



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

Pwyllgor Rhaglen Chraffu

Lleoliad: Siambr y Cyngor - Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe

Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 11 Chwefror 2019

Amser: 4.30 pm

Cadeirydd: Y Cyngorydd Mary Jones

Aelodaeth:

Cynghorwyr: C Anderson, M Durke, E W Fitzgerald, L S Gibbard, D W Helliwell, T J Hennegan, P K Jones, E T Kirchner, W G Lewis, S Pritchard, G J Tanner a/ac W G Thomas

Aelodau Cyfetholedig Statudol: D Anderson-Thomas, J Meredith a/ac A Roberts

Cynghorwyr sy'n Aelodau Cyfetholedig: P M Black, C A Holley, P R Hood-Williams, J W Jones a/ac M Sykes

Agenda

Rhif y Dudalen.

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.**
- 2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.**
www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeliadauBuddiannau
- 3 Gwahardd pleidleisiau chwip a datgan chwipiau'r pleidiau.**
- 4 Cofnodion.** **1 - 5**
Cymeradwyo a llofnodi, fel cofnod cywir, gofnodion y cyfarfod blaenorol.
- 5 Cwestiynau gan y cyhoedd.**
Rhaid i'r cwestiynau ymwneud â materion ar ran agored agenda'r cyfarfod, ac ymdrinnir â hwy o fewn 10 munud.
- 6 Sesiwn Holi Aelod y Cabinet: Aelod y Cabinet dros Yr Amgylchedd a Rheoli Isadeiledd (y Cyngorydd Mark Thomas).** **6 - 31**
- 7 Adroddiad Ymchwiliad Craffu Terfynol: Yr Amgylchedd Naturiol (Y Cyngorydd Peter Jones, Cynullydd)** **32 - 66**

8	Adroddiadau Cynnydd y Panel Craffu Perfformiad: Gwasanaethau I Oedolion (Y Cynghorydd Peter Black, Cynullydd)	67 - 71
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10	Adroddiadau Craffu - Adroddiad Effaith Chwarterol.	75 - 80
11	Rhaglen Waith Craffu 2017/18. Trafodaeth am: a) Gynllun Gwaith y Pwyllgor. b) Cyfleoedd Craffu Cyn Penderfynu. c) Cynnydd gyda Phaneli a Gweithgorau Craffu	81 - 110
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Cyfarfod nesaf: Dydd Llun, 11 Mawrth 2019 ar 4.30 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Dydd Llun, 4 Chwefror 2019

Cyswllt: Y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd Ffôn (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Council Chamber - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 14 January 2019 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor M H Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
D W Helliwell
E T Kirchner
G J Tanner

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
T J Hennegan
W G Lewis

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
P K Jones
S Pritchard

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

P M Black J W Jones

Officer(s)

Kate Jones	Democratic Services Officer
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M Durke and W G Thomas

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley and P R Hood-Williams

96 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

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

97 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.

98 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 10 December 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

99 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

100 Cabinet Member Question Session: Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy (Councillor Rob Stewart).

The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy presented a report on the key headlines of his portfolio.

Questions & Discussions with the Cabinet Member focussed on the following:-

Swansea Bay City Deal

- Progress of the City Deal and impact of the reviews which have been commissioned – there was an internal review being conducted by Pembrokeshire County Council concerning the issues around the Delta Lakes project, a governance review of the Programme commissioned by Councillor Stewart as Chair of the Joint Committee, and independent reviews by UK and Welsh Governments.
- Timescale for releasing initial funds from the City deal – anticipated to be before the end of the financial year
- Effect and Impact of the Arenas due to be built in Newport and Cardiff on the proposed Swansea Arena
- Ways of attracting people to the City Centre – mixed approach (living, shopping, leisure), not just shopping outlets, to create a destination for people to visit
- Job and Skills Opportunities resulting from development in the City Centre – would continue to source labour and materials locally and also link with education to develop skills needed e.g. Digital Skills
- The Skills and Talent Project was a key element of the City Deal and part of Phase 2
- The need to attract offerings to the City Centre to appeal to all, not least families
- Impact of the increasing number of student properties in the City Centre - the development of accommodation in the City Centre both student and private housing would create a larger population in the City Centre which would help develop greater footfall and need / demand for the offerings in the City Centre
- Global Advertising was part of Swansea Central – Phase 2 and would provide the opportunity to promote new retail and leisure opportunities globally

Brexit

- Possible implications of a no-deal Brexit
- Preparations for Brexit - underway at WLGA and local level, however with so much uncertainty and decisions yet to be made the effects and how far reaching the effects would be were difficult to predict and many of which would be outside the Council's control
- Possible effects on food and medical supplies, businesses which were already facing difficulties, particularly social services providers
- Communication Challenges - effective use of Social Media in keeping people well informed following Brexit, and countering mis-information

- Concerns on areas where there is no National laws or National bodies, where European laws or bodies are utilised
- Cost implications and money spent already in preparation for Brexit – Officer time had been taken up but funds were being sought (via WLGA) from the Welsh Government preparedness fund
- Co-working with Newport and Cardiff on issues of Brexit – exploring Great Western City Alliance
- Meeting organised by the Council for EU Citizens on 23 January giving advice about the EU Settlement Scheme

Public Service Board (PSB) / Wellbeing Objectives

- Governance of PSB and progress of the governance review
- Evidence of value added from PBS – progress on issues such as Domestic Abuse, NEETS, Best Start in Life and Environmental Priorities
- Change in PSB lead – Andrew Davies, ABMU Health Board had been appointed Chair and Councillor Rob Steward appointed Vice-chair
- Possibility of a regional PSB to relieve duplication / pressure on partners currently involved in more than one PSB
- PSB was just beginning the delivery phase. Co-working with all partners was still developing and there was plenty of work still to do. It was hoped as the delivery of the Well-being Plan gets underway outcomes would be seen more quickly with greater partnership working and involvement.
- PSB driver diagrams showed each partners' contribution to the objectives.

Resolved that the Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Cabinet Member, reflecting the discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

101 Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan.

The Chair presented a report on the Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan. She highlighted additional opportunities to report to Cabinet depending on the outcomes from Working Groups and Performance Panels as well as Working Group conveners being encouraged to 'follow up' directly in absence of formal processes but keen that they get advice from the Scrutiny Team first.

102 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report.

In the absence of the Convenor, Councillor Chris Holley, the Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel update was noted.

There was praise for the work and effectiveness of the Panel and excellent chairing.

103 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

The Chair presented a report on the Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

The Chair reported that Councillor Peter Black had asked to be added to the Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel.

Further to the report, an update was provided with the membership of the following Groups, following invitation to non-executive Councillors to express interest:-

- Tourism Scrutiny Working Group
- Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Working Group
- Digital Inclusion Scrutiny Working Group

Councillor Peter Jones and Will Thomas had both expressed an interest in acting as Convenor of the Tourism Scrutiny Working Group.

In the absence of Councillor Will Thomas, the Chair read a statement in support of his interest to act as Convenor. Councillor Peter Jones addressed the Committee in support of his interest to act as Convenor.

Councillor Terry Hennegan and Councillor Sam Pritchard had both expressed an interest in acting as Convenor of the Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Working Group. Councillor Terry Hennegan addressed the Committee in support of his interest to act as Convenor. Councillor Sam Pritchard withdrew his expression of interest as Convenor.

The Digital Inclusion Scrutiny Working Group was an existing Working Group and Councillor Lesley Walton would continue as Convenor.

Resolved that: -

- 1) Councillor Peter Jones be appointed as Convenor of the Tourism Scrutiny Working Group
- 2) Councillor Terry Hennegan be appointed Convenor of the Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Working Group
- 3) The addition of Councillor Peter Black to the Development & Regeneration Performance Panel be noted.
- 4) The membership of the Working Groups on Tourism, Anti-Social Behaviour and Digital Inclusion, as circulated, be noted.

104 Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19.

The Chair presented the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19.

The Cabinet Member Question Session for the next Scrutiny Programme Committee was with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management, and Committee Members were asked to give thought to questions.

It was also noted that the Adult Services Performance Panel scheduled for 15 January 2019 had been cancelled.

105 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair presented a report on 'Scrutiny Letters' for information. The correspondence relating to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Inquiry follow up had been received.

106 Audit Committee Work Plan (For Information).

The Audit Committee Work Plan was provided for information.

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

The dates and times of upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings were provided for information.

The meeting ended at 5.36 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

Cabinet Member Question Session

Purpose:	To enable the Committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore Cabinet Members' priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to areas of responsibility.
Content:	The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee to participate in a question and answer session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters• Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

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:

Cllr Rob Stewart	- Economy & Strategy (Leader)
Cllr Clive Lloyd	- Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)
Cllr Mary Sherwood & Cllr June Burtonshaw	- Better Communities - People
Cllr Mark Child	- Better Communities - Place
	- Care, Health & Ageing Well

Cllr Elliot King	- Children Services - Early Years
Cllr Will Evans	- Children Services - Young People
Cllr David Hopkins	- Delivery
Cllr Jennifer Raynor	- Education Improvement, Learning & Skills
Cllr Mark Thomas	- Environment & Infrastructure Management
Cllr Andrea Lewis	- Homes & Energy
Cllr Robert Francis-Davies	- Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Cabinet Member Question Sessions have become a main feature of Committee meetings. At least one cabinet member is scheduled to appear at each monthly Committee meeting, ensuring all Cabinet Members appear before the Committee over the course of a year, in order to ask questions on their work. Questions will focus on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

2. Cabinet Member Question Session

- 2.1 The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee:
- a) Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management.

This Cabinet Portfolio includes responsibility for:

- Biodiversity
- Coastal Defence, Marina, Foreshore & Beach Maintenance
- Environmental Health
- Estates Maintenance Management (non HRA)
- Fly tipping Task Force
- Highways & Engineering
- Infrastructure Repairs & Maintenance
- Licensing & Trading Standards
- Parking
- Pothole Task Force
- Poverty Reduction
- Public Protection
- Regional Collaboration for Transport, Highways & Waste
- Regional Transport Policy
- Streetscene
- Waste Management & Recycling
- Lead Elements of Sustainable Swansea

3. Approach to Questions

3.1 At each Cabinet Member Question Session the Committee will generally ask Cabinet Members about:

- relevant priorities / objectives, notable activities and achievements, improvement / impact made, and service user / public engagement.
- what they hope to achieve over the coming months and challenges, including any key decisions they plan take to Cabinet over the next year.
- reflections on their engagement with scrutiny and whether there is any issue relevant to their portfolio that they would suggest for scrutiny, not otherwise covered in the work programme – to ensure scrutiny activity is aligned to priorities and focussed on the right things.

3.2 In terms of themes that cut across all cabinet portfolios, the Committee is interested in asking 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.
- Public Services Board (PSB) – their relationship with the work of the PSB; how the PSB impacts on their portfolio and how it is making a difference etc.

3.3 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee. The Cabinet Member has provided a report on 'headlines' in relation to the portfolio to help the Committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact - see **Appendix 1**.

3.4 Amongst questions from the Committee is the intention to ask about:

- Dropped kerbs – accessibility issues around the City Centre.
- Problems around collections from litter and dog bins, especially over the Christmas period, and missed household collections.

With reference to agreed Scrutiny Improvement Objectives the Committee should ensure the Q & A Session also enables it to:

- Follow up, where necessary, on progress with relevant Scrutiny Working Group recommendations to assess impact / outcomes
- Cover any outstanding actions in respect of any other scrutiny activities / recommendations.
- Ask about future key decisions so the Committee can identify any issues which they may want to discuss at an earlier stage than cabinet reporting.

- Encourage Cabinet Members to consider reporting to scrutiny / consulting on significant issues and planned decisions at an early stage to enable views of scrutiny to be taken.
- 3.5 Following each session the chair will write to Cabinet Members in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for them to consider.
- 3.6 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during this item 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.

4. Previous Correspondence

4.1 The correspondence with Cllr. Thomas following last year's Q & A session (February 2018) is attached, as the following issues relating to his portfolio were discussed, and Committee Member may wish to follow up:

- Highways and Transportation
- Waste & Recycling
- Pollution Control
- Car Parks
- Dog Fouling
- Food Safety

4.2 Members may also wish to follow up, as necessary, on the Cabinet Member's engagement with relevant Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups over the past year.

Scrutiny involving the Cabinet Member over the past year:

Cllr. Thomas was written to over the past year about the following issues:

- Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel:
 - Highways & Transportation Commissioning Review (Mar 2018)
 - Recycling & Landfill Annual Performance Report (Sep 2018)
- Working Groups:
 - Car Park Charges (Dec 2017 & May 2018)
 - Tethered Horses (Feb 2018)
 - Roads & Footway Maintenance (Mar 2018)
 - Local Flood Risk Management (Apr & Oct 2018)
 - Air & Noise Pollution (Oct 2018)

At the time of writing the Cabinet Member is scheduled to attend the Working Group focusing on Environmental Enforcement on 5

February, about what is being done in relation to issues such as fly tipping, dog fouling, litter and pavement parking.

5. Future Scrutiny

5.1 The Committee should note that the Cabinet Member will be engaged in the following planned / future activity:

- Environmental Enforcement – response to any issues / recommendation from the Working Group meeting on 5 February.
- Local Flood Risk Management Working Group – meeting on 14 March
- Natural Environment Inquiry Panel – response to inquiry recommendations following presentation of Panel’s report to Cabinet. Recommendations which are agreed will also be subject to a follow up process around 9-12 months after cabinet decision.
- Recycling & Landfill Annual Performance Report (Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel)

6. Other Questions

6.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Session the Committee invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions. It is up to the Committee how to deal with any suggested questions within the Session.

6.2 In response a member of the public has raised concerns about the focus and promotion of Swansea as a student city, the scale of university expansion, and impact on local communities and families from HMOs. These may not be issues that Cllr. Thomas has direct responsibility for and would need to be raised with relevant Cabinet Member(s). Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Delivery, has portfolio responsibility for HMOs, and is due to attend the Committee on 13 May for a Q & A session. Cllr Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism, has portfolio responsibility for Universities Collaboration (Development) and is due to attend the next Committee meeting on 11 March.

7. Next Session

7.1 The next Cabinet Member Question Session on 11 March will be with Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, with focus on the Investment, Regeneration & Tourism cabinet portfolio.

8. Legal Implications

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

9. Financial Implications

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

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Key Headlines: Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management

Appendix 2: Previous Correspondence



Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management, Cllr Mark Thomas

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

Key Headlines: Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management

Purpose: This report outlines notable activities and achievements in terms of ensuring the delivery of key priorities within the Environment and Infrastructure Management portfolio. It describes key activities within the portfolio and how they are implemented in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The report also identifies objectives, key challenges and decisions which are anticipated for Cabinet over the next 12 months. It also sets out how activity is aligned with the Public Services Board.

Report Author: Suzy Richards

Finance Officer: Paul Roach

Legal Officer: Debbie Smith

Equality Officer: Rhian Millar

For Information

1.0 The Portfolio for Environment and Infrastructure Management

1.1 Key responsibilities within the portfolio include;

- Biodiversity
- Coastal Defence, Marina, Foreshore & Beach Maintenance
- Cycleways
- Environmental Health
- Fleet Renewal & Maintenance
- Fly Tipping Task Force
- Green Vehicle Adoption (Support)
- Highways & Engineering

- Infrastructure Repairs & Maintenance
- Lead Elements of Sustainable Swansea
- Parking
- Parks (Maintenance & Operations) and Cleansing
- Pothole Task Force
- Poverty Reduction
- Public Protection
- Public Transport
- Regional Collaboration for Transport, Highways & Waste
- Regional Transport Policy
- Streetscene
- Trading Standards
- Waste Management & Recycling

1.2 The Cabinet member provides strategic direction to departments delivering the services within the portfolio. The role is drive the delivery of corporate and political priorities by working closely with senior directors and heads of service. This involves the monitoring of key performance indicators and ensuring appropriate actions are taken, tracking the delivery of planned savings and supporting the identification of any future transformational opportunities.

1.3 This report highlights the progress made and future areas of focus in relation to key priorities within the portfolio; Environment, Highways and Infrastructure, Transport and Public Protection and Services. The report also highlights other notable areas of achievement and focus for the longer term. In particular, the report highlights how the Well-being of Future Generations Act's sustainable development principle is applied throughout the service in terms of the five ways of working, (Prevention, Long term, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement) and maximising contribution to the seven national well-being goals.

1.4 Services within the portfolio continue to work under severe budgetary pressures yet strive to deliver high quality services increasingly in line with the five ways of working. The Place directorate has been subject to significant budget cuts which are likely to continue in future years.

2.0 Environment

2.1 Biodiversity

2.1.1 In October 2018, Swansea Council adopted a sixth Corporate Well-being Objective: 'Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity'. This corporate recognition of the value of nature demonstrates how environmental considerations are increasingly integrated into the work of all services in line with the sustainable development principle. Section 6 of the Environment Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act's national well-being goals require the Council to protect and improve ecosystems and ensure this is

considered at the earliest project stages. The new Section 6 Plan and proposed actions arising will ensure environmental well-being is considered alongside economic, social and economic well-being.

- 2.1.2 A Green infrastructure initiative has been designed and is being delivered in collaboration with Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend Councils. While funding has been secured from 'Trees for Cities' for major tree planting scheme in Penlan. Funding has been obtained from NRW to appoint a volunteer co-ordinator up to Dec 2019 (initially). A collaborative project has been delivered with BUG Life to implement actions for pollinators.
- 2.1.3 The Cabinet Portfolio worked with Scrutiny (April to Nov 2018) to address 'What should the Council be doing to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity, and in so doing promote the resilience of eco-systems'. This Scrutiny Inquiry utilised the involvement principle in engaging external stakeholders and interested parties.
- 2.1.4 Moving forward, acceptance of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Inquiry will take place. The adoption of a Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan is planned with the establishment of a Section 6 Working Group and funding for a section 6 Biodiversity officer. In addition, the adoption of a corporate tree strategy is planned along with a City Centre Green Infrastructure Strategy and development of a Green Infrastructure Planning tool.

2.2 *Coastal Defences*

- 2.2.1 A Welsh Government Grant has been secured to complete design enhancement to Mumbles Sea Defence Wall, to be completed by Oct 2019. The design process will involve members and public engagement.
- 2.2.2 Key decisions this year will involve both public and council acceptance of the final scheme. The scheme will provide long term sustainable coastal defences in Mumbles by adapting to climate change and will explore opportunities for wider additional and community benefits.

2.3 *Marina, Foreshore and Beach Maintenance*

- 2.3.1 Improvements to sand dune management have been made at Swansea Bay. A consultative study determined options for improvement works at Port Eynon Bay including toilets, car park and wider foreshore areas. Development of an action plan to determine options for Port Eynon.
- 2.3.2 The long term sustainability of the assets is key to ensuring that the use of the beaches and outdoors becomes the cultural norm, encouraging healthy and active lifestyles and prosperity.

- 2.3.3 Options will be explored to determine appropriate means to deal with sand loss movement issues at Knab Rock causing problems for boat launching will be evaluated in the near future.

2.4 Environmental Health

- 2.4.1 A Draft Review of Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was submitted to Welsh Government in April 2018 and the 2018 Air Quality Progress Report has been submitted to Welsh Government. Bathing Water Quality for Swansea Bay was Satisfactory and Pest Control Contracts have been secured for all Swansea Schools this year.

- 2.4.2 Collaborative working will continue to be important as Swansea Council continues to be an active member of the Welsh Air Quality Forum (WAQF) and Welsh Noise Regulators Group.

- 2.4.3 By April 2019, the draft (AQAP) will be updated with public consultation planned including carrying out research studies on air quality, noise and traffic flow.

- 2.4.4 Moving forward the Council will act as a co-investigator in a collaborative study with Swansea University and Vortex Internet of Things on an Innovate UK Grant awarded project looking at developing new low cost sensor technology looking at collecting real-time localised City Centre based Air Quality, traffic and parking data. The dredging of the River Tawe will take place by the barrage in the marina to remove silt build up. Ongoing work will continue on the automation of the Bathing Water Model.

2.5 Parks (Maintenance and Operations) and Cleansing

- 2.5.1 The Parks Operations Teams continue to protect the natural environment, and provide attractive and safe areas for everyone to enjoy the outdoors. Areas including beaches, parks, woodlands, and playgrounds offer opportunities for the young and elderly alike to be more active and gain health and wellbeing benefits.

- 2.5.2 The Parks Operations service area covers Clyne and the Botanical Gardens, all other parks, playgrounds, tree services, verge maintenance, rural flail work, knotweed control, sports pitches, and floral decorations.

2.6 Streetscene

- 2.6.1 Dog fouling is an anti-social and public health concern within communities. Cleansing teams proactively and reactively remove dog fouling from public areas. They also routinely empty the numerous dog fouling bins situated around Swansea that are widely used by responsible dog owners. Council Enforcement/3GS Officers also patrol

and target problematic areas. Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to offenders where appropriate.

2.6.2 The Cleansing Project Team and NEAT Teams continue to carry out effective deep cleans and improvement works while also contributing to social and cultural well-being goals.

2.6.3 Future aims include better targeting resources to build on the Project Team's deep cleaning type work. In line with the involvement and collaboration principles work with volunteering groups is to be expanded.

2.7 *Fly tipping taskforce*

2.7.1 The taskforce provides a more responsive and targeted service to fly tipping with increased enforcement to follow.

2.7.2 The next year will see the introduction of the FlyMapper (data recording) initiative and Fixed Penalty Notices for minor fly tipping. Fly Mapper exemplifies collaborative working as it is a joint project which offers a way of recording via GPS co-ordinates the location of fly tipping across Swansea. It provides the opportunity to take photographs of fly tipping that is recorded onto a database that is controlled by Natural Resource Wales. (NRW). Regular 'grot/hot spots' can then be monitored, with waste being removed by the local authority,

2.8 *Waste Management and Recycling*

2.8.1 Achievements to date include the replacement of the collection fleet and introduction of a successful trainee programme. All 9 candidates qualified and a new tranche is being taken on this year.

2.8.2 The regional Long Term Food Waste Contract (including Bridgend) continues to work well and provide a very cost effective disposal option. The exploration of a Regional Energy from Waste Contract continues with Welsh Government support. A Market Feasibility Study is approaching completion. The progression of this contract in order to take advantage of long term benefits will be a key focus for the future.

2.8.3 The conversion of 3 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) into Recycling only, and the introduction of Black Bag Challenges at the remaining 2 HWRCs continues to be a best practice model duplicated by other Councils.

2.8.4 The two key initiatives ongoing are the 'Keeping Recyclables Out of Black Bags' and 'Reduction in film and other contaminants of plastic in recycling bags presented at the kerbside' initiatives. The first prohibits the recyclables we separately collect at the kerbside, from being placed in black bags as a recycling improvement behaviour change.

The second initiative is to reduce the high level of contamination in pink sacks to make the product more suitable for the UK plastic reprocessing market.

3.0 Highways and Infrastructure

3.1 Infrastructure and Repairs

3.1.1 The service has achieved an APSE nomination for best improver in highways maintenance. Sustainability is key, use of an All Wales asset management tool ensure the whole life efficiency of schemes.

3.1.2 The PotHole Task Force repaired approximately 6000 potholes within 48 hours of receiving a report from members of the public in 2018.

3.1.3 Moving forward plans include the preparation of a 5 year maintenance programme of works for 2020 to 2025.

3.2 LED Street Lighting

3.2.1 Annual energy consumption for Street Lighting has decreased by 41% since the implementation of LEDs and dimming lanterns, between 2011/12 and 2017/18. This equates to an annual reduction of 2,169 tonnes of CO₂. Had the LED Street lighting programme not been implemented, the annual cost for street lighting in 2017/18 would have been £1.201M whereas the actual cost was £715K. 90% of the lighting stock has been replaced with LED lanterns or energy reducing dimming gear.

3.2.2 There are circa 1200 SOX lanterns (Orange lights) in operation according to energy figures. These comprise of approximately 540 columns that are in a poor condition and will require replacement within 12 months. There are also Circa 980 lighting columns that are in poor condition which need replacing within 24 months. There are also lanterns which are located on non-highway adopted land i.e. housing estates, leisure and private land.

3.2.3 Although the L.E.D. replacement programme has reduced the need to maintain the lanterns, the aging cable network, the structural condition of the columns and the need to electrically test apparatus, has to be taken into account when setting budgets for both maintenance and capital replacement.

