



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Cofnodion Cyfarfod y Panel Perfformiad Craffu – Datblygu ac Adfywio

O bell drwy Microsoft Teams

Dydd Mawrth, 3 Tachwedd 2020 am 10.00 am

Yn Bresennol: Y Cyngorydd J W Jones (Cadeirydd) oedd yn llywyddu

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

P M Black

T M White

T J Hennegan

L James

S M Jones

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

P Downing

S J Gallagher

C A Holley

M H Jones

W G Thomas

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

E W Fitzgerald

D W Helliwell

P R Hood-Williams

P K Jones

Aelodau'r Cabinet

Robert Francis-Davies

Rob Stewart

Aelod y Cabinet dros Fuddsoddi, Adfywio a Thwristiaeth

Aelod y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Cyllid a Strategaeth
(Arweinydd)

Swyddog(ion)

Emily-Jayne Davies

Phil Holmes

Liz Jordan

Huw Mowbray

Swyddog Craffu

Pennaeth Cynllunio ac Adfywio'r Ddinas

Swyddog Craffu

Rheolwr Datblygu Eiddo

Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb

Martin Nicholls

1 Cadarnhau Cynullydd

Cytunodd y Panel y byddai'r Cyngorydd Jeff Jones yn cael ei ailbenodi'n Gynullydd.

2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.

Ni ddatgelwyd unrhyw fuddiannau.

3 Gwahardd pleidleisiau Chwip a Datgan Chwipiau'r Pleidiau

Ni wnaethpwyd unrhyw ddatganiadau.

4 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod(ydd) Blaenorol

Ystyriodd y Panel lythyrau a chofnodion o gyfarfodydd blaenorol a chytunodd fod cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Medi 2020 yn gofnod cywir o'r cyfarfod.

5 Cwestiynau gan y cyhoedd

Ni ofynnwyd unrhyw gwestiynau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd.

6 Adroddiad Diweddaraf am y Prosiect

Rhoddodd Huw Mowbray, y Rheolwr Datblygu Eiddo, y diweddaraf i'r panel ynghylch y prosiectau adfywio yn Abertawe. Roedd Aelod y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Cyllid a Strategaeth (Arweinydd), a Phennaeth Cynllunio ac Adfywio Dinasoedd hefyd yn bresennol ar gyfer yr eitem hon.

Abertawe Ganolog - Cam 1

- Hysbyswyd y panel fod achosion o COVID-19 wedi'u cadarnhau ar safle'r Arena, fodd bynnag, roedd gwaith yn parhau i ddatblygu'n dda o dan yr amgylchiadau. Yn unol â chanllawiau cenedlaethol, anfonir contractwyr adref i hunanynysu am bedwar diwrnod ar ddeg.
- Mae to'r Arena bellach wedi'i gwblhau ac mae'r cladin allanol hefyd wedi'i gwblhau sy'n golygu bod yr Arena bellach yn ddwrglos.
- Holodd y panel faint o gontractwyr a phrentisiaid oedd yn lleol a faint oedd yn dod o bell.
- Caiff fideo drôn o'r Arena ei ddarparu, gan nad yw ymweliad safle'n ymarferol ar hyn o bryd.
- Disgrifiodd swyddogion gynlluniau ar gyfer y 'Man oedi' a'r dodrefn digidol disgwylidig a fydd yn cael eu gosod yn fuan, gan gynnwys gogls digidol i weld y datblygiadau a'r wybodaeth am hanes yr ardal.
- Mynegodd y panel rai pryderon ynghylch datblygiadau Wellington Street o ran plannu coed ac ymgynghori â Fforwm Coed Abertawe. Dywedodd swyddogion wrth y Panel y bu digon o ymgynghori â'r holl gyrff priodol o ran plannu coed.
- Mae'r bloc preswyl bellach wedi'i gwblhau o ran ei uchder, ac mae cytundebau gyda Pobl hefyd wedi'u cwblhau. Bydd pethau mewnol yn cael eu gosod yn yr adeilad hwn yn nawr.
- Bu'n rhaid i ATG ddiswyddo rhai gweithwyr ar draws y cwmni, fodd bynnag, maent wedi diogelu'r busnes craidd ac wedi derbyn buddsoddiadau ecwiti. Cadarnhaodd swyddogion fod y busnes craidd yn gadarn ac nad oes unrhyw bryderon am brosiect ATG yn Abertawe ar hyn o bryd.
- Ar hyn o bryd, mae ATG yn bwriadu recriwtio rheolwr ar gyfer Arena Abertawe.

