



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

On: Monday, 28 February 2022

Time: 3.30 pm

Chair: Councillor Philip Downing

Membership:

Councillors: C R Doyle, D W Helliwell, P K Jones, L R Jones, E T Kirchner, D Phillips, C Richards, K M Roberts and L V Walton

Watch Online: <https://bit.ly/36j952R>

Agenda		Page No.
1	Apologies for Absence.	
2	Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests	
3	Minutes. To approve & sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.	1 - 3
4	Swansea Poverty Truth Commission.	4 - 8
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6	Fairness in Green Health Policy. (Verbal)	
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Next Meeting: Monday, 28 March 2022 at 3.30 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Huw Evans'.

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Contact: Democratic Services: - 636923

Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Monday, 24 January 2022 at 3.30 pm

Present: Councillor P Downing (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C R Doyle
L R Jones
K M Roberts

Councillor(s)

D W Helliwell
E T Kirchner
L V Walton

Councillor(s)

P K Jones
C Richards

Officer(s)

Sian Denty

Aled Gruffydd
Kay Lemon
Jeremy Parkhouse
Joanne Portwood
Anthony Richards

Swansea Poverty Truth Commission Facilitator /
Tackling Poverty Development Officer
Associate Lawyer
Swansea Poverty Truth Commission Facilitator
Democratic Services Officer
Strategy and Policy Officer
Poverty and Prevention Strategy and Development
Manager

Apologies for Absence

None.

33 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

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

34 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee held on 20 December 2021 be approved as a correct record.

35 Promoting Affordable Credit Policy Update.

Anthony Richards, Poverty and Prevention Strategy and Development Manager provided a verbal update regarding the Promoting Affordable Credit Policy Report. He outlined that the report had been agreed by the Cabinet Member and would be reported to Cabinet on 17 February 2022, for approval.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the update and welcomed the progress made.

Resolved that the content of the update be noted.

36 Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy Update.

The Chair provided a verbal update regarding the progress made in respect of the policy and informed the Committee that some additional minor updates were awaited from a small number of service areas.

The Poverty and Prevention Strategy and Development Manager added that engagement work with services continued regarding the collection of outstanding personal debt. He further added that the aim was to review the policy and for service areas to align it with their working practices.

The Chair noted that the Poverty and Prevention Strategy and Development Manager had previously been given authority by the Committee to consult with the public regarding the policy. The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process would be completed following the consultation exercise, which was expected to be completed by the end of February 2022.

Resolved that the contents of the update be noted.

37 Swansea Poverty Truth Commission.

The Poverty and Prevention Strategy and Development Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update regarding the background and progress made in respect of Swansea Poverty Truth Commission (SPTC).

He introduced Sian Denty, Swansea Poverty Truth Commission Facilitator / Tackling Poverty Development Officer and Kay Lemon, Swansea Poverty Truth Commission Facilitator who provided a detailed update regarding SPTC.

Details discussed included the key issues / timescale; the development phase; funding; impact of the Covid Pandemic; role of Facilitators; communication / involvement of organisations; diverse range of participants involved; issues faced within communities; poverty faced by working / unemployed families; asylum seekers / refugees; outcomes for Swansea; development of themes; and progressing with an informed approach to issues.

The Chair thanked the Officers for providing the update and stated that a written report would be provided at the next scheduled meeting.

Resolved that: -

- 1) The contents of the report be noted;
- 2) A written report be provided at the next scheduled meeting.

38 Work Plan 2021-2022.

The Chair presented an updated Work Plan 2021-2022.

The Committee discussed the Work Plan for the remainder of the year, including additional topics such as the imminent increase in fuel costs; introducing a basic income to overcome poverty; Community Food Growing Policy; and the continued work to support the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission. It was noted that a report would be presented to the next scheduled meeting.

Resolved that: -

- 1) The contents of the report be noted;
- 2) Reports on Community Food Growing Policy and Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, be presented to the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.30 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 4



Report of the Chair of the Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee

Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee – 28 February 2022

Swansea Poverty Truth Commission

Purpose:	To provide an update to the Poverty Reduction PDC on the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission.
Report Author:	Anthony Richards
Finance Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal Officer:	Aled Gruffydd
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window
For Information	

1. Introduction

1.1 Poverty Truth Commissions are about:

- Bringing change; changing communities, organisations, behaviours and attitudes towards poverty and taking action to tackle it.
- Bringing together key decision makers with people who have direct lived experience of poverty to form a group of Commissioners, Community Commissioners and Civic / Business Commissioners.
- Creating a safe space for Commissioners to meet together, build relationships, trust and confidence in each other.
- Identify key issues they will work on together, over a limited timescale, guided by the experiences of the Community Commissioners.
- Ensure that those affected by decisions are central to decision making.

