



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 13 December 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
M Jones
F D O'Brien
T M White

Councillor(s)

R Fogarty
W G Lewis
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)

V A Holland
P N May
M S Tribe

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

P R Hood-Williams L R Jones

Officer(s)

Lee Cambule	Tackling Poverty Service Manager
Amy Hawkins	Head of Adult Services & Tackling Poverty
Sarah Jordan	Landlord and Community Housing Services Manager
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Carol Morgan	Head of Housing & Public Health
Steve Porter	Operations Manager, Community Housing Services
Anthony Richards	Poverty and Prevention Strategy and Development Manager
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Samantha Woon	Democratic Services Officer

Also present

Councillor R Stewart, Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)

Councillor A S Lewis, Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

Councillor A Pugh, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): H Lawson

Statutory Co-opted Member(s): Beth Allender

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley and S M Jones

51 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

52 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.

53 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 15 November, 2022, be signed and approved as a correct record.

54 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

55 Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities: Homelessness - Councillor Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Service Transformation.

The Cabinet Member for Service Transformation introduced her report which covered the portfolio responsibility regarding homelessness. She stated that Homelessness had increased across Wales. Reference was made to Swansea Council's 'Always a Bed' pledge and she placed on record her thanks to both internal and external teams who worked during the Covid Pandemic and continued to work to help people at their time of need.

The Cabinet Member for Service Transformation asked the Operations Manager, Community Housing Services to provide an overview on current homelessness pressures and how these pressures are being tackled.

The Operations Manager, Community Housing Services, detailed the background regarding the challenges of the Covid Pandemic, levels and causes of homelessness, Housing Support Programme Strategy and priorities, current achievements, challenges going forward and conclusion and summary.

In addition to the Operations Manager, Community Housing Services, the Head of Housing & Public and Landlord & Community Housing Services Manager were present to assist the Committee.

Committee questioning and discussion focussed on the following:

- The incorporation of Homelessness Strategy within a new Housing Support Programme Strategy 2023-2027.
- Progress on Homelessness Strategy priorities / specific areas for development, including progress with rapid rehousing and multi-agency support; partnership working with Health around mental health support and tackling substance misuse.
- Challenges associated with the Covid pandemic.
- Nature and levels of homeless presentations.

- Levels of rough sleepers. (Comparative figures of rough sleepers in Swansea and the other Welsh Local Authorities to be provided to Members).
- Challenges associated with temporary accommodation, including use of Bed & Breakfast.
- Progress in relation to supported housing.
- Nature, levels and ongoing development of housing for single persons.
- Ongoing initiatives to deal with the causes of homelessness, including prison leavers.
- The impact of a reduction in the supply of affordable housing within the private rented sector.

Due to technical difficulties, the Chair advised that the meeting would conclude and a letter would be sent to the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation reflecting discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

56 Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty.

Resolved that the item be deferred to the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, 17 January, 2023.

57 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

Resolved that the item be deferred to the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, 17 January, 2023.

58 Scrutiny Work Programme.

Resolved that the item be deferred to the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, 17 January, 2023.

59 Scrutiny Letters.

Resolved that the item be deferred to the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, 17 January, 2023.

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

Resolved that the item be deferred to the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, 17 January, 2023.

The meeting ended at 4.58 pm

Chair