



**Dinas a Sir Abertawe**

**Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod**

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

## **Pwyllgor Rhaglen Chraffu**

**Lleoliad:** O bell drwy Microsoft Teams

**Dyddiad:** Dydd Mawrth, 18 Ionawr 2022

**Amser:** 4.00 pm

**Cadeirydd:** Y Cyngorydd Peter Black CBE

**Aelodaeth:**

Cynghorwyr: 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 a/ac T M White

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

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

**Gwyllo ar-lein:** <https://bit.ly/3DXiIPR>

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**Gweddarlledu:** Gellir ffilmio'r cyfarfod hwn i'w ddarlledu'n fyw neu'n ddiweddarach drwy wefan y cyngor. Drwy gymryd rhan, rydych yn cytuno i gael eich ffilmio ac i'r delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion gweddarlledu a/neu hyfforddiant o bosib.

### **Agenda**

**Rhif y Dudalen.**

**1 Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb.**

**2 Datgeliadau o Fuddiannau Personol a Rhagfarnol.**

[www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau)

**3 Gwahardd Pleidleisiau Chwip a Datgan Chwipiau'r Pleidiau.**

**4 Cofnodion.**

Cymeradwyo a llofnodi, fel cofnod cywir, gofnodion y cyfarfod blaenorol.

**1 - 5**

**5 Cwestiynau Gan y Cyhoedd.**

Mae'n rhaid i gwestiynau gael eu cyflwyno'n ysgrifenedig i'r Gwasanaethau Democritaidd [democratiaeth@abertawe.gov.uk](mailto:democratiaeth@abertawe.gov.uk) erbyn ganol dydd fan bellaf ar y diwrnod gwaith cyn y cyfarfod. Rhaid bod y cwestiynau'n ymwneud ag eitemau ar yr agenda. Ymdrinnir â

chwestiynau o fewn cyfnod o 10 munud.

- |           |  |                  |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Craffu ar Fwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Abertawe.</b>  | <b>6 - 114</b>   |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Craffu Cyn Penderfynu: - Adferiad a Buddsoddiad Covid.</b>  | <b>115 - 149</b> |
|           | a) Rôl y pwyllgor.   |                  |
|           | b) Ystyried Adroddiad y Cabinet a Chwestiynau.   |                  |
|           | c) Barn y pwyllgor i'r Cabinet.  |                  |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Craffu Cyfrifoldebau Portffolio Aelod y Cabinet - Sesiwn holi ac ateb gydag Arweinydd y Cyngor/Aelod y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Cyllid a Strategaeth (Y Cyngorydd Rob Stewart).</b> | <b>150 - 178</b> |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Adroddiadau Cynnydd y Panel Craffu Perfformiad: Addysg (y Cyngorydd Lyndon Jones, Cynullydd).</b>   | <b>179 - 182</b> |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Aelodaeth Paneli a Gweithgorau Craffu.</b>  | <b>183 - 184</b> |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Rhaglen Waith Craffu.</b>   | <b>185 - 212</b> |
|           | Trafodaeth am:   |                  |
|           | a) Gynllun Gwaith y Pwyllgor.  |                  |
|           | b) Cyfleoedd Craffu Cyn Penderfynu.  |                  |
|           | c) Cynnydd gyda Phaneli a Gweithgorau Craffu.  |                  |
| <b>12</b> | <b>Llythyrau Craffu.</b>   | <b>213 - 227</b> |
| <b>13</b> | <b>Dyddiad ac Amser Cyfarfodydd Paneli/Gweithgorau Sydd ar Ddod.</b>   | <b>228</b>       |

**Cyfarfod nesaf:** Dydd Mawrth, 15 Chwefror 2022 ar 4.00 pm

*Huw Evans*

**Huw Evans**  
**Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd**  
**Dydd Mawrth, 11 Ionawr 2022**

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**Cyswllt: Y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd Ffôn (01792) 636923**

# Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, 14 December 2021 at 4.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

C Anderson  
P K Jones  
S Pritchard

**Councillor(s)**

E W Fitzgerald  
W G Lewis  
W G Thomas

**Councillor(s)**

D W Helliwell  
C E Lloyd  
T M White

**Statutory Co-opted Member(s)**

A Roberts

**Councillor Co-opted Member(s)**

C A Holley

P R Hood-Williams

L R Jones

**Also present**

Councillor Mark Thomas Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management  
Councillor David Hopkins Joint Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Delivery & Operations  
Councillor Jennifer Raynor

**Officer(s)**

Caritas Adere	Associate Lawyer
Geoff Bacon	Head of Property Services
Kate Jones	Democratic Services Officer
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Gavin Newman	Parking Services Manager
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer
Mark Thomas	Transport Infrastructure Group Leader

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): H Lawson and G J Tanner  
Councillor Co-opted Members: J W Jones

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## 70 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

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

Councillor Clive Lloyd – Minute Nos. 74 & 82 – Councillor Clive Lloyd declared a personal and prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting for the items.

