



Council – 2 March 2023

## Councillors' Questions

### Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p><b>Councillors Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon, Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams &amp; Mike Lewis</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on delivery of the internal employability programme. With £600,000 being invested can the Cabinet Member highlight how this investment is being used and what benefits and outcomes it has delivered. Will the Cabinet Member also provide an outline of the plans for 23-24.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing</b></p> <p>ERF Steps To Employment Placement Swansea (STEPS) Following on from the success of recent initiatives to provide paid work placements under the Kickstart Scheme, Workways+ and Pathways to Work, the Economic Development and External Funding Team secured ERF funding to establish and facilitate 50 x 6 month fully paid work placements and associated support and training.</p> <p>The team have sourced and secured over 80 placement opportunities within council departments for people who are most at risk of long-term unemployment. The project (STEPS) has provided unemployed and economically inactive people supported by employability provision with pre placement support and access to these new opportunities.</p> <p>Each person is provided with wrap around mentoring support and training during the placement, to maximise the benefit of the opportunities and to help them to look for work towards the end of the placement. Participants have gained valuable skills, knowledge, experience and training whilst earning an income.</p> <p>The placement opportunities are shared with employability support providers on the Swansea Employability Network group and referrals have been received from Workways+, Pathways to Work, Communities For Work, Gower College, Barnardos, Youth Service and YMCA.</p> <p>To date, 50 placements have started and of the 9 who have completed placements, 8 have secured employment and 1 has entered education. There are some placements, 5 in all, which did not proceed to the full 3 or 6 months, work trials are completed prior to the paid element of the placements starting to mitigate this. The last 5 placements have been allocated and will start in February and March with the remaining 39 participants completing their placements between now and July'23.</p> <p>The council departments and managers involved in hosting placements have been supportive and together with the Mentors and Employer Liaison officers in the Economic regeneration team, have made the scheme a success for participants.</p> <p>There is a higher demand for placements from unemployed individuals and council departments than we are currently able to offer. For this reason, the remaining 5 placements were reduced from 6 months to 3 months in duration to enable more unemployed people to access the scheme. There is also a demand for placements</p>
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with external employers where specific roles and sectors are no available within the authority.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will fund 80 x 3-month paid placements an associated wrap around support and training within council departments and with external employers.

The tables below provide a summary of the activity to date.

Placement Status	Total Participants
Active	36
Pending	5
Completed	9
In work or Education	9
Left early	5
Male	38
Female	17
Total	55

Council Departments	Placements Filled	Employed
Corporate Building Services	13	2
Corporate Building Services- Support services	2	0
Highways- Car Parks, Maintenance and Infrastructure	11	4
Social Services Direct Payments	1	0
Social Services - Admin, Support workers	6	1
Social Services Business support	3	1
Economic Development and External Funding	1	0
Poverty and Prevention -Swansea Working	4	0
Libraries	2	0
Contact Centre- Customer Services	1	0
Security	Pending	
Parks and Cleansing- Clerical, Maintenance and support worker	5	0
External - Morganstone and Penllergaer Trust	2	0
Total	51	8

**2 Councillor Chris Evans**

The Welsh Government have advised that we have until late next year to confirm whether we, as a local council, wish to switch to a Proportional Representational form of voting to replace First Past the Post in Council elections. In terms of improving democracy, improving public participation and as a way to try to increase voter turnout, would we consider running elections from 2027 on a Proportional Representation basis instead of First Past the Post.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance**

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides that the simple majority voting system applies to local elections unless and until the Council changes the voting system for the first time. The Act allows Principal Councils to choose which Voting System it wishes to use. The choice being:

First Past the Post (FPTP).  
Single Transferable Vote (STV).

First Past The Post is the voting system currently in use for Local Government Elections. The system requires a Voter to place a cross (X) next to their preferred Candidate on the Ballot Paper. The Ballot Papers are counted and the Candidate with the most votes is elected to represent the Ward. A simple majority is all that is required.

Single Transferable Vote (STV) asks Voters to rank candidates in order of preference by marking 1, 2, 3 and so forth on the Ballot Paper. A voter can rank as many or as few Candidates as they like or vote for only one Candidate. Each Candidate needs to reach a quota. This is the minimum number of Votes calculated according to the number of seats and votes cast. The first preference votes for each Candidate are added up. Candidates who achieve this quota are elected. Surplus votes from Candidates who hit the quota go to second preference Candidates. Votes from the Candidate with the fewest first preference votes who do not achieve the quota are eliminated. Their votes go to the second preference.

If a Council wishes to change its voting system to STV, it will require a resolution of Council with the support of at least two-thirds of the total number of councillor seats on the Council. It would be a dedicated Council meeting for this sole purpose with at least 21 days written notice given. A resolution would need to be passed by 15 November of the year that is three years before the year in which the next ordinary election is due. To change the system for the next local government elections in 2027, this would be by 15 November 2024.

It is important to note that before it can exercise its power to change the voting system, a Principal Council would have to consult locally. This would include people entitled to vote at the local government election, each Community Council in the area and any other people it considers appropriate.

Any council opting to change its voting system would be required to use the new system for the next two rounds of ordinary elections. In the case of a by-election for a casual vacancy, the voting method used at the previous ordinary election would be used. After those two rounds, it could decide whether to return to the previous voting system.

If a council exercises its power to change the voting system, the council must notify the Welsh Ministers and the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission of the change. After receiving a notification, the Welsh Ministers may direct the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales to conduct an initial review of the area of the council. Welsh Ministers must consult the Commission before such a direction, and persons representing principal councils as the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate.

