



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Programme Committee

At: Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

On: Tuesday, 16 January 2024

Time: 4.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Peter Black CBE

Membership:

Councillors: A Davis, E W Fitzgerald, V A Holland, M Jones, W G Lewis, P N May, F D O'Brien, S Pritchard and T M White

Statutory Co-opted Members: Beth Allender and Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley, P R Hood-Williams, S M Jones, L R Jones and S E Keeton

Watch Online: <https://rb.gy/h9mo42>

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Agenda

Page No.

1 Apologies for Absence.

2 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests

3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

4 Minutes.

To approve and sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.

1 - 6

5 Public Question Time.

Questions can be submitted in writing to Democratic Services democracy@swansea.gov.uk up until noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Written questions take precedence. Public may attend and ask questions in person if time allows. Questions must relate to items on the open part of the agenda and will be dealt within a 10 minute period.

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 4.00 pm



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday, 9 January 2024

Contact: Democratic Services - Tel (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M Jones
F D O'Brien

Councillor(s)

W G Lewis
S Pritchard

Councillor(s)

P N May
T M White

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

Beth Allender Elizabeth Lee

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

C A Holley S M Jones
P R Hood-Williams L R Jones

Officer(s)

Matt Callaghan	Economic Regeneration Manager
Lee Cambule	Tackling Poverty Service Manager
Amy Hawkins	Head of Adult Services & Tackling Poverty
Phil Holmes	Head of Planning & City Regeneration
Clare James	Senior Economic Development Manager
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Paul Relf	Strategic Economic Regeneration Manager
Anthony Richards	Poverty and Prevention Strategy and Development Manager
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Mark Wade	Director of Place
Stephen Williams	Economic Regeneration Manager
Samantha Woon	Democratic Services Officer

Also Present:

Councillor A Anthony - Cabinet Member for Well-Being
Councillor Robert Francis-Davies – Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism
Councillor H Gwilliam - Cabinet Member for Community (Support)

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A Davis and E W Fitzgerald

48 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

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

49 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

50 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 14 November 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

51 Public Question Time.

None.

52 Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities.

The Cabinet Member for Well-being provided a report which set out progress over the last 12 months in delivering the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities. In the latest version of the Corporate Plan, the Objective was amended to add 'Enabling Communities' to recognise a strengths base approach where the strengths of individuals, communities and networks can be capitalised upon to help tackle poverty. It presented evidence, insights and intelligence to demonstrate the contributions that have been made in delivering this Council priority, as well as future plans. It covered current challenges, including the impact of the cost of living crisis, and the Council's response.

The Head of Adult Services & Tackling Poverty assisted by the Tackling Poverty Service Manager and Poverty and Prevention Strategy Development Manager, took the Committee through the report highlighting certain aspects, including the Corporate Plan 9 Steps and the Way Forward.

Committee questioning and discussions focussed on the following:

- Performance Framework - the progress in developing a strategic Tackling Poverty Performance Framework was detailed to define how the objectives, indicators, measures, and outputs relating to tackling poverty are aligned to outcomes. It was noted that some data exists however further work was required collating the more complex 'lived experience' data. The Committee was keen for greater clarity around what indicators mean in terms of impact of people and how this actually translates into reduced poverty, and outcomes from stated targets. Complexities of Tackling Poverty noted, with challenges with regard to refreshing data, performance framework outcomes, providing lived experiences and developing different ways of presenting poverty.

- Definition of Poverty – whilst the Minimum Income Standard according to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation for 2023 was £29,500, for a single person to provide a minimum acceptable standard of living, there was no single source of evidence that defined poverty. The definition of poverty was not merely related to income and broadening the definition was part of ongoing work.
- Poverty Data - discussion around the various sources of data, including how the Welsh Index of Deprivation is used and whether there has been much change over time; and around what can be learned from the Audit Wales Data Dashboard national online tool which is designed to support decision making in councils and improve how they target their work.
- Cost of Living – the Council had been monitoring the effectiveness and benefits of ‘Cost of Living’ grants for individuals and organisations, to ensure it has helped those who needed it.
- Building Community Assets – Opportunities with Work Experience and Volunteering. Examples discussed. Currently schools make referrals to Swansea Museum for opportunities with Work Experience and Volunteering. However, work is in progress to streamline the process across the Council, with the development of a Corporate Volunteering Strategy.
- Audit Wales Report ‘Time for Change – Poverty in Wales’ Recommendations – an action plan had been developed and Swansea was deemed to be doing well. Tackling Poverty was included in the Performance Framework and work was ongoing with the Welsh Government for multi year funding. The majority of recommendations were being achieved.
- Skills Development - the focus on improving the way we help people to develop their skills, qualifications and employment prospects so that they can find well-paid, meaningful jobs and improve prospects for their future. Equipping school children with the correct skills for the work place – was ranked as the highest priority and multiple projects are underway across Swansea with dedicated officers. However, it was noted that Swansea does well in getting people into work.
- 2023/24 Targets – Concern around Red RAG Status regarding Homelessness – despite collaborative working with Housing colleagues, homelessness presentations had increased and this remained a challenge.
- Refreshed Tackling Poverty Strategy – noted on course to be published by March 2024 subject to public consultation. The Committee was keen for opportunity to comment on the draft Strategy.

In response to a question regarding the First Minister, Mark Drakeford, comments in relation to Child Poverty in which he has said that it's a disappointment more has not been done to tackle child poverty since devolution, the Cabinet Member for Well-being stated that tackling Child Poverty was a political choice and, in her opinion,

some issues were not as important as Child Poverty. She felt that a dedicated Minister with responsibility for Child Poverty would be a positive change for the future.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Officers for their input.

Resolved that the Chair write to the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing reflecting discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

53 Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities - Support for Business (Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism).

The Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism provided a report highlighting the work of 'Business Swansea', launched in April 2021, which was a dedicated support service with the objective of improving the quality and uptake of business support in Swansea. This work was delivered by the Council's Economic Regeneration Team.

The Cabinet Member, assisted by relevant officers, took the Committee through the report highlighting certain aspects, including key areas of work (communication, events, grant support, partner engagement), Management and Resources, improvements/impact and future programme.

Committee questioning and discussions focussed on the following:

- Business Grants – the impact and success of business grants was discussed, and impact, for example, on Swansea Market. Noted there is currently a high level of occupancy (94%) within Swansea Market, with a number of businesses that have accessed advice and support from 'Business Swansea'. Details of current initiatives were highlighted (the market garden project) and Swansea Market's success in winning Britain's Best Indoor Market.
- Business Swansea – discussion around the impact this new service has made. Noted that the new support service has been successful in creating a simplified single point of contact for businesses and communication and engagement had improved. Whilst work is ongoing the impact is tangible.
- Parc Felindre – whilst not directly related to the work of 'Business Swansea', officers informed the Committee that work was ongoing in proactively marketing the site. Daily and monthly meetings take place to monitor enquiries. Officers confirmed that there were no impediments to any prospective developer (e.g. around services on site) and the site was being marketed intensively.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism and Officers for their input.

Resolved that the Chair write to the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism reflecting discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

54 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Adult Services (Councillor Sue Jones, Convener).

Councillor Sue Jones provided the Committee with a progress report on the work / activities of the Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Adult Services.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Adult Services be noted.

55 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

Resolved that the membership of the Panels and Working Groups as reported, be agreed.

56 Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Chair presented the regular report on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24 which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.

The main items for the next Committee on 16 January comprised:

- Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities: Q & A with Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy.
- Follow Up - Road Safety Scrutiny Working Group

The Chair referred to the final session of the Scrutiny Training & Development Programme:

- Self-Assessment of Scrutiny (two parts) – to be held on 17 January (online)/23 January (Lord Mayor's Reception Room, Guildhall)

57 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair referred to the following letters, reflecting on recent Committee Scrutiny activity:

- Committee – Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board - Letter to Chair of Swansea Public Services Board (Cabinet Member for Service Transformation)
- Committee – Scrutiny of Children & Young People's Rights Scheme Progress Report 2021-23 - Letter to Cabinet Member for Community (Support)
- Committee – Scrutiny of Annual Report – Corporate Safeguarding 2022/23 - Letter to Cabinet Member for Care Services
- Committee – Follow Up of Bus Services Scrutiny Working Group - Letter to Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure

58 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.

The Chair referred upcoming Panel/Working Group/Regional Scrutiny meetings, for awareness.

The meeting ended at 5.20 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities – Q & A Session with Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

Purpose:	To enable the Committee to question the Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy on his work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to his areas of responsibility.
Content:	<p>The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy will appear before the Committee for a Q & A Session which may cover any of his areas of responsibility, but will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• achievement against specific Policy Commitments / Council Priorities• progress with the Corporate Recovery / Transformation Plan• managing the Council's budget
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the Leader / Cabinet Member on specific portfolio responsibilities• Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

1.1 One of the most important roles that Scrutiny carries out is holding the Council's Cabinet to account. The Cabinet (also known as the Executive) is made up of the Leader and other Councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific portfolio responsibilities.

1.2 There are 10 Cabinet portfolios:

	Cabinet Portfolio	Cabinet Member
1	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader of the Council)	Cllr Rob Stewart
2	Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cllr Andrea Lewis
3	Corporate Services & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cllr David Hopkins
4	Education & Learning	Cllr Robert Smith
5	Care Services	Cllr Louise Gibbard
6	Wellbeing	Cllr Alyson Pugh
7	Environment & Infrastructure	Cllr Andrew Stevens
8	Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism	Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
9	Culture, Human Rights & Equalities	Cllr Elliott King
10	Community (Services) Community (Support)	Cllr Cyril Anderson Cllr Hayley Gwilliam

NOTE:

- The Community Portfolio operates under a job-sharing arrangement
- Detailed breakdown of Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities are **attached** to this report.

1.3 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members on their actions and performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.

1.4 When calling in Cabinet Members, the Committee has agreed to focus on specific areas of interest / concern taking into account any gaps in the overall Scrutiny Work Programme and ensuring good coverage of Scrutiny across all Cabinet portfolios.

1.5 The Committee should be mindful to avoid duplication of any issue(s) which are being examined elsewhere in the Scrutiny Work Programme e.g., within Performance Panels.

2. Q & A with Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

- 2.1 The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy, Councillor Rob Stewart, will appear before the Committee to participate in a question-and-answer session.
- 2.2 Councillor Stewart has provided a report on his areas of responsibility and any issues identified by the Committee to help focus the discussion and questions - see **Appendix 1**. He will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee. Lead officers may also be present to assist the Committee.
- 2.3 Although having specific Cabinet portfolio responsibilities, as Leader of the Council Councillor Stewart is responsible for:
- providing political leadership to the Council
 - working with officers to lead the organisation
 - appointing the Cabinet
 - managing and leading the work of the Cabinet and chairing meetings
 - delegation of executive functions that allow the Cabinet and Officers to make decisions and manage day-to-day delivery of Council Services, in line with the Council's overall policies and budget
- 2.4 The session provides Committee members with opportunity to hold the Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy to account for his work, actions, and challenge performance, improvement, and future thinking.

3. Approach to Questions

- 3.1 Councillor Stewart has wide ranging responsibilities which may be subject to Committee questions, but the session will usually focus on a smaller number of key issues, e.g., relating to:
- achievement against specific Policy Commitments / Council Priorities
 - progress with the Corporate Recovery / Transformation Plan
 - managing the Council's budget
- 3.2 The most recent report from the Leader / Cabinet Member on progress with the Policy Commitments (adopted by Council in July 2022) that was presented to Council in October 2023 is also **appended** for information, for any follow up further to discussion at Council.
- 3.3 The correspondence following last year's Q & A session with the Leader (January 2023) is **attached**, and Committee Members may wish to follow up on previous discussion. It mainly concerned development and regeneration activity, including the City Deal.

- 3.4 In terms of themes that cut across all Cabinet portfolios, the Committee can ask Cabinet Members about:
- Well-being of Future Generations Act – impact on their work / decisions e.g., what they are doing to achieve the well-being goals and ways of working, e.g., focus on long-term thinking, collaboration / involvement etc. (including regional / collaborative working, service user / public engagement)
 - Links to poverty reduction, reducing inequalities, including socio-economic disadvantage
 - Links to the Council's Recovery and Transformation Plan, 'Swansea Achieving Better Together'
 - Links to the Public Services Board (PSB)
- 3.5 The Committee also invites members of the public and other Scrutiny Councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions that the Committee should ask. It is up to the Committee how to deal with any suggested questions within the session.
- 3.6 Following the session the Chair will write to Councillor Stewart to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for him to consider
- 3.7 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed Scrutiny of any of the issues raised during the session, then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.
- 3.8 The Committee should note that Councillor Stewart has already been engaged in recent Scrutiny, or is planned, of the following:
- Public Services Board (Scrutiny Programme Committee)
 - Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty & Enabling Communities (Scrutiny Programme Committee)
 - Oracle Fusion Project Implementation (Scrutiny Programme Committee)
 - Corporate Plan / Budget / Budget Monitoring (Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel)
 - Swansea Bay City Region City Deal (regional scrutiny) – Cllr Stewart is current Chair of the City Region Joint Committee
 - South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (regional scrutiny) - Cllr Stewart is current Chair of the Corporate Joint Committee

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Leader's Report

Appendix 2: Council Report 5 October 2023 'Policy Commitments Progress'

Appendix 3: Committee Letter re. Leader Q & A Session held January 2023

Appendix 4: Cabinet Portfolio Responsibility Listing



**Report of the Leader and
Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy**

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Key Portfolio Headlines: Economy, Finance and Strategy

Purpose: This report seeks to outline notable activities and achievements in terms of ensuring the delivery of key priorities within the Economy, Finance and Strategy portfolio. This report focuses on three key areas of significance, being:

1. Financial Strategy
2. Recovery & Transformation
3. Progress on major projects

Report Author: Emily Davies

Finance Officer: Paul Roach

Legal Officer: Debbie Smith

**Access to
Services
Officer:** Rhian Millar

For Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1** This report highlights notable activities and achievements in terms of ensuring the delivery of key priorities within the Economy, Finance and Strategy portfolio.

1.2 As Leader of Swansea Council and Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy, key responsibilities covered within this portfolio include the following:

- Capital Programme
- City Centre Strategic Redevelopment
- City Deal
- Communications
- Community Leadership
- Constitutional Changes
- Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) – Chair
- Finance Strategy, Budget & Saving Delivery
- Financial Services
- Legal Services
- Local And Regional Investment Strategy
- Major Projects
- Planning Policy (Regional)
- Poverty Reduction Corporate Lead
- Public Services Board (PSB)
- Recovery Plan
- Regional Working Lead (All Bodies)
- Risk & Resilience Management
- Strategic Partnerships
- Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee – Chair
- Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) – Deputy Leader
- WLGA Lead on Economy & Inward Investment, Europe & Energy
- WLGA Representative To LGA

1.3 Owing to the breadth and scope of the Economy, Finance and Strategy portfolio, it is not the intention of this report to provide an update on all of the responsibilities within the portfolio, but rather to highlight key areas of significance. Progress on each of the constituent elements of the Leader's portfolio are scheduled and reported through existing scrutiny arrangements throughout the municipal year.

2. FINANCIAL STRATEGY

2.1 The Corporate Management Team has re-enforced the current arrangements for budget monitoring, in particular:

- 2.1.1** Focus on a range of corrective actions.
- 2.1.2** Targeted immediate spend minimisation and deferral action.
- 2.1.3** Strict spending control on all vacancies and contracts.
- 2.1.4** A continued reminder that no Responsible Officer is authorised to overspend their budget in line with Financial Procedure Rules.
- 2.1.5** Consequently, that Directors must work closely with Cabinet Members and the Corporate Management Team to contain,

reduce, defer, and delay spending as far as possible, having due regard, to existing agreed budget and political priorities to nonetheless seek to limit service spending.

- 2.1.6** To agree credible recovery plans where there is current overspending and for these to be shared and agreed with the Chief Executive and S.151 Officer for assurance purposes.
 - 2.1.7** Whilst recognising that the overall spend pressures are near wholly post-Covid, inflation or pay award and now pay risk related and that reserves were bolstered to temporarily assist with some such pressures.
- 2.2** Offsetting opportunities do exist to temporarily ameliorate the currently identified service demand and price pressures. £20.330m was set aside mostly one-off to meet any significant inflationary increases arising in year, specifically for the increased energy costs. Given the overall financial projection at this stage, it is proposed by the S.151 Officer that any residual sum be earmarked as a compensating funding mechanism for part of the new equal pay provision.
- 2.3** The current indication is that, for 2023/24, there needs to be continued targeted mitigating action and delivery of savings proposals to help reduce the overall overspend. It looks inevitable as this early stage that some draws from contingency and earmarked reserves will be needed to achieve a fully balanced budget for the year, but this was somewhat anticipated and led to the material bolstering of earmarked reserves at outturn and the enhanced one-off central inflation provision. Any inroads to net spending will reduce the necessary draw from reserves and increase the amount of reserves available to carry into 2024/25.
- 2.4** The action being taken includes working through existing plans on an accelerated delivery basis:
- 2.4.1** Management and Business Support Review: ongoing review of the management structure across the Council and future requirements given the Council's priorities, future challenges and the changing nature of the role of managers.
 - 2.4.2** Managing the Pay Bill: review of options to contain or reduce employee costs across the Council as part of our overall future workforce strategy (subject to trade union consultation at the appropriate time).
 - 2.4.3** Commercialism through third party Procurement Savings and Income Generation: review of further options to increase income from fees and charges, trading etc, in addition to the targets already set.
 - 2.4.4** Progressing implementation of residual phases Commissioning Reviews and Cross Cutting Themes.
 - 2.4.5** Further implementation of the Social Services Saving Plan through which we have identified mechanisms for bringing down overall costs.

- 2.4.6** On the basis that these are existing agreed actions fully set out in the agreed budget set by Council in March.
 - 2.4.7** Continuing the extant spending restrictions which have been agreed as necessary by Corporate Management Team.
 - 2.4.8** The Director of Corporate Services leading the Recovery Plan implementation as agreed by Cabinet to agree alternative mitigating actions and future steps, taking into account post Covid 19 and Brexit.
- 2.5** We now have the provisional settlement for 2024-25 and work is underway to finalise the budget for 2024-25 in March 2024. Clearly, the increase in funding (settlement down from assumed 3.8% to 3.6% cash versus 3.1% average for Wales) will provide some flexibility to our budget options for 2024-25. The settlement for 2025-26 is likely to be lower and the longer-term outlook remains challenging. In all years, including 2024-25, the settlement in cash terms whilst welcome remains undoubtedly below recent increases in pay and price inflation and demand growth, so still amounts to ongoing real terms cuts to spending power even as inflation starts to dip.
- 2.6** The Revenues and Benefits Service is a part of the Finance Directorate and is responsible for various and diverse functions for the authority with approximately £370m worth of transactions passing through the service in any normal year. The functions relate to both collection of income due to the authority and payments to vulnerable citizens.
- 2.7** Over the last few years (during and post pandemic) the Service took on additional work on behalf of UK and Welsh Government to help deal with the crises. Although this additional work appears now to be at and end, at least for the moment, and the service can start to once again concentrate on its core functions, over the past year there were some remaining grants to administer with very substantial amounts paid out to large numbers of vulnerable Swansea citizens to help with the cost of living:
 - 2.7.1** Welsh Government Fuel Support Payment – 28,914 Swansea citizens were awarded a £200 payment. In total £5,782,800 was paid out
 - 2.7.2** The Energy Bills Support Schemes Alternative Funding – 260 Swansea citizens were awarded a £200 payment. In total £52,000 was paid out
 - 2.7.3** Alternative Fuel Payments Alternative Fund - 400 Swansea citizens were awarded a £400 payment. In total £160,000 was paid out
 - 2.7.4** At the moment the service has a number of key improvement projects underway which are pulling in significant resource, but which will support continued service improvement for our customers towards pre-pandemic performance levels:

- 2.7.5 Migration of the back-office software used by the Council Tax / Business Rates / Benefits Sections to the cloud. This system handles annual transactions of around £300m a year.
- 2.7.6 Migration of the Document Image Processing System to the cloud – this is used by all elements of the service to manage their documentation and processes.
- 2.7.7 Continued roll-out of the care provider portal which enables care providers to provide details of care provided to our service users and to claim their remuneration for that provision.
- 2.7.8 Implementation of a Housing Benefit landlord portal to enable private sector landlords in the city to easily obtain details of the benefit payments to be made to them.
- 2.7.9 Implementation of ‘Citizens Access Revenues’ which will enable Council Taxpayers to register so they can log in and obtain details of the up to date position of their account and carry out various related tasks using a suite of online forms that are integrated with back-office systems.
- 2.7.10 Demand for the Discretionary Housing Payments also administered by the service remains high in the current financial climate. The DWP provide £395k to this hardship fund in 2023/24 and additional funding of approximately £400k has been provided by the Housing Department to top this up to from the Homelessness Prevention Fund.

3. RECOVERY & TRANSFORMATION

- 3.1 On 15th October 2020, Cabinet approved the new ‘From Recovery to Transformation’ report detailing the 3 Phases from recovery through to the ‘Swansea – Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme Framework 2022 – 2026’.
- 3.2 In the current form, there are 12 *Transformation Programmes* underway, which are overseen by the Transformation Delivery Board; meeting quarterly to receive individual programme updates. The 12 programmes are framed as follows:
 - Future Community Hub Model
 - More Homes Programme
 - Net Zero 2030
 - Regeneration Programme
 - Future Waste Strategy
 - Right schools, right places
 - Transforming Additional Learning Needs & Supporting Sufficient Specialist Places
 - Transforming Adult Services
 - Child and Family Services Transformation
 - Enabling Communities

- Workforce and OD Transformation
- Digital Transformation

3.3 The diagram below shows the programmes contained in the Corporate Transformation Plan and how they align with the council's corporate plan priorities:



3.4 In October 2023, Audit Wales provided feedback, in the form of a letter, to Swansea Council about the audit work having been undertaken in relation to the council's Transformation Programme. The focus of this work was to understand if the council is effectively planning and monitoring its approach to its organisational transformation programme and the delivery of associated savings.

3.5 Audit Wales noted that it was appropriate for the council to reassess its Transformation Programme in November 2022, and establish a refreshed approach through its current 'Successful and Sustainable Swansea Transformation Programme 2022 and beyond'.

3.6 A copy of the letter from Audit Wales is contained in **Appendix A** (*Update on the progress the Council is making around its Transformation Programme*).

3.7 The *Report of the Director of Corporate Services to the Governance and Audit Committee*, regarding Swansea Council's response to the points raised in the Audit Wales letter, is outlined in **Appendix B**.

4. PROGRESS ON MAJOR PROJECTS

Copr Bay

- 4.1** Swansea Arena, the new bridge over Oystermouth Road, the car park underneath the arena and the coastal park have now been open since March 2022.
- 4.2** The 33-apartment block being run by Pobl Group on the City Centre side of Oystermouth Road is also now complete and occupied.
- 4.3** Over 241,000 people enjoyed ticketed events, conferences, exhibitions, banquets, graduations and creative learning events at the arena up to March 2023.
- 4.4** Acts to have taken to the stage at the arena so far include, amongst others, John Bishop, Michael McIntyre, Sarah Millican, the Jersey Boys, the Hollywood Vampires, Katherine Jenkins, Royal Blood, Max Boyce, the Kaiser Chiefs and Six the Musical.
- 4.5** Between March 2022 and March 2023, over 183,000 tickets were sold for ticketed events there. Figures also show a 78.9% occupancy on ticketed shows for the 2022/2023 financial year, which exceeded a projection of 65% for the arena's first year of operation.
- 4.6** The Copr Bay bridge has won an award for the standard of its design. At the Structural Steel Design Awards 2023, judges praised the bridge for providing a dramatic new gateway to Swansea. They also commented on its striking form and colour, which helps acknowledge the bay's history as a centre of coal and copper production.
- 4.7** In September 2023, the council appointed Willmott Dixon as the new contractor for Copr Bay following the original contractor for the scheme – Buckingham Group Ltd – going into administration.
- 4.8** All unfinished work is being completed as soon as possible, including snagging work on site and the car park on the south side of Oystermouth Road. The St David's multi-storey car park will remain open until the new car park is operational.
- 4.9** Talks to build a new hotel next to the arena are also ongoing.

71/72 Kingsway & Biophilic Building

- 4.10** Our contractors for the 71/72 Kingsway development – Bouygues UK – are making considerable progress on the construction of a major new office scheme at the former Oceana nightclub site.

- 4.11** A topping-out ceremony was held in the autumn and internal fitout of the building is now ongoing, with construction earmarked for completion in the coming months.
- 4.12** Part-funded by the Swansea Bay City Deal, the development, once operational, will provide space for 600 jobs in the tech, digital and creative industry sectors. It will be worth £32.6m a year to Swansea's economy.
- 4.13** The 104,000 square foot scheme includes public spaces with specific areas of the building being offered to the open market to let. These are made up of Grade A office space, as well as retail, food and beverage spaces, an event hall, and flexible and serviced workspaces. The scheme will include solar panels on top of the building, as well as heat recovery systems to minimise energy use.
- 4.14** It will also include 69 bike spaces and electric bike charging, as well as extensive shower and changing facilities and a new link between The Kingsway and Oxford Street. Extensive marketing of spaces at the building is ongoing.
- 4.15** The development has also helped attract major private sector investment into the area. This includes the innovative living building development led by Hacer Developments at Picton Yard that's also due for completion this year. Made up of the former Woolworths unit and a new adjoining 13-storey structure, the scheme will include green walls and green roofs, an educational facility, retail, offices, a landscaped courtyard, rooftop solar panels, battery storage and gardens. Pobl Group will manage 50 affordable apartments forming part of the scheme.

Swansea Central North and the Civic Centre site

- 4.16** Our long-term regeneration partners, Urban Splash, are continuing to work with partners on preparatory designs for both the Swansea Central North and Civic Centre development sites.
- 4.17** Mixed-use schemes are being proposed for both sites. The demolition of the Civic Centre is not being envisaged. It's anticipated the site will include retail, residential and leisure uses.

Y Storfa at 277-278 Oxford Street (Former BHS building)

- 4.18** This building is being transformed into a multi-purpose community hub and renamed as Y Storfa.
- 4.19** Our main contractor for the scheme – Kier Group Plc – is now continuing with the demolition phase of the development while designs for the interior layouts are at the final stage. New brand guidance has been developed for known and prospective tenants and a presentation

of this progress will feature on the hoarding surrounds in the coming weeks.

- 4.20** Once the project is complete, it will include the city centre's main library and archive service, alongside a dedicated children and young people's library space, a community creative hub and seminar space. Citizens Advice Bureau Swansea Neath Port Talbot and Careers Wales Swansea have also been announced as scheme tenants.

Palace Theatre

- 4.21** This historic flatiron building had fallen into disrepair before being acquired by Swansea Council. Tramshed Tech Ltd has signed a heads of terms agreement with the council for the development of the 133-year-old building.
- 4.22** Conservation and restoration work is continuing on site. Planned to open in 2025, modern workspace is being developed for young and growing businesses, especially those in the tech, digital and creative sectors.

Castle Square Gardens

- 4.23** Castle Square is to be revamped as part of a project that will include a substantial increase in greenery as well as the introduction of permanent food and drink units and a playful water feature. The square will be retained and improved as a focal point for public gatherings.
- 4.24** Some site investigation works have taken place, following the securing of planning consent. These will inform final designs before the main contractor for the scheme moves on site in the coming months.

Albert Hall

- 4.25** Led by the private sector, work to restore the 157-year-old Albert Hall façade to its original splendour, with repurposed spaces for flexible use inside, is now ongoing.
- 4.26** A mixed-use scheme with creative and commercial facilities is planned, with the developer due to announce more information in the coming weeks.

Hafod Morfa Copperworks & Levelling-Up

- 4.27** After an extensive conservation and restoration project, Penderyn Distillery have opened up an operational distillery and visitor centre on site.

4.28 The council has also successfully bid for £20m from the UK Government as part of its levelling-up programme for a Lower Swansea Valley project that will include:

4.28.1 The restoration of even more heritage features at the Hafod-Morfa Copperworks site, following-on from all the work that's been carried out there so far. Several listed buildings would be regenerated, releasing them for business use and new private sector investment. The site would also become better connected with local communities, to help tell the story of Swansea's rich industrial legacy to new generations.

4.28.2 Improving links between the River Tawe and the copperworks site, while also developing better links between the site and the city centre. Victorian era railway arches would be re-used to enable access to public transport by bus, rail and river

4.28.3 The upgrade and enhancement of Swansea Museum, improving access and the visitor experience with increased and new exhibition and learning spaces. The investment will protect the museum and enable important conservation works and storage for some elements of its collections, currently stored at the former rolling mill of the Copperworks, within this city centre heritage attraction – widely celebrated as the oldest museum in Wales. This will then release the rolling mill building at the copperworks for further mixed-use regeneration.