Another major future challenge for the Authority is the rate at which the price of electricity is increasing. Currently this is by an average of 12% year on year and the ability to absorb these increases in the maintenance budget is untenable.

3.3 *Cycleways*

3.3.1 Swansea Council was successful in securing 20% (£2million) of ring-fenced Welsh Government funding for Active Travel in 2018/19. Bids for 2019/20 have been prepared and were submitted in January 2019. Cabinet approval will be required for any grant funding received.

3.3.2 The statutory duties of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act are intrinsically linked to the work of the Active Travel (Wales) Act. The 'Integrated Network Map' operates on a 15 year timescale to increase the number of those travelling by active travel means for their daily needs for the benefit of generations to come.

4. **Transport**

4.1 *Public Transport*

4.1.1. The Council has developed a quality partnership with First Cymru. Upgraded bus shelters and electronic passenger information have been introduced to key points on main bus corridors. The new Cae Rowlands community car scheme has been developed, based in Cwmbwrla.

4.1.2 In response to a Sustainable Swansea Commissioning Review. An Integrated Transport Unit has been established bringing together passenger transport functions across the Council

4.1.3 In the short term, more improvements to strategic bus corridors are anticipated as a result of Local Transport Funding and Local Transport Network Funding. A review of subsidised bus services in the light of the changes made by commercial bus companies is continuing.

4.1.4 It is also recognised that the Welsh Government White Paper consultation in relation to public transport closes in March 2019. This could result in significant changes to the planning and delivery of local bus services and licencing.

4.2 *Regional Working*

4.2.1 The Cabinet member influences regional transport policy acting as the current Chair of the Regional Transport Forum.

4.2.2 Regional collaboration for transport and highways is key. Regional Heads of Service and Transport Planning Officers continue to meet quarterly and monthly respectively.

4.2.3 The regional collaboration is intrinsically tied to the City Deal and Regional Transport Plan both of which operate on a multi-year programme. This means that objectives are aligned across organisations.

- 4.2.4 Councils are being encouraged by Welsh Government to formalise regional working arrangements with constituted governance. The region is being encouraged to work with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales to develop transport improvements. Governance arrangements will require some level of scrutiny.

4.3 *Road Safety Engineering, Education, Training and Publicity*

The council has successfully contributed to the casualty reduction targets set out by the Welsh Government's Road Safety Framework for Wales. It has tailored interventions through a data led approach, particularly targeting the link between areas of social deprivation and child casualties. This approach has proven successful with continued success annual grant applications to the Welsh Government for Local Road safety grant funding.

The same team also undertakes considerable local community consultation to develop high quality Safe Routes in Communities grant bids to the Welsh Government, meeting the objectives of the Active Travel Act and Well-being of Future Generations Act. Creating sustainable transport routes to key community attractions such as Schools, Libraries and Community Centres, ensuring the most vulnerable sections of our community can access these facilities through sustainable modes of travel, tackling reliance on motorised vehicles for local journeys.

4.4 *Parking*

- 4.4.1 Following the Scrutiny process winter tariffs have been amended in foreshore car parks to support local businesses.
- 4.4.2 Future plans include the introduction of cashless parking to improve the customer experience of car parks. There is a potential requirement to procure a new 'pay on foot' system for city centre multi story car parks. City Centre Regeneration will involve managing future city centre parking provision.

4.5 **Fleet Renewal and Maintenance**

- 4.5.1 The Council has procured a fleet of electric powered vehicles. This means the Council will have more vehicles that are electric on the road than any other local authority in Wales. Departments including waste management, highways, facilities and corporate building and property services, who are very regularly on the road in the course of their work, will use the electric vehicles. Swansea recently awarded the prestigious Public Sector Green Fleet of the Year Award (Medium to Large fleet category) as well as being finalists in the WhatVan! Green Fleet Award category.

4.6 Green Vehicle Adoption (support)

- 4.6.1 The Council has explored the concept of introducing more electric car charging points in collaboration with local authority, university and health board partners in Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire. A Clean Air Roadshow was also organised by Swansea Council, which took place in Castle Square to showcase electric and hydrogen vehicle technology.
- 4.6.2 Recent adoption of a Green Fleet Policy provides the framework to ensure that the acquisition, use and management of the corporate vehicle fleet consistently and continuously seeks to contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan commitments in respect of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

5. Public Protection and Services

5.1 Trading Standards

- 5.1.1 In 2015/16 the authority was asked to respond to a petition from an animal welfare pressure group around horses being tethered on Council land without permission. This matter was referred to Scrutiny and triggered a collaborative effort with a number of animal/ horse welfare charity organisations and the Council. An Equine working group has been set up with partner agencies and charities looking at the issues with horses within the County. This co-ordinated action achieved a 60% reduction in tethered horses, which continues to be maintained and monitored today.
- 5.1.2 There have been a number of successful prosecutions of food retail outlets, who are providing food with incorrect allergen information which cause consumers to have an allergic reaction. There have also been a successful number of cases brought to a satisfactory conclusion in respect of safety matters including unsafe counterfeit cosmetics, tobacco and vehicles.
- 5.1.3 Forward plans include the continuation of an initiative to reduce knife crime. This will include taking court action against retailers alleged to sell to under 18s. Successful convictions will also be sought against call centre targeting vulnerable people in Swansea.
- 5.1.4 Other future priorities include preparing for the implementation and enforcement of the MUP (minimum unit price of alcohol) and the continued education and enforcement of food retailers in respect of accurate allergenic information being provided to consumers.
- 5.1.5 The service undertakes core preventative and compliance work to improve the surrounding environment for residents to lead healthier lives. The work it undertakes adds value to the ongoing improvement work of other agencies such as Natural Resource Wales, HSE, etc.

together with raising awareness/ working with local businesses, stakeholders etc.

5.2 *Public Protection – Food and Safety*

5.2.1 The service has achieved 100% of programmed inspection targets for high risk food premises and increased the number of inspections of lower risk food premises and new food businesses. The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme continues to be implemented. In addition, all reported cases of confirmed and suspected notifications of food related diseases have been investigated along with accident notifications where required. A number of successful prosecutions of food businesses for hygiene offences have taken place.

5.2.2 The service undertakes core preventative and compliance work to improve the surrounding environment for residents to lead healthier lives. The work it undertakes adds value to the ongoing improvement work of other agencies such as Natural Resource Wales, HSE, etc. together with raising awareness and working with local businesses, stakeholders etc.

5.2.3 Moving forward, existing standards will be maintained with an aim of continuing to increase the number of inspections of lower risk food premises. All high risk new businesses are to be inspected within 28 days. A forthcoming innovation is the introduction of a paid business advice service for food hygiene.

5.3 *Registrars*

5.2.1 The Registrar's service makes a valuable contribution to the well-being goals particularly in terms of maximising a more equal Wales as a result of legislation relating to civil partnerships and the recent inclusion of mother's details on marriage records. A Wales of Cohesive Communities is supported by monthly citizenship ceremonies – with excellent feedback being received from participants.

5.2.2 This year saw the introduction of facilities to order and pay for certificates online.

5.2.3 Moving forward, there is an opportunity to introduce online payments for ceremonies. There is potential for the introduction of civil partnerships for opposite sex couples and implementation of NHS Wales Medical Examiner services relating to the reporting and scrutiny of deaths.

6.0 Links to the Public Services Board and Local Well-being Plan

- 6.1 The new Corporate Objective ‘ Maintaining and enhancing Swansea’s natural resources and biodiversity’ builds upon and seeks to help deliver in collaboration with partners the ‘Working with Nature’ challenge set out within the Public Services Board’s Local Well-being Plan. The Nature Conservation Team is contributing to the delivery of this objective.
- 6.2 The overall priorities and work of the Public Health service are ‘To protect and promote the health, well-being, safety and consumer interests of people living in, working in or visiting the City and County of Swansea. This provides a significant contribution to supporting the objectives of the PSB Local Well-being Plan including helping to build stronger communities, supporting people to live well/age well and to feel safe, etc.
- 6.3 The work of parks, cleansing and streetscene alongside other partners and the community contributes to the well-being step which enables people to feel safe and confident in their communities.

7.0 Equality, Legal and Financial Implications

No equalities, legal or financial implications have been identified arising from this report.

**To/
Councillor Mark Thomas
Cabinet Member for Environment
Services**

BY EMAIL

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Scrutiny

01792 637257

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

SPC/2017-18/14

15 March 2018

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member for Environment Services following the meeting of the Committee on 12 February 2018. It is about Highways and Transportation, Waste & Recycling, Pollution Control, Car Parks, Dog Fouling and Food Safety.

Dear Councillor Thomas,

Cabinet Member Question Session – 12 February

Thank you for attending the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 12 February 2018 and answering questions on your work as Cabinet Member for Environment Services.

We appreciate you providing a written paper, giving headlines from your portfolio, in support of your appearance. The Q & A session gave us an opportunity to explore priorities and achievements in relation to your wide-ranging areas of responsibility.

We recognised that your responsibilities are areas of most importance to the general public. You highlighted however that it was becoming ever more challenging to meet expectations, particularly given budget cuts.

You provided a summary of activities and achievements in relation to:

- Highways and Transportation
- Waste, Parks and Cleansing
- Public Protection
- Pollution, Pest and Animal Control

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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We acknowledged that you have had or were having a number of different contacts with scrutiny over the year, including relevant Commissioning Reviews, Recycling & Landfill performance, Car Park Charges, Tethered Horses, Roads & Footway Maintenance, Local Flood Risk Management. Therefore we tried not to cover areas already subject of scrutiny except where there were any outstanding matters to discuss.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Committee, and, where necessary, raise any outstanding issues / actions for your response. The main issues discussed are summarised below:

Highways and Transportation

You talked about significant underfunding - meaning a backlog of highway maintenance estimated at around £130m. Despite this we noted that the condition of roads still ranked well compared with the rest of Wales (4th out of 22 authorities), and there have been awards received for the 48hr pothole initiative, and recognition for Highways Winter Maintenance and Street Lighting Services, which staff deserve a lot of credit for.

You mentioned hopes to secure additional funding this year that will go into road maintenance and subject to this being secured will draw up a scheme of priorities.

Some concern was brought to your attention about the quality of pothole repairs, against the speed at which they are being repaired. The Committee was concerned that repairs are properly made, as there have been an incidence of potholes being repaired then re-emerging soon after.

Waste & Recycling

You highlighted that Waste, Parks and Cleansing had recently merged as one area, with a single Head of Service, which allowed for greater movement of staff to critical areas when necessary, and increase service efficiency.

We noted that there has been a slight reduction in performance due to restrictions on wood recycling imposed by National Resources Wales. However you anticipated an overall recycling rate of around 62% for 2017/18, exceeding current statutory target.

We invite councillors not on the Committee to suggest questions and you were given notice of concerns raised about the following:

- Incidents of Fly tipping and cost to the Authority
- Rules regarding vehicle entry / acceptance of household waste at Civic Amenity Sites, and possible link between refusal of waste and fly tipping

- Information / Awareness Raising efforts to increase use of Civic Amenity Sites
- Policing / Enforcement to check if relevant businesses hold Waste Carrier Licenses

You stated that a fuller response to these issues would be put in writing however you provided a brief summary:

We heard from you that fly tipping is a difficult issue to tackle – difficult to police and identify offenders. You told the Committee that one of the issues was that the Council was not obliged to collect waste on private land. Where waste is causing concern it can also be difficult to identify or contact land owners. The other issue, particular a problem in areas such as Mawr, was that some fly tipping 'sites' are down ravines making access very problematic and hazardous for our officers. However, you talked about examples of joint working with the Fire Authority that takes place to help, where possible, access hard to reach areas.

You explained there are necessary rules at Civic Amenity Sites concerning vehicle types and size, not least to deter businesses from being able to use sites in the same way that the public can. You added that those households with larger vehicles, that otherwise might be refused, can apply online for a free permit to visit a Civic Amenity Site up to 12 times a year – though there were access issues at some sites that will not allow for certain vehicles to enter. The bottom line, you said, was to deter commercial vehicles to use the service without charge, hence the controls in place. You disagreed that any refusal of waste at Civic Amenity Sites was directly related to increased fly tipping.

We talked about the possibility of cameras at known fly tipping sites. You told us that whilst there has been some use of cameras it was not something that can be rolled out due to resources. Even with cameras you added that it can still be difficult to gain the necessary evidence that a court would require for successful prosecution. You acknowledged that fly tipping was annoying to the public but current legislation and rules made it difficult for Councils to stop it.

Pollution Control

We heard from you that, after delayed implementation, the Nowcaster system is now in operation (since October 2017). It is the first automatic continuous model forecasting air quality failures on the Swansea road network, automatically sending various messages out to the public. You acknowledged however that public awareness of this service could be improved.

We asked what actions would be taken if measured air pollution levels were deemed too high. You explained that the aim of the system was to encourage motorists to avoid certain areas if levels were high. You stated that the monitoring information is passed to the Welsh Government and members of the public can also sign up online for automatic alerts. Unfortunately the system was not a cure for pollution, but gave information that you said would help us to manage, and in the long-term design the problem away e.g. relief roads.

In view of environmental concerns (including from the World Health Organisation) we asked whether the Council was still using glyphosphate for weed control. You explained that the Council does use this product in line with EU guidance. You stated that there were lack of effective alternatives (you undertook to explain this in more detail in writing) and cited criticism from the public about weeds and lack of control. We talked about using alternate methods such as pulling or scraping weeds but you stated that this would be resource intensive and not cost effective. You were aware that this was a sensitive issue but assured us that the product (which is licensed for use to treat weeds) is applied in minimum strength, and is only used at kerbs / roadsides, maximum three times a year. You welcomed any contact from councillors who had any concerns about spraying in their area, including quality of service.

Car Parks

The Committee saw your response to the recent Car Park Charges Scrutiny Working Group's recommendations. One of the matters brought to your attention by the Working Group was about urgently finding a solution to the issues being experienced with ticket machines across Swansea. The Committee raised concern about progress given machines at Llangland and Caswell have been out of order for many months, resulting in lost income, and emphasised the need to put pressure on the contractors who provide the machines to resolve the problems identified. We were interested in whether there has been any breach of contact. You were clearly unhappy about the situation and assured the committee that you would be exploring the problem, and would update us on this.

Dog Fouling

We asked about the frequency in which dog mess bins are emptied – an issue that always seems to be of public concern. You stated that a review had been undertaken in recent years to identify areas of higher and lower usage, and would confirm current practice in writing. You urged Councillors to report bins that have not been emptied to the department. You told us that you were committed to getting environment services right, knowing much they mean to the general public, whether about dog mess or other waste collections, or street lighting.

Food Safety

We discussed your responsibilities in relation to food and safety and food hygiene standards. We noted performance measures for this service and did not understand the references within your report for a desire for food establishments to be 'broadly compliant' with standards. You accepted that this was not the best language to describe aims, but assured us that it was about 'meeting' standards.

Your Response

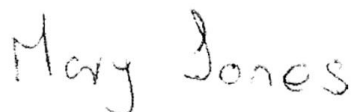
In your response we would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised in this letter. We would be grateful, however, if you could specifically refer to our request for you to:

- provide a fuller response to the questions put to you regarding fly tipping;
- explain the lack of alternatives to the use of glyphosphate for weed control;
- update us on resolving the problems with car park ticket machines; and
- tell us about current practice in relation to dealing with dog fouling

Please provide your response by 5 April. We will then include both letters in the agenda of the next available Committee meeting.

We will arrange to follow up on portfolio developments and invite you to a future committee meeting in due course.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR MARY JONES

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.mary.jones@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Thomas
Direct Line: 01792 63 6926
E-Mail: cllr.mark.thomas@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: MT/JW
Your Ref:
Date: 12 April 2018

Dear Councillor Jones

CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION – 12 FEBRUARY 2018

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March 2018 providing a summary of the main issues discussed at the above session together with the specific items you have requested details on:

With regard to the committees comment on pot hole repairs, it is a continuing problem for the service and an best practice recommendation that pot holes are fixed permanently on the first visit. In an ideal world every pot hole would be cut out and carefully compacted over a number of layers using quarry supplied hot asphalt in dry conditions, the surrounding road would be of good quality and able to support the repair, even if this was the case then some repairs would fail, due to a number of factors for instance spring water or a water leak coming up through the road.

In reality this is not the situation, repairs are carried out in poor weather on roads where the structure of the surrounding road is itself breaking up. Pot hole repair products are used as hot bitumen will cool and quarries close and the service needs a 24 hour response. Repairs sometimes cannot be carried out immediately due to safety and the volume of traffic and it may be necessary to revisit several time to hold the road together whilst waiting for a larger scheme (busy roundabouts being a perfect example).

Even with all the above considerations we hope to achieve at least 80% permanent first time. Managers/supervisors check a large sample of the work undertaken and where temporary repairs are undertaken without good cause this is raised with the team.

- **Provide a fuller response to the questions put to you regarding fly tipping:**

1. The number of recorded fly tipping incidents are reducing, falling from over 8,000 in 15/16 to just over 5,500 in 17/18. We have introduced a dedicated fly tipping team which regularly checks hot spots, to supplement our area based cleansing teams which deal with smaller fly tipping incidents. Our Enforcement and Cleansing Teams also work closely together to seek to resolve fly tipping issues and target breaches of the Council's 3 bag limit for domestic waste collections. I cannot separate out the cost of fly tipping from the overall cleansing costs with any accuracy as the services are combined.
2. The Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres are provided for residents to recycle or dispose of their own household waste. Information is provided on the Council's website regarding the location of the sites, the use of the sites and the materials accepted at the sites (see <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/recyclingsites>). Commercial waste is not accepted at Household Waste Recycling Centres. If it was, Swansea residents would foot the bill for these companies' financial benefit. To try and eliminate commercial waste being taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres the Council operates a permit system at Llansamlet and Clyne Household Waste Recycling Centres. (Vans and trailers are not permitted at Penlan, Garngoch, and Tir John as the sites are too small). The system only allows certain vehicles (e.g. sign-written vehicles, pick-ups, trailers, and vans) to access the sites with a permit. Permits are free for residents disposing their own household waste and can be used up to twelve times a year. Commercial waste is accepted at the Baling Plant, though is charged on a cost recovery basis. In accordance with the site license, checks are put in place to ensure that any commercial waste being transported to site is done so in accordance with relevant regulations. The Household Waste Recycling Centres accept a wide range of materials to allow domestic residents to recycle or dispose of their waste in a free, safe and convenient manner, therefore eliminating the need for fly-tipping. Commercial waste is readily accepted at the Baling Plant.
3. The Council's recycling team and communications team periodically run campaigns raising awareness of the Household Waste Recycling Centres. In recent years the Council has run promotions including: "Keep it to 3" which aimed to reduce the amount of recyclable items being disposed in kerbside black bags; "Keep it out" which aimed to reduce the amount of food waste and textiles being disposed as residual waste; "Household Waste Recycling Centre improvements", which aimed to reduce the amount of recyclable material being disposed in Household Waste Recycling Centre black bag skips. All these campaigns promoted the availability and convenience of the Household Waste Recycling Centres. As new recycling technologies or treatments become available the Council puts out press releases and adverts with information on the latest items which can be recycled. In 2018, the Council has promoted the availability of recycling at Household Waste Recycling Centres : single use drink cups (see

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/39250/Recycle-your-disposable-drinks-cups-in-Swansea>) and nappies (see: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/you-can-now-recycle-babies-14310537>), and food waste.

4. Without the power to stop vehicles, the Enforcement Team rely on joint working with the Police at key and frequent fly tipping hot spots to check vehicles for waste carrier licences. The latest initiative run last year was on Bog Road in St. Thomas.

- **Explain the lack of alternatives to the use of glyphosphate for weed control:**

We are only permitted to use weed spray approved for use in our environment. When we tender for the works contract we ask the contractor to provide details of the chemicals to be used and to confirm they meet industry standards. All of those tendering for the work recommended this product. We have examine the possibility of using other treatments such as hot water/steam but on a large area scale this is not feasible/cost effective. We attend the industry environmental forum on weed spraying and no other chemicals have been put forward as a viable alternative at this time

- **Update us on resolving the problems with car park ticket machines:**

Car parking ticket machines can break down from time to time, especially when located in an exposed and aggressive marine environment, we have a dedicated group of car park cashiers that will undertake first line maintenance to get the machinery back up and running, with more complex faults necessitating the manufacturer to visit to undertake repairs. It is acknowledged that there has been an unacceptable level of reliability with regard to the communications within some of the machines, which has led to an inability to accept card payments, this has proven even more difficult in some of our coastal car parks where communication signal reception is poor. This issue is not limited to Swansea but is an industry issue.

However, officers have been working with neighbouring authorities, through the British Parking Association, to develop a joint procurement opportunity, which will provide a number of benefits including greater purchasing power, better technical support from the chosen manufacturer (as they will have a greater concentration of clients within South and West Wales regions), greater emphasis for any contractor to perform, as failure will affect future contracts from the regions.

In the interim, the council has achieved recent success with resolving non-performance with a different contractor and intends to repeat this process with the current provider of car park ticket machines. As part of this process it is important to be able to demonstrate, to any future court, that Swansea Council has given the contractor every opportunity to rectify any problems and to document this process. It is a lengthy, time consuming and frustrating process, but necessary if the council is to be successful in any possible litigation. Progress hasn't been as quick as we would like, due to a changes in key personnel within the car parking section, and when dealing with contractual matters consistency of approach is key. However, I am confident that good progress is being made and that Swansea Council and it's neighbouring authorities will be able to provide good quality, reliable parking equipment with effective technical support in the near future. It is most unfortunate that the parking industry is currently plagued by such problems, however, it is expected that such combined procurement and bargaining power, brought about by regional collaboration, will bring about an improvement in service.

- **Tell us about current practice in relation to dealing with dog fouling**

Cleansing clear up dog mess as part of their cleansing rotas and on a complaints basis, although enforcing against dog fouling is extremely difficult as dog owners often only don't clear up after their dogs when no-one else is around.

Where significant hot spots are identified, they are monitored both early morning and early evening for up to ten days to seek to identify anyone not clearing up.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR MARK THOMAS
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Convener of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

Final Scrutiny Inquiry Report: Natural Environment

Purpose:	To present the final report of the scrutiny inquiry into the natural environment.
Content:	The final report is attached which concludes the inquiry.
Councillors are being asked to:	Agree the report for submission to Cabinet.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Jones, Convener of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Panel.
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Bethan Hopkins Tel: 01792 637732 E-mail: bethan.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

1.1 The final report arising from the Scrutiny Panel's inquiry into the natural environment is presented to the Committee for agreement so that it can be submitted to Cabinet for decision. The attached report presents the conclusions and recommendations arising from the inquiry that sought to answer the following question:

'What should Swansea Council do to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity, and, in so doing, promote the resilience of eco-systems?'

1.2 The report is structured in the following way:

- Foreword: Why this Matters?
- Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations
- Why We Produced This Report
- Evidence
- General Comments

- Conclusions and Recommendations
- Recommendations - Short/Medium/Long Term
- Acknowledgements
- Further Scrutiny Needed
- About the Inquiry Panel

1.3 The Scrutiny Programme Committee are asked to agree the report for submission to Cabinet. In considering the report the Committee should satisfy themselves that:

- Sufficient evidence has been gathered in order to address the question that the inquiry aimed to answer
- The conclusions of the Panel are supported by the evidence gathered by the Panel
- The recommendations of the Panel follow from their conclusions and are reasonable, achievable and capable of being actioned and monitored

If the Committee have any issues with regard to the content of the report, these will need to be referred back to the Panel for further consideration prior to the report being re-presented to the Committee.

1.4 In considering the report, the Committee may wish to emphasise aspects of the Inquiry to Cabinet. Points of this type can be included on the covering report that goes to Cabinet and will be attributed to the Committee.

1.5 The Committee should also consider the issues arising from the Inquiry (section 7 of the inquiry report) which the Panel feel merit inclusion in future scrutiny work programmes.

2. Legal implications

2.1 There are no specific legal implications at this stage.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications to this report. Any potential implications will be outlined in the Cabinet response.

