



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Programme Committee

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

On: Tuesday, 16 November 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Peter Black CBE

Membership:

Councillors: C Anderson, E W Fitzgerald, D W Helliwell, T J Hennegan, P K Jones, H Lawson, W G Lewis, C E Lloyd, S Pritchard, G J Tanner, W G Thomas and T M White

Statutory Co-opted Members: D Anderson-Thomas and A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Members: C A Holley, P R Hood-Williams, S M Jones, L R Jones and J W Jones

Watch Online: <https://bit.ly/3mrvUqC>

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Agenda

Page No.

1 Apologies for Absence.

2 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests

3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

4 Minutes.

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

1 - 7

5 Public Question Time.

Questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services democracy@swansea.gov.uk no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10 minute period.

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9	Scrutiny Work Programme. Discussion on: a) Committee Work Plan. b) Opportunities for Pre-Decision Scrutiny. c) Progress with Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.	49 - 77
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Next Meeting: Tuesday, 14 December 2021 at 4.00 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Wednesday, 10 November 2021

Contact: Democratic Services - Tel (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, 19 October 2021 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
T J Hennegan
W G Lewis
G J Tanner

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
P K Jones
C E Lloyd
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)

D W Helliwell
H Lawson
S Pritchard
T M White

Statutory Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas A Roberts

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

C A Holley S M Jones J W Jones
P R Hood-Williams L R Jones

Others Present:

Councillor Rob Stewart Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy
Councillor Andrea Lewis Cabinet Member for Climate & Service Transformation
Councillor Mark Child Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Community Health Services
Paula O'Connor Chair of Governance & Audit Committee

Officer(s)

Marlyn Dickson Strategic Change Programme Manager
Adam Hill Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources
David Howes Director of Social Services
Kate Jones Democratic Services Officer
Simon Jones Social Services Strategy and Performance Improvement Officer
Brij Madahar Scrutiny Team Leader
Debbie Smith Deputy Chief Legal Officer

48 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

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

49 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.

50 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on the 14 September 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

51 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

52 Update on 'Swansea - Achieving Better Together' (Recovery & Transformation Plan).

The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Service Transformation, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Strategic Change Programme Manager were present for the report on 'Swansea – Achieving Better Together'

The Leader thanked all staff for their extraordinary efforts during such a difficult time and noted that the pandemic was still ongoing with 50,000 infections across the UK reported the previous day.

Questions and Discussions focussed on the following: -

- Timeline of the Re-focus Phase – noted fluid plan timelines
- Tangible achievements to date
 - Appointment of Strategic Programme Manager
 - Relaunch of ideas and leadership hubs
 - Updated timetable for the medium term financial plan
 - Renewal of the Agile Working Policy
 - A further 4000 devices had been delivered to schools since April
 - Professional learning programme was in place
 - Prices of free school meals were frozen
 - Continued monitoring of vulnerable children through partnership working
 - Continued provision of services within the care sector and ensuring those services remained resilient
 - Expansion of Local Area Co-ordinators to cover the whole of Swansea
 - Volunteering toolkits and training programme
 - Community calling project - over 162 phones had been delivered to residents
 - Work was ongoing in respect of a project to repurpose ex Civil Service devices for use in schools
 - Transport fund bids had been submitted
 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) upgrade in City Centre was progressing
 - Ongoing support for local businesses
 - Safeguarding Jobs – grants from the Local Recovery Fund
 - Supporting local Members priorities through the Recovery Fund

- Partnership working
- Continued pressure on care services and the local health board from the pandemic, booster vaccinations, flu season, flu jabs, and consequences of Brexit with staffing
- Key targets for the next 7 months
 - Co-production strategy
 - Workforce Strategy
 - Consultation & Engagement Strategy
 - Volunteering Strategy
 - Review of the Corporate Plan
 - Regional Economic Delivery Plan
 - Review of Corporate Joint Committees (CJC's)
 - Continued regeneration
 - Continued partnership working
 - Continue and expand public communications
 - Capitalise on the new Arena
 - Assess financial impact of Covid-19
 - Shape the medium term financial plan
- Comparisons with other Local Authorities - lessons learnt from other authorities and good practices that have been shared
- Recognising and rewarding staff
- Communication with Councillors regarding Economic Recovery Fund applications, Capital Scheme Applications, Play Scheme Application and Recovery Fund applications for community priorities; possibility of streamlining the process Economic Recovery Fund applications, grants to businesses, etc. whilst also complying with the appropriate approval / audit process – noted that programme managers were in place to deliver schemes once approved
- Governance Structure for 'Swansea - Achieving Better Together' and co-ordination / overview of work streams - Integration of Work streams with Policy Development Committees / Member engagement; Reporting Mechanisms – clarity of the reporting process
- Effect of the pandemic on the regeneration projects – It was reported that a few weeks were lost on the Arena development during the first lockdown, practical completion was expected November / December 2021. Recently the impacts of Brexit had effected the availability of labour and materials, but this had been managed well to date. Given the pandemic it was reported that developments had progressed well as listed below
 - Events were on sale for the Arena for 2022
 - Copr Bay Development was making progress
 - Works on the Kingsway had completed
 - Private Schemes such as Mariner Street had continued during the pandemic
 - A contractor had been appointed for the Palace Theatre

- Works on the former Oceana building would begin shortly
 - Preparatory Works would be starting on the Local Services Hub shortly
 - Wind Street was on track for completion in a few weeks
 - The final design for Castle Square was due shortly
 - Work was underway on Penderyn Whiskey Distillery
 - Progress was ongoing with the Skyline Development
 - Progress was ongoing with the tidal lagoon
 - Urban Splash had been appointed in respect of the Civic Centre, St Thomas Station Site and Phase 2 of Copr Bay
- Extent to which the Natural Environment was reflected in the Recovery Plan – told that biodiversity, climate change and natural environment was considered on all work undertaken as well as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 being incorporated into all strategies
 - Local Elections in May 2022 and appointment of a New Chief Executive
 - Update on phase 2 of the City Centre / City Deal – opportunities of working with private developers
 - Future workforce

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Members and Officers.

Resolved that the update be noted, and the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Leader, reflecting the discussions and sharing the views of the Committee.

53 Annual Report - Corporate Safeguarding 2020/21.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Community Health Services, the Director of Social Services and the Social Services Strategy & Programme Improvement Officer were present for the Annual Report – Corporate Safeguarding 2020/21.

Councillor Mark Child gave a verbal address further to the written report provided and highlighted that safeguarding remained a priority and Swansea took the lead in making it a corporate responsibility. He was proud of the way that the Council had responded to safeguarding through the pandemic.

Questions and discussions focussed on: -

- The impact of the pandemic on Adult Services – aim to provide a more preventative approach
- Safeguarding training for Contractors / External Persons / Volunteers - monitoring and recording of training

- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Policy – Improvements on DBS checks for contractors to ensure they were in line with the new DBS Policy and Risk Assessment

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers and looked forward to next years report.

Resolved that the update be noted.

54 Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2020-21 & Committee Work Plan (For Information).

The Chair welcomed Paula O'Connor, the Chair of the Council's Governance and Audit Committee, who presented the Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2020-21 and Committee Work Plan.

A verbal address was provided further to the written report which highlighted the importance of both Committees operating in accordance with legislation and terms of reference, and she also referred to implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 with new requirements and responsibilities for the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee was invited to talk about the relationship between Audit and Scrutiny and importance of close working to ensure mutual awareness of each other's work, avoiding duplication and gaps in work programmes, and referral of issues between Committees. The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee stated that he had similarly addressed the Governance & Audit Committee on 12 October. It was noted that a number of councillors sit on both Committees, which aided the relationship.

The Committee discussed concerns about the new responsibilities of the Governance & Audit Committee around Council performance. The Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee assured the Scrutiny Programme Committee that, whilst it would discharge any legislative requirement around the Council's new performance duties arising from the Local Government & Elections Act, there would be no duplication with scrutiny or involvement in routine performance monitoring that scrutiny would be involved in. She stated that she had been actively seeking advice from officers on this issue to ensure there is clarity around responsibilities between Audit and Scrutiny. She stated that training had also been requested for Governance & Audit Committee members on their new responsibilities.

She reflected on the Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report, noted within significant activities and achievements during the pandemic and difficult period for the Council.

She remarked on the extensive scrutiny work programme and assurance this provided the Governance & Audit Committee.

The Chair thanked Paula O'Connor, and both Committee Chairs indicated that they would be engaged in regular conversation to ensure Scrutiny and Audit were working together effectively. One of the issues currently being discussed was around the

systematic reporting of external audit reports, and respective role in considering and monitoring these.

Resolved that the report be noted.

55 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Child & Family Services (Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams, Convener).

Councillor Paxton Hood Williams, Convenor, presented the Child and Family Services Performance Panel Update Report, on key activities and achievements over the last 6 months.

He praised the support that he and the Panel receives from the Scrutiny Officer, and Committee Members joined in thanking the Scrutiny Team for their help and support to Councillors across all scrutiny activities.

Resolved that the update be noted.

56 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.

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

Resolved that Councillor Wendy Fitzgerald be removed from the Procurement Inquiry Panel.

57 Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Chair presented a report on the Scrutiny Work Programme.

It was highlighted that the Adult Services Performance Panel has been adjusted in light of Covid-19 related current pressures within Adult Services. Meetings from October will focus only on how the service is managing those pressures and impact on performance, until otherwise agreed.

It was also noted the Healthy City Working Group would need to be put back to a later date due to pressures on Social Services and the Health Board. The topic of Road Safety, which had been held in reserve, would replace Health City until it was possible to progress. The Road Safety Working Group would, as previously agreed, be convened by Councillor Steve Gallagher.

Resolved that the report be noted.

58 Scrutiny Letters.

The Chair presented a report on 'Scrutiny Letters' for information

Councillor Lyndon Jones, Convenor of the Bus Services Working Group, addressed the Committee and highlighted some of the findings from the Working Group meeting, including the following: -

- Regular meetings were needed between Bus Services and Members so that ward members were aware of what is going on in their area.
- It was important to hear from people who do not use buses to understand why they do not use the service and what would encourage them to do so.

The Convenor thanked Officers, First Cymru and Cardiff Bus for their work in this and paid particular thanks to bus drivers for their work through the Pandemic.

It was agreed that a further meeting of the Bus Services Working Group be held before the end of the municipal year to enable follow up on the Group's recommendations and see what changes / improvements had been made.

The Chair thanked Councillor Lyndon Jones and the Working Group.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Letters be noted.

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

The dates and times of the upcoming Panel / Working Group meetings were noted.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Cabinet Members for Supporting Communities

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November 2021

Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty

Purpose	To provide a briefing to the Scrutiny Programme Committee on the delivery of the Council's Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty.
Content	The report provides an overview and context of the 'Report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty'.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the report, to give their views and make recommendations to the Cabinet Members as necessary
Lead Councillor	Councillors Alyson Pugh and Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Members for Supporting Communities.
Lead Officer Report Author	Amy Hawkins, Interim Head of Adult Social Services Anthony Richards, Tackling Poverty Strategy Development Manager
Legal Officer Finance Officer	Carolyn Isaac Chris Davies

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swansea Council's Corporate Plan sets out six key council priorities, one of which is Tackling Poverty – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- 1.2 Poverty is caused by things that reduce resources, or increase needs and the costs of meeting those needs. Causes of poverty can also be consequences which can then create a cycle known as the poverty trap. Common triggers of poverty are often life changing events or changes in circumstances such as becoming sick, bereavement, redundancy or relationship breakdown.

2. Content

2.1 The report prepared for the Scrutiny Programme Committee is structured to consider:

- Aims and objectives of the Tackling Poverty Corporate Priority
- A comparative assessment of poverty in Swansea
- An outline of key plans and priorities
- Available resources
- An overview of delivery and performance
- Examples of the difference made
- The current challenges and risks
- Future priorities

3. Context

3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted low income households, pushing more people into poverty and those experiencing it, further into poverty resulting in an increase in demand for services including crisis support services and increased complexities for those in need.

3.2 Swansea Council's ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to mitigating the impacts of poverty and meeting demand, continues to shape new ways of working.

3.3 Recommendations from the Scrutiny Programme Committee will contribute to the further development of priorities and plans for recovery.

4. Legal implications

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report other than those set out in the body of the report.

5. Finance Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background papers: *None*

Appendices: Appendix A – Report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty



Report on the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty

Scrutiny Programme Committee

16th November 2021

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1. Aims and Objectives

Swansea Council's Corporate Plan sets out six key council priorities, one of which is Tackling Poverty – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.

Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy defines poverty as:

- Income below the Minimum Income Standard (the Minimum Income Standard is based on what the public think people need for an acceptable minimum standard of living as researched by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation).
- Inadequate access to necessary services of good quality.
- Inadequate opportunity or resource to join in with social, cultural, leisure and decision making activities.

Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy aspires to achieve a Swansea in which:

- Income poverty is not a barrier to doing well at school, having a healthy and vibrant life, developing skills and qualifications and having a fulfilling occupation.
- Service poverty is tackled through targeting resources where they have the most effect, with decision about that made in conjunction with service users.
- Participation is enjoyed by all our residents, who have the opportunity and resources to join in with social, cultural and leisure activities and decision-making.
- Residents maximise their income and get the most out of the money that they have.
- Residents avoid paying the 'poverty premium', the extra costs people on low incomes must pay for essentials such as fuel and transport.
- Barriers to employment such as transportation and childcare are removed.

2. Assessment

Causes and consequences of poverty

Poverty is caused by things that reduce resources, or increase needs and the costs of meeting those needs. Causes of poverty can also be consequences which can then create a cycle known as the poverty trap. Common triggers of poverty are often life changing events or changes in circumstances such as becoming sick, bereavement, redundancy or relationship breakdown.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation states that some of the causes of poverty in the UK today are:

- **Unemployment and low-paid jobs lacking prospects and security (or lack of jobs)**
- **Low levels of skills or education**
- **An ineffective benefit system**
- **High costs** of housing and essential goods and services
- **Discrimination** can prevent people from escaping poverty through good qualifications or jobs, and can restrict access to services.
- **Weak relationships:** A child who does not receive warm and supportive parenting can be at higher risk of poverty later in life, because of the impact on their development, education and social and emotional skills. Family relationships breaking down can also lead to poverty.
- **Abuse, trauma or chaotic lives:** Neglect or abuse as a child or trauma in adult life, as the impact on mental health can lead to unemployment, low earnings and links to homelessness and substance misuse.¹

The Bevan Foundation stated in February 2020 that:

“Estimates show that all parts of Wales have more than one in five people living on a low income. Nowhere is free of poverty... The idea that poverty can be tackled by focusing on the worst affected places is fundamentally flawed. Instead, what’s needed is a commitment to solve poverty across the whole of Wales...poverty exists across the whole area and that solving it through inclusive growth, affordable housing and support for families is vital.”²

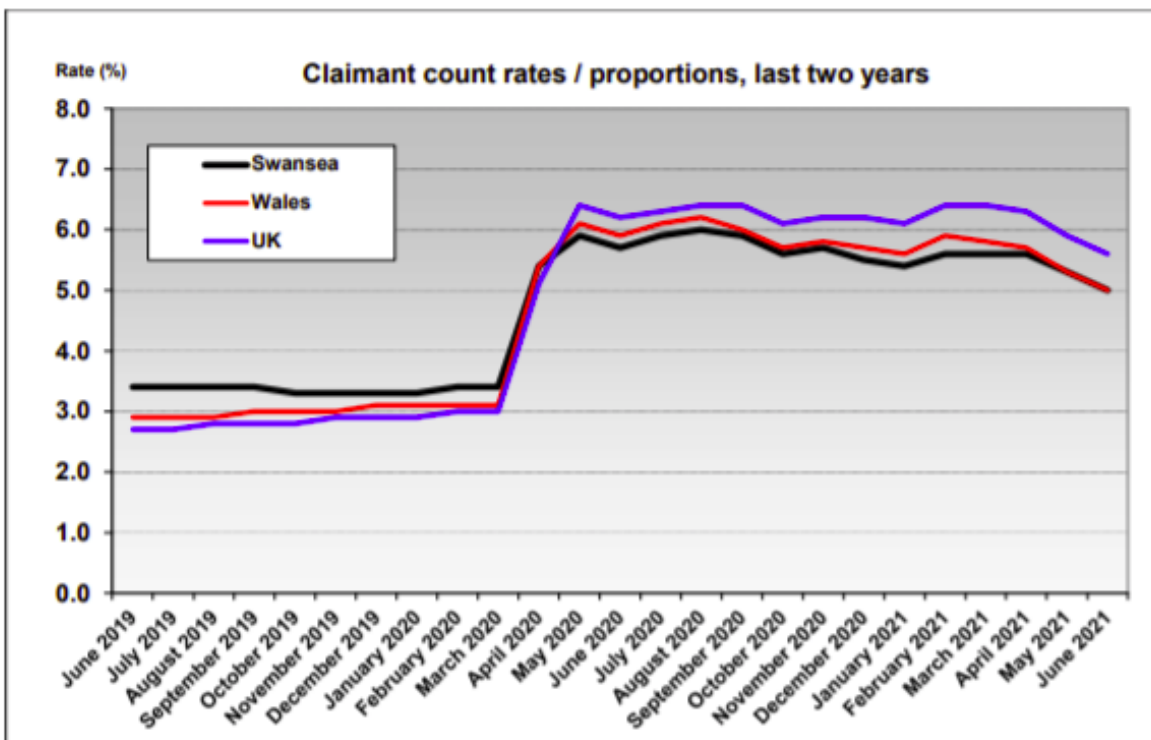
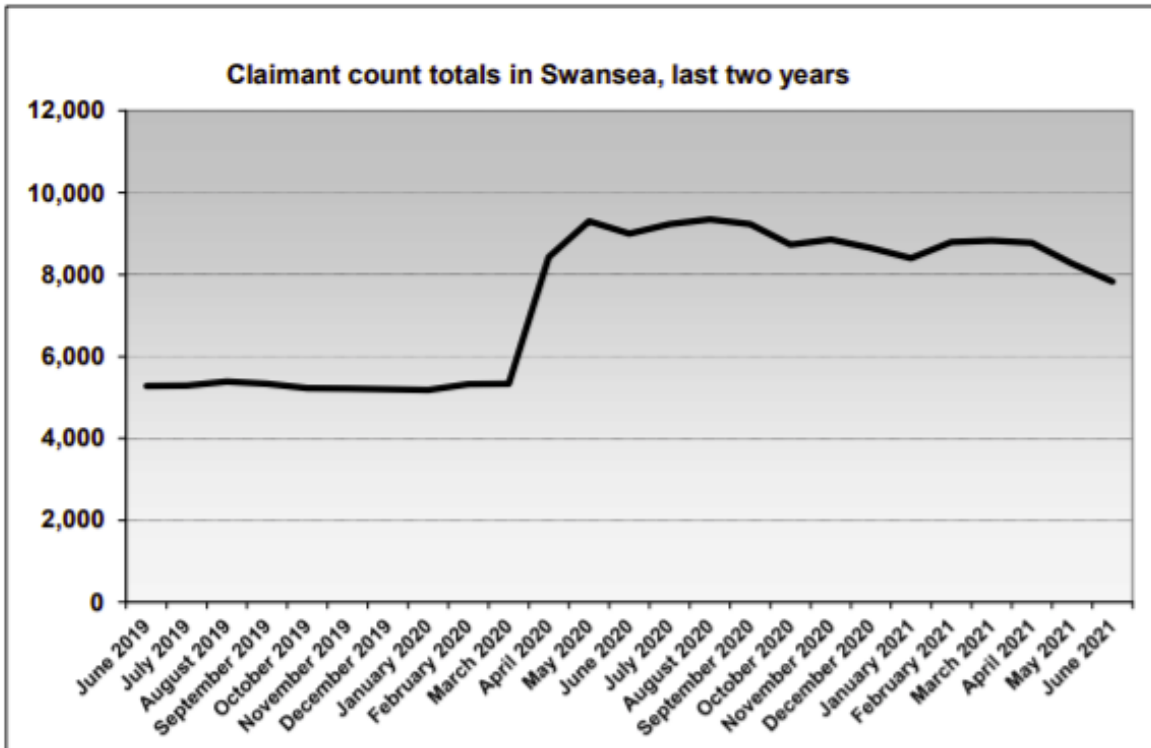
Claimant Count Rates

Claimant count – defined as all people who claim Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA, plus claimants of Universal Credit (UC)) who are required to seek work and be available for work.