4.29 As part of the project, three new pontoons will be introduced along the River Tawe. The first has already been installed, and two more will follow to further open up the river for more use.

4.30 Detailed preparatory work on all other elements of the Lower Swansea Valley improvement project is ongoing.

Skyline

4.31 Skyline Enterprises have submitted a planning application for a major new leisure destination at Kilvey Hill, which is anticipated to be determined in the coming months.

4.32 Skyline's proposals include plans for a gondola (cable car) route, a gravity-fuelled luge ride, a zipline, a sky swing, new walking and mountain bike trails, and food and drink outlets.

4.33 The company says the scheme would create 100 permanent jobs in the first year of operation and bring an £84m boost to the local economy if given the go-ahead.

4.34 No council funding has been directly awarded to Skyline to date. While Cabinet has approved funding in principle, there is no binding

commitment as yet on the council's part and funding would need to meet certain conditions before any money is potentially paid out.

- 4.35** If it goes ahead, the proposed investment by the council would be repaid in full as part of an agreement with Skyline.

Shared Prosperity Fund

- 4.36** The Shared Prosperity Fund is one of the UK Government funds replacing European funds that are no longer available after Brexit.

- 4.37** As part of a £38.4m investment in Swansea, a number of anchor projects under the Shared Prosperity Fund are now in place. They include:

4.37.1 A package of schemes to support Swansea businesses including start-up grants, growth grants, carbon reduction grants, training for businesses to move towards net zero carbon, and a commercial property development fund.

4.37.2 A pathways to work employability project that will include support for economically inactive and long-term unemployed people aged 16 and over, paid work placements and a £2m grant for specialist employability support

4.37.3 Transforming places throughout the county, with projects earmarked to include grant funding for historic structures and conservation areas, improvements to villages and small town centres, and heritage-led regeneration activities and trails.

4.37.4 A culture and tourism anchor project that will include the development of a creative network, public arts, marketing campaigns, events, exhibitions and support for cultural and tourism businesses.

4.37.5 A supporting communities project that will provide grant funding for community and third sector projects.

4.37.6 Boosting rural areas with funding for rural community development, climate change themed activities and support for rural businesses.

- 4.38** Dozens of projects across the city have already been approved for Shared Prosperity Fund investment, and many more will follow.

Blue Eden

- 4.39** Land agreements are now in place between the council with DST Innovations and Batri Ltd.

- 4.40** Subject to planning approval, these agreements will lead to:

4.40.1 The expansion of the Fabian Way park and ride site to create a green energy transport hub to potentially include a hydrogen manufacturing station for hydrogen-powered transport, an

abundance of electric vehicle charging points, and restaurants and flexible working areas for visitors to enjoy.

4.40.2 A new manufacturing facility on the former Morrissey site in SA1 to make high-tech batteries that would store the renewable energy generated by the project and for worldwide distribution.

4.40.3 The expansion of approved solar farm plans at the former Tir John landfill site to create one of the UK's largest solar energy generating facilities.

4.41 DST Innovations is also continuing to make positive progress on all other elements of the overall project. These include a tidal lagoon, a battery farm to store the renewable energy generated on site, a floating solar panel facility, an oceanic and climate change research centre, eco-homes anchored in the water, and a hyper-scale data centre.

4.42 As well as Batri Ltd, DST's project partners also include engineering and construction firm HDR, and infrastructure specialists Enable.

4.43 The council has also applied to the UK Government for funding to further explore the potential for a low carbon district heating network. Using excess heat from the data centre, the heating network could heat dozens of major buildings in the SA1 and city centre areas of Swansea.

Swansea Bay City Deal

4.44 The Swansea Bay City Deal has achieved key milestones throughout 2023, with delivery accelerating across South West Wales through a portfolio of nine projects.

4.45 The portfolio has gained recognition through several prestigious industry accredited awards. For example, the Destination Renewables Pilot Project won the national 'Offshore Wind Energy Skills Award' in the Renewables UK Offshore Wind Awards 2022 and was also a finalist in the Wales STEM Awards 2022.

4.46 The Portfolio has seen significant progress¹ in the benefits being delivered, including:

4.46.1 £262m of total investment to date. 10% of total investment target has been secured from the Private Sector, £83m+ investment in 2022-23

4.46.2 9,200 training weeks provided across Portfolio construction activity to date with at least 1,200 weeks delivered in 2022-23

4.46.3 100 FTE apprenticeship opportunities created or continued as a result of construction activity

4.46.4 200 HAPS homes delivered in 2022-23 realising £42m of investment

¹ Swansea Bay City Deal Portfolio Annual Report 2022-23

4.46.5 17 of 35 projects in delivery which will deliver £415m total investment once completed

4.46.6 Construction contracts in the region of £50m to be awarded through 2023-2024

4.47 More initiatives are being built and delivered during 2024, such as the completion of 71/72 Kingsway. The Innovation Matrix, Pentre Awel phase 1 and the completion of the major renovation at Pembroke Port also continue at pace.

Swansea Bay & West Wales Metro

4.48 The Swansea Bay & West Wales Metro project aims to improve transport links between Swansea, Neath & Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Progress is being made on the Improvements to public transport, more electric vehicle charging infrastructure and new cycling and walking routes are being planned in Swansea.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

5.1 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, 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.

5.2 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'.

5.3 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.

5.4 The IIA process takes into account the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which the Council has embedded into the Authority's Policy Framework. If the UNCRC is relevant to the report, it should be referred to in this section.

5.5 This is a 'for information' report that provides an overview of progress meeting the responsibilities of the Economic, Finance & Strategy Cabinet portfolio, so there is no direct impact on people or communities.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Background papers: None

9. Appendices:

Appendix A – Audit Wales Letter: Update on the progress the Council is making around its Transformation Programme

Appendix B – Report of the Director of Corporate Services to the Governance and Audit Committee - Audit Wales update: Transformation Programme

Appendix C – IIA Screening Form

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Reference: 3854A2023

Date issued: October 2023

Update on the progress the Council is making around its Transformation Programme

Dear Martin,

As part of our audit work, you will be aware that we have been undertaking work in relation to your Transformation Programme. I am pleased that we are now able to provide you with our feedback on this work in this letter.

In understanding the context for the Council's transformation journey to date, it is worth reflecting that the Council's approach to transformation has been through several iterations. Over the more recent past this has included the Council's 'Sustainable Swansea' Programme which ran from 2015-16 until October 2020 and its 'Achieving Better Together' (ABT) programme which ran between October 2020 and the summer of 2022. However, during 2021 and 2022 the ABT transformation programme was naturally focused on supporting the Council to respond to and help it recover from the pandemic. As such, given the need to refocus transformation activity going forward for the medium and longer-term, in our view it was appropriate for the Council to reassess its Transformation Programme in November 2022, and establish a refreshed approach through its current 'Successful and Sustainable Swansea Transformation Programme 2022 and beyond'.

Given the significant refocus of the Council's Transformation Programme over the last year, we have concentrated our feedback in this letter to cover this period. Whilst we have not directly focused our work on the former iterations of your Transformations Programme, where there are learnings from these programmes, that would be helpful in supporting improvement, these have been reflected in our findings below.

In undertaking our work, we have observed meetings of the various Boards responsible for the oversight of the Transformation Programme, reviewed key documents and have interviewed key individuals. Our work

has also drawn upon other work we have undertaken within the Council where this has helped to support our conclusions.

The focus of our work was to understand if the Council is effectively planning and monitoring its approach to its organisational transformation programme and the delivery of associated savings.

Our overall view is that whilst many aspects of the Council's strategic approach to planning, monitoring, and delivering its new Transformation Programme are well defined, some key arrangements could be strengthened to enable the Transformation Programme to adapt to the ongoing financial pressures and achieve its ambitions. In support of this conclusion, we have identified both strengths and areas for improvement around the Council's approach to transformation.

Transformation vision and strategy

The Council has a clear transformation vision. In November 2022 the Council agreed a new 'Transformation Strategy 2022-2027 and Beyond'. Its new strategy sought to build on the areas progressed within its former transformation programme 'Achieving Better Together'. This clarity should enable the Council to focus on what needs to be delivered to achieve its transformation ambitions.

There is good integration between the Council's new 2022 Transformation Strategy and its Corporate Plan. Whilst its new Transformation Strategy was developed before its new Corporate Plan and new Well-being Objectives (WBOs), there is a strong alignment between these two strategic documents. Each of the Transformation Strategy's twelve transformation programmes have also been aligned to supporting the delivery of one of the Council's WBOs. In addition to this, one of the Council's six WBOs is specifically focused on 'Transformation and Financial Resilience'. Putting transformation central to the Council's strategic direction of travel should ensure that it has sufficient profile.

Some of the twelve transformation programmes could more clearly describe their ambitions over the longer term. The Council's 'Transformation Strategy 2022-2027 and Beyond' recognises that many of the twelve transformation programmes will run beyond 2027. For some of the individual transformation programmes there are clear longer-term time horizons that run beyond 2027, such as the 'Net Zero 2030 Programme' which runs until 2030, and the 'More Homes Programme' ambition of 1000 new homes over the next ten years. However, for other programmes such as the 'Future Community Hub' and 'Enabling Communities' there is less clarity on what their ambition is over the longer term. Having a clearer understanding of the longer-term ambitions and objectives across all the twelve transformation programmes will support how decisions are made using a longer-term context.

Transformation planning and delivery

The Council's Transformation Programme Plan provides a clear overview of the twelve Transformation Programmes. The Programme Plan includes a consistent structure that outlines the outcomes, benefits and outputs expected to be delivered as part of the twelve individual Transformation

Programmes. However, the timescales around when these benefits and outcome will be delivered has not been specified in the 'Transformation Programme Plan'. We understand from the Council that that it has underpinned the overarching Transformation Programme Plan by more detailed programme planning documents at the individual Programme level. In our view it will be important that these more detailed planning documents have clearly defined timescales for when the Council plans to achieve the specified benefits and outcomes.

The Council has refocused its arrangements for how its Members are involved in its transformation programmes. The Council has recently established Member Service Transformation Committees (STCs) which closely align to the Council's WBOs and the twelve transformation programmes. The role of the new STCs, which replaced the former Corporate Development Committees, will be to contribute to the ongoing development of the Council's agreed transformation activities. Whilst these committees are new and therefore their effectiveness has yet to be determined, having these aligned to the transformation programmes should support the individual programmes as they continue to evolve.

The link between the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the current transformation programme could be more clearly defined. The MTFP was approved in early March 2023 after the approval of the new 'Transformation Strategy 2022-27 and Beyond' in November 2022. However, this was before the detailed Transformation Programme Plan had been formally agreed in April 2023. Whilst the current MTFP refers to the new Transformation Strategy, the MTFP description of how savings will be delivered over the medium term, is set in the context of the former 'Achieving Better Together' programme. As the MTFP and new transformation programmes are refreshed to reflect the evolving context, including any future financial challenges, it will be important for the MTFP to demonstrate how savings are being delivered by the Council. In particular to clearly differentiate savings that are being delivered through business as usual, and those being achieved through the 'Transformation Programme Plan'.

Transformation governance and progress monitoring

The Council has taken positive steps to identify and apply the learning from its former approaches to transformation. During late 2022 the Council reflected on its former transformation programmes, 'Sustainable Swansea' and 'Achieving Better Together' and identified several learnings. The key learnings including the need to:

- simplify the governance of the programme;
- ensure better alignment with other Council strategies; and
- develop clear lines of accountability.

Continuing to apply these lessons to its current Transformation Strategy should ensure it is better placed to deliver on its transformation objectives.

The Council has used existing governance and reporting structures to provide oversight at the individual transformation programme level which should help to reduce the risk of duplication and additional bureaucracy. To avoid unnecessary duplication most of the individual transformation

programmes within the 'Transformation Plan' have used existing governance and oversight arrangements to deliver and report on their progress. Other than for the Digital and Workforce Transformation Programmes where specific governance arrangements have been established. This approach is pragmatic and should, if managed effectively, ensure effort is directed towards delivering the twelve programmes and not on duplicating programme management.

The Transformation Delivery Board should assure itself that it has the capacity to discharge its oversight role and has a clear understanding of the trajectory of the combined programme. One of the key responsibilities of the Transformation Delivery Board (TDB) is to provide oversight of transformation as a whole programme. It is our view that as the current 'Transformation Plan' grows in scale and complexity, this oversight role will become even more critical. It should enable it to identify interdependencies and opportunities between the twelve programmes, that would be difficult to achieve with the existing governance arrangements of the individual programmes.

The Transformation Delivery Board should refine how it receives updates on transformation programme progress. The current quarterly reporting to Cabinet and Corporate Management Team (CMT) includes an update on progress against the key activities of the transformation programmes, an overall RAG status and where relevant, progress against savings targets. The reporting to Cabinet and CMT is positive, and whilst the early highlight reports to the TDB did not include progress against savings targets, this has now been addressed. Given the TDB role in overseeing transformation across the Council it will be important to include updates on savings targets and also on progress against allocated budgets, such as with the Digital and Workforce Programmes. Having clear transparent progress reporting on finances will enable the TDB to discharge its strategic role more effectively and to inform prioritisation of resources to support the overall programme.

In the initial meetings of the Transformation Delivery Board the challenge and scrutiny has largely been focused on process and not on outcomes and impact. There was a good level of challenge around process, in areas such as:

- the need for consistency of the RAG ratings between the twelve programmes. This has resulted in the requirement to apply a consistent RAG rating across the whole programme.
- the need to ensure that whilst individual programme highlight reports will be different, these are focused on the key issues, and do not contain too much detail. This has resulted in the requirement for all highlight reports to include common aspects such as escalation of risks, issues and decisions for TDB action.

However, given the broad remit of the TDB it will be important that over time at future TDBs there is a focus on strategic considerations and how the twelve programmes are delivering individual and collective impacts and outcomes to enable the Council to achieve its ambitions.

The way the Transformation Delivery Board communicates with individual Programmes is still to be formalised. The current way in which the TDB's challenge and direction are communicated to the individual programmes is through the individual Directors or Heads of Service represented at the TDB. Formalising the reporting and communications between the TDB, the individual programmes, and the necessary democratic processes, will ensure the actions of the TDB to be captured, monitored and effectively scrutinised, and any decisions be taken at the appropriate democratic and management levels and in a transparent and timely way.

The current suite of transformation programme metrics and measures should be enhanced through the development of outcome measures. We have seen that the Council has started to make some progress in trying to define a suite of metrics that will help it measure the progress of its transformation ambitions. This work is still at an early stage of development and could be more focused on trying to measure the benefits and outcomes articulated within the individual transformation programme plans as well as the specific programme activities. Whilst we recognise that this is challenging, working collaboratively to identify these types of outcome measures will enable the Council to capitalise on any shared learning and ultimately provide a better indication of the progress being made across its Transformation Programme to achieve its ambitions.

I trust that this summary of our work is useful to you as you continue your transformation journey. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for their support in helping us to undertake our work.

Yours Sincerely

Audit Wales Engagement Team



Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Governance and Audit Committee – 6th December 2023

Audit Wales update: Transformation Programme

Purpose:	This covering report seeks to provide an overview of the update letter issued by Audit Wales, regarding the progress Swansea Council is making around its Transformation Programme.
Policy Framework:	Transformation Strategy 2023-28
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Governance and Audit Committee read and review this information taking note of the recommendations and making comments.
Report Author:	Ness Young
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In October 2023, Audit Wales provided feedback, in the form of a letter, to Swansea Council about the audit work having been undertaken in relation to the council’s Transformation Programme. The focus of this work was to understand if the council is effectively planning and monitoring its approach to its organisational transformation programme and the delivery of associated savings.
- 1.2 The letter (attached as Appendix A) reflected on the several iterations that the council’s approach to transformation has been through, noting that it was appropriate for the council to reassess its Transformation Programme in November 2022, and establish a refreshed approach through its current

‘Successful and Sustainable Swansea Transformation Programme 2022 and beyond’.

- 1.3 Given the significant refocus of the council’s Transformation Programme over the last year, the feedback mainly covers this more recent period.
- 1.4 In undertaking this work, Audit Wales had observed meetings of the various Boards responsible for the oversight of the Transformation Programme, reviewed key documents and had interviewed key individuals.

2. Findings

2.1 The feedback letter notes that the *‘overall view is that whilst many aspects of the council’s strategic approach to planning, monitoring, and delivering its new Transformation Programme are well defined, some key arrangements could be strengthened to enable the Transformation Programme to adapt to the ongoing financial pressures and achieve its ambitions.’*

2.2 The main findings are set out below. The letter is divided into three main areas of feedback, as follows:

2.3 Transformation vision and strategy

2.3.1 The council has a clear transformation vision.

2.3.2 There is good integration between the council’s new 2022 Transformation Strategy and its Corporate Plan.

2.3.3 Some of the twelve transformation programmes could more clearly describe their ambitions over the longer term.

2.4 Transformation planning and delivery

2.4.1 The council’s Transformation Programme Plan provides a clear overview of the twelve Transformation Programmes.

2.4.2 The council has refocused its arrangements for how its Members are involved in its transformation programmes.

2.4.3 The link between the council’s Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the current transformation programme could be more clearly defined.

2.5 Transformation governance and progress monitoring

2.5.1 The council has taken positive steps to identify and apply the learning from its former approaches to transformation.

2.5.2 The council has used existing governance and reporting structures to provide oversight at the individual transformation programme level which should help to reduce the risk of duplication and additional bureaucracy.

- 2.5.3 The Transformation Delivery Board should assure itself that it has the capacity to discharge its oversight role and has a clear understanding of the trajectory of the combined programme.
- 2.5.4 The Transformation Delivery Board should refine how it receives updates on transformation programme progress.
- 2.5.5 In the initial meetings of the Transformation Delivery Board the challenge and scrutiny has largely been focused on process and not on outcomes and impact.
- 2.5.6 The way the Transformation Delivery Board communicates with individual Programmes is still to be formalised.
- 2.5.7 The current suite of transformation programme metrics and measures should be enhanced through the development of outcome measures.

3. Council Response

3.1 The council welcomes the feedback from Audit Wales and in particular the useful suggestions to improve specific aspects of the overall programme delivery. The way in which the council is responding to the suggestions is set out below:

- i. To ensure the longer-term ambitions and objectives across all the twelve transformation programmes are clear

All twelve programmes have identified intended outcomes and benefits in the Programme Description document which was agreed by Cabinet in April 2023. All Programme Sponsors have been asked to review and update their intended outcomes and benefits for consideration by the Transformation Delivery Board on 14 December 2023

- ii. To make clearer the link between the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the current transformation programme.

The MTFP for 2024-28, which is currently under development, will clearly articulate links to the corporate transformation programme.

- iii. To ensure detailed planning documents have clearly defined timescales for when the Council plans to achieve the specified benefits and outcomes.

All Programme Sponsors will be asked to develop timescales for the planned achievement of intended outcomes and benefits, following TDB on 14 December. Planning documents will be updated and approved by individual programme boards and shared with TDB in March 2024.

- iv. To ensure the MTFP demonstrates how savings are being delivered by the Council, differentiating between business as usual and transformation related savings

The MTFP for 2024-28 will explain how savings are being delivered and will show how much is expected to be delivered through transformation.

Savings delivery is being reported in quarterly budget monitoring reports to Cabinet and savings related to transformation can be distinguished from business as usual.

- v. To ensure the Transformation Delivery Board can identify interdependencies and opportunities between the twelve programmes.

Transformation Delivery Board receives highlight reports on each programme using a corporate template which requires reference to be made to links with other programmes. The new highlight report will be tested at TDB on 14 December.

- vi. To formalise the reporting and communications between the TDB, the individual programmes, and the necessary democratic processes.

TDB minutes are sent to all programme leads and required to be shared at the next programme board meeting. Highlight reports to TDB must include issues to be escalated. The overall transformation programme is scrutinised by the Scrutiny Programme Committee and individual programmes (or elements thereof) are supported by the relevant Service Transformation Committees and scrutinised by relevant performance panels at their discretion. The STCs and Scrutiny Performance Panels each have an annual work programme and are working through these.

- vii. To ensure the performance information focuses on benefits and outcomes as well as specific programme activities.

All programme Sponsors have been asked to ensure that they include information on benefits and outcomes as they develop their programme metrics. TDB will review effectiveness of the programme's performance indicators in March 2024 ahead of the new financial year.

4. Integrated Assessment 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, 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.

4.2 This report sets out the key feedback / findings from a recent Audit Wales examination on the extent to which the council has progressed in relation to the Transformation Programme. Consultation or engagement is not needed or relevant to this report, and there is no relevant impact to consider.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A Audit Wales letter dated October 2023, reference no. 3854A2023

Appendix B IIA Screening Form

Appendix 1C - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Strategic Delivery and Performance

Directorate: Corporate Services

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

The Leader's Report to Scrutiny - Key Portfolio Headlines: Economy, Finance and Strategy.

This is a 'for information' report that provides an overview of progress meeting the responsibilities of the Economic, Finance & Strategy Cabinet portfolio.

Owing to the breadth and scope of the Economy, Finance and Strategy portfolio, it is not the intention of this report to provide an update on all of the responsibilities within the portfolio, but rather to highlight key areas of significance. Progress on each of the constituent elements of the Leader's portfolio are scheduled and reported through existing scrutiny arrangements throughout the municipal year, with separate and distinct IIA screening.

This report seeks to outline notable activities and achievements in terms of ensuring the delivery of key priorities within the Economy, Finance and Strategy portfolio. This report focuses on three key areas of significance, being:

1. Financial Strategy
2. Recovery & Transformation
3. Progress on major projects

Appendix 1C - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

This is a 'for information' report that provides an overview of progress meeting the responsibilities of the Economic, Finance & Strategy Cabinet portfolio, so no consultation or engagement is required.

Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?
 Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
 Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
 Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
 Yes No

Appendix 1C - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? *(Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)*

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

N/A

Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

Outcome of Screening

Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:

- Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)
- Summary of involvement (Q3)
- WFG considerations (Q4)
- Any risks identified (Q5)
- Cumulative impact (Q7)

This is a 'for information' report that provides an overview of progress meeting the responsibilities of the Economic, Finance & Strategy Cabinet portfolio, so there is no direct impact on people or communities.

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

Screening completed by:
Name: Richard Rowlands
Job title: Strategic Delivery and Performance Manager
Date: 12.12.23

Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Lee Wenham
Position: Head of Communications and Marketing
Date: 12.12.23



Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy

Council – 5 October 2023

Policy Commitments Progress

Purpose:	This report seeks to summarise progress of the Policy Commitments adopted by Council in July 2022.
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	Legal, Finance, Access to Services.
Report Author:	Emily Davies
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Policy Commitment Statement (see appendix A) was adopted by Council on 7th July 2022, outlining the commitments aimed at helping to deliver Swansea Council's overall vision and key priorities within its Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 It should be noted that not all actions have been detailed in this report, as many aspects continue to evolve and progress on a daily or weekly basis.
- 1.3 Swansea Council continues to work in partnership to promote and develop the well-being of all our citizens and our communities. We will work co-operatively and co-productively both within the council as well as with other bodies/organisations and put the well-being of our citizens and communities at the heart of everything we do.

1.4 As outlined in the Corporate Plan 2023-28, our priorities are:

- **Safeguarding people from harm** - so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- **Improving Education and Skills** - so that everyone in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- **Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure** - so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- **Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities** - so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- **Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change** - so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.
- **Transformation and Financial Resilience** - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

2. Policy Commitments Progress

2.1 This Policy Commitments Progress Report covers a broad range of areas, set out herewith to include a summary of progress and / or current positions regarding each commitment.

2.2 The tracking data relating to each individual commitment is presented in Appendix B (Policy Commitments Tracker).

2.3 A summary of each commitment and related progression is outlined as follows:

Education

2.3.1 Swansea Council is committed to investing £1 billion for better education, including £150 million investment in new and better schools. £215 million of total revenue funding is being provided to Education and schools in 2023-2024. Programmes are needing to take account of increases in construction costs.

2.3.2 We are keeping school leadership standards high in Swansea. A Stress Management Counsellor was recruited to begin work with schools from September 2022, and a regional offer of leadership development is now in place. The CDC has considered the development of a standardised handbook for new and acting headteachers, which was published for all headteachers and their senior leadership teams after the February 2023 half-term. ERF funding has been extended to allow the project to continue whilst a sustainable delivery model is being worked on.

2.3.3 We committed to mapping out future priorities, in line with our Quality in Education (QED) / Sustainable Communities for

Learning programme. Cabinet workshops have been held to consider school organisation options aligned to the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

- 2.3.4** Swansea Council have commenced the upgrade works at Cefn Hengoed Community School, progressing our £7million investment in a new community sports barn in Bonymaen. The construction phase is underway, with planned completion in Autumn 2023.
- 2.3.5** We have begun delivery of new special school facilities. The timeline has been approved and a strategic outline case approved by Welsh Government; however, further approval is required for revised scope due to increased projected demand for school placements. Initial ground investigations have been completed and a contractor will be appointed at the relevant stage.
- 2.3.6** The council has expanded free school meal provision and sought to implement a freeze on school meal prices. Universal free school meals were rolled out to all Reception pupils in September 2022 and to all Year 1 and Year 2 pupils in April 2023. Universal free school meals will be rolled out to all Key Stage 2 pupils by 2024. Meal prices were frozen for September 2022 - the fourth year of freezing paid school meal prices.
- 2.3.7** We have commenced the new regional partnership arrangements; the South West Wales Education Partnership is a regional collaborative arrangement designed to promote excellence in all of our schools. Regional arrangements commenced in April 2022, and during the first six months a wide range of professional learning was offered to Swansea schools, refined to meet the needs of practitioners in Swansea. 'Partneriaeth' delivers national programmes for curriculum and leadership development. There is a suitable offer of professional learning to support equity in education and a strong offer to support Relationships and Sexuality Education.

Better Care

- 2.3.8** Swansea Council has committed to investing £750 million for better care in Swansea. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) has now been approved and planning is in place for budget requirements over the next four years.
- 2.3.9** The council is committed to fairer pay for care workers. Significant increases in the cost of living have impacted upon RLW rates for 2023/24. A fees paper was produced as part of the budget setting process and was agreed for 2023/24. This has been completed for 2023/24 and work has now begun

towards understanding the impact of these increases on 2024/25.

2.3.10 Swansea Council continues to strive to provide new children's care facilities within Swansea. Work is continuing with Welsh Government on legislative changes to support the elimination of profit from the care sector and to understand in better detail how this will impact the sector, provision and placements.

2.3.11 We are seeking to provide better day care opportunities and respite services across the city. A strategy is in development and a review of existing provision is underway. Linked to the capital programme, an FPR7 report is in place to look at the re-design of services, taking into consideration an integrated hub approach.

2.3.12 Swansea Council has developed, and continues to operate, a network of Local Area Co-ordinators (LACs) to cover the whole of Swansea. Local Area Co-ordinators are well established across all areas of Swansea and work continues on the development of opportunities and links to local and regional prevention and community co-ordination work streams.

2.3.13 The council is undertaking a review of post-pandemic care provision. Workstreams / reviews have included Internal and external domiciliary care capacity review; development of an Assistive Technology Strategy; internal residential care provision review; workforce development programme - recruitment & retention; locality-based prevention and early intervention; and support for parents and carers.

2.3.14 We have begun options appraisal and move to increase council direct delivery of care. Scoping of current demand and pressures is underway, and work has commenced around costs comparisons of in-house / external provision, focusing on any budget gaps that would need to be identified and sources to progress this.

2.3.15 Swansea Council will continue to engage with health to ensure care plans align with health recovery. Transformation priorities have been aligned with the regional transformation agenda and supports shared objectives with partners across the region. Specific workstreams have been developed including:

- Homes First Model Development
- Prevention and Community Co-ordination
- Learning Disability & Wellbeing
- Transformation Complex Care
- Wellbeing & Mental Health
- Carers

2.3.16 We are progressing a new children's care facility. Work has commenced in this area, and we have purchased one home for development and transformation. Recruitment and development of staff for this provision is underway. Work is ongoing to source a second property and additional work is ongoing to secure further regional funding for extra developments in this area.

Climate Change

2.3.17 Swansea Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. A delivery plan has now been approved, and activities continue to reduce emissions.

2.3.18 We have supported delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project, including the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) commissioned feasibility report which has now been completed.

2.3.19 We continue to progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site, including a revised business case / method of delivery. As reported to Cabinet in May 2023, this will be dependent on recent Blue Eden discussions.

2.3.20 Swansea Council continues to install more electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the county, supporting a move to more EV ownership. A new policy is currently being drafted, following successful bids and receipt of funding.

