

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 to discuss their final report in October, looking at the comments made by contributors then agreeing its submission to the Scrutiny Programme Committee in November prior to Cabinet.

(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, Regeneration & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every month. On 26 September the Panel reviewed the Capital Outturn and Financing 2022/23 and the Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring Report 2023/24.

At their next meeting on 17 October they will discuss the Audit Wales Report on the Setting of Wellbeing Objectives and the Annual Library Services Report.

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

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

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel's meeting on 5 September received the Performance Monitoring Report for July 2023 and the Audit Wales Report 'A Missed Opportunity – Social Enterprises.

At its next meeting on 21 October the Panel will discuss the Director of Social Services Annual Report and receive briefings on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and Llais.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The meeting on 13 September received a video presentation by young carers and an update on the Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan.

At its next meeting on 24 October the Panel will receive an update from the Regional Safeguarding Board and discuss the Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report and progress with Commissioning Reviews.

- e) **Climate Change & Nature** (convener: Cllr Sara Keeton)

This Panel meets every two months. At its meeting on 3 October the Panel looked at Water Quality, Management and Pollution Control and discussed Planning Enforcement in relation to Nature and Biodiversity.

The next meeting on 28 November will look at Environmental Tourism.

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 Councillor Group met on the 19 June, where they met with all three Directors of Education and the Chair of the Joint Committee, as is stipulated in the Joint Agreement that this should happen annually. They will also receive an update on Partneriaeth Priority 2 - Developing a high-quality education profession and discussed the Risk Assessment Profile.

At their next meeting on the 23 October, they will look at progress with the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales, the Risk Assessment Profile and take a look at the performance of Partneriaeth Priority 2 – Embed principles and processes which underpin educational equity in all schools and educational settings.

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 4 May focussed on progress with the 'Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth' project. It also received an update on the current situation with City Deal portfolio private sector investment and contributions.

The next meeting takes place on 24 October for continued programme / project monitoring and focussed discussion on specific regional Project(s), with updates on 'Skills & Talent' and 'Digital Infrastructure'

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 last meeting held on 20 April involved the Committee discussing the South West Wales Strategic Development Plan, and South West Wales Energy Strategy. A meeting planned for 20 July was cancelled.

The next meeting is due to take place on 2 November – agenda item(s) to be confirmed.

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<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ie/ListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=499>

5. Working Groups:

A number of 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) **Public Rights of Way** (convener: Councillor Mike White)

This Working Group has been arranged for 22 November 2023. This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on overview of Public Rights of Way across Swansea (mapping / numbers) and issues; impact on Public Rights of Way from developments; effect on communities, etc.

b) **Customer Contact** (convener: Councillor Joe Hale)

This working group will be held in early 2024 and 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 offline and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.

This Working Group was carried forward from 2022/23.

c) **Community Growing** (convener: TBC)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion around Council activity / support to Community Growing, with examples (e.g., allotments) and experience; benefits / success; including focus on schools / children & young people; and its contribution to health & well-being, etc.