



Report of the Convener

Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel – 5 September 2022

Role of the Performance Panel

Purpose:	As it is the first meeting of the municipal year (and Council term) this report has been written to help to give clarity and ensure understanding of the role of the Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel. It is also designed to aid discussion on effective working.
Content:	A description of the role of Performance Panels is provided, the focus of the Development & Regeneration Panel, and link to relevant Council Priorities / Policy Commitments.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the role of the Panel and effective working
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Chris Holley, Convener of the Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Within the Council's arrangements for Overview & Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing a Scrutiny Work Programme and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.
- 1.2 The broad aim of the scrutiny function is to engage non-executive councillors in activities to:
 - provide an effective challenge to the executive
 - help improve services, policies, and performance
 - engage the public in its work
- 1.3 At the same time the Committee must ensure that the work of scrutiny is:
 - manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available to support activities
 - relevant to council priorities
 - adding value and having maximum impact
 - coordinated and avoids duplication

- 1.4 In order to discharge the work of Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Programme Committee can establish informal Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

There are two types of Panel:

- Inquiry Panels will undertake discrete in-depth inquiries into significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis.
- Performance Panels will provide ongoing in-depth monitoring and challenge to particular services / service areas.

- 1.5 The Committee has established six Performance Panels, each with a specific focus:

- Service Improvement & Finance
- Education
- Adult Services
- Child & Family Services
- Development & Regeneration
- Climate Change & Nature

- 1.6 Panel meetings will typically involve consideration / assessment of service performance reports from Cabinet Members, with support from lead officers, and discussion of issues arising. Where necessary, Panels will drill down into specific matters. Panels may request relevant reports on activities, performance and information that will help it to assess progress regarding the Council's work, commitments, and implementation of agreed plans.

- 1.7 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant Cabinet Members in order to share views and recommendations, arising from monitoring activities, holding them to account for service performance, quality and improvement.

- 1.8 The Committee also determines the frequency of Performance Panel meetings that can be supported within the overall Scrutiny Work Programme. Performance Panels will meet on an on-going basis during the Council term until otherwise agreed by the Committee. Accordingly, Panels will develop a work plan for meetings that effectively discharge their responsibilities and Committee expectations.

- 1.9 Non-executive councillors who are not members of the Committee have the opportunity to participate in Panels and other informal task and finish groups. The membership of Panels and Working Groups is determined by the Committee. The Committee will appoint Panel Conveners in the first year of a Council term, however, has agreed for Performance Panels to then re-confirm / appoint their Convener at the start of every subsequent municipal year. There are no fixed number of seats on Panels, however, more than one political group should be represented on each and should be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning. A minimum of 3 members should be present at all meetings.

1.10 Performance Panel Conveners are required to provide the Scrutiny Programme Committee with regular progress reports on the work and impact of their Panels. Performance Panel conveners can attend meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Committee as co-opted members.

1.11 Panels and Working Group meetings are accessible to the public, just as the Scrutiny Programme Committee. Agendas, reports, letters relating to scrutiny activities are published on the Council's modern.gov online platform:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

2. The Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel

2.1 The Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel is responsible for ongoing monitoring of Council performance in relation to development and regeneration, including the 'health' of the city centre, wider economic development across Swansea, and discussion about progress on the Swansea Bay City Deal. It will assess progress with the implementation of agreed development and regeneration plans and relevant service improvement plans.

2.2 The Panel currently has a membership of 16 councillors.

2.3 In accordance with the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme, the Panel can meet every two months.

2.4 The Panel has been in existence since 2017. To support regular monitoring of key development and regeneration activity the Panel has received a 'Project Update Dashboard Report' report at each meeting, providing overview of all projects and assessment of progress, highlighting, for example, notable achievements, relevant risks, any major issues / delays, etc. This provides a regular 'health check' on development and regeneration activity to facilitate challenge by the Panel. The Panel has then, where necessary, drilled down on specific work, to provide a more in-depth level of scrutiny. For example, during 2021/22 this included discussion on: local City Deal projects; the Swansea Arena development (this included site visit in October 2021); City Centre Travel Plan; Swansea Business Improvement District; Foreshore Developments; and the South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan.