**71 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.

**72 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on the 16 November 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**73 Public Question Time.**

There were no public questions.

**74 Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities: Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement.**

The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management, the Transport Infrastructure Group Leader and the Parking Services Manager were present for the report on Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement.

Questions and discussions focused on: -

- Parking Services Operational Budget – Clarification on the inter-relationship between Operating Budget, Income Targets and Actual Income
- Civil parking enforcement – It was noted that this was a self-financing operation. There was discussion around the ring-fencing of revenue from Penalty Charge Notices to the highways budget for Highways improvement and / or safety
- The potential difficulties of enforcing residents parking bays with paperless permits and the possibility of the development of an app or online service to allow residents to check for permits – the Committee was told that Officers did not want residents challenging the public on permits and Officers would check for permits before going to site to investigate; but the issue would be looked into further
- Parking on Pavements – there were limited powers of enforcement on unrestricted roads. Actions like the placement of street furniture in the City Centre could be taken to improve the aesthetics whilst also discouraging parking on pavements
- Progress on improving the provision of secure cycle parking – Two sites for secure cycle parking were due for completion shortly at Fabian Way and the Quadrant Car Park as well as the non-secure cycle parking outside McDonalds in Castle Gardens. There would also be secure cycle parking in the new Arena car park
- Staffing levels within parking services

- Cleanliness of car parks – clarification on responsibilities of the Parking Services and the responsibilities of the Parks and Cleansing Teams
- Investment into car parks – Two new car parks would be available next year (Copr Bay Development and the Arena) these would be fitted with ticketless technology where you pay on return to the vehicle – the key priority was providing flexibility and choice on how to pay for parking
- Patrolling parking in the suburbs as well as the City Centre – importance of information from ward members in identifying issues and hot-spots
- Potential sites for locations of park & rides was still under consideration
- Efficiency of parking enforcement - Officers patrol in pairs and the safety of staff was paramount, officers would split work in the area for efficiency e.g. take a side of the street each

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers.

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

**75 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report: Natural Environment (Councillor Peter Jones, Convener).**

Councillor Peter Jones, Convener, presented the Natural Environment Performance Panel Update Report. He emphasised the importance of the Panel and highlighted recent activities, including: -

- Climate Emergency Declaration – Council Climate Change Action Plan Progress
- Air Quality Management
- Ash Dieback
- Local Flood Risk Management
- Water Pollution

In addition to Panel meetings the Convener also reported that he would be meeting informally with the relevant Cabinet Member(s), the Nature Conservation Team Leader and the Natural Environment Manager to keep in touch and update each other on relevant matters.

The Convener thanked Emily Davies, Scrutiny Officer, for her provision of scrutiny support to himself and Panel Members.

The Chair thanked the Convener for the report.

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

**76 Scrutiny Dispatches - Impact Report.**

The Chair / Scrutiny Team Leader presented the 'Scrutiny Dispatches – Impact Report', highlighting scrutiny achievements during the second part of the 2021/2022 municipal year.

**Resolved** that the report proceed to Council.

**77 Scrutiny Work Programme.**

The Chair presented a report on the Membership of Scrutiny Panel and Working Groups. No changes were indicated.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**78 Scrutiny Work Programme.**

The Chair presented a report on the Scrutiny Work Programme.

The next Scrutiny Programme Committee was scheduled for 18 January 2022. The main items scheduled were: -

- Question and Answer Session with the Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy, Councillor Rob Stewart.
- Scrutiny of Public Services Board

It was also noted that the Road Safety Working Group scheduled for February 2022 had to be cancelled due to service pressures, it would be postponed until after the Local Government Elections in May 2022.

