

Councillor Jeff Jones
Convener,
Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny
Performance Panel

SENT BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Rob Stewart
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Our Ref: RS/JW
Your Ref:
Date: 31 January 2020

Dear Councillor Jones

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND FINANCE PERFORMANCE PANEL 20 JANUARY 2020

Thank you for the scrutiny session on 20 January regarding the initial proposals for the 20-21 budget which you chaired on behalf of Councillor Chris Holley.

I very much agree with most of your summation of the matters we discussed fully and am pleased the panel recognised the scale of funding coming in 20-21, the tight timings, and the opportunities afforded to invest more in Swansea's future and the Council's priorities. I look forward to soon concluding the consultation round and reporting back to Cabinet and Council on the final budget options in due course on 20th February and 5th March respectively.

With regard to the two follow up matters you have raised I would advise as follows.

1. Our public consultation follows our normal approach, albeit to a tighter timescale this year, following the delayed provisional settlement. This involves general opportunities for any interested individuals or groups to express views online and in writing on general matters, specific issues, or our survey and has been publicised both in the press and on social media. We will know if any environmental groups have taken part once the consultation closes and highlight accordingly.
2. The budget proposal of £40,000 relates to the Council vacating Alexandra House and ceasing lease arrangements, which will mean that staff will relocate into the Guildhall or out of 5 Community based venues, as part of the integrated family support offer and the developing early help hub model. The lease cost was met from core funding and grant and the amount released is the core element only whilst additionally freeing up grant for re-investment into front line provision, enabling more effective working through integration and puts services into the community.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Stewart', written in a cursive style.

**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
ARWEINYDD/LEADER**