Gogledd Abertawe Ganolog

- Mae trafodaethau'n mynd rhagddynt o ran darpar ddeiliaid.
- Gofynnodd y Panel am ragor o wybodaeth ar ffurf diagramau er mwyn rhoi gwybod i bobl mewn ffordd well am ddatblygiad Gogledd Abertawe.
- Cytunwyd y byddai cyflwyniad byr ar y delweddau hyn yn cael ei ddarparu yn y cyfarfod nesaf ym mis Ionawr 2021.

Ffordd y Brenin

- Holodd y Panel a oedd cynllun palmant yn Ffordd y Brenin yn cydymffurfio â Chanllawiau Dylunio Teithio Llesol (Llywodraeth Cymru 2014) er mwyn gwahanu beicwyr a cherddwyr yn briodol.
- Esboniodd swyddogion fod ymgynghori helaeth wedi digwydd gyda grwpiau beicio a grwpiau symudedd, gan arwain at ddyluniad cytbwys a oedd yn ystyried amrywiaeth o nodweddion.
- Gofynnodd y panel a oedd safleoedd bysus ar hyd Ffordd y Brenin yn cael eu cau neu eu hadleoli er mwyn osgoi tagfeydd traffig pan fyddai bws yn aros wrth safle dynodedig. Roedd gwaith yn cael ei wneud ar hyn o bryd i gywiro unrhyw ddiffygion tra bod llif y traffig ar ei isaf, ond nid oedd lleoliadau arosfannau bysus wedi newid.
- O ran Iard Picton, roedd gwaith wedi'i gwblhau i gysylltu rhan isaf Oxford Street â'r ardal hon, fodd bynnag, mae'r gwaith adeiladu'n parhau ac felly mae'r ardal hon yn aros ar gau. Mae cyswllt rhwng y Dwyrain a'r Gorllewin hefyd yn ddyhead ac mae'r prosiect hwn yn cael ei archwilio, er nad oes unrhyw gyllid pendant hyd yma.

71 a 72 Ffordd y Brenin

- Bydd hysbysfyrdau â graffeg newydd yn cael eu codi yr wythnos hon, yn dilyn oedi oherwydd tywydd garw.
- Mynegwyd pryder ynghylch dychwelyd i swyddfeydd ac unedau masnachol yn dilyn pandemig COVID-19. Holodd y Panel beth ddylai'r ganran isaf o ddeiliadaeth fod er mwyn cyfiawnhau'r gwariant ar y datblygiad hwn. Fe'i hysbyswyd bod galw da gan fusnesau 'Technolegol' yn arbennig sy'n gwerthfawrogi swyddfeydd cydweithredol a hyblyg.
- Bydd swyddogion yn darparu rhagor o wybodaeth am gyllideb y datblygiad hwn, ac effeithiau COVID-19 ar y gyllideb honno, unwaith y bydd y ffigurau hyn ar gael.
- Gofynnodd y panel am gyfradd llwyddiant y Grantiau Preswyl Parth (yng nghydestun Ffordd y Brenin. Fe'i hysbyswyd bod y rhaglen yn hynod lwyddiannus ac roedd ôl-groniad o brosiectau eraill yn aros am arian. Bydd swyddogion yn darparu adroddiad pellach ar y ffigurau hyn yn y cyfarfod nesaf.

Wind Street

- Holodd y panel pam y torrwyd coed yn Wind Street. Esboniodd swyddogion mai ychydig iawn o goed a gafodd eu torri, yn dilyn grwpiau ymgynghori.
- Mynegodd y panel bryder ynghylch y polisi torri coed cyffredinol ar draws y ddinas. Dywedodd swyddogion fod cynifer o goed aeddfed â phosibl yn cael eu gwarchod. Ar draws y Sir mae'r ffigurau'n gadarnhaol net o ran plannu coed, a'r nod bob amser yw plannu mwy o goed nag sy'n cael eu torri.
- Mynegwyd pryderon ynghylch effaith COVID-19 ar Wind Street fel economi nos ac yn ystod y dydd, a chynlluniau i helpu i gefnogi adferiad busnesau yma. Dywedodd swyddogion wrth y panel fod y Cyngor wedi darparu grantiau o fwy nag £1m i fusnesau i'w galluogi i ehangu i fannau agored.