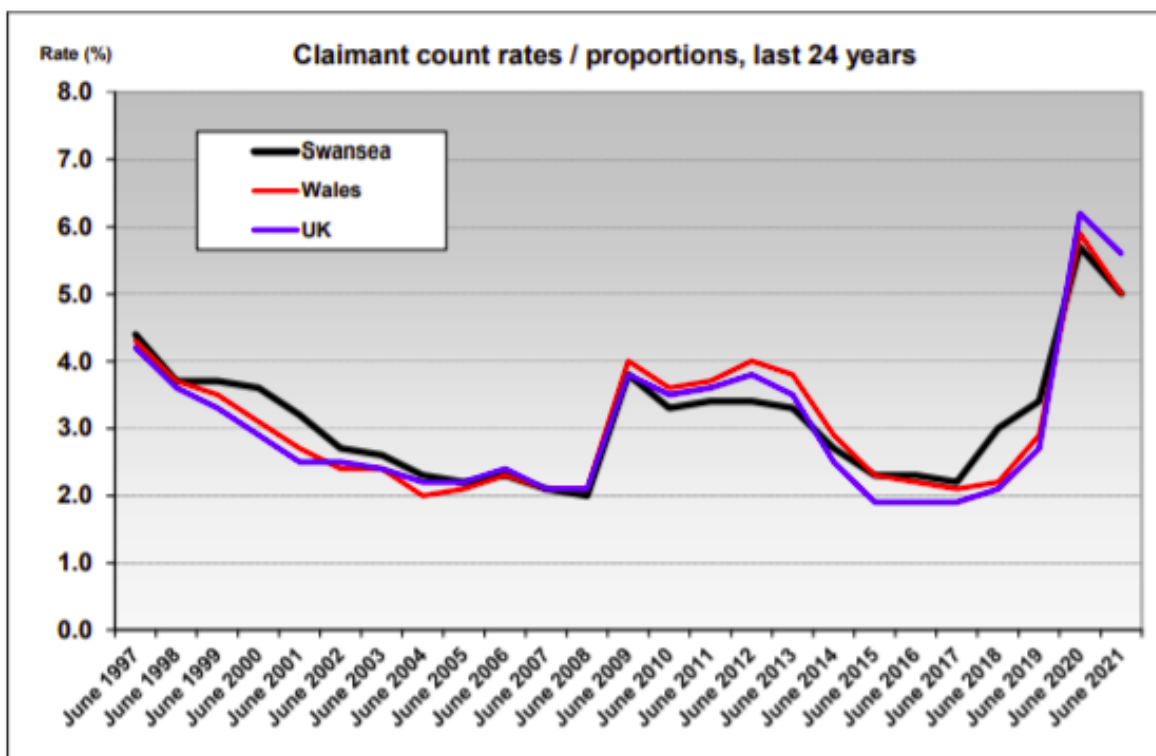
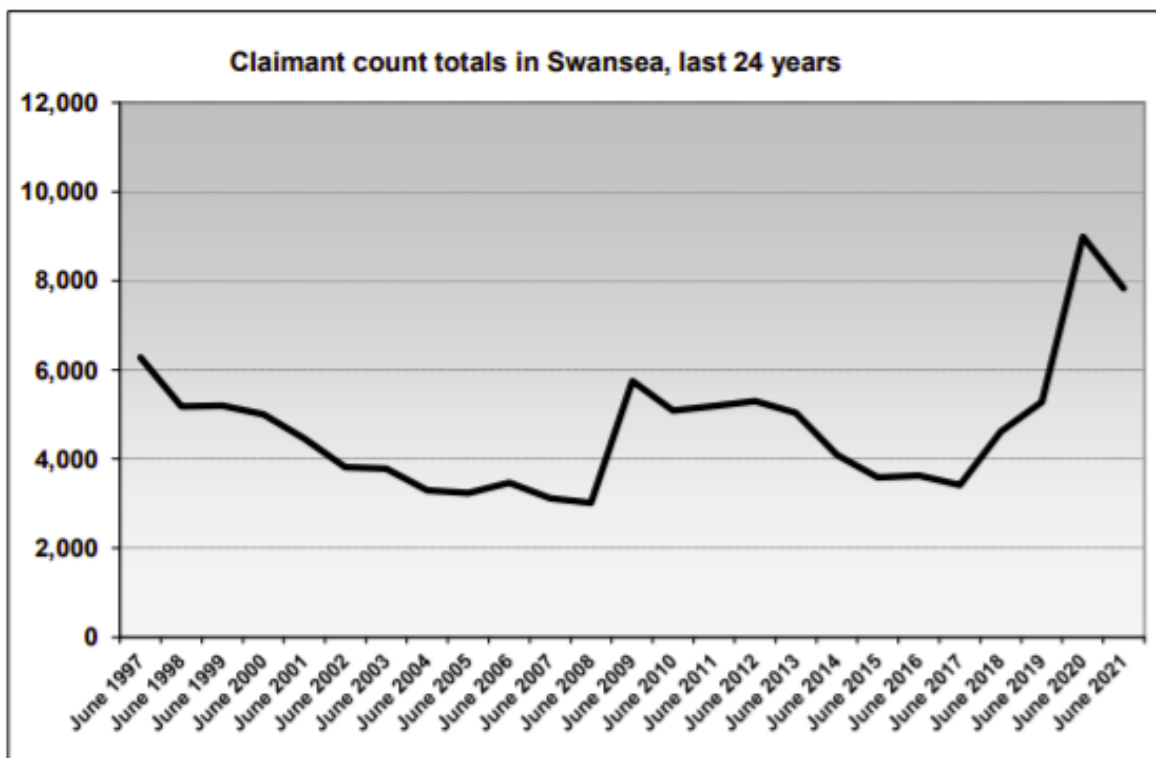
¹ www.jrf.org.uk/our-work/what-is-poverty

² <https://www.bevanfoundation.org/views/poverty-is-everywhere-in-wales/>

June 2019 – June 2021



Last 24 years



Earnings

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours worked for employees to local authority level.

The median weekly full-time earnings figure for residents in Swansea stands at £538.00 (April 2020); which is 0.7% lower than the Wales figure and 8.1% below the UK average.

WEEKLY earnings	Swansea	Swansea (% of Wales)	Wales	UK	Swansea (Workplace)
FULL-TIME employees	£538.00	99.3	£541.70	£585.50	£531.90
% change on previous year	-4.6%	-	+0.3%	+0.1%	+2.5%
Male full-time	£534.80	95.1	£562.40	£619.00	£521.10
Female full-time	£551.90	107.1	£515.40	£543.00	£534.80
PART-TIME employees	£201.50	96.3	£209.30	£202.80	£212.70
ALL employees	£444.80	99.3	£447.80	£479.10	£447.30

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2020, ONS.

Over the period April 2019 – April 2020, the survey estimates suggest that full-time weekly earnings fell by 4.6%, whilst figures for Wales and the UK remained relatively constant.

The Annual Earnings data shows that the Swansea median full-time figure (2020) of £27,480 is 2.8% lower than the Wales average, although both Swansea and Wales figures are below the UK average (in Swansea by 12.6%). Over the year 2019 – 2020, average annual full-time earnings in Swansea fell by 2.3%, whilst Wales and UK figures increased – as shown below.

ANNUAL earnings	Swansea	Swansea (% of Wales)	Wales	UK	Swansea (Workplace)
FULL-TIME employees	£27,480	97.2	£28,273	£31,461	£27,058
% change on previous year	-2.3%	-	+1.5%	+3.6%	-0.6%
Male full-time	£26,747	89.2	£30,000	£33,923	£26,534
Female full-time	£29,089	110.7	£26,287	£27,981	£28,039
PART-TIME employees	£11,004	96.1	£11,455	£11,234	£11,511
ALL employees	£23,164	97.9	£23,665	£25,780	£22,833

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2020, ONS.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is designed to identify the small areas of Wales that are most deprived. It ranks small areas according to their relative deprivation levels across eight types of deprivation to produce an overall index. There are 1909 small areas, Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Wales and 148 in Swansea. The WIMD was last updated in 2019.

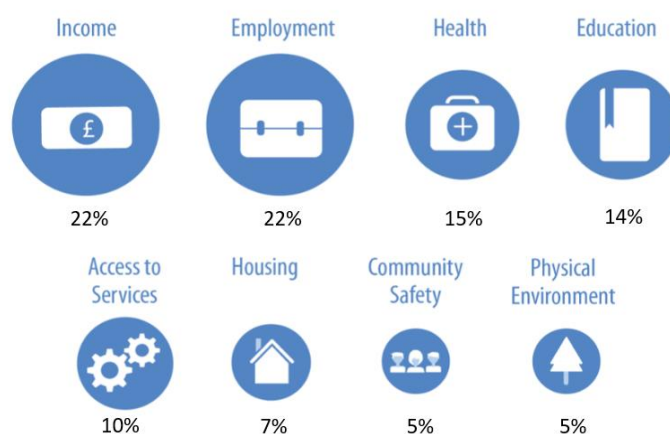
The WIMD can be used for:

- Identifying the **most deprived** small areas
- Comparing **relative** deprivation of small areas
- Exploring the 8 **types** of deprivation for small areas
- Comparing the proportion of small areas within a **larger area** that are very deprived
- Using **indicator data** (but not ranks) to compare absolute change over time

The WIMD cannot be used for:

- Quantifying how deprived a small area is, or how much more than another – the difference between two ranks can be tiny or large
- Using ranks to infer change over time (as they are relative measures)
- Identifying deprived people – not everyone who is deprived lives in a deprived area
- Comparing with other UK countries - each country measures deprivation slightly differently
- Measuring affluence - lack of deprivation is not the same as being affluent

Deprivation is the lack of access to opportunities and resources which we might expect in our society. The WIMD assesses eight types of deprivation known as domains. The domains are weighted for the overall index.



Swansea ranks 7th across the 22 Welsh Local Authorities in terms of the percentage of LSOAs in the most deprived 10% of LSOAs in Wales, joint 7th with Caerphilly in the top 20%, 10th in the top 30% and 12th in the top 50%.

Swansea contains 148 LSOAs (7.8% of the 1909 total LSOAs in Wales). Of the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales within the overall domain, 17 are within the Swansea local authority area which accounts for 11.5% of those in the local authority area and 0.9% of those in Wales. They are shown below:

Name	Code	LA Rank (of 148)	Wales rank (of 1909)
Townhill 2	W01000863	1	16
Townhill 1	W01000862	2	18
Penderry 3	W01000832	3	22
Castle 1	W01000742	4	23
Penderry 1	W01000830	5	31
Townhill 3	W01000864	6	32
Castle 2 North	W01001955	7	36
Mynyddbach 1	W01000817	8	37
Townhill 5	W01000866	9	41
Penderry 4	W01000833	10	48
Townhill 6	W01000867	11	58

Bonymaen 1	W01000738	12	81
Morrison 5	W01000810	13	95
Penderry 2	W01000831	14	147
Morrison 7	W01000812	15	154
Penderry 6	W01000835	16	157
Llansamlet 8	W01000801	17	179

An overview of the domains within the WIMD 2019 for Swansea as shown below:

WIMD Domain	LSOAs in top 10% most deprived	% of LSOAs in Swansea	% of LSOAs in Wales	LSOA areas
Income	19	12.8%	1.0%	Townhill 5,1,2,3,6 / Penderry 1,3,4,2,5,6 / Castle 1,2 North / Mynyddbach 1 / Morrison 5,7 / Bonymaen 1 / Cockett 8 / Llansamlet 8
Employment	22	14.9%	1.2%	Castle 1,2 North / Penderry 3,4,1,2,6 / Townhill 2,6,5,1,3 / Mynyddbach 1 / Morrison 5,7 / Bonymaen 1 / Cockett 2 / Sketty 4 / Llansamlet 8 / West Cross 3 / Landore 2 / Penyrheol 4
Health	18	12.2%	0.9%	Penderry 1,3,4,6 / Townhill 2,1,3,5,6 / Castle 1,2 North / Mynyddbach 1 / Bonymaen 1 / Morrison 9,5 / Cockett 2 / St Thomas 1 / Llansamlet 8
Education	17	11.5%	0.9%	Townhill 1,3,2,6,5 / Penderry 1,5,4,3,6,2,7 / Mynyddbach 1 / Bonymaen 1 / Castle 1 / Llansamlet 8 / Cockett 8
Access to Services	2	1.4%	0.1%	Gower 1 / Mawr
Community Safety	15	10.1%	0.8%	Castle 2 North,4,7 East,3,7 West / Morrison 7 / Llansamlet 1 / Cockett 7,8 / Mynyddbach 1 / Landore 2 / Penderry 3,6,1 / Townhill 5
Physical Environment	2	1.4%	0.1%	Pontarddulais 2,3
Housing	11	7.4%	0.6%	Castle 6,4,5,8 / Uplands 9,4,6,7,8 / Landore 4 / Cwmbwrla 1

3. Plans and Priorities

The Tackling Poverty Steps set out within the Corporate Plan are to:

- Provide a joint and holistic response to poverty, population health and homelessness during the Council's Covid-19 response and recovery.
- Continue to implement the Tackling Poverty Strategy and ensure that tackling poverty is everybody's business.
- Target resources to maximize access to opportunity and prosperity and focus on utilising data to target support, employability and financial inclusion.
- Support the establishment of a Poverty Truth Commission to bring together key decision makers with people who have direct lived experience of poverty to work together to bring about change.
- Work with our Health partners to ensure that, through our Early Years Strategy, children in their early years and at Foundation Phase achieve their expected language, emotional, social and cognitive development and are ready for learning and for school.
- Ensure that young people are able to access employment, education or training after reaching 16 years of age.
- Help to address the impacts of Welfare reform, such as supporting people to claim the full benefits they are entitled to so that they are able to maximise their income and promote access to affordable credit.
- Support individuals to overcome their barriers to employment through coordinated person-centred employability support.
- Provide art, culture and heritage opportunities in order to boost skills, confidence, self-esteem and aspiration.
- Invest to improve housing and build more energy efficient Council homes and support the building of affordable housing to help meet housing need, reduce fuel bills, regenerate estates and bring wider economic and employment benefits.
- Prevent homelessness and support people to maintain their tenancies to help provide stability and security for families and communities by implementing the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2018-22.
- Explore creating our own energy venture to provide low-cost energy to homes helping to tackle high domestic fuel bills and fuel poverty. Support tackling climate change and help eradicate fuel poverty and boost economic development through the ARBED scheme and energy efficiency measures in social housing.
- Continue to implement the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan to promote cohesive and inclusive communities in Swansea.

The case studies in section 7 provide examples of these steps to Tackle Poverty.

Swansea's Tackling Poverty actions align to the seven well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 including:

- A Prosperous Wales – Maximizing benefit take up and entitlement and providing a single gateway to employment support.
- A Resilient Wales – Building more energy efficient Council homes and affordable housing to meet housing need, regenerating estates and bringing wide environmental, economic and employment benefits.
- A Healthier Wales – Providing free or low cost art, cultural and heritage events through a wide range of talks, workshops and activities aiming to address health and wellbeing.
- A more Equal Wales – Creating employment and training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive through community benefit clauses in Council contracts.

- A Wales of Cohesive Communities – Implementing the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan to promoting cohesive and inclusive communities in Swansea.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – Accessible arts, culture and heritage, boosting skills, confidence, self-esteem and aspiration.
- A globally responsible Wales – Tackling climate change through energy efficiency measures in housing and building more energy efficient Council housing.

The Socio-Economic Duty aims to deliver better outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage and supports this through ensuring that those taking strategic decisions:

- Take account of evidence and the potential impact.
- Through consultation and engagement.
- Understand the views and needs of those impacted by the decision, particularly those who suffer socio-economic disadvantage.
- Welcome challenge and scrutiny.
- Drive a change in the way that decisions are made and the way that decision makers operate.

In April 2020, the Council adopted a new Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2020-24 and further embedded the Tackling Poverty priority into core Council business by introducing an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), to assess the impact of decision making on people, including those living in poverty. A Future Generations and Strategic Equality Board has been established which includes the Cabinet Members for Equalities and Poverty to ensure that work around both Poverty and Equalities is integrated and embedded across the organisation.

Actions to Tackle Poverty are delivered in each Directorate across the Authority, examples include Free School Meals in Education, Council Tax Reduction scheme in Resources, Beyond Bricks and Mortar in Place, and further details of delivery are in section 5. A dedicated Tackling Poverty Service is based in Social Services.

The Tackling Poverty Service works with residents through a strength based approach to increase their well-being, skills and qualifications and to gain sustainable and fulfilling employment and maximise household income. The service contributes to the reduction of crisis intervention and demand on services, contributing positively to resident's resilience, health and well-being.

Tackling Poverty Service Objectives:

- Increase the number of Swansea residents in sustainable and fulfilling employment
- Increase the number of adults with skills and qualifications, ensuring pathways for progression and enhancement of their employability and well-being
- Maximise household income, supporting residents to access their rights and entitlements and make the most of the money they have
- Embed Tackling Poverty as Everyone's Business within Swansea Council and champion change in policy and practice to be more effective in tackling poverty
- Reduce and prevent the impact of poverty by working in partnership and through the implementation of the Poverty Strategy and Partnerships
- Contribute positively to resident's Health and Well-being
- Support strength based connections with people to pursue their goals
- Contribute to the reduction of crisis intervention and demand on services

4. Resources

Core funding for Poverty and Prevention is split across three service areas within Social Services:

21/22	
Child & Family Services	£1,727,100
Commissioning Hub	£1,993,800
Tackling Poverty Service	£739,200
Total	£4,460,100

The funding within Child and Family is allocated to Early Help Hubs, NEETs team, the Evolve Young Peoples Services and the Domestic Abuse Hub.

The Commissioning Hub, commission a broad range of providers as well as internal services. This includes the Partnership and Involvement team to carry out our duties to listen to children and young people, the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Third Sector Support, Play and Early Years duties as part of our statutory duty and early intervention and prevention disability services and services for parent carers.

The Tackling Poverty Service includes Food Poverty Grants, Men's Sheds, Period Dignity Grants, Legacy Fund, Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus, Lifelong Learning, Tackling Poverty Development, Local Area Coordination and Welfare Rights.

Tackling Poverty Service Budget

Tackling Poverty Service	20/21	21/22	Change
Core	£846,875	£739,200	-13%
Grants	£3,576,433	£4,335,856	21%
TOTAL	£4,423,308	£5,075,056	15%

The Tackling Poverty Service is funded predominately via grant with approximately 15% core funding.

The Social Services Commissioning Hub Team oversee the delivery of Early Intervention and Prevention external funding which contributes to Tackling Poverty which includes:

Welsh Government provide grant funding streams which contribute to talking poverty The Housing Support Grant (HSG) together with the Children and Communities Grant (CCG) form the Funding Alignment programme and for Swansea provides circa 30 Million of funding on an annual basis.

Funding Alignment provides financial flexibility that facilitates the delivery of outcomes, which enables us to further align and improve Early Intervention and Prevention Support services together, ensuring the right support reaches the right people at the earliest opportunity. There is a clear expectation that the Children and Communities Grant and the Housing Support Grant should work in a seamless fashion, providing integrated services where appropriate to support those most vulnerable within our communities and help tackling and mitigate the risk of poverty.

Housing Support Grant: £18,489,233.52

Used to secure a Wales where nobody is homeless and everyone has a safe home where they can flourish and live a fulfilled, active and independent life.

This grant is commissioned across a broad range of external providers and internal council departments, all contributing to the tackling poverty agenda in Housing, Adult Services, Child & Family Services and Tackling Poverty Service.

Children and Communities Grant: £11,239,296

Used to address the support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. It seeks to mitigate or remove disadvantage to vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, thereby contributing to a more equal Wales.

This grant is commissioned across a broad range of external providers and internal council departments, all contributing to the tackling poverty agenda within our schools through Flying Start, Education, Child & Family Services and Tackling Poverty Service.

Initiatives that contribute to Tackling Poverty are across all directorates and these not broken down into spend directly on Tackling Poverty within budgets but examples of these initiatives are in section 5.