Provisions for initial reviews as outlined above are set out in Schedule 1 of the 2021 Act, which requires that if a Council adopts STV, the number of Councillors for each electoral ward is to be no less than three, but no more than six.

The reality is that no voting system is perfect. Forms of Proportional Representation (PR) can regularly result in unstable coalition administrations which lack direction, coherence, and focus. Coalitions often dilute what they have offered the public at

the election, as the relevant parties negotiate away parts of their manifesto. PR systems also regularly result in disproportionate influence being given to the smallest parties or individuals. This distorts the majority position.

At a local level the risks are more pronounced as a scenario could arise where an individual with extreme views, who may have only gathered a few hundred votes, may be placed in a powerful position to prevent delivery of what hundreds of thousands of people have voted for.

Successful administrations are often those that have stable majorities and clear priorities.

**3 Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy & Stuart Rice**

In light of the petition to the full council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, does the Council have any plans current or future to dispose of open public green spaces in the City & County of Swansea, and what are they.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance**

I can confirm that there are no proposals to dispose of open public green spaces on the open market.

On the 17th November 2022 Cabinet approved a report recommending the transfer of various sporting and leisure facilities including recreational land to various community clubs and associations. The report was in accordance with the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy and included a list of recreational land and associated buildings to community organisations, clubs and associations at less than best value in order to enable investment, improvement and long-term sustainability.

As part of the reporting and decision making, the Council defined an approved list of sites and the proposed leaseholders to transfer to under the principles of the Policy. Each application will require approval from the relevant Head of Service, the Head of Property Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). Following an in principle approval from Cabinet for transfers, the Head of Property Services will consider each individual transfer in accordance with the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules. The list of sites approved within the report are as follows;

<u>Plot No.</u>	<u>Description of Land</u>	<u>Leaseholder and reason for proposed disposal</u>
<u>1</u>	Cricket pitches at Tir Canol, Morriston	Long leasehold disposal to Morriston Cricket Club to continue to improve and maintain facilities as use for cricket
<u>2</u>	Rugby Pitches at Tir Canol, Morriston	Long leasehold disposal to Morriston Rugby Club to continue to improve and maintain facilities as use for rugby
<u>3</u>	Coed Gwilym Park Boathouse / Heritage Centre at Coed Gwilym Park, Clydach	Long leasehold disposal to the Friends of Clydach Heritage Centre who have occupied the property via licence since 2011. This will allow them to invest in and improve the property.

<u>4</u>	Football Pitches Coed Gwilym Park, Clydach	Long leasehold disposal to Friends of Coed Gwilym to continue to improve facilities and take on long term maintenance for use for football in partnership with local football club(s)
<u>5</u>	Pentyla Playing Fields -The Ganges	Shorter term leasehold disposal to Rosehill Community Football Club to allow them to invest in and improve the area for the playing of Football and as a public green space. The FC currently self-manage the football pitches.
<u>6</u>	Ynystawe Park – Cricket and Football pitches and associated changing rooms	Long leasehold disposal to Ynystawe Cricket and Football Club to enable investment in and improvement of the pitch and changing facilities at Ynystawe Park. The club have been occupying and successfully managing the pitches under licence for 2 years.
<u>7</u>	Mumbles Bowls Green and Pavilion	Long leasehold to Mumbles Community Council to continue to improve facilities and formalise long term maintenance obligations in place with local the bowls club.
<u>8</u>	Ashlands/Banfields Playing Fields	Long leasehold disposal to Port Tenant Colts Football Club to enable investment into the facility. They have been successfully managing the facility since 2016.
<u>9</u>	Part of Oystermouth Woodland, Mumbles	Shorter Leasehold disposal to Mumbles Community Council to enable the improvement to the area's infrastructure. The area in question was previously improved by the Mumbles Development Trust but they are no longer able to maintain the area and have terminated their lease agreement. Mumbles Community Council have been occupying via licence for 2 years and are investing in the environmental infrastructure.
<u>10.</u>	Part of Clyne Gardens	Short Leasehold disposal to Coedenfach Community Tree Nursery for the growing of native species of trees from locally collected seeds using organic, peat free methods. This helps towards reaching the Councils Biodiversity goals.

	11.	Halfway Park Football Pitch and Changing Rooms	Long leasehold disposal to Brynawel AFC to enable investment in and improvement of the pitch and changing facilities at Halfway Park. The club have been occupying and successfully managing the changing rooms under licence for 3 years. They have already made some improvements to the changing rooms and a longer lease will allow them to invest further.		
4	<p><b>Councillors Fiona Gordon, Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams, Mike Lewis &amp; Wendy Lewis</b></p> <p>The City and County of Swansea has a duty of care to the men in Swansea prison. Therefore, will the Cabinet Member update council on what actions has Swansea Council has taken to help rehabilitate people back into the community.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing</b></p> <p><u>Housing</u></p> <p>The Council's Homelessness services work within the parameters of the National Pathway for households leaving prison. The pathway aims to prevent prison leavers from becoming homeless on release from custody and thereby improving their resettlement into communities and reducing their risk of reoffending. The pathway provides guidance for criminal justice agencies delivering services to prisoners with housing related needs in managing referrals for housing assistance and communication and relationships between key agencies. This includes referrals for homelessness applications as well as any action that can be taken to ensure a person does not lose their home as a result of their custodial sentence. We have a dedicated Resettlement Officer at Housing Options which ensures we have a clear route to respond on housing issues.</p> <p>Housing staff are involved with a number of multi-agency meetings where plans are agreed for those leaving custody, such as resettlement meetings with probation staff/prison staff and MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangement) meetings. This provides an opportunity to identify accommodation that is suitable on release from custody and ensure support is offered. A range of housing options will be considered including a dedicated supported housing project in Swansea who provide accommodation to people on release from custody who have substance misuse issues and are committed to a programme towards abstinence. Similarly, staff from Probation are represented at the Street Vulnerability Meetings to ensure that information is shared regularly about those who are vulnerable in the City Centre and needing additional support.</p> <p><u>Employability Support</u></p> <p>We work closely with Probation, both in in-custody and out of custody Probation Officers to support men and women from, or who settle in Swansea.</p> <p>We work in partnership with the prison system locally and regionally with Employability Support. This includes working with HMP Swansea, HMP Parc with all employability-based activity and with those released from Eastwood Park Prison.</p>				

We sit on the Swansea Prison Employment Advisory Board and have been involved in the development of the Employment Hub within HMP Swansea. This includes;

- Supporting the Employment Hub within the Prison engaging with those 12 weeks prior to release.
- Swansea Working, alongside Working Wales are a point of contact prior to and post release.
- Information sessions held in HMP Swansea about the support available.
- Supported with the development and implementation of training and employment initiatives including Recruitment Fayres, sector specific training and employer days within HMP Swansea.
- Providing more intensive support in the two weeks prior to release including employment, housing and other leaving custody related issues.
- Assisted HMP Swansea to increase their percentage of custody leavers into employment. E.g. We have supported over 35 men in the last 4 months with various forms of support to find employment, training and with other related issues.
- Our team liaise with Probation Officers around licence conditions and terms of employment on behalf of the men and women to ensure communication between all and that all are aware of progress and procedures are followed.
- We have links to the regionally employability broker for Prisons in Wales sending us referrals and a link in Eastwood prison who also does this too.

#### Health and Social Care

The Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 makes Welsh local authorities responsible for assessing and meeting the social care needs of adult offenders in Wales and places a duty on prisons and the probation service to collaborate with local authorities to ensure the provision of social care.

We are members of the HMP Swansea, Health, Well-being and Social Care Partnership Board and contribute to the Prison's Health, Social Care and Well-being Delivery Plan. We have a Memorandum of Understanding in place for the provision of care and support services for people within the secure estate in Swansea. This includes access to information, advice and assistance to meet their care and support needs and advocacy to ensure people are actively engaged in expressing their views in determining how best to meet their personal well-being outcomes.

When we are made aware that an adult in a custodial setting may have care and support needs, an assessment and associated care and support plan will follow the same procedure and criteria as if they lived in the community.

Our Social Work team work with the Probation Service to advise on planning for an individual's release from prison and provide appropriate input into discharge planning to ensure social care needs continue to be met in the community through a sustainable resettlement plan.

**5 Councillors Jeff Jones, Mary Jones & Nicola Furlong**

For several sports, Singleton Park represents one of sports iconic venues, at local, national and international levels.

Over the past three years, sports bodies have been denied the use of the park due to perceived potential damage. Some recent sporting events have been given

approval by Special Events only for the Parks Dept; to veto the event at the last minute.

Recently the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) made an enquiry to hold their national cross-country championships in Singleton Park this February only for the Parks Dept; to again refuse to guarantee that the event would be cancelled at the last minute.

It would appear that Swansea does not want to support amateur sport in the park. Will the Cabinet Member please tell Council if this is going to be normal practice going forward.

### **Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism**

Singleton Park hosts a diverse programme of both amateur and professional sporting and cultural events every year. Many of which have benefited from free use as part of the Council's Economic Recovery Fund over recent years, aiding their recovery and development and in turn supporting our local economy.

All events within Singleton Park are overseen by the Special Events Team. As part of the planning process, the Events Team engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, including the Council's Parks service in order to balance the needs of the event against the needs of other stakeholders including the general public and the overall impact on the Park.

When events are discussed, event organisers are made aware of any potential risks, especially when their activities take place during the wetter winter months. Organisers are also made aware that all events are subject to a final sign-off a few days before they are due to take place. In order to manage expectation and inform any event planning that they may be undertaking, this is made absolutely clear to the organiser at the outset and it is therefore their decision as to whether they wish to proceed on this basis. Our sports pitches are managed in a similar way. As part of the sign-off process, weather forecasts are reviewed and potential damage is discussed. On the rare occasion when potential damage outweighs the benefit of holding the event, discussions take place with the organisers to see if additional mitigation would assist, an alternative part of the park may be utilised, or whether or not the event should be postponed to a later date. Again, organisers would be fully aware of this process from the outset.

The Council has always supported amateur sport events in Singleton Park as it does in many other locations across the City and County of Swansea.

Only 2 events have had to be cancelled in the last three years. Both as a result of an extended period of extremely wet weather and both when no other alternative has been possible. Cancellation is always seen as a last resort option and it is not a decision that is taken without significant consideration both from the outset and nearer to the actual date of the event.

To date, the Events Team has not received a formal enquiry to hold the British Universities and Colleges Sports National Cross-Country Championships.

In line with a previous response to Councillors questions relating to events causing excessive damage to the park, weather conditions during October do seem to be deteriorating year on year and the Events Team is currently reviewing the level of risk that this entails when considering any events during this period and the months immediately following.



6	<p><b>Councillors Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis &amp; Fiona Gordon</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update on the delivery of the bin replacement programme.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>The bin replacement programme is progressing well and has received positive feedback from Ward Members and the public.</p> <p>The Team have replaced a number of defective bins on an ad-hoc basis where the condition of the litter or dog bin was such that it needs removal straight away, and are now focussing on a ward by ward basis.</p> <p>Once a ward bin condition survey is complete, Ward Members are sent a programme of proposed bin replacements for their information and comment.</p> <p>To date, just over 250 new litter bins have been installed, replacing damaged litter and dog bins. There are a further 250 bins to be installed as part of the initial project.</p> <p>The Council has secured additional funding for a further 54 multipurpose litter bins in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy, and further funding via the Caru Cymru Project is currently being sought to fund an additional 90 – 100 bins.</p>
7	<p><b>Councillors Lynda James, Jeff Jones &amp; James McGettrick</b></p> <p>In Swansea professional dog walkers are free to take out any number of dogs and there is no assurance they are trained or insured. Considering the recent case of a member of the public being savaged by several dogs who became out of control of the dog walker will Swansea Council consider licensing professional dog walkers.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>There are currently no powers available that would allow the Council to licence professional dog walkers. A response to a recent consultation from Welsh Government on animal licensing, highlighted a number of activities which currently fall outside the scope of animal licensing legislation, including dog walking. The response also confirmed that the Council fully support a review of all animal related activities that are not currently regulated.</p>
8	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien &amp; Brigitte Rowlands</b></p> <p>What has been the total expenditure on the planning for and installation of speedbumps in the whole of the Gowerton ward.</p> <p>Please include all costs relating to the bumps, signage and any other enabling works.</p> <p>We now hear that the speed bumps are going to be removed on Cecil Road, so please also provide a cost for the removal of these bumps and provide an indication on whether, if needed elsewhere, the bumps that will be removed are re-useable or will be disposed of.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The total expenditure in traffic calming features introduced in Gowerton was £150,000. The cost of the cushion removal in the area to be resurfaced are not separately costed within the overall scheme costs but are relatively small in relation to the original scheme cost.</p>

	<p>The cushions in the area to be resurfaced were lifted at a cost of £3,000 and have been set aside for re-use. Speed/volume surveys have been undertaken prior to the cushions being lifted and these will be repeated once traffic flows have stabilised through the town. The results of the surveys will then be reviewed and consideration be given to the benefits that were being achieved by the measures and a decision reached on what traffic calming measures are reinstalled.</p>
9	<p><b>Councillors Mike Lewis, Mike White, Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon &amp; Lesley Walton</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update on the work of the Cleansing Ward Operative Teams.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>Following a recruitment programme all Cleansing Ward Operative Teams (CWOT) are in place, being supported by a Working Supervisor and Operational Area Manager (OAM). The CWOT Operatives have settled well into their new roles and there is a good, positive team dynamic. Ward Members are actively using the agreed CWOT reporting procedure to identify works required in their Wards each month. Take up by Ward Members is generally high and it is anticipated that submissions will increase further throughout the coming year. CWOT continue to identify enhancement works in each ward area to supplement those submitted by Members. The OAM also prompts Members by email the week before the CWOT are due in their ward. Feedback received to date is generally very positive with the Teams being well received. Works completed, with photos, are fed back to Ward Members on a weekly basis, and whilst this process is time consuming, since its introduction it has also received very positive feedback from Members.</p>
10	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>On how many dates since opening has the Swansea Arena been used for events. How many occasions has this been at full capacity.</p> <p><b>Response of the for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>Since opening in February 2022, ATG have hosted 56 ticketed performances with an average occupancy of 80% across each event at Swansea Arena. 21 of these performances were sold out to capacity - including 7 performances of Jersey Boys, Alice Cooper, Royal Blood, Corey Taylor, Paul Heaton &amp; Jacqui Abbot and a number of high profile comedians. Over these 56 performances, 105,000 tickets have been sold.</p> <p>ATG have also held approximately 85 conferences, seminars and corporate events, outside of ticketed performances, bringing the total number of events since opening to circa 141.</p>

11	<p><b>Councillor Lyndon Jones &amp; Francesca O'Brien</b></p> <p>As we have seen from around the UK, Freeport's provide huge financial benefits and act as a catalyst to create good jobs. What work has Swansea Council done to promote the bid for Swansea to become a Freeport.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>On 1st September 2022 the UK and Welsh governments jointly launched the Freeport prospectus for Wales. At the CJC meeting on the 11th October Members agreed to support the principle of a collaborative bid prepared by Neath Port Talbot County Borough and Pembrokeshire County Council in partnership with Associated British Ports (ABP Port Talbot) and the Port of Milford Haven.</p> <p>The Freeport prospectus lists three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote regeneration and high-quality job creation;</li> <li>• Establish the Freeport as a national hub for global trade and investment across the economy, and</li> <li>• Foster an innovative environment.</li> </ul> <p>An application to create a dual-centred Freeport was submitted on the 24<sup>th</sup> November and it is understood that the Welsh and UK governments will make a decision in Spring 2023. The prospectus places a strong emphasis on decarbonisation and the Ministerial Foreword recognises that “ports have huge potential to accelerate future industries which support net-zero, from off-shore energy to advanced manufacturing”.</p> <p>The Freeport bid – branded as the ‘Celtic Freeport’ - includes 3 individual tax sites with a combined area no greater than 600 hectares. Each of the sites include contiguous development land across Port Talbot and Milford Haven/Pembroke Dock which will enable and incentivise new investment, innovation and job creation. Importantly, the bid is designed to achieve additionality and thereby mitigate the potential for displacement across the region. The bid will also ensure that the Welsh government’s social partnership (‘fair work’) agenda is supported and reinforced. These were key issues raised by partners within the region when taking informal soundings about the proposed consortium bid.</p> <p>I believe that the Celtic Freeport submission is the best freeport bid in Wales, and this region is well placed to become a national and international leader in green technology. If successful, the proposal will have significant economic benefits for the wider region and is complementary to the Blue Eden lagoon project in Swansea.</p>
12	<p><b>Councillors Andrew Williams, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon &amp; Lesley Walton</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on what the successful levelling up bid will deliver for Swansea.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>The Lower Swansea Valley scheme will deliver three geographically-defined projects, which consolidate a strategic path of investments in historic assets which aims to highlight and enrich the legacy of Victorian entrepreneurialism and copper</p>

	<p>industry. Key to this is the creation of a new heritage destination at Hafod-Morfa Copperworks which will include exhibitions, hospitality, and marketplace options through the regeneration of historic buildings. River linkages, public realm improvements and a reimagining of Victorian Railway arches will improve the public interface between Hafod-Morfa Copperworks and the City Centre. Finally, Swansea Museum will be substantially upgraded to increase exhibition space and cultural offer.</p> <p>The bid is formed of three geographically-defined projects focussing on prominent aspects of the legacy of Victorian entrepreneurialism and its effects on the modern city, bringing them into relief against the strong regeneration programme underway across the county.</p> <p><b>Project 1</b> consolidates the industrial legacy of the copper industry on the banks of the River Tawe at the Hafod-Morfa Copperworks, preserving the rich heritage features including several listed buildings, releasing them for business use, preparing for new private sector investment and increasing connectivity of local communities and visitors alike telling the story to new generations.</p> <p><b>Project 2</b> picks up the river linkages and eases the public interface with the core City Centre through re-use of Victorian railway arches enabling access to public transport by bus, rail and river, continuing the heritage experience currently underplayed.</p> <p><b>Project 3</b> creates a mutual destination with the heritage corridor in upgrading and enhancing Swansea Museum, oldest in Wales, enabling a richer display of the history of the place, bringing its collection nearer to the increased exhibition space to release the Copperworks rolling mill for mixed use regeneration and economic benefit.</p> <p><b>Economic Case &amp; Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Job and GVA* creation</b> – expected to support 106 gross direct jobs, 69 net additional jobs and will generate £5.7m gross direct GVA per annum and £3.7m net additional per annum.</li> <li>• <b>Increased footfall</b> – programme will enhance over 6,000 sqm of public realm settings in Swansea, thus increasing footfall and supporting surrounding businesses and amenities.</li> <li>• <b>Visitor numbers</b> – through the above investments there will be a forecasted increase of 11,500 additional visitors to the V&amp;S Shed and engine houses. The overall programme of investment will bring about an additional 8,350 additional overnight visitors and 31,200 daytime visitors each year.</li> </ul> <p>*gross value added (GVA) is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.</p>
13	<p><b>Councillors Kevin Griffiths, Mark Tribe &amp; Graham Thomas</b></p> <p>Why are we being refused a skateboard park in Pontarddulais when we have been told there is money available. Is Pontarddulais being disadvantaged at the expense of other areas some of which already have facilities.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>The Council has made a significant commitment of £1m via the ERF to improve Skate and Street Sport provision across Swansea. This will be delivered through a city wide strategy informed by an assessment of the current provision, condition surveys and suggested options for future improvement. There are approx. 20 sites</p>

	<p>across the city that either have existing skate/wheeled sport provision, or have already recorded demand from local groups and stakeholders for new or improved provision. The range, type and quality of current provision ranges from limited provision (but with local demand); small/poor condition of aging facilities; medium/reasonable/good; and major attractions with new investment more recently.</p> <p>With support from a number of skate organisations and groups, who share our drive and passion to deliver better skate facilities, views and suggestions from users and the community will be central to decisions. An element of the funding available will cover the costs of this work, which includes securing specialist expertise to ensure we have a clear, deliverable strategy which is best for the progression of this growing sport, accessible and sustainable for users. Pontarddulais, which has existing provision for both skate and BMX located in Coed Bach Park, will be included in these assessments, and further reviewed for any expansion or improvements as part of this project.</p>
14	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams &amp; Wendy Lewis</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update on the Mumbles sea defence scheme and what enhancements the public can expect to the promenade areas.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Mumbles Coastal protection works are being developed as part of the Welsh Government Coastal Risk Management Programme, designed to safeguard communities in light of projected sea level rise. The works will address the poor condition of the existing sea defences which are currently subject to wave overtopping in present day extreme events and tidal overtopping. The scheme will provide suitable and sustainable flood defences that will protect commercial and residential properties, amenities and services as well as major transport routes into Mumbles. The face of the sea wall will include textured formwork to encourage the growth of algae and colonisation by marine invertebrates. The scheme will provide not only a flood defence betterment, but will also bring wider benefits for regeneration and tourism.</p> <p>Works include widening the existing promenade to reduce cyclist and pedestrian conflict by increasing the width to a minimum of 6 metres to provide space for both pedestrians and cyclists. This will improve connectivity, accessibility, and promote sustainable active travel opportunities. The promenade south of Oyster Wharf will become more accessible with regular pedestrian access points to connect the promenade with the existing businesses and uses along Mumbles Road. Several bike hubs will be located at regular intervals along the promenade. These will include cycle stands and bike maintenance points, with existing shelters located at Oyster Wharf and Verdi's to be retained. Existing access to the beach will be maintained and improved to provide betterment for users.</p> <p>The public realm has been designed to improve the quality of user experience, whilst safeguarding the character of the area. The scheme will include new seating, lighting and play opportunities, whilst biodiverse planting will be incorporated to align with the authorities ambitions to introduce sustainable green infrastructure. Additional greening will be introduced adjacent to the promenade near Southend gardens that will support improved links to the existing play attraction, but also incorporate new features to encourage active play for visitors and the local</p>