2.3.21 The procurement process has commenced, in relation to installation of more LED street lighting.

2.3.22 We are developing a new city-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees in communities. The initial tree assessment of council-owned land in all wards has been completed. The county-wide tree canopy coverage and opportunity mapping project is due for completion at the end of June 2023. A tree management strategy is being updated to include planting sites. Approximately 300 trees were planted during 2022/23 (figures do not include tree whips). Currently, the maximum tree planting resource capacity is approximately 300 standard and heavy standard trees per annum.

2.3.23 We continue to aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements. The 'Wild About Your Ward' greening improvement programme identified the four most deprived wards; this is now being rolled out. Our bid for three-year grant funding to roll out to all wards was unsuccessful, however ERF/WG Placemaking Greening schemes are being undertaken in district and local centres. ERF funding will

continue to support the provision of nature trails, and grant funding has been obtained to retain temporary staff leading the scheme delivery until March 2025.

2.3.24 Swansea Council continues to review the council transport fleet to maximise opportunities for use of a green fleet in line with its green fleet strategy. The current fleet includes 73 electric vehicles, 12 hybrid vehicles, and 34 additional electric vehicles due for delivery imminently.

Communities

2.3.25 Swansea Council pledged to ensure the availability of dedicated resources to tackle weeds, litter, and minor works in every community, recruiting local ward operatives. Following the successful recruitment campaign, teams are now fully operational, and work is ongoing.

2.3.26 We had committed to investment in our towns and villages. This has included the successful allocation of 92 grants, totalling £470,000. Further grants continue to be worked on.

2.3.27 We committed to promote the free use of sports pitches for local sports clubs. This scheme has now been concluded, and a new pricing tariff going forward has been agreed.

2.3.28 Swansea Council committed to improving public toilets. Improvement works continue to progress well, following the successful bid for the *Changing Places* grant. A contract for *Changing Places* has been awarded, and we now await details from suppliers regarding planning applications.

2.3.29 The council continues to invest in parks and play areas. The first tranche of work is underway, with a framework now in place for the remaining work.

2.3.30 We continue our work with partners and communities across Swansea to become a Human Rights City and to continue to embed our commitment to values of equality and diversity in everything we do. In December 2022, following 18 months of action, Swansea's PSB partners declared Swansea a Human Rights City. During those 18 months, a 'Rights in Your Pocket' guide was launched, a guide for organisations and Public Bodies as to how to embed a Human Rights based approach. Over 80 senior managers and officers from Swansea's PSB organisations took part in the British Institute of Human Rights training in September 2022 and April 2023. The next stage is for each PSB organisation that signed the HRC declaration to form their own action plans. On 16th of June 2023, an action plan engagement event was held, where over 100 community

leaders, business and 3rd sector leaders, people with lived experiences and young people attended. They shared with us the main issues for them, potential actions and what success looks like under each priority - feeding into the action plans.

2.3.31 The council is working to complete bus shelter installations, reviewing current stock to confirm which shelters are to be upgraded. All advertising shelters have now been replaced. Eighteen bus shelters have been upgraded as part of the first round of ERF funding and an order has been submitted for a further fifteen shelters.

2.3.32 Swansea Council committed to installing new bins and to replace dog waste bins with larger general bins. The first delivery of bins has been received and bin replacements are ongoing. Overall, the programme progressing well.

2.3.33 We committed to the roll-out of new drainage teams and new PATCH (Priority Action Team for Community Highways) programmes. ERF drainage project funding has been extended with additional funding into 2023-24. Teams have displayed exceptional performance with a substantial increase in resilience in wet weather situations. New rain forecasting software is now in place in addition to new monitoring software. New wet weather routes have also been introduced.

2.3.34 ERF 'PATCH' programme funding has been extended to 2023-24. The programme comprised two teams in early October, and all works are scheduled to complete within the target year. Additional funding is being discussed due to an increase in material costs. Additional funding will be required to allow the project to continue, or it will revert to pre-ERF levels.

2.3.35 The council committed to commence the £10 million local road upgrades. The additional funding has been approved and allocated. The programme priorities have been agreed and the first schemes, including sections of Carmarthen Road and Townhill Road, have been completed. Most of the work is scheduled for 2023/24 and will be due to complete by the end of March 2025. An additional £3m over three years has been approved in June 2023.

2.3.36 Swansea Council has revised community budget rules, following cabinet approval.

2.3.37 We have progressed roll-out of free public Wi-Fi. Work undertaken has included the completion of options appraisals, agreeing a strategic approach and procurement of the solution. Implementation is now underway, and work continues to ensure state aid compliance.

- 2.3.38** We have investigated options for a substance use truth commission. Following a review with partner organisations, the independent Western Bay Drugs Commission (formerly known as the Western Bay Substance Use Truth Commission) was launched in December 2022. A Call for Evidence survey has been issued to commence and inform the work of the commission.
- 2.3.39** The council shall agree a local library plan including the Community Hub developments. Work is progressing on the Community Hub as an 'anchor' site for the future model. The MALD grant for the library facilities has been approved, and equipment for the new community space is in store. Project scope for the wider plan is now detailed within the Corporate Transformation Plan for governance purposes, and a project manager has been assigned from Property Services.
- 2.3.40** Swansea Council has sought to expand Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). A City Centre on-street PSPO has been operational since December 2021 with enforcement available from April 2022. Over 200 on-street engagements were undertaken by Rangers and 11 FPNs issued. A formal review of the scheme is to be conducted following conclusion of the ongoing Scrutiny process, looking at Swansea wide anti-social behaviour. ERF funding for additional resources has been secured for expansion to outlying areas, but the short-term timeline is prohibitive given recruitment issues and staff training requirements.
- 2.3.41** We have engaged with the police to improve visibility of local policing. Meetings continue to be scheduled with Cabinet Members, South Wales Police representatives and community safety officers; with a view to improving visibility across council members and communities. A joint set of priorities has been established and an action plan put in place.
- 2.3.42** Swansea Council had prepared to receive more refugees. Robust processes have been put in place using well established support mechanisms, however the level of arrivals is high, and this is pressurising temporary accommodation and delaying move-on options. Support is funded by the Welsh Government Ukraine Scheme, and other schemes are also in operation as funded by the Home Office.
- 2.3.43** We have progressed roll-out of the next generation CCTV systems. The contract has been awarded and implementation works have commenced. Work is progressing well although timelines are under pressure due to external factors.

Housing

- 2.3.44** Swansea Council committed to providing more energy efficient homes and more affordable homes, alongside more investment in social housing. Schemes continue to progress at various stages of design, procurement, and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget.
- 2.3.45** We will deliver on the refurbishment and upgrade of remaining tower blocks. A contractor has been appointed for Croft Street and progress is being made on the detailed design stages.
- 2.3.46** The council committed to taking strong action against disruptive tenants. We continue to work in partnership with other agencies to address causes and to tackle anti-social behaviour. Guidelines are also being refreshed to reflect the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016.
- 2.3.47** The council committed to offer immediate support for people who become homeless and made a commitment to shorter housing waiting lists. The HSP Strategy has been approved by Cabinet, which included the on-going commitment to 'always a bed' pledge and to ensuring appropriate support is available for people who are or may become homeless, at the right time. Some uncertainty remains around funding for temporary accommodation.
- 2.3.48** The council has completed Welsh Quality Housing Standard One (WQHS1) and has begun planning WQHS2. Schemes are now progressing at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget. We are awaiting an announcement from Welsh Government regarding WHQS2, but work is progressing in preparation.
- 2.3.49** The council has begun its review of the Council Housing Lettings Policy. The policy review is making good progress and the draft policy is due for consultation in Autumn 2023.
- 2.3.50** We remain committed to agreeing a strategy to support homeless individuals as the covid hotel use ends, whilst we strive to continue our 'always a bed' pledge. Work is ongoing to ensure people are moved on to appropriate accommodation with support at the earliest opportunity. There remains some long-term uncertainty around funding for temporary accommodation.
- 2.3.51** Swansea Council will continue onto the next phase of the more homes build, whilst maintaining progress on further retrofitting of council homes. Some schemes have experienced delays due

to capacity. External design is now being procured to increase capacity.

Regeneration

2.3.52 The council is delivering on the £1 billion regeneration of the City Centre and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash to develop seven key strategic sites. Progress of individual projects is underway, subject to capital funding availability.

2.3.53 We shall introduce new public and local service hubs in communities. This scheme, linked to the library plan and BPA activity, has commenced, with funding in place for review.

2.3.54 Swansea Council committed to help create thousands of new jobs for the people of Swansea, aiming to provide high quality and secure employment. So far, seventy start up grants have been issued (WG Economy) and UK CRF start up and digital grants completed. SPF delivery is underway (pre-start, digital, growth job creation grants and green energy grants); inward investment conversations with potential investors continue; and 317 business improvement grants have been approved to date cross county.

2.3.55 We are progressing the Palace Theatre and Albert Hall developments to secure these historic buildings for future generations, and we continue to seek an innovative solution to secure the future of the Elysium building, looking at powers to gain access to undertake a structural survey. £16m has been confirmed in existing scheme envelopes; Albert Hall and Palace Theatre teams are on site, although subject to usual current construction industry issues.

2.3.56 Swansea Council will develop and promote more city living, including new hotels, retail, office space and food and beverage and leisure facilities. Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the additional funding requirement from WG and the preferred developer to take forward the Hotel. A draft report is being prepared with a target of September Cabinet.

2.3.57 Working with our regional partners, we are progressing a £1 billion regeneration and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash as our new strategic partner; with an initial focus on Copr Bay Phase 2, the civic centre site and St Thomas site. The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) has been signed and the partnership announced, with work having now commenced on initial schemes.

2.3.58 We will secure a major new tenant for the Debenhams unit in the Quadrant shopping centre, securing the use of this unit for

the future. Acquisition of the unit has been completed and discussions are underway with the prospective tenant.

- 2.3.59** The council is progressing work on the new Castle Square Gardens project. The design stage has been completed and planning permission approved. Procurement of the contractor is now underway.
- 2.3.60** The council will progress work on the new central library project. RIBA Stage 4 has been completed, and an FPR7 report will be submitted in July 2023.
- 2.3.61** Swansea Council committed to begin the phased demolition of Ty Dewi Sant and the old multi-storey car park. Ty Dewi Sant has now been demolished. Further car park demolition will follow in Q1 2024. Snagging of the North Car park is to be completed before the demolition of St David's car park.
- 2.3.62** We are progressing the build of 71-72 The Kingsway, to create an innovation hub which will be home to new businesses and help create up to six hundred new jobs. Work is progressing on site and the superstructure works are underway. Marketing has commenced, along with branding work, and discussions with prospective occupiers are progressing.

Attractions

- 2.3.63** Swansea Council will seek to deliver the biggest ever events programme each year, for the next five years. The 2022 events programme closed as the largest to date. The 2023 programme is underway.
- 2.3.64** Swansea Council continues to deliver an annual programme of community safety / community engagement events across the city. This events programme is midway through delivery, with an agreed uplift in funding of £150,000.
- 2.3.65** Working in partnership with Penderyn Distillery, we committed to support a new whisky distillery attraction at Landore. Practical completion has been achieved with the hand over to Penderyn for final fit out. Full attraction opening is due imminently.
- 2.3.66** We continue to progress development and investment through the Skyline attraction on Kilvey Hill, having hosted the Skyline Board visit during June 2022. The Skyline Board have since approved the project subject to funding offers. Cabinet have approved grant funding support and PAC is complete.
- 2.3.67** We committed to progress hotels discussions for the city centre and stadium. Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the

additional funding requirement from WG and the preferred developer to take forward the Arena Hotel. A draft report is being prepared with a target of September Cabinet. A hotel demand study has also been completed. Hotel provision near the stadium will be considered as part of the Tawe riverside strategy action plan.

2.3.68 We had committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons. The design has been completed and a planning application was submitted in July 2022, followed by the procurement stage.

2.3.69 Swansea Council will deliver new promenade improvements and developments, as well as new lighting around Swansea Bay. Work commenced in April 2023 and is expected to take around 18 months.

2.3.70 We continue to deliver a range of new and exciting immersive attractions, summer concerts and a new phase of arena shows; encapsulated in a larger than ever events programme (including the half iron man event), which commenced last year with community support for the Platinum Jubilee events.

2.3.71 The council is committed to retaining the Wales National Air Show in Swansea, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to the city for this annual event and reviewing how its delivery can align with its net zero carbon targets. For the 2022 Wales Airshow, a specialist sustainability company (A Greener Festival) was engaged to review the events' sustainability characteristics. Whilst they agreed that there were a lot of positive actions already in place, given the size of the event, further work would be needed. Several changes had been implemented for this year, which included an enhanced sustainability policy and checklist for the event catering suppliers; changes to the trader's sustainability guidelines; an updated risk assessment in relation to environmental damage; additional public water bottle refill points and increased social media sustainability messaging.

2.3.72 Swansea Council remains committed to progressing discussions for the new interactive aquarium, aiming to offer an immersive experience for visitors and a wider educational resource. Initial design works are underway, and discussions continue to take place with the aquarium operator. Urban Splash have been introduced to the project proposer, and the Levelling Up Fund Round 3 bid is being prepared.

Finances and Resources

2.3.73 We had continued making cost of living payments on behalf of Welsh Government until the scheme closed / the fund was spent

in full. At the time the Main Scheme element of the COLP scheme was closed, over 94% of those believed to be eligible had claimed a payment and been paid. The remaining Main Scheme funds were then transferred to the Discretionary Scheme and we were able, with Cabinet approval, to make additional groups of people eligible for those payments. By the time the discretionary scheme closed, 97% of potential payments had been claimed and distributed. Various measures had been undertaken to encourage claims and maximise payments in the Swansea area.

2.3.74 The council committed to agree the outturn position and where possible provide more resources for reinvestment. Indicative outturn will be delivered to within £32,000 of overall revenue budget (on £524million). Significant variances with major underspends on services (£17m), capital financing (£9m) and significantly lower than expected draws from reserves (£26m). Overall, still a draw from reserves of circa £2m and a draw from schools reserves circa £8m will be needed to fully balance the 2022-23 position, so longer term sustainability will remain an issue but short-term delivery continues to be within budget. Capital budget records slippage and carry forward request anticipated.

2.3.75 Swansea Council committed to replenish the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) from the outturn position and to ensure continued focus on the fund to aid economic recovery and part fund many of the policy commitments. The ERF continues to be tracked in year.

2.3.76 We committed to reviewing the 'Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme' goals. Cabinet approved a new Corporate Transformation Plan for 2023-25 in April 2023.

2.3.77 The council committed to commencing a senior pay and grading review and ensuring it fits with the wider workforce pay and grading scheme. The LGA scheme has now been identified as the most appropriate job evaluation scheme and Council approved its adoption in May 2023. The evaluation process will now take place for all Chief Officer posts.

2.3.78 We committed to ensure planned savings were secured. Indicative outturn will be almost exactly in line with the overall budget (£524million). Overall savings deemed found, even though not specifically tracked as part of the covid response.

2.3.79 The council committed to agree a post-pandemic working model. Cabinet approved a report on the Post Pandemic

Working Model on 20th October 2022, and service models aligned to the agreed principle have been formalised.

Transport and Energy

2.3.80 The council have announced progress on the Blue Eden project. A formal proposal has now been discussed with DST and partners announced. Work to finalise CRF is complete and final submissions made to the UK Government. The Cabinet report regarding land disposal and acquisition was approved on May 23rd by Cabinet.

2.3.81 We successfully provided the 'free bus ride' scheme for the 2022 school summer holidays and have extended this scheme this year.

2.3.82 Swansea Council have supported and enabled the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points, developing a wider EV charging strategy. Fifteen public facing charge points are now installed in council car parks (June 2022).

2.3.83 We will continue to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with the agreed green fleet strategy.

2.3.84 Swansea Council will commence the review of its disabled parking bay policy. A draft report is being prepared regarding the new policy, which will be taken to the Strategic Transformation Committee.

2.3.85 We have progressed initial discussions regarding a new ferry service linking Wales with the south-west of England.

2.3.86 We have progressed discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub. A formal proposal has now been discussed with DST and partners have been announced. CRF activity is complete, and a final report submitted. Work is also progressing on an aligned EV/Hydrogen bus transport hub with Network Rail, TFW and Welsh Government. Land transaction approval provided by Cabinet as part of May 2023 report.

Well – Being

2.3.87 Swansea Council has progressed delivery of all-weather sports pitches. Funding has been confirmed and work is progressing for additional facilities at Underhill Park; Cefn Hengoed; Elba; KGV playing fields and agreed school sites.

2.3.88 We have progressed discussions with partners regarding the international sports science village. A Prior Information Notice (PIN) for consultancy is now published on Sell to Wales. We now

aim to seek advice on long-term operating and governance models for investment.

2.3.89 Swansea Council continues to work towards announcing new active travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity. Funding has now been allocated by Welsh Government.

2.3.90 We had committed to delivering better skate-park facilities within Swansea. Budgets and a strategy have been agreed to include a programme of improvements to existing facilities and the creation of new destination wheel and skate facilities. Tender documents for specialist support are currently out to market.

Other

2.3.91 We have progressed work of the new Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). The CJC forum is now established and meeting regularly, with all governance arrangements in place.

2.3.92 The council has commenced a review of delegated decisions that can be taken by both officers and councillors. A report has been taken to Cabinet/CMT and Leadership; the delegated decisions policy was circulated to heads of service, presented to heads of service and has been deployed.

2.3.93 Swansea Council will agree a new Swansea Bay Strategy. A briefing note was presented to the CDC/Scrutiny Panel regarding the Swansea Bay action plan. Progress will now be monitored by the Regeneration Programme Board going forward.

2.3.94 The council is updating the naming policy. A draft naming policy has been presented to CMT and the final policy is expected to be presented to the Constitution Working Group.

2.3.95 We continue to progress Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 discussions with Welsh Government to find a solution that supports appropriate development. A workshop has been held with Welsh Government and a formal response submitted. We await publication of a revised TAN by Welsh Government in 2024.

3. Conclusion

3.1 In conclusion, this report covers the vast array of activity that is underway. The report highlights the wide range of projects and programmes that have been / are being implemented and acknowledges the preparatory work that is required around each commitment. Varying degrees of detail are appropriate for each update and, although this report gives an

overview of progress, each commitment continues to evolve and develop, taking account of opportunities and pressures as they may arise.

3.2 Appendix B gives an overview of progress tracking, highlighting that:

- 71% of the total commitments have been completed.
- 24% of the total commitments are on track.
- 5% of the total commitments have experienced delays.

3.3 The 5% of commitments that have experienced delays are summarised below:

3.3.1 *A new Castle Square Gardens, Palace Theatre & Albert Hall* - £16m has been confirmed in existing scheme envelopes. Teams are on site at the Albert Hall and Palace Theatre, although subject to the current construction industry delays.

3.3.2 *New hotels & more city living* - Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the additional funding requirement from Welsh Government and the preferred developer to take forward the Hotel. A draft report is being prepared for Cabinet.

3.3.3 *Expand PSPO* - A formal review of the scheme is to be conducted following conclusion of ongoing scrutiny process looking at Swansea wide ASB.

3.3.4 *Demolish old MSCP* - Ty Dewi Sant has been demolished and further car park demolition is to follow in Q1 2024.

3.3.5 *Deliver new promenade* - Work successfully began April 2023.

3.3.6 *Deliver new Bay lighting* - Funding has been confirmed and work has started on site.

3.4 The Policy Commitments have been incorporated into the council's Corporate Plan 2023/28 and future reporting will be done through the council's performance management arrangements.

4. Integrated Impact Assessment Implications

4.1 The council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) 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 Act.
- 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.
- 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 process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.
- 4.4 This report notes the progress around policy commitments, as adopted by Council. Whilst the report will have a positive impact on the groups listed in the IIA, each individual commitment will need to be clearly defined and built into Corporate / service plans and subjected to consultation and engagement and individual IIAs as appropriate.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications arising directly from simply adopting this report, acceptance of the actions contained within the report may result in additional expenditure at a future time which will be dealt with by appropriate and subsequent reports if additional revenue or capital funding is required.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this progress report. Where a specific policy commitment requires legal input, officers will be provided with such advice.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A: Policy Commitments Statement 2022-27

Appendix B: Policy Commitments Tracker

Appendix C: Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA POLICY COMMITMENTS STATEMENT 2022 – 2027

1. This **Policy Commitments Statement** covers a broad range of topics, as outlined within paragraph 1. In addition, paragraph 2 outlines commitments in the context of meeting objectives within the first one hundred days of term.

Education

- 1.1 Swansea Council will commit to investing £1 billion for better education, including £150 million investment in new and better schools.

Better care

- 1.2 Swansea Council will commit to investing £750 million for better care in Swansea.
- 1.3 The Council will commit to fairer pay for care workers.
- 1.4 Swansea Council will strive to provide new children's care facilities within Swansea.
- 1.5 We will seek to provide better day care opportunities and respite services across the City.
- 1.6 Swansea Council will continue to develop and operate a network of Local Area Co-ordinators (LAC) to cover the whole of Swansea.

Climate Change

- 1.7 Swansea Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- 1.8 We will support delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project.
- 1.9 We aim to progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site.
- 1.10 The Council will strive to install more electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the county, supporting a move to more EV ownership.
- 1.11 We will install more LED street lighting.

- 1.12 We will develop a new city-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees in communities.
- 1.13 We aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements.
- 1.14 Swansea Council will continue to review the council transport fleet to maximise opportunities for use of a green fleet in line with its green fleet strategy.

Communities

- 1.15 Swansea Council will ensure the availability of dedicated resources to tackle weeds, litter and minor works in every community; recruiting local ward operatives.
- 1.16 We commit to investment in our towns and villages.
- 1.17 We shall promote the free use of sports pitches for local sports clubs.
- 1.18 Swansea Council will commit to improving public toilets.
- 1.19 The Council will continue to invest in parks and play areas.
- 1.20 We will complete work with partners and communities across Swansea to become a Human Rights City and to continue to embed our commitment to values of equality and diversity in everything we do.

Housing

- 1.21 Swansea Council commit to providing more energy efficient homes and more affordable homes, alongside more investment in social housing.
- 1.22 We will deliver on the refurbishment and upgrade of remaining tower blocks.
- 1.23 The Council shall commit to taking strong action against disruptive tenants.
- 1.24 The Council will offer immediate support for people who become homeless and a commitment to shorter housing waiting lists.

Regeneration

- 1.25 The Council will deliver on a £1 billion regeneration of the City Centre and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash to develop seven key strategic sites.
- 1.26 We shall introduce new public and local services hubs in communities.
- 1.27 Swansea Council is committed to helping create thousands of new jobs for the people of Swansea, aiming to provide high quality and secure employment.

- 1.28 We will progress the Palace Theatre and Albert Hall developments to secure our historic buildings for future generations and seek an innovative solution to secure the future of the Elysium building.
- 1.29 Swansea Council will develop and promote more city living, including new hotels, retail, office space and food and beverage facilities.

Attractions

- 1.30 Swansea Council will seek to deliver the biggest ever events programme each year, for the next five years.
- 1.31 Swansea Council will continue to deliver an annual programme of community safety / Community Engagement events across the city.
- 1.32 Working in partnership with Penderyn Distillery, we will support a new whisky distillery attraction at Landore.

2. 100 days target: Commitments

- 2.1 In addition to the above, we seek to achieve the following commitments during the first one hundred days of term:

Education

- 2.2 We commit to mapping out future priorities, in line with our Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.
- 2.3 Swansea Council will commence the upgrade works at Cefn Hengoed Community School, progressing our £7million investment in a new Community Sports Barn in Bonymaen.
- 2.4 We shall begin delivery of new special school facilities.
- 2.5 The Council will seek to expand free school meal provision and implement a freeze on school meal prices.
- 2.6 We will commence the new regional partnership arrangements; the South West Wales Education Partnership will be a regional collaborative arrangement designed to promote excellence in all of our schools.
- 2.7 We will keep school leadership standards high in Swansea.

Better care

- 2.8 The Council will undertake a review of post-pandemic care provision.

- 2.9 We will begin options appraisal and move to increase council direct delivery of care.
- 2.10 Swansea Council will engage with Health to ensure care plans align with health recovery.
- 2.11 We will progress a new children's care facility.

Communities

- 2.12 The Council will complete bus shelter installations.
- 2.13 Swansea Council commit to installing new bins and to replace dog waste bins with larger general bins.
- 2.14 We commit to roll-out new drainage teams and new PATCH (Priority Action Team for Community Highways) programmes.
- 2.15 The Council will commence the £10 million local road upgrades.
- 2.16 Swansea Council will revise community budget rules.
- 2.17 We will progress roll-out of free public Wi-Fi.
- 2.18 We will investigate options for a Substance Use Truth Commission.
- 2.19 The Council shall agree a Local Library Plan including the community hub developments.
- 2.20 Swansea Council will seek to expand Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).
- 2.21 We will engage with the Police to improve visibility of local policing.
- 2.22 Swansea Council will prepare to receive more refugees.
- 2.23 We will progress the roll-out of next generation CCTV systems.

Housing

- 2.24 The Council shall complete Welsh Quality Housing Standard (WQHS) 1 and begin planning WQHS 2.
- 2.25 The Council will begin its review of its council housing lettings policy.
- 2.26 We are committed to agreeing a strategy to support homeless individuals as the Covid hotel use ends, whilst we will strive to continue our 'always a bed' pledge.

- 2.27 Swansea Council will continue onto the next phase of the More Homes build, whilst maintaining progress on further retrofitting of council homes.

Regeneration

- 2.28 Working with our regional partners, we will progress a £1 billion regeneration and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash as our new strategic partner, with an initial focus on Copr Bay Phase 2, the Civic Centre site and St Thomas site.
- 2.29 We will secure a major new tenant for the Debenhams unit in the Quadrant Shopping Centre, securing the use of this unit for the future.
- 2.30 The Council will progress work on the new Castle Square Gardens project.
- 2.31 The Council will progress work on the new Central Library project.
- 2.32 Swansea Council will begin the phased demolition of Ty Dewi Sant and the old multi-storey car park.
- 2.33 We shall progress the build of 71-72 The Kingsway, to create an innovation hub which will be home to new businesses and up to six hundred new jobs.

Finances and Resources

- 2.34 We shall continue making cost of living payments on behalf of Welsh Government until the scheme closes or the fund is spent in full.
- 2.35 The Council will agree the outturn position and where possible provide more resources for reinvestment.
- 2.36 Swansea Council commit to replenish the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) from the outturn position and ensure continued focus on the fund to aid economic recovery and part fund many of the items in this policy commitments statement.
- 2.37 We will commit to reviewing the 'Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme' goals.
- 2.38 The Council will commence a senior pay and grading review and ensure it fits with the wider workforce pay and grading scheme.
- 2.39 We will ensure planned savings are secured.
- 2.40 The Council will agree a post-pandemic working model.

Attractions

- 2.41 We will continue to progress development and investment through the Skyline park attraction on Kilvey Hill, hosting the Skyline board visit during June 2022.
- 2.42 We will progress hotels discussions for the City Centre and Stadium.
- 2.43 We are committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons expected by Winter 2022.
- 2.44 Swansea Council will deliver new promenade improvements and developments, as well as new lighting around Swansea Bay.
- 2.45 We are committed to delivering a range of new and exciting immersive attractions, summer concerts and a new phase of Arena shows; encapsulated in a larger than ever events programme (including the half Iron Man event), which commenced with community support for Platinum Jubilee events.
- 2.46 The Council is committed to retaining the Wales National Air Show in Swansea, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to the City for this annual event and reviewing how its delivery can align with its net zero carbon targets.
- 2.47 Swansea Council is committed to progressing discussions for the new interactive aquarium, aiming to offer an immersive experience for visitors and a wider educational resource.

Transport and Energy

- 2.48 The Council will announce progress on the Blue Eden project.
- 2.49 We will continue the 'free bus ride' scheme for 2022 school summer holidays and consider further extensions.
- 2.50 Swansea Council will support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.
- 2.51 We will continue to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with its agreed green fleet strategy.
- 2.52 Swansea Council will commence the review of its disabled parking bay policy.
- 2.53 We will strive to progress discussions regarding a new ferry service linking Wales with the South West of England.
- 2.54 We will progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub.

Well – Being

- 2.55 Swansea Council will progress delivery of all-weather sports pitches.
- 2.56 We commit to progress discussions with partners regarding the International Sports Science Village.
- 2.57 The Council commits to complete play area upgrades.
- 2.58 Swansea Council will work towards announcing new Active Travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity.
- 2.59 We are committed to delivering better skate-park facilities within Swansea.

