

Supplementary Information

Cabinet - Thursday, 16 November 2017

At: Council Chamber, Guildhall, Swansea

Time: 10.00 am

a Scrutiny Letters (Agenda Items 7, 9 & 11)

Page No.
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**To/
Councillors
Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Health
and Wellbeing
Jen Raynor, Cabinet Member for
Children, Education and Lifelong
Learning**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

01792 637256

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

*Date
Dyddiad:*

14 November 2017

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Child and Family Services Performance Panel to the Cabinet Members for Health and Wellbeing and for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning following the meeting of the Panel on 14 November 2017. It is about the Family Support Services Commissioning Review focussing on Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities.

Dear Councillors Child and Raynor

Child and Family Services Performance Panel – 14 November 2017

The Panel would like to thank you and the officers for providing the report and attending our meeting to discuss the Family Support Services Commissioning review that is focussing on children with additional needs and disabilities.

We are writing to you to share the views of the panel, and where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response. Find below the issues the panel would like to highlight to you and Cabinet on the 16 November arising from the discussion.

1. It is good to see inclusion and a detailed consultation exercise to gain views of disability services from children and young people although we appreciate the difficulty in getting large numbers to participate in this.
2. We recognise that there are two commissioning reviews looking at additional needs, the family support aspect but also the Additional Learning Needs review being led by Education. We were pleased to hear that the departments are working closely together and that these two pieces of work have been aligned to ensure a co-ordinated and joined up outcome.

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3. We were interested to hear about the co-production with parents in developing services and welcome the development of a consultation mechanism with parents that will include a wide group of parents of children with additional needs. We did however emphasise the importance of ensuring we reach out to get views of those parents who may be less vocal or for whatever reason, find it difficult to engage.
4. We heard that there are a growing number of children with additional needs, which is an ongoing challenge for both local authorities and health authorities alike. Consequently we support the increase in funding going towards the Early Help Service, We support the need to develop better prevention services in conjunction with health and also support the authority in the strive to engage health in future developments.
5. The report details that 11% of overall funding is made up of grants which in itself must be seen as a risk when moving forward. We did emphasise the importance of contingency planning should these grants stop or be reduced.
6. We understand that the introduction of a voucher scheme for play and leisure for children with additional needs is being considered. We would like to emphasise the importance of recognising the potential implications of this type of scheme for providers and parents. We were encouraged to hear that you plan to look at how this is working in other local authorities and to work closely with parents when considering this as an option.
7. We were pleased to see and were supportive of the recommendation around specialist services for young carers. We recognise that currently it is in its early stages but feel it is a positive move.
8. We note that only 3 of the 6 recommendations required assessment of potential alternative supply mechanisms and indeed 2 of them were purely internal development. We also note the intention to seek to resource external facilities for overnight short breaks with the aim of reducing the cost of the service by £50k, and this will hopefully result in an improved service. We need to guard against a poorer service. We were also a bit disappointed that where assessments had been carried out for (recommendations 1, 2 and 3) that we only had the final score and not the breakdown of that score into its separate elements.

Your response

We recognise that our comments will be discussed at Cabinet on the 16 November but would also ask for you to provide us with a written response to our issues raised by 5 December 2017.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR PAXTON HOOD WILLIAMS

Convener, Child and Family Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ Cllr.paxton.hood-williams@swansea.gov.uk

**To/
Councillor Andrea Lewis
Cabinet Member for Housing,
Energy & Building Services**

BY EMAIL

cc: Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

01792 637257

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

SPC/2017-18/8

15 November 2017

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Energy & Building Services following the meeting of the Committee on 13 November 2017. It is about a proposed cabinet decision on the More Homes Pilot Scheme.

Dear Councillor Lewis,

**Pre-decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Report:
More Homes Pilot Scheme – Milford Way and Parc Y Helyg Sites**

The Scrutiny Programme Committee met on 13 November to consider the report that you are presenting to Cabinet on 16 November, and give a view on the proposed decision.

We thank you and relevant officers for attending our meeting to present the report and answer our questions. This is a matter which we have keenly awaited, having asked you on a number of occasions for information about costs.

We discussed progress with the first pilot house building scheme at Milford Way, and final costs / financial implications. We noted that your report also sought cabinet approval of the release of funds for enabling works at the second pilot site at Parc Y Helyg.

Firstly the Committee agreed that it was fitting to congratulate you and all those involved in delivering the first new council houses for nearly 40 years – homes which are built to high specification and will lift families out of fuel poverty, which is highly commended. We acknowledged that this was a first but significant step forward which will inform the longer term strategy to deliver more affordable and sustainable homes in Swansea.

Although we debated the value for money, cost comparisons and lessons learned from the first pilot scheme and possible approaches to the second site, in terms of the overall decision that the cabinet is being asked to take, the Committee has no issue with the recommendations.

Indeed we welcome a further report on which options should be progressed at Parc Y Helyg, and expected costs. You explained that that report will explore in more detail and provide appraisal of different options comparing build based on 'Passivhaus' standard and, what the report refers to as, a 'Swansea Standard', both in relation to costs and quality. We intend to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on that report, and it would be helpful if you can provide indication of when this is likely to come forward.