Marchnata Safleoedd Strategol yng Nghanol y Ddinas

- Amlinellodd swyddogion yr ymateb enfawr i'r broses hon o ran y lansiad marchnata, yr oedd dros 2000 wedi cael cipolwg arni'n genedlaethol.
- Soniodd swyddogion am ansawdd uchel cyflwyniadau.
- Mae'r broses yn mynd rhagddi ac mae'r rhestr fer wedi'i chymeradwyo i hysbysu partïon.

Safleoedd Strategol a Throsolwg o'r Prosiect

- Codwyd pryderon ynghylch prosiect Skyline, gan fod yr amserlen ar gyfer hyn wedi'i nodi fel 2026, ac a oedd y tîm gweithrediadau'n debygol o dynnu'n ôl o'r prosiect hwn. Sicrhodd swyddogion y panel fod nifer o alwadau cynhadledd gyda Skyline yn Seland Newydd wedi'u cynnal yn ddiweddar ac felly roeddent yn obeithiol.
- Mae'r tîm proffesiynol a benodwyd ar gyfer Sgwâr y Castell ar y cam cwblhau astudiaethau dichonoldeb gyda'r bwriad o gyflwyno cynllun manwl er mwyn symud ymlaen. Nid yw'r Cyngor wedi neilltuo cyfalaf i ariannu datblygiad Sgwâr y Castell eto. Mae'r panel yn awyddus i weld cynlluniau terfynol ar gyfer y prosiect hwn i sicrhau bod yr amcan yn cael ei gyflawni ar gyfer ardal wyrddach.

Trafnidiaeth a Phriffyrdd

- Holwyd a yw cynlluniau'n cael eu gwthio ymlaen dan y cynllun metro ar gyfer Glandŵr; yn benodol, darparu ar gyfer mynediad i barc manwerthu Morfa, y Stadiwm a'r ddistyllfa sydd newydd ei datblygu. Dywedwyd wrth y panel fod gwaith yn mynd yn ei flaen o hyd ar y system metro fel syniad.
- Gofynnodd y panel am yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am drafodaethau tir Coridor Arloesedd Fabian Way.
- Mynegwyd pryderon ynghylch yr ymchwil a'r dystiolaeth a oedd yn cyfiawnhau rhai llwybrau beicio newydd, ac a oedd y galw'n ddigon uchel i gyfiawnhau'r costau.
- Trafodwyd llwybr beicio Mayals Road y trefnwyd iddo gael ei adeiladu'n fuan a holodd a oedd hyn wedi mynd i dendr. Awgrymodd swyddogion y gellid gofyn am ragor o wybodaeth gan y Pennaeth Priffyrdd a Chludiant.

Camau Gweithredu:

- Gofynnwyd am ffigurau ar gyfer nifer y contractwyr (a'r prentisiaid) a gyflogir ar safle'r Arena (lleol ar wahân i'r rheini a ddaw o bell) ar ddechrau'r contract a hefyd ar hyn o bryd.
- Gofynnodd am ddiagramau/ddelweddau o Ogledd Abertawe
- Ganolog ar gyfer y cyfarfod nesaf ar 12 Ionawr 2021 (y cydnabyddir bellach ei fod wedi dod i law yn dilyn y cyfarfod hwn).
- Gofynnwyd am wybodaeth am nifer y coed, a rhywogaethau, sy'n cael eu dadleoli dan ddatblygiadau Wellington Street.

- 71-72 Ffordd y Brenin: gofynnwyd am wybodaeth bellach am gyllideb y datblygiad hwn, ac effeithiau COVID-19 ar y gyllideb honno
- Grantiau Preswyl Parth: Bydd swyddogion yn darparu adroddiad pellach ar y ffigurau hyn yn y cyfarfod nesaf

7 **Cynllun Gwaith 2020-21**

Trafododd y panel y cynllun gwaith drafft a chytunwyd y canlynol:

- Ychwanegu eitem ychwanegol am ddatblygiadau blaendraethau.
- Trafod 'Effaith Brexit ar Gyfleoedd Masnachol mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig' yng nghyfarfod mis Ionawr os yw'n bosib ac yn briodol.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.58 am

To:
Councillor Mark Thomas
Cabinet Member for
Environment Enhancement and
Infrastructure Management

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:

e-Mail
e-Bost:

Date
Dyddiad:

Overview & Scrutiny

01792 637314

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

19th November 2020

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management following the meeting of the Panel on 3rd November 2020. It covers the Project Update Report.

Dear Councillor Thomas,

The Development & Regeneration Panel met on 3rd November 2020. During the discussion on the Dashboard Report, the following issues were highlighted which we would like to raise with you, for your consideration and response.

Dashboard Report

Kingsway

We queried whether pavement design in the Kingsway conformed to the Active Travel Design Guide (Welsh Government 2014) in order to properly segregate cyclists and pedestrians. We expressed concerns about possible collisions and conflict between cyclists and pedestrians using this area of pavement. Officers explained that extensive consultation had taken place with cycle groups and mobility groups, leading

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

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

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

to a balanced design that took account of a range of features, however, a more detailed response could be sought from the Highways & Transport Department.

We had noticed that a bus stop along the Kingsway was closed and asked whether bus stops along the Kingsway were being closed, or relocated, in order to avoid traffic build-ups when a bus was stationary at a designated stop. We heard that work is currently being undertaken to remedy any defects whilst traffic flow was at its lowest, however, bus stop locations remained unchanged. The Panel is seeking confirmation of this.

Transportation & Highways

We asked questions about the intention to extend the cycle track to the Copper Works site and Swansea Lower Valley. We also questioned whether plans are being pushed forward under the metro scheme for Landore; in particular, to accommodate access to Morfa retail park, the Stadium and the newly developed distillery. The Panel was told that Swansea has more miles of cycle path than any other area in Wales and that the Metro system is still being worked on as an idea.

Active Travel Programme – We raised concerns over the research and evidence that justified some new cycle tracks, and whether demand was high enough to warrant the costs. We discussed the Mayals Road cycle track that is scheduled for construction soon and queried whether this had gone to tender. The Panel was informed that further information should be sought from Stuart Davies as Head of Highways and Transportation.

Your response:

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised, but in this instance, please provide a formal written response by 10th December 2020 to the following:

- We require a detailed response as to whether pavement design in the Kingsway conforms to the Active Travel Design Guide, chapter 6 (Welsh Government 2014) in order to properly segregate cyclists and pedestrians.
- Please confirm any changes to the locations of bus stops along the Kingsway.
- Please provide a concise synopsis of current developments relating to the Landore Metro.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

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



- Mayals cycle track: please provide an update on this development, inclusive of any evidence used to justify the expenditure, and whether this item has been out to Tender.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Jones", written in a cursive style.

Councillor Jeff Jones
Convener, Development and Regeneration Performance Panel
✉ cllr.jeff.jones@swansea.gov.uk

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWA

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

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

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

To:
Councillor Rob Stewart
Cabinet Member for Economy,
Finance and Strategy

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:

e-Mail
e-Bost:

Date
Dyddiad:

Overview & Scrutiny

01792 637314

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

19th November 2020

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Development and Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy following the meeting of the Panel on 3rd November 2020. It covers the Project Update Report.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

We would like to thank you, Councillor Francis-Davies, Phil Holmes and Huw Mowbray for attending to present this item and respond to the Panel's questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response.

Dashboard Report

We received the usual monitoring update on the regeneration projects in Swansea. We are pleased by the progress on these projects overall but we do have some observations we would like to share with you.

Swansea Central Phase 1

We were informed that there had been confirmed cases of Covid-19 on the Arena site, however work was continuing to progress well in the circumstances. We understand that contractors are sent home to self-isolate for fourteen days as per

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

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

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



national guidance. It was also explained to the Panel how teams are organised in shift patterns as a precautionary measure against Covid-19 and to ensure continuity in the development process. It was pleasing to hear that work has been managed well amid the pandemic; the Arena roof is now complete and the external cladding had also been completed meaning the Arena is now watertight.

The Panel queried how many contractors were local or from further afield. Officers undertook to provide further detailed figures on this point, however, we did hear that there will be applicable fluctuations in these figures depending on the type of work, for example, early steelworks required specialised contractors from outside the region. We understand that specific dates would enable a snap shot of such figures, reflective of specific work types and packages at that time.

Having previously asked if a visit could be arranged to the Arena site we now understand this may be able to take place in the early part of next year depending on circumstances at that time. In the meantime, we look forward to viewing drone footage of the development.

We heard that the Wellington Street works are progressing well, and also the Church Hall development is set to commence during November. It was interesting to hear the plans for the 'Pause Point' area and the anticipated digital furniture being installed shortly, including digital goggles to view the developments and information about the history of the area.

We expressed some concerns over the Wellington Street developments in terms of tree planting and consultation with the Swansea Tree Forum. Officers agreed to provide the Panel with exact information on the number of trees, and species, being planted here. We were informed that there had been sufficient consultation with all appropriate bodies in terms of tree planting.

We heard that the residential block is now complete in terms of its height, and that agreements with Pobl are also complete. The fitting out of this structure will now take place in accordance with development plans.

We queried the reporting, under Risks, of the increased funding need in relation to the Hotel due to Covid-19. We heard that this was not necessarily to change any of the design, but rather an unavoidable consequence of the pandemic in that private funding sources will not currently fund the development of hotels. It was explained that you are in discussions with Welsh Government and Visit Wales to overcome these funding issues.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAW

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

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

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

We were concerned that ATG venues around the world were currently closed due to Covid-19 and what possible impact this could have on the Swansea development. We heard that ATG had laid off some staff, (mostly on furlough), across their company. However, officers confirmed that they have protected the core business and received equity investments, and there are no concerns about ATG's Swansea project at this time. It was also explained that ATG are currently looking to recruit a manager for the Swansea Arena.

We expressed concern over the 'capital equalisation reserve' position and were informed repayment would be covered adequately over the next term of Council. Further clarity may be sought at some point regarding the plans to replenish the reserve through income streams.

Swansea Central North

We heard that discussions are ongoing in terms of potential occupiers. Officers explained that appropriate delivery model options are being explored, including the possibility of the Shaping Swansea strategic partner being involved.

We queried any impact of Covid-19 on the interest of prospective tenants. We heard that there had been limited impact in this case and that discussions were ongoing.

The Panel requested further information in the form of schematics to better inform people about the Swansea North development in relation to other developments in the area. It was agreed a short presentation on these images would be provided at the next meeting in January 2021.

Kingsway

We queried whether pavement design in the Kingsway conformed to the Active Travel Design Guide (Welsh Government 2014) in order to properly segregate cyclists and pedestrians. We expressed concerns about possible collisions and conflict between cyclists and pedestrians using this area of pavement. Officers explained that extensive consultation had taken place with cycle groups and mobility groups, leading to a balanced design that took account of a range of features, however, a more detailed response could be sought from the Highways & Transport Department. We will therefore be sending a separate letter to Cabinet Member Mark Thomas to request more detailed information on this.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

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

We asked whether bus stops along the Kingsway were being closed or relocated in order to avoid traffic build-ups when a bus was stationary at a designated stop. We heard that works were currently being undertaken to remedy any defects whilst traffic flow was at its lowest, however, bus stop locations remained unchanged.

We asked for an update on the plans for the 'Picton Yard' area, especially in relation to prospective footfall. We heard that works had been completed to link lower Oxford Street with this area, however, construction works continue and this area therefore remains closed. Officers outlined hopes for an historic link to be re-established here to encourage flow into the Kingsway. Officers explained that an East-West link is also an aspiration and delivery of this project is being explored, although no concrete funding as yet.

71/72 The Kingsway

We heard that the tender submissions are currently being evaluated in terms of the development at 71/72 The Kingsway. It was pleasing to hear that new hoardings graphics are due to be erected this week, following delays due to inclement weather.

We expressed concern surrounding the return to offices and commercial units following the Covid-19 pandemic. We queried what the minimum percentage of occupancy should be in order to justify the expenditure on this development. Officers informed us that discussions with potential operators have indicated a good demand from, in particular, 'Tech' businesses who value a collaborative and flexible office space. We heard that workshops were undertaken to analyse the impact of Covid - 19 on the use of this structure, the outcome of which included positive evaluations surrounding the use of dual staircases, aluminium and anti-viral materials, natural ventilation and outside space. Officers undertook to provide further information on the budget of this development, and the impacts of Covid-19 on that budget, once these figures were duly available.

We asked about the success rate of the Zone Residential Grants (in the context of the Kingsway). Officers explained that this had been an exceptionally successful programme and there remained a backlog of other projects awaiting funding if and when this can be secured from Welsh Government. Officers undertook to provide a further report on these figures at the next meeting.