	<p>community. This area will also continue to support pop-up food and beverage opportunities, whilst also providing enhanced links to support existing businesses along Mumbles Road with new crossing points.</p> <p>The furniture along Mumbles seafront has been carefully chosen to reinforce the history of the town and provide more opportunities for social interactions for all abilities. The public realm features will make reference to the areas rich heritage, including reference to the Swansea to Mumbles railway and its importance to the local fishing industry. Interesting and informative interpretation and signage along the promenade will provide opportunity for the public to engage in Mumbles, past, present, and future.</p> <p>Improved lighting will also be provided along the prom. This will take the form of new additional low level lighting bollards as well as replacing the existing lighting columns along the prom. This will provide a safe and more inclusive environment, whilst also supporting the night time economy of the area. The new lighting will continue the member led works to improve lighting along the promenade. The scheme also seeks to provide 46 new trees along the length of the promenade as well as additional planting and landscaping of the area. The species have been chosen due to their resilience to the harsh conditions found on the seafront.</p> <p>Significant effort is being made to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum during the development of these key works. Drop-in sessions are being provided for the community and local businesses, parking opportunities are being carefully managed around the works phasing and options to utilise the land train to provide additional provision for visitors are also being developed.</p> <p>The Councils are developing options that will enable continuation of the Swansea Bay rider landtrain throughout the peak periods of the season in 2023. Working with the contractors and private landowners there are proposals to create a temporary stop and turning circle near to the Dairy car park in close proximity to the main gateway into the village. This will ensure alternative options available to visitors to access Mumbles during busier periods of weekends, bank holidays and during school holidays when demand for car parking will be greater.</p> <p>Overall, the development will provide visual improvements to the area, creating a sustainable and attractive waterfront - an asset to the local community and an attraction for visitors.</p>
15	<p><b>Councillors Bev Hopkins, Mike Lewis Lesley Walton, Wendy Lewis &amp; Mike White</b></p> <p>How has the Community Budget enabled Councillors to make a difference in their wards.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Community Budget scheme helps deliver many local exciting initiatives that are a priority for individual Councillors and their community.</p> <p>Councillors are able to allocate funding to any scheme providing it is legal, complies with the Council's constitution and the Council's policies and procedures.</p> <p>We took the decision to raise community budgets from £1000 per year under the previous Lib Dem/Independent administration to massive £10'000 per member per year.</p>

	<p>The community budget has been such a resounding success that we further increased it this year to £15,000 over the coming term, this enables members and residents to have even more say on community focussed schemes that directly affect their own local area.</p> <p>The are many excellent projects that have come forward thanks to the community budget.</p> <p>Life-saving defibrillators in community locations, bus shelters, donations to local schools and community charities, investment in parks and play, low level lighting, supporting local sports clubs or events, minor footpath or road improvements and spending on floral displays.</p> <p>The fund makes a significant contribution to projects that make a huge difference to the look and feel our communities. Quite often the projects are suggested by residents themselves and it's the local members that help make the ambition a reality.</p> <p>Part of a councillor's role is to be a community champion for their area. This budget has enabled them to give a voice to their residents and provide support for projects they want to see succeed.</p>
16	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, Bev Hopkins, Mike Lewis Lesley Walton &amp; Wendy Lewis</b></p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member update Council on the lighting scheme around the bay.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Following on from the resounding success of the initial low level lighting scheme in West Cross I am pleased to see that procurement for the next phase is well under way. After the procurement process is completed we should see delivery within 6-8 weeks and to ensure a quick installation, trenching and ducting work will commence in advance of the delivery of the bollards. The low-level, environmentally-friendly lights are being fully funded by the Council via the Economic Recovery Fund for smaller-scale projects in communities across the city.</p> <p>The scheme will light the promenade alongside the bay and will improve the facility for walkers, cyclists and other promenade users.</p>
17	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, Lesley Walton &amp; Mike Lewis</b></p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member provide an update on what rural development projects have taken place across Swansea.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Delivery of the current Rural Development Programme commenced in July 2015, and since then the Rural Development Partnership has awarded £461,695 in grant funding to 29 projects across rural areas in Swansea. The projects that have received funding are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellbeing through Woodcraft, delivering a new and innovative social-prescribing approach involving woodland based activities.</li> </ul>