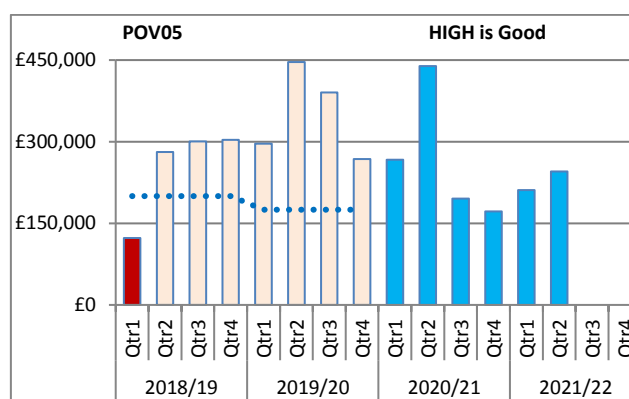
5. Delivery and Performance

Success is demonstrated through work to help tackle, mitigate and help overcome the causes and effects of poverty. Giving people opportunities for employment, work or training; mitigating the impacts of income poverty; preventing the causes of social exclusion, including homelessness; helping to mitigate the effects of the 'poverty premium' on housing, fuel and transport costs, and helping to remove barriers to employment.

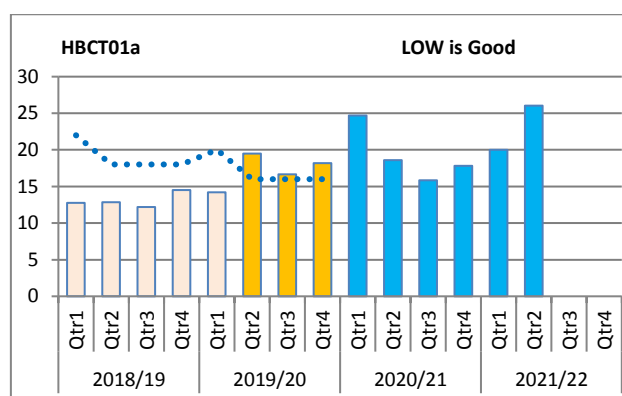
None of the corporate priorities can be seen in isolation from each other. Each priority both affects and is affected by the others. For example, Tackling Poverty is both important to our efforts to improve education and skills and improve the economy. For this reason, many of the performance indicators allocated to measuring one priority can also be used to show progress meeting other priorities.

Corporate Tackling Poverty Performance Measures

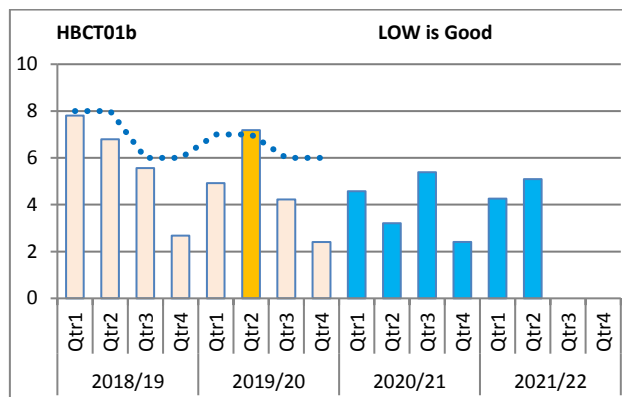
Welfare Benefits secured by the Welfare Rights Service



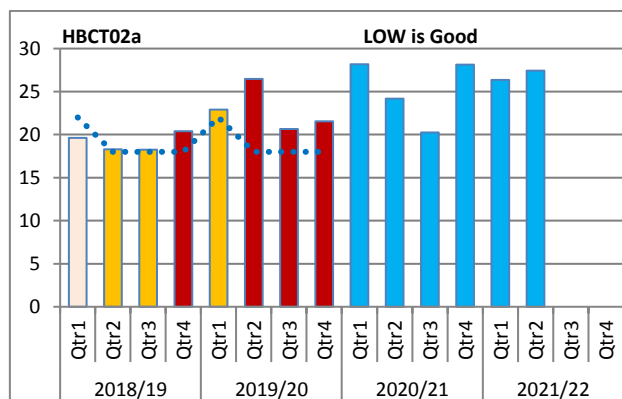
Housing Benefit: Speed processing new claims



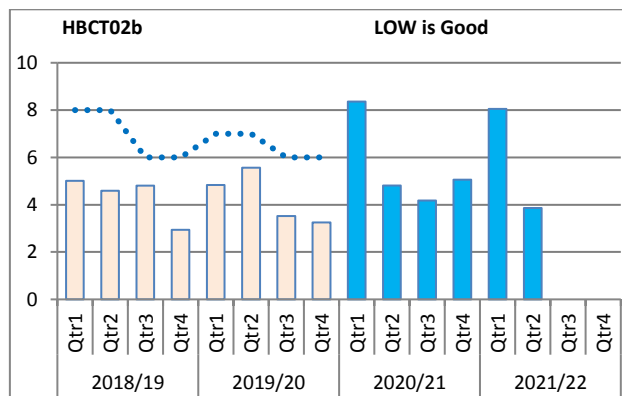
Housing Benefit: Average time processing change in circumstances



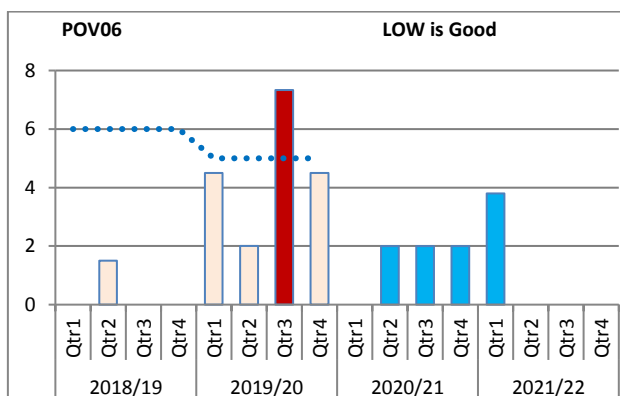
Council Tax Reduction: Average time processing new claims



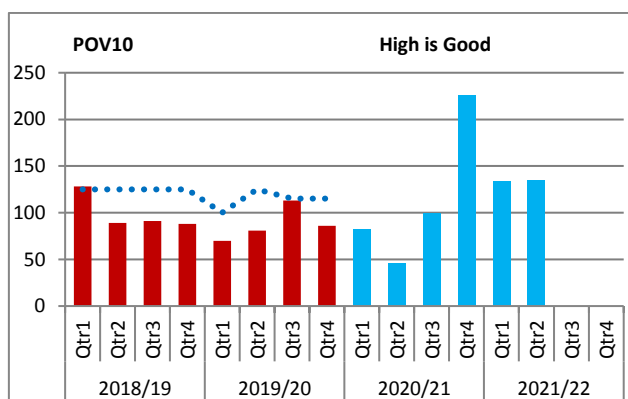
Council Tax Reduction: Average time processing change in circumstances



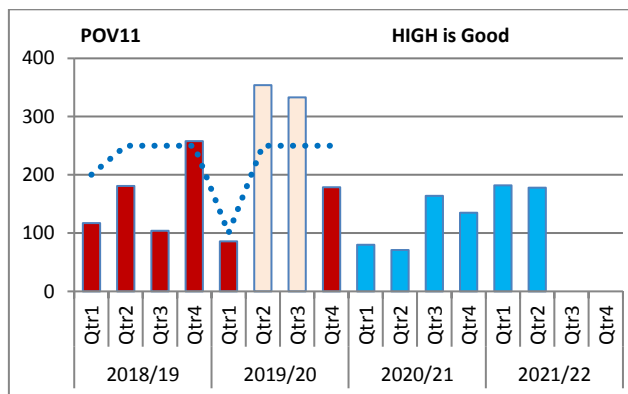
Average number of days homeless families with children spent in B&B accomodation



Number of people gaining employment through employment through Employability Support



Number of accredited qualifications achieved by adults with local authority support



Progress on delivery of Tackling Poverty related Council Policy Commitments (since 2017) includes:

Working towards reducing poverty and increasing prosperity (policy commitment 78)

- 2,504 People supported by Communities for Work / Plus
- 994 People supported into work through Communities for Work / Plus
- 1186 people supported by Workways
- 433 people supported into work over 16hrs through Workways
- 6,842 people supported (since April 2018) through Swansea Working

- 2,260 people have gained accredited qualifications (since 2019) through Swansea Working
- £6,200,571.51 Welfare Rights Entitlements realised through Welfare Rights
- 1073 support workers have accessed Welfare Rights training and seminars
- 1,392 accredited qualifications achieved through Lifelong Learning
- 8,339 enrolments in lifelong learning classes
- 2000+ participants in the Swansea Learning Festival as a part of UNESCO City of Learning
- Implementation of Swansea Poverty Truth Commission
- Corporate focus on Tackling Poverty through the Swansea Council Poverty Forum
- Facilitation of partnership approaches to Tackling Poverty through Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum
- Facilitation of Swansea's Financial Inclusion Steering Group

Support Community enterprises, Growing and cooking skills to help people escape food poverty (policy commitment 49)

A total of £463,484 of funding allocated to over 100 applications supporting organisations to tackle food poverty and food insecurity from ensuring crisis food parcels and hot meals are available to those in need, to building on opportunities for community food growing and developing cooking skills.

- 19/20: £111,291 allocated via 26 grants
- 20/21: £154,773 allocated via 41 grants
- 21/22: £197,420 allocated via 38 grants (to date)

Facilitation and support of Swansea Food Poverty Network

Follow the co-productive one council model and ensure that Elected Members and staff work together to empower local communities and ensure their voices are heard (policy commitment 51)

- The Corporate Recovery Plan 'Achieving Better Together' includes the Community Response work stream focused on increased outcomes from working together as the Council, Third Sector and Communities.
- The council has introduced a Socio-economic strategy that will see further development of co-production and engagement with the community.
- Children and Young People and Older Persons Forums are supported to ensure inclusive, meaningful & effective models for engaging and hearing the voice of the people of Swansea in order to shape services and identify opportunities to build back better and stronger following the pandemic.
- The Partnership & Involvement Team have been re-engaging with communities, groups, services and individuals to highlight partnership and involvement opportunities, supporting co-production, consultations and identifying opportunities for joint working.
- The Local Area Coordination team expanded to cover every community in Swansea, with coproduced recruitment.
- Local Area Coordinators have worked with individuals helping them have voice, control and choice and supporting communities become more resilient and confident. Examples of coproduction include Community Events in several areas which have been set up and run by residents and Men's Shed supported in several areas.
- The Swansea Poverty Truth Commission is progressing with a launch planned in 2022.

Continue to stand up for the rights of all people in Swansea to live their lives, freely without fear, hatred, discrimination, or repression regardless of race, colour, religion and beliefs, sexual orientation, gender or age (policy commitment 55).

- Work has been done to consider a rights based approach across the life stages to understand what a “City for all” looks like and to establish a common and measurable framework underpinned by Human Rights.
- Continued to promote Swansea as a City of Sanctuary and welcome people fleeing war, persecution and abuse of human rights. Working with the third sector partners to support and promote concept.
- Schools of Sanctuary within Swansea schools

Adopt a zero tolerance approach to tackling domestic violence and work with partners to fully support victims of domestic violence (policy commitment 59)

- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy including:
- Preventative Family Support work, expanded team - IDVAs, practice leads, specialist response
- Community based programme to raise awareness and change attitudes in the community
- Whole school approach to tackling VAWDASV, including healthy relationships and pathways of support
- Whole systems approach to perpetrator intervention and academic partners evaluating work

Ensure that children and young people are engaged and consulted on council policy and decision making to ensure their voices and opinions are heard. Promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in order to give children a voice. (Policy commitment 93)

- The Children and Young People’s Rights Scheme has been co-produced with children, young people and the Children’s Rights Network and has been recognised as national good practice
- Swansea’s Children’s Rights Network was re-launched. The Network comprises of over 80 organisations, and aims to facilitate a whole authority approach to embedding children’s rights into work.
- The Network coproduced consultation questions to ask children and young people, as well as practitioners and members of the public, their views on effective and inclusive mechanisms for listening children and young people.

Work with older people and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales to establish a Charter for Older People to ensure that our commitment is delivered (policy commitment 122)

- The embedding of human rights of older persons as part of the Council’s commitment to the Dublin Declaration and more recently the formal commitment In Nov 2020 by Swansea’s PSB to work towards “Age Friendly City” status.
- Redevelopment of a partnership approach to Human Rights of people 50+ & Ageing Well in Swansea and the “Ageing Well Steering Group” was re-launched in July 2021.
- Work has been on-going to explore the “Right Way” principled approach to “Human Rights” work with people 50+ means an opportunity to provide clear guidance, and tangible benchmarks for council departments to embed a whole council approach and evidence outcomes relating to the eight domains of the “Age Friendly City” criteria.

Tackling Poverty Service Achievements

Objective	Achievements 2020/21	Achievements to date 2021/22 (6 months)
1. Increase the number of Swansea residents in sustainable and fulfilling employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged and supported 490 clients in employability programmes. Supported 197 people into employment Swansea Working, CFW/+ Engagement and EEO teams have worked in partnership to deliver bespoke initiatives with and for local employers, care leavers and prison leavers resulting in sustainable employment Provided employability clients with welfare rights and financial inclusion advice and support in preparation for employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged and supported 365 clients in employability programmes. Supported 199 people into employment
2. Increase the number of adults with skills and qualifications, ensuring pathways for progression and enhancement of their employability and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,789 learning enrolments (LLS) 73 accreditations achieved (LLS) 541 enrolments for support to increase digital literacy (LLS) 450 clients supported to gain accredited qualifications (Swansea Working) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,552 learning enrolments (LLS) 26 accreditations achieved (LLS) 262 enrolments for support to increase digital literacy (LLS) 55 clients supported to gain accredited qualifications (Swansea Working)
3. Maximise household income, supporting citizens to access their rights and entitlements and make the most of the money they have	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responded to 843 benefit enquiries Provided access to the advice line on 157 days Provided 75 appointments for complex cases/appeal representation Represented at 47 appeals 91% success rate at appeals Addressed £167,143.25 of debt Supported 344 employability claimants Raised £1,419,751.33 in welfare benefits for Swansea residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responded to 374 benefit enquiries Provided access to the advice line on 68 days Provided 18 appointments for complex cases/appeal representation Represented at 15 appeals 87% success rate at appeals Addressed £23,299 of debt Raised £465,301 in welfare benefits for Swansea residents
4. Embed Tackling Poverty and Prevention as Everyone's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of Swansea Council Poverty Forum Support for Policy Development Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy

Business within Swansea Council and champion change in policy and practice to be more effective in tackling poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Promoting Affordable Credit Policy approved for consultation • Equality Impact Assessments reviewed for impact on those experiencing or at risk of experiencing poverty • The Welfare Rights Team produced 14 benefits updates for staff and partner organisations outlining benefit changes; including four special updates relating to specific benefit changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Promoting Affordable Credit Policy • 7 IIAs / consultations responded to • The Welfare Benefits Team have produced 4 benefits updates to date.
5. Reduce and prevent the impact of poverty by working in partnership and through the implementation of the Poverty and Prevention Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum • Facilitation of Financial Inclusion Steering Group • Established Swansea Food Poverty Network • Swansea Poverty Truth Commission Facilitation Team recruited • Community Calling Project established to distribute 70 recycled smart phones • WRT led on the Pension Credit Take Up campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum and Financial Inclusion Steering Group meetings held • Monthly Swansea Food Poverty Network meetings held • Community Commissioners engaged in Swansea Poverty Truth Commission • 207 smart phones distributed via Community Calling project
6. Contribute positively to citizen's Health and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Men's Sheds Grants Awarded (32k) • 114 courses engaging learners and supporting wellbeing (LLS) • Every £1 increase in welfare benefit income is worth £5 to the local economy. • 20,000 requests for support and 2,500 community connections facilitated, • 36% of LLS survey respondents say they attended courses to improve health and wellbeing. • LLS's phone support helped 87 individuals get digitally connected and receive help to access other council services in 20/21. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Men's Sheds Grants Awarded £25,000 • 162 courses engaging learners and supporting wellbeing (LLS) • Local Area Coordinators now in all areas of Swansea.
7. Contribute to the reduction of crisis intervention and demand on services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 Food Poverty Grants Awarded (£156k) • 19 Period Dignity in Communities Grants awarded (£17k) • Coordinated Community Support Programme in partnership with the Children's Society – £25k of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 Food Poverty Grants Awarded £197,420 • 7 Period Dignity in Communities Grants awarded to date £13,200 • Coordinated Community Support Programme in

	<p>funding supported Leaflet for foodbank parcels, EYST Hardship Fund, Housing Justice Citadel Project and The Wallich Home Starter Packs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRT provided advice and information to 843 service users and increased /maintained their benefit income by £1,419,751.33. • LAC Team expanded and over 600 new introductions. 	<p>partnership with Children's Society – supporting development of Worried about Money Leaflet and development of a new referral system for organisations in Swansea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAC Team covering all areas in Swansea
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Covid Focused Responses

- 850 requests for food help responded to via the Covid-19 Helpline.
- 7,700 food parcels delivered to those that were shielding and in need during the pandemic
- 25,000+ community response requests supported during the peak of the pandemic
- Supported the mobilisation of community responses
- Launching a volunteer recruitment strategy with SCVS and training programme to support thousands of individuals who volunteered to engage in supporting their communities.
- Temporary community Food Hubs established to distribute emergency food provision to food banks
- Supported the Welsh Housing Award Winning 'Swansea Together' project providing 1,000's hot meals to vulnerable people and to those in temporary housing
- Public engagement to promote community safety messages.
- ICT equipment loan scheme for digitally excluded residents
- Expanded Welfare Rights Advice Line to five days per week.
- Regular corporate website information updates from Welfare Rights about benefit entitlements brought about as a result of the pandemic including isolation payments.
- 1000's 'Street Champions' mobilised during the pandemic providing practical and social support in their communities.
- £50,000 grants to support the development and expansion of Men's Sheds in Swansea to promote well-being and improve mental health
- Use of the Welsh Government's Child Development Fund to support the initial impact of Covid- on children in their early years. The work focused on training and resources for parents, additional resource for Third sector projects to support children, intensive Early Years support within Schools and the promotion of engagement, bonding and attachment.

6. Case Studies

Help to address the impacts of Welfare reform, such as supporting people to claim the full benefits they are entitled to so that they are able to maximise their income and promote access to affordable credit:

Pension Credit Case Study – Welfare Rights Team

In 2020, the Tackling Poverty Service Welfare Rights Team, Care and Repair Western Bay and Citizen's Advice ran a free advice line to enable pensioners to check whether they were missing out benefits. Research has suggested that 2 in every 5 people who qualify for this benefit, do not claim what they are entitled to and were on average missing out on £39-a-week. The research also suggested that other family members who live with them have also been missing out on other benefits and each additional £1 people receive in benefit is worth £4 to the local economy, helping to support local jobs and local businesses.

One pensioner said: *"I only rang up to see if I qualified, I didn't, but my son who lives with me was missing out on £37.50 a week."*

Another added: *"My daughter, who I live with, has received a 25% discount on her council tax so it's well worth giving this line a ring as we didn't know anything about this."*

Entitlement to Pension Credit also entitles claimants to fringe benefits including help with travel costs to hospital and NHS charges, access to a free TV licence, discretionary assistance payments to assist with purchasing one off items and they are automatically processed through the financial means test for Housing benefit and Council tax reduction.

One pensioner who called added: *"I've now got some money in my pocket, so no longer have to penny pinch. With the arrears I am going to take my family out for a meal once restrictions have been lifted."*

Financial Inclusion Case Study – Welfare Rights Team

The Financial Inclusion Team received a referral from an Employability Mentor to provide financial guidance for a client. The gentleman concerned lives with his stepfather and claims the standard allowance of UC only. Out of this, he pays around £50 'keep' per week, has deductions in his UC for child maintenance payments and is paying off some small debts.

His stepfather has health issues – COPD and chronic heart disease, placing him in the 'vulnerable' category for COVID-19 and is a benefits claimant himself. As a member of a low-income household, the gentleman had been making efforts to elevate his career options and had just completed a work trial and was offered permanent full time employment.

However, just as he was due to start his new role he contracted COVID-19. Due to the vulnerability of his stepfather, he went to isolate at his girlfriend's house and she and her 3 children had also tested positive. Because he and his girlfriend had to self-isolate they were unable to go out to obtain supplies; had only enough food for one small meal for the 5 of them, they had no money in the bank and were unable to purchase tokens to put in the gas and electricity meters which were extremely low.

A major concern for the household was food, so an emergency food parcel was arranged to be delivered that evening. A Discretionary Assistance Fund was also applied for and he was awarded £50, which would help to see him through until his next UC payment. He was

advised to contact Citizens Advice who provided him with fuel vouchers which have been supported by Swansea Council. As a result of this support he felt that he'd sleep better that night, knowing they would have enough gas, electric and food over the weekend.

A full benefit check was then carried out to ensure he was claiming everything he was entitled to and a 'Better off Calculation' to give him an idea of how his financial situation would improve when he is well enough to commence his new job. A budgeting tool was also recommended so that he can stay abreast of his finances, going forward. Appropriate links to grants, schemes and websites were provided for him to look at including Welsh Water HelpU and Customer Assistance Fund, Warm Homes Discount and Uswitch to look at lowering his bills, as well as a PowerUp! flyer for households vulnerable to power cuts and a Turn2Us link, so that he can check for charitable funds and grants available to himself. He was also informed about 'Breathing Space', should his debts become unmanageable in future.

This gentleman discovered he had caught COVID-19 and supplied his new employer with medical evidence every step of the way, isolated properly, with efforts to keep everyone safe and provided for the children before himself, which demonstrates that anyone, with the best of intentions can fall on hard times or have a run of bad luck and need some financial help and guidance. He was extremely grateful and happy with the service, thanking the team and the organisation on the service he had been provided.

Support individuals to overcome their barriers to employment through coordinated person-centred employability support:

Employability Case Study – Children and Communities Grant

AR came to the programme with a job offer, but was worried he would not be able to take this up, as he was required to gain a 'Client Contractor National Safety Group' (CCNSG) qualification before he was due to start otherwise the offer of employment would be withdrawn.

AR explained that he has just returned from prison and was struggling mentally. He went on to state that this job offer could be the "start of making it work" in his new home in Swansea, but if he was not able to take it up then he would not be sure where he would go next, as he felt that his criminal record would prevent him from getting work.

Via the relationship Communities for Work programme has with various training providers, it was possible to secure a place on the next available CCNSG course prior to the start date of the job.

AR was very relieved and accepted the place on the course. The only issue being that AR did not have a car at this time, so would need transport to get to this training. A bus pass was arranged via the employability Barriers Fund so that AR could attend the course and he was very grateful for the level of support he received.

AR attended and passed the training allowing him to successfully take up the post. Before AR exited the programme however, he asked if he could be supported with clothing for work which were procured via the Barriers Fund. The clothes were then collected and delivered to AR.

AR was once again very thankful for everything Communities for Work Plus had done for him and provided very positive feedback on the exit forms when he left the programme.

Ensure that young people are able to access employment, education or training after reaching 16 years of age:

St David's Day Fund – Children and Communities Grant

JF is a 19 year old female open to the leaving care service. She has no family or other people to support her. She has been in a long-term relationship where she has been the victim of domestic abuse. Having secured independent accommodation JF has accessed the St David's Day fund to purchase items for her accommodation to help her establish her independence and begin to make a safe home for herself. When her relationship was going well JF would spend time living in her partners accommodation causing her own tenancy to be neglected. This led to arrears on her gas and electric, caused damage to the personal items in her home, spoiled food and damaged clothing. When JF fled her partner's home she was able to utilise the St David's Day fund for help to restore utilities, purchase food, cleaning materials and replacement items for her flat. This initially happened on two occasions. Following a third and serious incident of domestic violence JF was placed in alternative accommodation and again received financial help to set herself up in her new accommodation. This incident led to the end of her relationship.

Following a period of stability JF has been able to improve her self-esteem and has enrolled on a course in a local college. She again accessed the St David's Day fund to purchase uniform clothes for the course as well as the extensive amount of equipment needed for the course.

JF remains in college and is making good progress on the course. The ability to use the fund flexibly to meet this need has ensured that she was able to join her peers on the course fully equipped and feeling confident as initially she been concerned that she would stand out due to a lack of appropriate family support.

Local Area Coordination Case Study

CL was introduced to the Local Area Coordinator by their Housing Officer for food support during the pandemic. They were not in contact regularly, but CL knew to call if needed. CL is elderly, lives alone, has no family in Swansea, and rarely leaves their home due to poor health.

Unfortunately, CL was the victim of a phone scam, and money was stolen from their bank account. It was completely devastating for them to lose their life savings. As CL is on their own, they had no one to lean on for support during this distressing time; CL did not know what to do or how to fix it.

The Local Area Coordinator met with CL to work through exactly what had happened and how the money had been taken from their account. She listened to CL's concerns, giving their space to talk openly about how they felt; CL was understandably angry, frustrated and sad, and felt vulnerable and embarrassed. As CL lost such a huge amount of money, the Local Area Coordinator sought support from the Council's Trading Standards department.

The Local Area Coordinator and Trading Standards worked well together, reassuring CL that they had nothing to be embarrassed about, and encouraging CL that they would do all they could in supporting them to get their money back.

CL was very apprehensive at the start of this process; they felt so stressed and was close to giving up. The process going forward was not a simple one. Working with the local Housing

Office, over a period of two months, and after multiple incredibly long phone calls with the bank, CL received the wonderful news that the bank would refund their money. Trading Standards and the Local Area Coordinator advocated on CL's behalf initially, but with encouragement, CL went on to advocate for themselves. Not only was the money returned, the bank also increased this by £200 out of courtesy. The bank commented that they rarely return such amounts of money, especially when all of their protocols and procedures were followed perfectly by staff when CL got scammed; it is only because they were made aware of their circumstances and their case was argued, that CL received their money back.

CL is absolutely over the moon. CL never imagined that they would get all their savings back. She mentioned multiple times that *'I would never have had the confidence to pursue this without Ray (Trading Standards) and my Local Area Coordinator being by my side – they encouraged and reassured me and gave me the confidence I needed'*.

CL no longer needs to worry about their future and their finances. They can contact Ray or their Local Area Coordinator with any queries, and has more awareness of scams and how they work. CL is very grateful for the support they received and still keeps in touch with the Local Area Coordinator every now and then.

Prevent homelessness and support people to maintain their tenancies to help provide stability and security for families and communities by implementing the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2018-22:

Ty Tom Jones Case Study

In response to the COVID emergency, Swansea Council, Pobl, The Wallich and Goleudy came together to rapidly set up a new supported temporary accommodation project, in a condensed timeframe – six weeks rather than the normal 12-18 months to get a project of this scale up and running. During early April 2020, as a response to the Welsh Government's directive to house all rough sleepers, the Council was placing large numbers in B&B. Despite a good supply of supported housing projects in Swansea, they were at full capacity and due to the pandemic, move-on to permanent accommodation slowed down with significant reductions in new lettings across all tenures. Various solutions were considered to support the response and at this point Pobl Housing Association offered Ty Tom Jones, a city centre building formerly operating as a youth homelessness project, for use as a temporary supported housing project during the crisis. A Collaborative Working Group was set up with the Council, Pobl, The Wallich and Goleudy to develop the project.

Each organisation received substantial internal support (e.g. from their executive boards, Cabinet Members, legal department, maintenance service, procurement etc.) to move things forward at pace and take on board the risks associated with the project. The attitude from each organisation was to do whatever it took to get the project up and running. The additional COVID Emergency Homelessness Funding that the Welsh Government made available at the start of the pandemic was also a critical element to enable the establishment of the Project.

The project was successfully set up to provide COVID safe accommodation for 20 individuals providing them with en-suite facilities and communal kitchen space. Long term funded has now been secured 61 to ensure the project will remain in place and it has been expanded to provide an additional four units of accommodation.

Invest to improve housing and build more energy efficient Council homes and support the building of affordable housing to help meet housing need, reduce fuel bills, regenerate estates and bring wider economic and employment benefits:

More Homes Programme

16 new homes at Parc Y Helyg and 18 new homes at Colliers Way were completed in September 2020 and April 2021 respectively and were pathfinders for the City Deal programme “Homes as Power Stations”. These new homes have been built to incorporate energy efficient measures, such as solar panels and battery powered energy, as well as the inclusion of swift bricks to support biodiversity in their construction. Work was also been completed on a conversion of a former social services building in West Cross into two new family homes and eight one-bedroom homes are being developed at a former Lifelong Learning site in Uplands.

Continue to implement the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan to promote cohesive and inclusive communities in Swansea:

Community Cohesion

Continued to promote Community Cohesion through a range of on-line events including National Hate Crime awareness week, Welsh Government Hate Crime campaigns, Interfaith week, LGBT+ History month, Black History month and the Holocaust Memorial day. This year included promoting awareness of the EU settlement scheme (EUSS) to encourage EU nationals and their family members to apply for “pre-settled” or “settled status” to ensure that they are eligible for access to public services.

Support the establishment of a Poverty Truth Commission to bring together key decision makers with people who have direct lived experience of poverty to work together to bring about change:

Swansea’s Poverty Truth Commission

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had been working with partners to develop a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, which will be the first Poverty Truth Commission in Wales. The aim of the Poverty Truth Commission is to place those affected by poverty at the heart of decision making about poverty.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the pace of delivery, a Commission is establishing, which includes a mix of Community Commissioners with lived experience of poverty and key decision makers, known as Civic/Business Commissioners. The Facilitation Team has been recruited and are hosted by SCVS (Swansea Council for Voluntary Service) and work is currently underway to identify the themes that the Poverty Truth Commission will focus on.

Provide a joint and holistic response to poverty, population health and homelessness during the Council’s Covid-19 response and recovery:

#HereforSwansea – Covid Community Response

Swansea Council have worked closely with colleagues and partners to support those in need throughout the Pandemic.

A Covid 19 Helpline and Food Help Administration Team was established for the Shielding cohort and those in need, consisting of staff reallocated from their normal roles. The Helpline Team were set up to work from home, taking calls and signposting individuals need support to access food to the Food Help Administration Team who could then register shielding people for the Welsh Government Shielding Food Parcels, Foodbanks or help with shopping via the Local Area Coordination Team.

A number of teams also supported the free school meals delivery service. Initially this was for families that were isolating or unable to collect the 'grab bags' from school sites; but evolved to home delivery as the lockdown continued, before the availability of bacs payments.

Officers provided support to the community foodbank network via four 'Food Distribution Hubs'; taking receipt of purchased product to ensure the community foodbanks supplies were strong.

In the early days of lockdown, following the closure of restaurants, cafes, and drop in centres alongside the placement of homeless and vulnerable individuals in temporary accommodation, further links with Matthew's House and Swansea Together linked donations from local cafes and restaurants wishing to donate their surplus products. Matthew's House and a range of other partners such as the kitchen at Mecca Bingo, coordinated a supply of pre-prepared meals and essentials such as bottled water to the most vulnerable in the city, enabling them to stay indoors and safe, during the early days of the crisis.

7. Challenges and Risks

The Covid-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted low income households, pushing more people into poverty and those experiencing it, further into poverty resulting in an increase in demand for services including crisis support services and increased complexities for those in need.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report ‘**UK Poverty 2020/21**’³ states that:

Before coronavirus, an unacceptable 14.4 million people in the UK were caught up in poverty, equating to more than one in five people. Child poverty and in-work poverty had been on the rise for several years and some groups were disproportionately likely to be pulled into poverty. Many of those groups already struggling most to stay afloat have also borne the brunt of the economic and health impacts of Covid-19. These include:

- Part-time workers, low paid workers and sectors where there are much higher rates of in-work poverty, such as accommodation and food services.
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic households.
- Lone parents – mostly women, many of whom work in hard-hit sectors – who are more reliant on local jobs, and are more likely to have struggled with childcare during the lockdown.
- Private renters, who have higher housing costs, and social renters, who tend to have lower incomes, both leading to higher poverty rates. Renters in work are also more likely to be in a sector more affected by coronavirus.
- Areas of the UK where there were already higher levels of unemployment, poverty and deprivation.

A report by the Child Poverty Action Group, ‘**Poverty in the Pandemic: The impact of coronavirus on low-income families and children**’,⁴ published in August 2020, found that of the low-income working families interviewed, most experienced a significant reduction in their earnings, due to one or more of the following:

- Being made redundant before or early on in the pandemic, and being unable to find new employment or having to accept shorter hours and/or lower pay.
- Being furloughed on less than full pay or experiencing a reduction in working hours or income from self-employment, pushing many low earners into or deeper into poverty.
- Missing out on the government’s income support schemes, because their employer refused to furlough them or because they have only recently become self-employed.
- Being limited in their ability to maintain or find employment because of additional caring responsibilities and/or restrictions in childcare provision.

The Bevan Foundation’s Report ‘**A Snapshot of Poverty in Spring 2021**’ (Wales)⁵ identified that:

- One in five Welsh Households have seen their incomes decrease between January and May 2021. This is on top of nearly a quarter of households which saw their incomes fall between March and December 2020.
- More than one in five households with a net income of less than £20,000 have seen their income drop since January 2021.

³ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2020-21>

⁴ <https://cpag.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/report/poverty-pandemic-impact-coronavirus-low-income-families-and-children>

⁵ <https://www.bevanfoundation.org/resources/poverty-in-spring-2021/>

- For households with a net income of more than £40,000, more than one in five have seen their incomes increase.
- Households across Wales have seen their living costs increase. Social renters and parents and guardians have been especially affected by rising costs.
- 43% of households are spending more on heating, electricity / water.
- 38% of households are spending more on food.
- 20% of households are spending more on internet costs or devices to access the internet.
- Social renters have been four times more likely to see their housing costs rise than people living in other tenures.
- Households with children have also faced pressures on their living costs, being more likely to report increased spending on everyday items than households without children.
- A third of Welsh Households never have enough money to buy anything beyond day to day items.
- Over 40,000 households (3% of all households) often or always do not have enough for the basics, whilst nearly 70,000 (5% of all households) sometimes do not have enough for the basics. Combined this is approx. 110,000 households in Wales (8% of all households) struggle to have enough for everyday essentials at least some of the time.
- Personal Debt is a problem: Since January 2021, 10% of Welsh households (Over 130,000 households) have fallen behind on a bill, whilst 17% (Over 230,000 households) have borrowed money to pay a bill.
- Low-income households, renters, disabled people, lone parents and adults aged 25 – 64 are more likely to be behind on a bill or have borrowed money than others.

The current delivery of Tackling Poverty initiatives is reliant on grant funding, predominately from the Welsh Government. If grants cease then we will not be able to deliver the range of services as effectively as we would like in order to ensure service continuity and to safeguard preventative activities for economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of residents. There are a number of initiatives still funded by EU funds including Communities for Work Employability programme of over £732,000 per annum which is due to come to an end in 2023.

8. Future Tackling Poverty Priorities

Based on the experience of delivery since the Tackling Poverty Strategy was published, learning from the Covid-19 response and the current social, economic and environmental position; the following priorities have been identified for future focus:

1. Enable strong families and communities.
2. Improve educational attainment, routes to further and higher education, training or employment and opportunities for learning throughout life.
3. Improve access to affordable and secure homes.
4. Improve opportunities for participation for all including social, cultural, leisure activities and coproduced solutions.
5. Maximise incomes and reduce costs.
6. Promote economic growth that is accessible, inclusive and benefits everyone.
7. Support people to improve their employability, find work that pays fairly and progress in work.
8. Reduce health inequalities and improve well-being.
9. Improve access to green space and opportunities to grow food.
10. Support people in crisis or risk of crisis / most vulnerable.

A poverty tracker with local statistics to identify trends and to inform delivery is in development. There will be a range of primary and secondary indicators in relation to each of the above priorities. For example, for priority 5, maximising incomes and reducing costs would include tracking Gross Disposable Household Income and the percentage of people living in households in material deprivation.

Poverty is far reaching and we will continue to demonstrate the impact of supporting people in a holistic way through case studies and stories alongside existing performance data to highlight the impact of the continued focus on Tackling Poverty.

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November 2021

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) Development & Regeneration
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 Jeff Jones (Panel Convener)
Lead Officer & Report Author	Emily-Jayne Davies Tel: 01792 636292 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 an Inquiry Panel 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 a Performance Panel represents regular monitoring of, and challenge to, particular services / service areas and issues.
- 1.2 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant cabinet / lead 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) Development & Regeneration – this is an update on work carried out since the previous update provided in April 2021.

To focus the discussion a short written report has been provided by the convener, and is **attached**. This includes a summary of Panel activities, correspondence between the Panel and relevant Cabinet Members, recommendations and impact.

1.5 The Development & Regeneration Panel involves the following members:

Labour Councillors: 4

Phil Downing	Peter Jones
Terry Hennegan	Mike White

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 7

Peter Black	Jeff Jones (CONVENER)
Wendy Fitzgerald	Mary Jones
Chris Holley	Susan Jones
Lynda James	

Conservative Councillors: 4

Steve Gallagher	Paxton Hood-Williams
David Helliwell	Will Thomas

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 – SPC Update

Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel

1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching remit of the Panel is to be responsible for ongoing monitoring of Council performance in relation to development and regeneration, including the ‘health’ of the city centre, wider economic development across Swansea and discussion about progress on the Swansea Bay City Deal.

2. Introduction

The Panel is focused on contributing to the ongoing development and regeneration of Swansea by acting as a critical friend for the Cabinet, and helping to ensure accountability.

3. Key Activities

Since the last update to SPC in April 2021, the Panel has held three meetings, the next being due in January 2022. In addition, Panel Members also attended a site visit to view the new Swansea Arena and Bridge development. Meetings so far have resulted in several Convener’s letters sent to the Cabinet Member(s) regarding the Dashboard Report.

Meeting date	Topics
1 July 2021	Dashboard Report: Project Update
7 September 2021	Swansea University: Update on City Deal Investment
	Dashboard Report: Project Update
October 2021	Arena Site – Group Tours
2 November 2021	City Centre Travel Plan update
	Dashboard Report: Project Update

4. Achievements / Impact

The Dashboard Report: Project Update

As a way of providing a regular ‘health check’ of the development projects, the Panel receives the departmental update report at each meeting. This works well and allows an overview from relevant officers of all regeneration projects, providing a quick risk check of each one, highlighting major issues/delays or successes.

Individual Project Updates

In order to provide an in-depth level of scrutiny for the Panel, each meeting will also focus on a specific project in Swansea. The Panel discussed and decided on the topics for the year 2021/22, which range from Swansea University to the City Centre Travel Plan. This allows for a more intense exploration of a project and strikes the balance between checking progress of development and regeneration in general, and contributing in a more detailed manner on a specific project.