2.5 The Panel will write to the relevant Cabinet Members, to convey its views including suggested action, arising from meeting discussions. Letters, and responses where requested, are reported back to the Panel for comments and discussion as necessary.

2.6 Link to Corporate Objectives:

Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure - so that Swansea has a thriving mixed-use City Centre and town centres, and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.

Extract from the Council's Corporate Plan 2022/23 is **appended**.

2.7 Link to Policy Commitments 2022-2027 (taken from Council report 7 July 2022):

Regeneration

- The Council will deliver on a £1 billion regeneration of the City Centre and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash to develop seven key strategic sites.
- We shall introduce new public and local services hubs in communities.
- Swansea Council is committed to helping create thousands of new jobs for the people of Swansea, aiming to provide high quality and secure employment.
- We will progress the Palace Theatre and Albert Hall developments to secure our historic buildings for future generations and seek an innovative solution to secure the future of the Elysium building.
- Swansea Council will develop and promote more city living, including new hotels, retail, office space and food and beverage facilities.

Attractions

- Working in partnership with Penderyn Distillery, we will support a new whisky distillery attraction at Landore.

100 days target:

Regeneration

- Working with our regional partners, we will progress a £1 billion regeneration and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash as our new strategic partner, with an initial focus on Copr Bay Phase 2, the Civic Centre site and St Thomas site.
- We will secure a major new tenant for the Debenhams unit in the Quadrant Shopping Centre, securing the use of this unit for the future.
- The Council will progress work on the new Castle Square Gardens project.
- The Council will progress work on the new Central Library project.
- Swansea Council will begin the phased demolition of Ty Dewi Sant and the old multi-storey car park.
- We shall progress the build of 71-72 The Kingsway, to create an innovation hub which will be home to new businesses and up to six hundred new jobs.

Attractions

- We will continue to progress development and investment through the Skyline park attraction on Kilvey Hill, hosting the Skyline board visit during June 2022.
- We will progress hotels discussions for the City Centre and Stadium.
- We are committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons expected by Winter 2022.
- Swansea Council will deliver new promenade improvements and developments, as well as new lighting around Swansea Bay.

- Swansea Council is committed to progressing discussions for the new interactive aquarium, aiming to offer an immersive experience for visitors and a wider educational resource.

Other

- Swansea Council will agree a new Swansea Bay Strategy.
- We shall progress TAN15 discussions with Welsh Government to find a solution that supports appropriate development.

3. Support

3.1 Performance Panels have the dedicated support of a member of the Council's Scrutiny Team. This lead Scrutiny Officer will assist with work planning and project-manage scrutiny activities and help to ensure that things run smoothly, for example by:

- directly supporting meetings
- liaison with Cabinet Members, departments, partners and the public
- contacting and arranging witness sessions
- carrying out research and arranging evidence gathering
- carrying out and assisting with any consultation and public engagement exercises
- helping to keep the work to time
- capturing and reflecting back the ideas, evidence gathered and any key issues that have been highlighted
- assisting in the drafting of scrutiny letters and reports
- promoting work using social media and other methods of communication

3.2 The Corporate Management Team and Service Departments are also an essential source of advice and support. Engagement with departments will be important in providing context for areas of work, knowledge about policies and service delivery, and technical expertise.

3.3 The Committee should recognise that resource constraints may have an impact on the scrutiny activity and delivery of work plans. Being focussed, proportionate and flexible will be important as we carry out scrutiny.

4. Effective Working

4.1 The Panel is encouraged to consider how it can work more effectively, for example in its preparation for meetings, and think about its approach to issues including the following:

- Developing Questions and Questioning Strategy
- Use of short Pre-meetings / Post meetings
- Team / Inclusive Working and Communication
- Decorum at meetings
- Meeting times / length
- Any other practical considerations

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Extract from Corporate Plan 2022/23 on 'Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure'