# Cyngor Abertawe Swansea Council

#### **City and County of Swansea**

#### **Notice of Meeting**

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

On: Thursday, 17 March 2022

Time: 2.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Cyril Anderson

Membership:

Councillors: J E Burtonshaw, P Downing, P R Hood-Williams, P K Jones, M A Langstone, W G Lewis, P Lloyd, P M Matthews and T M White

Watch Online: <a href="https://bit.ly/3MiOOe8">https://bit.ly/3MiOOe8</a>

#### Agenda

Page No.

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests. www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosureofinterests

3 Minutes.
1 - 3

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

4 Annual Report 2021-2022. 4 - 16

Huw Ears

Huw Evans Head of Democratic Services

Friday, 11 March 2022

Contact: Democratic Services - Tel: (01792) 636923

### Agenda Item 3



#### **City and County of Swansea**

## Minutes of the Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee

#### **Remotely via Microsoft Teams**

Thursday, 17 February 2022 at 2.00 pm

**Present**: Councillor C Anderson (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)Councillor(s)Councillor(s)J E BurtonshawP R Hood-WilliamsW G LewisP LloydP M MatthewsT M White

Officer(s)

Caritas Adere Associate Lawyer

Phil Holmes Head of Planning & City Regeneration

Martin Nicholls Director of Place

Paul Relf Economic Development & External Funding Manager

Samantha Woon Democratic Services Officer

**Apologies for Absence** 

Councillor(s): P Downing, P K Jones and M A Langstone

#### 35 To receive Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests from Members.

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

Councillor J E Burtonshaw declared a Personal Interest in Minute 37 and 40 "High Street Regeneration and Empty Premises".

#### 36 Minutes:

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee held on 20 January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 37 High Street Regeneration and Empty Premises.

The Economic Development & External Funding Manager provided a 'for information' report which provided an update on the actions being undertaken to regenerate High Street and address empty premises.

Members' noted the recovery plan actions currently being progressed and delivered:

## Minutes of the Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee (17.02.2022) Cont'd

- Grant funding allocated to local businesses through the Premises Outdoor Adaptions Grant, to support local businesses to adapt to social distancing requirements majority completed.
- Continuing to administer Welsh Government covid-19 financial support to local businesses through schemes such as direct NDR support and discretionary grants
- Recruitment of new business development officers was completed in March 2021 working under the Business Swansea banner and delivering a range of business support that has included start up grants, themed online seminars and increasing engagement with businesses across Swansea
- Shop Local Shop Swansea campaign rolled out across county, timed with easing of restrictions at different stages over the past 12 months
- Wide range of employability provision including Kickstart placements
- 44 start up bursaries issued to date

The Dyfatty Community Hub proposals outlined in February 2021 around the vacant shop units were progressing well, presenting a great opportunity to locate and test these approaches working closely with all relevant support services and providing a real opportunity to act as enablers in giving local people in particular the tools they need to strengthen the community and generate positive micro-business opportunities. Four of the six units were now refurbished with utilities activated. Initial community engagement had been undertaken, and support would be provided to various groups and individuals to try out their ideas which included new small businesses, support activities and services. Engagement activity had been very positive. In addition the former Lamb Pub was acting as the site office for the Palace Theatre works, in itself creating footfall and creating a temporary use of an existing building complementary to the activities that would start in the shop units shortly.

The enforcement action plan was in place and work was starting on initial schemes.

The key was integration of these activities – no one sector or area of work has all the answers, but the opportunity to create a positive and cost-effective environment to enable people to realise their own futures is real, with a holistic package of support available at the same time at the right time.

In response to Member questions, Officers stated that various marketing strategies were progressing which included the availability of grants and business rate relief. A multi-disciplinary team involving other public sector organisations, the third sector and community groups were also involved in the regeneration of High Street.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their informative presentation and their ongoing work.

#### 38 Work Plan 2021/2022.

The Democratic Services Officer presented the Work Plan for 2021/2022.

**Resolved** that the Work Plan be noted.

## Minutes of the Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee (17.02.2022) Cont'd

#### 39 Exclusion of the Public.

The Committee was requested to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business identified in the recommendations to the report on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exclusion paragraph of 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007, relevant to the item of business as set out in the report.

The Committee considered the Public Interest Test in deciding to exclude the public from the meeting for the items of business where the Public Interest Test was relevant, as set out in the report.