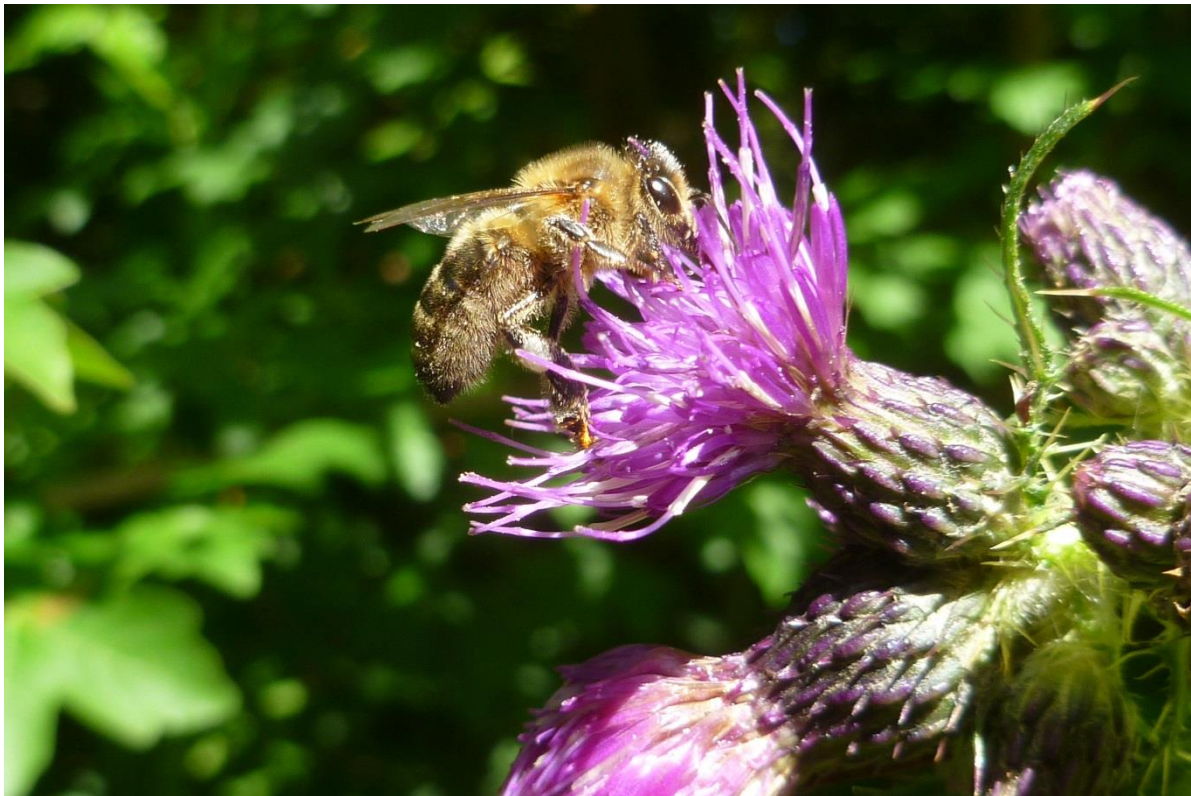
4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 Equality and engagement issues were formally considered at the scoping stage of this inquiry and borne in mind by the Panel throughout evidence gathering. The Cabinet Member will need to ensure that implications are considered via application of the corporate Equality Impact Assessment process when considering the response to the recommendations.

Background papers: None

Appendices: Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Final Report

What should Swansea Council do to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity, and, in so doing, promote the resilience of eco-systems?



Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Panel
City and County of Swansea - Dinas a Sir Abertawe



January 2019

Why This Matters by Councillor Peter Jones (Convener)



‘There should be environment in every policy and every policy in environment’ (WLGA Neville Rookes)

When I was elected – to my surprise – in May 2017, I came onto the Council with one overriding ambition: to facilitate and encourage delivery of the biodiversity and eco-system duties and responsibilities for public bodies as set out in the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Before retiring in August 2016, I had previously worked for more than fourteen years as Sustainable Development Officer for RSPB Cymru, latterly involved from 2013 to 2015 with helping to draft what became the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, notably the well-being goal for A Resilient Wales. I also contributed to the thinking behind the Environment (Wales) Act.

I was pleased when the Scrutiny Programme Committee agreed to my suggestion for an Inquiry into ‘what should the Council be doing to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity and, in so doing, promote the resilience of eco-systems’. I realised from the outset that this would be an extensive undertaking, touching on all areas of the Council’s work – the aim was nothing less than to give to the natural environment and biodiversity the same level of importance and priority already accorded to the economy, welfare, housing, education and so on – a cultural revolution, no less.

Early on, the Inquiry Panel identified as a key priority that biodiversity and the environment should be written into the Council’s Corporate Plan as a sixth well-being objective, and this would have been the Panel’s principal recommendation. However, and much to our delight, this key recommendation was pre-empted by the Council in October 2018 adopting just such an objective, ie ‘Maintaining and enhancing Swansea’s Natural Resources and Biodiversity’; I believe that the work of the Inquiry contributed to its adoption. This, of course, built upon the ‘Working with Nature’ challenge set out in the Public Services Board Local Well-being Plan.

We understand that we are now one of the leading public authorities in Wales in thinking through and exploring how best to deliver on the Welsh Government environmental and sustainability legislation, evidenced by the then Environment Minister choosing Swansea Council as her first port of call in November 2018 to learn about what we are doing. Our task now, of course, is to meet with her expectations and to deliver on and embed the requirements of the legislation, and that is what this report, with its conclusions and recommendations, seeks to do. However, the Panel is clear that delivery will be difficult without financial support to meet, in particular, additional staffing requirements.

We live in dangerous and difficult times; to quote from David Attenborough’s recent statement to the December UN climate change conference in Poland ‘If we don’t take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon’. This is as much true for Swansea as for the rest of the planet, so we must act and do what we can – this report is a contribution. To recall the slogan from many years ago of Friends of the Earth – ‘Think global, act local’. Biodiversity

loss, habitat degradation and climate change impacts are the most serious challenges facing our species, and we must rise above our preoccupations with short-term considerations to address the potentially catastrophic future facing the planet and our children and grandchildren, who will have to live with the consequences of any failure on our part to do now what we know needs to be done.

Biodiversity and the natural environment are of innate importance – we alone as a species have the capacity to drive other species to extinction – but it is also the case that we depend upon the natural world for everything. Agriculture and food production are of fundamental importance, but so too are air and water quality and local flood risk management – the planting of trees and other vegetation plays a key role in this regard; moreover, the sowing of native wild flowers supports bees and other flying insects, so necessary to plant pollination and reproduction. Green infrastructure is rightly recognised by the Council as a necessary part of city centre redevelopment.

This report concentrates on biodiversity loss and how we, as a Council, can and must set about halting and reversing this process, not least to meet the 2020 target set by the Welsh Government which aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and take steps toward recovery. Early on, we decided with regret that we could not adequately address the issue of climate change within the scope of this inquiry, albeit that this process impacts as much upon wildlife as it does upon our species. However, we should not lose sight of this overriding challenge – I commend the work on renewable sources of zero-carbon energy for Swansea being undertaken by the Council but, of course, as we all know, much more needs to be done.

I would like in conclusion to say that the cross party Panel has worked extremely well, and I would like to pay tribute to the ideas and contributions of all members. I would also, of course, pay tribute to and thank both the Council Officers who met with the Panel and responded to its, often, difficult questioning, and to the many representatives of outside ‘green’ and voluntary bodies who attended our meetings and gave evidence. I would especially wish to thank Deb Hill, Team Leader of the Council’s Nature Conservation Team, who was unstinting in her help and advice to the Panel; and to Bethan Hopkins, the Scrutiny Officer responsible for supporting the Inquiry, and for all her enthusiastic hard work, good advice, initiatives and ideas.

There’s much work to be done – let’s get on and do it!

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

Below is a summary of conclusions and recommendations which the Panel reached. Detail can be found in the body of the report.

What should Swansea Council do to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity, and, in so doing, promote the resilience of eco-systems?

Conclusions

1. Create an environmental corporate priority to embed biodiversity in business and strategic planning to meet requirements.
2. Raise the profile of the Natural Environment and Biodiversity internally and externally.
3. Maintain and increase the specialist and high quality work which is currently delivered.
4. Recognise the benefits of 'nature based' prevention projects, such as to limit air pollution and for flood risk management etc.
5. The need for and costs of providing additional resources to maintain the natural environment should be recognised and shared throughout services
6. The authority should work co-productively with external partners on a strategic scale.
7. Recognise, encourage, maintain and expand commitment from voluntary groups, Community Councils and the public in maintaining and enhancing the Council's green spaces.
8. There should be more cross departmental working, with the shared aim of maintaining and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity, together with their eco-system benefits.
9. There needs to be a commitment to natural environment education in schools.

Recommendations

1. Development and implementation of a Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan.
2. Ensure the Action Plan links with other relevant cross organisational policies at a strategic level, for example, the Local Well-being Plan and Area Statements.
3. Develop a clear and enthusiastic vision and message for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity to ensure a consistent 'buy-in' from each service.
4. Embed the new corporate priority by developing and delivering relevant training.
5. Make information available to the public to encourage participation and understanding, including continuing to develop the Natural Environment web pages.
6. Complete and publicise the ward mapping exercise. This would provide each ward and the Councillor Representatives with information specific to that ward. It would include information about important species, protected sites and other relevant ecological information as well as potential opportunities for improving biodiversity within the ward.
7. Recognise, encourage, maintain and expand commitment from voluntary groups, Community Councils and the public in maintaining and enhancing the Council's green spaces.
8. Insert a relevant biodiversity clause into service level agreements, licences etc which relates to land use and land management and ensure that the importance of these clauses is made clear to the land managers and the implications of not meeting them are highlighted.
9. Assess the verges in Swansea that can stop being mowed and sprayed. Give these over to nature and allow for self-seeding, which will encourage native plants and pollinator species.
10. Where appropriate, plant native wildflowers and trees. Non-native species do not benefit pollinators to the same extent as native species.
11. Encourage green projects for well-being such as gardening projects, outdoor green-space activities and volunteering opportunities for adults and children across all relevant services.
12. Employ a Section 6 Officer to co-ordinate, support and promote the consideration and delivery of a range of environmental projects across Swansea and also ensure the Council are meeting the requirements of the Environment Act (Section 6).
13. Employ an additional Planning Ecologist/Ecological Enforcement Officer to work with Council services with a specific duty to help ensure the environmental conditions and section 106 obligations on planning consents are met, whilst also

contributing to maintaining biodiversity, and meeting the requirements of the new Sustainable Drainage System legislation.

14. Share natural environment and biodiversity costs across services.
15. Renew the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) service level agreement for 2019/20 (with a plan in place to achieve this in subsequent years)
16. Continue to nurture good working relationships with external agencies and encourage other services to do the same.
17. Invite environmental voluntary group and Community Council representatives to regular liaison meetings e.g. Friends of parks and wildlife sites. This would allow them some support and access to some specialist advice from relevant officers.
18. Create environmental link Governors on school governing bodies who can take relevant information and projects to their school.
19. Encourage better use of school grounds and local wildlife sites for biodiversity.
20. Employ a dedicated outdoor learning officer who can provide the tailored support, training and delivery that will enable Swansea schools to fully realise the potential of outdoor learning, to deliver educational and wellbeing benefits, from the varied natural resources which Swansea possesses.

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1. **WHY WE PRODUCED THIS REPORT**

Overview

- 1.1 In examining this topic and producing this report we acknowledge the current work that is being undertaken by Swansea Council to maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity whilst, of course, seeking to identify potential areas for improvement. There are two major pieces of recent legislation: the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. These impose duties and responsibilities on all public bodies to protect and enhance the resilience of ecosystems, and to consider this in all Council activities and projects from their earliest planning and design stages.

Selecting the topic

- 1.2 The topic was chosen for scrutiny because the recent legislation requires adoption and delivery of the biodiversity and eco-system duties by all Welsh public authorities, and there is an appetite in Swansea to ensure that its substantial natural resources are protected and enriched for both the current and future populations of the city.

It is also important to recognise that Swansea is going through a period of substantial change. Major development and regeneration projects in the City Centre, in particular, will see the biggest infrastructure shift in 70 years. This gives us a once in a lifetime opportunity to place green infrastructure at the heart of the development and make radical changes for the benefit of the environment and the people of Swansea.

Intended contribution

- 1.3 As a Panel we believe that we can make a valuable contribution to the sustainable management of the natural environment in Swansea. We recognise, however, that the challenges are deep seated and often complex. We also believe that, while no one has all of the answers, success will only come from a conversation that everyone is able to contribute to. It is in this spirit that our conclusions and recommendations are offered.

Specifically this report aims to contribute to this vital debate by:

- Drawing together some general principles for the maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment.
- Offering proposals for improvement in the short, medium and long term.
- Providing a Councillor perspective on how well services are working.
- Pointing to good practice examples.
- Sharing the views of different people involved in thinking about and working for the natural environment.

We are also happy to recognise the limitations of the Inquiry. Given the complexity of the topic and the time that we had, this report necessarily provides a broad view. We simply did not have the time to go into issues in more depth. Moreover, we have not addressed the challenge of climate change which, of

course, is already impacting significantly on wildlife, and Councils will need to do so with increasing intensity as we go forward.

Finally, many of our conclusions are in line with the Council’s current direction of travel and these are noted in order to provide reassurance. Others may be either additional or contrary to what has already been agreed. These are intended to offer challenge and to stimulate debate. Where we have made recommendations these are intended to help improve the work of the Council.

Equalities and Engagement

1.4 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of its 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.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

When planning this Inquiry, we considered which groups might be particularly affected and how we might engage with them. As a result, we published a blog and survey asking for feedback and ensured that this was available in alternative formats; this was sent to forums that represent people with protected characteristics.

Use of key words and phrases

1.5 For clarity and benefit of the lay person the report uses a number of terms, which are explained as follows:

Aderyn	The Biodiversity Information and Reporting Database of Local Environmental Records Centres Wales
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is defined as: "the variability amongst living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems."
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. An ecosystem includes all of the living things (plants, animals and micro-organisms) in a given area, interacting with each other, and also with their non-living environments (weather, earth, sun, soil, climate, and atmosphere).

Ecosystem Services	Ecosystem services are the many and varied benefits that humans freely gain from the natural environment and from properly-functioning ecosystems. Ecosystem services are grouped into four broad categories: provisioning, such as the production of food and water; regulating, such as the control of climate and disease; supporting, such as nutrient cycles and oxygen production; and cultural, such as spiritual and recreational benefits.
Ecosystem resilience	A resilient ecosystem is one that is healthy and functions in a way that is able to address pressures and demands placed on it, and is able to deliver benefits over the long term to meet current and future social, economic and environmental needs.
Ecological Connectivity	Physical links that allow organisms to move between habitats, populations or assemblages that are isolated in space.
INNS	Invasive Non Native Species
Natural Environment	The natural environment encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally. It includes all plants, animals, micro-organisms, soil, rocks, air, water, and atmosphere.
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
Pollinator Species	A pollinator is an animal that causes plants to make fruit or seeds. They do this by moving pollen from one part of the flower of a plant to another part. This pollen then fertilizes the plant. Only fertilized plants can make fruit and/or seeds, and without them, the plants cannot reproduce
Ramsar	A Ramsar Site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO)
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation. These are strictly protected sites designated under the European Union Habitats Directive
SEWBRcC	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
SDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPA	A Special Protection Area (SPA) is a designation under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association

2. EVIDENCE

Evidence Collected

- 2.1 Evidence was collected between March 2018 and November 2018 in order to gather a range of perspectives on this topic. This included:
- a. Overview – Corporate Performance Manager
 - b. Service Policy Briefing – Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager and Nature Conservation Team Leader
 - c. Trallwn and Brynhyfryd Primary School visits to observe RSPB education sessions
 - d. Roundtable Session – External Organisations (NRW, RSPB, SEWBReC, Plant Life, WWT, Swansea Biodiversity Partnership/Swansea Environment Centre, Forest School Swansea Neath Port Talbot)
 - e. Roundtable Session – ‘Friends of’ Volunteer Groups – Swansea Botanical Complex, Swansea Vale, Rosehill Quarry, Pentyla Playing Fields (Ganges), Kilvey Hill and Woodland, Morryston Park
 - f. Meeting with Development Conservation and Design Manager
 - g. Service Overviews – Corporate Building Services and Corporate Property Services
 - h. Legislation Session – NRW, Future Generations Office, WLGA
 - i. Findings Session – Input from Nature Conservation Team Leader
 - j. Cabinet Member Input
 - k. Head of Service Input

For full details of how the evidence was gathered, including details of the findings from each session, please see the findings report. This can be downloaded at <http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=610&MId=8272&Ver=4&LLL=-1> .

3. GENERAL COMMENTS

- 3.1 The key question for the Inquiry was: ‘What should Swansea Council do to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity, and, in so doing, promote the resilience of eco-systems?’
- 3.2 The environment is high in the public’s awareness at present locally and globally. From the reduction of single use plastics to the melting of Polar ice, people everywhere are becoming more and more aware of the impact we are having on the natural world and how these impacts are beginning to have a direct effect on people’s lives. This message has filtered all the way down to a local level and from Westminster to Welsh Government to local Councils the

message is clear – the environment matters. Waste and CO2 reduction targets are becoming more stringent. Green infrastructure is developing rapidly, and being more sustainable is at the top of concerns. Swansea Council has a major role to play in delivery and prevention, and in responding to the challenges set.

- 3.3 One of our overriding conclusions is that the breadth and depth of work already being undertaken to protect and enhance Swansea's natural environment is substantial. For many years, committed teams have striven to maintain and enhance the County's biodiversity, and the relationships that have developed and the local knowledge accumulated are outstanding. The Cabinet Member who has overall jurisdiction for this area of work is Councillor Mark Thomas, and it is clear that he is committed and passionate about the issue. This, along with increasing recognition of the importance of Swansea's outstanding natural assets, has driven the natural environment to be a key priority for Swansea Council.
- 3.4 The fact that the Council has a dedicated team to manage nature conservation shows that it is already committed to the issue long term, and this, of course, is in line with the requirements under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The delivery of the Scrutiny Inquiry also supports the thinking that Swansea is 'ahead of the game' when it comes to the environment, and is looking at how it can take the current good work and build on this to be a leading Council in Wales for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity.
- 3.5 It is clear that, for the general public, biodiversity is important. The Inquiry 'Call for Evidence' had a number of responses; with public and professionals alike making contact to contribute to the Inquiry and to be part of the effort to improve Swansea's natural environment. The volunteers who came to give evidence were committed, experienced and enthusiastic about the relationship between the public and the Council, and how this needs to be maintained, encouraged and supported to ensure the good work continues.
- 3.6 We were particularly heartened that almost every organisation we contacted was more than happy to contribute to the Inquiry, and provided a range of information to assist the Panel. They were incredibly generous with their time, offering to follow up on any issues and to submit further information if required. It is clear that there is no shortage of organisations willing to work with Swansea Council to achieve the goal of an enhanced environment and a successful green infrastructure approach, and these opportunities for collaboration need to be grasped.
- 3.7 Whilst all of the right foundations are in place for Swansea to have a thriving natural environment, it is now time to ensure this is built in early to all plans and projects and is recognised by all services. This will be essential for Swansea's future success both locally and globally.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

These are the Panel's conclusions together with full recommendations on how we feel the issues of complying with Welsh Government legislation and maintaining and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity in Swansea could be addressed.

4.1 Create an environmental corporate priority to embed biodiversity in business and strategic planning to meet requirements

- 4.1.1 Although a new Corporate Well-being Objective 'Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity' was approved by the Council during the course of the Inquiry, we felt it important to note how much of a positive step this is. The Panel feel that the Scrutiny Inquiry has contributed to this and we welcome its adoption and thank all those who were involved. The difficulties caused by not integrating the natural environment with other Council priorities has been highlighted not just by external providers and the public but also Council service providers themselves.
- 4.1.2 Throughout the course of the Inquiry, the Panel agreed that there needs to be a strategic approach to the natural environment, in order to ensure that the importance of the issue is highlighted and meets legislative requirements. The natural environment needs a significant commitment from within the organisation at all levels.
- 4.1.3 Although Welsh Government are wanting adherence to the requirements set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, there is little advice on how exactly these requirements should be implemented. However, guidance for Section 6 of the Environment Act, the 'Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty' states that 'To follow the S6 duty public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as in their day to day activities.' This requires the environment to be considered at the earliest stages of all Council activities. The Panel agreed unanimously that the only way to achieve this is to include it in the Corporate Plan, as now enacted by Council.
- 4.1.4 It is not just the Panel who feel that more senior officer commitment is necessary for success. During the roundtable discussion with external environmental providers, it was stated that 'senior management need to be involved and for the issue to be taken seriously at the highest level'.
- 4.1.5 There is also a feeling that a lack of definition around the importance of the issue is causing conflict. Volunteers echoed this, saying 'Council departments have differing priorities, some financial and some environmental'. They felt that whilst there is much support from particular teams, this dedication was not harmonious throughout the whole organisation.

- 4.1.6 This issue is not limited to external organisations and volunteers. During evidence gathering with Council services, the Panel found that this same lack of consistency causes practical problems. Corporate Property services highlighted that the policy conflict between financial and environmental issues can cause problems, and outcomes had been determined by negotiation rather than from a corporate commitment to delivering our biodiversity responsibilities. Some services also felt that a corporate priority for the environment would allow the good work already happening to be recognised and encouraged. Corporate Building Services stated that they would like to see a top down approach to biodiversity to ‘...ensure that the message is filtered through the organisation in the same way other important messages are’. It is clear that internally, there is a definite commitment from staff to enhance the environment, but there also needs to be a strong and consistent organisational message in order to achieve measurable outcomes.
- 4.1.7 As Neville Rookes from the Welsh Local Government Association advises - ‘There should be environment in every policy and every policy in environment’. This will involve mainstreaming the environment and biodiversity across all Council services, together with raising awareness, a culture shift and appropriate procedural changes.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Development and implementation of a Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan to take this forward (Medium Term)

Recommendation 2: Ensure the Action Plan links with other relevant cross organisational policies at a strategic level, for example, the Local Well-being Plan and Area Statements (Medium Term)

Recommendation 3: Develop a clear and enthusiastic vision and message for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity to ensure a consistent ‘buy-in’ from each service (Quick Win)

4.2 **Raise the profile of the Natural Environment and Biodiversity internally and externally**

- 4.2.1 Notwithstanding the introduction of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, the profile and understanding of the natural environment is not as high as it should be. This applies both to Council staff and to the wider public.
- 4.2.2 This issue is not specific to Swansea. We heard from the Future Generations Commissioner’s Office staff that ‘A Resilient Wales’ well-being goal was regularly misinterpreted in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Instead of championing the importance of biodiversity, resilience was being used to mean economic, community or often social resilience. This misrepresentation reduces the amount of ecological attention and delivery under the goal.

- 4.2.3 Internally, during the Inquiry, each Head of Service was sent a questionnaire asking about the biodiversity duty and how they feel their service contributes to it. Interestingly, of the 11 responses received only 6 were aware there was a biodiversity duty, 2 admitted they were not aware and 3 did not answer the question. This highlights that more knowledge and awareness around the biodiversity duty is needed. This will then make it easier to embed biodiversity and develop projects across other service areas.
- 4.2.4 However, despite a lack of knowledge around the duty, there is definitely an appetite to increase information for the services and to undertake tasks to enhance the natural environment and biodiversity. Heads of Service were asked if they had ideas about how to work differently to enhance biodiversity at work and 7 of them had ideas that they would like to implement, but insufficient budgetary provision was the main constraint to implementing these ideas.
- 4.2.5 Externally, there are some very committed residents and organisations who have an interest in biodiversity, and the large public response and support for the natural environment shows that there is substantial knowledge in the community. However, there is still plenty of scope for awareness raising, with a desire to learn more and integrate biodiversity into the Council's functions. The following recommendations would promote the natural environment in general, thereby promoting ecosystem resilience.

