

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups / Regional Scrutiny

1. Inquiry Panels:

These will undertake in-depth inquiries into specific and significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis and will be expected to take around six months to complete to enable wide-ranging evidence gathering, and production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers).

a) **Anti-Social Behaviour** (convener: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: to be determined

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Pre-Inquiry Working Group met on the 24 November, were they received a strategic overview of the matter. They then discussed and agreed their Terms of Reference and Project Plan. Their first evidence gathering session will take place on the 17 January where they will speak to Community Safety, Community Inclusion and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

(NB - Inquiries may take up to six months to complete, as they will call for wide ranging evidence, and will lead to a report with conclusions and recommendations that will be presented to Cabinet)

2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
Procurement	20 Oct	14	0	0	tba June/July 2023

3. Performance Panels:

Performance Panels enable regular and structured in-depth monitoring of performance and challenge within these key areas:

a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every month. On 8 November the Panel considered the Review of Revenue Reserves, Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report, Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Performance Report and the Welsh Housing Quality Standards Annual Update. On 6 December the Panel looked at the Mid Term Budget Statement 2022/23, Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report, Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021/2022, Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring 2021/22 and Recycling of Business Waste Briefing and the Councils response to the Audit Wales Report – “Making Equality Impact Assessments more than just a tick box exercise”.

b) **Education** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Panel meets every month. At the meeting on the 17 November, they looked at progress with Additional Learning Needs Reform, Pupil Development Grant Spend, the school improvement service and receive an update on the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales in Swansea. In December, they will look at the Annual Education Performance against priorities including a Q&A with the Cabinet Member. They will also discuss the Music Service and receive an update on Harassment in Schools.

c) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel met on 8 November to discuss actions following the Audit Wales report on Direct Payments for Adult Social Care, receive a briefing on recent CIW Inspection Reports, and discuss the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22. At its next meeting on 20 December the Panel will discuss the latest Performance Monitoring Report, receive an update on the Adult Services Transformation Programme and the Options Appraisal for Assistive Technology and Community Alarms.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel met on 1 November to receive an update on the Corporate Parenting Board and to discuss Residential Care Services. At the next meeting on 5 December the Panel will receive an update on the Child and Family Improvement programme and Performance Monitoring, discuss how regional arrangements are working with the Regional Safeguarding Board and look at the Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report.

e) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every two months. On 14 November the Panel reviewed the Regeneration Programme/Project Monitoring Report as well as a focussed look on City Centre Retail Development. At the next meeting on 23 January the Panel will focus on the Tourism Destination Management Plan / Swansea Bay Strategy (incl. Foreshore Developments) and continue reviewing progress on the Regeneration Programme/Projects.

f) **Climate Change & Nature** (convener: Cllr Hannah Lawson)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel met on 9 November to receive an overview on the subject matter and information on relevant priorities, plans and challenges and to discuss Water Quality and Management. The Panel also agreed the Work Programme for the year ahead. When the Panel next meets on 10 January it will receive an update on Climate Change including the response to Audit Wales report on Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Panel will also discuss Green Vehicle Adoption and Public/Residential Electric Vehicle Charging and receive a briefing on Weed Management/Use of Glyphosate.

4. **Regional Scrutiny:**

This is collaborative scrutiny with other Local Authorities for topics / issues of shared interest or concern, and models of regional working.

a) **Partneriaeth - Regional Education Partnership**

Following approval of a legal agreement by each Council's Cabinet, the new regional education partnership called 'Partneriaeth' includes Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils. Within the agreed governance structure, there is a Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, similar to that which existed to scrutinise the Education Through Regional Working (ERW) Regional School Improvement Consortium.

The first Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group took place on the 24 October 2022 where they looked at the legal agreement, received feedback on items on the agenda for the Partneriaeth Joint Committee agreed their work plan for this school year.

Partneriaeth Scrutiny is expected to take place every school term, mirroring meetings of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee. Two further meetings have been scheduled so far in February and June 2023.

b) **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets every two months. On 6 September the Committee focussed on financial monitoring and looking at the City Deal Annual Report for 2021/22 which provides

summary of key activity for the last 12 months and forthcoming 12 months planned activity along with case studies of completed work and various other aspects covering delivery achievements and planned benefits/outcomes.

The next meeting takes place on 6 December, which will focus on the Homes as Power Stations City Deal project, as well as overall programme / project monitoring including the latest financial position. There will also be discussion on the independent Gateway Review carried out in July and associated action plan.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=417>

c) **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee**

The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, and will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. The Committee has agreed to set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, is being serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council, and will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Scrutiny arrangement will not preclude scrutiny within constituent Councils in order to discuss the impact of the CJC on their Council and locality. The first CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting took place on 8 November 2022 (re-arranged from 23 September) to appoint a Chair (Cllr Russel Sparks – Carmarthenshire Council and Vice-Chair (Cllr Tim Bowen – Neath Port Talbot Council). The Sub-Committee was provided with an overview on the structure of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee, functions of the Sub-Committee, and discussed a work plan for scrutiny. The next meeting is scheduled for 27 January 2023.

The Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=499>

5. **Working Groups:**

A number of new topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups. These enable a 'light-touch' approach to specific topics of concern and will be planned as a one-off meeting (in the order shown below) primarily involving discussion with relevant

cabinet member(s) / officer(s), and any other persons called, to gather information, ask questions, and give views / raise any concerns.

a) **Road Safety** (convener: Cllr Hazel Morris)

This Working Group will meet on 7 December to enable information, focussed questioning & discussion to understand the Council's role and responsibilities on road safety, e.g., asking about hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls – use of signs / humps / cameras; proposed new 20mph limits; condition of roads; safety of cyclists & pedestrians; partnership working, etc. A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations will then be sent to the Cabinet Member, or report to Cabinet as considered appropriate.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

b) **Co-production** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Working Group has been arranged for 7 February 2023. It will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress, helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners, and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc.

c) **Healthy City** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion exploring the Healthy City Partnership, key activities and achievements, work in relation to health promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

d) **Customer Contact** (convener: Cllr Rebecca Fogarty)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on the user experience when contacting the Council / accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / through digital means; provision for off line and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.