**Resolved** that the public be excluded for the following items of business.

(Closed Session)

#### 40 High Street Regeneration and Empty Premises.

The Economic Development & External Funding Manager provided a 'for information' report which provided an update on the actions being undertaken to regenerate High Street and address empty premises.

The Chair thanked for his informative report and ongoing work.

The meeting ended at 2.27 pm

Chair

### Agenda Item 4



#### **Report of the Director of Place**

### Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### **Annual Report**

**Purpose:** To summarise the work programme for

2021/2022 and outline the draft work

programme for 2022/2023.

**Report Author:** Martin Nicholls.

Finance Officer: Ben Smith.

**Legal Officer:** Tracey Meredith.

Access to Services Officer: Rhian Millar.

FOR INFORMATION

#### 1. Introduction.

This report sets out the progress made on the work programme during the 2021/2022 municipal year.

#### 2. Work programme 2021/2022.

The Committee received a number of reports over the course of the year summarised as follows (in chronological order).

#### 2.1 <u>17<sup>th</sup> June 2021</u>

#### Annual Report & Proposed Work Plan 2021-2022.

The Director of Place presented the Annual Report and proposed Work Plan for 2021-2022.

Members' noted the topics that had been covered during the previous Municipal Year.

Members' debated the proposed work plan items and asked questions of the Director of Place who responded accordingly.

#### 2.2 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

#### Siting of Bus Stops.

The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management introduced the report.

The Integrated Transport Unit Manager provided a comprehensive overview of the ownership, type, location and maintenance of bus stops and shelters. It was noted that Officers utilise guidelines as opposed to a formal policy being in place.

Members' agreed that a Policy should be devised for use within the City and County of Swansea.

It was resolved that The Passenger Transport Team Leader draft a policy (based on current operational guidance) and investigate policies used by other local authorities.

#### **Traffic Calming.**

The Road Safety Manager provided an overview on the background and issues for consideration associated with the introduction of traffic calming works.

A number of matters were discussed including:

- 1. 20 mph zones do provide a modest benefit to environmental issues.
- 2. There is a need to monitor/enforce 20 mph zones to ensure compliance.
- 3. The introduction of traffic calming measures has a negative impact on the highway infrastructure and there is currently no additional funding available to counteract this.
- 4. All emergency services are consulted prior to the introduction of traffic calming measures and their comments are taken into consideration.
- 5. Public consultation is vital in determining the appropriateness of the differing types of traffic calming.
- 6. Traffic calming does not adversely affect the availability of residents parking bays.

#### 2.3 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

#### Swansea Bay City Deal - Skills & Talent Programme Business Case.

The Director of Place presented an update of the Swansea Bay City Deal Skills and Talent business case recently approved by Cabinet and to explore how this may fit in with a future PDC agenda item of developing local skills.

Members' noted the background and context, the business plan for the skills and talent programme, funding, delivery of the phases (including the gap analysis and whether the Council is required to make further interventions), challenges faced in respect of skills gaps, the aim of the programme and the financial impact.

#### Members' discussed:

- 1. Developing local skills and recruitment and how the Council can develop its policies to assist in that regard.
- 2. The role of schools in aligning the school aged curriculum to what is required post 16 years in order to address the massive skills shortages.
- 3. Costs of consultant's fees and the need to ensure the majority of funding is channelled into training opportunities.

It was resolved that further, detailed reports, addressing local skills and recruitment, including areas of Council intervention and the role of education developing a curriculum which addresses the issues with skills shortages post 16 years.

#### 2.4 21st October 2021

#### **Employability Programmes Update.**

The Principal External Funding Officer presented an information report detailing key employability, skills and training programmes being delivered by Swansea Council. The report summarised the achievements to date and highlighted opportunities and challenges going forward that should be taken into consideration in the development and securing of funding for successor projects, post-EU funding.

Members' noted the background and context, current economic and employability projects issues and outputs and opportunities and challenges.

In response to Members' questions, Officers stated that:

- 1. £2.5m a year is received through grant funding which is used for project staffing and qualifications.
- 2. Whilst there is merit in forward planning in order to develop a policy prior to funding concluding, future grant funding is unknown. Working groups could take place mid-2022 to determine a way forward. However, given the Local Government elections in May 2022, determination of this topic would need to be considered by the PDC post May 2022.
- 3. Skills planning gained from labour market intelligence form the basis for a robust skill plan. The City Deal Talent RLSP Board co-ordinates the information and assesses the requirements for the region.
- 4. Progress had been made with schools and post 16 educational establishments in order to address the identified skills shortages.

