use them. Response of the Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy & Service **Transformation** As part of the initiative to make Swansea "Defib-friendly", public training forms an important and integral part. Whilst the fully automatic defibrillator is designed for the layperson in mind, training would provide additional confidence and reinforces the importance of taking immediate action. Heartbeat Trust are managing this initiative and have partnered with St John Ambulance Wales and the First Responders Network to carry out CPR and Defibrillation awareness training. Under the current Covid-19 restrictions, such training will need to be online and Heartbeat Trust will signpost to appropriate awareness training videos. Meanwhile, Heartbeat Trust are now producing their own online training that will include an element of interaction and self-assessment. This will become available in March 2021.

HeartBeat Trust will recommence with their community training sessions as soon as it is safe to do so.

In addition a map of existing and proposed defibrillators is being developed which can also be shared when completed.