



Council – 1 July 2021

## Councillors' Questions

### Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p><b>Councillors June Burtonshaw, Cyril Anderson, Phil Downing, Penny Matthews &amp; Mike White</b></p> <p>It is important to protect our heritage, therefore please informs us the following. During the last two years, how many Grade 11 listed buildings on the 'at risk' register have been improved or saved by the City &amp; County of Swansea.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Members for Delivery &amp; Operations and Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>There are some 514 listed buildings and structures throughout the City and County of Swansea. At present in Swansea there are 49 (9.5%) listed buildings at risk. Nationally Cadw have indicated that there were 8.5% listed buildings at risk across Wales following the 2015 national survey.</p> <p>The Planning and City Regeneration Department has adopted a highly successful approach of ensuring officers work closely and collaboratively across service functions. Officers within the Placemaking and Heritage and External Funding Teams have ensured there is close alignment to maximise the opportunities for securing external funding, particularly wherever Council owned listed buildings have been identified as being at potential risk. This has ensured any such Council owned buildings are brought to a good condition and sustained for the long term. The Listed Building at Risk Strategy is set out on the Council web site and this includes the Register of at risk listed buildings. This Register is a live document and an update is due to be published shortly.</p> <p>As a result of the above approach, in the last two years two Council owned listed buildings have been removed from the at risk register, these are the Musgrave Engine House and Vivian Engine House at the Hafod/ Morfa Copperworks.</p> <p>Significant funding has also been secured to bring further Council owned listed buildings/ structures at risk back into use over the next few years to ensure these are also removed from the list. These include the Powerhouse at Hafod/ Morfa Copperworks, the Bascule Bridge over the River Tawe and Ivy Tower in Clyne Woods.</p> <p>The Council also recently purchased the privately owned Palace Theatre, which was in a poor and deteriorating condition, and has been proactive in securing external funding and the necessary consents to bring this listed building back into use as a regeneration catalyst for the upper High Street.</p> <p>The Council has also worked closely with owners to help them secure funds to bring a range of private listed buildings at risk back into use over the next few years including the Albert Hall, St John's Church in Morryston and Pill House pig sty in Llanmadoc.</p>
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	<p>There continues to be positive dialogue with private owners where work is currently underway to repair at risk listed buildings and bring these back into use. These include Mumbles Pier, St Luke's Church in Cwmbwrwla and Brynhyfryd Chapel. There is also positive dialogue with the private owners of the former Manselton School and Danbert House initially focussing on grant support for urgent works with plans for sustainable reuse being progressed in parallel.</p> <p>Therefore by the end of 2023 it is anticipated that circa 10 further listed buildings at risk will have been brought back into beneficial use and removed from the at risk list. This would reduce the total number of listed buildings at risk in Swansea to 39 representing 7.6% of the total listed building stock, which is less than the Welsh average and reflects the targeted and co-ordinated approach the Council has taken to invest in key heritage buildings.</p>
2	<p><b>Councillors Peter Black, Mary Jones &amp; Wendy Fitzgerald</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the future of the NEAT Teams.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>It is the Council's intention to reinstate the NEAT Teams as soon as Covid restrictions allow in a safe and viable manner.</p>
3	<p><b>Councillors Cyril Anderson, Phil Downing, Penny Matthews and Mike White &amp; June Burtonshaw</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member inform us how much money is being invested in Children's Play areas in this financial year and how many areas will be delivered.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>For children, play is as important to their physical and mental health as getting enough sleep, eating well, and exercising. It is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.</p> <p>These needs have been strained following the recent Covid 19 pandemic, hence this programme of investing in new play areas will play a critical role to help our children get back outside, rebuild their friendships and wellbeing. For this reason it is extremely well-timed and is the biggest investment in Play across Swansea wards for decades.</p> <p>Cllr Robert Francis-Davies and Cllr Andrew Stevens have been championing the capital investment programme of works. They have both been pivotal in promoting and celebrating the investment and ensuring wards are optimising their offering to the local children, ensuring fairness and access to all.</p> <p>The commitment to deliver was reinforced by the appointment of a dedicated Project Manager in January 2021 to oversee the programme of activity. A close relationship has also been established with the council play support team, who have advised on equipment requirements, accessibility and suitability.</p> <p>In total £2,315,859m (£2,508,394) (<i>Capital Investment, Community Contribution (minimum 20%), All Wales Play Opportunities Grant 2021/22, External Support and</i></p>