Looking at future work we highlighted the following which should be carefully considered:

- Clarity about external works/costs at the outset - one issue which concerned committee members was the extensive drainage works that were required at the Milford Way site to comply with Welsh Water restrictions in the area, and significant impact on overall costs. This was something that should have been anticipated given known issues regarding the Burry Inlet, which have already hampered other developments. You agreed that when making future decisions about sites the likely cost of external works must be considered upfront.
- Greater use of local suppliers – we acknowledged issues with the supply chain in sourcing specialist products, which meet Passivhaus certification standards, that prevented local suppliers from tendering for the work. More should be done to maximise local benefits from future work, without necessarily compromising on principles and standards – supporting suppliers to support us in future projects if we are clear about the specifications we require.
- Clarity about the financial savings derived from these energy efficient homes – we felt that overall costs should be considered alongside the long term savings that would result from the energy efficient build e.g. financial savings to tenants from lower fuel consumption. We felt it would be helpful if this can be quantified in future reports to provide a better picture when assessing costs and benefits. We supported a full evaluation of the properties that would help provide such information.

A number of committee members have been able to visit the Milford Way site and recommended a visit to others. We would be pleased if you were able to arrange for another guided visit for members so that those who have not been able to visit have opportunity to do so.

Finally, I am unable to attend the cabinet meeting on Thursday to feedback the committee's views as contained in this letter. However, the vice-chair, Councillor Terry Hennegan will attend in my absence.

Your Response

We would be grateful for a written response to this letter so that the Committee is informed of the decision taken by Cabinet and its consideration of the views expressed by the Committee, whether accepted or rejected.

Specifically we would appreciate confirmation about timescales for your cabinet report about the design standards at Parc Y Helyg, and whether further arrangements can be made for members to look at the Milford Way scheme.

It would be helpful to receive your reply to this letter by 6 December. We will then include both letters in the agenda of the next available committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR MARY JONES

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.mary.jones@swansea.gov.uk

**To/
Councillor Rob Stewart, Cabinet
Member for Economy & Strategy
(Leader)**

**Councillor Clive Lloyd, Cabinet
Member for Service Transformation
& Business Operations**

BY EMAIL

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

01792 637257

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

SPC/2017-18/9

15 November 2017

cc: Cabinet Members

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Members for Economy & Strategy (Leader) and Service Transformation & Business Operations following the meeting of the Committee on 13 November 2017. It is about a proposed cabinet decision on the Liberty Stadium.

Dear Councillor,

Pre-decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Report: Liberty Stadium

The Scrutiny Programme Committee met on 13 November to consider the report that you are presenting to Cabinet on 16 November, and give a view on the proposed decision.

We thank you and relevant officers for attending our meeting to present the report and answer our questions. Your report concerned commercial negotiations between Swansea City Football Club and the Council on existing lease arrangements. We noted the proposal to revise the existing headlease and benefits to the Council, including the sum of £300,000 per annum rent that will be payable to the Council.

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Overall the Committee welcomed the agreement with the Football Club that will see not only a guaranteed cash income to the Council but a percentage of any naming rights deal, and community benefit (3G pitches). We recognised that without a new deal the current arrangement, which requires no rental payment, could continue for the remainder of the original lease – 38 years. Given the unprecedented success of the Football Club over the period since the original lease was signed in 2005 we agreed that it was right to revise the terms.

We asked about the benefits that the Football Club will realise from the agreement and implications on the Council's role and responsibilities. We were satisfied that the proposed terms represented a fair deal for both parties. We also recognised that there are economic benefits to the city from having a Premier League football team, therefore development on and off the field was in everyone's interest.

We understand there will be a legal process to conclude the agreement, and that the Director of Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation & Business Operations will be authorised to finalise terms.

There was particular concern about what will happen to the stadium sinking fund. We would expect the Football Club to continue to pay, independently valued, reasonable sums into a 'sinking fund', with its responsibility for the management, maintenance and repair of the stadium. We were told that:

- the 'sinking fund' for the stadium is in place and is the responsibility of SSMC (Swansea Stadium Management Company) to ensure there is sufficient monies to fulfil its repair and maintenance obligations.
- the new lease will not change this and the annual inspection of the stadium by the Council will continue after the changes to the lease are made and will ensure these obligations are fulfilled.

The Committee noted that there are items currently under dispute, specifically the paintwork related to the structural steelwork and concourse flooring issues, and as such we were advised that these could not be discussed in open forum. We were interested in what bearing this had on the negotiations and would like to be informed of the final resolution of this matter.

Finally, I am unable to attend the cabinet meeting on Thursday to feedback the committee's views as contained in this letter. However, the vice-chair, Councillor Terry Hennegan will attend in my absence.

Your Response

We would be grateful for a written response to this letter so that the Committee is informed of the decision taken by Cabinet and its consideration of the views expressed by the Committee, whether accepted or rejected.

It would be helpful to receive your reply to this letter by 6 December. We will then include both letters in the agenda of the next available committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Jones

COUNCILLOR MARY JONES

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.mary.jones@swansea.gov.uk