Other

- 2.60 We shall progress work of the new Corporate Joint Committee.
- 2.61 The Council will seek to commence a review of delegated decisions that can be taken by both Officers and Councillors.
- 2.62 Swansea Council will agree a new Swansea Bay Strategy.
- 2.63 The Council will update the recognition and naming policy.
- 2.64 We shall progress TAN15 discussions with Welsh Government to find a solution that supports appropriate development.

END

Appendix B - Policy Commitments Tracker - Definitions and Scope

Manifesto Commitment	Policy Commitments Statement wording	SMART Intended Output(s)	Portfolio	Progress against Objectives	RAG Status	First 100 Days target
Better Schools / Education	Swansea Council will commit to investing £1 billion for better education, including £150 million investment in new and better schools.	1. £1b invested into education in Swansea	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	£215m of total revenue funding provided to Education and schools in FY 2023-2024. Awaiting decision around additional capital to continue to deliver Band B due to increased market costs - Cabinet in September.	On track	No
	We commit to mapping out future priorities, in line with our Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.	1. Next phase of the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is mapped out and supported	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	Cabinet workshops held to consider school organisation options aligned to SCFL. So far have delivered what would have been expected in the timeframe to date.	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will commence the upgrade works at Cefn Hengoed Community School, progressing our £7million investment in a new Community Sports Barn in Bonymaen.	1. Upgrade works commence on site	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	Construction phase in progress; planned completion date October 2023.	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will commit to investing £1 billion for better education, including £150 million investment in new and better schools.	1. Investment of £150m in the school infrastructure (Band B)	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	Five projects delivered and further projects at business case development stage. Unable to deliver all of the original Band B projects without access to £7m of the £50m of capital funding, due to increasing construction costs.	Completed	No
	We shall begin delivery of new special school facilities	1. Approved timeline to amalgamate existing schools 2. Approval of outline business case by Welsh Government 3. Appointment of contractor for design and build	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	1. Timeline approved 2. Strategic outline case approved by Welsh Government, however further approval required for revised scope due to increased projected demand for school placements. Initial ground investigations completed. 3. Contractor will be appointed at the relevant stage	Completed	Yes
	The Council will seek to expand free school meal provision and implement a freeze on school meal prices.	1. Universal free school meals rolled out to all Reception pupils in September 2022 2. Universal free school meals rolled out to all Year 1 and Year 2 pupils by April 2023 3. Universal free school meals rolled out to all key stage 2 pupils by 2024	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	1. Complete 2. Complete 3. Delivery options under review*	Completed	Yes
		1. No increase to school meal prices	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	* Kitchen and dining upgrades - as at 14/06/2023 64 schools completed or not requiring works 11 schools due to be completed by September 2023 but there is a risk that two of these may not be complete until after September. There are a further five major projects that will not be completed by September 2023, of which funding has been approved for one of the major projects (Townhill). Arrangements in place to support schools where facilities are being upgraded.	Completed	Yes
	We will commence the new regional partnership arrangements; the South West Wales Education Partnership will be a regional collaborative arrangement designed to promote excellence in all of our schools.	1. Good quality professional learning offer to all Swansea schools	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	Meal prices frozen for September 2022 and is the fourth year of freezing paid school meal prices. Consideration will need to be given on how the approach is taken forward as the revenue commitment may be unsustainable going forward.	Completed	Yes
	We will keep school leadership standards high in Swansea	1. Good quality training, advice and professional support for all school leaders in Swansea.	Education & Learning - Cllr Robert Smith	Regional arrangements commenced in April 2022. A wide range of professional learning is offered to Swansea schools and is refined to meet the needs of practitioners in Swansea. Partnership delivers national programmes for curriculum and leadership development. There is a suitable offer of professional learning to support equity in education and a strong offer to support Relationships and Sexuality Education. Stress Management Counsellor recruited to begin work with schools from September 2022. Regional offer of leadership development in place. CDC has considered the development of a standardised handbook for new and acting headteachers and this has now been published for all headteachers and their senior leadership teams. ERF funding has been extended to allow the project to continue whilst a sustainable delivery model is being worked on.	On track	No
	Better Care	Swansea Council will commit to investing £750 million for better care in Swansea.	1. £750 Million base budget invested into Social Services Directorate over next 5 years - NB cross cutting portfolios Care Services, Well-Being and Community Support		Approval of MTFP and planning in place for budget requirements over the next 5 years	On track
The Council will undertake a review of post-pandemic care provision		1. Learning from pandemic and ongoing demand embedded into projects and programmes across AS transformation programme - cuts across service, directorate and regional delivery plans 2. Maximisation of internal and externally commissioned managed care capacity 3. Development of all alternatives to traditional managed care routes	Care Services - Cllr Louise Gibbard	All areas below scoped and included in the Continuous Improvement workplan and transformation work. Internal and external domiciliary care capacity review Development of Assistive Technology strategy Internal Residential care provision review Workforce development programme - recruitment & retention Locality based prevention and early intervention Support for parents and carers	Completed	Yes
The Council will commit to fairer pay for care workers.		1. Ensure both internal and commissioning services are funding sufficiently to pay at least the Real Living Wage to care workers and work with providers to understand what a fair wage for care workers would look like to address workforce capacity, recruitment and retention.	Care Services - Cllr Louise Gibbard	Significant increased in cost of living rises has impacted upon RLV rates for 23/24. Fees paper produced as part of budget setting & agreed for 23/24. This has been completed for 23/24 and work has begun to understand the impact of this on 24/25.	On track	No
Swansea Council will strive to provide new children's care facilities within Swansea.		1. Improving placement sufficiency and growing in-house provision in line with Welsh Government's commitment to eliminate profit from children's care market.	Care Services - Cllr Louise Gibbard	Continuing to work with WG on legislative changes to support the elimination of profit from care sector and understand the detail of what this will mean to the sector, provision and placements	On track	No
We will begin options appraisal and move to increase council direct delivery of care.		1. Learning from pandemic and ongoing demand embedded into projects and programmes across directorates transformation programmes and regional delivery plans 2. Maximisation of internal and externally commissioned managed care capacity	Care Services - Cllr Louise Gibbard	All scoping of current demand and pressures included in the Continuous Improvement workplan and transformation work.	Completed	Yes
Swansea Council will engage with Health to ensure care plans align with health recovery		1. Regional joint working arrangements in place to ensure alignment of recovery plans	Care Services - Cllr Louise Gibbard	Transformation priorities have been aligned with regional transformation agenda and/or support shared objectives with partners across the region. Specific workstreams have been developed (1) Homes First Model Development (2) Prevention and Community Co-ordination (3) Learning Disability & Wellbeing (4) Transformation Complex Care (5) Wellbeing & Mental Health (6) Carers	Completed	Yes
We will progress a new children's care facility.		1. Improving placement sufficiency and growing in-house residential provision	Care Services - Cllr Louise Gibbard	Work has commenced in this area and we have purchased 1 home for development and transformation. Recruitment and development of staff for this provision is underway. Work in ongoing to source the second property and additional work in ongoing to secure further regional funding for extra developments in this area. Scoping of a second property is underway.	Completed	Yes
We will seek to provide better day care opportunities and respite services across the City.		1. Adult Services Internal Day and Community Support Strategy development 2. Adult Services Carers Strategy delivery & resulting outputs to inform service model	Care Services - Cllr Louise Gibbard	Strategy in development - review of existing revision underway. Linked to capital programme, FPR7 in place to look at redesign of services thinking about integrated hub approach.	On track	No
Swansea Council will continue to develop and operate a network of Local Area Co-ordinators (LAC) to cover the whole of Swansea.		1. Full coverage across Swansea with a LAC in all areas	Community (Support) - Cllr Hayley Gwilliam	Local Area co-ordinators established across all areas of Swansea ongoing development of opportunities and links to local and regional prevention and community co-ordination work streams	Completed	No
Swansea Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030		Adoption of delivery plan to reach Net Zero by 2030	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Delivery plan now approved and activities continue to reduce emissions. Note current funds will not cover full delivery.	On track	No

Manifesto Commitment	Policy Commitments Statement wording	SMART Intended Output(s)	Portfolio	Progress against Objectives	RAG Status	First 100 Days target
Street Services	Swansea Council will seek to expand Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).	Evaluate success of City Centre PSPO, to inform the business case for roll-out to other areas	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	City Centre on-street PSPO operational since Dec 2021 with enforcement available from April 2022. Over 200 on-street engagements undertaken by Rangers and 12 FPNs issued. Formal review of scheme to be conducted following conclusion of ongoing scrutiny process looking at Swansea wide ASB. ERF funding for additional resources secured at scheme inception for expansion to outlying areas but short-term timeline prohibitive given requirement to review City Centre scheme and the recruitment issues and staff training requirements of appointing new staff. ERF funding therefore not carried over into 23-24 budget (as per Cabinet report). Gating of lane at the bottom of St Helen's Road to restrict access progressing well.	Delayed	Yes
	We will engage with the Police to improve visibility of local policing.	By 30th June 2023 the council will be able to demonstrate that the visibility of local policing has improved as a result of quarterly meetings between the council and the police	Community (Support) - Cllr Hayley Gwilliam	Meetings scheduled with Cabinet Members, South Wales Police Representatives and community safety officers- with a view to improving visibility across council members and communities. Joint set of priorities established and action plan in place	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will prepare to receive more refugees	Accommodation options will be in place for initial reception, temporary accommodation and move on to settled accommodation.	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Robust processes in place using well established support mechanisms, currently working to move households onto permanent accommodation as WG and Homes Office end use of hotels. Work is ongoing and processes in place with effective systems established.	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will commit to improving public toilets	Changing Places installed at Rhossili and Mumbles, Improved signage for public toilets (£45K), Infrastructure improvement works completed (£80K min.)	Community (Services) - Cllr Cyril Anderson	Improvement works progressing well, grant bid for Changing Places successful. Contract for Changing Places awarded, awaiting details from Supplier for planning applications. Location at Knab Rock needed changing due to drainage issues so revised planning application required. Units delivered and being installed. Handover completed.	Completed	No
	We will complete work with partners and communities across Swansea to become a Human Rights City and to continue to embed our commitment to values of equality and diversity in everything we do.	By 10 December 2022 the council with its partners on the PSB and beyond will be able to declare Swansea to be a Human Rights City, in line with the EU framework for Human Rights Cities	Culture & Equalities - Cllr Elliott King	In December 2022 after 18 months of action, Swansea's PSB partners declared Swansea a Human Rights City. During that 18 months a 'Rights in Your Pocket' guide was launched, a guide for organisations and Public Bodies as to how to embed a Human Rights based approach was launched. Over 80 senior managers and officers from Swansea's PSB organisations took part in the British Institute of Human Rights training in Sept 22 and April 23. Next stage is for each PSB organisation who signed the HRC declaration to form their own action plans. On 16th of June, we are holding an action plan engagement event, where over 100 community leaders, business and 3rd sector leaders, people with lived experiences and young people are attending. They will share with us what are the main issues for them, potential actions and what success looks like under each priority and this will feed into the action plans.	Completed	No
	We will progress the roll-out of next generation CCTV systems	Replacement of the current analogue CCTV System with a modern digital system, providing: - Faster and more flexible connectivity (digital IP based); - More cameras in more locations; - Analytics Software to assist operators in monitoring activity; - A robust foundation for further growth of service provision.	Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens	Contract awarded and implementation works have commenced. Work is progressing well although timelines are under pressure due to external factors (BT).	Completed	Yes
	The Council will continue to invest in parks and play areas.	25 sites improved from Amber/Red condition to Green condition by mid 24/25	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	First tranche of works underway, with one on site. Framework now in place for remainder of tranches. Next Tranche, under Framework, has been awarded.	On track	No
Better Homes / Housing & Homelessness	Swansea Council commit to providing more energy efficient homes and more affordable homes, alongside more investment in social housing.	All new council homes built to Swansea Standard. The upgrading of existing Housing stock to improve thermal performance will be in compliance with the yet to be defined WHQS2023 Standard	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Schemes progressing at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget.. WG announcement on revised WHQS 2023 has been delayed but 4 year WHQS programme approved by Council is progressing.	On track	No
		Build 1000 new Council Homes by 2030	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Schemes progressing at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget. Remains on track - not yet completed	On track	No
		Use of affordable borrowing to deliver new build and decarbonise existing stock. Maximise the use of Social housing grant and other funding opportunities to develop and acquire more properties for social rent and upgrade existing stock.	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Schemes progressing at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget. Grant opportunities being maximised through use of TACP and LBDF, in addition to SHG. Funding for decarbonisation schemes has been awarded through ORP. All funding opportunities continue to be pursued. Remains on track and is ongoing.	On track	No
	We will deliver on the refurbishment and upgrade of remaining tower blocks	£18.5m HRA funding allocated in Capital Programme across next 4 years period to bring to statutory compliance	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Contractor appointed for Croft St and progressing at detailed design stages. It is anticipated all preconstruction design and second stage procurement will be completed by September 2024 and project delivery completed as per delivery timeframe stated.	On track	No
	The Council shall complete Welsh Quality Housing Standard (WQHS) 1 and begin planning WQHS 2.	WHQS compliance phase 1 complete.	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Programme completed	Completed	Yes
		Affordable elements of decarbonisation work built into 4 Year HRA Capital Programme. Longer term delivery strategy dependent upon grant funding and requirements WHQS2, yet to be defined.	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Schemes progressing at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget. Awaiting WHQS2 announcement from WG but work progressing in background in preparation. The 4 year capital programme includes decarbonation work but the longer term programme over a 10 year plus period and its funding is yet to be determined	Completed	Yes
	The Council shall commit to taking strong action against disruptive tenants.	Appropriate, proportionate and robust action is taken to deal with anti-social behaviour on Council Estates to ensure they are Estates tenants wish to live in.	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Continue to work in partnership with other agencies to address causes and to tackle anti-social behaviour. Guidelines currently being refreshed to reflect Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016. Partnership working across agencies continues to ensure appropriate, proportional responses to ASB to support those affected by and those causing ASB. Work is ongoing so remains on track.	On track	No
	We are committed to agreeing a strategy to support homeless individuals as the Covid hotel use ends, whilst we will strive to continue our 'always a bed' pledge.	This will be achieved via the HSG, Rapid Rehousing and Move-On strategies	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Includes on-going commitment to 'always a bed' pledge and to ensuring appropriate support is available for people who are or maybe become homeless, at the right time. Uncertainty remains around funding for temporary accommodation, and pressure on TA and Homelessness Service remains. HSP strategy has been approved by cabinet, TA offer remains open to all who require it.	Completed	Yes
	This will be achieved via the HSG, Rapid Rehousing and Move-On strategies	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Continuing approach to ensure there is always a bed. Work ongoing to ensure people are moved on to appropriate accommodation with support at the earliest opportunity. Long term uncertainty around funding for temporary accommodation.	Completed	Yes	

Manifesto Commitment	Policy Commitments Statement wording	SMART Intended Output(s)	Portfolio	Progress against Objectives	RAG Status First 100 Days target	
	The Council will begin its review of its council housing lettings policy	A review of the Allocations Policy to ensure it continues to assist those most in need. The More Homes programme has an ambitious target to increase the supply of Social Housing which will help meet future demand and reduce the Waiting List	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Policy review making good progress, draft policy due for consultation in Autumn 23. Policy review has commenced	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will continue onto the next phase of the More Homes build, whilst maintaining progress on further retrofitting of council homes.	Schemes progressing through design and planning stages, with 4 schemes to start in 22/23.	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Schemes progressing at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget Funding for four year programme in place. As above - remains on track not yet completed	Completed	Yes
		Schemes identified in 4 year capital programme.	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Some schemes delayed due to capacity. External design being procured to increase capacity. The 4 year WHQS Capital programme which includes retrofit decarbonisation measures is progressing as programme, as set out above	Completed	Yes
	The Council will offer immediate support for people who become homeless and a commitment to shorter housing waiting lists.	A review of the Allocations Policy to ensure it continues to assist those most in need. The More Homes programme has an ambitious target to increase the supply of Social Housing which will help meet future demand and reduce the Waiting List	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Ongoing as part of the More Homes Programme and review of allocations policy underway. As above. review has commenced. More Homes Programme on going.	Completed	No
This will be achieved via the HSG, Rapid Rehousing and Move-On strategies		Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	HSP Strategy approved by Cabinet. Includes on-going commitment to 'always a bed pledge and to ensuring appropriate support is available for people who are or maybe become homeless, at the right time. Uncertainty remains round funding for temporary accommodation and pressure on TA and Homelessness Service remains. As above	Completed	No	
Stronger Economy / Regeneration	The Council will deliver on a £1 billion regeneration of the City Centre and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash to develop seven key strategic sites.	Progress Strategic Regeneration Programme in line with project milestones as set out at Member Steering Group	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Progress of individual projects underway subject to capital funding availability.	On track	No
	Working with our regional partners, we will progress a £1 billion regeneration and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash as our new strategic partner, with an initial focus on Copr Bay Phase 2, the Civic Centre site and St Thomas site.	Announced Partnership on signing of Strategic Partnership Agreement. Commenced design works on the initial 3 schemes and delivery strategy.	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	SPA signed and partnership announced. Work commenced on initial schemes	Completed	Yes
	We shall introduce new public and local services hubs in communities.	Business model adopted following completion of the new City Centre Hub	Culture & Equalities - Cllr Elliott King	Scheme linked to library plan above. BPA activity commenced, funding in place for review.	On track	No
	Swansea Council is committed to helping create thousands of new jobs for the people of Swansea, aiming to provide high quality and secure employment.	To deliver Start up and business development grants £1k - £10k (SPF, CRF, ERF, WG); To deliver outcomes from employability support - CRF and ERF schemes operational; green training for businesses also being worked on	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	70 start up grants issued WG Economy; UK CRF start up and digital grants completed. SPF delivery underway (pre start, digital, growth job creation grant and green energy grants); inward investment conversations with potential investors; 317 business improvement grants approved to date cross county	On track	No
	We will secure a major new tenant for the Debenhams unit in the Quadrant Shopping Centre, securing the use of this unit for the future.	Acquire building within 12 months	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Acquisition completed. Marketing agents and materials in development. Prospective tenant discussions underway	Completed	Yes
	We will progress the Palace Theatre and Albert Hall developments to secure our historic buildings for future generations and seek an innovative solution to secure the future of the Elysium building.	Palace Theatre and Albert Hall on site; Elysium feasibility funding in place (economic stimulus) - pending access	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	NB £16m confirmed in existing scheme envelopes; Albert Hall and Palace on site, usual current construction industry issues; Elysium looking at powers to gain access to undertake structural survey	Delayed	No
	The Council will progress work on the new Castle Square Gardens project.	Planning application to be submitted in July. Procurement and construction to follow.	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Design stage complete. PAC complete. Planning permission approved. Procurement of contractor underway.	Completed	Yes
	The Council will progress work on the new Central Library project	As part of the completed City Centre Hub	Culture & Equalities - Cllr Elliott King	RIBA 4 complete, FPR7 report to be submitted July 23	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will begin the phased demolition of Ty Dewi Sant and the old multi-storey car park.	Demolish site to clear footprints for redevelopment as part of Swansea Central North scheme.	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Ty Dewi Sant demolished. Car park demolition to follow in Q1 2024. Snagging of North Car park to be completed before demolition of St David's car park.	Delayed	Yes
	We shall progress the build of 71-72 The Kingsway, to create an innovation hub which will be home to new businesses and up to six hundred new jobs.	New 100sq.m office development in City Centre	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Works progressing on site. Superstructure works underway and now up to 4th floor. Marketing commenced and discussions with prospective occupiers underway. Branding work complete.	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will develop and promote more city living, including new hotels, retail, office space and food and beverage facilities.	Deliver a new hotel development adjacent to Digital Arena in partnership with private sector, utilising gap funding as available.	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the additional funding requirement from WG and the preferred developer to take forward the Hotel. A draft report is being prepared with a target of September Cabinet.	Delayed	No
		Deliver mixed use schemes in partnership with Urban Splash	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Design of initial schemes underway. SPF bid made for work-up. Bid for LUF Round 3 to be submitted.	On track	No
Finance & Resources	We shall continue making cost of living payments on behalf of Welsh Government until the scheme closes or the fund is spent in full.	All Swansea citizens who are eligible for a payment from the scheme and who have made the necessary application will have been paid their COL payment by 31/3/23	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	At the time the Main Scheme element of the COLP scheme was closed, over 94% of those believed to be eligible had claimed a payment and been paid. The remaining Main Scheme funds were then transferred to the Discretionary Scheme and we were able, with Cabinet approval, to make additional groups of people eligible for those payments. By the time the discretionary scheme closed, 97% of potential payments had been claimed and distributed. Various measures had been undertaken to encourage claims and maximise payments in the Swansea area.	Completed	Yes
	The Council will agree the outturn position and where possible provide more resources for reinvestment.	Specific sum will be agreed	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	Indicative outturn will be deliver to within £32k of overall revenue budget (on £524million). Significant variances with major underspends on services (£17m), capital financing (£9m) and significantly lower than expected draws from reserves (£26m). Overall still a draw from reserves of c £2m and a draw from schools reserves c £8m will be needed to fully balance the 2022-23 position so longer term sustainability will remain an issue but short term delivery continues to be within budget. Capital budget records slippage and carry forward request anticipated.	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council commit to replenish the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) from the outturn position and ensure continued focus on the fund to aid economic recovery and part fund many of the items in this policy commitments statement.	Specific sum will be agreed	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	Update to Cabinet - ERF will continue to be tracked in year	Completed	Yes
	We will commit to reviewing the 'Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme' goals.	By the end of November Cabinet will have been invited to approve a outline transformation strategy and goals to be finalised alongside the corporate plan and Medium-Term Finance Plan before the start of 2023-34 financial year	Service Transformation - Cllr Andrea Lewis	Cabinet approved a new Corporate Transformation Plan for 2023-25 in April 2023.	Completed	Yes
	The Council will commence a senior pay and grading review and ensure it fits with the wider workforce pay and grading scheme.	By 15 October 2022 the external consultants will have produced a report with recommendations in respect of the senior pay and grading scheme and implications for the wider workforce scheme.	Corporate Service & Performance - Cllr David Hopkins	The LGA scheme has been identified as the most appropriate job evaluation scheme and Council approved its adoption on 4th May. The evaluation process will now take place for all Chief Officer posts.	Completed	Yes
	We will ensure planned savings are secured	That all planned savings as set out in the budget approved for 2022-23 are delivered in full or if necessary, by exception, mitigating alternative savings are achieved.	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	Indicative outturn will be deliver to within £32k of overall budget (on £524million). Overall savings deemed found even though not specifically tracked as part of covid response.	Completed	Yes

Manifesto Commitment	Policy Commitments Statement wording	SMART Intended Output(s)	Portfolio	Progress against Objectives	RAG Status First 100 Days target	
					RAG Status	First 100 Days target
	The Council will agree a post-pandemic working model	By the end of October 2022 Cabinet will have been invited to agree principles that will underpin the council's post-pandemic working model taking account of operational requirements, customer expectations and workforce needs	Corporate Service & Performance - Cllr David Hopkins	The Cabinet approved a report on the Post Pandemic Working Model on 20 October and service models aligned to the agreed principle will have been formalised by the end of December 2022	Completed	Yes
Better Events & Attractions / Tourism	We will continue to progress development and investment through the Skyline park attraction on Kilvey Hill, hosting the Skyline board visit during June 2022.	Deliver Skyline Investment creating a new, nationally significant visitor attraction for Swansea	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Skyline Board have approved the project subject to funding offers. Cabinet have approved grant funding support. PAC complete. Planning application anticipated this summer. Awaiting Land Registry decision and Public Open Space Notice process.	On track	No
	We will progress hotels discussions for the City Centre and Stadium	1) Continue dialogue with private sector to identify viable development opportunities. Update the Hotel Demand Study to inform future investment decisions. 2)	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the additional funding requirement from WG and the preferred developer to take forward the Arena Hotel. A draft report is being prepared with a target of September Cabinet. A hotel demand study has also been completed. Hotel provision near the stadium will be considered as part of the Tawe riverside strategy action plan.	Completed	Yes
	We are committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons expected by Winter 2022.	Design completed; Planning submitted; installation procured; installation completed	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Design complete; Planning app submitted July 2022; procure August 22; installation underway	Completed	Yes
	We are committed to delivering a range of new and exciting immersive attractions, summer concerts and a new phase of Arena shows; encapsulated in a larger than ever events programme (including the half Iron Man event), which commenced with community support for Platinum Jubilee events	We are delivering the biggest ever events programme with a number of rolled forward events from 2020 and 21 plus restarting. The Airshow was a success; summer of sport marketing and events underway; live music and community events underway	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Last year's programme complete with the largest Events programme to date. Ongoing for '23 and the programme is underway.	Completed	Yes
			Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	70+ Street party road closures supported.	Completed	Yes
			Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Event announced Nov 21 / Sold out within 48hrs / delivery Aug 22	Completed	Yes
			Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	We liaise with ATG on anticlash, displacement, complementarity, and opportunities for designing events/ activities in the wider area. ATG manage their own marketing and announcements within this collaborative framework managed by Cultural Services. Next season programme announced.	Completed	Yes
			Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	5 concerts programmed / supported for Singleton Park - June - Aug 22	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will seek to deliver the biggest ever events programme each year, for the next five years.	We are delivering the biggest ever events programme with a number of rolled forward events from 2020 and 21 plus restarting. The Airshow was a success; summer of sport marketing and events underway; live music and community events underway	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Event programme midway through delivery with an agreed uplift in funding of £150k.	Completed	No
	Swansea Council will continue to deliver an annual programme of community safety / Community Engagement events across the city.	By 30th June 2023 the council will have planned multi agency partnership community events	Community (Support) - Cllr Hayley Gwilliam	Secured the shared prosperity fund community anchor project -Community Engagement Transformation post appointed 1st June. Share Prosperity Fund for communities launch for summer activities in June 23	Completed	No
Swansea Council will deliver new promenade improvements and developments, as well as new lighting around Swansea Bay.	Works to commence Jan 2023. Low level lighting along promenade from West Cross to St Helen's.	Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens	Report approved. Work began April 2023. Funding confirmed and work started on site.	Delayed Delayed	Yes Yes	
The Council is committed to retaining the Wales National Air Show in Swansea, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to the City for this annual event and reviewing how its delivery can align with its net zero carbon targets.		Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Wales Airshow delivered	Completed	Yes	
Swansea Council is committed to progressing discussions for the new interactive aquarium, aiming to offer an immersive experience for visitors and a wider educational resource.	Deliver aquarium as part of Urban Splash redevelopment of Civic Centre site	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Initial Design works underway and discussions taking place with aquarium company/operator. Urban Splash introduced to the project proposer. LUF Round 3 bid to be prepared.	On track	No	
Working in partnership with Penderyn Distillery, we will support a new whisky distillery attraction at Landore.	Shell and core scheme completed Sept 2022; Penderyn fit out and opening March 2023	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Practical completion and hand over to Penderyn for fit out and opening in June. Handover complete and Launch event held.	Completed	No	
Transport & Energy	The Council will announce progress on the Blue Eden project.	CRF funding received to continue further feasibility exercises.	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	formal proposal now discussed with DST and partners announced. Pre app progressing. Work to finalise CRF complete and final submitted to UK Government. Cabinet report on land disposal and acquisition approved at May 23 Cabinet	Completed	Yes
	We will continue the 'free bus ride' scheme for 2022 school summer holidays and consider further extensions.	Allocation for summer scheme 29th July for five weeks.		Summer scheme completed	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.	15 charge points in Council car parks - completed June 2022. These are public facing chargers.	Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens	Completed	Completed	Yes
	We will continue to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with its agreed green fleet strategy.	Implement ULEV. Transition strategy (2022-2030). 2022-23 approximately 100 electric vehicles and 60 fleet chargepoints planned.	Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens	On course	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will commence the review of its disabled parking bay policy.	Update of existing policy. To be presented to policy development committee in Oct/Nov 2022.	Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens	On course. Draft report being prepared on new policy - will be taken to CDC	Completed	Yes
	We will progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub	Part of Western Gateway project with Swansea University.	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	Formal proposal now discussed with DST and partners announced. Pre app progressing. CRF activity complete and final report submitted. Work also progressing on aligned EV/Hydrogen Bus transport hub with network Rail, TFW and Welsh Government	Completed	Yes
We will strive to progress discussions regarding a new ferry service linking Wales with the South West of England.	Identify a viable option that is commercially deliverable	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Initial discussion held	Completed	Yes	
Well-Being	Swansea Council will progress delivery of all-weather sports pitches	Strategically situated pitches to grow participation in sports inc. football; rugby; hockey	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Funding confirmed and work progressing for additional facilities at Underhill; Cefn Hengoed; Elba; KGV playing fields and known/agreed school sites. For the purposes of the policy commitment this is complete as sites and funding with timetable for delivery and contracts awarded.	Completed	Yes
	We commit to progress discussions with partners regarding the International Sports Science Village.	A facility offering diverse sporting infrastructure for growing participation; elite performance and international events	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Feasibility study into a shared model complete with recommendations to progress. A Prior Information Notice will now be published for consultancy support to work with the Council and University on next stages, including identifying the best finance/ governance model within an achievable cost envelope. As a commitment to progress this relationship, the action is now complete.	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will work towards announcing new Active Travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity.	Delivery of Active Travel grant funding within the current financial year.	Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens	On course. Funding allocated by Welsh Government.	Completed	Yes
	We are committed to delivering better skate-park facilities within Swansea.	To provide a strategic network of skate and wheelplay facilities	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Strategy agreed to include a programme of improvements to existing facilities and the creation of new destination wheel and skate facilities. Tender documents for specialist support out to market. Delivery agreed for the coming year - as a policy commitment this is complete as the action has been fulfilled.	Completed	Yes
Convert manifesto into council corporate policy commitments report (omitted from policy commitments statement)	To provide, in report format, the Council Policy Commitments for the City and County of Swansea for the next 5 years.	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	Report submitted to Council, and agreed, 7th July	Completed	Yes	

Manifesto Commitment	Policy Commitments Statement wording	SMART Intended Output(s)	Portfolio	Progress against Objectives	RAG Status	First 100 Days target
Other	We shall progress work of the new Corporate Joint Committee.	new committee constituted post May 22 elections. Work programme for 22/23 agreed for each of the 4 work strands	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	CJC forum now established and meeting regular and all governance arrangements in place. Activity complete	Completed	Yes
	The Council will seek to commence a review of delegated decisions that can be taken by both Officers and Councillors.	This will include a review across departments as to officer decision making/process for recording and publishing/amendments to constitution and report to CWG and Council.	Economy Finance & Strategy - Cllr Rob Stewart	A report has been taken to Cabinet/CMT Awayday and Leadership and a Protocol on the use of Officer Delegated Decisions has been drafted and will be published and circulated to Heads of Service.	Completed	Yes
	Swansea Council will agree a new Swansea Bay Strategy.	An overarching approach to ensure relevance for an updated delivery plan for the current Swansea Bay Strategy document	Investment Regeneration & Tourism - Cllr Robert Frances-Davies	Briefing note presented to CDC/Scrutiny on Swansea Bay action plan, progress to be monitored by Regen Programme Board	Completed	Yes
	The Council will update the recognition and naming policy	Head of Communications to lead a cross directorate working group to develop new policy to ensure consistent approach on all relevant naming of venues, locations, highways etc	Corporate Service & Performance - Cllr David Hopkins	The final policy document is scheduled to be presented to the Constitution Working Group in September 2023.	Completed	Yes
	We shall progress TAN15 discussions with Welsh Government to find a solution that supports appropriate development.	Commission specialist consultancy to produce an accurate evidence base that facilitates discussions on policy wording and appropriate mitigation measures.	Environment & Infrastructure - Cllr Andrew Stevens	Commission instructed and initial reports received. Workshop held with Welsh Government. Formal response submitted to Welsh Government. Awaiting publication of revised TAN by WG in 2024.	Completed	Yes



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

BY EMAIL

cc: Cabinet Members

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SPC/2022-23/9

17 February 2023

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the meeting of the Committee on 17 January 2023. It reflects on the Q & A Session on the Leader' portfolio responsibilities as Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy. It mainly concerns development and regeneration activity, including the City Deal. A formal written response is not required.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

Cabinet Member Question Session – 17 January

Thank you for attending the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 17 January 2023 and answering questions on your work as Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy.