A public request for scrutiny had been received regarding difficulties for those without off street parking to charge electric vehicles at home. This had been passed to relevant Cabinet Member(s) in the first instance for response and, depending on the response, the Chair will consider whether this issue merits discussion within a future scrutiny meeting.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**79 Scrutiny Letters.**

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

**Resolved** that the Scrutiny Letters be noted.

**80 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.**

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

**81 Exclusion of the Public.**

**Resolved** that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of a report on 'Proposed Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street / 25-27 Princess Way' on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exclusion paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

**82 Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Proposed Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 - 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way.**

The Committee considered the cabinet report 'Proposed Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street / 25-27 Princess Way.

**Resolved** that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee writes to the Cabinet Members, outlining the views of the Committee, with feedback to be presented to Cabinet on 16 December 2021 ahead of the Cabinet decision.

The meeting ended at 6.05 pm

**Chair**

# Agenda Item 6



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

### Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board

<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>This report provides background and advice to the Committee in support of its scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board (PSB).</p> <p>Following on from the last scrutiny session on the PSB in June 2021, the Committee will be reviewing the recently published PSB Annual Report 2020/21 and hearing from Council and Local Health Board leads on the delivery of PSB well-being objectives, to account for their work as statutory members of the PSB. The Committee will also follow up on issues arising from previous PSB scrutiny sessions and action taken by the PSB.</p>
<b>Content:</b>	<p>The Joint Chairs of the PSB will attend to present the PSB Annual Report and answer questions.</p> <p>Health Board and Council officials will respectively address the Committee on progress with the delivery of the 'Early Years' and 'Live Well, Age Well' PSB Well-being Objectives, which they lead on.</p> <p>Previous Scrutiny Letters reflecting on PSB Scrutiny sessions and Minutes of PSB Joint Committee Minutes are also provided in support of the discussion.</p>
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the information provided, ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s):</b>	<p>Councillor Rob Stewart (Leader / Joint Chair of Public Services Board) and Councillor Andrea Lewis (Leader's Representative on PSB / Joint Chair of Public Services Board)</p>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<p>Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive, Swansea Council</p>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<p>Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	<p>Debbie Smith</p>
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	<p>Paul Cridland</p>



## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is the designated Council Committee for Scrutiny of Swansea Public Services Board. Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) is the overarching strategic partnership of public service providers in the area, who work together to improve local services. Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that partnership working is accountable to elected local councillors.

1.2 Although the work of the PSB will involve a wide range of partner organisations from public, private and voluntary sectors, there are four statutory members who are the formal decision makers responsible for the functioning and activities of the Board. The four Statutory Members of the PSB are:

- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Swansea Council
- Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Natural Resources Wales

1.3 There are four PSB Well-being Plan Objectives, set out in the PSB's Well-being Plan published in May 2018, that provide focus for the PSB. These are joint objectives but each with a Statutory Member lead taking ownership of this work:

- Early Years (led by Swansea Bay University Health Board)
- Live Well, Age Well (led by Swansea Council)
- Strong Communities (led by Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service)
- Working with Nature (led by Natural Resources Wales)

1.4 The Committee had previously delegated and discharged responsibility for Scrutiny through a stand-alone PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel. Following adjustment to the Scrutiny Work Programme in November 2020 the Committee is now carrying out this work directly, aiming to hold two to three PSB Scrutiny sessions per year.

1.5 The overarching objective of scrutiny, as agreed by the Committee, is to consider: What difference is Swansea Public Services Board making for citizens? Specific lines of questioning have focused on:

- The effectiveness of the PSB Wellbeing Assessment
- The effectiveness of the PSB Wellbeing Plan
- How well the PSB is meeting its well-being duties, and is considering the five ways of working and seven well-being goals
- The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements
- The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the PSB

- The effectiveness of the PSB in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders
  - The effectiveness of the PSB in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities
- 1.6 The Committee will engage with PSB statutory members / key partners with regard to progress in the delivery of agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives, and effectiveness of the PSB generally. The delivery of the Well-being Objectives is at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do to make a difference. Performance against these objectives will be a key measure of success.
- 1.7 It is important to note that the remit of PSB scrutiny includes only the activities of the PSB as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations. The Committee can require any member of the PSB to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the PSB.