*S106 funds*) is being invested in Children's play areas. Currently 42 schemes throughout 35 Wards, are at various stages throughout the delivery programme for 2021-2022.

Each ward has been given a £30k share of the capital fund and this has been supplemented with monies from community budget and/or other funds.

Examples include live sites and imminent completions at Golden Grove, Parc Williams, Parc y Helig, Knoyle Park and Llan yr Newydd.

Those also programmed in for the remainder of the year include the boating lake, Ravenhill, Bon y Maen, St Thomas, Clydach, Bishopston, Killay South, Penllergaer, Llangyfelach, Morrision Park, Loughor Foreshore, Cwmbwrla Park, Mayhill Park, Mynedd Bach, Upper Killay, Pennard, Castle Mawr, Melin Mynach, Victoria Park, Fairwood, West Cross, Blackpill, Gower, Newton, Oystermouth, Pontarddulais, Coed Bach.

Works have been procured via a competitive tendering process with a robust and collaborative approach proving successful, following a 'Meet The Buyer' event back in May 2021. This was supported by the effective completion of scheme initiation briefs by ward members to ensure requirements have been met.

The project is truly collaborative and on target to celebrate the delivery all schemes by the end of the financial year 2021-22.

4 **Councillors June Burtonshaw, Cyril Anderson, Phil Downing, Penny Matthews & Mike White**

The hospitality industry has been hit exceptionally hard during COVID19, therefore can you explain what our Council has done to help this sector during this difficult time and how we compare to other cities.

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

The council responded rapidly offering outdoor furniture grants from July for several months in both the City Centre and wider district centres across the County. A total of around £1.2m was committed by the programme. Grants of up to £8,000 were available, with businesses required to cover 20% of the total spend. The funding was available through the Welsh Government Transforming Towns initiative and its Valleys Taskforce grant. Other assistance for business has included the suspension of fees for pavement trading licences, saving over 100 traders more than £57,000.

In recognition of the importance of the hospitality sector to the people and economy of Swansea, the scheme helped businesses set-up and trade quickly during the pandemic and through government restrictions, enabling restaurants, bars and cafés help the city to lead the way out of pandemic. We believe the level of support provided is the largest package of support for the sector of any authority in Wales.

Council teams collaborated to deliver the support including Economic Development & External Funding, Commercial Team, Licensing and Highways. For City Centre businesses teams also worked closely with Swansea BID who helped with advice and support in the application process.

Other items acquired included canopies, igloo bubbles, barriers, litter bins, servery facilities and seating areas for public spaces. The removal of licensing costs for tables