#### 2.5 <u>18<sup>th</sup> November 2021</u>

#### **Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy.**

The Fleet Manager presented a 'for information' report which detailed the new Ultra Low Emission Strategy that had been submitted to the Welsh Government in support of the Council approach and overarching Green Fleet Policy.

Members' discussed: upskilling of technicians to the Institute of Motor Industry Standards of Competency; apprenticeship opportunities; electric vehicle charging infrastructure demands; hydrogen fuel vehicles and the salary sacrifice scheme.

In response to a question from the Director of Place, the Chair confirmed that the Committee were content with the 20 actions detailed in the transition plan.

#### 2.6 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### Management and Maintenance of Open Space (Biodiversity).

The Head of Waste Management, assisted by Officers, presented a progress update on the review of the Council's management of its green spaces.

Officers detailed progress to date (including the role of the working group), purchase of equipment, engagement with environmental bodies, surveys, operational trials, preparation for expansion of trials next season, information and raising awareness, community consultation and general issues.

Members' asked questions of the Officers who responded accordingly.

The Head of Waste Management stated that a strategic policy would be required to be developed in the first instance, prior to any broader consultation. He reiterated the challenges faced by Members in balancing the Council's commitment to the climate change/nature emergency and the views of their local communities. Future consultation exercises would need to be implemented in a staged approach once the overarching framework had been approved.

#### It was resolved that:

- 1) The progress to date and direction of travel were noted.
- 2) Chris Howell invite the Chair and Councillor P K Jones to future meetings of the Officer Working Group.
- 3) Members' to be invited to attend a working group to discuss the future online consultation exercise.

#### Tree Policy.

The Natural Environment Section Officer presented a report which sought approval of a strategy for the management of trees on/affecting land/property in Council ownership and setting out the Council's duties in relation to protected trees.

It was resolved that:-

- 1) The Tree Management Strategy is agreed and referred to Cabinet for approval.
- A mapping exercise is carried out to identify potential sites/zones for planting on Council owned land subject to future funding and maintenance availability.

#### 2.7 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### Climate Change.

The Director of Place submitted a 'for information' report. The report highlighted the recently approved Cabinet report on the Climate Change and Nature Strategy (18<sup>th</sup> November 2021) which took into account the recent declaration of a Nature Emergency on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021. To aid forward planning, it also informs the Committee on the current status of each policy area included within the governance structure.

Members' noted progress in relation to: Governance Update; Strategy and Policy Update; Biodiversity Plan/Section 6/Nature Recovery Action Plan; Develop a Sustainable Transport Strategy; Tree Management Strategy; New School Buildings; Procurement; Housing; Waste Strategy Policy 2022-25; Green Infrastructure Strategy; Local Development Plan; Energy Plan and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The Project Manager referred to the collaborative work involving all Welsh Authorities and Swansea's input in the recent COP Cymru initiative.

The Director of Place referred to the volume of work and ongoing progress contained in each of the policy areas detailed above.

### Speed Control Measures in Residential Areas to include 20 mph speed limits.

The Senior Engineer submitted a report which provided a brief overview on the background and issues associated with the introduction of speed control measures to support a speed limit of 20mph in residential areas.

The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management provided an overview of the challenges associated with

implementing the measures which included ensuring compliance with the scheme; financial implications and consultation.

The Senior Engineer referred to the eight pilot schemes within Wales and stated that the Welsh Government would be assessing the data derived from each pilot scheme. He stated that there was limited information locally regarding compliance and omissions resulting from speed control areas.

The Head of Highways and Transportation stated that there were many conflicting challenges associated with the Scheme which required careful consideration prior to implementation.

Members' asked questions of the Officers who responded accordingly and it was resolved that the issue could form part of the PDC work plan in the forthcoming municipal year.

#### 2.8 <u>17<sup>th</sup> February 2022</u>

#### High Street Regeneration and Empty Premises.

The Economic Development & External Funding Manager provided a 'for information' report which provided an update on the actions being undertaken to regenerate High Street and address empty premises.

Members' noted the recovery plan actions currently being progressed and delivered:

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refurbished with utilities activated. Initial community engagement had been undertaken, and support would be provided to various groups and individuals to try out their ideas which included new small businesses, support activities and services. Engagement activity had been very positive. In addition the former Lamb Pub was acting as the site office for the Palace Theatre works, in itself creating footfall and creating a temporary use of an existing building complementary to the activities that would start in the shop units shortly.

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The Chair thanked the Officers for their informative presentation and their ongoing work.