## 2. Previous Scrutiny Committee Sessions

- 2.1 Since November 2020, the Committee has been able to focus on PSB Scrutiny in meetings held in December 2020 and June 2021.
- 2.2 The session in December 2020 considered the PSB Annual Report 2019/20 and heard about the work, achievements, and performance of the PSB with lead members of the PSB and lead Council officer(s). This was an overview of progress made by the PSB, and the current situation.
- 2.3 The session in June 2021 heard from the Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales on their role, responsibilities, and progress in delivery of specific PSB well-being objectives that they are leading on.
- 2.4 As a result of these meetings, views on the performance of the PSB have been communicated by the Committee to the Joint Chairs of the PSB by letter. Copy of this correspondence is **attached**, but in summary the Committee has highlighted the need for the PSB to:
- a) improve the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making.
  - b) improve public visibility / messaging about the work of the PSB.
  - c) press the Welsh Government on PSB resources.
  - d) improve the clarity of action and outcomes from meetings.
  - e) improve the ability to measure progress in the delivery of Well-being objectives.
  - f) reflect on PSB governance in light of lessons learned from the pandemic.

- 2.5 The Committee can follow up on how its views have been considered and action taken, or planned, on these issues.

### **3. Public Services Board Annual Report 2020/21**

- 3.1 One of the roles for scrutiny is to consider the PSB's annual progress report and progress against agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives to consider the effectiveness of the PSB and difference being made. The recently published PSB Annual Report 2020/21 is **attached** for the Committee's consideration. The Annual Report is also published here: [www.swansea.gov.uk/psbreport2021](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/psbreport2021).

- 3.2 As well as reviewing overall progress and achievements with the Joint Chairs of the PSB (Councillors Rob Stewart and Andrea Lewis), the Committee meeting will enable specific focus on the role, involvement, and contribution of the Council and the Local Health Board, two of the four PSB Statutory Members. Relevant Council and Health Board lead representatives will attend for discussion on the delivery of the PSB Well-being Objectives which they lead on:

#### Early Years:

- Siân Harrop-Griffiths - Director of Strategy (Swansea Bay University Health Board)
- Keith Reid - Executive Director - Public Health (Swansea Bay University Health Board)

See progress on Early Years on pages 13-21 of the PSB Annual Report.

#### Live Well, Age Well:

- Adam Hill – Deputy Chief Executive (Swansea Council)
- Jane Whitmore – Strategic Lead Commissioner (Swansea Council)
- Julie Gosney – Partnership & Involvement Team Manager (Swansea Council)

See progress on Live Well, Age Well on pages 22-39 of the PSB Annual Report. A supplementary report has also been provided by Council leads on progress made on the objective since the Annual Report. See **attached**.

- 3.3 Previous scrutiny discussion on these specific Well-being Objectives took place in February 2020. The Scrutiny Letter arising from this meeting, reflecting on the main issues then, is **attached** for Committee awareness.

### **4. PSB Joint Committee Minutes**

- 4.1 The Minutes of meetings of the PSB Joint Committee held since the last scrutiny session in June 2021 are **attached** for Committee awareness:

- 17 June 2021
- 21 October 2021

4.2 Meetings planned for 12 August 2021 and 16 December 2021 were cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 10 February 2022.

## **5. Next Steps**

5.1 The Committee can write to the Joint Chairs of the PSB following the meeting with any observations, views and recommendations arising from the discussion about the performance and effectiveness of the PSB.

5.2 Further PSB scrutiny sessions will need to be planned post-May 2022.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Letter correspondence between the PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel and Chair of the PSB: A) December 2020 Committee meeting & B) June 2021 Committee meeting

Appendix 2 - PSB Annual Report 2020/21

Appendix 3 – Update on PSB Live Well, Age Well Objective

Appendix 4 - Letter correspondence between the PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel and Chair of the PSB reflecting on 5 February 2020 Panel meeting

Appendix 5 – Minutes of Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee: A) 17 June 2021 meeting & B) 21 October 2021 meeting



**To/  
Councillor Rob Stewart &  
Councillor Andrea Lewis,  
Joint Chairs of Swansea Public  
Services Board  
BY EMAIL**

cc: Vice-Chair of Swansea PSB

*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/2020-21/2

08 January 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Joint Chairs of Swansea Public Services Board following the meeting of the Committee on 15 December 2020. It is about the performance of the Public Services Board.

Dear Councillor,

### **Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 December**

We are writing to you following our scrutiny session on the Public Services Board (PSB) with our views

The Committee considered the PSB Annual Report 2019/20 and heard about the work, achievements, and performance of the PSB from Cllr. Andrea Lewis (newly-appointed Joint Chair of the PSB), Cllr. Clive Lloyd (former PSB Chair for the period of the annual report), Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas (PSB Vice-Chair), and Adam Hill (Swansea Council Deputy Chief Executive).