	<p>and chairs on city centre pavement cafes has so far saved businesses around £57,900.</p> <p>Within the Council's recovery plan there is a commitment to agree an updated policy for outdoor hospitality including revised procedures to ensure accelerated decision making processes within statutory frameworks.</p> <p>Economic Development &amp; External Funding have also worked closely with Finance and NDR teams to issue £ 1,718,500 in discretionary grant payments to hospitality businesses or linked businesses (round 1 paid out a minimum £376,500 to 251 businesses, rounds 2 and 3 over £1,342,000 to 671 businesses).</p> <p>Also, as Council is already aware, in addition to the discretionary payments, our Finance and Business Rates teams administered a raft of welsh government business grants and rate relief schemes on behalf of Welsh Government. These payments totalled in excess of £125m. There is further ongoing support to the hospitality, leisure and retail sectors for the current financial year in the form of 2 rate relief schemes worth a further £35m to local businesses. Staff working in the hospitality industry who are unable to work whilst required to self isolate, may also be eligible for the £500 self-isolation payment, which our Benefits Section is administering for Welsh Government.</p>
5	<p><b>Councillors Chris Holley, Mary Jones &amp; Susan Jones</b></p> <p>We have read in the press that the Civic Centre may become a Grade 2 listed building which would then be difficult to demolish. Will the Leader tell Council what the current position is for any future use of this iconic building.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>The Civic Centre building is one of the 7 projects which are included in the Shaping Swansea initiative to secure a private sector partner to deliver the next phases of regeneration for Swansea building on the significant regeneration which is currently being delivered by the Council in Swansea. Swansea Council has a good track record of working closely with CADW to deliver a number of projects including, Oystermouth Castle visitor attraction, Hafod Copperworks and the Arena. On the Civic Centre we want to engage with CADW and work with them on a way forward. No decision has been made on the future of the building or potential new uses. However, any listing of the building would limit its wider potential and appeal to developers, making it more difficult to repurpose for new uses.</p>
6	<p><b>Councillors Linda Tyler-Lloyd &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>Has the Cabinet Member or anyone representing Swansea Council ever received a verbal or written offer for sponsorship or funds to development a proposed skate park in Mumbles Community Council constituency.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>A proposal was received and ultimately withdrawn in 2018 to re-cultivate the land around the skate park. More recently the Council published a Prior Information Notice on Sell2Wales for the purposes of gathering information as part of a market testing initiative for a number of sites. Expressions of interest received were not scored and did NOT form part of an evaluation or bidding process. As part of that PIN process an expression of interest was received that "proposed to remove the existing skate facility,</p>

	<p>which is also somewhat isolated and provide a commuted sum to be agreed for the total cost of its relocation”.</p> <p>The Council has engaged with Mumbles Community Council in relation to their proposed business plan, including funding arrangements underpinning their ambitions to develop a concrete skate park in the Mumbles Community Council constituency. The business plan formed part of the Cabinet report in the public domain. The Council has not received any formal offer of sponsorship or funding to develop a new skate park that meets the aims and aspirations of the Mumbles Community Council proposal. The Council’s input as approved by Cabinet has been limited to land transfer matters and supporting Mumbles Community Council’s response to the outcome of the Cabinet decision in terms of Mumbles Community Council appointing an expert to explore the options and feasibility of the preferred site.</p>
7	<p><b>Councillors Penny Matthews, Mike White, June Burtonshaw, Cyril Anderson, &amp; Phil Downing</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member say which Communities the latest Group of Local Area Co-ordinators have been recruited to serve. And does the Cabinet Member have an idea of when we might provide every community in Swansea with this excellent initiative.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care &amp; Community Health Services</b></p> <p>The latest Local Area Coordinators are covering; Penlan, Cockett and Gowerton, Dunvant, Killay and part of Fairwood (Upper Killay), Gorseinon and Penllergaer; Llansamlet and Bonymaen and Castle.</p> <p>Our goal is to cover all areas of Swansea with Local Area Coordinators and the final posts will be advertised in the coming weeks.</p> <p>All of the Local Area Coordinator’s posts are temporary as the majority of current funding via the Welsh Government Housing Support Grant and the Regional Transformation Funding which are only confirmed until 31/3/22.</p>
8	<p><b>Councillors Wendy Fitzgerald, Chris Holley &amp; Gareth Sullivan</b></p> <p>We understand that a number of fruit trees are growing on Council owned land. Could the Cabinet Member advise Councillors if any arrangements are in place to harvest the bounty from these trees, particularly the apples. If not, what can be done to ensure that this fruit is gathered and put to beneficial community use.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>Fruit trees were planted at numerous locations last year through the Orchard Project and the intention is that the fruit harvested in the future will be used within their communities. The Orchard Project is also being used to restore a community orchard next to Oystermouth Castle for community picking.</p> <p>In addition through its crowdfunding initiative, the council has recently pledged financial support to Sweet Pickings, which is a project raising funds through Crowdfund Swansea in order to harvest unpicked fruit from around the city. Sweet pickings will contact landowners (Private and Council ) to seek permission to harvest the</p>