Recommendations

Recommendation 4: *Embed the new corporate priority by developing and delivering relevant training. The Nature Conservation Team could roll out training at the appropriate level and could undertake a service appropriate assessment with ideas and input coming from that service to encourage involvement. (Medium Term)*

Recommendation 5: *Make information available to the public to encourage participation and understanding, including continuing to develop the Natural Environment web pages e.g. explain why some verges are wild or why projects which have a green aspect are taking place. Public promotion is vital. (Quick Win)*

4.3 **Maintain and increase the specialist and high quality work which is currently delivered**

- 4.3.1 Swansea Council do a lot of preventative and proactive day to day work, including policy development. The dedicated Nature Conservation Team (FTE 5 staff), along with complimentary teams such as The Countryside Access Team (5 staff), the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Team (AONB) (2 staff) and Strategic Planning Team (7 staff) work together to enhance, maintain and promote awareness and appreciation of Swansea's natural environment. However, it appears these teams are stretched to full capacity.

- 4.3.2 Despite the majority of the county being rural and having some form of environmentally important status, these teams provide the only nature based resource to Swansea Council. They deal with a wide range of work including policy and strategy development, planning ecology, community projects, access improvements, awareness raising, land management and enhancement and partnership working.
- 4.3.3 Other organisations such as Natural Resources Wales, Swansea Environmental Forum and SEWBReC, all praised the work of the Council's Nature Conservation Team, and said that working in collaboration with them has benefited Swansea. The work being delivered by the team directly contributes to the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity at both an operational and strategic level. Senior representatives from organisations highlighted that the behind the scenes work of policy development, mitigation recommendations and input into strategic planning is often what stops the Council from breaching its duties under relevant Acts and facing potential legal issues.
- 4.3.4 The members of various voluntary groups in Swansea also said the work currently being done is highly regarded and in demand. Volunteers often request extra time where possible with the team, to benefit from their expertise and make the work carried out by these groups more effective and appropriate.
- 4.3.5 The Local Authority owns a significant amount of land that is of ecological importance including
- Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar Sites, SPAs.
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves
 - Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

The Authority has a duty to manage its estate in accordance with the relevant biodiversity legislation. A pilot project is underway to map biodiversity assets and opportunities at a ward level to inform place based decision making.

The Nature Conservation Team is responsible for the management of 6 Local Nature Reserves and a number of Council owned SAC's, SSSI's and SINC's. It also provides advice to other Council staff with land management responsibilities. This involves the preparation of management plans and agreements, practical site management and maintenance work, tackling invasive non-native species (INNS), managing contractors and supporting community and volunteer participation in biodiversity delivery.

Recommendations

Recommendation 6: Complete and publicise the ward mapping exercise. This would provide each ward and the Councillor Representatives with information specific to that ward. It would include information about important species, protected sites and other relevant ecological information as well as potential opportunities for improving biodiversity within the ward. A link to the ward mapping should appear on planning applications when completed. This would help when it comes to planning applications and empower ward councillors and residents to be able to respond to issues which threaten these special features of their ward and encourage maintenance of biodiversity. It would also contribute to the enforcement activity of the Council. (Long Term)

Recommendation 7: Maintain support for volunteers, Community Councils and groups managing both Council owned and non-Council owned land. There are important areas of natural environment in Swansea that may be managed by trusts or owned privately. The links to these areas need to be maintained to ensure best practice is shared and any relevant information/policy can be applied across Swansea, improving nature-based connectivity overall. (Long Term)

4.4 **Recognise the benefits of 'nature-based' prevention projects, such as to limit air pollution and for flood risk management etc**

4.4.1 One of the recurring messages to come out of the Inquiry was that there is a move to look at nature based solutions to deal with problems which previously would have been rectified with hard engineering solutions. During the evidence gathering process, Neville Rookes a Policy Officer for Environment from WLGA, highlighted that other Councils were starting to implement nature based solutions for issues such as flooding and doing so with great success. A project on the River Taff was given as an example, which aimed to achieve flood defence and prevention through the development of a wildlife pond and a cycle path.

4.4.2 One of the Swansea projects that was referenced by organisations including Plant Life, Swansea Environmental Forum and Natural Resources Wales as a huge success, was the Marram Grass Scheme used in the sand dunes at Swansea Bay. This innovative, nature based project was a collaboration of services including nature conservation, highways, drainage, parks and Natural Resources Wales. A specialist study concluded that the most sustainable way to control windblown sand between the beach and promenade was to construct sand trapping fences, with subsequent marram grass planting to stabilise and increase existing dunes and establish new ones. This has been successful and should set the tone going forward.

- 4.4.3 The Panel heard that there is scope to look to green solutions for many existing and potential problems. The suggestion of not mowing some verges, planting trees to alleviate flooding, planting native wildflowers and using 'green' initiatives to enhance well-being are all realistic and money saving options as far as the Panel is concerned. There is already evidence of community gardening projects having positive effects on users engaged with social services, and there is a raft of evidence produced by various organisations highlighting the benefits to both physical and mental health to being outside and engaged in green projects.
- 4.4.4 The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as climate change. WLGA advise that, as a Council, we must use the 5 ways of working to shape the strategy and policy of everything that we do. Ecological resilience should be incorporated at the start of projects. In the short and medium term, there is a risk of reputational damage and possible legal infractions and failure to meet EU requirements; in the long term, it will be infraction of whatever UK law is in place after Brexit, if the latter goes ahead. The Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' representative agreed with these points.
- 4.4.5 An easy and cost effective way of achieving results is to include a clause in any service level agreement for land that is owned by the Council but managed on a day to day basis by another group or individual. Up to now, there has not been a biodiversity clause to remind land users of their obligation and to highlight the importance of the issue. Following discussion within this Inquiry, a clause has now been inserted into the service level agreement for community groups managing green spaces. The Panel felt that this was an easy way of highlighting and legally requiring the maintenance and enhancement of the environment of these pieces of land. There should be more detailed clauses in other agreements e.g. those agreements relating to grazing sites, and also in those entered into with external event organisers which require Council consent before certain activities (e.g. clearing land) are undertaken, to prevent loss of biodiversity.

Recommendations

Recommendation 8: *Insert a relevant biodiversity clause into service level agreements, licences etc which relates to land use and land management and land use and ensure that the importance of these clauses is made clear to the land managers/occupiers and the implications of not meeting them are highlighted. (Quick Win)*

Recommendation 9: *Assess the verges in Swansea that can stop being mowed and sprayed. Give these over to nature and allow for self-seeding, which will encourage native plants and pollinator species. This can also save money as less frequent mowing is required. There could be signs erected to highlight the project to help change the culture. (Medium Term)*

Recommendation 10: *Where appropriate, plant native wildflowers and trees. Non-native species do not benefit pollinators to the same extent as native species. (Long Term)*

Recommendation 11: *Encourage green projects for well-being such as gardening projects, outdoor green-space activities and volunteering opportunities for adults and children across all relevant services. This includes linking with Community Councils. Communities can make use of the 'Community Green Space Toolkit' which can be found online at <http://swanseacommunitygreenspaces.weebly.com> (Long Term)*

4.5 **The need for and costs of providing additional resources to maintain the natural environment should be recognised and shared throughout services**

4.5.1 External providers, including NRW and Welsh Government, have commented on the level of expertise and passion in the Council's Nature Conservation Team. However it seems that the people and organisations who know of their activities are those who work most closely with them. There is very little publicity being undertaken around the work of the team, whether internally or externally. The Panel feel that if the work that is being undertaken were to be publicised more, other Council staff and the public would realise both the importance of the issue and the breadth of work currently being delivered. There is an obvious difficulty here, publicising work takes time and resource, which is scarce in this team as it is, and highlighting activity could lead to an influx of demand which the team is not resourced to deal with. This has been an ongoing issue for some time and, although the new corporate priority has not created more work than the team can presently deliver, demand for support is expected to increase as biodiversity becomes embedded. This highlights just how vulnerable they are to resource reduction through loss of grants and unsustainable temporary posts e.g. Temporary Planning Ecologist Post.

4.5.2 This problem is not specific to this team, particularly during such a difficult financial climate; however, the Panel feels there does need to be some rethink over how this service is funded. During the roundtable session with providers, Natural Resources Wales stated that 'The best examples of funding are when the budget comes from each Council department which impacts or benefits from the natural environment and biodiversity'. Echoing this sentiment, RSPB Cymru commented that 'estates, parks, planning and regeneration all need to be on the same page when it comes to biodiversity and nature conservation'. In agreement with both of these comments, the Panel feels that there are many services in the Council which benefit from having a thriving natural environment, not least tourism. However, despite the selling point of Gower and the green spaces in Swansea and the money that is made, for example from car park charges or grazing licences, none of this income is received by the Nature Conservation Team (along with complimentary teams such as Countryside Access and AONB). The Panel feels that this is unreasonable, considering specific services need the environment to be in a good state for them to be as successful as they are. Services that see benefit from a thriving and healthy Swansea should contribute to its upkeep.

The Team has identified and secured some income from charging for its services for example school visits, and tendering for commercial biodiversity contracts (e.g. ecological surveys, management plans, interpretation etc.), but this can only be expanded with additional staff capacity.

- 4.5.3 One of the issues identified during the Inquiry was a lack of knowledge amongst professional officers, who are not ecologists, of the specifics of how environmental conditions attached to planning consents should be implemented, (e.g. how and where to install bat boxes and the most appropriate design, how to create habitats for mitigation, etc.). Despite the legislation there is no statutory requirement to employ an ecological enforcement officer. The Panel question how effective any legislation can be if there are insufficient enforcement resources available – legislation becomes a suggestion rather than a direction. The Planning Ecologists explained that they cannot ensure that the environmental requirements that are conditioned within planning consents are fully delivered/realised due to a lack of staff capacity within the service to monitor and enforce conditions. Therefore, we cannot be sure that we have complied with our legal duties under the Environment Wales Act, and the Planning Act. There is a risk that less responsible and more cynical developers could take advantage of this. There is a substantial need and requirement for an additional ecologist with specific responsibilities for monitoring compliance with environmental conditions attached to planning permissions. Such an officer would benefit and support a range of services including planning, and would promote a zero tolerance message to anyone who was breaching the law and causing Swansea's biodiversity to be damaged.

Recommendations

Recommendation 12: *Employ a Section 6 Officer to co-ordinate, support and promote the consideration and delivery of a range of environmental projects across Swansea and also ensure the Council are meeting the requirements of the Environment Act (Section 6). This includes the development of a Corporate Natural Environment Working Group. This should stop us breaching the legislation and potentially facing fines/restricted grant access/reputational damage. (Quick Win)*

Recommendation 13: *Employ an additional Planning Ecologist/Ecological Enforcement Officer to work with Council services with a specific duty to help ensure the environmental conditions and section 106 obligations on planning consents are met, whilst also contributing to maintaining biodiversity, and meeting the requirements of the new Sustainable Drainage System legislation. (Quick Win)*

Recommendation 14: *Share natural environment and biodiversity costs across services. Much of the work completed in relation to biodiversity is funded by a single team's budget. Considering both the Council as a whole, and certain specific services, benefit from a thriving environment, it seems appropriate that other services should be contributing financially to this work. (Long Term)*

4.6 **The authority should work co-productively with external partners on a strategic scale**

4.6.1 There is an assumption from Welsh Government that public authorities and other agencies will link together on common projects and develop solutions based on their combined knowledge. From strategic decisions to day to day activities, the input from other relevant organisations should help lead to the best outcomes. The Inquiry Panel agrees that this is the best way forward, and the contribution of agencies and the public to the Inquiry strengthened the idea that many heads are better than one. Hearing different perspectives and experiences led the Panel to conclude that more knowledge with shared aims leads to better decision making. This is not a new idea but one which is in the process of being embedded, with work being delivered under the Public Services Board (PSB) with this exact ethos at its heart. The purpose of the PSB is to work collectively to improve the local social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being in a local authority area. Working in isolation is no longer an option.

4.6.2 All of the agencies who contributed to the evidence gathering of the Inquiry expressed an interest and discussed the benefits of strategic collaborative working. It is not enough that one or two staff members have good links with an organisation; all of the services which have any involvement in the environment in Swansea need to be developing and regularly contributing to these conversations and actions. Services such as Corporate Property and Highways and Transportation need excellent relationships with organisations like SEWBRc, NRW, Plant Life and the Swansea Environment Forum, so the best decisions can be made for the environment. We already as a Council work closely with the aforementioned organisations, along with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Cymru (RSPB) and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, and these relationships should be nurtured and expanded.

We spoke to all of the groups that attended and asked what their advice for the Council would be. They said:

- 1. Biodiversity has to be maintained and improved for the future generations in line with the Act.*
- 2. Sign up to the Service Level Agreement with SEWBRc to access important mapping/species data for projects.*
- 3. Stand by the policies it already has.*
- 4. Work in partnership to achieve projects, this will reduce costs and bring in expertise.*
- 5. Improve communication within departments and challenge those (including external organisations) who are not doing what they should be.*
- 6. Develop links with the right staff and consult at the right stage.*
- 7. Do not ignore the lower Lliw Valley.*
- 8. Take responsibility for developing plans and getting departments to work together not against each other.*

9. *Senior management need to be involved and this needs to be taken seriously at the highest level.*
10. *Value volunteers and volunteer co-ordinators – some money and effort has to be put in.*

- 4.6.3 One of the important collaborative projects that the Panel supports is access to biodiversity data via the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) Service Level Agreement. The role of SEWBRc is to collect, verify, digitise and share species and habitat data with public, private and third sector organisations and individuals. These data are gathered by professional ecologists and specially trained volunteers and the public, and can then be accessed to assess the impact of projects which are being proposed. This includes planning applications, development schemes and conservation activities. Swansea Council did not access this information between 2004 and 2017 due to lack of funding and are at a disadvantage without it. So much of Swansea has important species that it is unlikely anyone can undertake a project without having an impact under the provisions of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and/or the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015. The SEWBRc information can be used to complete full audits of sites and create buffer zones around projects. Information is sent to officers via Aderyn (The Biodiversity Information and Reporting Database of Local Environmental Records Centres Wales) and ensures that better decisions are made around ecology, land management and development. This is the kind of strategic partnership work which needs to be included in wider departmental activities with funding of the SEWBRc Service Level Agreement being shared between relevant services.
- 4.6.4 Strategic partnership working does not only make sense in terms of delivering the best and practical solutions, it is a requirement that may have financial impacts if not achieved. Not meeting these collaborative requirements under the Acts will have impacts on access to future grants e.g. the Welsh Government Enabling our Natural Resources and Well-being Grant, which has emphasis on joined up, cross sector working. Considering that the current financial outlook for the public sector is bleak, further limiting access to financial aid is not a risk the Panel feels the Council should take.

Recommendations

Recommendation 15: *Renew the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) service level agreement for 2019/20 (with a plan in place to achieve this in subsequent years) the approximate cost is between £8,000 and £10,000 per annum. The relevant departments (Development Management, Highways, Corporate Buildings and Corporate Property) should be contributing to the costs of accessing this information, using this resource regularly and, where necessary, asking the Council's ecologists to interpret the data. (Quick Win)*

Recommendation 16: *Continue to nurture good working relationships with external agencies and encourage other services to do the same. This should not be limited to national organisations but should also include local ones such as Swansea Environmental Forum, the Swansea Biodiversity Partnership and the Swansea Environment Centre. (Long Term)*

4.7 **Recognise, encourage, maintain and expand commitment from voluntary groups, Community Councils and the public in maintaining and enhancing the Council's green spaces**

4.7.1 Swansea has a significant number of volunteer groups, working unpaid to maintain a range of community spaces: some of these are community centres and some are green spaces such as parks and gardens and wildlife sites. The Panel met with and gathered evidence from these groups to explore the extent and the nature of the work being undertaken. The opportunity to contribute raised considerable interest, with 8 group leaders being invited to give evidence and present information on their work. The message from all of the groups was the same - the support they currently receive from the Nature Conservation Team is excellent, but they need more contact and information and more ways of linking in with the projects of biodiversity relevant to their areas. More support and advice could be provided, but again the limiting factor to this is the lack of capacity within the Nature Conservation Team. The other major recurring issue was the need to make strong links with schools. Children should be enabled to make better use of the spaces around them and have this built into the education curriculum. This also links in with a wider issue around using green spaces to improve and increase well-being.

Some of the main comments made in the voluntary group session are listed below:

- *Groups rely on specialist expertise like the Nature Conservation Team to support their projects.*
- *There should be two main points of contact for the groups;*
 1. *A horticulture/environmental specialist*
 2. *An Education Officer linking schools to the spaces*
- *Records (for example ecology surveys/protected sites) need to be accurate to ensure decisions made are based on correct information.*
- *Neath Port Talbot Council have a scheme where road verges are designated as 'wild' and mown/maintained differently – Swansea should do the same and help change the public perception.*
- *Some people will complain that 'wild' areas are neglected but there needs to be a culture change.*
- *Would like to list the flora and fauna in the park but cannot because the groups do not have the expertise to do this.*
- *The Council departments seem to have differing priorities from each other – some financial, some environmental, these need to be reconciled.*
- *Ecological reports which are submitted for planning applications should be accurate and impartial.*

- *Groups want the Council to recognise the importance of sites to people and the environment.*
- *Having a link to liaise with schools is essential as it encourages learning and involvement in the area.*
- *Public signs advertising the areas would be beneficial so people know the sites are there for visiting.*
- *Groups are desperate for expertise and the planning and identification of existing biodiversity.*
- *Initiatives don't come with maintenance plans or budgets to keep projects sustainable.*
- *Working between departments can be difficult as they have differing agendas.*
- *Groups are able to pull in funding if they apply properly.*

4.7.2 The Panel issued a public survey asking for submissions from interested parties. We had 37 responses from the public along with 3 full submissions. This is an excellent response for a scrutiny call for evidence and shows the substantial interest that the public has in the issue of environmental conservation. However, the public and volunteer interest in the whole issue of biodiversity is not limited to the work of this Inquiry, indeed the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management has recognised that this issue has substantial public support.

There are far too many responses from the public to include in this report and there was a mixture of praise and criticism. Below is a selection of comments from both sides:

Positives

- *'The parks are beautiful and everybody loves the summer flowers'*
- *'The Gower coastline'*
- *'Have a good team in the Council despite being underfunded'*
- *'I love the wildflowers and City parks'*
- *'Planting of wildflowers along the roadways and verges: looks great and is good for bugs'*
- *'Promoting use of rights of way, environment sites etc, small team based efforts e.g. highways staff'*
- *'The team do a good job maintaining nature reserves and running education/awareness raising activities'*
- *'Leaving areas in parks with uncut grass'*
- *'Swansea is becoming better aware of its fabulous natural setting, our hills, the bay and the Gower'*
- *'Nature Conservation Team very knowledgeable and works well stabilising dunes, making paths'*
- *'The Lower Swansea Valley project – that was improving the natural environment at its finest'*

- *‘Wild flowers, having an Environment Centre and Swansea Environment Forum’*

Room for Improvement

- *‘A joined up approach that expects actions from all teams not just those in ‘environmental’ roles’*
- *‘I am a bee keeper in the Uplands and it is detrimental that you are still spraying bee killing stuff. I am aware that to sow summer flowers you actually treat the ground every year with pure poison. Why? Is there not a natural way – just dig it like any other gardener does’*
- *‘Applying policies when taking planning decisions. Shocking lapse when permitting housing development to destroy a site which the Council itself had protected’*
- *‘Car free days. Plant trees, hedges, rooftop gardens on public buildings to counteract pollution and assess effectiveness against pollution levels in urban areas’*
- *‘Don’t cut down mature trees work round them, plant native trees and shrubs, reduce hard surfaces’*
- *‘Look after the shoreline for birds’*
- *‘Raise the profile of the natural environment and biodiversity in Swansea’*
- *‘Reduce pollution, clean local beaches, look at reducing plastic pollution, more nature reserves’*
- *‘I am aware that Singleton Park has done a lot to promote wildflowers STOP SPRAYING then, because honey bees and single bees are killed with the spraying of weeds’*
- *‘Control of invasive non-native plants’*

Recommendations

Recommendation 17: *Invite environmental voluntary group and Community Council representatives to regular liaison meetings e.g. Friends of parks and wildlife sites. This would allow them some support and access to some specialist advice from relevant officers (e.g. Parks Team, Nature Conservation Team, Education Link Officer), whilst allowing them a forum to discuss concerns and success. The loss of these groups would have a severely detrimental impact on the management of Council land and finances, so there needs to be ongoing and meaningful engagement and support from the Council. (Medium Term)*

4.8 **There should be more cross departmental working, with the shared aim of maintaining and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity, together with their eco-system benefits.**

4.8.1 During the evidence gathering, it became clear that the Council has some conflicting policies when it comes to the natural environment. Corporate Property Services referred to the fact that there is a clash in priorities between making money and maintaining the environment.

The public have also alluded to this issue:

- *[The Council needs...] ‘ A joined up approach that expects actions from all teams not just those in ‘Environmental’ roles’*
- *‘The Council departments seem to have differing priorities from each other – some financial, some environmental’*

4.8.2 Whilst the legislation is the same for all of the Council and applies to all services equally, applying the legislation in line with existing internal policies can be problematic. The Panel felt that the battle between these issues can be difficult, especially for staff when they are trying to apply and deliver other corporate priorities. It can be frustrating for staff to have to negotiate internally processes which are required legally, and push for standards that are being frustrated by internal dynamics. The Panel feels that whilst there should always be a balance between economic regeneration and the environment, development should not come at the expense of the environment.

4.8.3 The public have commented that when contacting different services they do not get a consistent response on the Council’s approach to the issue of biodiversity and the environment. Whilst it is reasonable for the Nature Conservation Team to deal with specialist public queries on the environment, the issues which are directed to a different service such as parks, estates or highways for example should have the same response. There needs to be a consistent and Council wide position on the issue of the environment. This can only be achieved if the message and delivery of our legislative duty is the same across the board. The Panel feels that whichever department you contact, the response and approach to an environmental question should be the same: common objectives and a strong and consistent message will achieve this. The establishment of a corporate biodiversity working group, as provided for in the Corporate Plan, will help to address and improve this.

4.9 **There needs to be a commitment to natural environment education in schools**

4.9.1 During the Inquiry, the Panel members visited local primary schools to see how they manage the issue of the natural environment and how this feeds into pupil’s education. Whilst it was generally accepted that most schools do pay particular attention to the natural environment and include it as part of the curriculum, its delivery is patchy and inconsistent from school to school. It is evident that some schools are at an advantage due to their geographical suburban location, whilst others are almost completely urban with very little or even no green space. However, the feedback from those involved in environmental education is that no matter how small the green space is in a school, biodiversity can still be encouraged and learned about. The Panel, many of whom are School Governors, feel that there is an inconsistency in how the natural environment is prioritised, with some schools celebrating achieving ‘Green School’ status whereas for some others the natural environment is only of passing interest in children’s education.

4.9.2 The current curriculum requires pupils to use and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, by investigating how animals and plants are independent yet rely on each other for survival. Panel members observed a very successful scheme run by RSPB Cymru called the 'Schools Outreach Project', delivered by RSPB Project Officer Sarah Reed. This project saw 5849 pupil connections made in the academic year 2017-18; the delivery and impact in Swansea has been substantial and has proved very popular with staff and children alike. During the visits and observation sessions it was clear that the pupils really enjoyed being outside and when asked said they thoroughly enjoyed the activities.

During the school visits, the pupils (primary) were asked questions about nature and their responses were noted. The questions and some of the responses are captured below:

1. Do you like learning about nature? Why?

- *'Yes it is interesting to learn about it in school and is fun to learn about all the animals'*
- *'Yes because it's calm and interesting'*
- *'Helps us help the environment'*
- *'It makes me feel amazed'*
- *'You get to go outside'*
- *'We can learn what the grass is made of'*

2. Do you think Swansea should have more nature?

- *'Yes and no. No because animals can come over and [we would] be in more danger, yes because nature helps you live, like the trees have oxygen and oxygen helps us live'*
- *'Yes!'*
- *'Yes because hedgehogs are becoming extinct'*
- *'Yes because we don't have anything'*
- *'People will appreciate nature more'*
- *'It will help insects and our planet'*
- *'Yes because nature is beautiful and no-one goes outdoors that much anymore so if there was more nature people would want to go out even more'*

3. Why is nature important?

- *'Because it helps the environment'*
- *'Because it helps animals'*
- *'It is part of our circle of life. Plants = medicine'*
- *'It makes the world go round'*
- *'We have an ecosystem, nature gives us oxygen'*
- *'Animals keep us company'*
- *'It helps our earth go on and helps our health and gives us food and life'*

4. How does being around nature make you feel?

- *'It makes us feel happier and healthier. It also makes us feel relaxed, calm. Feels like my own world and satisfying because I hear the birds tweeting'*
- *'Happy, satisfied, calm, interested, relaxed, freedom'*
- *'Happy collecting flowers and seeing baby chicks being born'*
- *'Nature makes me happy when I'm around it and relaxed!'*
- *'Happy, excited, bored, fascinated, mesmerised, relaxed'*
- *'It makes us feel bored because there is no Wi-Fi'*

4.9.3 The Nature Conservation Team supports schools to deliver outdoor learning, including for example at Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve, Caswell, where around thirty schools visit each year. Where resources have allowed, officers have also delivered activities on other sites as well as supported schools to carry out activities or biodiversity-enhancement projects within their school grounds.