This was the first PSB scrutiny session held by the Committee, following our decision to adjust the scrutiny work programme and remove the standalone PSB Scrutiny Performance Panel. As such, it was a chance for us to reflect on scrutiny carried out to date, and take an overview of progress made by the PSB, and the current situation.

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](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) / [www.abertawe.gov.uk](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk)

## **New Governance Structure**

A new streamlined governance structure has been embedded and improved the operation, direction and focus of the PSB in the delivery of Well-being Plan objectives. Decision making governance is expedited at a strategic level via a Joint Committee, meeting bi-monthly, consisting of the PSB Statutory members and Invited Participants. Objective delivery groups lead on delivery, each co-ordinated and facilitated by a Statutory Member. Wider involvement has been facilitated with the creation of a Partnership Forum, meeting every six months, for meaningful engagement with a wide range of partners that adds value to the work of the PSB. This includes representation from charities, community groups, and public input. Co-production is very much at the heart of practice.

## **Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic**

The PSB has faced significant disruption since March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with fewer meetings. However, the partnership response to COVID-19, co-ordinated and carried out through relevant emergency planning frameworks and mechanisms, has been effective, and stronger because of the relationships and connections developed over the past few years working together through the PSB. The point was made that the PSB is not responsible for all multi-agency / partnership activity that exists, therefore an absence of PSB meetings during the pandemic has not affected the partnership response to COVID and its effectiveness. It was important for the PSB not to duplicate other structures in place.

## **Delivery of Well-being Objectives**

There are 4 PSB Well-being Plan Objectives, set out in the Well-being Plan published in May 2018, that provide focus for the PSB. These are joint objectives but each with a Statutory Member lead taking ownership of this work:

- Early Years (led by Swansea Bay University Health Board)
- Live Well, Age Well (led by Swansea Council)
- Working with Nature (led by Natural Resources Wales)
- Stronger Communities (led by Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service)

The key focus was on planning and prioritising areas where collectively partners could make the biggest difference.

The delivery of the Well-being Objectives is at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do to make a difference. Performance against these objectives will be the measure of success, and much has been achieved over the past 12 months, as shown in the PSB Annual Report.

In terms of post-COVID recovery, the PSB has been considering areas of focus. Three strategic objectives have been identified to focus on in order to develop a multi-agency added value action plan to build greater resilience over the next 12 months:

1. City for Wellbeing & Wildlife;
2. Green / Climate Change agenda;
3. County Lines, Substance Misuse, Anti-Social Behaviour

We noted that following work undertaken by the Council in compiling a Climate Emergency action plan, all partners will be asked to sign up to a climate change charter and construct their own action plans for their own organisations.

### **A More Agile PSB**

The PSB has also become more flexible and agile in helping to tackle more immediate multi-agency issues, in addition to the more long-term objectives. For example, successful work on community safety, which involved the setting up of a Critical Incident Task & Finish Group to deal with issues relating to street sex working, substance misuse / drug dealing / county lines activity, criminality and anti-social behaviour, focussing on the environment around Swansea High Street. There was clear governance to the PSB, via the Safer Swansea Partnership, and difference made by the PSB in delivering improvements to the area, and countering negative national press about our High Street.

### **The Issue of Pooled Resources**

The PSB is not a fund holding body – there are no pooled resources – however, it is about improving joint working across public services in our area, with organisations committing their existing resources to shared objectives and delivering improvement on issues no one organisation can solve alone.

### **Future PSB Arrangements**

There has been a debate about the number of PSBs across Wales, and whether PSBs should be arranged on a regional, rather than local authority, basis, consistent with the regional footprint of PSB partners and regional collaborations in place. It was felt that a regional PSB may be a better way forward to tackle the issues which we share with neighbouring authorities, and would benefit PSB partners who sit on multiple PSBs, and reduce duplication. The advent of Corporate Joint Committees may however complicate further the regional collaboration landscape.

## **Scrutiny Views**

From our discussion, the Committee would highlight the following issues in terms of providing challenge to the PSB for improvement:

### **a) Improving the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making.**

Measuring progress is key to any assessment of performance and the effectiveness of the PSB, whether it is about tackling immediate or long-term problems. Whilst Annual Reports serve a purpose, it is important for scrutiny to see a performance framework for the measurement of targets that can help demonstrate the added value of the PSB to scrutiny, and therefore to the public.