	<p>fruit. They have partnered with Fare Share Cymru and will distribute the harvested fruit - mainly apples that would otherwise go to waste, to food banks and other organisations across Swansea.</p> <p><a href="https://www.spacehive.com/sweetpickingsswansea">https://www.spacehive.com/sweetpickingsswansea</a></p> <p>Broadly, partner groups or organisations will use our land to plant different varieties of trees, but those organisations take on the responsibility of looking after those trees, including the harvesting of fruit trees, with support from initiatives such as those previously mentioned.</p>
9	<p><b>Councillors Phil Downing, Penny Matthews and Mike White, June Burtonshaw &amp; Cyril Anderson</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member update Council on the installation of the safe pedestrian access recently installed on Pentre Road Bridge, Grovesend.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The majority of works to provide safe pedestrian access across the railway bridge on Pentre Road have been completed and the footway is open to the public. The remaining works have been delayed to co-ordinate road and railway closures simultaneously required to install extra sections of steel on top of the bridge parapet to meet railway standards. Once installed overnight on the 3rd and 10th July the temporary fencing currently onsite will be removed providing further additional width on the footway for pedestrians. Contractors have returned to site following delays in procuring specialist equipment for the installation of permanent traffic signals to replace the temporary roadworks style traffic lights currently in use. Once these two tasks have been completed this will conclude the proposed works at this location until the main cycle link from Grovesend receives full grant funding.</p> <p>Prior to construction concerns were raised regarding delays from motorists using the route, however as the modelling predicted the traffic lights are working well with little or no delay to traffic and the safe provision of pedestrian access over the bridge has been well received by users.</p>
10	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, June Burtonshaw, Cyril Anderson, Phil Downing, &amp; Penny Matthews</b></p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on progress with the 21st Century Schools programme in Swansea and the planned use of the maintenance programme for this coming year.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning &amp; Skills</b></p> <p>A full update on progress with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme in Swansea has recently been provided to the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel at its meeting on 13 May 2021.</p> <p><a href="http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s72729/210513%20Scrutiny%2021st%20Century%20Schools%20FINAL.pdf?LLL=0">http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s72729/210513%20Scrutiny%2021st%20Century%20Schools%20FINAL.pdf?LLL=0</a></p> <p>The report to Cabinet on 18 March 2021 sets out the planned use of the funding available to the structural maintenance programme for the coming year.</p>

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/g9081/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2018-Mar-2021%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10&LLL=0>

The proposed list of school schemes listed under Appendix A in that report is based on the technical assessment of the individual establishments, resulting in the prioritised listing. The schemes are a combination of statutory compliance requirements and to address maintenance priorities. It also includes £560k of Welsh Government additional funding, that is available to support the planned schemes and any emergency or further match funded schemes to address backlog maintenance.

The criteria for selection (unless otherwise stated) was based upon Condition rating, Legislative compliance, Health and Safety implications, likelihood of failure and business continuity. Whilst all schemes have been selected on these criteria there are a number of similar priorities which have not been included due to budget constraints.

The Capital Maintenance programme has previously included an element for match funding capital projects within schools. This has allowed the Authority to develop a joint and consistent approach in dealing with the maintenance backlog problem within our Education portfolio by pooling resources. This works with schools using their devolved maintenance allocation, thus allowing more significant repairs to be undertaken. The programme over previous financial years has been highly successful. Whilst the funding pressures on schools are also recognised, during 2021/22 a further allocation of £300k has been made to match fund medium value projects and this is already fully committed with planned match funding to 23 schools. This complements the late specific additional grant funding in 2020-21 for revenue maintenance which has given schools funding to carry forward and spend in 2021-22 that should be utilised for the priority day to day maintenance needs of the schools.

