

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 Panel will meet with Housing Association operating in Swansea in April and will then move onto the consultation phase of the inquiry. In May, they will meet with the local business community, equalities forums/groups and young people.

(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	24 Oct 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 14 March this Panel looked at the Planning Annual Performance Report and Annual Complaints Report.

On 18 April they will look at the Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23 and review the Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Plan.

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

This Panel meets every month. In March, they took a visit to Maes Derw Pupil Referral Unit. The Panel, at the end of the visit, said they welcomed the design and layout of the new facility and were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of all the staff. They felt the work at the PRU was inspiring and the Panel appreciated the difference this is making to the lives of some of the most vulnerable pupils in Swansea.

In April, they will look the wider Education Other Than At School Services, receive a report designed to help them to hear the voices of Children and Young People, and receive an update on the Swansea Skills Partnership.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At its meeting on 21 March the Panel received an update on the West Glamorgan Transformation Programme, discussed the latest Performance Monitoring Report, received a briefing on the Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2021/22 and an update on Local Area Coordination.

At the next meeting on 2 May the Panel will discuss the Adult Services Complaints Annual Report, receive an update on how the Council's Policy Commitments relate to Adult Services, and receive a Progress Report on Commissioning Reviews. The Panel will also undertake an end of year review.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At its meeting on 2 March the Panel received an update on Support for Carers including assessments. Adult Services Panel Members were invited to attend for this joint item. The Panel also discussed the latest Performance Monitoring Report and received a briefing on the Youth Offending Service.

At the next meeting on 22 May the Panel will discuss the delivery of Corporate Priorities in relation to Child and Family Services and the Child and Family Complaints Annual Report and will undertake an end of year review.

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

This Panel meets every two months. A fuller progress report appears in the agenda under Item 7.

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

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel met on 8 March and discussed Nature Conservation – Project Updates and Air Quality Management. The Panel also received its annual update on Local Flood Risk.

At the next meeting on 2 May the Panel will receive an update on Climate Change, including further discussion on Green Vehicle Adoption. The Panel will also be briefed on achievement against Corporate Priorities/Objectives/Policy Commitments in relation to Climate Change and Nature and the Panel will undertake an end of year review.

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 Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group met on the 13 February where they looked at the Joint Committee's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements. They also received an update on the progress and performance of Partneriaeth Priority 1 - Curriculum & Assessment.

They will next meet on the 19 June, where they will meet with all three Directors of Education and the Chair of the Joint Committee, as it is stipulated in the Joint Agreement that this happens annually. With the purpose of seeking reassurance and to consider if Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively. They will also receive an update on Partneriaeth Priority 2 - Developing a high-quality education profession.

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

The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets every two months. As well as overall programme / project monitoring including the latest financial position, the meeting on 28 February focussed on progress with the 'Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District' and 'Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth' projects. The Committee also

considered issues around increasing construction costs and carbon reduction as they relate to the delivery of the City Deal programme.

The next meeting takes place on 2 May for continued programme / project monitoring and focussed discussion on one of the regional projects.

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. At the last meeting held on 23 February the Committee discussed the CJC Draft Corporate Plan, South West Wales Economic Delivery Plan, and Regional Transport Plan 2025-30.

The next meeting on 20 April will focus on CJC activity in relation to Energy and Strategic Development.

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 Chris Holley) **COMPLETE**

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 was sent to the Cabinet Member and response received. This was reported to the Committee on 14 February and the Committee will be responsible for follow up in the next 12 months.

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

This Working Group took place on 9 March 2023. It enabled information, focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress in helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners, and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc. The Working Group is now writing to the lead Cabinet Member with its views. Once responded to this will be reported to the Committee.

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 / though digital means; provision for offline 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.