The Q & A session gave us an opportunity to explore priorities and achievements in relation to your areas of responsibility. We appreciate you providing a written paper in support of your appearance at the meeting, which focused on the key headlines and issues of interest and concern to the Committee. This included copy of your recent report to Council on action / achievement against Policy Commitments (The First 100 Days). Your report focused on three key areas of significance: cost of living and budgetary impacts; regional work; and progress on major projects.

Thank you for supplementing the written report with a presentation which highlighted progress and provided a 'forward look' in relation to development and regeneration activity, one of the areas of Committee questioning whether through the City Deal Programme, Council projects, or private investment.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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This included information on:

- Hafod Copperworks / Penderyn Distillery & Visitor Attraction – anticipated opening during 2023.
- Skyline Park on Kilvey Hill – anticipated to be a major tourist attraction.
- River Tawe Corridor 2022-2025 - the Council is committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons, to capitalise on the site's heritage.
- City Centre:
 - 71/72 Kingsway (City Deal Project) – anticipated completion during 2023 providing space for jobs in sectors like tech, digital and the creative industries.
 - 'Living Building' Scheme – redevelopment around the former Woolworths Store on Oxford Street in partnership with Welsh Government, Swansea University and Pobl Housing Group. This would be the first Biophilic building in Wales.
 - Community Hub in the former BHS Building on Oxford Street – will be home to new library and Archives Service as well as other public services providing for a 'one-stop shop'. Main contractor now appointed.
 - Castle Square Gardens – plan to revitalise the public space. The RIBA Stage 3 design is underway, and a planning application has been submitted. Anticipated that work will start on site during Q4 of 2022/23 and will feature two commercial units and increase in green space.
 - Princess Way / Princess House – private sector investment will see refurbishment of the area and further development. The same company has acquired the McDonalds building and property along Oxford Street signalling private sector confidence in the city, following Council investment.
 - Copr Bay – Phase 2 will include demolition of the St Davids Car Park during 2023 making space for development of a new Public Sector Hub.
- Palace Theatre - Tramshed Tech has signed a heads of terms agreement with Swansea Council for the development of the 133-year-old building.
- Albert Hall - acquired by a private sector partner. Work has commenced to convert this building into an 800-seat music and entertainment venue, with office space. Completion anticipated by Oct 2023.
- Civic Centre – working with appointed development partner, Urban Splash. Envisaged that the Civic Centre will not be demolished, and re-design will be based on an existing development in Portsmouth called 'Royal William Yard'. The site will be mixed use, including hotels, retail, residential and leisure, including an aquarium.
- Transport – planned improvement to rail and bus links / connections across the Region (Swansea Bay Metro); trialling hydrogen powered buses with support from Welsh Government
- Blue Eden and Mega Energy Hub – consortium of firms working on the Blue Eden proposal at SA1. Anticipating a planning application coming forward this year. Markedly different scheme from the former Tidal Lagoon

project, including significant on-land development. aims in the long term to deliver an electric battery manufacturing plant and battery storage facility, hundreds of waterfront homes, a tidal energy lagoon and floating solar farm within it, a data storage centre, a green hydrogen production facility, and an oceanic and climate change research centre.

This letter reflects on what we gained from the information presented, questions, and discussion.

We asked about the Swansea Bay City Deal Programme. We know that the Programme is an investment of up to £1.3 billion in a portfolio of nine major projects across the Swansea Bay City region, but is reliant on around £625m from the private sector. We were interested in the extent to which that private sector funding has been realised and what impact this contribution has on achieving the full benefits of the Programme, e.g., in terms of economic boost / job creation, improving services, boosting skills, and creating well-paid employment opportunities. You stated that whilst the Programme dates from 2016, it has taken time to gain necessary financial approvals from Government therefore it is still relatively early in terms of delivery, but we noted that that the nine major projects under the City Deal had now been fully approved and some private finance has been realised in terms of the smaller projects. Further investment would be gradually forthcoming over the life of the 15-year Programme. We noted that projects, including financial monitoring, are regularly reviewed through the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee / Overview & Scrutiny Committee. A benefits tracker is in place which is recording the benefits delivered and this is maintained through the project to completion and beyond and published as part of the City Deal steering group public papers.

We discussed progress with 71/72 The Kingsway, which is part of the Swansea Waterfront & Digital District Project within the City Deal Programme. The office development is now under construction. We asked about the level of interest the Council has received from companies looking to occupy what is reported as around 100,000 sq. ft. of flexible office space and amenities for tech and digital businesses, with conference and meeting facilities – space for around 600 jobs. You stated that, despite being a year ahead of completion, agreement for the letting of a quarter of the space has been reached, and confidence is high about achieving full capacity in time. We noted project assurance being high following recent City Deal reviews, endorsing our letting strategy and bearing out that there is demand for that area.

As we focus on recovery from the pandemic and the impact it has had on the retail / hospitality sector and others, the Committee asked about potential interest from new businesses / developers wanting to move into the City Centre. We were interested in whether the Council was seeing a response from retailers and other business to the various City Centre development and regeneration given the expectation that these developments will increase footfall. Furthermore, many businesses are re-evaluating their operations,

taking into account amongst other things changes to consumer behaviour / demand from the pandemic, and we were keen to see the Council engaging with them in terms of promoting a City Centre presence, for example where a business may have a presence in other parts of Swansea that they may be looking to change. You stated that it is still a difficult period nationally and across the UK, however four new businesses have opened in the Quadrant and M&S have been investing in the store on Oxford Street with refurbishments. You told us that Swansea Business Improvement District has reported that a strong Christmas / New Year, evidence that the City Centre, despite the challenges, is performing well, including the night-time economy. We noted there are a variety of monitoring activities measuring footfall and evaluating the use of the City Centre. You assured the Committee that every effort is being made to attract business and increase footfall and whilst the former Debenhams unit remains a big gap, work is continuing to find a solution to address this. The new units at Copr Bay by the Arena would be operational soon, which should help. We noted one of the challenges is that many city centre buildings are in private ownership limiting the control and influence the Council can have on things. You hoped that the planned Public Sector Hub at St Davids, which may attract Government departments as they look to re-locate out of Whitehall, will provide further stimulus to businesses interest and activity in the City Centre. We noted that the advice the Council has received from its long-term regeneration partner, Urban Splash, whose involvement includes the development of Swansea Central North and the Civic Centre Site, provides a positive outlook for the City Centre.

Given that it has been several years since the agreement of the City Deal and launch of current regeneration and development plans, we wanted to know whether advice from our development partners has changed over time, particularly given the impact of the pandemic on businesses, some of whom are pursuing new ways of working or downsizing operations, and what effect might this have on existing plans. You stated that there is constant dialogue with partners on the issues and how these may present a challenge plans, and consultants have assisted the Council over recent years. You told us that the Council remained confident it had the right strategy and plan, which allows an element of flexibility. You told us that whilst there are more flexible ways of working there is demand for quality office space in Swansea, unlike places like Cardiff, Birmingham, and London where there is over supply. This is why there has been private sector investment along Princess Way, with Princess House being fully let. You assured the Committee that strategy and plans are based on a mixed-use City Centre – residential, office, retail and leisure which will sustain City Centre growth and development. Key to this was getting the right mix for the right location. You referred to the Arena, which is almost a year into operation, as already making a significant contribution to the city.

Committee Views, including any outstanding issues / actions:

The Committee appreciates the information shared with us at the meeting, both verbally and in writing. It was a particularly useful and helpful session.

The Committee felt there would be benefit in hearing directly from Urban Splash to hear first-hand about their research and intelligence about the development of our city, and better understand their role, forward thinking and business plans. This would be best undertaken by our Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel, and will be a matter for the Convener of the Panel to progress.

The Development & Regeneration Panel is also keen to follow up on projects, and will do so 12 months after completion, to consider their effectiveness and success, and has planned a session around July 2023 for reflection on the Swansea Arena. It will also be interested in the delivery of local City Deal projects and will co-ordinate any activity taking into account the work of the regional Swansea Bay City Region Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments on any of the issues raised within; however, we do not expect you to provide a formal response. We will plan a further portfolio Q & A with you for around January 2024 at which we can follow up on the matters within this letter.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Appendix - CABINET PORTFOLIOS (2023)

Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader) (Cllr Rob Stewart)	Service Transformation (Cllr Andrea Lewis (Deputy Leader)	Corporate Services & Performance (Cllr David Hopkins) (Deputy Leader)	Education & Learning (Cllr Robert Smith)	Care Services (Cllr Louise Gibbard)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery Plan • Capital Programme • City Centre Strategic Redevelopment • City Deal • Communications • Community Leadership • Constitutional Changes • Finance Strategy, Budget & Saving Delivery • Financial Services • Legal Services • Local and Regional Investment Strategy • Planning Policy (Regional) • Poverty Reduction corporate lead • Public Services Board (PSB) • Major Projects • Regional Working Lead (All Bodies) • Strategic Partnerships • Risk & Resilience Management • Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) - Chair • Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee - Chair • Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) – Deputy Leader • WLGA Lead on Economy & Inward investment, Europe & Energy • WLGA representative to LGA 	<p>Strategic Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post covid service stabilisation & transformation • Corporate ICT & Digital Transformation • Contact centre • Public Services Board (PSB) Leader’s Representative • Homes as Power Stations (City Deal) • APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) • Climate change action plan <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Programme • Building Services • Housing Adaptations & Renewal Schemes • Housing Policy, Affordable Housing and Housing Options • More Homes Delivery • Penderry redevelopment board • Climate & nature recovery board chair • Sheltered Housing • Co-operative Housing • Homelessness • Housing support grant • Council House Management & Repairs • Lettings policy & Tenancy Enforcement <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleet Renewal & Maintenance inc Green fleet strategy • CJC (Corporate Joint Committee) representative for regional Energy • Green Vehicle Adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Delivery of Priorities • Performance monitoring • Commercial Services, Procurement & Frameworks • Food sustainability • Human Resources • Mayoral & Civic Functions • Member Development • Outside Bodies participation oversight • Council Champions • Petitions • Scrutiny liaison • Democratic Services • Health & Safety • Planning Policy • Biodiversity • Landlord Licensing • Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) • Licensing Policy • Building Control • Public Protection • Environmental Health • Trading Standards • Strategic Estates & Property Management • Trade Union Engagement and JCC (Joint Consultative Committee) • Agile Rollout Programme Lead • Western Gateway Leader’s Representative • Audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Schools Programme inc. School Building Upgrade • Apprenticeships • Catchment Review • Education Services from 3 to 19 • Further Education • Inclusion & Learner Support • NEETS (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) Prevention & vocational opportunities • Quality in Education (QEd) Programme • Readiness for Work • UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) • Regional Workforce Planning & Skills Development • School Improvement • Schools Estate Planning & Resources Planning • Schools’ Organisation & Performance • Flying start (schools settings & transitions) • Partneriaith (regional working) Leaders Representative • City of Learning (COL) - Member of UNESCO COL (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Steering Group (Cllr EK to support) • Corporate parenting Board member • Skills & Talent Project (City Deal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Services Modernisation • Strategic Health & Social Care Collaboration Opportunities • Mental Health including CAHMS • Assessment / Care Management • Elderly Care • Supporting People • Joint Equipment • Learning Disability • Local Area Coordination (support) • Physical & Sensory Impairments • Safeguarding lead • Wellbeing lead • Preventing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Support) • Child & Family Services • Children & communities grant • Continuum of Care • Regional Adoption Service • Safe Looking After Children (LAC) Reduction Strategy • YOS (Youth Offending Service) • Leaders Representative on West Glamorgan RPB • Corporate Parenting chair • UNCRC (support) (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) • Human Rights city accreditation

Appendix - CABINET PORTFOLIOS (2023)

Wellbeing (Cllr Alyson Anthony)	Environment & Infrastructure (Cllr Andrew Stevens)	Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism (Cllr Robert Francis-Davies)	Culture, Human Rights & Equalities (Cllr Elliott King)	Community (Services: Cllr Cyril Anderson & Support: Cllr Hayley Gwilliam)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Reduction • 3rd Sector Services • Drugs and substance misuse reduction • Sexual exploitation reduction • Preventing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence • Flying start (all settings) • UNCRC (support) (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) • Refugees & Asylum • Community Cohesion • Life long learning support • Vulnerable people support • Community Safety • NEEs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) • Employability • Financial Inclusion • Prevention and intervention initiatives • Swansea Working • Welfare Reform • Welfare Rights • Public Space protection orders • Safer Swansea Partnership member • Public Service Board Representative • RPB (Regional Partnership Board) representative • CCTV operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways maintenance & improvements • Infrastructure repairs & Maintenance • Pothole Task Force • Patch services Parking Policy, Control and Enforcement • Road safety • Operational Public Transport Services • Coastal Defences • Flood prevention • Marina, Foreshore & Beach Maintenance • Active travel & cycleways • Estates Maintenance Management (Non HRA (Housing Revenue Account)) • Members Community Budget Scheme delivery • Play upgrade programme delivery (in collaboration with IRT) • Green infrastructure • Corporate & Community digital connectivity (inc hybrid facilities, free community WiFi & next gen CCTV technical delivery) • Rural development • Rural economy including sustainable farming • Leaders' representative for regional collaborations for Transport, and Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business & City Promotion • City Centre Management • City Projects delivery • Future Development Opportunities • Inward Investment Opportunities • Suburban Centres & Community Regeneration Initiatives • New Local & Regional Business Opportunities • Economic recovery local business grant delivery • River Corridor Development • Events and attractions • Tourism • Purple Flag • Destination Management & Marketing • Parks investment, maintenance and usage • Play investment (links to play sufficiency) • ERF (Economic Resilience Funds) grants for play enhancement lead • Sports Facilities development and maintenance • Universities Collaboration (Development) • Business engagement • Western Gateway Leader's Representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equalities • Access to Services • Diversity • Age Friendly City • Inclusion • Recognition • Creative City • The Arts • Galleries & Museums • Floating exhibits • Street Art • Healthy City Partnership • Healthy Night Life • Heritage protection and restoration • Libraries • Archives • Community Centres • Community hubs • Veterans support fund • Science City 	<p>Services (Cllr Cyril Anderson):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Caretakers • Grass Cutting Services • Weed control • Tree services • Wildflower planting • Fly Tipping • Litter & Community Cleansing • Street scene improvements • Local Waste Management services • Recycling • Community operatives (new) • Regreening in communities • Bin services • Public Toilets • Community Growing (inc. Allotments) <p>Support (Cllr Hayley Gwilliam):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live well Age well • Mental Health awareness • Community Groups, Engagement & Development • Community Support Services • LAC (Local Area Coordinators) Services in Communities • Co-production champion • Neighbourhood Working • Early years • Corporate parenting board member • Promoting Youth Inclusion & Youth Citizenships • Youth Services • Opportunities for play • Play sufficiency • Community based events • Community safety • Community Wellbeing • Digital inclusion • Local policing • Dementia Champion

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group – Road Safety

Purpose:	This report provides background and advice to the Committee in following up on the Scrutiny Working Group which looked at issues relating to Road Safety in December 2022. Lead Cabinet Member / officers have been asked to report on progress since then, including issues raised by the Working Group.
Content:	<p>The Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure, Councillor Andrew Stevens, has provided a report which is appended for questions and discussion.</p> <p>The Committee is provided with the correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member following its meeting which contain the views / concerns of Scrutiny Councillors. The Committee should follow up on any agreed action in response to Working Group suggestions for improvement.</p>
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the information provided, ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Andrew Stevens (Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure)
Lead Officers:	Mark Wade, Director of Place Stuart Davies, Head of Highways & Transportation
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee has overall responsibility for the Scrutiny Work Programme. Each year, the Work Programme includes several 'one-off' topic-based Scrutiny Working Groups to look at specific issues of concern. These are usually set up as single meetings

to call in relevant Cabinet Member(s), officers, and other relevant persons, to examine the issue and feedback views and recommendations to the Cabinet Member(s). As such the Committee takes responsibility for following up on Working Groups, to check on progress with the topic / issue(s) and response to any specific suggestions / recommendations made and agreed action coming out of the Scrutiny session.

2. Road Safety Scrutiny Working Group

2.1 The Road Safety Scrutiny Working Group originally met on 7 December 2022 to discuss issues including speed controls (signs, humps and cameras), the new 20mph limits, road conditions and partnership working. It has now been over 12 months since the Scrutiny Working Group, and therefore the Committee should follow up on progress on the issue(s) and action following any suggestions coming out of the Scrutiny session and find out how things have progressed and developments in this area of work.

2.2 Main Working Group Findings

In order to assist the Committee's follow up, a summary is provided:

2.2.1 The Working Group were concerned that the Welsh Government Road Safety Grant had been held back for the 2nd year in a row due to the 20mph speed reduction scheme and the potential impact this would have, including other safety measures that are already in place like speed bumps, plus the additional workload to highways staff.

2.2.2 The Cabinet Member is a member of the Go Safe Partnership, and the Working Group requested for him to appeal to the Partnership to be more proactive in the area of Gower Commons. The Cabinet Member agreed to work constructively with Go Safe to remove barriers limiting enforcement activity.

2.2.3 A recommendation to increase signage and banners outside schools as a deterrent to remind drivers to drive and park safely around schools was made by the Working Group. The Cabinet Member responded to say that an arrangement with a major local employer who provided financial support for these measures had expired and that the Road Safety Team would welcome the opportunity to reintroduce these messages and continue to seek partnerships through the Commercial Team to support this activity.

2.2.4 The Working Group raised the need for developments in the Kerbcraft programme, suggesting a module on encouraging walking to school and general active travel. The Cabinet Member informed the Working Group that Welsh Government was in the process of reviewing the Kerbcraft program and seeking contractors to undertake this operation. Once appointed, Swansea Council, as a key stakeholder, would

contribute to this review and take the opportunity provided to seek expansion of the education modules to build in the benefits of an active travel approach.

2.3 The correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member following this Scrutiny activity is **attached**, showing the range of issues that were discussed, feedback and concerns, and the Cabinet Member's subsequent response.

2.4 Looking back at the Working Group discussion, the Committee will want to ask about the following:

- Progress with 20mph implementation and its impact on road safety
- Update on issues with Road Safety Grant
- The Council's relationship with GoSafe and input – main focus over past year (any discussion regarding Gower Commons).
- Whether we have increased the use of Countdown Crossings.
- The success of new initiatives around schools, e.g., traffic restrictions trial in Pontarddulais; any developments that will help with measures, such as signage / banners, around schools to remind motorists about safety.
- Developments in the Kerbcraft programme, e.g., developing a module on encouraging walking to school and general active travel.
- Experience of shared use paths – any more work on information, signage and guidance to encourage tolerant behaviour between cyclists and walkers; awareness of incidents, etc.

2.5 Link to the Scrutiny Working Group meeting:

7 Dec 2022

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=732&MIId=11082&Ver=4&LLL=0>

2.6 Scrutiny Councillors who participated in the Working Group: Chris Holley (Convener), Mike Day, Joe Hale, Sue Jones, Wendy Fitzgerald, Lyndon Jones, Kevin Griffiths, Dai Jenkins and Mike White.

2.7 By carrying out a follow up the Committee can then close off this Scrutiny activity and work, as appropriate.

3. Cabinet Member Report

3.1 The lead Cabinet Member, Councillor Andrew Stevens, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure, has provided a report on progress, in the context of the Scrutiny activity, on Road Safety. See **attached**.

3.2 Lead officer(s) will be present to assist and facilitate the discussion.

3.3 The Committee will hear from the Cabinet Member / officers before questions and discussion. At the conclusion of the session the Committee can write to the Cabinet Member with any observations, views and recommendations arising from the follow up discussion.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Letter correspondence between the Road Safety Scrutiny Working Group and Cabinet Member: Letters dated 4 January 2023 and 26 January 2023
- Cabinet Member Report on Road Safety



To:
Councillor Andrew Stevens
Cabinet Member for Environment
and Infrastructure

Please ask for: Overview & Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:

Direct Line: 01792 636292
Llinell
Uniongyrochol:

BY EMAIL

e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:

Date 4 January 2023
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Road Safety Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure. The letter concerns the meeting held on 7 December 2022 on the issue of road safety in Swansea.

Dear Councillor Stevens,

On the 7 December, a Scrutiny Working Group was held to look at the issue of Road Safety. The Panel are grateful to the officers Mark Wade, Stuart Davies, Matthew Bowyer and Alan Ferris for attending.

The officers presented their report and explained the various sources of funding that are available to the highways department and the role of each one. We were informed the Welsh Government Road Safety Grant has been held back for the second year in a row due to the roll out of their 20mph speed restriction initiative. Officers told us that this initiative is using considerable Council resources for implementation. We were told that the highways team are currently mapping the exemptions to the 20mph limit and these will be brought to Cabinet by the end of the year with plans to share more widely with ward members thereafter.

The partnership between the police and Go Safe was explained to us and that the Council does not always have the power to act on received complaints if the responsibility for the cause for complaint lies with one of the other partners.

We then went on to ask the officers a number of questions and the following main issues were discussed.

We said that we encourage the use of countdown crossings and would like to see more of these. We were told that current guidance is to install these when crossings require refurbishment or as money becomes available.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWA

GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWA, SA1 4PE

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

We understand that speed bumps and cushions are an effective way of moderating drivers' speed however some members felt they do not see these working efficiently in their wards. Officers informed us that speed cushions won't slow down the speed of buses and wider wheel based vehicles as they will straddle the cushion and if vehicles are parked on the side of the road, wide based vehicles are forced to go over the cushion which can be dangerous if they do not slow down. This is a particular issue for buses.

We were concerned that adding speed calming measures like speed cushions can have an adverse effect on roads causing additional maintenance and with this in mind, wondered if roads with speed cushions will get additional funding for road maintenance to balance out the concentrated wear and tear that speed cushions can cause. We were told that all road maintenance is assigned by need and all roads are prioritised by their state of disrepair.

Officers informed us that speed limits on Gower commons were extensively reviewed in 2018 and in places this was reduced to 40mph from the national speed limit. We were concerned about the number of injured animals and the level of monitoring and presence on the Commons to discourage speeders. We were informed that it sits with the police and Go Safe to enforce the speed limits.

Officers told us that speed cameras are a highly effective way of managing driver behaviour and that Go Safe are responsible for the functioning and administration of the cameras with the Council are responsible for the posts and markings around camera sites.

We asked what consultation is done with disabled groups and officers told us that consultation is carried out for traffic regulation orders. Footway obstructions like tables and chairs should be authorised by the Council but if they are causing a problem this can be reported to the highways department to investigate.

We know that shared use paths are designed in accordance with the active travel guidance and they rely on the consideration of the users. A number of members reported issues with these in their wards, in particular with collisions between pedestrians and cyclists and the speed of cyclists. The officers were not aware of many reported cases of this but members pointed out that there is no specific system for reporting this type of accident similar to the system in place for reporting road traffic accidents to the police.

We discussed the benefits and challenges of volunteer run community speed watch schemes and are interested to know how successful these schemes are and what impact they have. Unfortunately no information on these is gathered by the Council therefore their success is difficult to capture and they are mainly reliant on the number of volunteers.

Traffic around schools is a known issue, and a concern for many members. Officers updated us on the trial occurring in Pontarddulais where a section of street near to a school is being restricted at school times. We would be interested to hear how

successful this is. We were informed that over 4000 parking tickets were issued at school pick up times last year and also that feedback is welcomed from Councillors regarding specific issues around schools in their wards. Officers also told us that school buses can be reported to the highways department if they are parking for long periods in locations causing a nuisance to local residents and this can be fed back to bus companies.

We were keen to find out more about education and awareness around road safety for children and encouraging walking to school. Your officers told us that they continue to look at safe walking routes to schools and there is an ongoing programme alongside kerb craft and cycle training in schools. Active travel routes will also support safe walking/cycling to schools. We were pleased to hear that Kerb craft will train around 1200 pupils this year and officers are looking to increase that number next year.

We were concerned that with regards to new developments, roads seem to be prioritised over walking or cycling but we were pleased to hear about the new street design guide which will focus more on place than street and highway development. We look forward to hearing further about the guides implementation.

Outstanding questions

We received your apologies for the meeting and held back a number of questions which we felt were better directed to you rather than to the officers attending. We have listed the questions below and seek your views –

1. Are there plans to prevent anti-social camping and parking adjacent to the commons?
2. Monmouth has withdrawn its pilot in Caldicot increasing speed limits back to 30mph from 20mph. What are the Councils plans regarding 20mph/30mph limit reduction as there is some debate on whether this is successful?
3. Motorists are parking on the pavements right next to double yellow lines, are you aware of issue and do you have a forward plan to counteract that bad choice of parking?
4. In reference to paragraph 2.6.5 *“Disabled or older occupants of vehicles, particularly those with pre-existing back conditions, can find measures, specifically, but not exclusively, vertical deflections, more uncomfortable and more difficult to negotiate than more able bodied persons do”* What are your long term goals to help older and disabled occupants of cars to alleviate this pain and discomfort?
5. As you are aware of the discomfort cushions cause to elderly and disabled residents would you say that you are treating this demographic differently and are disregarding their specific needs?