Letters to Cabinet Members

A reflection on some of the observations the Panel has made are outlined below:

Copr Bay Phase 1:

- *Bridge: We were interested to hear about the Bridge and the finishing touches being added to the floor and interior. Members queried whether visual disability groups have been consulted and officers confirmed that consultations had taken place, the subsequent views having been taken account of in the design and installation.*
- *Hotel: Officers explained that the Council is exploring funding options to move the Hotel development forward. The Panel expressed some concerns over the delay in finalising the funding for the hotel development. Members also queried whether this would operate through a UK-based company and officers confirmed that the current preferred operator is a well-known Hotel brand with international links. Officers explained that the Hotel development would be constructed alongside the Arena, the site having been designed to provide works access when needed.*
- *The Panel questioned the overall progress of the Hotel development. Officers explained that finance and funding discussions are on-going, and that the Council is considering other alternative options that may become necessary.*
- *Arena: It was pleasing to hear that that leasing of units is progressing well. Officers explained that all units around the Arena are under offer and the Council is also close to finalising legal agreements for the Pavilion operator. Members questioned whether these would be local companies. Officers confirmed that all Council-let units would be local businesses, as the Council purposely did not target national operators, choosing to engage with local food / beverage operators on this particular opportunity.*
- *Members queried the maintenance of the LED bulbs on the Arena and who will be responsible for maintenance. Officers confirmed this is outlined within the business plan and that the management responsibility for the external façade is the Council's.*
- *We heard that work continues to progress well on the Copr Bay Phase 1 project, despite challenges faced by Covid cases on-site. Officers explained that LED Panels are nearing the completion stage and that façade testing is to commence shortly. Officers explained to us that parkland / landscaping work continues and that temporary commercial units will be added within the park area.*

Swansea Central North:

- *We heard that the Government Property Agency (GPA) is exploring locations for employment hubs, having identified a number of departments who may wish to occupy the site in Swansea. Members queried where exactly the hub would be located and officers explained this would be adjacent to the multi-storey car park opposite the Arena. Panel Members queried whether the jobs would be newly created or relocated. Officers explained that some jobs may relocate from other areas of the locality, and some would be completely new. Officers suggested this would also benefit the City Centre by bringing a critical mass of employees and associated footfall into the City Centre.*

Swansea University:

- *The Panel heard about City Deal developments, in the context of Swansea University and their partnership with Swansea Council and the Local Health Board. The Panel heard about the aspirations for investment in the MedTech and SportsTech sector, aiming to provide opportunities for companies to collaborate with Swansea University.*
- *Under proposals for the Sketty and Morriston University sites, we heard that the Swansea University developments are expected to foster a group of up to 300 firms, and circa 1000 jobs, creating a space for companies to work alongside clinicians, advancing new treatments and technology. We understand that Swansea University will also work with the Local Health Board and Swansea Council to improve road access and infrastructure around the Morriston site.*
- *The Panel queried the total amount of City Deal funding being allocated to Swansea University and, separately, Trinity Saint David (UWTSD). Officers undertook to provide further clarification on this breakdown, which has now been received with thanks. Members also note that the UWTSD original 'Box Village' scheme will not proceed as originally planned (part-funded by the private sector) and will now be replaced with a new scheme funded by UWTSD.*

71/72 The Kingsway:

- *The Panel heard that a contractor has been selected for the 71/72 The Kingsway project, and contract discussions ongoing. We understand that the reduced supply of materials is an on-going and significant aspect of all construction projects presently, having regard to on-going effects of the pandemic. Members raised queries over the impacts on costs of such supply issues. Officers explained that fixed-price contracts will not be affected, and as such this project will remain unaffected in that respect.*

Wind Street:

- *It was pleasing to hear that good progress is being made with the production of a flythrough of the Wind Street project, with completion anticipated for November. The Panel heard that three Rainbow Crossings have been proposed to Cabinet, encompassing a pedestrian crossing with rainbow road markings. Members queried whether improvements have been made to building facades along Wind Street and*

the improvement in street furniture layout. Officers explained that grants may be available to occupiers through other schemes, to improve façades, and that consultation was underway as to street furniture layout.

- *The Panel questioned whether there would be visible security presence on Wind Street. Officers confirmed that the possibility of employing extra City Centre Rangers was being considered by the Council. Officers also reiterated that the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU) had been consulted in project designs.*

5. Work Programme

Work Programme for remainder of 2021/22	
25 January 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Swansea Business Improvement District (BID) 2. Foreshore Developments 3. Dashboard Report – Project Update
8 March 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of Brexit on Rural Development Programme and Funding Update (Post-2023) 2. Economic Regeneration Strategy 3. Auditor General for Wales Review of Town Centre Regeneration 4. Dashboard Report – Project Update

Agenda Item 8



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November 2021

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 reported, and any other changes necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, 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 None

3. Road Safety Working Group

- 3.1 At the last meeting the Committee agreed to bring forward the planned Working Group to look at the issue of Road Safety. This topic was carried forward from the 2019-20 work programme. A convener and membership had been agreed, but this activity was delayed first by resources and then the onset of the pandemic. This Working Group has been arranged for 9 February 2022. The membership, as previously agreed, is shown below for information, and is subject to any changes agreed by the Committee:

Labour Councillors: 3

Philip Downing	Mike White
Terry Hennegan	

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 6

Mike Day	Chris Holley
Wendy Fitzgerald	Lynda James
Kevin Griffiths	Susan Jones

Conservative Councillors: 3

Steve Gallagher (CONVENER)	Linda Tyler-Lloyd
Lyndon Jones	

Uplands Councillors: 1

Irene Mann	
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4. Guiding Principles

- 4.1 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.
 - To ensure that all political groups have opportunities and are engaged.
 - 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.
 - The Committee should reflect on the existing 'balance' of conveners to help inform future appointments.
 - A minimum of three members should be present at all Panel / Working Group meetings.

5. Legal Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

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

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 9



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November 2021

Scrutiny Work Programme

Purpose	This report presents the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/22, which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.
Content	The agreed work programme is attached, which shows the topics that will be examined by scrutiny through various Panels and Working Groups. A plan for future Committee meetings is also attached. Progress against the agreed work programme is shown.
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 Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal 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 engage non-executive councillors in activities to:

- provide an effective challenge to the executive
- help improve services, policies, and performance
- engage the public in its work

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 to support activities
- relevant to Council priorities
- adding value and having maximum impact
- coordinated and avoids duplication

1.5 The work of scrutiny is undertaken primarily in three ways – through the Committee itself, by establishing informal Panels (for in-depth activities) or via one-off Working Groups. Panels and Working Groups would be open to all non-executive councillors - the Committee will determine 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 2020/22

2.1.1 The agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/22 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's own work plan is attached as **Appendix 2**. This should be kept under review to ensure it represents a robust, manageable, and effective plan. As well as keeping an oversight on all scrutiny activities, the Committee plan covers a broad range of policy and service topics and aims to ensure coverage of scrutiny across all cabinet portfolios and address any gaps in the overall work programme. The Committee is also the designated Council Committee for scrutiny of the Public Services Board, and Crime & Disorder Scrutiny.
- 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(s) scheduled for the next Committee meeting on 14 December are:
- Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities - Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement.
 - Scrutiny of Public Services Board – this will include the PSB Annual Report 2020/21 and specific focus on Council and Health Board contribution to the delivery of PSB Well-being Objectives.

It is also planned for pre-decision scrutiny to be carried out at this meeting, on Cabinet Report 'Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way' originally scheduled for November Cabinet but moved to December. This relates to the leasehold acquisition and redevelopment of the What! Store (former Miss Selfridge building) to incorporate into the Council's existing Community Hub refurbishment project, and also updates on progress with the Community Hub project. If this report proceeds as expected, adjustment to the Committee agenda will be necessary to accommodate this item, with the 'Scrutiny of the Public Services Board' item likely to be put back to January.

- 2.2.4 The Committee will have the opportunity to review scrutiny priorities and introduce issues of concern as and when they arise, e.g. pre-decision scrutiny or call-in, 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. The future Cabinet report on ‘Business Case for the Relocation of the Civic Centre’ has already been identified for pre-decision scrutiny and will be scheduled for Committee discussion in accordance with Cabinet decision-making timetable.

2.3 Inquiry Panels:

2.3.1 Once membership and a convener have been appointed the first task of an Inquiry Panel is 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	Completed (follow up stage)
1. Procurement (evidence gathering)	1. Equalities (followed up 28 Jan 2021 & further follow up 26 Jan 2022)

2.4 Performance Panels:

2.4.1 The following Performance Panels, which enable regular and structured monitoring of performance within these key areas, have been agreed and will 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. Education (monthly)	Cllr. Lyndon Jones
3. Adult Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Susan Jones
4. Child & Family Services (every six weeks)	Cllr. Paxton Hood-Williams
5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)	Cllr. Jeff Jones
6. Natural Environment (every two months)	Cllr. Peter 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.

2.4.3 The Committee should note that, as with the work plan of the Adult Services Panel, the work plan of the Child & Family Services Panel has been adjusted in light of COVID-related current pressures within the service. Meetings from this point on will focus only on how the service is managing those pressures and impact on performance, until otherwise agreed.

2.5 Working Groups:

2.5.1 The following Working Groups are in the work programme. Dates of meetings already held, or planned for the year ahead:

1. Workforce (29 March 2021, further meeting 2 Dec 2021) 2. Digital Inclusion (11 May 2021)	3. Bus Services (7 July 2021) 4. Road Safety (9 Feb 2022)
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2.6 Regional Scrutiny:

2.6.1 **Education Through Regional Working** – Detail on scrutiny arrangements in light of the development of a new South West Wales Education Partnership, are awaited. This will replace the ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group, which has met informally since 2016 to provide challenge to the regional school improvement consortium, and help to coordinate scrutiny work across the region and ensure a consistent approach. The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and the Convener of the Education Performance Panel represented Swansea Scrutiny on the Scrutiny Councillor Group. The new Education Partnership will consist of Swansea Council, Carmarthenshire Council and Pembrokeshire Council. A legal agreement between the Councils will confirm the terms of the partnership and governance arrangements, including scrutiny arrangements. The Council Forward Plan currently indicates a report to Cabinet on 18 November on the 'Approval of the Legal Agreement for the New Regional Education Partnership'.

2.6.2 **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal** – Swansea Scrutiny is also involved in the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee established during 2018/19. This formal arrangement 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, appointed by Council, are: Jan Curtice, Phil Downing & Jeff Jones. As per Joint Agreement, the Joint Scrutiny Committee is serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council. Although originally scheduled to meet quarterly meetings, additional meetings are being arranged as required.

3. **Monitoring the Work Programme**

3.1 The Committee is responsible for monitoring progress against the agreed work programme and this includes 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.
- 3.4 Although a work programme has been agreed, with activities identified to take things up to the end of the current Council term (May 2022), the work programme is kept under constant review by the Committee, with changes made as necessary. The Committee will always retain the flexibility to adapt and re-prioritise the work of scrutiny, to ensure the continued relevance of the programme.

4. Public Requests for Scrutiny / Councillor Calls for Action

- 4.1 An issue was raised by a member of the public regarding waste/coastal debris being left on Rhosilli and Broughton / Whitford sands, and not being cleared, and its impact on nature and visitors. The issue was referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management who was asked to respond directly to the member of the public. It has been clarified that these beaches are not under the ownership of the Council and therefore it does not have responsibility for removing waste from them or maintaining them. This responsibility rests with the landowners. The Cabinet Member has provided response, as requested, to the member of the public.

There is no action required from the Scrutiny Programme Committee.

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 2020/22

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Programme Committee Work Plan 2021/22

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 2020/22

New Inquiry Panel (time-limited in-depth scrutiny – six months)	New Working Groups (light-touch scrutiny / one-off meetings)	Performance Panels (ongoing in-depth performance / financial monitoring & challenge)	Issues for Scrutiny Programme Committee (Overall work programme management; discussion of broad range of policy and service issues)
<p>1. Procurement (previous Terms of Reference / Key Question to be reviewed / updated - What is the Council doing to ensure it procures locally, ethically, and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?)</p> <p>2. Anti-Social Behaviour (Terms of Reference to be agreed by Panel but would focus on how we can reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities, look at factors behind rising anti-social behaviour; inter-agency working, the role of elected members, reporting, etc.)</p> <p>Follow Up of Previous Inquiries:</p> <p>1. Equalities</p>	<p>1. Workforce (how the Council supports health & well-being of staff; issues around home working; staff sickness; staff turnover; use of agency staff, pressures, etc.)</p> <p>2. Digital Inclusion (follow up on previous discussion around digital transformation, the Council's digital inclusion strategy, and how well prepared both the Council and the public is to use and communicate / engage via digital technology to avoid exclusion / poor access, etc.)</p> <p>3. Bus Services (discussion about bus network coverage and levels of service; community transport provision; integration with other forms of transport, etc.)</p> <p>4. Healthy City (exploration of activities, promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.)</p>	<p>1. Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)</p> <p>2. Education (monthly)</p> <p>3. Adult Services (every 6 weeks)</p> <p>4. Child & Family Services (every 6 weeks)</p> <p>5. Development & Regeneration (every two months)</p> <p>6. Natural Environment (every two months)</p> <p>Specific issues to cover within wider work plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Improvement & Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Plan – Review / Progress - Council Byelaws - Budget Scrutiny - Performance Management - Waste Management & Recycling – incl. questioning on fly-tipping experiences & council activity - Welsh Housing Quality Standard • Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21st Century Schools - Additional Learning Needs - Children Educated at Home - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Remodelled Education Other Than at School Provision • Adult Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 and Community Mental Health - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Domestic Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Council response and Recovery Plan / Transformation • Brexit Preparedness • Specific reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children & Young People's Rights Scheme - Corporate Safeguarding - Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty Homelessness Strategy – progress (incl. discussion on Young People's Supported Housing Provision) • Leader Q & A Session(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brexit - Partnership Working - Great Western Gateway • Other Cabinet Member Q & As (issues to pick up): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tbc • Public Services Board • Crime & Disorder (Community Safety)Scrutiny: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incl. Community Cohesion / Hate Crime • Wales Audit Office Reports • Follow Up on Previous Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism

Appendix 1 – Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/22

	<p>Reserve List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Safety (hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls; safety of cycling routes; partnership working, etc.) • Active Travel (are we meeting obligations of Welsh Government Active Travel Act; encouragement of cycling / walking; particular focus on cycling given experience during pandemic – are we making the most of opportunities to embed increased cycling, etc.) • Accessibility for the Disabled / Elderly (to look into concerns around mobility around city centre and access, e.g. and whether there is sufficient curb dropping to help mobility scooters, and other facilities to improve access and wellbeing, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child & Family Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Forced Marriages – Safeguarding issues • Development & Regeneration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City Deal and effects of COVID-19 - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Economic Regeneration Strategy - Foreshore Developments - Historic / Listed Buildings • Natural Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Change - Delivery of Corporate Priorities - Environment Bill 2020 Implications - Nature Conservation – regular monitoring of activity and performance 	
<p>Regional Scrutiny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERW (Education through Regional Working) Specific issues to pick up: ERW Replacement organisation – post April 2021 • City Deal (Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee) 			

Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2021/22

ACTIVITY	15 Jun 2021	13 Jul 2021	17 Aug 2021	14 Sep 2021	19 Oct 2021	16 Nov 2021
Scrutiny Work Programme					Audit / Scrutiny Relationship – Discussion w/ Chair of Governance & Audit Committee	
Cabinet Member Q & A Sessions						
Specific Cabinet Member / Officer Reports	Scrutiny of Public Services Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways and Engineering Infrastructure Repairs and Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism, Destination Management, and Marketing Business and City Promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Policy (incl. Generation, Supply & District Heating) Litter and Community Cleansing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery & Transformation Plan Progress Update Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 	Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports		Education	Service Improvement & Finance	Adult Services	Child & Family Services	Development & Regeneration
Pre-decision Scrutiny						
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.			Follow Up on Tourism Working Group recommendations			
Scrutiny Reports to Council	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report		Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report		

ACTIVITY	14 Dec 2021	18 Jan 2022	15 Feb 2022	15 Mar 2022	19 Apr 2022 (to be cancelled)	
Scrutiny Work Programme				Work Programme Review		
Cabinet Member Q & A Sessions		Leader / Economy, Finance & Strategy (including focus on Brexit effects / response)				
Specific Cabinet Member / Officer Reports Page 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny of Public Services Board, incl. Annual Report Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID / Recovery & Transformation Plan Progress Update Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership 	Children & Young People's Rights Scheme Annual Progress Report		
Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports	Natural Environment	Education	Service Improvement & Finance			
Pre-decision Scrutiny	Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way					
Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.				Procurement Inquiry Final Report		
Scrutiny Reports to Council	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report			Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report		

* denotes extra meeting

To be scheduled:

- Pre-decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Report - Business Case for Relocation of Civic Centre
- Follow Up on Completed Working Group recommendations (Workforce; Digital Inclusion)

Work Plan remains flexible and subject to change to accommodate requests for pre-decision scrutiny and any urgent issues arising during the year to ensure each meeting is manageable.

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Cultural and Digital Hub at Swansea Grand Theatre; Management Agreement and Lease.	To highlight to Cabinet the developments in the partnership with Race Council Cymru since March 2020 and seek approval for the new ways of working and commitments as outlined in the Management Agreement so that the terms of a new Lease may be agreed simultaneously.	Tracey McNulty	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open
Approval of the Legal Agreement for the New Regional Education Partnership.	The report sets out the background for the dissolution of the Education through Regional Working (ERW) consortium and the establishment of a new formal education partnership according to previous decisions made at Cabinet.	Helen Morgan-Rees	Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Climate Change – Progress Update.	Following Cabinet approval of the ‘Climate Emergency Declaration – Policy Review and Proposed Action’ report in November 2020, this second report seeks further approval of the success to date and recommended approach moving forward.	Rachel Lewis	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open
Swansea Public Toilet Strategy: Progress Report.	A progress report on the development of Swansea’s Public Toilet Strategy and the implementation of its action plan.	Andy Edwards	Cabinet Member - Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open
Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme 2021/22 – Transfer of Budget.	To provide details of Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme transfer of budgets and to seek approval.	Darren Williams	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
<p>Proposed Lease to Mumbles Community Council under the Community Asset Transfer Policy.</p>	<p>Mumbles Community Council (MCC) have proposed to develop a new, high standard, Skatepark within their ward.</p> <p>The proposal may qualify as an undervalue disposal under the Community Asset Transfer policy subject to Cabinet approval of an undervalue disposal using well- being powers.</p> <p>A site options appraisal has been undertaken in order to identify the most suitable location for the development. MCC have provided a business plan to ensure their obligation to be fully responsible for the construction and maintenance of the facility is sustainable in the long term.</p>	<p>Jamie Rewbridge</p>	<p>Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism, Cabinet Member - Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader)</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>18 Nov 2021</p>	<p>Open</p>

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2020/21.	The report highlights the Ombudsman annual report, including Swansea Council's performance on complaints for 2020-21.	Sarah Lackenby	Cabinet Member - Business Improvement & Performance	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open
Financial Procedure Rule 7 – Road Safety Grant 2021/22.	<p>The report provides an outline description of the works proposed through the Road Safety grant of £229,100 from Welsh Government at the following locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4070 – Reduction in speed limit and introduction of average speed cameras between Ynstawe and Pontardawe • Gower village speed study <p>The report seeks approval to include this award in the 21/22 capital plan.</p>	Alan Ferris	Cabinet Member - Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Financial Procedure Rule 7 – Safe Routes in Communities Grant 2021/22.	<p>The report provides an outline description of the works proposed through the Safe Routes in Communities grant of £283,200 from Welsh Government to improve community links focused around the schools in Gowerton.</p> <p>The report seeks approval to include this award in the 21/22 capital plan.</p>	Alan Ferris	Cabinet Member - Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Open
Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way.	<p>Leasehold acquisition and redevelopment of the What! Store (former Miss Selfridge building) to incorporate into the existing Community Hub refurbishment project, plus update on the community hub project progress.</p>	Geoff Bacon	Cabinet Member - Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader), Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	16 Dec 2021	Open

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Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Update Management Report on Swansea Airport.	Update management report at Swansea Airport, including works carried out to date, findings of CAA audit and recommendations for estate management activities.	Geoff Bacon	Cabinet Member - Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Fully exempt
Award of a Contract to Treat/Dispose Non-Recyclable Waste.	Award of a contract to ensure the Council has an outlet for its non-recyclable (black bag) waste when the existing Tir John arrangements end in early 2022.	Matthew Perkins	Cabinet Member - Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021	Fully exempt
Castle Square Regeneration FPR7.	A phased regeneration scheme is being prepared for Castle Square from feasibility, through to design, planning and implementation. This report summarises the current short list of design options, outcomes from consultations, RIBA stage 2/3 scheme costs and seeks funding from the capital budget and authorisation to deliver the project during 2022/23.	Gail Evans	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	16 Dec 2021	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Quarter 2 2020/21 Performance Monitoring Report.	To report the performance indicator results and summarise the Council's performance meetings its priorities for the second quarter period July 2020 – September 2020.	Richard Rowlands	Cabinet Member - Business Improvement & Performance	Cabinet	16 Dec 2021	Open
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2nd Quarter 2021/22.	To note any significant variations from the agreed budget 2021/22 and the actions planned to achieve a balanced budget.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	16 Dec 2021	Open
FPR7 Report - Hafod Copperworks Powerhouse Redevelopment Project Update Report.	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule No.7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) - to commit and authorise the addition of schemes to the Capital Programme.	Richard Horlock	Cabinet Member - Business Improvement & Performance, Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	16 Dec 2021	Open
Regional Energy Plan/Strategy.	To seek Cabinet approval to adopt the South West Wales Regional Energy Plan/Strategy.	Martin Nicholls	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	16 Dec 2021	Open