1.2 Poverty Truth Commissions are not owned nor directed by any organisation. They are hosted by an organisation that is responsible for managing the financial resources and facilitation team.

- 1.3 Poverty Truth Commissions have a life cycle:
- Community Commissioners come together, build relationships and trust and share their stories with each other.
 - Emerging themes and priorities for the Commission are then established by the Commissioners.
 - Civic and Business Commissioners are invited to join the Commission.
 - A public launch then marks the start of the Commissions work.
 - The Commission works on its priority issues for a period of approximately 18 months.
 - A public closing event marks the end of the Commission. Experiences are shared along with achievements and successes.
 - A final report and evaluation are compiled.

2. Background

- 2.1 A 'Start-Up' group was formed in 2019 to plan and manage the early development phase and securing of resources. The Start-Up Group's primary objectives were to:
- Secure sufficient financial resources to progress with the development of the Commission.
 - Select a hosting organisation.
 - Recruit the Facilitation Team.
- 2.2 The Start-Up Group selected Swansea Council for Voluntary Service as the hosting organisation.
- 2.3 Funding to date has been sourced from Swansea Council, Coastal Housing, Public Health Wales, City and Penderri GP Cluster Networks, Austin Bailey Foundation and the Welsh Church Act Fund. Sufficient funding has been secured at this time to support the next stages of development and it is expected that any predicted shortfall throughout the life span of the Commission can be met by further contributions.
- 2.4 The Facilitation Team were in place from April 2020 comprising of 2 members of staff totalling 1.5 full time equivalents.
- 2.5 The initial role of the Facilitation Team is to identify and establish a group of Community Commissioners, support them to build relationships and share their stories of lived experience.
- 2.6 The Facilitation Team are also members of the Poverty Truth Commission Network which comprises Commissions from across the UK, providing support and guidance on good practice and networking opportunities.

3. Progress to date

- 3.1 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Facilitation Team have been unable to meet people face-to-face but have adapted to use alternative ways to connect with potential Commissioners. Consequently, the recruitment stage has required extensive groundwork and has taken more time than anticipated pre-Covid (this has been a general experience shared by new and emerging PTCs elsewhere).
- 3.2 From the outset, introductions and relationship building had to be conducted online which required a new approach that took into account the diverse digital needs that individuals presented with. Digital tools such as Zoom have been utilised but for some individuals, support had to be tailored to develop the digital skills. In addition, the Facilitation Team had to overcome challenges with participants such as a lack of digital equipment and unreliable or no connectivity whilst also supporting participants to become confident in engaging in an online forum.
- 3.3 Part of the task of the Facilitation Team has been optimising Community Commissioners' ability to engage in the Poverty Truth Commission; this has taken various forms from 1-1 well-being sessions, training, signposting to agencies and ongoing provision of information. A trauma informed approach has been embedded from the outset, which is person centred and needs led, ensuring that participating in the commission would not have a detrimental effect on participants in any way. Where trauma had been experienced, or was still presenting as an ongoing risk, resources and support is provided to minimise the risk of re-traumatisation when sharing lived experience.
- 3.4 The Facilitation Team are now working with a group of twelve Commissioners who have been meeting together regularly online to build relationships and trust while beginning to share their stories with each other.
- 3.5 The group of Community Commissioners is diverse in terms of age, ethnicity, cultural background, experiences of poverty and geography within Swansea.
- 3.6 The emerging themes that the Commission might focus on include: Mental Health, Housing and Homelessness, Stigma, Family Justice, Policing, consistency of Person Centred Approaches and advice and guidance, Education, Class and Social Mobility, Caring responsibilities, rural and hidden poverty.
- 3.7 The outcomes for the Swansea Poverty Truth Commissions are unknown at this stage. Learning from the Poverty Truth Commission Network indicates that Poverty Truth Commission outcomes can occur at a number of levels:

Individuals: Testifying Commissioners from other commissions have spoken about how they have grown in confidence and how the strength of the relationships and strength of purpose of the commission has supported them in hard times. Some commissioners have been able to gain qualifications or go onto further education, find employment or start their own businesses.