## **Part B – No Supplementaries**

### **11 Councillors Chris Holley, Jeff Jones & Peter Black**

We are sure that all Councillors hope that the City Deal will produce extra new jobs for the people of Swansea. Will the Leader tell us how many new permanent fulltime jobs have been generated by the investment made so far and what are the expected number of fulltime jobs when the arena has opened.

#### **Response of the Leader**

The City Deal – an investment of up to £1.3bn in nine major programmes and projects across the City Region – will generate over 9,000 jobs and a regional economic impact of at least £1.8bn during its 15-year lifespan.

Supported by City Deal funding, Copr Bay phase one, which includes the Swansea Arena, is already having a major impact. Throughout the course of its construction – which is due to be complete this autumn - 2,000 local construction jobs will have been generated and, once complete and operational, the development will accommodate 600 full-time equivalent jobs.

This will then act as a catalyst for Copr Bay phase two – including a public sector hub – that will generate thousands of jobs for local people. A developer for that site will be appointed in coming months as part of our Shaping Swansea initiative.

The council has also now appointed a contractor for the high-tech office development planned for 71/72 The Kingsway, with construction due to be complete in early 2023.

Once operational, that development will provide space for 600 jobs in the tech, digital and creative industry sectors.

On The Kingsway, the City Deal investment is also already acting as a catalyst for significant further private sector investment, generating jobs as well as more footfall for our city centre traders. Examples include the Coppergate student development, along with redevelopment of the Kings Buildings and Orchard House.

Plans for an Innovation Matrix at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David SA1 Waterfront campus are also making progress, along with a number of regional City Deal projects that will have job benefits for Swansea people. These include a Homes as Power Stations project that will build on a lot of work the council has already carried out in Swansea to build new, energy-efficient homes for local people.

The table below provides a full breakdown of the nine Swansea Bay City Deal projects, which includes project status, the construction jobs created, full-time operational jobs created and expenditure to date. In terms of the full-time permanent jobs created by the projects, at present, this figure stands at 135 currently in post, or due imminently. This is in addition to 284.2 person years (FTE) created during construction works and over £94m of expenditure to date. In line with the original independent economic impact analyses of the City Deal projects, the forecast outputs, including permanent jobs and investment, will be delivered as projects are completed, together with the projected multiplier effects in the local economy, all increasing the region's gross value added.

<u>Project/Programme</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Construction / temporary delivery jobs created</u>	<u>Full time operational jobs created</u>	<u>Expenditure to date (Estimated)</u>
PDM	In Delivery	TBC – Commence 2021	15	£12.95m (Please note this is under review with partners)
Yr Egin	In Delivery /Operational	99.4 Person Years (FTE)	102	£14.87m (Please note this is in respect of Phase 1 only)
Waterfront	In Delivery	183 Person Years (FTE)	5 x manager jobs for Arena advertised or appointed. 1 x UWTSO senior manager Other ongoing high profile jobs imminent	£46.42m
Pentre Awel	Business Case Approved	Imminent, likely to be in the region of those above if not in excess.	1 x PM	£16.99m (Please note this investment includes £12m land value)
Campuses	Business Case in Development	Construction to commence 2021		£0



	SILCG	Business case in approval process	TBC ongoing	2 x Temporary mgt positions approx. 0.75 FTE	£2.82m
	HaPs	Business case in approval process	Due to commence 2021	3 x FTE imminent	£0
	Skills	Business Case in Final Developments	N/A	1 x regional skills mgr 1x PM 1 x skills mgr 1 x career pathway officer 1 x quality officer – all imminent upon BC approval	£0.02m
	Digital	Business Case Approved	TBC as this will be derived from delivery partners	3 x delivery team	£0.35m
	<b>Total recorded so far</b>		<b>282.4 person years (FTE)</b>	<b>135 in post or imminently due in employment – Permanent 2 temporary</b>	<b>£94.42m</b>
	PoMO			8 x mgt team	£1.2m (Please note figures included for financial year 2020/21 are provisional)
	<b>Total</b>				<b>£95.62m</b>
12	<p><b>Councillors Peter Black, Graham Thomas &amp; Cheryl Philpott</b></p> <p>What information is required to be produced by residents to apply for a residents parking permit. Please provide a justification for each item.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The information residents need to produce in order to obtain a residents parking permit can be found within Section 5.1 of the Council's Residents Parking Policy.</p> <p><a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/12483/Residents-parking-permit-policy/pdf/Residents_parking_permit_policy_01-11-19.pdf">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/12483/Residents-parking-permit-policy/pdf/Residents_parking_permit_policy_01-11-19.pdf</a></p> <p>Permits shall be granted to bona fide car owning full time residents of the street concerned. The applicant must hold a full UK Drivers licence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V5 document</li> <li>• Driver's License</li> <li>• Certificate of insurance</li> </ul>				