4.9.4 Evidence shows that schools value and require the support of experienced outdoor learning professionals to help them embed outdoor learning in the curriculum. The Nature Conservation Team are currently working on an NRW-funded project to pilot an approach to support and enable twenty primary schools to deliver outdoor learning in their grounds and using local green infrastructure.

4.9.5 The Panel applauds these examples of excellent good practice, but recognises that they are almost entirely reliant on external funding and are unlikely to be sustained beyond the short-term. For outdoor learning to become embedded throughout all schools there needs to be dedicated resources provided.

Recommendations

Recommendation 18: *Create environmental link Governors on school governing bodies who can take relevant information and projects to their school. They can also report back on a school's activities and this can be used to contribute to the 3 yearly section 6 report to Welsh Government on the Council's performance. (Medium Term)*

Recommendation 19: *Encourage better use of school grounds and local wildlife sites for biodiversity. For example, gardens, growing schemes, tree planting, wildlife ponds and habitat creation. This can be done by linking in with relevant organisations such as RSPB and sharing good practice with schools who are already doing such activities. 'Making the Most of School Grounds' guidance booklet. (Long Term)*

Recommendation 20: *Employ a dedicated outdoor learning officer who can provide the tailored support, training and delivery that will enable Swansea schools to fully realise the potential of outdoor learning, to deliver educational and wellbeing benefits, from the varied natural resources which Swansea possesses. (Medium Term)*

5. RECOMMENDATIONS – SHORT/MEDIUM/LONG TERM

5.1 The Panel recognises that the Authority:

- (a) will need to ensure that any subsequent actions are legal and meet the requirements of any relevant legislation;
- (b) has a responsibility to make the best use of limited resources and that any additional costs will need to be considered carefully as part of the annual budget setting process.

The Panel has kept these principles in mind in the course of its investigations.

The Panel commends Cabinet to consider all issues and ideas raised by this Inquiry and, in particular, the recommendations set out below.

Quick wins (within 6 months)

- Q1. Develop a clear and enthusiastic vision and message for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity to ensure a consistent 'buy-in' from each service.
- Q2. Make information available to the public to encourage participation and understanding, including continuing to develop the Natural Environment web pages.
- Q3. Insert a relevant biodiversity clause into service level agreements, licences etc which relates to land use and land management and ensure that the importance of these clauses is made clear to the land managers and the implications of not meeting them are highlighted.
- Q4. Renew the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) Service Level Agreement for 2019/20 (with a plan in place to achieve this in subsequent years).
- Q5. Employ a Section 6 Officer to co-ordinate, support and promote the consideration and delivery of a range of environmental projects across Swansea and also ensure the Council are meeting the requirements of the Environment Act (Section 6).
- Q6. Employ an additional Planning Ecologist/Ecological Enforcement Officer to work with Council services with a specific duty to help ensure the environmental conditions and section 106 obligations on planning consents are met, whilst also contributing to maintaining biodiversity, and meeting the requirements of the new Sustainable Drainage System legislation.

Medium term improvements (6-12 months)

- M1. Development and implementation of a Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan.
- M2. Ensure the Action Plan links with other relevant cross organisational policies at a strategic level, for example, the Local Well-being Plan and Area Statements.

- M3. Embed the new corporate priority by developing and delivering relevant training.
- M4. Invite environmental voluntary group and Community Council representatives to regular liaison meetings e.g. Friends of parks and wildlife sites. This would allow them some support and access to some specialist advice from relevant officers.
- M5. Create environmental link Governors on school governing bodies who can take relevant information and projects to their school.
- M6. Employ a dedicated outdoor learning officer who can provide the tailored support, training and delivery that will enable Swansea schools to fully realise the potential of outdoor learning, to deliver educational and wellbeing benefits, from the varied natural resources which Swansea possesses.
- M7. Assess the verges in Swansea that can stop being mowed and sprayed. Give these over to nature and allow for self-seeding, which will encourage native plants and pollinator species.

Long term challenges (12 months+)

- L1. Complete and publicise the ward mapping exercise. This would provide each ward and the Councillor Representatives with information specific to that ward. It would include information about important species, protected sites and other relevant ecological information as well as potential opportunities for improving biodiversity within the ward
- L2. Maintain support for volunteers, Community Councils and groups managing both Council owned and non-Council owned land.
- L3. Where appropriate, plant native wildflowers and trees. Non-native species do not benefit pollinators to the same extent as native species
- L4. Encourage green projects for well-being such as gardening projects, outdoor green-space activities and volunteering opportunities for adults and children across all relevant services.
- L5. Share natural environment and biodiversity costs across services.
- L6. Continue to nurture good working relationships with external agencies and encourage other services to do the same.
- L7. Encourage better use of school grounds and local wildlife sites for biodiversity.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Panel is very grateful to everyone who contributed to the Inquiry.

We would like to thank the staff and especially the pupils at Brynhyfryd Primary School and Trallwn Primary School for allowing us to observe their RSPB session and for being welcoming and open to questions and queries.

Special thanks go to everyone who took the time to respond to the public call for evidence. These responses allowed the Panel to understand how the residents of Swansea feel about this important issue and informed the direction of much of the Panel's thinking. Every response was read and considered. The culture change we are trying to achieve would not be possible without such passionate and involved people.

We would also like to recognise the input of the Council staff involved in this inquiry – Paul Meller, Strategic Planning and Natural Environment Manager, and Deb Hill, the Nature Conservation Team Leader, along with their teams, have provided a wealth of information to allow the Panel to understand the current processes and projects. We must also mention the ongoing support of Mark Thomas, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure, who has supported the case for the natural environment for some time.

The Panel would like to record its thanks to the following people who came and gave evidence to us:

Colin Cheeseman	Plant Life
Heather Galliford and Chris O'Brien	RSPB Cymru
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	South-West Wales Wildlife Trust
Adam Rowe	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) Limited
Max Stokes and Kerry Rogers	Natural Resources Wales
Steve Bolchover	Swansea Biodiversity Partnership/Swansea Environment Centre
Chris Dow	Forest School SNPT
Christian Servini	Change Maker, Future Generations Commissioners Office
Neville Rookes	Policy Officer – Environment, Welsh Local Government Association
Neil Barry	Swansea Community Green Spaces Project Officer

Pamela Morgan	Past Chair of Friends of the City of Swansea Botanical Complex
Neil Jones	Swansea Vale/Swansea Friends of the Earth
Rosemary Harvard-Jones	Rosehill Quarry/Friends of Ganges
Phil Stockton	Pentyllia Playing Fields (Ganges)
Linda Summons	Kilvey Hill Woodlands/Friends of the Earth
Marian Francis	Kilvey Community Woodland
Steffan Phillips	Chair of Friends of Morrision Park
Christine Thomas	Coed Bach Pontarddullais
Sarah Reed	RSPB Cymru Project Officer

7. **FURTHER SCRUTINY NEEDED**

As well as our recommendations for Cabinet, we have also identified a number of issues that we believe may require further scrutiny. We propose to the Scrutiny Programme Committee, therefore, that future scrutiny work programmes examine:

- Glyphosate and its use by the Council for spraying – this was initially explored as part of the Inquiry, but the issue was too complex and contentious to include in an already substantial subject area.
- The management of common land
- The management of the marine environment
- Tackling Climate Change
- Management of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

8. **ABOUT THE INQUIRY PANEL**

The Natural Environment Inquiry Panel is a team of Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet. Their role is to examine a strategic issue of concern and to make recommendations about how policies and services can be improved.

Members of the Panel:

- Peter Jones (Convener)
- Wendy Fitzgerald
- Louise Gibbard
- Paxton Hood-Williams
- Yvonne Jardine
- Jeff Jones
- Irene Mann
- Hazel Morris
- Sam Pritchard
- Will Thomas

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Agenda Item 8



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

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) Adult Services
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure awareness and understanding of the work of the Panel• Consider its effectiveness and impact• Consider any issues arising and action required
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Peter Black (convener)
Lead Officer & Report Author	Liz Jordan Tel: 01792 6367314 E-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

- 1.1 There are six Performance Panels which have been established by the Committee. Whilst the work of Inquiry Panels 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 Performance Panels represent regular monitoring of, and challenge, to particular services.
- 1.2 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant cabinet 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:

a) Adult Services

To focus the discussion a short written report has been provided by the convener of the Panel, and is **attached**. This updates on work since the previous progress report was provided to the Committee in September 2018. This includes a summary of Panel activities, correspondence between the Panel and relevant Cabinet Members, proposals made and impact.

1.5 The membership of this Performance Panel (14) is as follows:

Labour Councillors: 7

Mandy Evans	Peter Jones
Joe Hale	Hazel Morris
Erika Kirchner	Gloria Tanner
Yvonne Jardine	

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 4

Peter Black (CONVENER)	Jeff Jones
Chris Holley	Susan Jones

Conservative Councillor: 1

Paxton Hood-Williams	
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Coopteers: 2

Tony Beddow	Katrina Guntrip
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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

Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel Update

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching purpose of the panel is to: provide ongoing challenge to adult social services performance 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 discussed and agreed their work plan for this municipal year in July 2018 and is currently meeting on a monthly basis. Since the last update to the SPC in September 2018, the panel has looked at the following:

- a) Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme (September)
- b) Overview of Supporting People Programme Grant (September)
- c) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (October)
- d) Update on how Council's Policy Commitments translate to Adult Services (October)
- e) Performance Monitoring Report (November)
- f) Wales Audit Office Report on Strategic Commissioning of Accommodation Services for People with Learning Disabilities (November)
- g) Director's Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2018-19 (November)
- h) Update on Social Work Practice Framework (December).

3. Achievements / Impact

We have sent 5 letters to the Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well since August 2018 in order to give our views, raise concerns and make recommendations, for example:

Positives:

- Panel encouraged to hear that the Council and the Health Board are in discussions concerning continuing health care as a better collaborative arrangement is needed including pooled budgets.
- Reviews of Allocated Clients – There has been significant improvement in recent figures particularly in the Learning Disability Team which had previously been a concern.
- Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme - Panel queried whether we would have the same results if the Local Authorities had been given the money instead of the region. We heard that some things would have been completed quicker or better but not overall. Also it has forced the Health Board and the Authorities to work together on some difficult issues. Another positive of the regional arrangement is that there is equity of service across the region.
- Strategic Commissioning of Accommodation Services for People with Learning Disabilities – Panel pleased to hear that there is some evidence that the service is starting to reduce spending in this area this year, and getting more control over its budget.

Issues / Concerns:

- Long Term Domiciliary Care – Panel heard Health Board is passing on costs to the Council regarding people with learning disabilities, which has contributed to the overspend in that area. Panel will be monitoring this going forward.
- Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme - Panel expressed concern about two aspects of the arrangements for the Western Bay Partnership. One was the

sheer confusing complexity of the management chart on page 38 of the papers and the lack of clear lines of accountability. Another was the imprecision of the roles of the various task groups cited in the lowest levels of the chart. Panel also suggested that it might have been useful to apply learning from network theory to the development of these arrangements. Officers confirmed that it is not clear that there is an overall vision and that the chart needs to be made simpler. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Panel to see the review of Western Bay arrangements.

Therefore 'Update on Western Bay Arrangements following the Review' was added to the Panel's work programme early in the next municipal year.

- Supporting People Programme Grant - Panel felt probation should be doing more and wanted to know what was being done to make them facilitate their role. Panel was informed there is a review at national level. Information on this review is to be provided to the Panel.
- Delayed Transfers of Care – Panel noted that there was a significant worsening in numbers of individuals delayed due to waiting for package of home care with notable deterioration in August and September. This is a concern for the Panel and we feel the Service is not getting on top of this.

Action Recommended / Agreed:

- Pre decision scrutiny on Outcomes of Residential Care and Day Services for Older People Consultation - Panel requested assurance that if the proposals are accepted and Parkways is to close, that the well-being of residents will be put first and that adequate time will be allowed for all residents and their families to be properly engaged with and assessed and moved into alternative accommodation.

Cabinet Member Response: I am happy to provide this reassurance and would fully agree that maintaining the wellbeing of residents affected is of paramount importance. If a decision is made to proceed, all individuals affected will be allocated a social worker to support them before, during and after any move. We have intentionally not set a definitive closure date, as we recognise that we need to be flexible to ensure that appropriate move on arrangements are in place for all concerned.

- Panel felt it would have been useful to be able to identify the source of the responses – whether an individual or a body/organisation.

Cabinet Member Response: I would agree with this view, and this is certainly a lesson learnt for us as an organisation when carrying out consultations in the future.

4. Future Work Programme

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

Meeting date	Item to be discussed
Additional meeting 11 Feb 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft budget proposals for Adult Services
Meeting 9 19 Feb 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Monitoring • Update on how Council's Policy Commitments translate to Adult Services • Adult Services Complaints Annual Report 2017-18
Meeting 10 19 Mar 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Commissioning Review - Domiciliary Care and Procurement • Safeguarding Arrangements update • Briefing on Safeguarding – Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking (Referred from SPC)
Additional meeting 26 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive and Chairman of ABMU HB attending to inform Panel of their vision for Swansea once the number of authorities in ABMU is reduced to two.

Meeting 11 16 Apr 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on Adult Services Improvement Plan• WAO report on Commissioning Services for People with Learning Disabilities – Follow up on recommendations• End of year review
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5. Action for the Scrutiny Programme Committee

None.

Agenda Item 9



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• agree the membership of Panels and Working Groups, and any other changes necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Mary Jones, 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:	Paul Cridland

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. Proposed Revision to Current Scrutiny Panel / Working Group Membership

- 2.1 Equalities Inquiry Panel.

REMOVE Councillor Lesley Walton

Following this change the revised membership of this Panel will be 9:

Labour Councillors: 7

Mandy Evans	Hazel Morris
Louise Gibbard (CONVENER)	Erika Kirchner
Terry Hennegan	Sam Pritchard
Yvonne Jardine	

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 1

Susan Jones	
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Conservative Councillor: 1

Lyndon Jones	
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2.2 Tourism Working Group.

ADD Councillor Cyril Anderson

Following this change the revised membership of this Panel will be 11:

Labour Councillors: 4

Cyril Anderson	Hazel Morris
Peter Jones (CONVENER)	Mike White

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 3

Mike Day	Susan Jones
Lynda James	

Conservative Councillor: 3

Lyndon Jones	Will Thomas
Myles Langstone	

Uplands Councillor: 1

Irene Mann	
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2.3 Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group.

ADD Councillor Cyril Anderson

REMOVE Councillor Wendy Fitzgerald

Following this change the revised membership of this Panel will be 8:

Labour Councillors: 7

Cyril Anderson	Hazel Morris
Louise Gibbard	Sam Pritchard
Terry Hennegan (CONVENER)	Mo Sykes
Peter Jones	

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 1

Mary Jones	
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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.
- 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
- A minimum of three members should be present at all 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

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

Scrutiny Dispatches – Quarterly Impact Report

Purpose	To present a draft of the quarterly report from the committee to council on the impact of scrutiny.
Content	The report appends the draft 'Scrutiny Dispatches' report, which headlines recent activities and impact for council and public awareness.
Councillors are being asked to	Approve content of the draft 'Scrutiny Dispatches' for submission to Council.
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer(s)	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for the overall work programme, including the various informal scrutiny activities, and monitoring progress to ensure that the work is effective.
- 1.2 The Committee is also concerned about improving communication and public engagement, and getting more coverage in the media so that the public are more aware of the work of scrutiny.
- 1.3 In order to provide 'headlines' from scrutiny activity and give the work of scrutiny greater visibility, both for council and public audience, a quarterly 'Scrutiny Dispatches' report is published.

2. Scrutiny Dispatches

- 2.1 The next quarterly report has been drafted for approval (**attached**). This will then be submitted to the next Council meeting (28 February) for discussion.
- 2.2 'Scrutiny Dispatches' is intended to demonstrate scrutiny achievements and outcomes. It is effectively a regular report about impact and how scrutiny is making a difference, rather than a descriptive account of the scrutiny work programme and activities. The aim is to focus on and promote a small number of 'significant stories'. A chair's roundup is also featured to highlight other work.
- 2.3 As well as being a report to council the content will be shared more widely, with advice and support from the Council's Communications Team and utilising social media. This should help raise awareness of the work and impact of scrutiny, and hopefully encourage more public engagement and participation in scrutiny. It is anticipated that some of the impact stories within Scrutiny Dispatches will generate press releases.
- 2.4 In order to ensure that people are informed more generally about the work of scrutiny a monthly newsletter is also being produced. This is circulated via an email subscription, and includes details of:
 - Topics being looked at by scrutiny
 - Progress with current activities
 - Forthcoming panel and working group meetings

3. Legal Implications

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

4. Financial Implications

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

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Scrutiny Dispatches Quarterly Report

‘How scrutiny councillors are making a difference’

Helping to Shape the Council’s new Homelessness Strategy

(Lead: Councillors Peter Black / Mary Jones)

Scrutiny Councillors have contributed to the Council’s new Homelessness Strategy.

Homelessness has been a topic of significant interest and concern over the last year for scrutiny. Scrutiny councillors were able to influence the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for 2018-2022 through a series of meetings to discuss the issues, challenges, and plans. The Strategy, approved by Cabinet in November, took on board issues and suggestions made by scrutiny councillors. Scrutiny contributed initially through a cross-party Working Group, chaired by Councillor Peter Black, mid-2018 to look at the Council’s activities to manage homelessness, the current position, performance of relevant services and the challenges faced. This work benefitted from the involvement of a number of interested parties including: Swansea Homeless Sanctuary, Shelter Cymru, Crisis, Wallich Dinas Fechan, Caer Las, Zac’s Place, Matthew’s House, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and the relevant Cabinet Member and officers from Swansea Council. This led to a number of issues being raised with Councillor Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Homes & Energy.

The Scrutiny Programme Committee, chaired by Councillor Mary Jones, which oversees the Scrutiny Work Programme, then met early October to review a consultation draft of the Strategy and Action Plan to ensure that its views can be fully considered in drawing up the final document. This led to a detailed consultation response being submitted to the Cabinet Member including views including around:

- Service user involvement and co-production
- The development of pre- eviction protocols
- Use of the private rented sector / loss of rented accommodation
- Working with Registered Social Landlords to alleviate homelessness
- Barriers to accessing temporary accommodation
- Proposals / timescales for increased support for people with mental health / complex needs
- Plans for a holistic “solutions centre” for services for rough sleepers
- Support to children affected by parental homelessness
- Monitoring, evaluation and review of success / impact of the Strategy

The Committee also carried out ‘pre- decision scrutiny’ in November which enabled it to review the contents of the final Strategy and Action Plan ahead of Cabinet decision. Councillor Mary Jones said ‘I am pleased to see our impact on the final document, and shows the value of the early engagement of scrutiny in such important decisions. We particularly welcomed:

- Recognition of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and children’s voice, and plan to develop a separate Homelessness Charter for children and young people
- The revision of timescales for the development of a holistic ‘solutions centre’ and clarity about what will be achieved e.g. the feasibility study will be carried out within a period of six months
- That there will be an annual progress report on the delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan.’

The contribution made by scrutiny to improve the Strategy and Action Plan, which saw amendments being made to the consultation draft, was praised by the Cabinet Member for Homes & Energy, ahead of its approval by Cabinet on 15 November.

Reducing Air & Noise Pollution

(Lead: Councillor Joe Hale)

Scrutiny councillors have had their say about air and noise pollution in Swansea.

A Working Group has looked at the situation in Swansea and the effects, how pollution is measured and monitored, and efforts to tackle problems and reduce pollution. As a result of their views and issues raised with Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management, action will include:

- Working with academic and health colleagues to complete specific air quality research projects aimed at engaging members of the public and achieving compliance with objective concentrations and reducing exposure to pollutants.
- Continued assessment of The Out of Hours Noise Control Service to seek efficiencies during times of austerity to enable continued delivery of this service.
- Looking at ways to reinvigorate the presentation of data on the Council's air pollution webpages and working with ICT service to redesign the site in order to engage the public in its content, including integrating the Nowcaster System within the site.
- The Air Quality Action Plan investigating pollution around schools and behaviour of parents when bringing their children to school to enable behavioural change and the reduction in pollutant concentrations.
- Working with colleagues in the School of Management and Life Science in Swansea University to investigate several themes around air quality and public health.

The views of the Working Group, which met in November 2018, and Cabinet Member response can be read in full here:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=647&MId=8323&Ver=4&LLL=0>

Improving Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

(Lead: Councillor Mary Jones)

Scrutiny councillors have made a positive impact in efforts to improve Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Following an in-depth inquiry carried out in 2017, councillors involved in this work met in November 2018 to follow up on the implementation of inquiry recommendations and assess the difference made. The Inquiry Panel was pleased to hear about a greater focus on prevention, better joint working between local authorities and the ABMU Health Board and improved response to urgent cases. They also welcomed changes to some of ABMU's commissioning arrangements, simplified processes to access the service, and the greater involvement of parents and Third Sector representatives.

A number of people addressed the Panel on progress, including the Cabinet Member for Children Services (Early Years), Director of Social Services, Head of Child & Family Services, and representatives from the Local Health Board.

The Cabinet Member for Early Years has recognised the contribution made by the scrutiny inquiry in highlighting the issues and in the progress made to improve services.

Although pleased with progress the Panel recognised that there is a long way to go to implement all of the recommendations and achieving significant improvement. The Panel agreed that the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel was best placed for continued monitoring of CAMHS. Read more here:

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=598&MId=8389&Ver=4&LLL=0>

Supporting the Natural Environment & Biodiversity

(Lead: Councillor Peter Jones)

The call from scrutiny councillors for the Council to give priority to the Natural Environment & Biodiversity has been answered.

The Council has recently adopted a sixth, and new, priority: Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity - so that we maintain and enhance biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprint, improve our knowledge and understanding of our natural environment and benefit health and well-being. Over the past year a Scrutiny Inquiry has been looking at what the Council should be doing to maintain, enhance and promote its natural environment and biodiversity, and in doing so promote the resilience of eco-systems. The Inquiry Panel will be publishing its final report shortly - more on that in the next edition. Both before and during this piece of in-depth scrutiny, which has shone a light on this topic, repeated calls (in different forums) were made for the Council to recognise the growing importance of the natural environment and biodiversity on well-being and future generations, something already recognised by the Public Services Board in its Well-being Plan and 'Working with Nature' objective. Councillor Peter Jones, convener of the Natural Environment Inquiry Panel, said: 'This is a scrutiny success - something we raised over a year ago. The decision by the Council is not only welcome but overdue, and supports our findings. Indeed the action taken pre-empts one of the recommendations that the Panel would certainly have made. I look forward to presenting the Panel's final report to Cabinet in the knowledge that the natural environment and biodiversity is now looked upon as a key priority, and our scrutiny report will offer our thoughts about how this priority can be delivered.'

Chair's Roundup:

This is my second roundup of the work of scrutiny for 2018/19, as Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee.

Progressing our priorities for 2018/19

We have made good progress over the year so far. The work programme is dominated by our six Performance Panels, which meet on an ongoing and regular basis. This has ensured continued focus on in-depth monitoring performance and challenge concerning Adult Services, Child & Family Services, Schools, the Public Services Board, and Development & Regeneration. The Service Improvement & Finance Panel keeps an eye on performance & spending across the Council. We have two in-depth inquiries in progress. Our examination of the Natural Environment is almost complete and a final report, with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet, will be presented soon. The inquiry into Equalities is currently evidence gathering, looking at how effectively the Council is meeting and embedding requirements under the law. Both of these inquiries have generated public interest, and it is pleasing that a number of people have responded to the 'call for evidence' and taken the opportunity to submit their views. Each Panel has also been proactive in seeking evidence from a wide range of sources, including people and groups involved or affected. We have arrangements in place to check on implementation of previous inquiry recommendations and assess the impact of our work. Because of good progress Councillors were able to conclude monitoring of the inquiries on Tackling Poverty and Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services. We also arrange Working Groups for a 'light-touch' look at issues and this has enabled scrutiny to look at, and make improvement recommendations, on the following: Hate Crime, Homelessness, Local Flood Risk Management, Air & Noise Pollution, Welfare Reform, and Environmental Enforcement.

