



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Council Chamber - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 11 March 2019 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor T J Hennegan (Vice Chair) Presided

Councillors

C Anderson
L S Gibbard
E T Kirchner
W G Thomas

Councillors

M Durke
D W Helliwell
S Pritchard

Councillors

E W Fitzgerald
P K Jones
G J Tanner

Statutory Co-opted Member

A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Members

P M Black
C A Holley

P R Hood-Williams
J W Jones

Also Present

Jennifer Raynor

Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills

Officer(s)

Nigel Hawkins
Louise Herbert-Evans
Kate Jones
Michelle Roberts
Debbie Smith

Projects and Procurement Manager
Head of Capital Planning and Delivery Unit
Democratic Services Officer
Scrutiny Officer
Deputy Chief Legal Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M H Jones and W G Lewis

121 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interests were declared:

Councillor P M Black – personal – Minute Nos. 125 – Governor of Burlais Primary School.

Councillor C A Holley - personal - Minute Nos. 125 – Chair of Governors at Burlais Primary School.

122 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.

123 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 11 February 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

124 Public Question Time.

A number of questions were asked relating to Minute 125 "Call-In of Cabinet Decision on 21 February 2019 – Item 9 - 21st Century Schools Programme - New Build for Gorseinon Primary School".

The Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning Skills responded.

125 Call-In of Cabinet Decision on 21 February 2019 - Item 9 - 21st Century Schools Programme - New Build for Gorseinon Primary School (Report of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills).

The Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills, the Head of Capital Planning and Delivery Unit and the Projects and Procurement Manager were present for the Committee's Consideration of the Call-In of Cabinet Decision on 21 February 2019 – item 9 – 21st Century Schools Programme – New Build for Gorseinon Primary School.

The Scrutiny Officer provided an overview to the Committee of the Call-In process.

The Committee asked questions of the Cabinet Member who, together with Officers, responded accordingly. Questions and discussions focussed on the following: -

- The biodiversity on that part of Parc y Werin required for the school was negligible
- The omission of the Corporate Priority 'Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity' from the Cabinet Report of 21 February 2019
- The aim of the Corporate Priority of 'Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity'
- The importance of the consideration of all Corporate Priorities
- Concern over the loss of any green space and felling of any trees
- The planning application for the site had been approved
- Opportunities from the development, for example, enhancement and increased use of the facilities as seen in similar developments at Gowerton, Bishopston and Burlais
- Distinction between Building Cost Index and Tender Price Index

Resolved that: -

- 1) That Committee agreed Paragraph 4.2 i) as set out in the report, which stated "If satisfied with the explanation it will so indicate to enable the decision to be implemented".
- 2) The Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee write a letter to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills outlining the views of the Committee.

126 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report.

In the absence of the Convenor, Councillor Mo Sykes, the Schools Performance Panel Progress Report was noted.

127 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

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

Resolved that: -

- 1) Councillors Joe Hale and Lynda James be added to the Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel; and
- 2) Councillor Peter Black be removed from the Digital Inclusion Working Group.

128 Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19.

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

Councillor Peter Jones referred to a paper which he has prepared detailing thoughts about the scrutiny work programme, its focus and future practice / process. He sought approval from the Chair to share this at the Annual Work Planning Conference for wider discussion.

It was requested that a copy of the paper be provided to Committee Members in advance for comment.

Resolved that the Annual Work Planning Conference include discussion on the future practice / process as outlined in the above-mentioned paper.

129 Scrutiny Letters.

The Scrutiny Letters Report was noted.

130 Audit Committee Work Plan (For Information).

The Work Plan for the Audit Committee was provided for information.

131 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 5.40 pm

Chair