

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: *How can the Council ensure that it is working with its partners to appropriately and effectively tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in Swansea?*

Progress Bar:

| Planning | | | | Evidence Gathering | | | | Draft Final Report | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

The first evidence gathering session took place on the 17 January where the Panel spoke with the Community Safety, Community Inclusion and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. In February, the Panel will meet with the Police and also the Education Department.

(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 2022 | 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 17 January this Panel looked at the budget proposals for 2023/24 – 2026/27, the Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2022/23, the Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23 and an update on the Sustainable Swansea Programme.

The next meeting on 14 February will be pre decision scrutiny on the Annual Budget 2023/24 and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27.

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

This Panel meets every month. At its last meeting in January, it looked at how the New Curriculum for Wales is being implemented. They met with the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from schools in the Pontarddulais cluster along with Partneriaeth and the School Improvement Service.

At their next meeting in February, they will carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the annual budget as it relates to education matters.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. A progress report appears in the agenda under Item 8.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At the meeting on 24 January a representative of the Health Board updated the Panel on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Child Disability Services was also discussed at this meeting.

A joint Social Services Panel meeting will be held on 13 February to look at the draft budget in relation to Child and Family Services and Adult Services.

The next CFS Panel meeting on 7 March will receive an update on Support for Carers and an update on Performance Monitoring. The meeting will also discuss the Youth Offending Service and the Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan.

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

This Panel meets every two months. On 30 January this Panel reviewed the Regeneration Programme/Project Monitoring Report as well as a focussed look on the Tourism Destination Management Plan.

The next meeting on 20 March will focus on the Council's response to an Audit Wales Report regarding Town Centre Regeneration 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 10 January and received an update on Climate Change including the response to Audit Wales report on Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Panel also discussed Green Vehicle Adoption and Public/Residential Electric Vehicle Charging and received a briefing on Weed Management/Use of Glyphosate.

At the next meeting on 8 March the Panel will discuss Nature Conservation - Project Updates and Air Quality Management and receive its annual update on Local Flood Risk Management.

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**

Partneriaeth Scrutiny is expected to take place every school term, mirroring meetings of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee. 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.

The next meeting will take place on the 13 February where they will review, scrutinise and assess the Joint Committee's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements. They will also look at progress and performance of Partneriaeth Priority 1 - Curriculum & Assessment.

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

The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets every two months. The meeting on 6 December focussed on the Homes as Power Stations City Deal project, as well as overall programme / project monitoring including the latest financial position. There was also discussion on the independent Gateway Review carried out in July and associated action plan.

The next meeting takes place on 28 February 2023.

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?Committeeld=417>

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

The CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee will meet at least quarterly. The first CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting took place on 8 November 2022 to appoint a Chair (Cllr Russell 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. At the last meeting held on 27 January 2023 the Committee discussed the Corporate Joint Committee budget for financial year 2023/24.

The next meeting on 23 February will focus on CJC activity in relation to Economic Development and Transport.

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?Committeeld=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 met 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 has been sent to the Cabinet Member.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

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

This Working Group has been arranged for 9 March 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) **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.

d) **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.