Organisational: Poverty Truth Commissions can positively impact the informal and formal cultures of organisations. In Scotland the commission instigated a mentoring programme for Civil servants through which those who have direct experience of poverty coach senior policy leaders. This programme is now being developed more widely.

Policy: Salford PTC inspired the council to:

- stop using enforcement agents when recovering debts from the most vulnerable residents who receive a council tax reduction (adopting the LGA and Citizens Advice's Collection of Council Tax Good Practice Protocol);
- waive the £11 charges for copies of birth certificates for homeless people, enabling them to more easily obtain the official identification they need to access benefits.

Wider Society: Leeds Poverty Truth Commissioners were invited to advise scriptwriters on major national TV soap on storylines and portrayals of people living in poverty. Leeds Poverty Truth Commission also worked with Church Action on Poverty to create videos for www.realbenefits-street.com as an alternative narrative to the TV series.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the public sector duties relating to equality and socio-economic inequalities as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, it may lead to decisions being taken at a later date that may have costs attached. Any such costs will need to be managed within departmental resources at that time with due regard to the Council's medium term financial plan.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 as well as its duties under the Equality Act (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 .

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: None.

Agenda Item 5



Report of the Chair

Poverty Reduction PDC – 28 February 2022

Update on Community Food Growing Policy

Purpose:	To provide an update to the Poverty Reduction PDC on the Community Food Growing Policy.
Report Author:	Joanne Portwood
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach
Legal Officer:	Craig Davies
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1. Introduction

1.1 A draft Community Food Policy was developed by the Poverty Reduction PDC in 2020. It was informed by a review of similar policies across Wales, particularly the Community Food Growing Policy adopted by Monmouthshire Council. The draft policy was also informed by a workshop for the PDC with Community Growing experts from the Third sector across Swansea and subsequent discussions with the Poverty Reduction PDC.

2. The Community Food Growing Policy

2.1 The aims of the Community Food Growing Policy are to;

- ensure that suitable and underutilised land in its ownership is made available for community food growing,
- promote opportunities for individuals and groups to grow food in local communities for community and social benefit,
- work with its partners and the Third sector to support community food growing,

- ensure that community food growing activities on Council owned land supports and benefits those most vulnerable to food poverty,
- support the development of local food resilience and address food poverty.

3. The implementation of a Community Food Growing Policy

3.1 The implementation of a Community Food Growing Policy will require resources to promote and monitor the policy. The implementation of the policy will require resources to promote the policy, work with individuals and groups either directly, or indirectly by signposting to partners to deal with issues such as land ownership / community asset transfer, lease arrangements, public liability insurance, constituting groups and other legal and procedural arrangements. Other support requirements may include advice in relation to soil testing for land contamination, health and safety considerations, risk assessments and consultation with local residents and partners about the proposed growing space. This list is not exhaustive, but simply to outline the potential breadth and scope of the support required to successfully implement the policy.

3.2 The work required to support the implementation of a Community Food Growing Policy cuts across a number of Council services and teams. Currently there are no dedicated resources to support the implementation of this policy. Therefore, it is recommended that a working group of Officers and Members is established to explore how the Policy could be implemented within existing resources and/or whether additional resource is required to implement the policy.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications.

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Chair

Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee – 28 February 2022

Work Plan 2021-2022

Date of meeting	Agenda items and Format
28/06/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Affordable Credit Draft Policy. • Work Plan Discussion 2021-2022
26/07/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Poverty Strategy Revision. • Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy.
23/08/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group
27/09/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy Development and Next Steps. • Benefits Take-up • Fairness in Green Health.
25/10/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Area Co-ordination
22/11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service area procedures surrounding all personal debt owed to the Authority • Implementation on the Socio-Economic duty & the Community Food Growing Policy
20/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Affordable Credit Draft Policy. • Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy
24/01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Affordable Credit Policy – Verbal Update • Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy – Verbal Update • Swansea Poverty Truth Commission – Verbal Update.
28/02/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swansea Poverty Truth Commission • Community Food Growing Policy • Fairness in Green Health Policy
28/03/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report
Topics	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Debt Recovery Policy • Benefits Take Up • Fairness in Green Health • Local Area Co-ordination • Implementation on the Socio-Economic duty, the Community Food Growing Policy, Garden sharing & Fairness in Green Health • Social Care Financial Guidance • Swansea Poverty Truth Commission / Passport to Leisure • Working to Prosperity: Tackling Poverty Strategy / Period Poverty