- Rhossili Community Hub which provides an interactive communication platform for residents.
- Mor Hapus, running workshops to raise awareness of coastal ecological systems
- Let's Get Together community playscheme in Reynoldston
- Cae Felin Volunteering and Biodiversity Management project linking with the Llŵchwr GP cluster to provide social prescribing opportunities
- FLOW – Fairwood LEADER funded outcome-based work to produce a fully tested and costed results based payment proposal for Fairwood Common
- Mawr Biodiversity Project to develop and transform Ffordd Ellen in Craig Cefn Parc and Garnswllt field, Garnswllt into accessible green space for the community.
- Gower Pilgrimage Way and Festival to promote and interpret a 50 mile long walking route linking 17 historic Gower churches, several chapels and other Christian sites.
- Feasibility study for 'Mapping Local Produce and Shorten Supply Chains in Rural Swansea'
- Y Future in Swansea project enabling young people to engage, promote and discuss youth environmental advocacy and activism, green technology, waste management, climate action and climate justice
- Gower Flax project to explore natural fibres and regenerative textile systems
- Gower Ambassador Programme, online training and development to build a team of local volunteers that will provide a warm welcome to visitors and act as knowledgeable hosts
- Growing Community through Forest Gardening in Murton, Gower
- Nature Area for Outdoor Learning in Bishopston Primary School
- Big Meadow Community Supported Agriculture based in Llangennith
- Gower Off Road Cycles Routes utilising the existing network of bridleways across Gower
- Feasibility study and outline business plan for a Community Hub in Pennard
- Market at the Mill, an experimental community owned produce market evening
- Gower Activity Centres feasibility study to maximise the potential of Ty Borfa and Ty Rhossili
- Port Eynon Foreshore feasibility study
- Feasibility Study to investigate the viability of Community Carbon Offset project
- Cae Tan Community Supported Agriculture
- Digital Marketing for Sustainable Transport in Rural Swansea
- Swansea Rural Community Voice, a digital tool for communities to make their voices heard, reach decisions, and coordinate projects that matter to them
- Iron Age Roundhouse Educational Facility at Gower Heritage Centre
- Gower Community Tourism Ambassador Pilot and Feasibility Study
- Gower Sunday Explorer Buses 2016 and 2017-19 (two projects) providing a revised and improved bus service between Swansea and Gower on Sundays in mid and high season
- Killan Community Solar Farm, a feasibility study to investigate the potential for a community owned solar farm

In addition, the Rural Development Partnership has directly commissioned the following projects:

- 'Stories of a Changing Landscape, a Farmers Perspective' to raise awareness of mental health support in Rural Swansea. The commission has provided the



	<p>opportunity for farmers to talk about the heritage of farming in rural Swansea, about the successes and the difficulties experienced, which have been captured through a series of films and photographs. The project culminated with exhibitions in Scurlage, Pontarddulais and Swansea Museum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Rural Communities Feasibility Study to explore opportunities identified in Pontarddulais, Penclawdd, Llangyfelach and Mawr</li> <li>• Rural Swansea Resource/ Visitor Centre Feasibility Study</li> <li>• Rural Swansea Sustainable Transport Network Feasibility Study</li> </ul> <p>Further details on all projects funded through the Rural Development Programme are available on the Swansea Council website at: <a href="#">Rural Development Programme (RDP) projects - Swansea</a></p>
	<p><b>Part B – No Supplementaries</b></p>
18	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>The Boulevard project involved the planting of semi-mature trees in the central reservation and looked very nice when new. Unfortunately, time has taken its toll less than a decade later. The trees have decorative metal grilles at the base of the trunk which were flush with the paving with a coating of gravel bonded in a orangey pink resin. Many of the grilles have lifted up quite significantly and in some cases large lumps of resin have broken free and are sitting in on the paving stones which are also starting to lift. Are there any plans for remedial work to reset the grilles, paving and repair the resin please or will things be left as they are.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>These tree grills were originally installed to allow for the staged removal of the porous resin bound gravel (loose gravel tends to get kicked onto footways and carriageways). The material needs to be porous to allow as much moisture as possible to percolate down to the trees root system. Unfortunately this system has not worked well and the method will not be used on future projects. The remaining root protectors are being assessed with a view to complete removal.</p>
19	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>What is the current projected total cost for repairs, renewals and backlog maintenance for Swansea schools.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Members for Education &amp; Learning and Service Transformation</b></p> <p>The current projected total cost for repairs, renewals and backlog maintenance for Swansea schools is £50,383,342. This figure needs to be taken in the context of Swansea's total anticipated capital spend between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2023 of £98m which includes capital maintenance, and Band A and Band B associated investment. The figure is an indicative cost for all repairs, renewals and backlog maintenance work to bring all Swansea schools up to a B condition rating, based on the last surveys that were undertaken and 2022 prices. This data represents a snap</p>

	<p>shot in time and is not designed to provide an understanding of future degradation of the condition of schools. In addition, costs identified only take into consideration assets and elements that were deemed to be in “C – Poor with major defects” or “D – Bad; life has expired or risk of imminent failure” at the time of the survey. No costs have been identified for future maintenance or asset replacements required as a result of future degradation. The figures and condition ratings are calculated in line with the methodology set out by Welsh government in 2018, so it’s consistent across all local authorities.</p> <p>As a result of significant sustained investment in new and better school buildings as part of the £150M schools Capital programme, the backlog figure has reduced by circa £60M compared to the figure in 2017.</p>
20	<p><b>Councillor Chris Evans</b></p> <p>Given the reduce, reuse, recycle hierarchy of dealing with waster, is it possible for a small Tip Treasures type area to be set up at the other recycling centres in Swansea as well as Llansamlet to help us increase the amount of waste that is re-used.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>Unfortunately, whilst setting up a number of Re-use Shops across the Swansea area would help to further promote re-use, our other Recycling Centres are not suitable because they are not large enough to accommodate a premises large enough to be able to generate sufficient income to cover the ongoing costs of staff needed to run the facility, and do not have sufficient customer parking to suit the needs of a shop.</p> <p>Each of our Recycling Centres does have a container for receiving donations for re-use, which are then transferred to Tip Treasures for assessment, testing &amp; repairs as necessary, pricing, and putting on display.</p>
21	<p><b>Councillor Chris Evans</b></p> <p>The Council has done well creating our active travel network, however the recent cold snap has shown that active travel is still playing second fiddle to other forms of transport with a number of accidents reported to me, and cyclists being forced to use more polluting forms of transport. Will the council commit to properly gritting the major national cycle routes that run through the county as they would major roads to keep them open and safe in poor weather.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Swansea Council is one of the most successful council’s in Wales in terms of securing WG funding to create more Active Travel routes throughout Swansea. Clearly we are committed to increasing the number of people that choose to walk and cycle and reduce the need to use a car or other motorised mode of transport.</p> <p>Limited resources with Winter Maintenance requires the council to focus on main routes in the city and enables us to cover around 45% of the entire highway network in Swansea. This means main roads used by motorists, public transport and emergency services are kept moving during icy conditions.</p> <p>This winter we have been extremely busy and have used around 2,200 tonnes of salt to treat our roads, travelling more than 27,500 kilometres.</p>