#### 3. Proposed Work Programme for 2022/2023.

Due to the fact that local government elections will be taking place in May 2022 any future work programme can only be determined once a new committee is formulated. Notwithstanding this the following are some indicative headings that the PDC may wish to consider for future including:

- Climate Change and Nature Strategy;
- Ongoing consideration of current economic situation within Swansea and any policy context that would assist its ongoing regeneration and recovery:
- Review of the current policy of managing empty shops within the City;
- Ongoing review and policy recommendations for High Street;
- Consideration of the Council's current approach to decarbonisation of its housing stock;
- Review of the Council's current energy strategy;
- Review of policy objections of its local and regional transport strategies;
- Review and policy implications of current approach to employability and talent and skills:
- Development of a future sustainable transport strategy including requirements relating to street lighting, green and grey fleet;
- Review of biodiversity strategy and implications of maintenance programmes;
- Policy in relation to traffic calming and Welsh Governments 20mph speed

limit roll out.

Development of an on street EV charging

#### 4. Financial Implications.

4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. Any subsequent implications would be set out in individual reports to Cabinet.

#### 5. Legal Implications.

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report. Any subsequent implications would be set out in individual reports to Cabinet.

#### 6. Integrated Assessment Implications.

- 6.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socioeconomic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 6.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 6.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 6.2 This is a for information report but an IIA screening has been carried out and is enclosed in Appendix A. This has identified that a full IIA is not required.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: Appendix A – IIA Screening Report.

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form. Which service area and directorate are you from? Service Area: Place Directorate: Place Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance? New and revised policies, practices or procedures Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff Efficiency or saving proposals Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location Large Scale Public Events Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans) Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy) Major procurement and commissioning decisions Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here: The Directorate of Place is providing a review of activity undertaken by the Economy Environment Infrastructure PDC over the last financial year, summarising the work programme for 2021/2022 and outlining the draft work programme for 2022/2023. This is a 'for information report' only. Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-) **High Impact** Medium Impact Low Impact **Needs further** investigation Children/young people (0-18) Older people (50+) Any other age group Future Generations (yet to be born) Х Disability χ Race (including refugees) Asylum seekers **Gypsies & travellers** Religion or (non-)belief Sex Sexual Orientation

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Gender reassignment Welsh Language

Poverty/social exclusion

Carers (inc. young carers)

Marriag	unity cohesion ge & civil partnership ancy and maternity			x			
Q3	What involvement engagement/consu Please provide det undertaking involv	ıltation/co-produ ails below – eith	active appro	paches?	our reasons for not		
Infrass screet apply	eport covers a review tructure Policy Develoning attached to their and all agreed agence taken.	opment Committe specific reports.	ee, all of which Looking ahe	ch would have ad for 22-23 tl	had individual IIA		
Q4	Have you consider development of thi		g of Future	Generations	Act (Wales) 2015 in the		
a)	Overall does the initiate together?  Yes x	ve support our Cor	porate Plan's	Well-being Obje	ctives when considered		
b)	Does the initiative cons	sider maximising co	ontribution to	each of the seve	n national well-being goals?		
c)	Does the initiative appl	y each of the five w No	ays of workin	g?			
d)	Does the initiative mee generations to meet the Yes x	-	resent withou	t compromising	the ability of future		
Q5	What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc)						
	High risk	Medium ris	k	Low risk x			
<b>Q6</b>	_	• •		nor) on any o	other Council service?		
Q7	What is the cumul	ative impact of t	his propos	al on people a	and/or communities		

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and

whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

Lots of good debate and ideas for continuous improvement result from such PDC activity, with the committee helping to shape the future policies and plans of the Council in line with our corporate plan and well being objectives.

#### **Outcome of Screening**

- Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:
  - Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)
  - Summary of involvement (Q3)
  - WFG considerations (Q4)
  - Any risks identified (Q5)
  - Cumulative impact (Q7)

All policies/strategies etc. discussed within the EEI PDC agendas are subject to individual IIA's at the time of presentation and are fully compliant with the IIA process acknowledging the importance of all items mentioned above. This process will continue for 22-23.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate rep	ort)
☐ Full IIA to be completed	
x Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to sup outcome	port th
NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement be obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only require email.	
Screening completed by:	
Name: Martin Nicholls	
Job title: Director of Place	
Date: 9.3.21	
Approval by Head of Service:	
Name: N/A	
Position:	
Date:	

Please return the completed form to <u>accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk</u>

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