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Forward Plan 2021 – 2022

Report Title	Report Summary	Report Author	Portfolio	Decision to be taken by	Date of Expected Decision	Exempt Details
Gower AONB Management Plan 2021/22 - Offer of NRW Funding.	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has offered Swansea Council grant funding of £108,250 to support the implementation of the Gower AONB Management Plan (2021/22).	Mike Scott	Cabinet Member - Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	16 Dec 2021	Open
Revised Policies and Procedures for Outdoor Hospitality. Page 67	This report advises as to actions taken during the pandemic to support the hospitality trade and which elements will continue as future policies and procedures.	Geoff Bacon	Cabinet Member - Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	Open
Disposal of Highway Land at Mumbles.	The report updates members on progress to date and the necessity to adopt a revised approach in respect of the potential disposal of the land identified	David Turner	Cabinet Member - Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	Fully exempt
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 3rd Quarter 2021/22.	To note any significant variations from the agreed budget 2021/22 and savings plan and the actions planned to achieve a balanced budget.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open

Scrutiny Work Programme 2021-22 – Projected Timetable of Meetings (actual dates shown)

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	
SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Peter Black Lead Scrutiny Officer: Brij Madahar Lead Cabinet Member: cross-cutting Lead CMT: cross-cutting Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	18 2020/21 year	15	13	17	14	19	16	14	18	15	15	19 to be cancelled	
INQUIRY PANELS:		Planning	Evidence Gathering					Findings/Final Report		SPC	Cabinet		
Procurement Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: David Hopkins Lead CMT: Adam Hill Lead Head of Service: Chris Williams		24	27	16	13 27	20	10 24		31**	21	15	21	
Equalities Follow Up (Cabinet decision: 21 November 2019) First follow up - 28 Jan 2021 Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Alyson Pugh / Louise Gibbard Lead CMT: Adam Hill / Sarah Lackenby Lead Head of Service: Lee Wenham									26				

Appendix 4a

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
PERFORMANCE PANELS:												
Service Improvement & Finance (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Chris Holley Lead Scrutiny Officer: Emily Davies Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / Andrew Stevens Lead CMT: Adam Hill / Ben Smith Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	10 & 17* <small>2020/21 year</small>	11 & 23			20	19	16	15	18	15 Budget	22	
Education (monthly) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lyndon Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Robert Smith Lead CMT: Helen Morgan-Rees Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	13 <small>2020/21 year</small>	24	15		1 30	21	18	9	20	14 Budget	24	
Adult Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Sue Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Mark Child Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Amy Hawkins / Helen St John		2	14			20	30		12	14 Budget (Joint with CFS)	2	
Child & Family Services (every 6 weeks) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Paxton Hood-Williams Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: Elliot King Lead CMT: Dave Howes Lead Head of Service: Julie Davies	25	22		11	21			13	25	14 Budget (Joint with Adult)	9	

Appendix 4a

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Rob James (Carmarthenshire Council) Swansea Scrutiny Councillors: Jan Curtice / Phil Downing / Jeff Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Stacy Curran, Neath Port Talbot Council Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart Lead CMT: Phil Roberts / Martin Nicholls Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes			20			18	9 23		11		8	

* denotes extra meeting

** not public

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09
72

Information correct as of 09/11/21 15:57

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) **Procurement** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

Key Question: What is the Council doing to ensure it procures locally, ethically, and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

On 20 October the Panel met for a roundtable meeting with a group of Contractors/Stakeholders and will meet for the final evidence gathering on 10 November where they will speak to Business Wales, look at practice elsewhere and discuss performance and survey data. On 24 November the Panel will meet to look at all the findings from the Inquiry and to start to draw their conclusions and recommendations.

(Inquiries may take up to six months to complete, as they will call for wide ranging evidence, and will lead to a report with conclusions and recommendations that will be presented to Cabinet)

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	
Equalities	21 Nov 2019	18	0	0	28 Jan 2021 Further follow up: 26 Jan 2022

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)

This Panel meets every month. The Panel last met on 19 October to discuss the Q1 2021/22 Performance Monitoring Report. At this meeting, the Panel also received an overview from the Chief Finance Officer about 'Understanding Financial Reporting', before discussing the Review of Reserves item.

The Panel will next meet on 16 November to discuss the Mid-term Budget Statement, Q2 Budget Monitoring 2021-22 and the Planning Annual Performance Report. At this meeting, the Panel will also carry out pre-decision scrutiny of a Cabinet report regarding Swansea Airport.

b) **Education** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Panel meets every month. The Panel last met on 21 October where they discussed harassment in schools, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and received an update on progress with the New Curriculum for Wales.

At their meeting on 18 November they will meet with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors from Morryston Comprehensive School.

c) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel last met on 20 October to receive an update on the management of Covid and Performance Monitoring and a briefing on the Workforce Support Programme for Adult Services.

Remaining meetings for this municipal year will focus on performance monitoring (with a Covid focus) and updates on the management of Covid. The next meeting will be held on 30 November.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel last met on 21 September to discuss progress on the Child and Family Improvement Programme, receive an update on the Corporate Parenting Board and view a video on Appreciative Inquiry.

At the request of the Cabinet Member and Director of Social Services, the meeting scheduled for 3 November was cancelled and remaining meetings for this municipal year will focus on a shortened Performance

Report and Emergency Staffing Plan. The next meeting will be held on 13 December and will also include an update on progress with the action plan for Ty Nant.

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

This Panel meets every two months. A progress report appears separately under Agenda Item 7.

f) **Natural Environment** (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel last met on 6 October to receive updates regarding Local Flood Risk Management and Water Pollution policies. The Panel also received information from Natural Resources Wales' officers regarding water pollution management strategies.

This Panel will next meet on 12 January to discuss updates regarding Council Management of Green Space and Weed / Verge Management.

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**

The new regional education partnership called 'Partnereith' will commence shortly, and will include Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. The governance and legal structure for the new body is currently being finalised and will go to each of the three Councils Cabinet bodies for discussion. In Swansea that takes place on the 18 November 2021. The new scrutiny arrangement will form part of this Governance Structure.

b) **Swansea Bay City Region City**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the City Deal programme. The Committee was due to meet on 27 September focussing on Digital Infrastructure, but was cancelled. As such, arrangements are being made for another meeting to consider this matter on 9 November, before the next scheduled meeting on 23 November.

The Joint Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=417>

5. Working Groups:

A number of new 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 (in the order shown below) primarily involving discussion with relevant cabinet member(s) / officer(s), and any other persons called, to gather information, ask questions, and give views / raise any concerns.

a) **Workforce** (convener: Cllr Cyril Anderson)

This Working Group met on 29 March 2021 and asked about the impact of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of staff; how the Council is supporting this; issues around home working; staff sickness; staff turnover; use of agency staff and pressures. A range of information was considered by the Working Group, with input from relevant Cabinet Member(s) and officer(s). A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations was sent to the relevant Cabinet Members and this letter together with the Cabinet Members response was reported to the Committee in June.

With the Committee's agreement, the Working Group will meet again on 2 December in order to revisit the topic and consider the latest position, information and experience including the results of the further staff survey carried out by the Council.

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

This Working Group met on the 11 May where they congratulated officers for the good work done so far in relation this, especially through the difficult Covid period. Overall the Working Group were of the view that the Council is on the right track with its Digital Inclusion Strategy and do recognise that the Council is keen to make the right improvements moving forward. The Digital Inclusion Framework/Strategy and the Council Website is currently being reviewed and members of the Working Group asked to be included in this process. The letter from the Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Business Improvement & Performance was reported to the Committee in June.

The Working Group felt that further oversight of work on Digital Inclusion is necessary as things develop, perhaps annually, whether through Working Group or other method of scrutiny. This will be factored into future work planning discussion.

c) **Bus Services** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Working Group met on 7 July when a range of information was considered, including bus network coverage and levels of service, community transport provision and integration with other forms of

transport. Relevant Cabinet Member and officers participated in the meeting together with representatives of First Cymru and Cardiff Bus.

A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations was sent to the relevant Cabinet Member and this letter together with the Cabinet Members response was reported to the Committee on 19 October. It was agreed that a further meeting of the Working Group be held before the end of the municipal year to enable follow up on the Group's recommendations and see what changes / improvements had been made.

d) **Road Safety** (convener: Cllr Steve Gallagher)

Following adjustment to the Scrutiny Work Programme this Working Group has been brought forward.

The meeting will enable information, questions and discussion to understand the Council's role and responsibilities on road safety, e.g. asking about hot spots; work to improve road safety; preventative measures; speed controls; safety of cycling routes; partnership working, etc.

The Working Group meeting is being planned for 9 February.

e) **Healthy City** (convener: Cllr Jennifer Raynor)

This will enable information, questions and discussion on Swansea as a healthy city, exploring in particular the provision, and promotion of, outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.

Due to Covid pressures this Working Group will no longer be held in this municipal year.

Reserve Working Group List:

- Active Travel
- Accessibility for the Disabled / Elderly

Agenda Item 10



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November 2021

Scrutiny Letters

Purpose:	To ensure the Committee is aware of the scrutiny letters produced following various scrutiny activities, and to track responses to date.
Content:	The report includes a log of scrutiny letters produced this municipal year, and provides a copy of correspondence between scrutiny and cabinet members where discussion is required.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the scrutiny letters and responses• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal 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 production of scrutiny letters has become an established part of the way scrutiny operates in Swansea. Letters from the chair (or conveners) allow scrutiny to communicate directly and quickly with relevant cabinet members.
- 1.2 These letters are used to convey views and conclusions about particular issues discussed, and provide the opportunity to raise concerns, ask for further information, and make recommendations. This enables scrutiny to engage with Cabinet Members on a regular and structured basis.

2. Reporting of Letters

- 2.1 All scrutiny letters, whether they are written by the Scrutiny Programme Committee or conveners of Panels / Working Groups, are published to ensure visibility, of the outcomes from meetings, across the council and public.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agenda also includes a copy of letters to/from Cabinet Members where specific discussion is required, e.g. letters relating to the Committee, Working Groups, and Inquiry Panel follow ups. Letters are included when cabinet member responses that were awaited are received or where a scrutiny letter did not require a response.
- 2.3 Where requested Cabinet Members are expected to respond in writing to scrutiny letters within 21 calendar days. The response should indicate what action (if any) they intend to take as a result of the views and recommendations made.
- 2.4 Letters relating to the work of Performance Panels are part of an ongoing dialogue with Cabinet Members and are therefore reported back and monitored by each Panel. However all Performance Panel conveners will provide a progress report to the Committee, including summary of correspondence with Cabinet Members and outcomes.

3. Letters Log

- 3.1 This report contains a log of scrutiny letters produced to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of letters activity over the current municipal year – see **Appendix 1**. The letters log will show the average time taken by Cabinet Members to respond to scrutiny letters, and the percentage of letters responded to within timescale.
- 3.2 The following letter(s), not already reported to the Committee, are **attached** for discussion:

	Activity	Meeting Date	Correspondence
a	Committee (Discussion on Tourism, Destination Management & Marketing and Business & City Promotion)	17 Aug	Letter to / from Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism
b	Committee (Discussion on Litter & Community Cleansing)	14 Sep	Letter to / from Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

c	Committee (Discussion on Energy Policy)	14 Sep	Letter to Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation, and information provided in response
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4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Letters Log – 2021-22

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Letters and Responses

Scrutiny Letters Log (2021-2022)

Ave. Response Time (days):

20 (target within 21 days)

% responses within target:

67

No.	Committee / Panel / Working Group	Meeting Date	Main Issue(s)	Cabinet Portfolio	Letter Sent	Response Received	Days Taken
1	Working Group	11-May	Digital Inclusion	Business Improvement & Performance	26-May	n/a	n/a
2	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	10-May	Welsh Housing Quality Standard Annual Report	Climate Change & Service Transformation	26-May	n/a	n/a
3	Education Performance Panel	13-May	New Curriculum and progress with ALN reform	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	26-May	n/a	n/a
4	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	25-May	Update on CAMHS; Youth Offending Service	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	14-Jun	n/a	n/a
5	Natural Environment Performance Panel	19-May	Climate Change Action Plan	Climate Change & Service Transformation	16-Jun	n/a	n/a
6	Adult Services Performance Panel	02-Jun	Transformation Programme; WAO Report actions; Review of Social Services Charges	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	23-Jun	16-Jul	23
7	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	11-Jun	Revenue Outturn, HRA Outturn and Capital Outturn and Financing 20-21	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	30-Jun	n/a	n/a
8	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	22-Jun	Regional Adoption Service, Initial feedback from CIW Assurance Visit	Children Services	01-Jul	n/a	n/a
9	Committee	15-Jun	Public Services Board	Chair of Public Services Board	16-Jul	n/a	n/a

10	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	23-Jun	Welsh Language Annual Report	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	22-Jul	n/a	n/a
11	Natural Environment Performance Panel	29-Jun	Air Quality	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	22-Jul	n/a	n/a
12	ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group	28-Jun	Education Partnership moving forward	Chair of ERW Joint Committee	20-Jul	28-Jul	n/a
13	Education Performance Panel	15-Jul	Delegated spend and the Behaviour Strategy and new Education Partnership	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	02-Aug	23-Aug-21	21
14	Working Group	07-Jul	Bus Services	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	09-Aug	17-Aug	8
15	Adult Services Performance Panel	14-Jul	Performance Monitoring; Initial feedback CIW Assurance Visit	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	09-Aug	14-Sep	36
16	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	01-Jul	Project update report	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	18-Aug	20-Sep	33
17	Committee	13-Jul	Highways & Engineering and Infrastructure Repairs & Maintenance	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	19-Aug	07-Sep	19
18	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	11-Aug	Performance monitoring; CIW Assurance Visit; Ty Nant CIW Inspection	Children Services	25-Aug	n/a	n/a
19	Natural Environment Performance Panel	26-Aug	Ash Dieback	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	16-Sep	n/a	n/a

20	Education Performance Panel	01-Sep	Estyn changes, Regional Consortia and Covid recovery	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	17-Sep	n/a	n/a
21	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	07-Sep	Project update report & Swansea University	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	30-Sep	n/a	n/a
22	Committee	17-Aug	Tourism, Destination Management & Marketing and Business & City Promotion	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	30-Sep	18-Oct	18
23	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	21-Sep	Child and Family Improvement Programme; Corporate Parenting Board; Appreciative Inquiry video	Children Services	04-Oct	22-Oct	18
24	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	20-Sep	Q1 Budget Monitoring Report	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	12-Oct	n/a	n/a
25	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	20-Sep	Peer Review & Self-Assessment (Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021	Business Improvement & Performance	12-Oct	n/a	n/a
26	Committee	14-Sep	Litter & Community Cleansing	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	14-Oct	21-Oct	7
27	Education Performance Panel	30-Sep	Education Improvement	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	18-Oct	n/a	n/a
28	Committee	14-Sep	Energy Policy	Climate Change & Service Transformation	20-Oct	n/a	n/a
29	Natural Environment Performance Panel	06-Oct	Water Pollution	Delivery & Operations	27-Oct	n/a	n/a

30	Natural Environment Performance Panel	06-Oct	Flood Risk Management	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	27-Oct	n/a	n/a
31	Education Performance Panel	21-Oct	Welsh in Education, New Curriculum	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	04-Nov		
32	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	19-Oct	Q1 Performance Monitoring	Business Improvement & Performance	09-Nov	n/a	n/a
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**To/
Councillor Robert Francis-Davies
Cabinet Member for Investment,
Regeneration & Tourism
BY EMAIL**

cc: Cabinet Members

*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/2021-22/3

30 September 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the meeting of the Committee on 17 August 2021. It is about Tourism, Destination Management & Marketing and Business & City Promotion.

Dear Councillor Francis-Davies,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 17 August

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session, which focussed on specific aspects of your wide-ranging cabinet portfolio, namely Tourism, Destination Management & Marketing and Business & City Promotion.

We wanted to gain a greater understanding of what these specific responsibilities entail, your priorities, resources, performance measures, key headlines / achievements and progress against objectives, and overall assessment (including how we compare with others, challenges / risks) and impact / difference made.

We thank you and officers for attending the meeting and providing a written report on these responsibilities and the Council's work. The Committee asked questions in order to explore this work and provide challenge on actions and performance in relation to these areas of responsibility, as well as future thinking.

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

This letter reflects on what we learnt from the information presented, questions, and discussion. It shares the views of the Committee, and highlights any outstanding issues / actions for your response - main issues summarised below.

Tourism

Your report focused on strategic priorities and performance during the pandemic. You highlighted the value of tourism to the local economy and the impact that the COVID-19 has had on the industry over the last 18 months. We heard about efforts to support the re-opening of the sector, as part of the Council's Economic Recovery Plan, following the easing of restrictions.

We acknowledged that it has been an unprecedented and extremely challenging time for Swansea, with restrictions on travel and the tourism, leisure, and hospitality industry. We recognised that it is a critical time for the sector and the Council is working to support recovery, given the importance of tourism to the local economy and employment. It was clear to see the commitment to improving things and maximising Swansea's potential as a tourist destination. We heard about extensive social media campaigning to market Swansea as a tourist destination and promote visits to Swansea – e.g. 'make Swansea Bay your Happy Place this year'. We noted numerous examples of recent positive press coverage in national / UK media of Swansea's tourism offer.

Following on from the previous Destination Management Plan, we noted that COVID-19 presented an opportunity to revisit strategic priorities for recovery, and you outlined the new Tourism Recovery Action Plan (TRAP) with three key priorities to better understand the market and how it has changed, support businesses, re-focus marketing, engage with customers, and welcome people back. The TRAP forms an integral part of Swansea Council's wider Economic Recovery Plan (approved by Cabinet in March 2021), which has provided for additional resources to enable enhanced media campaigns, accommodation improvement grants for businesses, and the waiving of marketing fees to support the private sector in promoting their businesses.

We talked about the fact that many people will be looking to holiday within the UK as 'staycations' become the main choice in current times, so there is an opportunity to attract new visitors particularly with the ability to reach large numbers through digital platforms. It was pleasing to hear initial indications are positive, looking at bookings and hotel occupancy. We also talked about extending the season as much as possible so that marketing continues into the autumn and winter period, and having a clear audience in mind. There is much to enjoy here all year round. We also pointed out that efforts to market and promote local tourism should not forget those closer to the area who may not be aware of what is on their 'doorstep'. We heard about the 'Doorstep Detectives' initiative with information and resources on the

visitswanseabay.com website challenging people to re-discover local attractions.

As well as focus on marketing, we noted that the vision for the Tourism Recovery Action Plan refers to delivering a high quality visitor experience in a pleasant, clean and well-maintained environment. This cannot be understated, as poor experiences will damage our tourism e.g. the state of public toilets around our beaches, litter and cleanliness of the area, overgrowth, traffic congestion, etc. These things can let us down, and effective cross-departmental team working is crucial to maintain the infrastructure and ensure the quality of the visitor experience.

We asked whether any consideration has been given to 'virtual tourism' whereby people can access places remotely and / or get additional web-based information when at a specific location. We heard that whilst this was not a feature of current plans there was awareness of this as a growth area, and something that the Council could look at a bit more closely, to exploit such technology as an aid to promoting Swansea. For example, virtual tours of museums, galleries, castles, parks to access remotely, and QR codes at destinations that would link to relevant additional information / local history and heritage to enhance to overall experience, as well as other Swansea 'stories', such as its copper history, and discovery of the 'Red Lady' of Paviland. We supported any progress that could be made with this technology.

We also asked you about the potential for attracting the cruise ship market, but noted access issues at Swansea Port. There had been some work done on this in the past about the development of cruise ships down the Irish Sea, in collaboration with Ireland – the Celtic Wave Project – but this project appears to have ceased. We noted that the City was able to accommodate smaller vessels currently but would welcome any possibility to receive visitors from cruise ships, and projects such as the Tidal Lagoon generated hope that this may become a reality in the future.

There was also mention within the Committee of a possible 'tourism tax' that the Welsh Government has mooted, inviting your thoughts on such a move, but noted there has not been any specific contact with the Council on this.

Follow up on Tourism Scrutiny Working Group

The Committee appreciated you providing an update on action following the Tourism Scrutiny Working Group, which reported to Cabinet during 2019.

