



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 18 October 2022 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
V A Holland
W G Lewis
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)

R Fogarty
M Jones
T J Hennegan

Councillor(s)

H Lawson
F D O'Brien
M S Tribe
T M White

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

Beth Allender Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

C A Holley P R Hood-Williams S M Jones

Officer(s)

Leanne Ahern	PSB Support Officer
Julie Gosney	Partnership & Involvement Team Manager
Jo Harley	Digital Services Manager
Steve King	Information, Research & GIS Team Leader
Sarah Lackenby	Head of Digital and Customer Services
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Gary Mahoney	Early Year Pathfinder Co-ordinator
Suzy Richards	Sustainable Policy Officer
Richard Rowlands	Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Jane Whitmore	Strategic Lead Commissioner
Alison Williams	Early Years Programme Manager
Samantha Woon	Democratic Services Officer
Ness Young	Interim Director of Corporate Services

Also present

A S Lewis	Chair of PSB Joint Committee and Deputy Leader CCoS
R Stewart	Leader CCoS
R Thomas	Chief Fire Officer, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Vice-Chair of PSB Joint Committee)
P McDonnell	Swansea Environmental Forum
C Bija	PSB Scrutiny Co-optee
A Richmond-Jones	Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
A Carr	Swansea Council for Voluntary Service
K Reid	Swansea Bay University Health Board

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): P N May

Councillor Co-opted Members: L R Jones

1 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interests were declared:

Councillors T J Hennegan, H Lawson and S Pritchard – Personal – Minute No. 5 – Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board.

2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

3 Minutes.

Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 16 August, 2022, be signed and approved as a correct record.

4 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

5 Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board.

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader), the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader and Chair of Swansea PSB Joint Committee), the Vice-Chair of Swansea PSB Joint Committee and the Strategic Delivery and Performance Manager were all present for Scrutiny of the Swansea Public Services Board (PSB). They were joined by officers who coordinated the work of the PSB, operational leads working on the delivery of PSB Well-being Objectives, and other strategic representatives of the PSB.

Provided to the Committee in support of the session, for questions, were:

- the recently published PSB Annual Report 2021/22, showing the delivery of PSB well-being objectives
- work being done to improve the PSB's performance framework (following issue raised by the Committee at previous Scrutiny session)
- the new Assessment of Local Well-being (published in May 2022), and
- a paper on progress with development of a new Local Well-being Plan which must be in place by May 2023.

Committee questioning and discussion regarding the performance of the PSB focussed on the following:

- 1) Efforts to improve the way the PSB measures its performance to facilitate Scrutiny, and challenges around this;

- 2) PSB funding and resources;
- 3) Impact of the pandemic on the PSB;
- 4) Public engagement in the work of the PSB and development of the new Assessment of Well-being;
- 5) How the PSB Annual Report could be improved, e.g., as well as focus on progress in the delivery of PSB well-being objectives, led by individual statutory members, examples of effective collaborative working on issues;
- 6) Local Well-being Indicators, including performance in relation to community safety and air quality; and
- 7) The involvement of the Scrutiny Programme Committee in scrutinising the draft PSB Well-being Plan.

The Chair thanked all Members, Officers and Board Members.

Resolved that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Public Services Board, reflecting the discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

6 Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Oracle Project Investment Update.

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Service Transformation assisted by the Head of Digital and Customer Services, were present for pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet report on Oracle Project Investment Update. The report was being presented to Cabinet on 20 October for decision.

The Joint Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Strategy & Finance and Cabinet Member for Service Transformation provided an update on the Oracle Fusion project and sought Cabinet approval for additional investment in the project to meet unavoidable costs associated with the pandemic and recovery from it. It asked Cabinet to approve the revised plan and timeline for the implementation of the Oracle project (completion by 1 April 2023) together with further investment (£2.8m) as outlined.

Committee questions focussed on reasons for the project delay, concerns around the financial implications, exploration of the specific areas of spending listed in Table 1 (para. 4.1 of the Cabinet report), and reasons for the additional activities stated. Clarification was sought in regard to total project costs, the risk of a further escalation of costs given variables reported that may be out of the Council's control, (e.g., the timing of the teachers' and local government pay award implementation).

The Chair thanked Members and Officers.

Resolved that the Chair write to Cabinet Members outlining the view of the Committee ahead of Cabinet on 20 October 2022.

7 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

Further to written report, some changes were verbally reported for agreement:

- Adult Services Performance Panel – Add Cllr Cheryl Philpott
- Child & Family Services Performance Panel – Add Cllr Cheryl Philpott
- Road Safety Working Group – Add Cllr Sara Keeton

Resolved that the membership of the Panels and Working Groups as reported, be agreed.

8 Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Chair presented the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.

As per Committee work plan, the plan for next meeting on 15 November is:

- Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities: Fly Tipping
- Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report
- Follow Up: Workforce Scrutiny Working Group

9 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair presented a report on 'Scrutiny Letters' for information.

10 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.

The Chair referred to the date and time of upcoming Scrutiny Panel/Working Group Meetings, for information.

The meeting ended at 5.44 pm

Chair