	<p>The address on these documents must match the address that the person that the permit is being applied for.</p> <p>The criteria for foreign license holders is the same criteria as above but they need to provide the following documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of their overseas license</li> <li>• Utility Bill to prove occupancy of the address</li> <li>• Proof of insurance, insurance to be held at that address</li> </ul> <p><b>Evidence needed for a lease vehicle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver's licence - must show the resident's name, the Swansea address and be in date.</li> <li>• The lease company agreement - must show the Swansea address and the vehicle registration number.</li> <li>• The insurance schedule or insurance certificate and covering letter - must show the Swansea address, vehicle registration number and the start and end date of the insurance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evidence needed for a Motability vehicle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver's licence - must show the resident's name, the Swansea address and be in date.</li> <li>• The resident's Motability agreement - must show the vehicle registration, the Swansea address and the driver of the vehicle.</li> <li>• The resident's Motability insurance schedule - must show the vehicle registration number and the start and end date of the insurance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Justification</b></p> <p>In asking residents to provide these documents on an annual basis the Council is ensuring that the permit criteria remains robust in order to minimise the risk of scheme misuse.</p> <p>By stating that the address shown on the V5 document, drivers licence, and certificate of insurance matches the address that the permit is requested, reduces the availability of permits being issued for residents taking short term lettings or being obtained by long term visitors. For example anyone staying with a friend or relative, or moving to Swansea for a short period of time would have to change the address on the V5, driver's license and insurance document. For a resident moving and permanently residing at the address this would not be a problem as legally the registered keeper of a motor vehicle is required to do this by law. Anyone staying for a short period would need to change their documents twice in a short space of time.</p> <p>Under the previous residents parking policy a resident applying for a new permit would be granted a grace period of two months to provide all of their documents. This meant they could park in a residents parking bay for this period even if they were not a resident, leaving the scheme open to abuse. Under the current policy there is no grace period and a permit will only be issued on receipt of all the requested documents being submitted and approved. Until a permit is issued new residents are required to park in a non-permit holder area of the street.</p>
13	<p><b>Councillors Chris Holley, Jeff Jones &amp; Mike Day</b></p> <p>We have been informed that Swansea Council is currently leading an "internet of things" project on behalf of partner councils as part of the regional programme. Will the</p>

Leader tell council what financial contributions will be made by this Council, City Deal and the Private Sector.

### **Response of the Leader**

Swansea Council is the lead partner for an Internet of Things project funded by the Welsh Government through the Local Government Digital Transformation Fund (LGDT). The partners comprise Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Neath & Port Talbot Councils. The initial grant funding of £20,000 (Discovery phase) funded exploration of potential uses cases for internet of things devices and an overall business case. This enables the partners to have a set of ready-made projects should future funding become available. A funding bid has been submitted to the next round of LGDT funding to take one of the projects forward into pilot (Alpha phase).

The project will help to deliver City Deal Digital Programme objectives and another Welsh Government IoT project, of which all four Councils are currently pilots. The project will meet City Deal objectives by:

- Accelerating the Council's existing SMART city work
- Improving service delivery to residents and internal operational efficiency using real-time data from sensors. This can be especially beneficial for rural areas for projects such as litter bins
- Creating an innovation network so that local communities and businesses can use the data.

