



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
E W Fitzgerald
V A Holland
W G Lewis
M S Tribe

Councillor(s)
R Fogarty
M Jones
F D O'Brien
T M White

Councillor(s)
T J Hennegan
H Lawson
S Pritchard

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

Beth Allender Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

P R Hood-Williams S M Jones L R Jones

Officer(s)

Brij Madahar Scrutiny Team Leader
Debbie Smith Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Samantha Woon Democratic Services Officer

Also present

Paula O'Connor, Chair of Governance & Audit Committee

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley

83 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

84 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.

85 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 14 February, 2023 be signed and approved as a correct record, subject to Beth Allender's apologies being recorded.

86 Public Question Time.

No questions were received.

87 Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group - Bus Services.

The Chair requested that the matter be deferred due to Officer illness.

Resolved that the matter be deferred.

88 Governance & Audit Committee / Scrutiny Relationship.

The Chair of Governance and Audit Committee discussed her Committee's work and the relationship between Scrutiny and Governance and Audit. This was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen that relationship and closer working.

She referred to the recent Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act which gave additional responsibilities to Governance & Audit Committees relating to the Council Annual Performance Self-Assessment, and once per term Performance Peer Review. It also required Committees to consider the Council's Annual Complaints Report.

She referred to the range of actions already in place to ensure there is awareness/understanding of each Committee's work and co-ordination to avoid duplication and cited examples of work in relation to external audit and performance reporting and the difference in approaches, ensuring that activity on any common topics is complementary, with the Governance & Audit Committee being mainly concerned with assurance around the effectiveness of process. Given the role of the Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel in carrying out ongoing performance monitoring, the Panel Convener, Cllr Chris Holley, is being invited to attend Governance & Audit Committees when any performance reports are being discussed.

She also referred to All Wales Training that she has attended which has helped her in her role as Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee which has covered the relationship with Scrutiny, and respective roles.

The Chair thanked the Chair of Governance and Audit for her informative report.

**89 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Child & Family Services
(Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams, Convener)**

Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams provided a report summarising the work of the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel over the past year, and key issues which the Panel has been focussing on.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress report in respect of Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel be noted.

90 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

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

91 Scrutiny Work Programme.

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

The plan for the Special Meeting on 20 March is:

- Pre-decision Scrutiny: National 20 Mph Default Speed Limit Including Consideration of the Exemption Process.

The main items scheduled for the next meeting on 18 April is:

- Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Session – Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership.

92 Scrutiny Letters.

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

93 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 4.17 pm

Chair