Conclusions and Recommendations

From the briefing received and questions asked to attending officers we held a discussion on progress and made the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. We are disappointed that the Welsh Government Road Safety Grant has been held back for the 2nd year in a row due to the 20mph speed reduction scheme

and the potential impact this will have, plus the additional work load to highways staff.

2. We request that you consider the need for speed bumps in areas where there will be a 20 mph restriction on the speed of traffic.
3. We request that the Cabinet Member who is a member of the Go Safe Partnership appeal to the Partnership to be more proactive in the area of Gower Commons.
4. We feel there is a need to develop a program of work on encouraging walking to school, this could be added into current schemes like kerb craft.
5. We would like the Council to consider designing an education program looking at Kerb craft and encouraging walking/cycling to school that could be uploaded to Hwb the digital platform for learning in Wales, for children to look at with parents and guardians at home.
6. We would like more information on cycle training carried out in schools including how often and in how many schools this takes place.
7. We feel more information, signage and guidance needs to be available to educate and encourage tolerant behaviour between walkers and cyclists on shared use paths. We would also like to see a specific system in place for reporting accidents on shared use paths, similar to the system in place for reporting road traffic accidents to the police.
8. We feel Head teachers should encourage their own school staff not to park on roads near schools.
9. We would like to see an increase in the signage and banners outside schools as a deterrent to remind drivers to drive and park safely around schools.
10. We would like improved consultation with ward members on road safety with a particular focus on schools. Ward members are sometimes unaware of consultations taking place. Also more engagement with Councillors is needed when consultations are taking place in their wards so they can help to communicate this to their ward members.

Your Response

We are interested in hearing your thoughts about the issues raised in this letter and would ask that you respond to the outstanding questions and the points in our conclusions by 25 January.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Scrutiny Working Group – Road Safety

✉ cllr.chris.holley@swansea.gov.uk

Cllr. C. Holley

(By Email)

Please ask for: Councillor Andrew Stevens
Direct Line: 01792 63 7428
E-Mail: cllr.andrew.stevens@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: AS/WN
Your Ref:
Date: 26th January 2023

Dear Cllr. Holley,

Outstanding questions

We received your apologies for the meeting and held back a number of questions which we felt were better directed to you rather than to the officers attending. We have listed the questions below and seek your views –

1. Are there plans to prevent anti-social camping and parking adjacent to the commons?

Parking on roads and laybys is subject to road traffic legislation and regulations, the council is able to enforce parking restrictions where a Traffic Regulation Order is in place.

Off road parking of cars or motorhomes would require the landowner's permission. This would be a considered civil trespass; certain offences relating to driving on common land could be enforceable by the Police under provisions contained in the Road Traffic Act 1988.

2. Monmouth has withdrawn its pilot in Caldicot increasing speed limits back to 30mph from 20mph. What are the Councils plans regarding 20mph/30mph limit reduction as there is some debate on whether this is successful?

Officers are in the process of preparing detailed ward plans showing the impact of the reduction in the default speed limit on restricted roads to 20mph. The plans developed include an officer assessment of those roads which should be exempt from that reduction and retain a 20mph limit.

Once members have received the plans, opportunity will be given for individual or groups of members to meet with officers to discuss how these measures will impact on their wards and also consider the roads which are suggested as being retained at 30mph. It should be noted, that the exemptions process will need to be undertaken to adhere to the guidance provided by Welsh Government which can be reviewed on this link:- <https://www.gov.wales/setting-exceptions-20mph-default-speed-limit-restricted-roads-html>

3. Motorists are parking on the pavements right next to double yellow lines, are you aware of issue and do you have a forward plan to counteract that bad choice of parking?

As members will be aware, Traffic Regulation Orders extend to the full extent of the adopted highway and those contravening the restriction can be issued with a penalty notice for doing so. If there are any particular locations where this is problematic members should advise officers in Parking Services of their concerns and this matter can be targeted as resources permit.

It should also be noted that Welsh Government are in the process of revising legislation making it an offence to park on unrestricted sections of footway. Once published Council will need to consider how this should be implemented locally.

4. In reference to paragraph 2.6.5 “Disabled or older occupants of vehicles, particularly those with pre-existing back conditions, can find measures, specifically, but not exclusively, vertical deflections, more uncomfortable and more difficult to negotiate than more able-bodied persons do” What are your long-term goals to help older and disabled occupants of cars to alleviate this pain and discomfort?

Traffic calming is introduced where there is strong local concern over the speed of traffic. Unfortunately, experience has shown that the only permissibly effective tool in significantly reducing the speed of traffic is through the introduction of vertical deflections on the road. Regrettably, these measures often impact disproportionately on the elderly and disabled in the community.

However, formal consultations are undertaken with a wide range of road users including representatives from the disabled community to ensure that the measures proposed are appropriate and to address any specific concerns. Local ward members are also consulted on the measures developed prior to implementation for consideration on how they will impact locally.

5. As you are aware of the discomfort cushions cause to elderly and disabled residents would you say that you are treating this demographic differently and are disregarding their specific needs?

The measures introduced fully conform to the design standards set out by the DfT for use on the public highway. These have been rigorously tested to ensure their suitability as a traffic calming solution. As noted above, widespread consultation is also undertaken prior to measures being implemented.

Conclusions and Recommendations

From the briefing received and questions asked to attending officers we held a discussion on progress and made the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. We are disappointed that the Welsh Government Road Safety Grant has been held back for the 2nd year in a row due to the 20mph speed reduction scheme and the potential impact this will have, plus the additional workload to highways staff.

This comment is noted. Additional resource is sought to support the wide program of schemes being progressed, however market conditions in the municipal engineering sector are making this challenging.

2. We request that you consider the need for speed bumps in areas where there will be a 20-mph restriction on the speed of traffic.

As is current practice, full consideration will be given before traffic calming schemes are progressed. This will be undertaken in consultation with local ward members.

3. We request that the Cabinet Member who is a member of the Go Safe Partnership appeal to the Partnership to be more proactive in the area of Gower Commons.

The Cabinet Member notes the progress made in raising awareness over road safety through the Gower and will work constructively with Go Safe to remove barriers limiting enforcement activity.

4. We feel there is a need to develop a program of work on encouraging walking to school, this could be added into current schemes like kerbcraft.

Kerbcraft is a national program set out in modules which involve practical lessons on street raising children's awareness of road hazards and developing skills necessary to travel safely. Currently this does not involve an Active Travel section. Welsh Government is presently in the process of reviewing the program and is seeking contractors to undertake this operation. Once appointed, Swansea Council, as a key stakeholder, will contribute to this review and will take the opportunity provided to seek expansion of the education modules to build in the benefits of an active travel approach.

5. We would like the Council to consider designing an education program looking at Kerbcraft and encouraging walking/cycling to school that could be uploaded to Hwb the digital platform for learning in Wales, for children to look at with parents and guardians at home.

This has the potential to provide a useful tool to supplement the Kerbcraft program giving profile to road safety education in those schools who do not participate in the Kerbcraft program. However, developing such a program would require additional resource to develop the teaching platform which could integrate with the existing, and as discussed above, future Kerbcraft modules.

6. We would like more information on cycle training carried out in schools including how often and in how many schools this takes place.

**Cycle Training 2022-23 forecasting that 600* pupils are trained x 25 schools
WG 35K* Budget.**

Penyrheol	St Helen's
Dunvant	St Illtyd's
Knelston	Penclawydd
Burlais	Glyncollen
Brynhyfryd	Sketty
Brynmill	St David's
Pencalwydd	Pontarddulais
Penyfro	Oystermouth
Bishopston	Cwmrhydyceirw
Pengelli	YGG Gellionnen
Pontlliw	Llangyfelach
Penllergaer	Brynmill
Danygraig	

- ** Original WG target for 2022-23 is 501 pupils to be trained with a budget of 26.5K but due to underspend on Kerbcraft request to WG will be made to increase cycle training budget to approx. 35K*

Children participating initially receive Stage 1 training which is undertaken in a traffic free environment. On passing this, children are then taken on street to receive further guidance and support to enable them to cycle safely on the road. These courses are targeted at pupils in years 5 and 6.

7. We feel more information, signage and guidance needs to be available to educate and encourage tolerant behavior between walkers and cyclists on shared use paths. We would also like to see a specific system in place for reporting accidents on shared use paths, similar to the system in place for reporting road traffic accidents to the police.

All signage, markings and tactile paving's are introduced in accordance with design standards set out in Active Travel Guidance to support appropriate use of the facility and make users aware of how to use the path appropriately. Supplementary markings for "share with care" are added to remind users of their responsibilities at key locations, such as vicinity to schools, crossing points and junctions where potential interactions may be more frequent.

Collisions on Shared use Paths forming part of the public highway system will be recorded by the police and reported in the same way as accidents on road. This will allow analysis of the performance of routes in safety terms over a period of time enabling targeted responses to be made.

8. We feel Head teachers should encourage their own school staff not to park on roads near schools.

Schools generally already follow this practice, often extending to newsletters text alerts to parents seeking co-operation in relieving local parking pressures to enhance local road safety. The Road Safety team also undertake assemblies in schools to emphasize this message amongst pupils, as resource permits.

PAGE 5

9. We would like to see an increase in the signage and banners outside schools as a deterrent to remind drivers to drive and park safely around schools.

The Council previously introduced banners outside schools in partnership with a major local employer who provided financial support for these measures. Unfortunately, this arrangement has now expired.

The Road Safety Team would welcome the opportunity to reintroduce these messages and continue to seek partnerships through the Commercial Team to support this activity.

10. We would like improved consultation with ward members on road safety with a particular focus on schools. Ward members are sometimes unaware of consultations taking place. Also, more engagement with Councillors is needed when consultations are taking place in their wards so they can help to communicate this to their ward members.

It is usual practice to develop solutions to local ward issues in consultation with Ward Members. On wider traffic schemes, Ward Members are issued with details of the design solutions for comment prior to public consultation. If ward members have any suggestions on how the process can be developed further to assist in this communication, we will be happy to consider this.

In relation to measures around schools, members are invited to raise any concerns that they have over road safety directly with the Traffic Management and Road Safety team.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andrew Stevens
Aelod Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd ac Isadeiledd
Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure



Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Follow Up on Road Safety Issues

Purpose	To update the Scrutiny Programme Committee on issues raised following the Scrutiny Working Group meeting of 7 December 2022 highlighting issues associated with the change in the National Default limit to 20mph.
Content	The report updates Members on Road Safety issues of concern to the Committee and sets out the approach being taken to build on road safety improvements achieved in recent years.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the information provided and give views on the content of the report set out hereunder.
Lead Councillor	Councillor Andrew Stevens, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure
Lead Officer & Report Author	Alan Ferris Tel: 07787 664964 E-mail: alan.ferris@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer	Amanda Thomas
Access to Services	Rhian Millar

1. Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure set out a report to the Scrutiny Working Group on 7 December 2022 detailing of the Council's legal obligations, the funding mechanisms used to deliver road safety improvements and advice, the partnerships that are involved in managing safety on the road and the potential solutions which can be used to modify road users' behaviour to make communities safer. The report continued to describe some of the negative effects that these solutions may have and the need to consider these in developing solutions to the challenges faced in improving safety on the roads.

1.2 Following the change in the default speed limit on 17 September 2023, Scrutiny has sought an update on progress with the introduction of the new 20mph default limit as well as consideration of the affect that it has had. In particular Scrutiny has sought an update on the following issues

- Progress with 20mph implementation and its impact on road safety
- Update on issues with Road Safety Grant.
- The Council's relationship with GoSafe and input – main focus over past year, including enforcement on the Gower Commons.
- Whether we have increased the use of Countdown Crossings.
- The success of new initiatives around schools, e.g., traffic restrictions trial in Pontarddulais; any developments that will help with measures, such as signage / banners, around schools to remind motorists about safety.
- Developments in the Kerbcraft programme, e.g., developing a module on encouraging walking to school and general active travel.
- Experience of shared use paths – any more work on information, signage and guidance to encourage tolerant behaviour between cyclists and walkers; awareness of incidents.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

2.1 20mph Default speed limit – Legal Process

2.1.1 As Members will be aware the default speed limit reduction to 20mph came into force on 17th Septembers 2023. Prior to this date, officers had assessed the network against the guidance provided by Welsh Government for setting exemptions to the default limit. Plans of these roads were circulated to members on individual wards for consideration and comment. Following this process, a finalised list of 140 roads was identified where it was considered that a 30mph limit would be appropriate.

2.1.2 This list was duly advertised for public consultation. In response the Council received thirty-one comments on the proposals. These comprised three letters of support (including one from the police), nineteen objections to the default limit being imposed and only nine objections relevant to the order advertised.

2.1.3 Of the substantiated objections, the primary concern focused on the safety record between vulnerable road users and general traffic on the roads which were proposed to be exempt and remain at 30mph. Objectors were concerned that some of the roads identified did not meet the guidance criteria set out by Welsh Government in this regard. However, analysis of the performance of all roads was undertaken by the Council in advance of the Traffic Regulation Orders being advertised which considered the road usage and demonstrated that pedestrians and cyclists had integrated safely with vehicular traffic during the most recent five-year period for which data is available.

2.1.4 Following completion of the objection report, its review and subsequent issue to those commenting, the Traffic Regulation Order was sealed to meet the change in the default limit introduced on 17 September 2023. Since then, the Council have received a limited number of queries on roads which residents believe should be returned to 30mph. However, the current position is that the roads identified for exemption accord with the guidance provided by Welsh Government. In the event that this guidance is reviewed then further work will follow on identifying the impact that this will have on our network. It is not proposed to look at individual exemptions at this time.

2.2 20mph Default Speed Limit – Works on Site

2.2.1 Prior to 17th September the Council, through Welsh Government funding had already procured the necessary signing and posts required to implement the change in the default limit. Contracts were let to install these signs at the new terminal points, leaving the signs covered until the actual change in the default. Whilst this work was going on, lining contractors were obnubilating markings and roundels which contravened the revised limits.

2.2.2 On the weekend of the 17 September, these signs were revealed, and work focused on obscuring those signs which did not conform with the new 20mph default limit. Initially, signs showing 20 were left in place as a reminder to drivers of the prevailing limit. Since then, contractors have continued work on the removal of redundant signs and posts, including the now redundant 20mph signs. A programme of works to replace all digital speed indicator signs also commenced and road marking roundels were introduced to indicate those roads which will continue to operate at 30mph.

2.2.3 Works will continue on these programmes of work for the remainder of the financial year and will expand to include the removal of all repeater signs and roundels which show 20mph. It is envisaged that all works will be completed by 31 March 2024 as required by the Welsh Government grant conditions.

2.3 20mph Default Speed Limit – Post implementation impact

2.3.1 To enable us to ascertain the impact of the change and support decision making going forward, a number of speed surveys were undertaken in advance of the 17 September. These surveys will be repeated once all signage works have been completed. Covering a variety of sites these will enable officers to assess the impact in the reduction of the default limit and support the decision-making process in determining whether further road safety or enforcement interventions will be required.

2.3.2 However, in terms of collision and casualty reduction, whilst nationally, there may be an emerging picture of the impact in 18months or so, locally it may take up to three years to get a clear understanding of how it has impacted on the network of roads in the wider Swansea area.

2.3.3 It should be noted that at this time it is not intended to remove existing traffic calming schemes in light of the reduction in the default limit. In situations, such as Cecil Road in Gowerton, where road resurfacing on traffic calmed roads requires the removal of traffic calming; consideration may be given on whether they should be reinstalled. However, this would require local support and evidence that traffic speeds were considered to be acceptable following the removal of any features, and that the road safety issues which led to the introduction of the traffic calming had been resolved.

2.4 Road Safety Grant

2.4.1 Since 2010 there has been a significant improvement in the road safety record in the Swansea area. Analysis shows that in 2022 Swansea saw a reduction in the numbers of collisions resulting in death or serious injury of 59% from the baseline data from 2010. This reduction is even greater on those collisions classified as slight with a 79% reduction recorded. Welsh Governments target was to achieve a 20% reduction in both sets of figures.

2.4.2 Notwithstanding the above, the figures for 2022 show that there were still 25 collisions in the county classified as being KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) with a further 119 collisions resulting in injury. Welsh Government have confirmed that they will continue to invest capital and revenue support with the ambition to strive to eliminate people killed and seriously injured on roads in Wales. To this end officers are working with partners and reviewing collision statistics for the county to develop initiatives and designs which will assist the Council in meeting this objective.

2.4.3 Work is ongoing on this process, but it is anticipated that bids will be submitted in early February for capital support to introduce measures which will be beneficial in reducing the casualty numbers identified above. Bids will also be submitted for revenue funding to continue to support education programmes to promote road safety, including Kerbcraft and Cycle Training for children in schools.

2.5 GoSafe collaboration

2.5.1 The Council continue to work with GoSafe to target areas of local concern such as the Gower Commons. It is anticipated that the reduction in the default speed limit may result in an increased demand for enforcement. However, it should be noted that Welsh Government have not committed further resource to support this. Nevertheless, officers will continue to monitor the Swansea network of roads and seek enforcement where concerns arise.

2.6 Pedestrian Crossing Facilities

2.6.1 The installation of "Pedestrian Countdown" at Traffic Signals was first referred to in the Traffic Signs Manual in 2019. Following its publication, Swansea Council began introducing these facilities at both signalised junctions and pedestrian crossing sites across the authority. To date, around 25 Pedestrian Countdown systems have been installed.

- 2.6.2 Based on the design guidance laid out within TSM – Chapter 6 the recommended pedestrian crossing facilities available to the authority, when installing new facilities or upgrading existing ones, fall into two distinct types: Nearside or Far-side systems.
- 2.6.3 A nearside crossing system has the red / green pedestrian crossing signal positioned directly alongside the waiting pedestrian in a low-level orientation, ordinarily allowing a pedestrian to be able to position themselves to see both their crossing signal and oncoming traffic. Pedestrian Countdown information is not permitted in this type of system.
- 2.6.4 A Far-side crossing, including Pedestrian Countdown sites, will have the red / green pedestrian crossing signal positioned on the opposite footway to where the waiting pedestrian is located, at the top of the associated signal pole. Pedestrian will therefore be facing their intended direction of travel and not necessarily facing oncoming traffic. In these circumstances it may be appropriate to include countdown information to benefit pedestrians.
- 2.6.5 When installing new crossing facilities or upgrading existing ones, the decision on which type of system to be used will be made on a site-by-site basis, taking its location into consideration as well as any site-specific restrictions. As part of this decision-making process the following criteria are used so that the most appropriate system is chosen each time.
- All crossings that traverse major arterial routes in the core city area (i.e. Mumbles Road, Oystermouth Road and Tawe Bridges) are configured to be nearside facilities. Nearside crossings are regarded as more efficient utilising pedestrian tracking cameras thereby creating variable crossing times. This approach assists in minimising delays on heavily congested traffic routes assisting in improving the capacity of the network.
 - On pedestrian crossing facilities outside of these heavily congested commuter routes “far side” crossings are generally introduced with the recommendation for all new and upgraded facilities to be designed as Pedestrian Countdown systems.
 - However, it should be noted that on some occasions, when considering crossing facilities in residential areas the implication of ‘see-through’ of pedestrian signals into residential properties and the nuisance issue this might cause must be considered. Should it be determined that these possible see-through issues cannot be mitigated then the recommendation would be for the provision of a nearside crossing facility to be provided. In these limited circumstances, there is no potential to introduce pedestrian countdown information.

2.7 School Initiatives

- 2.7.1 The Council continue to focus on the development of a School Streets programme. To this end officers have focused on developing pilot areas to explore the benefits in terms of road safety and how it will impact on the communities in which the schools sit. Orders have already been put in place on James Street, Pontarddulais. Further schemes have been drawn up for four other primary schools, Seaview, in Townhill, Whitestone in West Cross, YGG Y Login Fach in Waunarlydd and St Thomas Community School. Developed plans for these latter four sites have been sent to local members and the schools in question for consideration and comment and this will be used in determining how to proceed.
- 2.7.2 To enable these schemes to work effectively, officers continue to explore the potential of taking responsibility for enforcing moving traffic violations. Studies are ongoing on establishing the extent of default for offences of this nature which will be used to develop a full business case. If successful, this will enable camera enforcement of the School Streets initiative as well as potentially targeting local road safety issues.

2.8 Kerbcraft and Road Safety Education Programmes

- 2.8.1 Kerbcraft is a cornerstone of the Council's education programme supporting road safety for children in their early years. In the current programme it is aimed to provide road safety training to 1500 year 2 children, around 60% of the total number of children in the county. The training provided makes children aware of road hazards and helps equip them with the skills required to safely negotiate the roads.
- 2.8.2 The Council also co-ordinates a developing cycle training programme to meet National Standards. The Road Safety Team recruit and co-ordinate a team of professional cycling instructors to deliver a programme of works to take children through Stages 1 and 2 on the National Standards in cycling proficiency. Working with schools, our contractors will provide training and advice to around 885 children, predominantly from year 6.
- 2.8.3 Whilst outline details of road safety programmes are currently included on the Council's webpages, officers are exploring the potential to broaden this information to enable parents to continue with their child's development once the training programmes have been completed.
- 2.8.4 In addition the Council also support programmes to provide Motorcycle training with applicants being given on road training and guidance to develop safe riding techniques. However, this course is taken up by relatively few riders and doesn't necessarily reach those at greatest risk.

2.9 Shared Use Path Experiences

- 2.9.1 The introduction of Shared Use Paths (SUP) is becoming increasingly widespread as the network of Active Travel routes develops and expands across the county. As the name suggests a SUP is designed to be used by all types of users including cyclists, pedestrians, people with mobility aids and in some cases horse riders.
- 2.9.2 However, it is recognised that there is the potential for conflict between different user groups, particularly in areas where there are alternate usage purposes, i.e. cycle commuting and leisure walking. Reported incidents are relatively few but are focused on route sections which carry high volumes of traffic, such as the foreshore link. To assist in addressing this the Council promotes 'share with care' and have added signing to key routes around the city to encourage people to use paths in a way which is safe for everyone. This message is also included in the Council's Active Travel webpage, which goes on to describe the hierarchy of road users and the good practices which should be followed to the benefit of all users of the facility.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 As noted above, the Council in conjunction with the police and GoSafe have been hugely successful in recent years in reducing the overall number of collisions occurring across the county. However, with 25 people killed or seriously injured in traffic incidents in the past 12 months and a further 119 collisions resulting in slight injury, there is a continuing recognition that further work is required to reduce this.
- 3.2 The introduction of Welsh Government's initiative reducing the default speed limit to 20mph on street lit roads may be considered as a key element in helping to achieve this. The measures introduced to monitor the impact that the change has had will be beneficial in establishing where it has worked most successfully and allowing us to target future resources and enforcement to take best advantage that lower speeds may bring about.
- 3.3 However, as noted above, the actual impact of the reduction in the default limit will not be known locally a number of years. Consequently, in the meantime focus must be maintained on continuing to develop interventions which will build on the casualty reductions achieved in recent years. This will involve both capital and revenue investment to create a safer environment for travel on the infrastructure that we are responsible for.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5. Finance Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

6.1 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, 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.

6.1.1 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'.

6.1.2 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.

6.2 As this is an information report there is no need for an IIA.

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 8



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report

Purpose	The Committee is responsible for managing the overall work of scrutiny and its effectiveness. Performance Panel conveners will regularly provide a progress report, updating the Committee on headlines from their Panel's work and impact.
Content	This report focuses on the following Performance Panel: a) Child & Family Services
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure awareness and understanding of the work of the Panels• Consider their effectiveness and impact• Consider any issues arising and action required
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams (Panel Convener)
Lead Officers & Report Author	Liz Jordan E-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

- 1.1 There are five Performance Panels which have been established by the Committee. Whilst the work of an Inquiry Panel leads to the production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet based on evidence gathered on a specific issue, the work of a Performance Panel represents regular monitoring of, and challenge to, particular services / service areas and issues.
- 1.2 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant Cabinet / lead members in order to share views and recommendations, arising from monitoring activities, about the performance of services and service delivery.
- 1.3 The Committee is responsible for managing the overall work of Scrutiny and its effectiveness. Performance Panels Conveners will therefore provide a regular progress report to the Committee to enable:

- a discussion on the work of each Panel, achievements, effectiveness and impact
- the Committee to consider any issues arising from Panel activities which may have an impact on the overall Scrutiny Work Programme
- awareness amongst the Committee as well as visibility across the Council and public.

1.4 This report is about the following Performance Panel:

- Child & Family Services

To focus the discussion a short, written report has been provided by the Convener and is **attached**. This includes a summary of Panel activities, correspondence between the Panel and relevant Cabinet Members, recommendations and impact.

1.5 This Panel involves the following 10 Members:

Labour Councillors: 4

Victoria Holland	Erika Kirchner
Yvonne Jardine	Wendy Lewis

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 4

Mike Day	Susan Jones
Kevin Griffiths	Mark Tribe

Conservative Councillors: 1

Paxton Hood-Williams (CONVENER)	
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Uplands Councillor: 1

Sandra Joy	
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2. Legal Implications

2.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching purpose of the Panel is to provide ongoing challenge to performance in Child and Family Social Services and to ensure that as the Service is undergoing major change, performance is maintained and that further improvements are made across all areas of the Service.

2. Key Activities

The Panel is currently meeting on a six-weekly basis and since the beginning of this municipal year the Panel has looked at the following:

Meeting	Topic(s)
22 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and Family Complaints Annual Report 2021/22 • Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services • Panel Review of the Year 2022-23
20 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Monitoring • Update on Regional Adoption Service • Draft Work Plan 2023-24
2 August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Wellbeing / Performance Report • Residential Care Services (including update on Ty Nant)
13 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Young Carers • Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan
24 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Regional Safeguarding Board • Service Quality Unit Annual Report • Commissioning Reviews Progress Update
5 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Monitoring (including session on qualitative auditing) • Update on Child and Family Improvement Programme • Update on Contextual Missing Exploited & Trafficked (CMET)

3. Achievements / Impact

We have sent 5 letters to the relevant Cabinet Members since our first meeting of the municipal year in May 2023, in order to give our views, raise concerns and make recommendations, for example:

Positives:

- Western Bay Regional Adoption Service - Panel asked about life stories, which the Service was struggling to get done in the past, and what the situation is currently and was informed Wales is making improvements in this area. From a regional perspective, a small team has been developed within the Service which looks at life journey work offered to adopters and childcare social worker workshops in achieving the best life journey work for children. Panel heard the Service's check in process is also influential and that in addition, the Western Bay Regional Adoption Manager chairs the National Life Journey Sub-Group which looks at best practice.
- Annual Wellbeing/Performance Report 2022-23 - Panel queried the situation with staff shortages and heard that there are only around four agency staff currently. Panel pleased to hear that some benefits are being seen from the All-Wales Memorandum of Cooperation recently introduced to help control what is paid. Panel also heard there has been huge interest in the Academy, that the Service is looking to recruit three additional newly qualified social workers and is moving those social workers who were in the Academy last year into area teams.
- Residential Care Services – Panel pleased to hear there has been significant improvement at Ty Nant and that at the last CIW visit all priority action notices were removed and there was only one area for improvement related to provider assessments, and this was being revised at the time and officers are confident that when inspectors next visit it will have a clean sheet.
- Presentation by Young Carers - Panel queried how the Service finds out how many young carers there are and what percentage are being reached and heard PSE sessions have been held in schools and awareness raised through the 'Understanding Young Carers' professional training. Panel noted that Swansea's statistic matches the national statistic i.e., three young carers in every single classroom in the UK, so the number is huge. Panel informed young carers are identified through PSE sessions, they listen to the presentation, engage in activities, and complete a questionnaire stating if they would like to identify as a young carer. They can access support in school through lunchtime clubs or can access support within the YMCA.
- Contextual Missing Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) - Panel queried how often the 'pop up' youth club in Mayhill is held and what happens for the rest of the time and heard the Team now has a blended approach. Panel also heard that Mayhill is held once a week but there are five Local Authority youth clubs altogether, all held on different nights in different areas, and the hours staff work in them has increased. Panel noted that on the other nights, youth workers go out and about in the community to the places young people spend time and that not all young people want to go to a youth club. Panel informed there are also a few independent youth clubs running in the area.