The project will also deliver in such a way that findings from any pilot can be used by other Councils across Wales.

Finally, the project links with the Council's other SMART city projects, e.g. CCTV/WiFi roll-out. The Council aims to deploy CCTV and IoT technology over the next five years and attract inward investment for WiFi and improved broadband (including choice of providers) in Wards.

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### **Councillors Kevin Griffiths, Wendy Fitzgerald & Chris Holley**

Will the Cabinet Member inform Council if we as a social landlord have any problems with homes which will need extensive refurbishment for whatever reason.

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

The Council delivers repairs, maintenance and improvements to ensure council homes remain in a reasonable state of repair, appliances are safe and the Council meets the various requirements placed on it as a landlord such as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

The main approaches for delivering repair and improvements to Council homes are through:

- ❖ Responsive repairs service
- ❖ Cyclical maintenance
- ❖ Planned repairs and improvements
- ❖ Empty Home Preparation

Responsive Repairs

This service is available every day of the year and is available for emergency repairs 24 hrs a day to ensure homes are not left with defects or disrepair for any unreasonable length of time. The service categorises repairs as follows:

- Emergency repairs - completed within 24 hours;
- Urgent repairs completed within 5 working days and
- Non-urgent repairs completed within 20 working days.
- For structural, damp, condensation and fencing repairs a Building Inspector will attend by appointment to pre-inspect the repair.

All repairs can be reported by telephone through the Council's Housing Repairs Call Centre during normal office hours. Repairs can also be reported anytime via the Council's website and by email and there is an 'out of hours' service for emergency repairs, which is accessed through the emergency repair phone number.

An appointment service is offered which is arranged by the Repairs Call Centre and the following options are offered as arrival times:

- Morning: Between 8am and 12pm
- Afternoon: Between 1pm and 4pm

Arrival times will be flexible if necessary and take into account individual circumstances, for example school run times. If an appointment cannot be met, the repair service will inform the customer as soon as possible and agree an alternative date.

Some repairs require a pre-inspection before an appointment can be arranged to establish the scope of the work needed. These occur when the scope of the job is not known or the diagnosis given by the resident is not detailed enough or if it not clear where the repair responsibility lies. Such inspections will be carried out by a Technical Inspector from the Council. Repairs will then be issued within the appropriate timescales. The inspection will be completed within 10 working days of notification.

Tenants are encourage to report repairs as soon as they become aware of a problem.

#### Cyclical Maintenance

The purpose of routine maintenance activities is to check, test and service key fixtures and appliances within the home and within the communal areas of blocks of flats. The main focus is carrying out electrical testing, gas servicing, checks to fire safety equipment such as emergency lighting and general building repairs. This area of delivery ensures fittings and appliances are safe and well maintained and offers an opportunity to identify and undertake repairs early which can extend the operating life of many components in the home.

#### Delivering Planned Repairs and Thermal Improvements

This includes renewing or upgrading major elements when they are coming towards the end of their expected operational life and to meet requirements such as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. As part of the planned maintenance capital programme the Council undertakes a range of weatherproofing and thermal improvements such as double glazed windows, insulated render systems and increased insulation to attic spaces to reduce heat loss and reduce the impact of condensation and black mould. As part of internal improvement programmes, the Council installs extractor fans when upgrading kitchens and bathrooms to reduce humidity and condensation that can build up within the property if not adequately heated or ventilated.