The PSB should consider how it could improve the information provided to scrutiny that will provide a greater level of detail in terms of performance monitoring, e.g. sharing of reports by strategic leads that the PSB uses to monitor outcomes and address any barriers, and review work. Ideally, these will show action plans for each objective, metrics, timescales, achievements, outcomes, challenges and risks, etc.

The PSB must be able to clearly articulate the difference it is making, and account for performance and improvement, with a balance of quantitative as well as qualitative data that will help to evaluate the effectiveness of the PSB, whether in the delivery of short, medium or long-term actions.

### **b) Improving public visibility / messaging about the work of the PSB.**

The overall purpose of our scrutiny is to assess the difference that the PSB is making to citizens. Internally we may have a good awareness and understanding of the work of the PSB, but it is less likely that the people of Swansea know what the PSB is.

It is important to understand the added value of having a PSB to improvement, beyond steps taken by the Council, either alone, or through existing partnership working. Although we would agree that the public is less interested in process than results, it could be clearer to citizens what the PSB is achieving and the contribution that it has made. If the PSB has made a difference successes should be attributed to the PSB, and publicised. Given its role and importance, the work of the PSB should be in our consciousness, so would benefit from any efforts to make its work, objectives and outcomes more visible.



### **c) Pressing the Welsh Government on PSB resources.**

Despite the best efforts of Swansea PSB to work around this, we feel that the lack of a pooled resource and discrete budget for PSBs is an impediment to effectiveness. It is surprising that there is no direct funding from Welsh Government and they ought to be pressed further on this to provide more support. We acknowledge that a small amount of funding was provided to help with organisational support, but would agree that the ability of PSBs to be transformational without significant funding, as highlighted by the Future Generations Commissioner, is limited.

We suspect that moving PSBs to a regional footing will need to be achieved first, which may then facilitate decisions around funding to deliver objectives / specific projects.

We appreciate that tackling funding and resource issues is difficult, and doing more with existing resources means a challenge to ways of working. Without additional funding we need to see the PSB being used by partners to improve the way they operate and use their resources to assist each other better, using the 5 ways of working, and helping to achieve the 7 well-being goals, in implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act to the benefit of our citizens.

### **Your Response**

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response. However, we do expect the PSB to consider our views and the Committee will follow up on progress in addressing these issues in six months.

PSB scrutiny is something that we envisage will take place 2 or 3 times every year. We will arrange the next session in around six months, and hope to engage more widely with other PSB statutory members / key partners with regard to progress in the delivery of agreed PSB Well-being Plan objectives, and effectiveness of the PSB generally. Additionally, we look forward to next year's PSB Annual Report.

Yours sincerely,



### **COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK**

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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**To/  
Councillor Rob Stewart &  
Councillor Andrea Lewis,  
Joint Chairs of Swansea Public  
Services Board  
BY EMAIL**

cc: Vice-Chair of Swansea PSB

*Please ask for:  
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:  
Linell Uniongyrochol:*

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*Our Ref  
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Scrutiny

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SPC/2021-22/1

16 July 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Joint Chairs of Swansea Public Services Board following the meeting of the Committee on 15 June 2021. It is about the performance of the Public Services Board.

Dear Councillor,

### **Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 June**

We are writing to you following our Scrutiny session on the Public Services Board (PSB) with our views.

As part of our ongoing scrutiny, the Committee heard from two of the four Statutory Members of the PSB: Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about their organisation's role and responsibilities in relation to the PSB, and on the delivery of PSB Well-being Plan objectives that they are leading on.

This was further evidence to the Committee on how the PSB is performing and making a difference for citizens, and follows on from the December 2020 PSB Scrutiny session, at which we considered the PSB Annual Report 2019/20, and got an overview of progress made by the PSB, and the current situation. We wrote to you reflecting on that meeting in January and highlighted within that letter the need for the PSB to:

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**  
**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**  
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE  
[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) / [www.abertawe.gov.uk](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk)

- a) improve the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making.
- b) improve public visibility / messaging about the work of the PSB
- c) press the Welsh Government on PSB resources

At our meeting in June we heard from Roger Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, MAWWFRS (also vice-chair of the PSB Joint Committee), Steve Davies, Group Manager, MAWWFRS (operational lead on the PSB Well-being Objective 'Strong Communities'), Hamish Osbourne, Swansea Environment Team Leader, NRW, Philip McDonnell, Coordinator, Swansea Environmental Forum (operational lead on the PSB Well-being Objective 'Working with Nature'), and Adam Hill, Deputy Chief Executive, Swansea Council.