Issues / Concerns:

- Western Bay Regional Adoption Service - Panel noted the reduction in the number of approvals and asked if this was a concern. Panel heard it is a concern, has become a national rather than a regional problem and is on the national agenda. This is an issue the Panel will need to monitor.
- Annual Wellbeing/Performance Report 2022-23 - Panel noted 24 children were re-referred to the child protection register within the year, and asked if there was a breakdown of the reasons for re-referral. Panel was informed that it varies depending on a child's circumstances, for example, a change in family circumstances; impact of covid on people's behaviour who now cannot cope. Panel heard that circumstances are looked at in weekly safeguarding meetings and also that officers are pulling together themes to help them understand this data better to see if anything can be done differently that will help reduce referrals in future.
- Residential Care Services – Panel feels the Service is in a state of flux currently due to the requirements in terms of eliminating profit. Panel heard the Service would like to reduce use of external providers but will still be dependent on them and it would be useful if Welsh Government gave a proper definition of what 'not for profit' means, so that external providers know if they can continue to be registered from April 2026. Panel noted that feedback from across Wales is the same, Authorities have not got the capacity to meet the demand coming through and are heavily reliant on external provision, so it is a national issue. Cabinet Member added there is a Social Services and Wellbeing Cabinet Members Networking meeting with the Deputy Minister coming up and this is one of the topics on the agenda and she will report back on progress. Panel offered support in terms of writing a letter to Welsh Government if it would be useful.
- Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan - Panel felt there was more talk about the Youth Justice System in the report and asked if this is an indication that more youngsters are beginning to present with problems. Panel heard that in terms of accommodation, more young people are presenting needing additional support and it is difficult to know the cause specifically. Panel was informed in terms of youth justice, not seeing significantly more numbers of young people coming through at the statutory end but having different conversations in respect of exploitation, so the prevention offer within youth justice is growing significantly in terms of that.
- Improvement Programme - In relation to Residential Care, Panel believes the Service is still struggling to find appropriate properties to purchase and modify and queried the current capacity and if the Council is still having to send children out of county to get appropriate accommodation. Panel was informed the Service is seeing an increase in numbers of children in residential care, partly linked to insufficient foster care placements available, however, officers hope the position will improve over the next few months. Panel heard there are currently four in house beds, and the Service is looking to increase this to 15 over the next three years, but this depends on identifying properties in the right place and right condition. Panel noted that alternative ways are being looked at to achieve this.

Action Recommended / Agreed:

- Performance Monitoring - Panel noted ‘number of children registered previously’ was about one third of the number on the register and thought this seemed high. Panel was informed the main reason is change of circumstances. Panel stated it would be concerned if a child came back onto the child protection register less than a year after being taken off it. Officers confirmed this is looked at and they have a specific indicator for it and agreed to include ‘number of children added to Child Protection Register, within 12 months of de-registration who’ve been re-registered under the same category’ in future analysis for the performance report.
- Annual Wellbeing/Performance Report 2022-23 - Panel asked for an explanation of ‘qualitative auditing’ as they had not seen this in the performance reports before. Panel was informed that every month the report includes some themes on the findings that have been specifically audited and that this has been brought together to give a whole picture, to evidence the learning pulled out of the auditing and what it says in terms of quality of practice. Everyone agreed it would be useful to have a session on this to understand it better, [added to work plan under Performance Monitoring item in December 2023] and that it would be helpful to include it in reports on a quarterly basis.
- Service Quality Unit Annual Report - Panel discussed how difficult it must be for children going into care for the first time – surrounded by new people and a huge amount of paperwork and often having significant literacy issues. Panel suggested that as well as writing letters, or providing spider diagrams for younger children, more is done orally with these children, such as a recording, so they have a record of who is doing what and what was talked about, which they can go back to and hold the Service to account. Officers said they felt the suggestion was a very good one and will explore the option further.
- Performance Monitoring - Panel discussed how Welsh Government is planning to move away from the current computer system, Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). Cabinet Member confirmed it is currently in the engagement phase and agreed to look into the benefits, timeline etc of the new system and report back to the Panel.

4. Future Work Programme

The programme for the remainder of this municipal year is as follows:

Meeting	Item to be discussed
23 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Progress with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) • Corporate Parenting Board Update
12 February 2024 Joint Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Budget Proposals for Child and Family Services / Adult Services

12 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Monitoring • Briefing on Youth Offending Service • Child and Family Services / Adult Services Complaints Annual Report 2022-23 (Adult Services Panel Members to be invited for this item)
1 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services • Panel Review of the Year 2023/24

5. Action for the Scrutiny Programme Committee

None.

Agenda Item 9



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

Purpose:	The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established. This report advises of relevant matters that need to be considered.
Content:	This report is provided to facilitate any changes that need to be made.
Councillors are being asked to:	agree the membership of Panels and Working Groups reported, and any other changes necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Council report 18 October 2012, when current Scrutiny arrangements were agreed, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established.

2. Revision to Existing Scrutiny Panel / Working Group Membership

- 2.1 None.

3. Guiding Principles

- 3.1 When determining membership / conveners or agreeing any changes there are some key considerations for the Committee:

- It is necessary for more than one political group to be represented on each Panel / Working Group.
- These bodies also need to be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning.
- To ensure that all political groups have opportunities and are engaged.
- Good scrutiny practice places emphasis on respect for minority party wishes around both chairing of such bodies and the work programme.
- Being fair and balanced in the appointment of conveners, when there is interest from more than one councillor, e.g., giving opportunity to those who have not acted as convener previously.
- The Committee should reflect on the existing 'balance' of conveners to help inform future appointments.
- A minimum of three members should be present at all Panel / Working Group meetings.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 10



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Scrutiny Work Programme

Purpose	This report shows the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24, which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.
Content	The agreed work programme is attached, which shows the topics being examined by Scrutiny through various Panels and Working Groups. A plan for future Committee meetings is also attached.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• plan for the Committee meetings ahead• consider opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny• review the Scrutiny Work Programme (including progress of current Panels and Working Groups)
Lead Councillor	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing the Council's Scrutiny Work Programme and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.

1.2 A report is provided to each meeting to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of agreed Scrutiny activities, monitor progress, and coordinate work as necessary.

1.3 The broad aim of the Scrutiny function is to engage non-executive councillors in activities to:

- provide an effective challenge to the executive
- help improve services, policies, and performance

- engage the public in its work
- 1.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme is guided by the overriding principle that the work of Scrutiny should be strategic and significant, focussed on issues of concern, and represent a good use of time and resources.

It also needs to be:

- manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available to support activities
 - relevant to Council priorities
 - adding value and having maximum impact
 - coordinated and avoids duplication
- 1.5 The work of Scrutiny is undertaken primarily in three ways – through the Committee itself, by establishing informal Panels (for in-depth activities) or via one-off Working Groups. Panels and Working Groups would be open to all non-executive Councillors - the Committee will determine membership and conveners following expressions of interest.
- 1.6 Scrutiny will regularly send letters to Cabinet Members communicating findings, views and recommendations for improvement and, where appropriate, by producing reports. Inquiry panels will always produce a final report at the end of the inquiry with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers), informed by the evidence gathered. Inquiry panels will reconvene to follow up on the implementation of agreed recommendations and the impact of their work – usually 6-12 months following cabinet decision.
- 1.7 Although much of the work of Scrutiny is carried out by informal Panels and Working Groups these meetings are accessible to the public. Agendas, reports and letters relating to all such scrutiny activities are published, in the same manner as the committee, on the Council's modern.gov online platform:
<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

- 2.1.1 The Committee agreed the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24 on 18 July. This Work Programme is set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.1.2. The following paragraphs break down the Work Programme by specific ways of working to provide a brief overview.
- 2.2 Scrutiny Programme Committee:
- 2.2.1 The Committee work plan for the year ahead is attached as **Appendix 2**. This should be kept under constant review to ensure it represents a robust, manageable, and effective plan.

2.2.2 Committee members should always review and confirm items for the next and future meetings considering who should attend and confirm expectations so that meetings are always well planned and prepared for, e.g., information required and key questions that the Committee wishes to ask.

2.2.3 The main item(s) scheduled for the next Committee meeting are:

13 February:

- **Delivery against Workforce Development Strategy.** Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance, will attend along with relevant officer(s) to report to the Committee and answer questions.

2.2.4 The Committee will have the opportunity to review priorities and introduce issues of concern as and when they arise, e.g., pre-decision scrutiny or call-in which may require extra meetings.

2.2.5 Pre-decision Scrutiny – this is carried out by the Committee unless delegated elsewhere. The Committee is invited to consider the available information on future Cabinet business and any opportunities for pre-decision Scrutiny, taking into account strategic impact, public interest, and financial implications (see Cabinet Forward Plan attached as **Appendix 3**). Any requests will require discussion with relevant Cabinet Member(s) to confirm timescales and window of opportunity for scrutiny involvement. Pre-decision Scrutiny enables Scrutiny to develop understanding about and ask questions on proposed Cabinet reports to provide ‘critical friend’ challenge and influence decision-making.

2.3 Inquiry Panels:

2.3.1 Once membership and a convener have been appointed the first task of an Inquiry Panel will be to have a briefing on the issue and then determine the key question and terms of reference for the inquiry. Once the planning stage is complete, the inquiry will be evidence gathering, with the last stage being to develop the final report.

In Progress / Planned	Completed (follow up stage)
1. Anti-Social Behaviour (Panel has agreed its final report. The Committee endorsed its submission to Cabinet for decision. The report was presented to Cabinet on 21 December. A response to the recommendations is expected within 2 months) 2. Community Assets (membership has been	1. Procurement (Follow up carried out 24 Oct 2023 – monitoring now complete)

agreed; An initial pre-inquiry briefing session with lead Cabinet Member(s) and officer(s) on the topic area is planned for 1 February that will help to inform the focus of any in-depth inquiry.	
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2.4 Performance Panels:

2.4.1 The following Performance Panels, which enable regular and structured monitoring of performance within these key areas, have been agreed and will meet on an ongoing basis until otherwise agreed by the Committee (frequency of meetings in brackets):

Performance Panel	Convener
1. Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance (monthly)	Cllr. Chris Holley
2. Education (monthly)	Cllr. Lyndon Jones
3. Adult Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Susan Jones
4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Paxton Hood-Williams
5. Climate Change & Nature (every two months)	Cllr. Sara Keeton

2.4.2 Performance Panel conveners are scheduled to provide a regular update to the Committee to enable discussion on key activities and impact.

2.5 Working Groups:

2.5.1 The following Working Groups will be convened during the year ahead, (date where known in brackets):

1. Public Rights of Way (22 Nov)	3. Community Growing
2. Customer Contact	

Reserve List:

- Public Consultation
- Healthy City

2.6 Joint / Regional Scrutiny:

2.6.1 **Partneriaeth** – A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, comprising of Education Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, or equivalent, across Swansea Council, Carmarthenshire Council and Pembrokeshire Councils scrutinises the work of the new regional education partnership which will support the delivery of school improvement, and ensure greater public accountability over decisions made. Scrutiny will seek reassurance and consider if the Partnership is operating according to

the Joint Committee Agreement, and its Business Plan, and is being managed effectively. The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and Convener of the Education Scrutiny Performance Panel are participating in the Scrutiny of Partneriaeth. The Partneriaeth Joint Committee, comprises the Leaders of the three Councils, as the strategic decision-making body. The Swansea Scrutiny Team manages support for the Scrutiny of Partneriaeth.

2.6.2 Swansea Bay City Region City Deal – Swansea Scrutiny is also involved in the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee, approved by Council in July 2018. This arrangement involves three councillor representatives from each of the four Councils involved in the City Region, meeting to scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee responsible for delivering the City Deal programme. As per the Joint Committee Agreement, the Scrutiny Committee is serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council. Swansea Scrutiny Councillor representatives are currently: Jan Curtice, Victoria Holland & Chris Holley.

2.6.3 South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee – The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, and will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. The Committee has set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which consists of three elected members from each Council and will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee is being serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council. Swansea Scrutiny Councillor representatives are currently: Peter Black, Wendy Lewis & Mike White.

2.6.4 The Scrutiny Programme Committee will need to ensure that there is no duplication between local and regional scrutiny. A regular update on regional Scrutiny activity will be provided to Committee members to ensure awareness. Regional Scrutiny arrangements will not, however, preclude Councillors within constituent Councils discussing the impact of the regional body on their Council and locality, and holding Cabinet Members to account for their involvement / Council's involvement and engagement in regional bodies, and relevant local decision-making.

3. Monitoring the Work Programme

3.1 The Committee is responsible for monitoring progress against the agreed Work Programme, and this includes work undertaken by the informal Panels and Working Groups and findings, to ensure that this work is effective and has the required visibility.

- 3.2 A timetable of all Scrutiny activities (projected or actual where dates are known) is attached as **Appendix 4a**. Lead Councillors and officers are also noted within. Also provided as **Appendix 4b** is a snapshot of progress with all Panels and Working Groups established by the Committee, as well as Regional Scrutiny, and their current position. These will be updated and provided to every Committee meeting.
- 3.3 The Committee will also be kept abreast of work plans of the individual Performance Panels to improve Committee oversight of topics being examined, check coverage across Cabinet portfolios, and help avoid duplication of effort between the Committee and Panels and between Panels etc.
- 3.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme will be kept under constant review by the Committee, with changes made as necessary. The Committee will always retain the flexibility to adapt and re-prioritise the work of scrutiny in response to changing circumstances and/or urgent issues which may arise in-year, to ensure the continued relevance of the programme.
- 3.5 The Committee should be mindful of the work plans of other Council bodies, such as the Governance & Audit Committee and the Council's Service Transformation Committees. Any issues regarding possible overlap / duplication will be discussed between the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and relevant Chairs.

4. Public Requests for Scrutiny / Councillor Calls for Action

- 4.1 Members of the public are able to make requests for scrutiny by contacting the Chair or Scrutiny Team in writing detailing the issue of concern, its impact, and suggested action. This can be via the Council's website: www.swansea.gov.uk/raiseanissuetoscrutiny or email to scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk. In accordance with agreed protocol the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee will consider any requests received and bring about proposals to deal with these to the Committee for consideration. Taking into account relevant advice, any such issues may merit inclusion in the work programme, referral elsewhere, or no action.
- 4.2 None received.

5. Scrutiny Training & Development Programme

- 5.1 A Scrutiny Training & Development Programme for Swansea Scrutiny Councillors is underway, which is being facilitated by the Improvement Team at the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). The following Sessions have already been held:
- Introduction to Scrutiny – held on 5 October
 - Scrutiny Charing Skills – held on 9 October / 10 October
 - Questioning Skills for Scrutiny – held on 31 October / 1 November

- Scrutiny of Performance – held on 4 December / 6 December

5.2 Upcoming Sessions:

- Self-Assessment of Scrutiny (two parts) – to be held on 17 January / 23 January

All Sessions are being held online via MS Teams, with the exception of the final 'Self-Assessment' part 2 session which will be in-person only. As well as benefitting individual Councillors, the Programme will help to inform Scrutiny Improvement Objectives and actions going forward.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Any costs that arise out of work plan activities, for example expenses for witnesses or transport costs, are not envisaged to be significant and will be contained within the existing Scrutiny Budget.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Programme Committee Work Plan 2023/24

Appendix 3: Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix 4a: Scrutiny Work Programme – Projected Timetable of Activity

Appendix 4b: Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels, Working Groups, Regional Scrutiny

Appendix 1 - AGREED Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

Inquiry Panel (time-limited in-depth scrutiny – six months)	Working Groups (light-touch scrutiny / one-off meetings)	Performance Panels (ongoing in-depth performance / financial monitoring & challenge)	Issues for Scrutiny Programme Committee (overall work programme management; discussion of broad range of policy and service issues)
<p>1. Anti-Social Behaviour (to complete from 2022/23)</p> <p>2. Community Assets (Terms of Reference / Key Question to be agreed by Panel, but could focus on how effective the process of Community Asset Transfer has been and benefits, looking at relevant examples such as Parks & Community Centres, and lessons)</p> <p>Follow Up of Previous Inquiries:</p> <p>1. Procurement</p>	<p>1. Customer Contact (carry over from 2022/23 - enabling focussed discussion & questioning on user experience when contacting the Council / accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / though digital means; response rates; provision for offline and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.)</p> <p>2. Public Rights of Way (enabling focussed questioning & discussion on overview of Public Rights of Way across Swansea (mapping / numbers) and issues; impact on PRoW from developments; effect on communities, etc.)</p> <p>3. Community Growing (enabling 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.)</p>	<p>1. Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance (monthly)</p> <p>2. Education (monthly)</p> <p>3. Adult Services (every six weeks)</p> <p>4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks)</p> <p>5. Climate Change & Nature (every two months)</p> <p>Specific issues to incorporate within wider Panel work plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Panel to refocus work plan, taking into account previous work – to create capacity some items to be picked up by Scrutiny Programme Committee - Delivery against Corporate Plan / Transformation Plan - Performance Management - Pre-decision Scrutiny of Budget Proposals - Economic Regeneration Actions / Delivery - City Deal 'Swansea Specific' Projects - Planning Policy & Service (incl. Call-in Process & dealing with 5G Masts) - Recycling, particularly Commercial Waste - Highways / Infrastructure Maintenance - Listed Buildings • Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery against Corporate Plan / Transformation Plan (as relevant to Education) - Delivery against Education Estyn Inspection actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific annual reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children & Young People's Rights Scheme - Corporate Safeguarding - Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty - Complaints - Welsh Language Standards - Welsh Housing Quality Standard • Leader Q & A Session(s): incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Transformation / Recovery Plan - Councillor / Officer Relations (communications) • Other Cabinet Member Q & As (issues to pick up): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Travel - Oracle Fusion Project Implementation - Delivery against Workforce Development Strategy (incl. use of agency staff / Council structures) - Support for Businesses - Homelessness • Public Services Board • Crime & Disorder (Community Safety): incl. Domestic Abuse; Community Cohesion; Tackling Extremism; Substance Misuse; Electric Scooters

Appendix 1 - AGREED Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

	<p>Reserve List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Consultation (enabling focussed questioning and discussion on the Council's approaches to public consultation and effectiveness; relevant learning and development, etc.) • Healthy City (carry over from 2022/23 - enabling focussed questioning & discussion of 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.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Additional Learning Needs (ALN) - Post-covid Cost implications for Schools - Reading / Literacy - School Attendance - School Meals service: impact of changes • Adult Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery against Corporate Plan / Transformation Plan (as relevant to Adult Services) - Safeguarding - Local Area Coordination - Partnership between Health and Social Care Services • Child & Family Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery against Corporate Plan / Transformation Plan (as relevant to Child & Family Services) - Safeguarding • Climate Change & Nature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery against Corporate Plan / Transformation Plan (as relevant to Climate Change & Nature) – e.g., Progress against Net Zero 2030 Action Plan - Flood Prevention / Drainage Services - Natural Environment / Biodiversity - Impact of Housing Developments on Environment - Public Electric Vehicle Charging Provision - Grounds Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow Up on Previous Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus Services - Road Safety - Co-production
<p>Joint / Regional Scrutiny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partneriaeth (Education / School Improvement – Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group) • City Deal (Development / Regeneration - Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee) • South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Land Use Planning; Regional Transport; Economic Well-being – Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee) 			

Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2023/24

ACTIVITY	18 Jul 2023	19 Sep 2023	17 Oct 2023	14 Nov 2023	19 Dec 2023	16 Jan 2024
Scrutiny Work Programme	Agreement of Scrutiny Work Programme	Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23				
Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q & A Sessions		Active Travel (CM for Environment & Infrastructure)			Support for Business (CM for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism)	Leader / Economy, Finance & Strategy
Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports Page 115			Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB Chair – Cllr Andrea Lewis)	- Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report (CM for Care Services / Director of Social Services) - Children & Young People's Rights Scheme (annual report) (CM for Community – Support)	Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty (annual item) (Leader / CM for Wellbeing)	
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports			Education	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance	Adult Services	Child & Family Services
Pre-decision Scrutiny	FPR7 Redevelopment of 277-278 Oxford Street - Community Hub Project		Oracle Fusion Project Implementation / Project Closure Report (Leader / CM for Service Transformation)			
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.				- Follow Up on Bus Services Working Group (CM for Environment & Infrastructure) - Anti-Social Behaviour Inquiry Final Report		Follow Up on Road Safety Working Group (CM for Environ. & Infrastructure)

ACTIVITY	13 Feb 2024	19 Mar 2024	16 Apr 2024	14 May 2024		
Scrutiny Work Programme				End of Year Review		
Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibility Q & A Sessions	Delivery against Workforce Development Strategy (CM for Corporate Services & Performance)					
Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports		- Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB Chair – Cllr Andrea Lewis) - Annual Complaints Report 2022-23 (CM for Service Transformation / CM for Care Services)	Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership (Joint Chairs of Safer Swansea Partnership)			
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports	Climate Change & Nature	Education	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance			
Pre-decision Scrutiny						
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.				Follow Up on Co-production Working Group (CM for Community - Support)		

To be scheduled:

- Audit / Scrutiny Relationship – Discussion w/ Chair of Governance & Audit Committee
- Welsh Language Standards (annual report) (CMs for Education & Learning / Culture, Human Rights & Equalities)

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Co-production Policy.	To approve the Coproduction policy for Swansea Council.	Rhian Millar	Cabinet Members - Community	Cabinet	18 Jan 2024	Open
Annual Equality Review 2022/23.	To publish the Council's Annual Equality Review for 2022/23 in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty and reporting regulations for Wales.	Richard Rowlands	Cabinet Member - Culture, Human Rights & Equalities	Cabinet	18 Jan 2024	Open
Maximising Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) Provision for Vulnerable Learners in Swansea Follow Up Report.	Following a period of stakeholder engagement the reports seeks to share findings of this activity and propose a solutions to better meet the needs of learners in Swansea who require access to EOTAS provision.	Kate Phillips	Cabinet Member - Education & Learning	Cabinet	18 Jan 2024	Open
Customer Charter and Service Standards Framework.	The Service Transformation Committee has developed this new Customer Charter and revised Service Standards for approval by Cabinet.	Sarah Lackenby	Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader), Mandy Evans	Cabinet	18 Jan 2024	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Future Plans for Special Schools in Swansea.	The report seeks approval to go to statutory notice on a proposal to amalgamate Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn and Ysgol Crug Glas into one Special School on 1 September 2025 on existing sites and relocate the new school on 1 April 2028 to a purpose-built accommodation whilst increasing the number of planned places.	Michelle Thomas	Cabinet Member - Education & Learning	Cabinet	18 Jan 2024	Open
Damp & Mould Policy for Council Properties.	This report provides details regarding a new proposed damp and mould policy for council properties. It is now a Welsh Government requirement that all social housing providers have such a policy. The policy outlines how the Authority prevents the occurrence of damp and mould, how it responds to reported cases and the timeframes for inspecting and treating it.	Peter Williams	Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	18 Jan 2024	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Smart City Infrastructure Agreements.	Cabinet is asked to approve this City Deal initiative to sign neutral host agreements, enabling small cells on lamp posts and other street furniture. This project will target network congestion during busy periods and events, and support better connectivity for residents.	Laura Jenkins	Cabinet Member - Environment & Infrastructure, Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	18 Jan 2024	Open
Possible Sale of all or Part of Strategic Development Area SD H. - Land at Waunarwydd and Fforestfach.	Swansea Council owns LDP Housing land at this location. There is purchaser interest from National house builders. The purchase price will be, "Market Value", at an unspecified future date, (once planning is approved, site investigations are completed, along with final flood mapping, SUDS approval etc.). It is possible that the sale price will exceed delegated limits.	Richard John	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services & Performance (Deputy Leader), Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Feb 2024	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Update on Swansea Council’s Progress Towards Achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030.	The third annual report to Cabinet, providing an update on the most recent emissions data, the delivery plan activity and the challenges facing the council if it is to achieve its ambition of being net zero by 2030.	Rachel Lewis	Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Feb 2024	Open
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 3rd Quarter 2023/24.	To note any significant variations from the agreed budget 2023/24 and savings plan and the actions planned to achieve a balanced budget.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	15 Feb 2024	Open
Green Infrastructure Strategy’s Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife Action Plan.	This Action Plan is designed to deliver the strategic objectives of the Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife Green Infrastructure Strategy in the short, medium and long term. It helps deliver the Council’s well-being objective on Nature Recovery and Climate Change.	Penny Gruffydd	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Feb 2024	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2023/24.	This report sets out the annual review of Swansea Council's charges (social services), providing a transparent framework for the setting of charges and the application of allowances to citizens who receive managed care and support, provided or arranged by the council.	Simon Jones	Cabinet Member - Care Services	Cabinet	15 Feb 2024	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
<p>Quality In Education (Qed) – Emerging Proposals And Investment Priorities For The Sustainable Communities For Learning Strategic Outline Programme.</p>	<p>The purpose of this paper is to consider and endorse the continuing and future proposals and investment priorities for the council's rolling Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, for submission to the Welsh Government. Band B of the Programme, formerly known as the 21st Century Schools Programme, is due to end on 31 March 2024, by which time authorities must submit a nine-year capital programme, including an indicative funding forecast for the 9 years, for consideration towards providing a commitment and support for the first 3 years along with in-principle support for years 4, 5 and 6. Years 7 to 9 are intended to reflect the longer-term project pipeline. The remaining Band B projects will be included in the first three years of the nine-year capital programme.</p>	<p>Louise Herbert-Evans</p>	<p>Cabinet Member - Education & Learning</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>15 Feb 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Contract Award Report – Contracts for Local Bus Services (PT 24-29).	The report details the outcome of tenders for Local Bus Services and seeks approval to award contracts.	Barrie Gilbert	Cabinet Member - Environment & Infrastructure	Cabinet	15 Feb 2024	Open
Approval to Receive Grant – HAPS City Deal Financial Incentive Fund and Green Transition Ecosystems (GTE0 – Transforming Housing and Homes for Future Generations Project.	This report seeks retrospective approval for 3 grant applications relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAPS City Deal HAPS Financial Incentive fund (x2) and • Green Transition Ecosystems (GTE) - Transforming Housing and Homes for Future Generations Project 	Rosie Jackson	Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	15 Feb 2024	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
New Dining Facilities to Support the Universal Free School Meals Programme Together with an All-Weather Pitch and Community Facilities for Townhill Community Primary School.	To seek authorisation to commit to the capital programme £3,257,070 for new dining facilities to support the Universal Free School Meals (uFSM) programme together with an all-weather pitch and community facilities for Townhill Community Primary School, funded by uFSM and Community Focussed Schools funding plus other smaller funding streams.	Louise Herbert-Evans	Cabinet Member - Education & Learning	Cabinet	21 Mar 2024	Open
Quarter 3 2023/24 Performance Monitoring Report.	To report the performance indicator results and summarise the Council's performance meetings its priorities for the third quarter period October 2023 – December 2023.	Richard Rowlands	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	21 Mar 2024	Open
Building Capital Maintenance Programme 2024/25.	This report sets out the way in which the Capital Maintenance resources for 2024/25 will be deployed.	Martin Ridgeway	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	21 Mar 2024	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2023-24

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme 2024/25.	To provide details of Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme and to seek approval to include schemes in the 2024/25 Capital Programme.	Darren Williams	Cabinet Member - Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	21 Mar 2024	Open
Cabinet Response - Scrutiny Inquiry into Anti-Social Behaviour.	Conclusions and recommendations resulting from a scrutiny inquiry into Anti-Social Behaviour.	David Howes	Cabinet Member - Well-being	Cabinet	21 Mar 2024	Open

Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24 – Projected Timetable of Meetings (actual dates shown)

Activity / Month	MAY /JUN 2023	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2024	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Brij Madahar Lead Cabinet Member: cross-cutting Lead CMT: cross-cutting Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	13 June Work Planning Conf.	18		19	17	14	19	16	13	19	16	14
INQUIRY PANELS:												
	Findings				Final report		Cabinet					
Anti-Social Behaviour (Cabinet decision: awaited) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Terry Hennegan Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: cross-cutting Lead CMT: cross-cutting Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	29 June			12	18		21					
									Planning	Evidence gathering		
Community Assets Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Stuart Rice Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Hayley Gwilliam / Elliot King Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Geoff Bacon									1	11 25	22	20
Procurement Follow Up *COMPLETE* (Cabinet decision: 20 Oct 2022) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: David Hopkins Lead CMT: Ben Smith Lead Head of Service: Chris Williams					24							

Activity / Month	MAY /JUN 2023	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2024	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
PERFORMANCE PANELS:												
Service Improvement & Finance (monthly) *ENDED* Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / David Hopkins Lead CMT: Ness Young / Ben Smith Lead Head of Service: Lee Wenham	27 June											
Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / David Hopkins / Robert Francis Davies Lead CMT: Ness Young / Ben Smith / Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phillip Holmes / Lee Wenham				5 26	17	14	12	16	13 Budget	12	9	7
Education (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	15 June	13		14	19	23	14	18	12 (Budget) 22	13	18	9

Appendix 4a

Activity / Month	MAY /JUN 2023	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2024	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Adult Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Sue Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Amy Hawkins / Helen St John	28 June		7	5	31		12	30	12 Budget (Joint Social Services Panel)	20		7
Child & Family Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Paxton Hood-Williams Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Julie Davies	22 May 20 June		2	13	24		5	23	12 Budget (Joint Social Services Panel)	12		1
Development & Regeneration (every 2 months) *ENDED* Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / Robert Francis-Davies Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phillip Holmes		11										
Climate Change & Nature (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Hannah Lawson Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Andrea Lewis Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting		4			3	28		30		19		14

Activity / Month	MAY /JUN 2023	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2024	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
WORKING GROUPS:												
Topic 1 – Public Rights of Way Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Mike White Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Andrew Stevens Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phillip Holmes						22						
Topic 1 – Customer Contact Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Joe Hale Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Andrea Lewis Lead CMT: Ness Young Lead Head of Service: Sarah Lackenby												
Topic 3 – Community Growing Lead Scrutiny Councillor: tbc Lead Scrutiny Officer: Rachel Percival Lead Cabinet Member: Hayley Gwilliam Lead CMT: Mark Wade Lead Head of Service:												

Activity / Month	MAY /JUN 2023	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2024	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
REGIONAL SCRUTINY:												
Partneriaeth Regional Scrutiny Councillor Group (Education / School Improvement) (quarterly) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Lyndon Jones (chair) / Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Partneriaeth: Ian Altman / Gareth Morgans Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Regional Lead: Martin Nicholls (Lead Director for Partneriaeth)	19 June				23				26			
Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Rob James (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Jan Curtice, Victoria Holland, Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Charlotte John, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls / Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes		4			24				13		16	

<p>South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee (quarterly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Russell Sparks (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Peter Black, Wendy Lewis, Mike White Lead Scrutiny Officer: Charlotte John, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls / Mark Wade Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes</p>						2		16		12		
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* denotes extra meeting

** not public

Information correct as of 09/01/24 15:38

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 final report was presented to Cabinet on the 21 December 2023. Cabinet will now consider the recommendations and provide a response, usually within two months.