Getting praise from inspectors

Recent reports by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) have praised the work of scrutiny. The Council's Child & Family Services and Foster Swansea Service were the subject of external inspections, which have identified good practice with positive outcomes for children and young people. As well as positive findings about the service provided, the inspectors commented that there are robust scrutiny arrangements in place for accountability and challenge in these areas.

Improving scrutiny

I wrote previously about the process of improvement and development, with challenge provided by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and the Committee identifying five scrutiny improvement objectives. I am happy to say that we have now agreed a Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan to address the WAO proposals for improvement and deliver our own objectives. This means action on: meeting development needs for scrutiny councillors; the relationship between scrutiny and the Council's Policy Development Committees; and better demonstrating the impact and outcomes of scrutiny. It also means a focus on getting more of our work formally reported to cabinet, earlier involvement in cabinet decision-making, improving councillor participation in scrutiny, strengthening the follow-up of recommendations, and getting more of our work in the media to raise awareness and public engagement in scrutiny. The Committee has previously identified the need to develop closer links with regulators and inspectors so that we can provide a more coordinated and effective challenge. The Scrutiny Work Programme will also now include consideration of relevant WAO reports. Scrutiny will expect assurance from Council leads about their response to WAO reports and provide challenge to monitor and ensure improvement.

Questioning Cabinet Members

The Committee continues to focus on holding cabinet members to account, through monthly Q & A sessions to discuss their work. Acting as a 'critical friend' we question and challenge them on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact. As I write we are due to meet with the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism in March. We invite the public and all scrutiny councillors to contribute ideas to ensure the Committee asks the right questions. A summary of each session and views of the Committee are published in a letter to relevant Cabinet Members. We have recently put questions to the Cabinet Members for Care, Health & Ageing Well, Economy & Strategy (Leader), and Environment & Infrastructure Management.

Challenging proposed decisions

Pre-decision scrutiny enables us to question Cabinet Members on proposals and present views and any concerns to Cabinet ahead of decisions. Since September scrutiny has looked at reports on: Homelessness Strategy & Action Plan 2018-2022 (Nov); Swansea Central Phase 1 (Nov); proposed closure of Craigcefnparc School - report on Small School Review (Dec); and YGG Felindre - report on School Organisation Linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (Dec).

Developing regional scrutiny

The regional Scrutiny Councillor Group continues to meet to consider progress with school improvement across the ERW (Education Through Regional Working) region. In January the Group met with the Chair of the ERW Joint Committee, Lead Chief Executive, and Lead Officer for ERW concerning the ERW Review and Reform Programme. Also, the new Joint Scrutiny Committee looking at the Swansea Bay City Deal Programme met for the first time on 20 November. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee were confirmed as: Councillor Arwyn Woolcock (Neath Port Talbot) and Councillor Rob James (Carmarthenshire) respectively, for a two year period. The Committee held an extra meeting on 31 January for update on internal and external reviews of the City Deal Programme, and recent developments.

Making the work of scrutiny transparent and accessible

Scrutiny agenda packs are available on the Council's ['agenda and minutes' webpage](#). There you can also find scrutiny letters sent to cabinet members following meetings and responses. Our meetings are open to the public and anyone living or working in Swansea can [suggest a topic for scrutiny](#). There are also opportunities to suggest questions, and submit views. To keep an eye on what's going see the links below, subscribe to our newsletter, or even follow us on Twitter.

Councillor Mary Jones

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Blog: www.swanseascrutiny.co.uk

Agenda Item 11



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19

Purpose:	This reports on progress with the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19 and information about current scrutiny activities which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.
Content:	The agreed work programme is attached, which includes the topics that will be examined by scrutiny through various Panels and Working Groups. The 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 Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

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:
- help improve services
 - provide an effective challenge to the executive
 - engage members in the development of policies, strategies and plans
 - engage the public
- 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 scrutiny time and resources.

It also needs to be:

- manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available
 - relevant to council priorities
 - adding value and having maximum impact
 - coordinated and avoid duplication
- 1.5 The work of scrutiny is undertaken primarily in three ways – through the Committee itself, by establishing informal panels or via one-off working groups. Panels and Working Groups would be open to all non-executive councillors - the Committee will agree 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 2018/19

- 2.1.1 The agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19 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 review to ensure it represents a robust and effective plan. The plan includes a schedule of future Cabinet Member Question & Answer Sessions.

2.2.2 Committee members should review and confirm items for the next and future meetings giving specific consideration to who should attend 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 scheduled for the next Committee meeting on 11 March is:

- Cabinet Member Question Session: Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism - Councillor Robert Francis-Davies.

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 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.

2.2.6 Commissioning Reviews – it has already been acknowledged that reports about the various commissioning reviews / new cross-cutting reviews that are planned over the next year are key cabinet decisions and should be subject to scrutiny. There is a general agreement that all these Reviews will undergo pre-decision scrutiny. This will be carried out via the Committee or relevant Panels as appropriate. Any outstanding reviews and the new cross-cutting reviews will be on the scrutiny radar during the year ahead and scheduled into work plans.

2.3 Inquiry Panels:

2.3.1 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 (yet to report):	Completed (follow up stage)
1. Natural Environment (final report stage; reporting to Committee 11 Feb) 2. Equalities (evidence gathering stage; expected end: March 2019)	1. Regional Working (May 2019)

2.4 Performance Panels:

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

Performance Panel	Convener
1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)	Cllr. Chris Holley
2. Schools (monthly)	Cllr. Mo Sykes (NB Cllr Lyndon Jones acting as informal vice-convener)
3. Adult Services (monthly)	Cllr. Peter Black
4. Child & Family Services (every two months)	Cllr. Paxton Hood-Williams
5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)	Cllr. Jeff Jones
6. Public Services Board (multi-agency) (quarterly)	Cllr. Mary Jones

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, in priority groups as shown and projected timetable:

First six months	Second six months
1. Air & Noise Pollution (Nov) COMPLETED	5. Tourism (Feb)
2. Welfare Reform (14 Jan)	6. Anti-Social Behaviour (Mar)
3. Residents Parking (Jan tbc)	7. Digital Inclusion (Apr)
4. Environmental Enforcement (5 Feb)	8. Archive Service (May)

(NB: an annual meeting on **Local Flood Risk Management** is a standing item in the work programme and will meet on 14 March

2019. At the request of the Working Group, an extra meeting, agreed by the Committee, already took place on 8 October 2018)

2.6 Regional Scrutiny:

2.6.1 **Education Through Regional Working** - Swansea scrutiny is involved in a regional scrutiny arrangement with the six councils participating in the 'Education Through Regional Working' (ERW) school improvement consortium. A Scrutiny Councillor Group has meeting bi-annually since 2016 in order to coordinate scrutiny work across the region and ensure a consistent approach. The Swansea Scrutiny Team is providing support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW. Swansea is represented by the chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and convener of the Schools Performance Panel.

2.6.2 **Swansea Bay City Region** – A Joint Scrutiny Committee was established earlier this year, which involves three councillor representatives from each of the four Councils involved in the City Deal meeting to scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee responsible for delivering the City Deal Programme. Swansea's Councillor Representatives are: Jan Curtice, Phil Downing & Jeff Jones.

3. **Monitoring the Work Programme**

3.1 The Committee is responsible for monitoring progress of 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 **Appendix 4a** provides a timetable of all scrutiny activities (projected or actual where dates are known). Lead councillors and officers are also noted within.

3.3 **Appendix 4b** provides a snapshot of progress with all of the Panels and Working Groups established by the Committee and their current position.

4. **Public Requests for Scrutiny / Councillor Calls for Action**

4.1 None.

5. **Financial Implications**

5.1 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.

6. **Legal Implications**

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

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2018-19

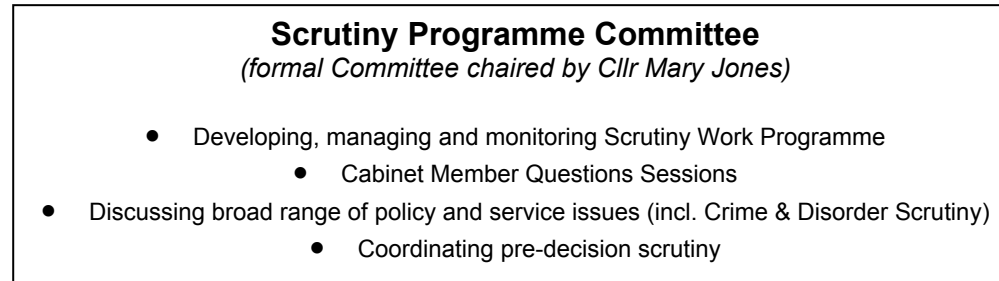
Appendix 2: Scrutiny Programme Committee - Work Plan 2018-19

Appendix 3: Cabinet Forward Plan

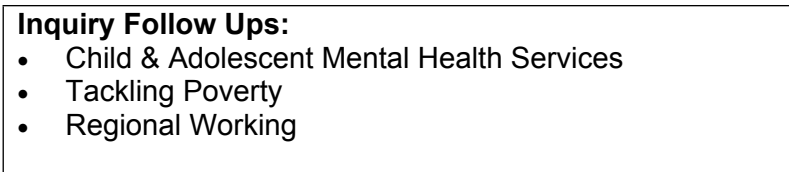
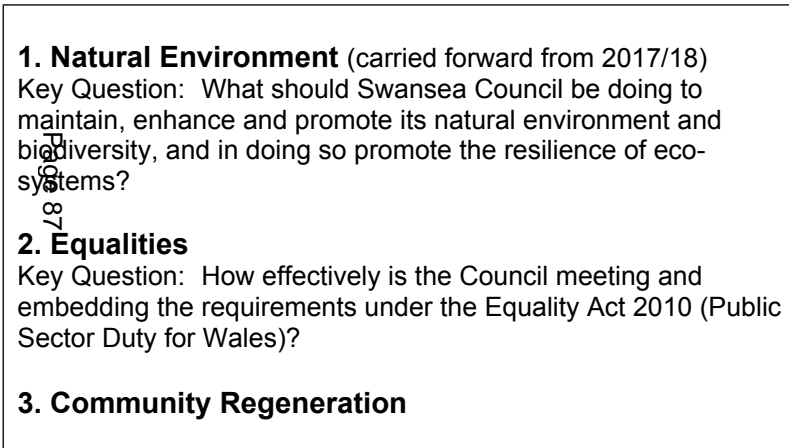
Appendix 4a: Scrutiny Work Programme – Projected Timetable of Activity

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

Appendix 1: Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19



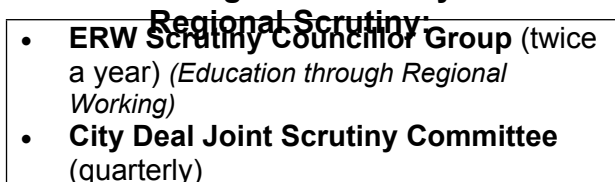
Inquiry Panels:
(time-limited in-depth inquiries)



Performance Panels:
(on-going in-depth monitoring)



Regional Scrutiny:



Working Groups:
(light touch / one-off meetings)



Issues referred to Performance Panels as part of their monitoring activities:

Adult Services:

- **Safeguarding - Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking** - (is there a problem in Swansea? what is happening to prevent?)

Child & Family Services:

- **Safeguarding - Child Sexual Exploitation** (is there a problem in Swansea? what is happening to prevent?)

Development & Regeneration:

- **City Centre** Re-development
- **Skyline** Development (ask about consultation with local community)
- **Local Manufacturing**

Schools:

- **Pupil Development Grant**
- **Special Education Needs** (concern about increase in no. of cases going to tribunal)
- **School Transport**
- **Free School Meals / LAC** attainment

Service Improvement & Finance:

- **Planning Enforcement** (discuss as part of annual performance report incl. around developer commitments)
- **Waste** (ask about waste treatment as part of annual performance report)
- **Welsh Housing Quality Standard** (annual position statement about progress in delivering WHQS by 2020/21 target)

Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2018/19

Standing / Recurring Agenda Items:

Role of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure understanding about the role of the Scrutiny Programme Committee, and discuss effective working
Scrutiny Work Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider feedback from Annual Scrutiny Work Planning Conference and proposals for the work programme, including work plan for future committee meetings To maintain overview on scrutiny work, monitor progress, and coordinate as necessary To receive progress reports from Conveners of Performance Panels on headlines from the Panel's work and achievements To plan for future committee meetings including key expectations e.g. key questions to explore, witnesses / information required To review future cabinet business and consider opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny To consider any councillor / public requests for scrutiny and/or Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA)
Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups (including appointment of conveners) and subsequent changes
Scrutiny Letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review scrutiny letters and Cabinet Member responses arising from scrutiny activities
Scrutiny Dispatches (Quarterly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve content of Dispatches prior to reporting to Council, ensuring visibility and awareness of headlines from scrutiny activities, achievements and impact
Scrutiny Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree the annual report of the work of overview & scrutiny for the previous municipal year, as required by the Council Constitution
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive final reports (including conclusions and recommendations) of Inquiry Panel prior to submission to Cabinet for decision
Scrutiny Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about upcoming and feedback from recent scrutiny events (e.g. relevant regional / national scrutiny development & improvement Issues; WLGA / CfPS network meetings)
Annual Work Plan Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reflect on the year's work, achievements, experiences, issues, ideas for future scrutiny

ACTIVITY	11 June 2018	19 June 2018*	9 July 2018	20 July 2018*	13 August 2018	10 September 2018
Scrutiny Work Programme			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Committee • Draft Work Programme for Agreement • Scrutiny Improvement & Development Objectives 			Wales Audit Office Report – Overview & Scrutiny: Fit for the Future?
Cabinet Member Question & Answer Sessions					Homes & Energy	Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)
Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports				Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee		
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports					Service Improvement & Finance	Adult Services
Pre-decision Scrutiny		More Homes Parc Yr Helyg Site Options Appraisal				
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports	Regional Working					
Scrutiny Reports to Council						

ACTIVITY	1 October 2018*	8 October 2018	12 November 2018	10 December 2018	14 January 2019	11 February 2019
Scrutiny Work Programme			Wales Audit Office Reports to Scrutiny		Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan (Wales Audit Office Report – Overview & Scrutiny: Fit for the Future? & Improvement Objectives)	
Cabinet Member Question & Answer Sessions		Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Children Services (Early Years and Young People)	Care, Health & Ageing Well	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	Environment & Infrastructure Management
Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports	Consultation on Draft Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2022	Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report	Children & Young People's Rights Scheme – Compliance and Progress	Sustainable Swansea: Commissioning Reviews - Annual Update 2018		
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports		Schools	Child & Family Services	Development & Regeneration	Service Improvement & Finance	Adult Services
Pre-decision Scrutiny			Homelessness Strategy & Action Plan 2018-2022			
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports						Natural Environment
Scrutiny Reports to Council		Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report			Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report

ACTIVITY	11 March 2019	8 April 2019	13 May 2018			
Scrutiny Work Programme			Annual Work Programme Review			
Cabinet Member Question & Answer Sessions	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Better Communities (People and Place)	Delivery			
Other Cabinet Member / Officer Reports						
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports	Schools	Public Services Board				
Pre-decision Scrutiny						
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports			Equalities			
Scrutiny Reports to Council			Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report			

* denotes extra meeting

To Be Arranged:

Scrutiny / Audit Committee Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of Audit Committee to attend to share work plan of Audit Committee / Annual Report. Discussion to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mutual awareness and understanding of respective work plans and co-ordination - issues relating to work programmes can be discussed
Crime & Disorder Scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Chairs of Safer Swansea Partnership to attend to provide information and take questions on the performance of the Partnership to enable committee to explore plans / objectives, achievements, impact, challenges etc
Wales Audit Office Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements

Specific Recurring Reports to Committee:

Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider report of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Group. The report is cross cutting (i.e. covers safeguarding of adults and children) and is not a report on social services performance but on how the Council as whole is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities.
Children & Young People's Rights Scheme – Compliance and Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss annual progress report on implementation of Children & Young People's Rights Scheme, and consider impact (scheme was agreed by Cabinet in October 2014).
Sustainable Swansea Programme – Commissioning Reviews: Service Areas – Post Implementation Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular update on progress in implementation of service changes following Commissioning Reviews / outcomes.

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2018 – 2019

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 3rd Quarter 2018/19.	To note any significant variations from the agreed budget 2018/19 and savings plan and the actions planned to achieve a balanced budget.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	14 Feb 2019	Open
FPR5 - Project Extension of ESF Funded Cynnydd Project.	Following the operational delivery of Cynnydd from September 2016 to date, WEFO have permitted the regional project to apply for additional funding to extend the projects delivery up to December 2022. With additional funding, the project can continue to deliver its added benefits, and support young people who are the greatest risk of becoming NEET.	Tracy Nichols	Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Cabinet	21 Feb 2019	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2018 – 2019

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Housing Revenue Account Development Programme.	Report to outline the emerging development plan for new council homes funded by the Housing Revenue Account. The development plan sets out the schemes that will be delivered by the Council over the next 4 years, and the opportunities for additional funding from Welsh Government to support the schemes.	Carol Morgan	Cabinet Member - Homes & Energy	Cabinet	21 Feb 2019	Open
National Joint Council for Local Government Services Pay Award for 2019/20.	To implement NJC Pay award for 2019/20.	Adrian Chard	Cabinet Member - Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	21 Feb 2019	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2018 – 2019

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
The Welsh Government Targeted Regeneration and Investment (TRI) Programme 2018-21.	This report follows on from the report to Cabinet on the 17th May 2018, outlining new thematic capital schemes as part of the Welsh Government Targeted Regeneration and Investment (TRI) Programme. Approval is being sought to formally submit grant funded schemes to the TRI Programme and to commit these schemes with the associated match funding to the Capital Programme.	Elliott Williams	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	21 Feb 2019	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2018 – 2019

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
<p>Bishopston Comprehensive School Stage 1 Pre-Construction Design Scheme and Contract Approval.</p>	<p>This project is part of Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme and if approved will be jointly funded by Welsh Government and Swansea Council.</p> <p>The project is subject to business case approvals by Welsh Government and also planning application approval.</p> <p>The remodelling and refurbishment of the existing premises is planned to address condition and suitability issues. The programme of works will be phased as appropriate to prioritise the areas of greatest need. The proposal will upgrade school facilities but will not increase the pupil capacity which currently stands at 1094, and will also involve the removal of the existing sub-standard demountable</p>	Sarah Rees	Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2018 – 2019

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Capital Maintenance Report 2019/20.	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule 7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) to commit and authorise schemes as per the Capital Programme.	Nigel Williams	Cabinet Member - Homes & Energy	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Open
Disposal of Highway Land at Mumbles, Swansea.	The report deals with an application to acquire from the Council an area of temporarily closed highway at a value that reflects a restricted use.	David Turner	Cabinet Member - Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Fully exempt
Establishment of a Wholly Owned Energy Services Company Update.	To provide an update on the feasibility study into the establishment of a wholly owned energy services company	Martin Nicholls	Cabinet Member - Homes & Energy	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Open
Pilot Council Direct Development Project - Development.	Update outlining progress with Council Pilot Direct Development Project.	Martin Nicholls	Cabinet Member - Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2018 – 2019

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Quarter 3 2018/19 Performance Monitoring Report.	To report the performance indicator results and summarise the Council's performance meetings its priorities for the third quarter period October 2018 – December 2018.ro	Richard Rowlands	Cabinet Member - Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Open
School Organisation Linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan.	1. The report will consider any objections received during the statutory notice period and will determine if: Close YGG Felindre on 31 August 2019; and Relocate and enlarge YGG Tan-y-lan Relocate and enlarge YGG Tirdeunaw	Kelly Small	Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Open
Small School Review.	The report will consider any objections received during the statutory notice period and will determine if Craigcefnparc Primary School should close on 31 August 2019.	Kelly Small	Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019	Open

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Scrutiny Work Programme 2018-19 – Projected Timetable of Activity (actual dates shown)

Activity / Month	JUN 2018	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2019	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Mary Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Brij Madahar Lead Cabinet Member: cross-cutting Lead CMT: cross-cutting Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	11 19*	9 20*	13	10	1* 8	12	10	14	11	11	8	13
INQUIRY PANELS:	Evidence Gathering				Findings			Final Report				
Natural Environment Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Peter Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Bethan Hopkins Lead Cabinet Member: Mark Thomas Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes	18	26	29	21	4			23				
					Planning	Evidence Gathering					Findings/Final Report	
Equalities Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Louise Gibbard Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Mary Sherwood Lead CMT: Sarah Caulkin Lead Head of Service: Tracey Meredith					11 24	8		15 18 21 23 31	13 21	11 27	11	Date TBA
Tackling Poverty Follow Up (COMPLETE) (Cabinet decision 15/6/17) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Sybil Crouch Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member Mary Sherwood Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Rachel Moxey					15							

Activity / Month	JUN 2018	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2019	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services Follow Up (COMPLETE) (Cabinet decision 16/2/17) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Mary Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Mark Child Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Julie Thomas						21						
Regional Working Follow Up (Cabinet decision 16/8/18) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Phil Roberts Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting												
PERFORMANCE PANELS:												
Adult Services (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member Mark Child Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Deb Reed (interim)	19	17	21	17* 25	23	20	11	15	11* 19	19 26*	16	
Service Improvement & Finance (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Bethan Hopkins Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / Clive Lloyd Lead CMT: Sarah Caulkin / Ben Smith	5 19*	10	14	11 27	29	13	11	15	12*	6 20	9	

Activity / Month	JUN 2018	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN 2019	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
REGIONAL SCRUTINY:												
ERW - Education through Regional Working (bi-annual) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Mary Jones / Mo Sykes Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Jennifer Raynor Lead CMT: Nick Williams Lead Head of Service: Helen Morgan-Rees Regional Lead: Geraint Rees				10				10*		25		
Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (quarterly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Arwyn Woolcock (Neath Port Talbot) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Jan Curtice / Phil Downing / Jeff Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Jason Davies, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Phil Roberts / Martin Nicholls Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes						20		31*		1		16

* denotes extra meeting

Information correct as of 04/02/19 14:41

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

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) Natural Environment (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

Key Question: What should Swansea Council be doing to maintain, enhance and promote its natural environment and biodiversity, and in doing so promote the resilience of eco-systems?

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The final report has now been agreed by the Inquiry Panel. The report is being presented to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 11 February for approval to submit the report to cabinet for decision.

Projected End Date: January 2019

b) Equalities (convener: Cllr Louise Gibbard)

Key Question: How effectively is the Council meeting and embedding the requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Duty for Wales)?

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The inquiry’s evidence gathering is moving at a pace, with discussion being had with a wide variety of people including 50+ Network, young people, LGBT Forum, Disability Liaison Group, carers, BME Forum and veterans group. The Panel will also be speaking to all Directors, Human Resources and the new staff equality champions.

Projected End Date: April 2019

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	
Tackling Poverty	15 Jun 2017	12	1	2	15 Oct 2018 COMPLETE
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services	16 Feb 2017	13	1	1	(i) 15 Nov 2017 (ii) 21 Nov 2018 COMPLETE
Regional Working	16 Aug 2018	11	0	0	May 2019

3. Performance Panels:

Performance Panels enable regular and structured in-depth monitoring of performance and challenge within these key areas:

a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

The Panel have recently looked at the Q2 Performance Monitoring Report and had the opportunity to review the draft budget proposals ahead of the formal budget meeting in February. Along with the regular budget and performance monitoring, the work plan will look at the Library Standards Annual Report, the Complaints Annual Report and a review of Community Buildings and Groups. There is also an additional meeting in place to undertake scrutiny of progress against the Welsh Housing Quality Standard in March.

b) **Schools Performance** (convener: Cllr Mo Sykes)

The Panel have an extra meeting on 11 February to discuss the Annual Budget proposals as they relate to education matters. The Panel's next scheduled meeting is on 20 March where they will be visiting Morryston Primary School to see the improvements that have been made and embedded since they met with them in March 2018.

c) **Public Services Board** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The next meeting on 6 February will look at progress with the Public Services Board as well as a focus on the Live Well, Age Well objective. The meeting will also include discussion regarding the role and involvement of the Council, as Statutory Member of the Public Services Board, with appropriate representatives. In addition, the Panel will receive a governance update.