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.

### **Making a Difference**

We asked what distinguishes the PSB from the organisational activities / collaborative working that perhaps might happen anyway in the delivery of shared objectives, e.g. what difference does the PSB as a body, and PSB Joint Committee when it meets, add or make?, what is it that the Statutory Members make happen? We heard how the PSB is considered a catalyst for wider partnership working across Swansea, providing space for senior members of each organisation to come together, and acting as an enabler for collaboration on tackling the key issues, both Well-being Plan objectives and specific issues that may arise and need wider involvement, and sharing of knowledge and expertise.

It was acknowledged that, in some areas, there is already effective partnership working, not dependent on the PSB, but overall we were told that the PSB, whilst not a perfect body, has served to strengthen relationships across public service providers, and with other sectors, with the Joint Committee maintaining an overview of partnership working, and taking decisions that will improve joint working and engagement and deliver shared objectives.

The Committee remarked upon minutes of previous PSB Joint Committee meetings, which could be clearer to the observer in respect of showing the outcomes from each meeting, to evidence positive action.

## **Performance Framework**

Further to our views on improving the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making, the Committee would like to see target setting, clearer measures of performance / success and reporting of achievement attached to each of the PSB Well-being Plan objectives, ideally shown in the form of action plans, with milestones and timescales. This will facilitate our ability to assess progress, and scrutinise and challenge the performance of the PSB, to see whether you have done what you said you would and direction of travel, etc. We understand that this would mean a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures, in order to provide something meaningful. The Committee noted that this is work-in-progress for the PSB and look forward to an improved performance model.

## **PSB Resources**

There are still issues around PSB resources with a general recognition that pump-priming is necessary to accelerate collaborative working, and for the PSB to make a bigger difference and impact. Whilst the PSB may facilitate good engagement between partners, without that investment the PSB will remain challenging and, with respective organisations always under pressure to tighten their belts (not to mention financial challenges from the pandemic), this is a risk to its sustainability. A comparison was made with the relatively good level of financial support Regional Partnership Boards receive to support the delivery of health and care services. We noted that partners lobby the Welsh Government at every opportunity, and learned that some money has been forthcoming from the Welsh Government specifically for collaboration with Neath Port Talbot PSB to develop a common approach for the Assessment of Local Well-being for 2022.

Nevertheless, partners did feel that significant benefits have come out of the PSB, for example in progressing work on the shared 'Working with Nature' Well-being objective, and working together on advancing the development of Green Infrastructure in the City Centre, helped by PSB support including funding from NRW. There are benefits that can result from doing things differently; making better use of existing resources or with the additional of what might seem modest sums.

The issue of PSB mergers is still one that is live. It is possible that involvement in multiple PSBs by organisations that already work on a regional footprint impacts on their ability to engage more effectively with each local PSB, and mergers would help them.

## **Governance**

We also asked whether the overall governance of the PSB could be improved further; though understand that the operation of the PSB, since agreeing a new streamlined governance structure in 2019, has been impacted upon by the pandemic, e.g. affecting ability to hold PSB Partnership Forum meetings. We also queried the relationship between Objective Delivery Working Groups and the PSB Joint Committee, e.g. was there a clear line of communication between strategic leads and those working 'on the ground' to deliver objectives / work streams, to ensure awareness, with clear monitoring and feedback processes. We heard that the absence of the Partnership Forum has hindered things, in terms of wider information sharing of progress and awareness; however, the Objective Delivery Groups do report to the PSB Joint Committee. With the worst of the pandemic hopefully behind us, perhaps lessons learned over the past 15 months might help re-shape and re-focus things further so that the PSB can be more agile.

There was also some discussion, both in reference to the 'Strong Communities' Well-being objective and wider PSB involvement, of the role of the Police in multi-agency working. There was some concern about front-line police resources to support local work. We were assured that the Police were an active supporter of the PSB and committed, with meetings well attended, and that they were integral to the 'Strong Communities' work.

## **Scrutiny Views**

From our discussion, the Committee would highlight the following issues in terms of providing challenge to the PSB for improvement:

### **a) Improve the clarity of action and outcomes from meetings.**

The Committee would suggest that minutes of PSB Joint Committee meetings could be clearer to the observer, in respect of showing the outcomes from each meeting, to evidence positive action.