When Cabinet made a decision on the scrutiny recommendations in November 2019, three of the recommendations were not agreed. We asked you to revisit in particular our recommendation seven relating to the promotion of eco-tourism, which suggested working with national and local environmental organisations to find ways to attract their memberships (not

insignificant numbers) to the area who perhaps may not be aware of Swansea's environmental tourism offer. There is good research that indicates a healthy percentage of nature and wildlife tourism. We felt it was worth a re-think from the Council's point of view to consider this growing market and find ways to promote it, perhaps by tapping into their existing communications with their members with targeted publicity materials. You told us that the Council has good relations, and works closely, with environmental groups; but it was indicated to the Committee that this was something that could be further explored, just as the Council targets travel writers and publications. We welcome action on improving our environmental messaging to attract visitors, potentially a quick win on the back of an increasing interest and concern in the climate, nature and biodiversity.

Furthermore, Committee Members flagged up the potential to promote eco-tourism and access to Penclawdd / North Gower, encouraging cycling from the railway station at Gowerton. We also welcomed any possible expansion of cycle hire facilities across Swansea. It would also be useful if there were accessible maps of our main footpaths for people to explore Swansea and enjoy a green holiday. You undertook to talk to officers about improving public information about that.

One of the recommendations also called for the development of a Gower off-road cycling network and cycling map for the area. We can see from the update that work has been carried out to develop and promote a network of bridleways as a way of enjoying the countryside by bike that will enable visitors to explore large areas of Gower AONB by bicycle. A map of routes is in the process of being prepared. We noted that the scheme has been limited due to legal issues with landowners but will still be extensive. More information about progress would be appreciated, including whether we were successful in obtaining grant funding to support this work.

Business & City Promotion

Your paper focused on work carried out within the Council's Planning & City Regeneration Service delivered through the Economic Development and External Funding team who undertake business engagement and inward investment, and the Development and Physical Regeneration team, dealing with business investment and city promotion within the scope of large development schemes.

One of our main points of concern was the availability of advice and support for business, whether about starting-up, council services, funding, learning and improvement, and how easy it was to access. We heard that there had been a reliance on signposting local businesses / individuals to the Welsh Government's Business Wales information, but a new dedicated resource within the Council had recently been established which would see the launch of new Business Swansea business advice web pages and contact details on the Council website. This was coupled with an increase in social media

activity to promote the service. We welcomed this news, and this was particularly useful for councillors to be able to signpost to.

We asked about progress with the Parc Felindre site in attracting new businesses. We heard that the last 18 months had been difficult but the economy was now improving and there has been renewed interest in the site with three live discussions with businesses currently ongoing. It was encouraging to hear about this interest, as the site is sizeable, offering good links to the motorway and should be an attractive proposition for companies big and small.

Focusing on the City Centre, we are well aware of the difficulties faced because of not only the pandemic, but also the impact of growth in on-line retail as well as competition from out of town retail parks. The loss of Debenhams, and other big names from our city centre is a concern and we asked about what we are doing as a Council in response. We know that this has affected other cities across the UK and heard that Swansea has not suffered as much as others have, but of course it remained a concern and focus for recovery.

You told us that Cabinet would be considering a City Centre Repurposing Strategy' report, which will identify key interventions and actions to make Swansea fit for the future. The ongoing major investment across the city, such as the Arena development, has improved Swansea's position and ability to retain and attract business and retail compared with other cities. We noted significant press and public relations work being done to promote the city and its story, and attract investment. We heard that work was ongoing with the owners of the Quadrant about the occupation of empty units and new lettings were due to come on board. We were also told that all of the commercial units outside of the Arena were under offer with good quality local businesses and with the Arena expected to generate 200 plus events per year from around year 3 onwards, this would mean significant footfall, and improve the night-time economy. We noted first year target of around 100 events.

A Swansea less reliant on national chain stores will make Swansea unique and add to its appeal. We acknowledged the importance of a mixed-use city centre in sustaining the city centre, as a place to live, work, shop and enjoy. You felt there was reason to be cautiously optimistic and confident that Swansea was better placed than other comparable cities to thrive post-pandemic. We were pleased to hear the positivity, although felt a solution to the significant unit vacated by Debenhams was urgently needed. The impact of student accommodation on the city centre was also discussed. We agreed that Swansea needed to be a distinctive multi-purpose city, not dependent on the big chain stores or only retail, and plans to improve the green infrastructure and city centre environment were important to that.

We also referred to the good news about the protected status given to Gower Salt Marsh Lamb, helping to put the area on the map, and asked about our work in the promotion of other distinctive local food and produce. We noted that the Economic Recovery Fund would support more work on this with relevant businesses.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome comments on any of the issue raised within. We would be grateful, however, if you could specifically consider and respond to our call for further action on the recommendations of the Tourism Scrutiny Working Group, and points made in this letter.

Please provide your response to this and any other comments about our letter by 21 October. We will then publish both letters in the agenda of the next available Committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Cllr. Peter Black
Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

(By email)

Please ask for: Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
Direct Line: 01792 63 7440
E-Mail: cllr.robert.davies@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: RFD/JG
Your Ref:
Date: 18 October 2021

Dear Cllr. Black,

Re: Scrutiny Programme Committee – Tourism Response to Letter dated 30th September 2021 to Cllr Robert Francis-Davies

Response to Follow-up Questions:

We asked you to revisit in particular our recommendation seven relating to the promotion of eco-tourism, which suggested working with national and local environmental organisations to find ways to attract their memberships.

1. The Tourism Team and other Council departments (in particular the Countryside and Rights of Way Team), have a positive relationship with the National Trust (NT), working to fundamentally common aims to protect and conserve the landscape, while supporting the community and local economy. During the pandemic and into the recovery period, the aim has been to encourage visits to the countryside responsibly and we have worked in synergy with the aims of Welsh Government and NT to achieve this in areas of high footfall, for example Rhossili on Gower.
2. In addition to the NT, we also have links with South & West Wales Wildlife Trust, Wales Coast Path, Keep Wales Tidy and on a regional basis, the National Parks.
3. We can explore working with national wildlife, nature and environmental organisations and ascertain the costs of accessing their marketing platforms, e.g. online platforms, print and membership communications in the past we have featured in National Geographic Travel, BBC Countryfile and Country Walking platforms – both online and in print.
4. Continue working with other council departments (Countryside, Rights of Way) and local organisations to develop collaborative content e.g. nature trails, bird-spotting information and family orientated nature activities.

We welcome action on improving our environmental messaging to attract visitors, potentially a quick win on the back of an increasing interest and concern in the climate, nature and biodiversity.

1. Develop new wildlife, nature and eco content for www.visitswanseabay.com.
2. Develop a new campaign which leads on this theme, using videos and new images. Research the possibility of an environment/wildlife professional or celebrity becoming the 'face' of the campaign and appear in the videos.
3. Encourage our local tourism businesses to develop facets of their business which relate to this theme, e.g. accommodation providers turning over a part of their garden to wildflowers, putting up a bird box, or just feeding birds to attract wildlife to their business premises. Food & drink businesses could advertise their hyper-locally sourced food or even grow some of their own. Attractions/activity providers could also use this theme in relation to their activities, e.g. Plantasia and their conservation work, or watersport operators highlighting the nature opportunities where they operate.

The potential to promote eco-tourism and access to Penclawdd / North Gower, encouraging cycling from the railway station at Gowerton.

1. Colleagues in the Transportation Team inform us that there is not currently a continuous off-road cycle route between Gowerton and Penclawdd, therefore this route is not signposted. Cyclists can travel between these two locations, however with no dedicated cycle provision, it would be on-road. The delivery of a continuous off-road route here in the future is part of the council's adopted Integrated Network Map (INM), listed as a proposed future route. It is anticipated that the council will seek funding to progress feasibility and design of this route in the future under the Active Travel Fund.
There is currently no funding available for the general promotion of active travel, and when funding was received from Welsh Government in the past, it was focused on utility journeys only (not leisure), in accordance with the purpose of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
2. Swansea Council continues to provide hard copy maps and digital maps of the cycle network. See www.swansea.gov.uk/cycling
3. The Tourism Team feature North Gower in their campaign activity (featuring in campaign videos and photography) in an effort to encourage visitors to explore different areas of the destination to relieve the pressure on some of the visitor 'hotspots' like Rhossili and Three Cliffs Bay.

We also welcomed any possible expansion of cycle hire facilities across Swansea.

1. Colleagues in the Transportation Team inform us that Swansea Council recently submitted a funding application to the Welsh Government to expand the provision of cycle hire facilities in Swansea, unfortunately this grant application was not successful. However the council will continue to investigate alternative options and seek funding where possible.
2. However, [cycle hire opportunities](#) currently available are featured as part of the visitor and resident cycling offer on visitswanseabay.com

It would also be useful if there were accessible maps of our main footpaths for people to explore Swansea and enjoy a green holiday

1. Colleagues in the Rights of Way Team inform us that detailed walking maps showing the footpaths and bridleways in Swansea (and the rest of the UK) are available to purchase from Ordnance Survey.
2. In addition to the above, extensive walking information and promoted routes are available to view, download or print from the Council website for free.

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/walking>


3. There is a comprehensive walking section on [visitswanseabay.com](https://www.visitswanseabay.com) which is aimed at the visitor market, which highlights walking routes across the destination including Gower and North Swansea

<https://www.visitswanseabay.com/walking-in-swansea-mumbles-gower/>

One of the recommendations also called for the development of a Gower off-road cycling network and cycling map for the area. We can see from the update that work has been carried out to develop and promote a network of bridleways as a way of enjoying the countryside by bike that will enable visitors to explore large areas of Gower AONB by bicycle. A map of routes is in the process of being prepared. We noted that the scheme has been limited due to legal issues with landowners but will still be extensive. More information about progress would be appreciated, including whether we were successful in obtaining grant funding to support this work.

1. Colleagues in the Rights of Way Team inform us that the Gower off-road cycling project is nearing completion. RDP funding was secured to produce a leaflet, which is currently at draft stage and awaiting approval from Welsh Government.
2. Due to objections from Gower residents, the network has been reduced to avoid certain areas of the AONB, however it will still cover a large part of west Gower. The Council is no longer pursuing the legal issues with landowners.
3. However, the network of shared routes now available to cyclists on Gower is extensive and offers a refreshing change of pace and terrain to our other cycling routes including the new Active Travel routes and the existing National Cycle Network routes (4 and 43).
4. When available, the off road cycling network leaflet will be available to download on [visitswanseabay.com](https://www.visitswanseabay.com).

Yours sincerely



**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROBERT FRANCIS-DAVIES
AELOD Y CABINET DROS FUDDSODDI, ADFYWIO A THWRISTIAETH
CABINET MEMBER FOR INVESTMENT, REGENERATION & TOURISM**



**To/
Councillor Mark Thomas
Cabinet Member for Environment
Enhancement & Infrastructure
Management
BY EMAIL**

cc: Cabinet Members

*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/2021-22/4

14 October 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the meeting of the Committee on 14 September 2021. It is about Litter and Community Cleansing. A response is required by 4 November.

Dear Councillor Thomas,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 September

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session, which focused on a specific aspect of your wide-ranging cabinet portfolio, namely Litter and Community Cleansing.

We wanted to gain a greater understanding of what this meant in terms of specific responsibilities, your priorities, resources, performance measures, key headlines / achievements against objectives, and overall assessment (including how we compare with others, challenges / risks) and impact / difference made.

We thank you and officers for attending the meeting and providing a written report on these responsibilities and the Council's work. The Committee asked questions in order to explore this work and provide challenge on actions and performance, as well as future thinking.

This letter reflects on what we learnt from the information presented, questions, and discussion. It shares the views of the Committee, and highlights any outstanding issues / actions for your response - main issues summarised below.

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

Litter and Community Cleansing

You highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the service and staff involved in litter and community cleansing, dealing with unprecedented amounts of litter and restrictions such as limits on the number of staff members who could travel together in a vehicle. We noted that the service was still playing an element of catch up and extra staff have been employed to deal with the issues and improve the service. The Committee joined you in thanking all staff for their continued work and efforts during such a challenging period. We also recognised the efforts of individual councillors helping to tackle litter in their wards. Specific aspects to our discussion noted below.

Performance & Trends

The Committee was interested in the LEAMS (Local Environmental Audit & Management System) survey, its role in measuring performance and how it was used to inform improvement.

We understood that it was a monitoring method used across Wales for Councils to grade the cleanliness of their streets but was independently checked and verified by Keep Wales Tidy. It therefore enabled comparison with other Welsh Councils. The pandemic meant the most recent survey results were from 2018/19 and the figures in your report indicated Swansea ranked very well with comparable authorities, with 96.4% of streets graded B or above which meant they were predominantly free of litter and refuse. We noted the survey could only provide a 'snapshot' of the situation and remarked at the difficulty in measuring performance and reliance on the survey, particularly as councillors commonly received complaints about litter.

You undertook to provide the Committee with more information in writing about the LEAMS survey that would help us to better understand this work and its use.

Councillors' Community Budgets

The Committee queried the use of Councillor Community Budgets in certain wards for additional cleaning services, and what impact this had on overall service delivery across other Council areas perhaps not able to do the same. You assured the Committee that any services being paid for from community budgets were for additional work over and above the standard cleaning regime delivered by the Council across the City and County, and did not reduce the level of service provision in other areas.

We noted that Castle and Morrison were amongst the areas where some of the community budget was being utilised for additional cleansing operatives. We remarked on the ability of multi-councillor wards to pool resources to enable such use but you stated that there was no reason why councillors in different wards could not collaborate in order to afford additional cleaning. You

stated that the department would consider any requests from councillors if they were interested in enhanced cleaning in their area. It was explained to the Committee that there was otherwise no specific difference in the provision of cleaning services across Swansea. In relation to service response to litter and community cleansing issues we were told the service aimed to deal with urgent requests within 1 day and standard requests within 5 days, and that these targets were being met.

The Committee would appreciate further information about the opportunities for additional cleansing and costs, as other councillors may be interested who may not be aware that community budgets could be used in this way.

Litter and Waste Enforcement

You emphasised the fact that the level of enforcement or amount of prosecutions does not tell the whole story in terms of efforts to engage with people and challenge them on their actions. The approach was one of education, engagement and enforcement, and significant work on engagement has been done in 'hot spot' areas. Warning would be given in the first instance but fines would be issued where necessary or other action (including court proceedings) taken depending on the severity of the offence or repeat offending. We noted the difficulties around enforcement when having to catch people in the act, but we welcomed news that more officers have been trained to become authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to anyone they witness dropping litter or failing to pick up their dog's waste.

We asked about resources to tackle fly tipping and how we compared with neighbouring Councils, particularly Carmarthenshire, with regard to fines / prosecutions, and how we were dealing with repeat offenders of fly tipping and unlicensed waste carriers. You felt that direct comparisons with other Councils was difficult as different Councils had different approaches to litter and waste, and some Councils may well focus more of their resources on enforcement.

We noted that the 'Don't be a Tosser' campaign against litter has got people's attention, but the Committee suggested that you consider even more public messaging to deter people from littering to show how serious the Council is about litter. For example being proactive with notices / warnings on the side of Council vehicles and stories in the media about the work the Council does, and penalties. You talked about the efforts being made to tackle fly tipping including a recent joint operation with South Wales Police the results of which were due to be publicised shortly, that should send a strong message out to would-be fly tippers.

Litter & Drainage

We were pleased to hear that clearing tops of drain covers was being incorporated into routine street cleansing rounds. The removal of surface leaves and detritus would help to keep drains functioning but also free up the gully teams to focus on blocked drains, rather than what might appear to be blocked drains. We noted the outcome of a significant service review over the last year that meant cleansing operatives are expected to be proactive and deal with everything they see and can clear, or otherwise report issues to other specialist teams. We also welcomed the ongoing introduction of digital solutions to link up information across services, e.g. so that operatives are able to distinguish fly-tipping from organised bulky waste collections, etc. and therefore better placed to identify waste and take action where necessary.

Litter and its impact on the Natural Environment and Biodiversity

The Committee was pleased to see reference in your report to the Council's Corporate Priority on 'Maintaining And Enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity', and recognition that tackling and reducing litter has a direct impact on the enhancement and growth of plant and animal species. We asked to what extent beach litter is considered, especially in relation to its effects on wildlife, and how we are making the public aware of the impact on the environment of their littering.

You told us that there are high levels of beach litter picking especially during the summer season, with additional resources deployed during the last 2 summers during the pandemic with extra visitors and numerous parties on beaches. In addition to Council operations, we noted the contribution made by volunteer litter pickers and groups in ensuring our beaches are clean and safe for all.

We heard that there has been no specific local PR activity about litter and wildlife but you referred to national and local media reporting on things like plastic sea pollution that has helped to educate people and change behaviour. However, you agreed to look at what the Council could do, such as signs on the beach or photographic displays, to alert people to the impact of litter on wildlife reinforcing existing messages about personal responsibility and people taking their litter home, etc. We were concerned to see greater efforts in public awareness raising as people may not realise the consequences of their actions regarding litter and its impact on nature and biodiversity. There was also some discussion on the possibility of litter picking at an earlier time so the beaches were clean for the early morning swimmers, and creating a better impression for early visitors.

Neighbourhood Environment Action Team (NEAT)

We asked for an update on the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team and resumption of this popular service. You informed us that although everyone was keen to see a re-start of this successful project there was no plan to do so at present, in the midst of the pandemic, until Social Services could confirm it was possible and safe for the Teams to do so. The Cleansing Service Area had to be mindful of the vulnerable nature and needs of the people involved, their safety and ability to work alongside employees at a time of restrictions and health concerns, and risks, so it remained a challenge to resume this activity.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome comments on any of the issues raised within. We would be grateful, however, if you could specifically consider and respond on the following:

- Provide more information about the LEAMS survey that would help the Committee to better understand this work and its use.
- Provide further information about the opportunities for additional cleansing and associated costs, which could be paid for from Councillor Community Budgets.
- Give consideration to ways in which even more public messaging can be put out to deter people from littering to show how serious the Council is about litter.
- Look at what the Council could do to alert people to the impact of litter on wildlife.

Please provide your response to this and any other comments about our letter by 4 November. We will then publish both letters in the agenda of the next available Committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Black
Scrutiny Programme Committee (Chair)

(By Email)

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Thomas

Direct Line: 01792 63 6926

E-Mail: cllr.mark.thomas@swansea.gov.uk

Our Ref: MT/JG

Your Ref:

Date: 21 October 2021

Dear Cllr. Black,

Re: Scrutiny Letter to Cabinet Member dated 14 Oct 2021 (SPC 14 Sep) - Litter & Community Cleansing

Thank you for your letter following the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 14 September 2021 in respect of 'Litter and Community Cleansing'. I am pleased to note that the Committee recognises the important role that the Cleansing Service plays in keeping our streets clean and clear of litter and refuse so far as is practicable. I also welcome your comments and thanks directed to the Teams for continuing to maintain a high level of service throughout the ongoing pandemic under challenging and often difficult circumstances.

In answer to the additional questions raised, I would make the following comments:

1. Local Environment and Management System (LEAMS)

LEAMS surveys provide a 'snapshot' of litter and other local environmental quality issues across Wales and allows Keep Wales Tidy to track trends over time. In 2018-19, Keep Wales Tidy independently surveyed a total of 3,216 streets across Wales. During the survey the quality of the local environment was measured by recording the:

- Street cleanliness grade based on how much litter and dog fouling is present (the current methodology can be found as attached).
- Types and sources of litter present;
- Amount of graffiti, vandalism, fly-posting, dog fouling, weeds, detritus and chewing gum staining visible;

The surveys provide independent data for:

- Data Unit Wales for Public Accountability Measure for Clean Streets (PAM/010: percentage of streets that are clean);
- The Welsh Government for use by the Ministers and other policy makers in the National Assembly for Wales;

- The 22 Welsh Local Authorities on the local environmental quality issues within each of their areas;
- Other organisations with an interest in local environmental quality.

The information is taken from the surveys undertaken in each local authority in Wales. The surveys cover a 6% sample of streets, selected at random from a full list of adopted highways provided by the relevant local authority. LEAMS surveys do not extend to parks, green spaces, beaches or busy roads and motorways.

Keep Wales Tidy calculates the following independent national figures:

- A Cleanliness Indicator (see attached calculation methodology);
- The average percentage of streets graded B and above (which contributes towards the Public Accountability Measure PAM/10: percentage of streets that are clean).