We heard that there remains a demand for sufficient quality office space within the City Centre, which will lead to increased footfall and therefore increased demand for retail businesses.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

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

Wind Street

We were informed that work is progressing here. We heard that minimal tree removal has been undertaken, following consultation groups. New pea-lighting is scheduled to be installed in November. Drop-in sessions are planned to be scheduled as the design progresses.

We queried why trees are felled at all in Wind Street. Officers explained that the condition of some is not good, but more so because of operational limitations along the street. Two of three trees marked for felling now remain. We expressed concern over the general tree felling policy across the City. We were assured that as many mature trees as possible are protected.

We heard that across the County the figures are net positive in terms of tree planting, the aim always to be planting more trees than removed. We also heard that the bypass of the Enterprise Zone is one of the largest urban forests in the UK. We heard that there are exceptions made, especially within the City Centre, to accommodate a functional city centre design.

We raised concerns over the impact of Covid-19 on Wind Street as both a night time and day time economy, and plans to help support recovery of business in this area. We were assured that there are a number of different schemes in place helping to support hospitality and associated businesses across Wales. We were informed that the Council have provided grants in excess of £1m to businesses to enable them to expand into areas of open space.

City Centre Marketing of Strategic Sites

We asked how many bids were received and how soon we would have results on this. Officers outlined the huge response to this process in terms of the marketing launch, having over 2000 views nationally. We heard that there has been a substantial number of bids of high quality; the process is ongoing and the shortlisting has been signed off to notify parties. Officers commented on the high quality of submissions and how this reflects on the level of work happening in Swansea. Officers confirmed that further information is currently confidential but the quality of the shortlist is exceptionally high.

We queried whether private investors would be more prevalent in these marketing schemes.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

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

Strategic Sites and Project Overview

Skyline - We raised concerns over the Skyline project, as the time frame for this is set as 2026, and whether the operations team were likely to withdraw from this project. Officers reassured us that a number of conference calls with Skyline in New Zealand had taken place recently. Furthermore, a grant of £10 million from Visit Wales was still under discussion, and they were therefore optimistic about this project continuing.

Castle Square – Officers explained that the professional team appointed here are at the stage of completing feasibility studies with a view to presenting a detailed scheme to move forward. We understand we should have images in due course, although this is not yet at the point of a final design and the Council has therefore not yet committed capital to be allocated to funding. We are keen to see final plans for this project to ensure the objective is met for a greener area.

Transportation & Highways

We asked questions about the intention to extend the cycle track to the Copper Works site and Swansea Lower Valley. We also questioned whether plans are being pushed forward under the metro scheme for Landore; in particular, to accommodate access to Morfa retail park, the Stadium and the newly developed distillery. The Panel was told that Swansea has more miles of cycle path than any other area in Wales and that the Metro system is still being worked on as an idea.

Fabian Way Innovation Corridor – We raised questions over the progress of the land negotiations and how far the link road has progressed with WG support. We were informed that this area of land development is dealt with by the Corporate Properties Department. The Panel will be requesting further information from Corporate Properties on this point.

Active Travel Programme – We raised concerns over the research and evidence that justified some new cycle tracks, and whether demand was high enough to warrant the costs. We discussed the Mayals Road cycle track that is scheduled for construction soon and queried whether this had gone to tender. The Panel was informed that further information should be sought from the Head of Highways, and we will include this in the separate letter to Cabinet Member Mark Thomas.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

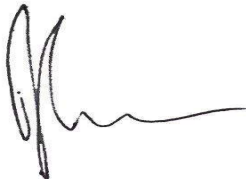
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

Your response:

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised, but in this instance, please provide a formal written response by 10th December 2020 to the following:

- Figures for the number of contractors employed on the Arena site (local separately to external) during the start of the contract and also at this current time. Please also indicate (separately) the number of Apprentices involved in this development.
- Schematics / images of Swansea Central North as previously requested (*now received following this meeting*).
- Information on the number of trees, and species, being displaced under the Wellington Street developments.
- 71/72 The Kingsway: further information requested on the budget of this development, and the impacts of Covid-19 on that budget.
- Zone Residential Grants: Officers undertook to provide a further report on these figures at the next meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Jeff Jones
Convener, Development and Regeneration Performance Panel
✉ cllr.jeff.jones@swansea.gov.uk

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

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

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