(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 (MONITORING COMPLETE)

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. At their meeting on 12 December they will look at the Mid Term Budget Statement 2023/24, Review of Revenue Reserves, Recycling and Landfill - Annual Performance Monitoring Report and the Councils response to an Audit Wales Report on the Digital Strategy Review.

On 16 January the Panel will look at the Budget Proposals 2024/25 – 2027/28, Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24, Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report 2023/24 and receive and update on the Tourism Destination Management Plan.

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

This Panel meets every month. The Panel met on the 14 December where they look at the Annual Education Performance against identified priorities, progress with the Estyn recommendations and as part of this had a Cabinet Member Q&A.

On the 18 January the Panel will meet with the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from the Gowerton Comprehensive school cluster, to discuss progress with the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales across their school cluster.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At its last meeting on 12 December the Panel discussed the Performance Monitoring Report for October 2023 and received a briefing on Dementia.

At its next meeting on 30 January 2024 the Panel will receive an update on the Adult Services Transformation and Improvement Programme and an update on Local Area Coordination. The Panel will also receive an update on progress with the Wales Audit Office report 'A Missed Opportunity' Social Enterprises.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. A progress report appears in the agenda under Item 8.

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

This Panel meets every two months. At its next meeting on 30 January the Panel will discuss Public Electric Vehicle Charging Provision.

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 23 October, where they looked at progress with the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales, the Risk Assessment Profile and received an update on the performance of Partneriaeth Priority 2 – Embed principles and processes which underpin educational equity in all schools and educational settings. This included an example of practice happening on the ground from the Headteacher from Birchgrove Comprehensive School.

They will next meet on the 26 February 2024 where they have scheduled to discuss the Partneriaeth financial affairs, risk management and governance arrangements. They will all look at progress with Partneriaeth Priority 3 – Support schools and educational settings to develop of research and enquiry schools as a key part of their own professional learning. This will include looking at an example of a National and Professional Enquiry Project (NPEP).

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

The Joint Scrutiny Committee usually meets every two months. As well as overall programme / project monitoring including the latest financial position, the meeting on 24 October focussed on specific regional Project(s), with updates on 'Skills & Talent' and 'Digital Infrastructure'. The Committee was also informed of the findings and actions of the 2022-23 Internal Audit review into the Swansea Bay City Deal Portfolio.

The next meeting takes place on 13 February 2024 and is expected to include a report on the Carbon Reduction Assessment of the Swansea Bay City Deal Portfolio.

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 2 November focussed on the Audit Wales' findings follow their review of Corporate Joint Committees. The purpose of the review was to gain early assurance about the CJsCs' progress as newly established bodies, and provide some early feedback to help CJsCs as they continue to develop. The Committee was also updated on the Regional Transport Plan Implementation Plan which is to be submitted to Welsh Government.

The next meeting is due to take place on 16 January 2024, expected to include budget monitoring.

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 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 was held on 22 November receiving an overview on Public Rights of Way across Swansea (mapping / numbers) and issues; impact on Public Rights of Way from developments; effect on communities, etc. The Working Group has sent a letter to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure with its view and recommendations for a response due in January. This will be reported to the Committee in due course for awareness.

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

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. This Working Group had been arranged for 26 January 2024, but this date is no longer suitable and a new date is being arranged.

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.

Agenda Item 11



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Scrutiny Letters

Purpose:	To ensure the Committee is aware of the Scrutiny Letters produced following various Scrutiny activities, and to track responses to date.
Content:	The report includes a log of Scrutiny Letters produced this municipal year and provides a copy of correspondence between Scrutiny and Cabinet Members for discussion as required.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the Scrutiny Letters and responses• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The production of Scrutiny Letters has become an established part of the way scrutiny operates in Swansea. Letters from the Chair (or Conveners) allow Scrutiny to communicate directly and quickly with relevant Cabinet Members.
- 1.2 These letters are used to convey views and conclusions about particular issues discussed, and provide the opportunity to raise concerns, ask for further information, and make recommendations. This enables Scrutiny to engage with Cabinet Members on a regular and structured basis.

2. Reporting of Letters

- 2.1 All Scrutiny Letters, whether they are written by the Scrutiny Programme Committee or conveners of Panels / Working Groups, are published to ensure visibility, of the outcomes from meetings, across the Council and public.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agenda also includes a copy of letters to/from Cabinet Members for its attention and discussion as required, e.g., letters relating to the work of the Committee, Working Groups, and Inquiry Panel follow ups. Letters are included when Cabinet Member responses that were awaited are received or where a Scrutiny Letter did not require a response.
- 2.3 Where requested Cabinet Members are expected to respond in writing to Scrutiny Letters within 21 calendar days. The response should indicate what action (if any) they intend to take, or have taken, as a result of the views and recommendations made.
- 2.4 Letters relating to the work of Performance Panels are part of an ongoing dialogue with Cabinet Members and are therefore reported back and monitored by each Panel. However, all Performance Panel Conveners will provide a progress report to the Committee, including summary of correspondence with Cabinet Members and outcomes.

3. Letters Log

- 3.1 This report contains a log of Scrutiny Letters produced to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of letters activity over the current municipal year – see **Appendix 1**. The Letters Log will show the average time taken by Cabinet Members to respond to Scrutiny letters, and the percentage of letters responded to within timescale. For comparison, during the previous year (2022/23) 58 letters were sent to Cabinet Members, of which 20 required a written response. The average time taken to respond was 21 days, with 65% responded to within the 21 days target.
- 3.2 The following letter(s), not already reported back to the Committee, are **attached** for discussion, as necessary:

	Activity	Meeting Date	Correspondence
a	Scrutiny Working Group – Public Rights of Way	22 Nov	Letter to / from Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure

3.3 Public Rights of Way Working Group

- 3.3.1 In order to assist future Committee follow up, which will be planned for around 9-12 months' time, a summary is provided below:
- 3.3.2 The Public Rights of Way Working Group met to look at an overview of Public Rights of Way (PROW) across Swansea (mapping / numbers) and issues, impacts on PROW from developments and the effect on communities. Relevant officers attended alongside the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure, Cllr Andrew Stevens.
- 3.3.3 The Working Group received a comprehensive report and praised the work of the Countryside Access Team, which includes a 10-year Countryside Action Plan due to be adopted in Spring 2024. The team has reduced in size over the last few years leaving 3 Countryside Access Officers and a Team Leader. This has left them vulnerable to unforeseen circumstances for instance, staff illness. A wider team restructure is imminent and the Working Group hope this will provide wider team support. To support the team further, particularly with pathway maintenance, it suggested considering apprenticeships.
- 3.3.4 The Working Group requested the Cabinet Member lobby the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to introduce legislation in Wales to avoid the duplication of diversion orders which currently takes place. These changes have already been made in England. It also recommended integrating the PROW and Active Travel routes as maintaining an overview of both would provide a clearer picture and a collaborative approach. Additionally, the Working Group has requested a breakdown of expenditure.
- 3.3.5 Other areas discussed at the Working Group include partnership working and marketing. Overall it felt that the PROW in Swansea are an asset with huge value for money. Resources are a concern and the Working Group felt, if footfall and usage increases this may demonstrate the need for increased budgets.
- 3.3.6 The Cabinet Member responded to the recommendations and conclusions made by the Working Group. He has agreed to write to WLGA and Welsh Government to request that the legislation in Wales is introduced. He recognised the developing crossover of PROW and Active Travel routes however felt the purposes of both are different. The Cabinet Member suggested a map for Active Travel routes that is compatible with PROW maps and stated that the two teams do work together when there is common interest. The additional breakdown of expenditure was provided along with additional information regarding successful PROW marketing and evidence of partnership working.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Letters Log – 2023-24

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Letters / Responses

Scrutiny Letters Log (2023-2024)

Ave. Response Time (days):

20 (target within 21 days)

% responses within target:

63

No.	Committee / Panel / Working Group	Meeting Date	Main Issue(s)	Cabinet Portfolio	Letter Sent	Response Received
1	Adult Services Performance Panel	02-May	Adult Services Complaints; Policy Commitments; Review of the Year	Care Services	23-May	n/a
2	Committee	16-May	Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Partnership	Joint Chairs of Safer Swansea Partnership	08-Jun	n/a
3	Education Performance Panel	15-Jun	ALN, Estyn inspection outcomes, new curriculum and work plan agreement	Education & Learning	26-Jun	n/a
4	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	27-Jun	Road Repairs	Environment & Infrastructure	10-Jul	n/a
5	Partnersiaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group	19-Jun	Regional Education Scrutiny	Education & Learning	10-Jul	n/a
6	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	20-Jun	Performance Monitoring; Regional Adoption Service	Care Services	12-Jul	n/a
7	Adult Services Performance Panel	28-Jun	Performance Monitoring; CIW Care Home Inspections	Care Services	19-Jul	n/a
8	Committee	18-Jul	Pre-decision Scrutiny - FPR7 Redevelopment of 277-278 Oxford Street - Community Hub Project	Joint Corporate Services & Performance and Culture, Human Rights & Equalities	19-Jul	n/a
9	Education Performance Panel	13-Jul	School Attendance and School Exclusions	Education & Learning	24-Jul	04-Aug

10	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	11-Jul	Swansea Arena and Regeneration Monitoring Report	Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism	26-Jul	n/a
11	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	02-Aug	Annual wellbeing report; Residential Care Services	Care Services	29-Aug	n/a
12	Adult Services Performance Panel	07-Aug	WAO Report 'Together We Can'; Tackling Poverty Grants Impact Report; Direct Payments Case Studies		29-Aug	n/a
13	Education Performance Panel	14-Sep	Looked after children education support and 10 education recommendations as referred by previous CDC	Education & Learning	26-Sep	n/a
14	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	05-Sep	Revenue and HRA Outturns 22-23	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	28-Sep	n/a
15	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	05-Sep	Annual Performance Monitoring Report and Annual Review of Performance 22/23	Corporate Services & Performance	28-Sep	n/a
16	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	05-Sep	Copr Bay	Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism	28-Sep	n/a
17	Adult Services Performance Panel	05-Sep	Performance Monitoring; WAO Report 'A Missed Opportunity'	Care Services	02-Oct	n/a
18	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	13-Sep	Presentation by Young Carers; Adolescent Strategy	Care Services	02-Oct	24-Oct

19	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	26-Sep	Q1 Performance Monitoring Report	Corporate Services & Performance	19-Oct	n/a
20	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	26-Sep	Capital Outturn and Financing 22/23	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	19-Oct	n/a
21	Committee	18-Oct	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Oracle Project Closure Process and Transition to New Operating System	Service Transformation	19-Oct	n/a
22	Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel	03-Oct	Water Quality; Planning Enforcement: Nature and Biodiversity	Corporate Services & Performance	26-Oct	15-Nov
23	Education Performance Panel	19-Oct	Gorseinon Primary School looking at School Development Plan	Education & Learning	31-Oct	n/a
23	Committee	19-Sep	Active Travel	Environment & Infrastructure	26-Oct	n/a
24	Inquiry Panel	24-Oct	Procurement Impact / Follow up on progress	Corporate Services & Performance	31-Oct	n/a
25	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	17-Oct	Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report	Culture, Human Rights & Equalities	31-Oct	20-Nov
26	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	17-Oct	Audit Wales Report - Setting Well-being Objectives	Corporate Services & Performance	31-Oct	n/a
27	Committee	17-Oct	Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board	Chair of Public Services Board	09-Nov	n/a
28	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	24-Oct	Regional Safeguarding Board, Service Quality Unit, Commissioning	Care Services	14-Nov	n/a

29	Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group	23-Oct	Priority 2, risk profile and Curriculum for Wales	Education & Learning	15-Nov	n/a
29	Adult Services Performance Panel	31-Oct	Director's Annual Report; Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	Care Services	27-Nov	19-Dec
30	Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel	14-Nov	Q1 Budget Monitoring Report	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	04-Dec	n/a
31	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	14-Nov	Skyline and Copr Bay	Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism	04-Dec	n/a
32	Committee	14-Nov	Children & Young People's Rights Scheme Progress Report 2021-23	Community (Support)	06-Dec	n/a
33	Committee	14-Nov	Annual Report – Corporate Safeguarding 2022/23	Care Services	06-Dec	n/a
34	Committee	14-Nov	Follow Up - Bus Services Working Group	Environment & Infrastructure	07-Dec	n/a
34	Working Group	22-Nov	Public Rights of Way	Environment & Infrastructure	07-Dec	03-Jan
35	Education Performance Panel	23-Nov	School Improvement, reducing disadvantage and cookery in school	Education & Learning	12-Dec	n/a
36	Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel	28-Nov	Environmental Tourism	Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism	14-Dec	03-Jan
37	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	05-Dec	Performance Monitoring; Improvement Programme; CMET	Care Services	21-Dec	04-Jan
38	Adult Services Performance Panel	12-Dec	Performance Monitoring; Dementia Care	Care Services	02-Jan	

39	Education Performance Panel	14-Dec	Education Performance and Q&A with Cabinet Member	Education & Learning	04-Jan	n/a
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To:
Councillor Andrew Stevens
Cabinet Member for Environment
and Infrastructure

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:

Direct Line: 01792 636292
Llinell
Uniongyrochol:

BY EMAIL

e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:

Date 7 December 2023
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure. The letter concerns the meeting held on 22 November 2023. A response is required by 4 January 2024.

Dear Councillor Stevens,

On the 22 November, a Scrutiny Working Group was held to look at the issue of Public Rights of Way (PROW). We are grateful to you and the Countryside Access Team for attending.

The officer presented a comprehensive report, and we heard a summary of the work carried out by the team and the number of routes they maintain. This included work on the 10-year Countryside Action Plan which is due to be adopted in Spring 2024. This will have a focus on improving coastal access, increasing connectivity, and increasing easy to use paths to 75%. In addition, you praised the benefits from public rights of way which include physical health, mental health, social and a boost to tourism and raised awareness of the Countryside Access Code.

We queried the team's annual budget, as information received in the meeting and the layout of the figures in the report suggested that grants received were being deducted from the team's revenue budget. We have however received reassurance and information from the Section 151 Officer and yourself that this is not the case. You explained that grant funding an important part of the resources available and is in addition to any core budgets held and we are satisfied with this response. We would however like to see a breakdown of budget and grant spending.

Regarding staffing, the officer explained this has been an issue due to cuts over the years leaving a smaller team which is more at risk when affected by unforeseen circumstances like staff illness. We were concerned this could be a contributing factor

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAW

GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAW, SA1 4PE

www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

to a reduction in the maintenance service over time. The officer also stressed the increased cost of contractors also impacts the budget. We held concerns regarding the stress and work pressures that a heavy workload can cause, particularly the physical aspects of the job. We were pleased to hear of the wider section restructure which will hopefully provide more wider team support and an awareness of the occupational health and counselling support opportunities.

We heard that there are discrepancies between English and Welsh legislation and asked for more information on this, officers reported that in Wales diversion orders still require advertising in a local newspaper at a cost however in England the law was changed so that these orders only need to go on their website which is free. Additionally in Wales two separate orders are required whereas in England these orders are incorporated. We were concerned this uses up a large portion of the budget unnecessarily.

We asked how new cycleways will fit into the PROW network and were informed that active travel routes are adopted and maintained by highways and are viewed as a compliment to the network rather than part of it.

We were interested to learn how internal departments work together to promote PROW and heard about the Council and visit Swansea Bay websites, local signage, and information boards. We heard the closing of Tourist Information Centres has impacted promotion however leaflets are shared in local libraries, tourism facilities like campsites, the civic centre and local tourism websites. In addition to this we suggested the Quadrant and railway stations as areas for marketing. We also suggested if statutory letters like council tax bills which are already being sent to the public could be utilised by adding in a flyer advertising where more information on PROW could be found.

We asked about the available funding and heard that around £120,000 comes from Natural Resources Wales and the Gower Society. We were please to hear that collaboration occurs with the AONB and Nature Conversation Teams to explore other sources of funding as well as volunteer groups and that the team partners with Community councils. We encourage partnership working were possible including with local businesses and schools.

We were particularly interested in new developments, and we would want every opportunity taken to make sure that foot paths within those developments connect with other areas and that existing PROW on development sites are protected as well as linking into the wider area and the countryside. We heard that the team are consulted in planning and pre planning applications to ensure the path network is maintained and enhanced and the local development plan in reviewed.

We asked whether the increase in tree felling due to ash die back has added pressure to team and heard that trees over footpaths are the landowner's responsibility however the team do step in when required so this can create additional pressure. Accurate information from the public including photographs and location can aid this process.

Conclusions and Recommendations

From the briefing received and questions asked we held a discussion on progress and made the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. We want to express our praise for the Countryside Access Team who provide an excellent service with limited resources.
2. We request that the Cabinet Member lobby the Welsh Local Government Association to introduce legislation in Wales regarding duplication of diversion orders. This legislation has been introduced in England for several years and there are clear resource and cost savings to be made by making this change.
3. We would like to see more detailed budget expenditure for the years provided in the report which were 2016-2023. For instance, in 2023 we were given figures of £98596 for grants, £250800 for salaries, material, plant etc and £45300 on maintenance. Could this and previous years be expanded to give a breakdown of spend for each of these figures.
4. We understand that the Active Travel network is separate from the PROW map and there are statutory implications, however there may be more opportunities for a joined-up approach as currently Active Travel is maintained by highways and PROW by the Countryside Access Team. Integrating the routes and maintaining an overview of both would provide a clearer picture and a collaborative approach.
5. We encourage partnership working where possible including the National Trust and the Active Travel Teams to maximise the opportunities to share resources.
6. We wish to encourage Councillors with routes in their ward to promote these locally through Community social media, local groups, and publications.
7. We recommend continued development of local marketing and to include the bus station, railway station and other high footfall locations for advertising.
8. Collaborative working between the Countryside Access Team and the tourism department to promote active holidays and incorporate rights of way in tourism promotion.
9. Consider apprenticeship schemes to help with outdoor work and shadowing officers. This will help with current workload and create future trained staff in this area.
10. Resources are clearly a concern with a demonstrated reduction in staff support over the last few years. The financial investment is minor compared to some new developments yet the return on having these rights of way in Swansea is huge. We feel if footfall and usage increases this may demonstrate the need for increased budgets.

Your Response

We are interested in hearing your thoughts about the issues raised in this letter and would ask that you respond to the points in our conclusions by 4 January 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Mike White

Convener, Scrutiny Working Group – Public Rights of Way

✉ cllr.mike.white@swansea.gov.uk

(By Email)

Please ask for: Councillor Andrew Stevens
Direct Line: 01792 63 7428
E-Mail: cllr.andrew.stevens@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: AS/WN
Your Ref:
Date: 3rd January 2024

Dear Cllr. Mike White

RE: Scrutiny Letter to Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure dated 7 Dec (22 Nov - Public Rights of Way)

Thank you for your letter on the 7th of December regarding the Scrutiny Working Group on 22 November – discussion on Public Rights of Way.

We want to express our praise for the Countryside Access Team who provide an excellent service with limited resources.

Thank you, I note and agree with your comment.

2. We request that the Cabinet Member lobby the Welsh Local Government Association to introduce legislation in Wales regarding duplication of diversion orders. This legislation has been introduced in England for several years and there are clear resource and cost savings to be made by making this change.

I note and agree with your comment. I will write to Welsh Local Government Association and Welsh Government to request that the legislation in Wales is introduced that will reduce costs and staff time in making diversion and creation orders.

3. We would like to see more detailed budget expenditure for the years provided in the report which were 2016-2023. For instance, in 2023 we were given figures of £98596 for grants, £250800 for salaries, material, plant etc and £45300 on maintenance. Could this and previous years be expanded to give a breakdown of spend for each of these figures. A table showing the PROW budget between 2016/17 and 2023/24 is attached. The grant expenditure in every year will be the same as the grant income because we can only claim for works that have been completed. Each year the target is to spend as close as possible to the amount of grant that we have been allocated, and this is mostly achieved.

For example, in 20/21 £58,800 was spent on Coastal Access works, £49,700 on Access Improvement works, and £21,400 on AONB access works, totaling £127,900, which is the same as the amount of grant money that was claimed.

PAGE 2

The Council's own maintenance budget has been £45,300 for the last 5 years. Some of this is used to match fund the Coast Path grant for works on the Coast Path (25%), and most of the remainder is used to cut back overgrowth on the paths.

4. We understand that the Active Travel network is separate from the PROW map and there are statutory implications, however there may be more opportunities for a joined-up approach

as currently Active Travel is maintained by highways and PROW by the Countryside Access Team. Integrating the routes and maintaining an overview of both would provide a clearer picture and a collaborative approach.

The purpose of Active Travel is to encourage people to make journeys on foot or by bicycle, rather than by car, resulting in healthier lifestyles and reducing CO² emissions. This means that most of the Active Travel routes that have been built or are to be built are in the urban areas or connect urban areas. Almost all public paths are found in the countryside and, in modern times, are used by people as a means to enjoy the countryside, with benefits for their health and well-being, and for tourism.

Therefore, whilst the purposes of both are different, there is some crossover, and it would be useful for the public to know how both networks connect together. Whilst, the public path network has, officially, been in existence for over 70 years, Active Travel is still in its infancy, and over time the two networks will become increasingly interconnected.

Obviously, there is already a map showing the public paths available on the public Council website, as well as being shown on all Ordnance Survey maps. It would, therefore, be useful if a compatible map was also available to the public showing the Active Travel routes.

In terms of working together, when a route is to be developed for Active Travel, the Countryside Access Team are made aware of this and where there is a common interest, we can work together to provide the best access for the public. A good example is the proposed Active Travel route across Clyne common, which will intersect 3 bridlepaths and a footpath as well as crossing through access land. If constructed the new Active Travel route will connect all of the existing paths together and improve access around the common for everyone.

5. We encourage partnership working where possible including the National Trust and the Active Travel Teams to maximize the opportunities to share resources. As described above, the Countryside Access Team works closely with the active travel team when there is mutual interest. The Countryside Access Team has always worked closely with the National Trust, as the Team and the Trust have a similar remit. The Team also works closely with other organizations such as Natural Resources Wales and the Ramblers.

6. We wish to encourage Councilors with routes in their ward to promote these locally through Community social media, local groups, and publications.
I note the comment.

7. We recommend continued development of local marketing and to include the bus station, railway station and other high footfall locations for advertising.

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- The Tourism Team work closely with GWR, who have been long-standing Visit Swansea Bay Partners and currently hold a Platinum Partner Package with us. This top package includes highest boosted listings, website banners, homepage features, blogs and social media posts amongst other benefits.
- The Tourism Team also post regular updates free bus services on their blogs, social media and industry newsletters.
- There are Visit Swansea Bay branded literature stands positioned at Swansea Railway Stations (amongst other locations in the city centre) directing visitors to www.visitswanseabay.com

In 2015, using Welsh Government funding, a large mural was installed in the coach arrival area of Swansea Bus Station (see below) welcoming visitors and directing them to www.visitswanseabay.com



- The Tourism Team sits on the Southwest Wales Connect Rail Partnership (part of 4TheRegion), which aims to promote sustainable transport across the region. Key members of the forum include Transport for Wales and GWR. The Tourism Team have been asked to contribute to their 'Southwest Wales Without a Car' project, which consist of producing a printed guidebook and a range of digital content by March 2024. The guidebook will feature a wide variety of destinations, things to do, events, days out, places to visit and accommodation options - all of which are accessible without a car, by rail, bus, bicycle and on foot.

8. Collaborative working between the Countryside Access Team and the tourism department to promote active holidays and incorporate rights of way in tourism promotion.

The Countryside Access Team has produced a number of promoted walking routes, including a very popular leaflet on the Coast Path. These promoted routes, together with routes promoted by other organizations such as the National Trust, are supported by the Tourism Team and all the promoted routes produced by the Countryside Access Team can be found on the Visit Swansea Bay website.

The Tourism Team are fully aware of the importance that access to the countryside has on the numbers of visitors to Swansea and Gower. The 2022 Visitor Survey carried out 1,000 face-to-face interviews with visitors at 7 locations across Swansea, Mumbles and Gower.

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- As was the case in previous surveys, the coast/beaches and scenery/landscape were the key motivations for visiting Swansea Bay.
- Other key influences included previous experience, **walking**, visiting family/friends and the countryside.
- The proportion of visitors citing the countryside as a motivation to visit Swansea Bay **has doubled** since 2015 (from 5% to 10%).

9. Consider apprenticeship schemes to help with outdoor work and shadowing officers. This will help with current workload and create future trained staff in this area.

Apprenticeship schemes require the employer to pay the salary of the apprentice with Welsh Government paying for training. Therefore, we would have to find additional funding to recruit an apprentice. In addition, it is unlikely that there are any local training providers that

could supply the necessary training because it is very specialized with only a small number of people dealing with public rights of way across Wales.

10. Resources are clearly a concern with a demonstrated reduction in staff support over the last few years. The financial investment is minor compared to some new developments yet the return on having these rights of way in Swansea is huge. We feel if footfall and usage increases this may demonstrate the need for increased budgets.

I note your comment. Future investment will of course depend on the Council's medium term financial planning, budget settlements and grant awards.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andrew Stevens
Aelod Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd ac Isadeiledd
Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure

Agenda Item 12



Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Date and Time of Upcoming Scrutiny Panel / Working Group / Regional Meetings

a) 18 January at 4.30pm – Education Performance Panel

- Introducing the New Curriculum for Wales – meeting with Gowerton Comprehensive School and its Cluster Primaries

b) 23 January at 4.30pm – Child & Family Services Performance Panel

- Progress with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Corporate Parenting Board Update

c) 30 January at 10.00am – Climate Change & Nature Performance Panel

- Public Electric Vehicle Charging Provision

d) 30 January at 4.00pm – Adult Services Performance Panel

- Update on Adult Services Transformation and Improvement Programme
- Local Area Coordination Update
- Progress with Audit Wales Report 'A Missed Opportunity' Social Enterprises

e) 1 February at 4.30pm – Community Assets Inquiry Panel

- Pre-Inquiry Briefing Session with lead Cabinet Member(s) and Officer(s) on topic area to inform focus of Inquiry

f) 12 February at 2.00pm – Joint Social Services Performance Panel

- Scrutiny of Budget Proposals (Cabinet report 15 Feb)

g) 12 February at 3.00pm – Education Performance Panel

- Scrutiny of Budget Proposals (Cabinet report 15 Feb)

h) 13 February at 10.00am – Service Improvement, Regeneration & Finance Performance Panel

- Q3 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24

- Scrutiny of Budget Proposals (Cabinet report 15 Feb)
- i) 13 February at 2.00pm – Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee** (managed by Neath Port Talbot Council)
- Programme / project monitoring including latest financial position
 - Report on the Carbon Reduction Assessment of the Swansea Bay City Deal Portfolio
- j) 13 February at 4.00pm – Scrutiny Programme Committee**
- Scrutiny of Delivery of Workforce Development Strategy

Scrutiny Meetings are multi-location meetings, held in the Gloucester Room, Guildhall as well as accessed remotely via MS Teams, unless otherwise stated.