These scores have also been calculated for each Local Authority using the information from our surveys. Each Local Authority will undertake their own surveys using the same methodology and the combined data provides the result for the PAM/10. The LEAMS can be seen as a measure of the four E's: Effective cleansing, the use of Enforcement powers and actions to Educate and Engage with communities to prevent issues which negatively impact on the quality of the local environment.

2. Councillors' Community Budgets

Local Authorities have a duty to keep their land clean and free from litter and refuse **so far as is practicable**. The amount of resource allocated to the Cleansing Service generally correlates to the level of service that can be provided. The Cleansing Service routinely prioritises and targets its available resource to key/prestige areas (e.g. City Centre) and those of greatest need.

An additional/enhanced Cleansing resource above and beyond our statutory minimum requirement can be provided by use of funding provided by Community Budgets. However, for the reasons of staff availability and general administration, it is only practicably possible to employ a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for 37 hours per week as a minimum. Such a position can be funded by a single ward with multiple Cllrs clubbing together or alternatively by Cllrs funding and sharing the FTE between wards (e.g. two days in one ward, three days in another).

The current cost of employing an equivalent Grade 4 Cleansing Operative is approximately £40k per annum which includes on-costs, vehicle hire, fuel etc. and administration costs etc.

Cllrs should carefully consider if they require an enhanced service at this time, particularly in cases where their area may already receive adequate resource. Additionally, there is also some limited scope to carry out project-type work on a scheduled ad-hoc basis.

3. Public messaging by the Council to deter people from littering

The Cleansing Service concurs with the Committee in 'banging the drum' to reinforce the underlying message that it is not acceptable to drop litter. Ultimately it is the

responsibility of the individual to dispose of their own litter. Cleansing is fully supportive of national anti-littering campaigns by Keep Wales Tidy et al (e.g. annual Spring Clean Cymru and Marine Beach Clean litter picks etc.) and these are normally highlighted prior to the event. Local initiatives such as the 'Don't be a Tosser' and 'Dispose of your BBQ Responsibly' have been supported with associated signage and media articles. There is always more that can be done and Cleansing will continue to explore any opportunities that arise with the Comms Department to which we have good links. For example, we intend to reinforce the message that it is acceptable for dog owners' to dispose of their dog waste (this does not include dog waste generated at home) in litter bins as well as dog bins. Appropriate signage to this effect can already be seen on many of our litter bins. The Committee's suggestion of placing informative signage on vehicles is something that could potentially be explored further.

4. Alerting people to the impact of litter on wildlife

This is related to item 3 above. Many people are aware through national and local media of the various effects that litter can have on wildlife from consumption of larger items by livestock etc. to the breakdown and accumulation of microplastics in our oceans that are then ingested by marine animals. Waste, recycling and sustainability are in general covered by the school curriculum in Wales to ensure that children and young adults are made aware of the impact that waste/litter and their actions as individuals can have on the environment as a whole. This should bode well for the future but Cleansing will continue to explore any opportunities that arise within the Council and/or in conjunction with our many partners as appropriate.

I trust this answers the issues raised

Regards



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Mark Thomas
Aelod Y Cabinet Dros Gwella'r Amgylchedd a Rheoli Isadeiledd/
Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) Methodology

The methodology for the LEAMS surveys reflects the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance (COPLAR) 2007, which relates to Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990.

Each survey covers a 6% sample of streets, selected at random from a full list of adopted highways provided by each local authority. LEAMS assesses the quality of the local environment through a visual survey of a 50m length of one side of a street (known as a transect) which includes the pavement and some gutter, by recording the below information.

Overall Cleanliness Grade

This is based on how much litter and dog fouling is present.

A Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No litter or refuse	B+ Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No more than 3 small items of litter	B Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Predominantly free of litter and refuse apart from some small items	C Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations	D Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations
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a) The Cleanliness Indicator (CI)

The CI is calculated from the street cleanliness grades (A-D) and ranges from 0 to 100. Each grade carries a weighting.

$$\text{CI} = \frac{\text{Actual Score}}{\text{Maximum Score}} \times 100$$

Example of calculating the CI using a sample of 30 streets:

	Number of Streets Awarded that Grade	Weighting	Score
Grade A	2	3	6
Grade B+	3	2.5	7.5
Grade B	22	2	44
Grade C	2	1	2
Grade D	1	0	0
Totals	30		59.5

Maximum Score: 30 (total number of streets) x 3 (grade A weighting) = 90

$$\text{CI} = \frac{59.5}{90} \times 100 = 66.1$$

If all streets are awarded a B grade (an acceptable level of cleanliness) the CI is 66.7.

b) The % of B grade streets and above

Keep Wales Tidy's independent data for each local authority on the % of B grade streets and above is combined with the figures from surveys undertaken by local authorities to calculate the Streetscene Performance Indicator.



**To/
Councillor Andrea Lewis
Cabinet Member for Climate Change
& Service Transformation
BY EMAIL**

cc: Cabinet Members

*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/2021-22/5

20 October 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the meeting of the Committee on 14 September 2021. It is about Energy Policy (including Generation, Supply & District Heating).

Dear Councillor Lewis,

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 September

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session, which focused on a specific aspect of your wide-ranging cabinet portfolio, namely Energy Policy.

We wanted to gain a greater understanding of what this meant in terms of specific responsibilities, your priorities, resources, performance measures, key headlines / achievements and progress against objectives, and overall assessment (including how we compare with others, challenges / risks) and impact / difference made.

We thank you and officers for attending the meeting and providing a comprehensive report on responsibilities and the Council's work. The Committee was impressed with, and encouraged by, the activities shown in the report. You spoke highly of the efforts of officers not only on energy but also on the wider corporate priorities on climate change and nature, clearly linked. The Committee asked questions in order to explore this work and provide challenge on actions and performance, as well as future thinking.

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

This letter reflects on what we learnt from the information presented, questions, and discussion. It shares the views of the Committee, and highlights any outstanding issues / actions for your response - main issues summarised below.

Energy Policy (including Generation, Supply & District Heating)

Governance – Climate Change Group

Your report referred to the formation of a 'Climate Change Group' to take forward the Climate Change Strategy, within which Energy Strategy is a key component. We asked about the membership of this Group and whether this included councillors, who we thought to be essential participants.

You undertook to provide the Committee with a detailed Climate Change Governance Structure, clarifying that there was an officer-led Climate Change Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Place with officers from across the Council involved, and a councillor-led Climate Change Steering Group, which you chaired and involved cabinet / officer strategic leads.

Gas Supply

We noted that the Council has had a new gas supplier since April 2021, Total Gas & Power, and that the Council has registered interest in purchasing 'Green Gas', dependent on viability and cost impact. We asked for more information about what was meant by 'Green Gas', its difference from natural gas and the extent to which it is being used. It was explained that 'Green Gas' was biomethane produced from the recycling of natural waste, e.g. plant and organic waste. We queried whether its use would help the Council to offset its carbon emissions. Thank you for providing further information about 'Green Gas', which we received on 5 October.

There was some discussion about the use of 'Green Gas' and whether it might conflict with any movement towards use of hydrogen to heat council homes and other properties. We acknowledged that things were not straightforward when it came to future sources of energy. It was a constantly evolving area, and future decisions were dependent on how the grid evolved, and technological advancements. You told us that you were exploring all options, both for energy efficiency and cost. We noted that conversion to hydrogen power would require the widespread installation of plastic pipes to prevent leaks. Air source heating pumps, powered by electricity, was also one of the options.

We also talked about the development of hydrogen-powered vehicles and noted that there was a proposal led by Swansea University, for a hydrogen fuelling station on Fabian Way. The Council will need to look closely at this and benefits over electric vehicles for its fleet, such as the ability to achieve longer distances, and other advantages or disadvantages.

Tidal Lagoon

The Committee is aware that the development of a tidal lagoon has been talked about for a number of years, and there is a history of setbacks. We asked you about progress towards delivery of this project, and current position.

You told the Committee that the Council was very much committed to delivering the 'Dragon Energy Island' project and making it a reality. We heard that the Council has asked for government funding to develop an outline business case, and has continued to engage with the UK and Welsh Governments about proposals. The Council would need to procure a private sector partner in due course, subject to agreed business case. You stressed the importance of the development of a tidal lagoon, here and elsewhere, to a sustainable energy supply. We look forward to hearing more.

You stated that the Council would consider any opportunities to generate green energy and welcomed any input of ideas. We noted that there are already mini hydro turbines in the Dock area, and that the possibility of weirs in rivers was being looked at. Council efforts, large or small, in generating hydro power whether from rivers, streams or other waterways were welcomed.

Carbon Reduction

Amongst the key headline projects / carbon emission achievements, you referred to in your report you mentioned the Welsh Government supported Re:fit Low Carbon Programme to implement energy efficiency saving opportunities in non-domestic buildings. We asked you about the £1.3 million interest free loan that has been secured from Welsh Government Wales Funding Programme to deliver a Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project. You told the Committee that the money would enable investment in buildings and energy savings enabling the repayment of monies. For example, we noted the money could be used to upgrade lighting to LED, improve building insulation and heating systems, installation of solar panels, etc. The Phase 1 project comprised over 18 buildings and was projected to save an estimated 379 tCO₂e every year. We noted that for Phase 2 (Carbon Reduction Retrofit) the Council was working towards developing a business case to implement energy conservation measures for Education Services / Schools.

Solar PV Farm

Your report referred to the Council working towards the development of a 3MW Ground Mounted Solar PV (photovoltaic) farm located on a capped waste land filled area at Tir John. We wanted to know more about this project and progress.

We noted that it is predicted over the asset lifespan (35 years) that 101,302,731 kWh of renewable energy will be generated equating 28,454 t/CO2. Part of this capital expenditure cost could be recovered, as it would create revenue for the Authority in the form of either Power Purchase Agreements or private wire connection. There is the potential opportunity of extending the Solar PV site in future years as current additional waste land is capped. You anticipated that the development would progress to planning application around January 2022.

Overall Assessment

The Committee talked about the overall scale of what the Council is doing and how the difference it makes could be enhanced, in the face of worrying projections about emissions and global warming. We recognised that much depends on the actions of UK, Welsh and international governments, but local action was nonetheless important, contributing to the sum of efforts. You felt that more could be done locally, but was dependent on greater resources, funding and delegated powers to increase the pace. In addition, it was not only the Council that needed to act locally, but also other sectors and communities – this was everyone's business. We noted that it remained a challenge to get all partners and businesses to commit to action to tackle climate change.

You emphasised how important it was for councillors, as community leaders, to promote the agenda in the community, educate and signpost people, e.g. supporting businesses to access grants etc. You also spoke about the need to engage young people in schools over the problems and solutions. We noted that unfortunately the pandemic had affected planned Council community engagement activities, although Swansea Environmental Forum has continued to be active and helpful.

Councillors recalled a previous subsidy to promote and encourage a switch to energy saving light bulbs, and asked whether there would be further gains from repeating this scheme. You were keen to explore any ways that would provide an incentive for people and businesses to save energy and would explore whether there was merit in doing similar again. You acknowledged that it was a popular scheme.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments on any of the issues raised within; however, we do not expect you to provide a formal response. You did undertake to provide the Committee with a detailed Climate Change Governance Structure. We would be happy for this to be emailed instead, as soon as possible.

We will revisit this topic within the scrutiny work programme in due course given its importance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Black', written in a cursive style.

COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK
Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee
✉ cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk

Councillor Peter Black
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Andrea Lewis
Direct Line: 01792 63 7442
E-Mail: cllr.andrea.lewis@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: AL/JW
Your Ref:
Date: 5 October 2021

Dear Councillor Black

Further to my attendance at the Scrutiny Programme Committee on the 14 September 2021 and Councillor Peter Jones' request of further clarification of green gas. The difference between green gas and natural gas and the extent to which it is being used. I respond as follows.

Green Gas comes from renewable sources (made from organic material such as food waste and farm waste) and is broken down by bacteria in huge tanks, or digesters. The breakdown happens without oxygen so it's called anaerobic digestion. This produces biogas. Biogas is then purified and the CO₂ is removed, turning it into biomethane. Biomethane has similar characteristics to natural gas so it can then be added to the gas grid and supplied to work and homes.

Natural Gas: In contrast, is formed when decomposing plant and animal matter is put under heat and pressure under millions of years. So it's not easily replaceable in our lifetimes and there's a limited amount of it.

Extent to which it is being used: There is c.5TWh worth of annual green gas production, so Total Gas and Power (TGP) (Gas Supplier) should be able to cover all of our usage. Green gas is more expensive than natural gas, there is a premium of approx. 0.09p/kWh on top of the natural gas unit rate charged. If the Authority decides to vary its gas energy contract and purchase 100% green gas, this will come at significant cost and will need to be funded appropriately as existing budgets would not be able to support the premium.

Page 2

For information, please find attached TGP green gas literature.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Lewis

**Y Cynghorydd/ Councillor Andrea Lewis
Y Ddirprwy Arweinydd/ Aelod y Cabinet dros Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a
Thrawsnewid Gwasanaethau
Joint Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service
Transformation**

Green Gas

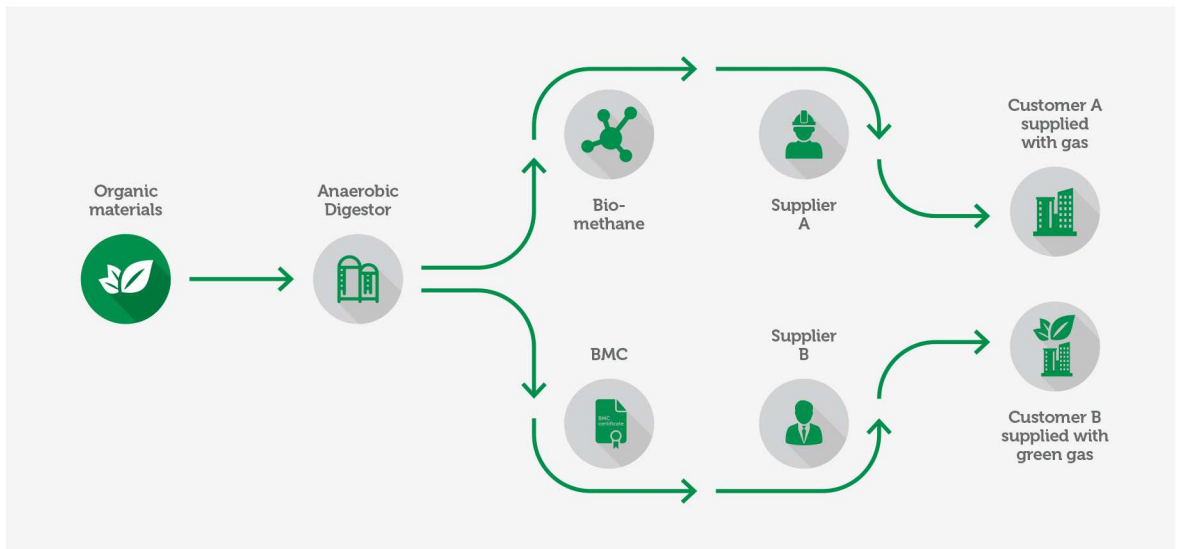


What is Green Gas?

Green gas, or biomethane, is produced from the recycling of natural waste, such as plant material and organic waste. Biomethane offers a desirable alternative to natural gas, as it reduces the need for fossil fuels, cuts down on the harmful greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere, and is a renewable source of energy that has the same applications as natural gas. Biomethane is recognised by the World Resources Institute as offsetting carbon emissions for gas consumption, and assigned a Biomethane Certificate (BMC) as proof of its renewable nature.

What is a Biomethane Certificate?

BMCs represent and authenticate the renewable source of the gas and are awarded for a particular volume of Biomethane produced. The gas and BMC can then be traded separately, and the supplier selling gas will obtain the BMC as proof that a volume of gas being sold to the customer has been offset with 'green gas'. Total Gas & Power reserves certificates for customers that purchase green gas from us to prove that the source of their gas is renewable. Once a certificate has been used to an end customer, it cannot be re-used for anyone else.



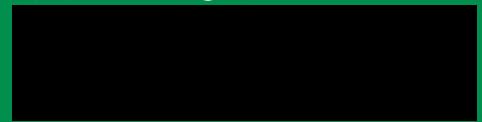
Taking renewable supply with Total can help you to:

- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Fulfil your business' CSR responsibilities and commitments
- Prove to your own customers that your business is environmentally responsible and sustainable

How much does it cost?

Pricing depends on the gas volume required and the market price at the time. For further information please speak to your Account Manager.

Account Manager

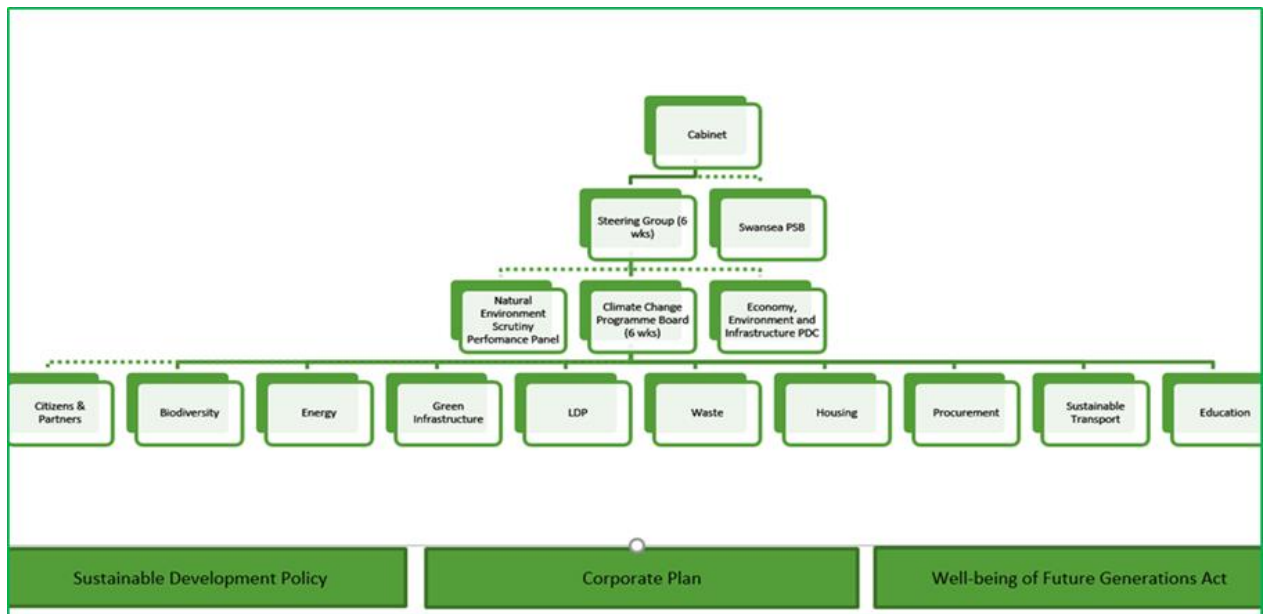


At the SPC meeting in September, reference within reports to the formation of a 'Climate Change Group', to take forward the Climate Change Strategy, was queried, and the Cabinet Member clarified that there was both an officer-led Climate Change Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Place with officers from across the Council involved, and a councillor-led Climate Change Steering Group, which the Cabinet Member chaired and involved cabinet / officer strategic leads. She stated she would share with the Committee the Governance Structure within which these bodies operated.

As reported in paper to Cabinet in November 2020, the Council has reviewed the current policy framework and how this could contribute to the achieve achievement of net zero carbon and climate emergency response. This has been distilled down to 8 key themes that will contribute to this agenda, as outlined in the pictogram below:



The current Governance Structure in place for this work is shown below:



Agenda Item 11



Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November 2021

Date and Time of Upcoming Scrutiny Panel Meetings

16 November – 14 December

- a) 16 November at 9.30am – Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel
- b) 18 November at 4.00pm – Education Performance Panel
- c) 23 November at 2.00pm – Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee
- d) 24 November at 10.00am – Procurement Inquiry Panel
- e) 30 November at 4.00pm – Adult Services Performance Panel
- f) 2 December at 1.00pm – Workforce Working Group
- g) 9 December at 4.00pm – Education Performance Panel
- h) 13 December at 4.00pm – Child & Family Services Performance Panel

Meetings will be held remotely via MS Teams