



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel - Service Improvement, Regeneration and Finance**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 17 October 2023 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor C A Holley (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

P M Black
L James
M Jones
M W Locke

Councillor(s)

C M J Evans
D H Jenkins
S M Jones
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
M H Jones
J W Jones
T M White

Other Attendee(s)

Cllr Elliott King

Cabinet Member for Culture, Human Rights and Equalities

Jeff Brown

Audit Wales

Bethan Roberts

Audit Wales

Officer(s)

Richard Rowlands
Karen Gibbins
Bethan Lee

Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager
Library Service Manager
Principal Librarian

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M S Tribe

20 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

There were no disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

21 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None.

22 Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

23 Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

24 Audit Wales Report - Setting of Wellbeing Objectives

Jeff Brown attended to present the report from Audit Wales and Richard Rowlands gave feedback on the Council response to the report. The following was noted –

- This report is part of a rolling programme where the Auditor General must assess the extent to which bodies have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle in setting their well-being objectives.
- Audit Wales stated that Swansea Council has applied the sustainable development principle in setting its well-being objectives and embedding its approach to engagement and performance monitoring will further strengthen this.
- Audit Wales provided examples of good practice and areas of improvement from Swansea Council as a summary of the report.
- Whilst the report reflects that the Swansea Councils consultation did not reflect the full diversity of the population, there was reflection that public consultation can be challenging and there is currently no existing benchmarks for public consultation.
- The Council was pleased with the report. It recognises the suggested areas for improvement and has made progress in these. Engagement methods are currently being increased and expanded and performance measures have recently been reviewed however a national outcomes framework would be beneficial.

25 Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Performance Report

Cllr Elliott King introduced the Annual Report with Karen Gibbin and Bethan Lee. The following was noted-

- The Panel were presented with the Welsh Public Library Standards, Welsh Government assessment for Swansea Libraries for 2021-22 and the library service submission for 2022-23.
- Swansea libraries are still recovering from affects of the Covid pandemic and have not yet reached pre covid levels of usage, however usage is increasing.
- Swansea reinstated library fines in April 23 due to a revenue budget income target for overdue book fines.
- Library services highlighted the following, work with the Good Things Foundation, the Education Programme for Patients, an increase in Wi-Fi usage over PC usage, printing services, reservation services, warm spaces initiative, work with schools and an increase in bilingual services and resources in other languages.
- The Central library will be moving to Y Storfa will be aided by a Welsh Government Grant for £300,000 covering new shelving and digital equipment.
- A building conditions audit has been carried out and that work is being considered as part of the wider mapping process around the Community hubs model.

26 Work Plan

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Finance (17.10.2023)
Cont'd

The work plan was noted.

27 Letters

The meeting ended at 11.25 am

Chair