	<p>The focus on main roads means footways are not treated – and this includes footways where shared use cycle paths are featured.</p> <p>We always advise the public to take care in icy conditions and drive, walk or cycle with care if they are using untreated routes.</p> <p>We have almost 900 grit bins in communities around Swansea which are filled ahead of the winter period and residents can use these to add additional salt to treat pavements in the communities.</p> <p>The situation is however being kept under review and could be changed over time as people’s travel habits change and/or additional funding becomes available from Welsh Government.</p>
22	<p><b>Councillors Peter Black, Mary Jones &amp; Susan Jones</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Members please provide a list of the number of agency and temporary staff employed by each department and the annual cost.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>The latest position with regards to agency workers is available in a Governance and Audit report (8<sup>th</sup> February 2023) in which the numbers and costs of agency provision across departments are detailed. Link to the report is here - <a href="#">Agency Worker update Feb 2023</a>.</p>
23	<p><b>Councillors Lynda James, Mike Day &amp; Cheryl Philpott</b></p> <p>Parking Charges - We note that there is a two-tier system of charges proposed. We support the idea of local residents paying less than visitors. Could the Cabinet Member please explain how this will work.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>This is a new and exciting scheme unique to Swansea and not available anywhere else in Wales. As with all new initiatives there are some operational issues that the Council and our equipment suppliers are working to overcome. When parking in one of our multi storey car parks the proposal is for a QR code printed on The Big Heart of Swansea discount card or via a newly developed smartphone app. The card will be scanned at the payment terminal to receive the required discounted parking tariff.</p> <p>In order to obtain the Big Heart of Swansea card an application will need to be completed and proof of a residential Swansea address will be required.</p> <p>Customers using the MiPermit smart phone application will need to download the app and register their details confirming their Swansea address. When paying for the parking period in Pay and Display car parks the app will automatically display the discounted residents’ tariff.</p> <p>Customers wishing to pay at the machine will need to enter their vehicle registration number as normal, and if a Swansea resident press the button to select the Swansea residents’ tariff via the pay and display machine menu.</p>

	<p>The Council will be giving out further information on the scheme as we move closer to the go live date in its Car Parks and through its social media channels.</p>
24	<p><b>Councillors Lynda James, Chris Holley &amp; Michael Locke</b></p> <p>Swansea Boy's Club has stood empty for many years and is falling into dereliction and an eyesore on the skyline. Could the Cabinet Member explain what has happened to the previous plans to restore and use this building</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>Council officers were in dialogue with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Wales during 2018 to determine if they were able to secure the substantial funding required to refurbish the dilapidated former Boys club which has been empty since they originally vacated the property in 2006. As the organisation was unable to present a viable proposal the building was sold by the Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019.</p> <p>A planning application to change the use from a Community Facility (Class D2) to Residential Dwellings (Class C3) and redevelopment of the site to provide 23 units with associated roof extension, new vehicular access, infrastructure and landscaping works was approved in March 2021. Subsequent applications to discharge some of the conditions have been approved, although other pre-commencement conditions still need to be discharged before the development commences. The planning permission remains valid until March 2026 by which time the development needs to have lawfully commenced.</p>
25	<p><b>Councillors Mark Tribe, Kevin Griffiths &amp; Sam Bennett</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member agree to conducting a survey where street signs for the main routes through central Swansea are identified as absent. A local resident has conducted their own survey and found that the majority of such street names are absent which could lead to confusion for visitors and residents alike</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Highway Authority is responsible for the maintenance of around 6000 streets which amounts to at least 12000 street name plates. Replacement of nameplates is generally reactive in nature following reports from the public and local members. I will review how the Council can raise awareness of the mechanisms for reporting missing street signs.</p>
26	<p><b>Councillors Michael Locke, Mary Jones &amp; Chris Holley</b></p> <p>Having recently spoken to a stall holder in Swansea it is apparent that stall holders have been waiting for over a year for Wi-Fi to be enabled in Swansea Market. Apparently the infrastructure has been put in place, with the delay associated with Wi-Fi installation in the Arena. With many customers using contactless payment Wi-Fi is important for market traders, currently they have to use dial up which is very slow. Wi-Fi would also be useful for the public in the newly created seating area at the centre of the market. Could the Cabinet Member give an update on progress and a possible start date for the Market Wi-Fi.</p>

	<p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service &amp; Performance</b></p>

A commitment has been made to the provision of free wi-fi at Swansea Market and the Copr Bay area of the city centre and work is underway. This wi-fi technology will undoubtedly benefit visitors, residents and businesses such as Swansea Market traders.

There has been a delay with the delivery of the wi-fi service due to ongoing building works in the Copr Bay development. The original micro-duct and fibre installation has had to be taken down but the connections will be re-established. A few snagging issues have also been identified and are being rectified.

Officers and contractors are aiming to complete the work as soon as possible. Swansea Market traders and customers will be advised as soon as the service is available.