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

The Panel met in December and received an update on the Corporate Parenting Board and discussed the Performance Monitoring Report for the Service for November 2018. The next meeting on 11 February will discuss the draft budget proposals for Child and Family Services and there will be a question and answer session with the Cabinet Members for Children Services. The meeting on 25 February will receive an update on the impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services; discuss Safeguarding in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation and receive an update on Child Disability.

e) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Peter Black)

A progress report appears separately in the agenda as Item No. 8.

f) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

The next meeting on 11 February will be the Panel's opportunity to contribute to the budget process. The following meeting on 28 February will have the regular dashboard report and an in depth look at the Skyline project.

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) **Education Through Regional Working**

A regional scrutiny councillors group meets to coordinate scrutiny work and ensure a consistent approach across the six councils participating in ERW. At present this involves two meetings per year. Swansea is represented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and Convener of the Schools Performance Panel.

The next scheduled meeting is 25 March 2019 and will be hosted in Swansea.

Swansea's Scrutiny Team is providing the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

b) **Swansea Bay City Region**

The Committee, which will scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee responsible for delivering the City Deal Programme, is serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council. Swansea Councillor representatives are: Jan Curtice, Phil Downing & Jeff Jones.

The Committee held an extra meeting on 31 January for update on internal and external reviews of the City Deal Programme, and developments in light of recent events surrounding the Wellness Village / Delta Lakes project and impact on the overall City Deal Programme.

The next scheduled meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Committee are being held on 1 March 2019 and 16 May 2019, with meetings rotated around the four authorities. The meeting in February will enable the Committee to learn more about the City Deal Programme and regional projects.

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 primarily involving discussion with relevant cabinet member(s) / officer(s) (and any other persons called) to gather information, ask questions, and raise any concerns.

a) Local Flood Risk Management (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

This is an annual recurring item in the work programme. The next meeting will be held on 14 March to monitor progress on the delivery of the Flood Risk Management Plan.

b) Residents Parking (convener: Cllr Peter May)

This meeting was scheduled for 8 November but has been delayed due to resource issues within the department, to allow time for information required to be provided. It will focus on concerns that have been raised about the new electronic permit issuing process and enable relevant information to be discussed and questions to be asked.

c) Welfare Reform (convener: Cllr Louise Gibbard)

A meeting of the Working Group was held on 14 January 2019 which enabled information, questions and discussion on the impact of welfare reform in Swansea, e.g. Universal Credit, and work / measures in place to support citizens and mitigate problems. The Citizens Advice Bureau participated in this Working Group. A letter will now be sent to the Cabinet Member for Better Communities (People) with the views and recommendations of the Working Group.

d) **Environmental Enforcement** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

A meeting of the Working Group has been arranged for 5 February and will enable information, questions and discussion about what is being done in relation to the enforcement / prevention of environmental issues such as fly tipping, dog fouling, litter, pavement parking and branches and undergrowth overhanging public footpaths and highways etc., concerns about which seem to be regularly raised by the public.

e) **Tourism** (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

This will enable assessment of current activities taking into account previous scrutiny inquiry, and include discussion on issue raised about the maintenance / development of coastal path.

f) **Anti-Social Behaviour** (convener: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

This will enable information, questions and discussion on current approaches to tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities and their effectiveness.

g) **Digital Inclusion** (convener: Cllr Lesley Walton)

This will enable councillors to follow up on the Working Group meeting held in March 2017. At that meeting the Working Group detailed a number of issues to be considered as part of a review of the Council's digital inclusion strategy. Councillors will be able to consider how well prepared both the Council itself and the public is to use and communicate / engage via digital technology.

Further Working Groups to be convened (membership / convener to be appointed in due course):

- **Archive Service**

This would enable discussion about current service delivery, performance, and challenges. There is particular concern about accommodation issues and their effect on the service.

Scrutiny Letters Log (25 May 2018 - 23 May 2019)

Ave. Response Time (days): 18 (target within 21 days) % responses within target: 77

No.	Committee / Panel / Working Group	Meeting Date	Main Issue(s)	Cabinet Portfolio	Letter Sent	Response Received	Days Taken	Reported to SPC (if applicable)
1	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	15-May	End of year round up - Engagement with Scrutiny and Costs	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	29-May	09-Jul	27	n/a
2	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	07-Feb	Libraries	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	30-May	26-Jun	21	n/a
3	Committee	14-May	Cabinet Member Q & A	Delivery	04-Jun	25-Jun	21	09-Jul
4	Adult Services Performance Panel	16-May	Performance monitoring and budget outputs	Care, Health & Ageing Well	07-Jun	15-Jun	8	n/a
5*	Committee	19-Jun	Pre-decision scrutiny - More Homes Parc Yr Helyg Site Options Appraisal	Homes & Energy	20-Jun	05-Jul	n/a	09-Jul
6	Schools Performance Panel	07-Jun	Science in Schools	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	21-Jun	03-Jul	12	n/a
7	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	19-Jun	Pre-decision scrutiny - Cultural Services Commissioning Review	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	27-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a

8*	Working Group	20-Jun	Community Cohesion	Better Communities - People	02-Jul	12-Oct	n/a	12-Nov
9	Working Group	12-Jun	Homelessness	Homes & Energy	05-Jul	26-Jul	21	13-Aug
10	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	25-Jun	Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on CFS	Children's Services - Early Years	12-Jul	n/a	n/a	n/a
11	Schools Performance Panel	18-Jul	Pre-decision scrutiny - changes to EMAU Service	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	19-Jul	n/a	n/a	n/a
12	Schools Performance Panel	12-Jul	Visit and meeting at Gowerton Primary School re: Foundation Phase	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	20-Jul	26-Jul	6	n/a
13	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	19-Jul	City Deal financial implications	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	14-Aug	21-Aug	n/a	n/a
14	Public Services Board Performance Panel	18-Jul	Governance of PSB	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	15-Aug	28-Aug	13	
15	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	14-Aug	End of Year Performance Monitoring Report	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	23-Aug	n/a	n/a	n/a
16	Adult Services Performance Panel	21-Aug	Performance monitoring	Care, Health & Ageing Well	11-Sep	n/a	n/a	n/a
17	Committee	13-Aug	Cabinet Member Q & A	Homes & Energy	11-Sep	01-Oct	20	08-Oct

18	Adult Services Performance Panel	17-Sep	Pre-decision on outcomes of residential care and day services commissioning reviews	Care, Health & Ageing Well	19-Sep	21-Sep	2	n/a
19	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	11-Sep	Recycling and Landfill Annual Report	Environment & Infrastructure Management	19-Sep	09-Oct	20	n/a
20	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	28-Aug	Update on adoption service and advocacy and Bright Spots Survey	Children's Services - Early Years	20-Sep	n/a	n/a	n/a
21	Adult Services Performance Panel	25-Sep	Update on Western Bay programme and the Supporting People Programme grant	Care, Health & Ageing Well	09-Oct	26-Oct	17	n/a
22	Adult Services Performance Panel	25-Sep	Letter to Western Bay re update on Western Bay Programme	Care, Health & Ageing Well	10-Oct	22-Nov	n/a	n/a
23	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	27-Sep	Equalities Review Report	Better Communities - People	16-Oct	26-Oct	10	n/a
24	Committee	10-Sep	Cabinet Member Q & A	Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)	16-Oct	07-Nov	22	10-Dec
25	Tackling Poverty Inquiry Panel	15-Oct	Tackling Poverty follow up	Better Communities - People	24-Oct	n/a	n/a	12-Nov
26	Working Group	08-Oct	Local Flood Risk Management - update on progress since last meeting	Environment & Infrastructure Management	30-Oct	16-Nov	17	10-Dec

27	Schools Performance Panel	17-Oct	Ysgol Crug Glas School	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	31-Oct	27-Nov	27	n/a
28	Committee	08-Oct	Cabinet Member Q & A	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	09-Nov	27-Nov	18	10-Dec
29	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	07-Nov	Regeneration Updates	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	13-Nov	03-Dec	20	n/a
30	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	29-Oct	Finance Reports	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	13-Nov	21-Dec	38	n/a
31	Committee	12-Nov	Pre-decision Scrutiny - Homelessness Strategy & Action Plan 2018-2022	Homes & Energy	14-Nov	n/a	n/a	10-Dec
32	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	29-Oct	Youth Offending Service; Performance Monitoring and Feedback on Inspection reports	Children's Services - Early Years	19-Nov	n/a	n/a	n/a
33	Working Group	06-Nov	Air & Noise Pollution	Environment & Infrastructure Management	19-Nov	28-Nov	9	10-Dec
34	Public Services Board Performance Panel	03-Oct	Meeting with Future Generations Commissioner	Chair of Public Services Board	29-Nov	n/a	n/a	
35	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	28-Nov	Pre-Decision Swansea Central Update and FPR7	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	29-Nov	04-Jan	36	n/a

36	Adult Services Performance Panel	20-Nov	Performance Monitoring, review of charges, WAO report on accommodation for additional needs / learning disabilities	Care, Health & Ageing Well	04-Dec	25-Jan	n/a	n/a
37	CAMHS Inquiry Panel	21-Nov	2nd follow up on the CAMHS Inquiry	Children's Services - Early Years	05-Dec	02-Jan	n/a	14-Jan
38	Committee	12-Nov	Cabinet Member Q & A	Children Services	06-Dec	14-Jan	n/a	11-Feb
39	Schools Performance Panel	19-Nov	EOTAS and the Behaviour Plan	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	10-Dec	n/a	n/a	n/a
40	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	13-Nov	Reserves/Mid Year Budget/Annual Review of Performance	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	14-Dec	07-Jan	n/a	n/a
41	Schools Performance Panel	17-Dec	Pre-decision scrutiny on school closures	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	19-Dec	n/a	n/a	n/a
42	Schools Performance Panel	11-Dec	Education Improvement Service and Pupil Development Grant	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	03-Jan	11-Jan	8	n/a
43	Adult Services Performance Panel	11-Dec	Social care practice framework	Care, Health & Ageing Well	08-Jan	n/a	n/a	n/a
44	Public Services Board Performance Panel	05-Dec	Working with Nature and Governance	Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)	11-Jan	n/a	n/a	
45	Committee	10-Dec	Cabinet Member Q & A	Care, Health & Ageing Well	17-Jan			

46	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	18-Dec	Corporate Parenting Board and Performance Monitoring	Children Services	21-Jan	n/a	n/a	n/a
47	Schools Performance Panel	17-Jan	Annual Education Performance Data	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	28-Jan	n/a	n/a	
48	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	15-Jan	Q2 Performance Monitoring Report and Draft Budget Proposals	Economy & Strategy (Leader)	31-Jan			
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**To/
Councillors Elliot King & Will Evans
Cabinet Members for Children
Services**

BY EMAIL

cc Cabinet Members

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

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Scrutiny

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SPC/2018-19/7

06 December 2018

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Members following the meeting of the Committee on 12 November 2018. It is about Child & Family Services Inspection Reports, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Regional Adoption Service, Flying Start, Play Therapy, Apprenticeships, Youth Inclusion & Citizenship, Cultural Opportunities for Vulnerable Groups, and Children's Rights

Dear Councillor,

Cabinet Member Question Session – 12 November

Thank you for attending the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 12 November 2018 and answering questions on your work together as Cabinet Members for Children Services. The session also benefited from the attendance of the Head of Child & Family Services, Julie Thomas.

We are aware the portfolio is shared and split with designated responsibility for Early Years and Young People, and recognised that you were both relatively new to this role. You highlighted issues around Child Protection & Safeguarding, Looked After Children and Corporate Parenting which were paramount and cut across this divide. We appreciate you jointly providing a written paper in support of your appearance. The Q & A session gave us an opportunity to explore priorities and achievement in relation to your areas of responsibility.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, 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 are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Committee, and, where necessary, raise any outstanding issues / actions for your response. The main issues discussed are summarised below:

Child & Family Services Inspection Reports

You highlighted recent positive Care Inspectorate Wales findings in relation to Child & Family Services and Foster Swansea and praised the staff working in these areas for achieving this outcome. You reported that inspectors found good quality practice with positive outcomes achieved for most children and families. Additionally they found that services were effectively delivered by staff that were dedicated, well supported and enjoyed working for a local authority where there was a culture of support.

However, you felt there was no room for complacency and recognised that the report identified a number of areas for improvement, for example there is scope to improve support and opportunities to help children and young people to achieve good educational outcomes. We noted the aim for Looked After Children to succeed in school and to have opportunities for further education, higher education, employment or training, but asked what data there was around the educational attainment of Looked After Children and entry into higher education. We recognised this was an area which the Corporate Parenting Board and Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills would have involvement in, though you undertook to provide this information to us in writing.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

As one of the Council's corporate priorities we were aware that training for councillors and staff on child protection and safeguarding was compulsory however the position was less clear in the case of school governors. We acknowledged that Cllr Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well, had lead responsibility for Corporate Safeguarding, and that the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills may also have a view on this. It would be helpful if you could inform the Committee whether training on safeguarding is mandatory for school governors.

We noted from the work of the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel some concern about the percentage of children on the Child Protection Register that have been registered previously, with most of these children not coming back for the same reason – something that needs to be monitored closely. It was noted that this concern was shared within Child & Family Services and it was explained to us that this was not necessarily because of any lack of awareness of issues but that some children will present with new issues depending on their individual circumstances and changes that may happen after initial intervention. For example neglect can be followed by domestic violence issues later on.

Regional Adoption Service

We discussed progress with the regional adoption service and performance. We heard that a very small percentage of children are placed for adoption and these will be the very young children. We noted that as children get older there is a decreased likelihood of adoption. We also noted that the service is seeing an increasing number of complex cases, and there are also a number of large sibling groups, which, as a consequence, makes these children difficult to place. We acknowledged that some of these children will have had traumatic life experiences due to a range of issues included domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health, making it very challenging to find such permanent solutions for them.

It was agreed to provide the Committee with relevant performance data relating to the adoption service. Members were keen to know how many children were awaiting adoption and the trend, and process timescales which some members observed can be too long.

Flying Start

We asked you about Flying Start which you reported offers free, high quality part-time childcare for children aged two in targeted areas in the more deprived areas of Swansea. The aim was to help improve readiness for school and to help their families support their children. The Committee asked you about spending on Flying Start (which you agreed to provide to us in writing), coverage across Swansea, and improvement plans. Whilst recognising that Flying Start has long term focus, we also asked about the measures of outcomes and success of the programme.

We noted that in 2017/18, 2,955 children benefitted from the Flying Start programme and the childcare attendance average remained on target above the national average at 80%. In addition, the Council has successfully applied to the Welsh Government for capital grants for Flying Start centres in the City, with more than £100,000 to be spent improving pre-school facilities for young children in some of the most deprived areas of Swansea. You told us that it will be used to improve and upgrade children's areas, add additional facilities and improve security and safety at seven sites. We were particularly curious about the security and safety issues that needed to be addressed.

You stressed that the Flying Start programme is operating within clear objectives, funding, guidelines and criteria prescribed by the Welsh Government with designated Flying Start areas in Swansea. However there are additional projects and initiatives in place, for example the Families First Programme including 'Team Around the Family in schools' initiative and multi-disciplinary 'Jig-so' project, as well as other interventions, information and advice giving to support early years.

Based on your experience, you spoke highly of the Flying Start Programme in child development and reducing barriers to education, though acknowledged that the funding means limited coverage across Swansea. We also recalled positive findings from previous discussions within scrutiny, including a visit to the Flying Start setting at Seaview.

Play Therapy

The Committee asked about the provision of Play Therapists within the Council, and how this service is managed and delivered. We were told that there are three play teams within the Council, which linked with family therapists and regional teams. In addition the Council worked closely with the Third Sector to ensure needs are met.

Apprenticeships

You reported on close working with other Cabinet Members to ensure opportunities for children and young people, particularly Looked After Children, to benefit from apprenticeships. We noted that collaborative work between Corporate Building Services and Social Services has resulted in significantly improving opportunities for Looked After Children to secure apprenticeships. 55 apprenticeships trained in 2017/18, with three apprenticeships being secured by Looked After Children. You felt this was a direct result of promoting and targeting the scheme to Looked After Children. We were interested in whether apprenticeship opportunities extended beyond Corporate Building Services and were told that this is something which you intended to achieve.

Youth Inclusion & Citizenship

You reported on work to engage children and young people in the decisions that affect them, through various forums, survey work, and 'Big Conversation' events. We were interested in the engagement of children and young people from Swansea in the first ever Welsh Youth Parliament. We understand that a ballot was being held for 11-18 year olds during November that will determine Swansea's representation, as well as that across the rest of Wales. We heard that 480 young people applied to be candidates, and were pleased that there has been a high level of interest in Swansea. The Committee looks forward to hearing about the outcome of the Welsh Youth Parliament elections, and would be grateful if you can share any further information that you may have in your response.

Cultural Opportunities for Vulnerable Groups

In support of national well-being goals we were interested in how your work is contributing to more cohesive communities. Your report mentioned the Fusion Programme which is bringing together the Council and third sector to create more cultural opportunities for more diverse communities. You stated that

regular free culture sessions are now being provided for vulnerable groups which include looked after children, carers and NEETS, as well as improving access to cultural venues across Swansea.

Children's Rights

At the meeting we also received the Annual Progress Report on the Children's Rights Scheme. We heard directly from Jane Whitmore, Partnership and Commissioning Manager, and Katie Spendiff, the Children's Rights Co-ordinator about achievements in relation to implementing the Scheme and embedding the UNCRC across the Council, and ensuring due regard is paid.

We agreed that it was a positive report demonstrating good progress and achievement of key objectives. The Committee was particularly pleased with the commitment to hearing children's voices and valuing their opinions, however highlighted the need to ensure information on children's rights (including promoting the Big Conversation) is accessible, which may not necessarily be through the Council website. We thanked the Officers for their hard work.

Your Response

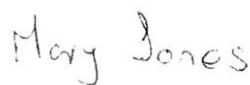
In your response we would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised in this letter. We would be grateful, however, if you could specifically refer to our request for you to:

- Provide data on the educational attainment of Looked After Children and entry into higher education.
- Confirm whether training on safeguarding is mandatory for school governors.
- Provide relevant performance data relating to the adoption service.
- Confirm spending in Swansea on the Flying Start Programme.
- Share any further information about the Welsh Youth Parliament elections.

Please provide the response to this and any other comments about our letter by 3 January. A single co-ordinated response letter would be appreciated. We will then include both letters in the agenda of the next available Committee meeting.

We will arrange to follow up on portfolio developments and invite you both to a future Committee meeting in due course.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR MARY JONES

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.mary.jones@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Cllr W Evans/Cllr E King
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Our Ref: WE/HS
Your Ref: ref
Date: 14 January 2019

Dear Cllr Jones

Scrutiny Cabinet Member Question Session – 12 November

With reference to your letter dated 6 December 2018 please find responses below.

QUESTION 1

Provide data on the educational attainment of Looked After Children and entry into higher education.

RESPONSE

i) Children at local schools?

ii) With looked after children in other authorities?

It is recognised that reporting cohorts are small and therefore liable to significant fluctuation and are largely dependent on the individual abilities of the individual learners each year. Individual potential and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) status are not requested, nor considered, in national reporting, which has been raised as an issue with Welsh Government.

All data attached is extracted from Local Authority and ERW data reported annually through PLASC. This includes all looked after learners attending Local Authority education in Swansea from other counties also in line with our responsibilities to other education departments. It should be noted however that Welsh Government have taken the decision to not collect any data on their PLASC returns effectively immediately. This will affect the ability to report on the results achieved.

Concern is expressed at the differences in some of the data in appendix A and B. Appendix A is generated from Swansea's data base in consultation with our data manager. Appendix B is ERW data taken from PLASC. Conversations are taking place as to how best resolve these differences. With such a small cohort, small changes can make big differences.

In considering the information below it is important to consider that it would be unusual for a pupil to be LAC for the duration of their school career. Many children come in and out of LAC status, affecting the stability of their schools placements and affecting educational outcomes. The figures below do not identify at what education stage pupils become LAC, often they are at KS3 and 4, which unfortunately means that there will be gaps in

their learning at a lower stage and it is often difficult for schools to provide enough intervention for them to catch up while simultaneously teaching a curriculum. Pupils do not progress through education stages in a continuous manner, despite best efforts LAC learners are still subject to high levels of instability in home and school placements. It should also be noted that out of county placements, and intercountry placements can be made at any stage and often in Key Stage 4. As a county we are liable for the education of the learners in our schools.

I. Comparison of LAC pupils with all others in Swansea schools. **(See Appendix A and C attached)**

Pupils achieving the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI) at end of Foundation Phase (outcome 5 or higher in language, mathematics, PSD)

In Foundation phase the gap between looked after children (LAC) performance and all learners in Swansea has traditionally been the narrowest of any key stage. Over a 3 year period LAC learners in Swansea are 21.9% behind their peers.

This year there has been a decrease in this indicator which runs in line with decreases in Swansea, ERW and Wales figures.

Pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at end of Key Stage 2 (KS2)
Level 4+ in English/Welsh, Mathematics and Science.

In Key Stage 2 the gap between LAC performance and all learners in Swansea is second narrowest of any key stage. In 2018 LAC learners achieved 55.0% this is lower than previous years.

Pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at end of Key Stage 3 (KS3)
Level 5+ in English/Welsh, Mathematics and Science.

In Key Stage 3 the gap between LAC performance and all learners in Swansea shows an increase to a 3 year average gap of 32.7%. Learners achieved a 3 year average of 54.7%. LAC learners in KS3 in 2018 achieved 54.2%.

Pupils achieving Level 2+ at end of Key Stage 4 (KS4)
5A* - C including English/Maths, and Science.

In Key Stage 4 the gap between LAC performance and all learners in Swansea over a 3 year average is greatest at -44.4 %, we are concerned that just 1 LAC learner out of 18 achieved L2+, but must be taken into context that 14 of these youngsters had an additional learning need and were given intervention to support their needs. It is worthy to note that the changes to the reporting standards by Welsh Government, can be seen to significantly disadvantage more vulnerable learners, by omitting vocational qualifications from headline figures.

Pupils achieving Level 1 at end of KS4

The Level 1 threshold which is 5 A*-G has a much narrower margin with LAC learners achieving 88.9% compared with all 96.2% for all learners. This is very pleasing as it shows good distance travelled for our vulnerable young people, as it indicates good outcomes despite a high level of additional learning needs.

I. Comparison of LAC pupils with all LAC learners in other counties in ERW (See Appendix B attached)

Pupils achieving the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI) at end of Foundation Phase (Outcome 5 or higher in language, mathematics, PSD)

2018 reporting (see Appendix B) shows LAC learners in Swansea achieving significantly higher than the ERW average of 43.8% and above the 9.1% and 16.7% reported by both neighbouring counties of Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot.

Swansea had the largest reporting cohort of 16 learners within ERW. It should be noted that only 5 learners were reported on in Pembrokeshire who achieved the highest reporting of 100.0%

Over 3 years Swansea LAC learners have achieved the highest percentage of any county in ERW with an average of 61.5% compared to an ERW average of 51.7%. Both neighbouring counties reported significantly lower results with NPT showing 35.9% and Carmarthenshire 39.4%.

3 year average figures show that Swansea had the greatest number of learners in the cohort. We are delighted to report this excellent performance.

Pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at end of Key Stage 2 (KS2)

Level 4+ in English/Welsh, Mathematics and Science.

2018 reporting shows LAC learners in Swansea achieving 52.6% slightly below the ERW average of 65.2% however significantly above NPT reporting 16.7%. Swansea are the largest reporting cohort of 19 with NPT at 12. Reporting in 2018 shows a 3 year average of 60.8%.

Pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at end of Key Stage 3 (KS3)

Level 5+ in English/Welsh, Mathematics and Science.

2018 reporting shows Swansea at 59.1%. Swansea's performance was above the ERW average of 57.7% comparable to Carmarthenshire at 59.1% and significantly above NPT with their results at 48.1%.