	<p>As the Council continues to further upgrade properties in line with forthcoming Welsh Government targets to better insulate and decarbonise properties, new ventilation systems will be introduced to have more effective ways of managing condensation created inside the properties.</p> <p>When a resident has concerns over the condition of the interior of their home and if repairs have not resolved these, a surveyor is asked to attend and inspect the property, identify the source of any defect or how to better improve the condition and Housing &amp; Building Services liaise to provide a long term solution. Most resident concerns are linked to issues with high humidity within the dwelling, lack of natural ventilation and inadequate heating. In these cases, additional mechanical ventilation systems are installed to help mitigate the effects condensation and corresponding black mould.</p> <p>Overall the Council has been active in terms of delivering major repairs to council properties and the points below summarise the main achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,900 homes have received external wall insulation</li> <li>• 8,793 new doors fitted since 2012</li> <li>• 9,654 kitchens renewed</li> <li>• 9,551 bathrooms renewed, providing new facilities including showers and ventilation.</li> <li>• 5,470 electrical rewires in the last 10 years</li> <li>• Over 10,000 central heating boilers have been replaced with efficient combi boilers in the last 11 years.</li> </ul> <p><u>Empty Home Preparation</u></p> <p>This area of delivery prepares properties once they become vacant, ensuring they are ready for re-letting.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Overall, the Council has invested significantly in its housing stock has in place a range of delivery methods for ensuring tenants' homes remain in a reasonable condition and tenants have the ability to contact the council to report a repair or discuss any concerns they have.</p>
15	<p><b>Councillors Mike Day, Jeff Jones, Cheryl Philpott, Mary Jones, Lynda James &amp; Susan Jones</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member tell Council which Department and Section will be responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of each stretch of the extensive network of Shared Use Paths that have been made. What additional budget provision is available to ensure the SUPs continue to be safe for, and usable by, all users.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>Once these paths have been completed and added to the adopted network they will be inspected and maintained by Highways Maintenance and cleaned by Cleansing and parks within existing budgets.</p>
16	<p><b>Councillors Chris Holley, Peter Black &amp; Kevin Griffiths</b></p>

There is a growing interest in the future use of public transport and how it will affect the lives of the public of Swansea. We know that in South East Wales they are expecting the metro system to generate a great deal of income for their City Deal. Can the Leader outline what our metro system will cover and what are the current budgets that have been allocated for this project?

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

The Swansea Bay & West Wales Metro is one of three Metro projects being delivered in Wales, alongside the South Wales Metro and North Wales Metro.

The Swansea Bay & West Wales Metro continues to be in the early stages of development, and is being developed collaboratively by the four South West Wales local authorities – Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire – working alongside Transport for Wales and Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government has awarded £677,000 for 2021/22 for the continued development of this project. The funding for this year will enable the continued development of business cases for rail, bus and active travel projects and improvements, and further develop the metro vision and concept.

Metro will change the way we travel and will create modern, sustainable bus, rail, community transport and active travel networks, that will transform people’s lives and reduce the environmental impact of our transport network overall. It will also open-up a range of job, leisure and business opportunities, transforming Wales’ future economic prospects.

17 **Councillors Chris Holley, Jeff Jones & Peter Black**

Can the Cabinet Member tell Council what procurement process was gone through for the "pop up" tent in Singleton Park and also the new Copr Bay development.

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

The Swansea Bay Pop up came about through a direct approach from the operator for a new event in Singleton Park which would enable local hospitality businesses the opportunity to trade outdoors during the pandemic. The request was dealt with through the Council’s Events Team’s lettings process, in the same way other events and activity requests are processed each year. This enables businesses and event organisers to directly approach the Council and to hire land on a temporary basis in order to stage their event or activity with no financial risk to the Council.

The booking was repeated this year, and it has welcomed over 10,000 visitors since it re-opened on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, providing those visitors with a Covid safe location to meet up and socialise with family and friends in-line with WG regulations. The pop up has enabled local businesses an additional opportunity to trade as part of their economic recovery – creating and sustaining a number of jobs. This is just another example of ways in which the Council has been able to support the hospitality sector during this challenging time.

With reference to the Copr Bay development, the Parklet forms part of the temporary north side landscaping works. In addition to the planting, integrated seating, green roof bike shelters, the Parklet will include five container units, one of which will be used for

	<p>a community/educational use, the others for various commercial uses, but mainly focused on attracting occupiers from the local F&amp;B sector. The marketing and letting of these units will be handled internally by Council officers, with the units will being let on short-term leases contracted out of the Landlord &amp; Tenant Act 1954.</p>