Swansea's performance in 2018 shows a 3 year average of 56.2% compared with ERW at 54.6%, and considerably higher than neighbouring authority NPT with 45.06%

Pupils achieving Level 2+ at end of Key Stage 4 (KS4)

5A* - C including English/Maths, and Science - only is included in reporting.

The decrease in the percentage pass rate is something that should be reported and questions asked. The number of 2017-2018 year 11 LAC learners on the Additional Learning Needs register was the highest ever at nearly 80%. This undoubtedly has contributed to this headline figure.

Pupils achieving Level 1 at KS4

Swansea LAC Learners achieved 88.9% Level 1 + threshold, much higher than the ERW average of 84.7%, and those of our neighbouring counties with NPT at 82.4% and Carmarthenshire with 76%. This shows the high standards of care and support of our

schools in Swansea that so many of our learners achieved 5 GCSE grades despite their learning needs.

No looked after learner left a Swansea school without an approved external qualification in 2017-2018. All looked after learners achieving approved external qualifications remains a priority for schools and our local authority. The LA and Swansea schools place a high priority to ensure that Swansea learners leave school an approved qualification.

Information is also collected and analysed below for learners with any LAC status by Swansea Council in Year 11 placed both in and out of county. Analysis shows the total Y11 cohort for 2017-2018 as 29 pupils and 25 achieved a level 1 (86.2%). 2 achieved level 2+ (6.9%). See Appendix D which is locally collected data only.

Within the cohort 22 learners attend mainstream schools (75.9%), 4 are in specialist provision (13.7%), 3 in EOTAS/Pathways provision (10.3%). Also within the cohort of 29 a total of 5 learners are inter county learners all are in mainstream schools.

It is worthy of note that of the 29 there are 22 with additional learning needs (75.8%) 7 of whom have a Statement of special education needs (24.1%).

Entry in to Higher education

Good links have been established with Gower College and further education in neighbouring counties. In addition to support from schools, arrangements individual appointments for LAC learners can be made as needed. Gower College's LAC and Care Leaver Officer links relevant staff.

The officer also represents the College on the multi-agency LAC group. Gower College also host transition support events for LAC learners and have developed their own PEP. Partnership agencies are also working with the 'Reaching Wider ' partnership seeking to promote entry into higher education. The LACES team supported Key Stage 4 learners to engage in a range of activities at Swansea University to encourage aspiration and arrange individual support as needed. Activities for younger learners are currently being planned.

See appendix 4 – All learners surveyed in July had plans to either enter higher education or training. These will be surveyed again in January 2019 to compare figures and information gathered to understand issues facing our care experienced young people

The BAYs + team in conjunction with the LACES team actively promote the 'Higher Education Bursary' for previously looked after children.

QUESTION 2

Confirm whether training on safeguarding is mandatory for school governors.

RESPONSE

I can confirm that safeguarding training is compulsory for school governors.

QUESTION 3

Provide relevant performance data relating to the adoption service

RESPONSE

Please find attached the adoption service performance information for November 2018.

QUESTION 4

Confirm spending in Swansea on the Flying Start Programme

RESPONSE

I can confirm that in 2018/19 the allocation and projected expenditure is £5,986,567

QUESTION 5

Share any further information about the Welsh Youth Parliament elections

RESPONSE

The first Welsh Youth Parliament has been established, the parliament is made up of 60 people, 40 of whom were elected in an online ballot and a further 20 who represent specific interests of children and young people and were elected from specific organisations and charities.

- Three representatives have been elected for Swansea:
 - **Gower:** Ffion Haf-Davies
 - **Swansea East:** Ruth Sibayan
 - **Swansea West:** Ubayedhur Rahma
- Representatives elected from Special Interest include the following from the Swansea area
 - William Hackett (disability – deaf issues)
 - Sophie Billingham (disability – deaf issues)
 - Anwen Grace Rodaway (disability – girls with autism)
 - Nia Rose-Evans (representing Girlguiding Cymru)

Details of members portfolios can be found at
<https://www.youthparliament.wales/members>

Many of these members are already involved in the Big Conversation and we are delighted they have been successfully elected to represent Swansea at the Welsh Youth Parliament and will continue to work with them in the future.

Yours faithfully



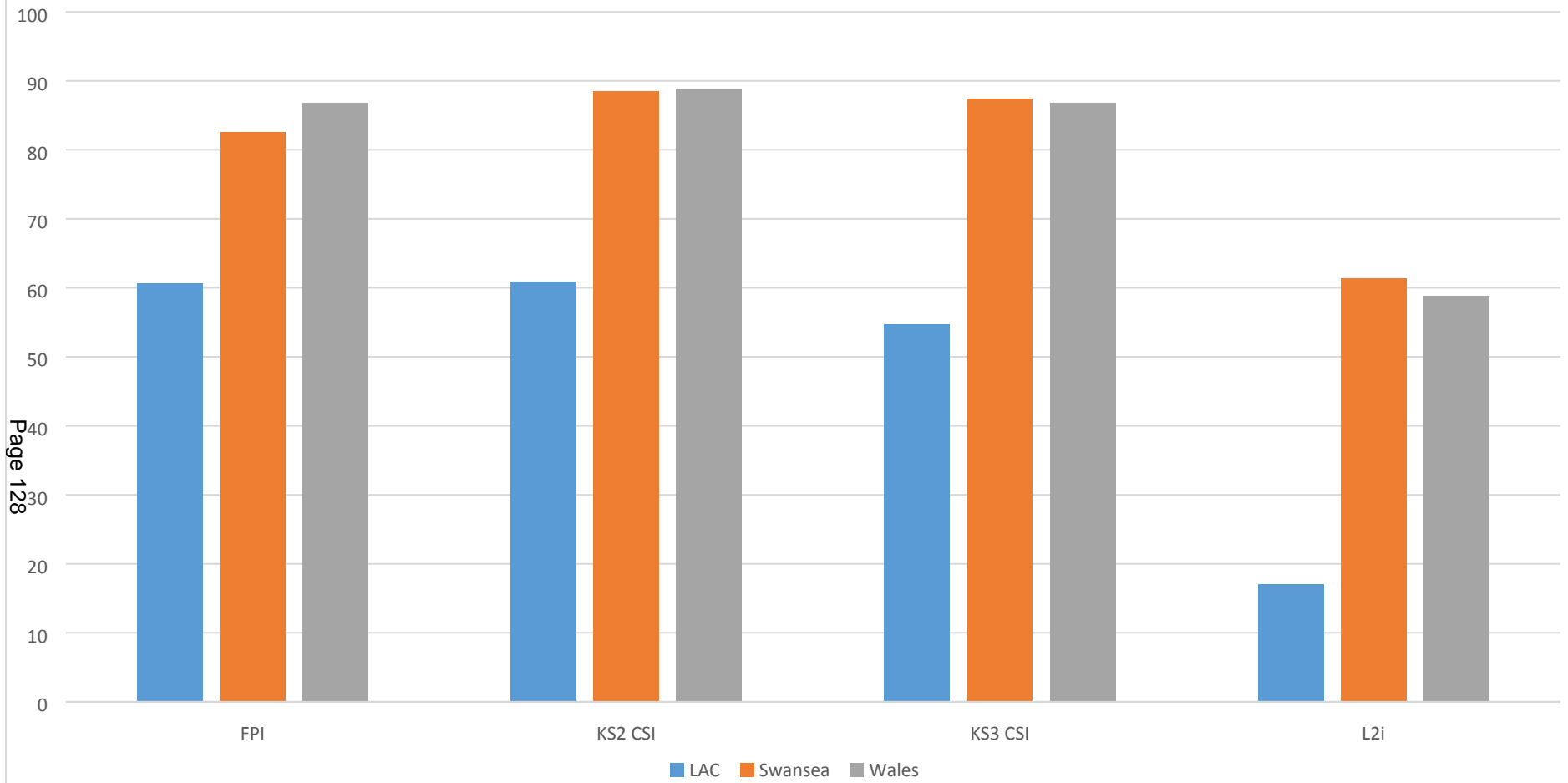
**COUNCILLOR WILLIAM EVANS
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
SERVICES YOUNG PEOPLE**



**COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT KING
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
SERVICES – EARLY YEARS**

Appendix A - Comparison of Results for Looked After Children in Swansea						
Year	Measure	No. of LAC	Swansea LAC result	Swansea all pupils	Wales all pupils	Swansea LAC gap
2016	FPI	23		85.0	87.0	-11.1
	KS2 CSI	19	63.2	88.2	88.6	-25.0
	KS3 CSI	15	40.0	86.3	85.9	-46.3
	L2i	16	25.0	66.3	60.3	-41.3
2017	FPI	21	66.7	85.5	87.3	-18.8
	KS2 CSI	16	64.7	89.5	89.5	-24.8
	KS3 CSI	20	70.0	88.2	87.4	-18.2
	L2i	21	19.0	57.7	54.6	-38.7
2018	FPI	17	41.2	77.1	86.2	-36
	KS2 CSI	20	55.0	87.7	88.2	-32.7
	KS3 CSI	24	54.2	87.7	87.0	-32.7
	L2i	18	5.6	60.3	61.6	-54.7
3 year average	FPI	20	60.6	82.5	86.8	-21.9
	KS2 CSI	18	60.9	88.5	88.8	-27.6
	KS3 CSI	20	54.7	87.4	86.8	-32.7
	L2i	18	17	61.4	58.8	-44.4

Three Year Average Results LAC compared with Swansea and All Wales



Appendix B – ERW Data

Foundation Phase

The Foundation Phase’s mandatory areas of learning (reporting-wise) are:

- Language, literacy and communication skills in Welsh (**LCW**) OR Language, literacy and communication skills in English (**LCE**)
- Mathematical development (**MDT**)
- Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity (**PSD**)

The Foundation Phase Indicator (**FPI**) is achieved by a pupil if Outcome 5 or greater is achieved in LCW/LCE, MDT and PSD in combination.

Local Authority	13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18	
	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%
Powys	6	83.3	3	33.3	2	100	6	66.7	4	25.0
Ceredigion	3	66.7	0		3	66.7	3	66.7	5	40.0
Pembrokeshire	4	50.0	6	50.0	8	50.0	7	85.7	5	100.0
Carmarthenshire	20	35.0	16	50.0	16	62.5	15	46.7	11	9.1
Swansea	23	60.9	31	71.0	23	73.9	21	66.7	16	43.8
Neath Port Talbot	11	63.6	24	41.7	18	44.4	15	46.7	12	16.7
ERW	67	55.2	80	55.0	70	61.4	67	59.7	53	34.0

Key stage 2

The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) is achieved by a pupil if a level 4 is obtained in the core areas

	13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18	
	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%
Powys	8	37.5	7	57.1	6	50.0	9	77.8	9	44.4
Ceredigion	6	100.0	5	40.0	4	100.0	6	66.7	3	66.7
Pembrokeshire	9	55.6	8	62.5	3	100.0	9	100.0	7	42.6
Carmarthenshire	21	52.4	22	72.7	20	50.0	12	66.7	11	81.8
Swansea	13	76.9	15	60.0	19	63.2	15	66.7	19	52.6
Neath Port Talbot	11	63.6	24	41.7	18	44.4	15	46.7	12	16.7
ERW	57	57.0	82	64.6	67	59.7	73	67.1	69	65.2

Key stage 3

The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) is achieved by a pupil if a level 5 is obtained in the core areas

Local Authority	13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18	
	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%
Powys	13	53.8	9	77.8	15	66.7	12	58.3	12	75.0
Ceredigion	14	85.7	6	100.0	5	60.0	3	66.7	6	66.7
Pembrokeshire	12	41.7	13	53.8	7	14.3	7	42.9	8	50.0
Carmarthenshire	27	55.6	26	73.1	30	60.0	29	55.2	22	59.1
Swansea	14	57.1	25	48.0	14	42.9	18	66.7	22	59.1
Neath Port Talbot	30	50.0	17	52.9	19	42.1	20	45.0	27	48.1
ERW	110	56.4	96	62.5	90	51.1	89	55.1	97	57.7

Key Stage 4

The indicators used at Key Stage 4 are:

- Level 1 threshold (**L1**): Qualifications are achieved equivalent to 5 GCSE grades A*G;
- Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Mathematics (**L2+**): Qualifications are achieved equivalent to 5 GCSE grades A*C, including one in English/Welsh and one in Mathematics;

The “capped points score” (**Cap9**) is calculated by using the best 9 results of all qualifications approved for pre16 use in Wales, e.g. an A* GCSE grade is worth 58 points, A is 52 points, B is 46 points etc. It has to include one GCSE first language (the best), Mathematics, Numeracy and the two best Sciences. The average score is then taken across the school.

L2+ (Level 2 inclusive)

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Local Authority	13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18	
	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%
Powys	7	28.6	12	8.3	13	15.4	10	40.0	12	16.7
Ceredigion	8	0.0	9	44.4	10	50.0	4	25.0	7	28.6
Pembrokeshire	12	0.0	6	16.7	12	16.7	13	8.3	6	0.0
Carmarthenshire	30	26.7	34	11.8	30	33.3	25	20.0	25	28.0
Swansea	22	9.1	21	38.1	16	31.3	20	20.0	18	5.6
Neath Port Talbot	25	24.0	21	19.0	31	41.9	19	15.8	17	11.8
ERW	104	17.3	103	21.4	112	35.0	90	20.0	85	16.5

KS 4 Level 1

Local Authority	13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18	
	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%	LAC cohort	%
Powys	7	85.7	12	83.3	13	76.9	10	100.0	12	100.0
Ceredigion	8	100.0	9	100.0	10	100.0	4	100.0	7	71.4
Pembrokeshire	12	83.3	6	66.7	12	75.0	13	58.3	6	100.0
Carmarthenshire	30	73.3	34	64.7	30	76.7	25	80.0	25	76.0
Swansea	22	72.7	21	81.0	16	100.0	20	85.0	18	88.9
Neath Port Talbot	25	92.0	21	76.2	31	90.3	19	68.4	17	82.4
ERW	104	81.7	103	75.7	112	85.7	90	78.9	85	84.7

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KS4 Capped 9

Local Authority	16/17		17/18	
	LAC cohort	Score	LAC cohort	Score
Powys	10	347.4	12	276.2
Ceredigion	4	294.9	7	246.1
Pembrokeshire	13	156.9	6	216.1
Carmarthenshire	25	259.9	25	275.0
Swansea	20	251.8	18	262.3
Neath Port Talbot	19	211.5	17	244.9
ERW	90	245.4	85	259.9

Appendix C

Data for Looked after Children

Academic year 2017 - 2018

Baseline Assessment Indicators

RECEPTION 02+	
(Assessment on English/Maths/Personal and social development)	
Local Authority (BAI)	44.30%
LAC BAI (15 pupils)	26.70%

Foundation Phase 05+	
Local Authority	77.10%
LAC (17 pupils)	41.20%

Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator (CSI) Level 4+	
Local Authority	87.70%
LAC (20 pupils)	55.00%

National Test Scores

Average Score Years 2-9

Reading Test	
English	
Local Authority	101.60
LAC	89.5
Welsh	
Local Authority	100.80
LAC (2 pupils)	95

Numeracy - Procedural	
Local Authority	102.30
LAC	91.10

Key Stage 3 Core Subject Indicator (CSI) Level 5+	
Local Authority	87.70%
LAC (24 pupils)	54.20%

Key Stage 4 Core Subject Indicator (CSI) Level 2 +	
Level 2 (5 A* - C) including Maths, English and Science	
Local Authority	60.30%
LAC (18 pupils)	5.60%

Key Stage 4 Core Subject Indicator (CSI) Level 1 + (5 A* - G)	
Local Authority	96.20%
LAC (18 pupils)	88.90%

Key Stage 4 Core Subject Indicator (CSI) Capped 9 points score	
Local Authority	368.5
LAC (18 pupils)	262.30

Numeracy - Reasoning	
Local Authority	102.20
LAC	91.10

Attendance

Primary

Local Authority	94.65%
LAC	96.02%

Secondary

Local Authority	94.15%
LAC	93.00%

Exclusions

Total days lost through exclusion

Local Authority	2293.50
LAC	196.50

Appendix D
Year 11 LAC Learners in Swansea LEA 2017-2018

LEA	Corporate Parent	Placement stability		PDGLAC support	Attainment			SEN	Exclusion s	16+ planned destination
		Secondary School	Placement		FPI	KS 2	KS 3			
Swansea	Swansea	1	2	Pupil	Yes	Yes	No	None	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	1	Pupil	No	No	No	SA+	Yes	College
Swansea	Cardiff	2	2	Pupil+School	No	No	No	None	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil+School	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Yes	College
Swansea	Torfaen	2	2	School				SA	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil	Yes	Yes	Yes	SA	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	1	School	Yes	No	No	None	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	2	Pupil+School	Yes		No	SA	No	College
Swansea	Pembrokeshire	1	1	School	No	No	No	SEN	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil+School		Yes	Yes	SA+	Yes	College
Swansea	Swansea	2	2	Pupil+School	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	No	6th form
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	School	No	No	No	SEN	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	2	2	Pupil+School	No	No	Yes	SA+	Yes	College
Swansea	Powys	1	3+	Pupil+School	Yes	No	No	SEN	No	Training
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil+School	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil+School	No	No		SA	No	Training
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil+School	No	No	No	SA+	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil+School		Yes	Yes	SA	Yes	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	Pupil+School	No	No	No	SA+	Yes	College
Swansea	Merthyr Tydfil	2	3+	Pupil				SEN	Yes	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	School	Yes	Yes	Yes	SA+	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	2	3+	School			No	SA	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	2	3+	Pupil+School		Yes		None	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	2	3+	Pupil+School				SA	No	College

Swansea	Swansea	2	3+	School	No	No	No	SA+	No	Training
Swansea	Swansea	2	3+	School	No	Yes		SA+	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	2	3+	School	Yes		Yes	SA+	Yes	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	2	School	No	No	No	SEN	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	1	3+	School	No	No	No	SEN	No	College
Swansea	Swansea	3+	3+	School	No	No		SEN	No	College

Adoption Service - Performance Information (November 2018)

	Bridgend	NPT	Swansea	Western Bay Adoption Service (WBAS)
CHILDREN				
1. Number of Children Referred				
Monthly	5	3	5	13
Year to Date	29	32	59	120
2017/18 year end data	39	51	97	187
2. Number of Permanence Orders Granted				
Monthly	1	1	1	3
Year to Date	17	13	36	66
2017/18 year end data	22	26	20	68
3. Number of children matched				
Monthly	2	1	4	7
Year to Date	18	10	21	49
2017/18 year end data	26	23	28	77
4. Number of Children Placed				
Monthly	1	1	2	4
Year to Date	20	10	19	49
2017/18 year end data	24	22	28	74
5. Number of Children waiting to be Matched (family finding)				
Current	27	22	33	82
Potential Links identified	10	5	5	20
Potential Matches identified	4	0	8	12
Still searching	5	17	15	37
Consideration being given to change of plan	4	0	5	9
6. Number of Adoption Orders Granted				
Monthly	1	0	1	2
Year to Date	15	11	20	46
2017/18 year end data	28	28	34	90
7. Number of Children in Adoptive P'ment where AOG not yet granted				
Monthly	24	12	20	56
2017/18 year end data	22	12	21	55
8. Number of Children placed outside of region				
Monthly	0	0	0	0
Year to date	6	1	6	13
2017/18 year end data	5	10	12	27

9. Number of Children Placed with WBAS Adopters				
Monthly	1	1	2	4
Year to Date	14	9	13	36
2017/18 year end data	19	12	16	47
10. Number of Placement Breakdowns(post AOG) & Disruptions (pre AOG)				
Monthly disruptions	0	0	0	0
year to Date	0	0	0	0
Disruption meetin held	0	0	0	0
2017/18 year end data	1	0	0	1
Monthly breakdowns	0	0	0	0
Year to Date	0	0	0	0
2017/18 year end data	0	0	0	0
ADOPTERS				
11. Number of Enquiries				
Monthly				15
Year to Date				81
2017/18 year end data				118
12. Number of Prospective Adopters going through assessment process				
Current				29
13. Number of Adopters Approved				
Monthly				3
Year to Date				18
2017/18 year end data				46
14. Number of Potential Placements Generated				
Monthly				3
Year to Date				18
2017/18 year end data				51
15. Number of Adopters where Income has been generated				
Monthly				1
Year to Date				3
2017/18 year end data				2
16. Number of children with evidence of Life Story books (>3 and direct work materials <3) at panel				
Number of children presented	2	2	3	7
Evidence provided of LSB	0	2	3	5
Evidence of direct work	0	0	0	0

Audit Committee Workplan 2018/19

Terms of Reference	12 June 2018	26 June 2018 (Special)	17 July 2018	14 August 2018	11 September 2018	9 October 2018	11 December 2018	12 February 2019	9 April 2019
Training	Audit Committee Initial Training Risk Management		Financial Management & Accounting Governance	Internal Audit	External Audit	Counter Fraud			
Governance	Election of Chair & Vice Chair Audit Committee Training Programme 2018/19		*Draft Annual Governance Statement 2017/18	Draft Audit Committee Annual Report 2017/18	AC Performance Review 17/18 Action Plan Update	Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee Update on work of PDC's	AC Performance Review 17/18 Action Plan Update	AC Performance Review 17/18 Action Plan Update	
Internal Audit	Internal Audit Monitoring Report Q4 2017/18 Performance Review 16/17 Action Plan Update Report			Internal Audit Annual Report 2017/18 Audit Committee Review of Performance 2017/18 Action Plan - Draft	Internal Audit Monitoring Report Q1 2018/19	Annual Report of School Audits 2017/18 Chief Education Officer response to Schools Audit Report	Internal Audit Monitoring Report Q2 2018/19 Recommendation Tracker Report 2017/18 Social Care Contracts & ICT Disaster Recovery Updates	Internal Audit Monitoring Report Q3 2018/19 Internal Audit Annual Plan Methodology Report 2019/20	Internal Audit Charter 2019/20 Internal Audit Annual Plan 2019/20 Social Care Contracts Update
Risk Management & Performance	WAO Proposals for Improvement Report – Six Month Update Overview of the Overall Status of Risk Report Q4 2017/18			Overview of the Overall Status of Risk Report Q1 2018/19			Overview of the Overall Status of Risk Report Q2 2018/19	WAO Proposals for Improvement Report – Six Month Update Overview of the Overall Status of Risk Report Q3 2018/19	Overview of the Overall Status of Risk Report Q4 2018/19
Counter Fraud					Corporate Fraud Annual Report 2017/18				Corporate Fraud Annual Plan 2019/20
External Audit		Audit Committee Review of Performance 2017/18			WAO ISA 260 Report 2017/18 – CCS WAO ISA 260 Report 2017/18 – Pension Fund		WAO Annual Audit Letter 2017/18	WAO Grants Report 2017/18 WAO Annual Audit Plan 2018/19 CCS & Pension Fund	Audit Committee Review of Performance 2018/19

Appendix 1

Audit Committee Workplan 2018/19

<p>Financial Reporting</p>			<p>Draft Statement of Accounts 2017/18 - CCS Letters of Representation CCS & Pension Fund</p>	<p>Draft Statement of Accounts 2017/18 - Pension Fund</p>			<p>Review of Reserves Report. Trusts & Charities Update Report. Treasury Management Annual Report</p>		
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Note: Audit Committee Action Tracker Report and Audit Committee Workplan will be included as agenda items at each meeting. An update from WAO will also be on the agenda for each meeting
**Special Meeting held 23/08/18 to discuss and approve the amended Annual Governance Statement 2017/18*

Agenda Item 14

Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings

12 February - 11 March

- a) 12 February at 9.30am – Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel (Council Chamber, Guildhall)
- b) 19 February at 3.30pm – Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel (Committee Room 5, Guildhall)
- c) 20 February at 2.00pm – Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel (Morrison Primary School)
- d) 25 February at 4.00pm – Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel (Committee Room 5, Guildhall)
- e) 28 February at 10.00am – Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel (Committee Room 5, Guildhall)
- f) 6 March at 9.30am – Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel (Committee Room 5, Guildhall)
- g) 11 March at 10.30am – Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel (Committee Room 5, Guildhall)

In addition to the above public meetings the Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel is undertaking a number of informal evidence gathering activities including engagement with a range of groups / networks who represent people with protected characteristics. These are taking place on the 13 & 21 February.