### **b) Improve the ability to measure progress in the delivery of Well-being objectives.**

The Committee would like to see target setting, clearer measures of performance / success and reporting of achievement attached to each of the PSB Well-being Plan objectives, ideally shown in the form of action plans, with milestones and timescales.

**c) Reflect on PSB governance in light of lessons learned from the pandemic.**

The Committee would suggest that the PSB consider how lessons learned over the past 15 months might help re-shape and re-focus things further to create a more agile PSB.

**Your Response**

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response. However, we do expect the PSB to consider our views and the Committee will follow up on progress in addressing these issues.

We are planning our next PSB Scrutiny session for 14 December, at which we are looking to focus on the work of the Health Board and Swansea Council as the other Statutory Members of the PSB, and progress with delivery of the Early Years and Live Well, Age Well PSB Well-being Plan objectives, hopefully with action plans to show progress. If available, the Committee will also be able to consider the PSB Annual Report for 2020/21, and follow up on any issues arising from scrutiny, and action taken.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK**

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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# Swansea Public Services Board Annual Report 2020/21



Page 21



Gwasanaeth Tân Ac Achub  
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru  
Mid and West Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service

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## Message from Swansea PSB

It has been 3 years since Swansea Public Services Board published our first Local Well-being Plan in May 2018.

This Report aims to highlight not only the progress made towards the 'Swansea we Want' but also to reflect on how we have applied the sustainable development principle's ways of working and how we might better work towards well-being in the future.

Our first year of operation focused on research to understand Swansea's challenges and opportunities, while the second year concentrated on planning and prioritising areas where collectively we could make the biggest difference. This Report focuses on 2020/21 - our third year of progress and delivery.

In addition to the meaningful outcomes that have helped change lives in Swansea, we have also created and continue to develop a delivery infrastructure and governance system.

While we have achieved a great deal in our 3 years of delivery, Swansea PSB is not complacent and will continue to innovate and seek new ways to improve Swansea's well-being both today and for future generations.



**Cllr Andrea Lewis**  
**PSB Chair**



**Roger Thomas**  
**Vice-Chair**

# Our Vision and Local Well-being Objectives

## Swansea PSB - The story so far

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 created Public Services Boards so that local organisations could work together to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of Wales's Well-being goals.

In 2016, the Public Services Board (PSB) started a conversation about well-being in Swansea. We carried out an Assessment of Local Well-being to understand what matters most to communities. The Assessment told us that for many reasons Swansea is a great place to live but that we need to work harder together to make sure everyone can live well, benefit from and be proud of Swansea.

Using information from the Assessment and by listening to people, in 2018, Swansea Public Services Board developed a Local Well-being Plan. This identified our four Well-Being Objectives and a cross-cutting action.

This report aims to provide an update on the progress we have made towards meeting our objectives in 20/21, highlight the areas of work that has happened since the implementation of the Well-being plan, the lessons learnt, our future ambitions and how we are working together to make this happen.

## Our Vision

In Swansea, we believe in the rights of every person. Our vision is to work together to make Swansea a place which is prosperous, where our natural environment is appreciated and maintained and where every person can have the best start in life, get a good job, live well, age well and have every opportunity to be healthy, happy, safe and the best they can be.

To achieve our vision we have prioritised four Local Well-being Objectives. We hope that by focusing our collective efforts, we can make the biggest difference by working together.

## Our Local Well-being objectives for 2040

Our four key long term areas of work are prioritised below



**Early Years** – To ensure that children have the best start in life to be the best that they can be.

**Live Well, Age Well** – To make Swansea a great place to live well and age well.

**Working with Nature** - To improve health, enhance biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

**Strong Communities** – To build strong communities with a sense of pride and belonging.

In addition, our cross cutting action for change underpins each of the local well-being objectives.

**Sharing for Swansea** – To work towards integrated public services in Swansea by sharing resources assets and expertise, in order to develop a common language and make every contact count.

This is being developed through Objective Leads working together to identify where resources, assets and expertise can be shared as part of the development of the Objectives. For example, a Critical Incident Group (CIG) for the High Street was formed and agencies took the lead in their specific knowledge areas; the partnership has extended beyond the statutory partners to support and assist in terms of assets, resources and expertise. For example, the police lead on communications as well as

anti-social behaviour and criminality. Barod and Womens Aid take a multiagency approach to tackling Violence and substance misuse.

Public service hubs are being developed to co-locate and co-produce public services to ensure they are accessible in one place and develop a common language, ensuring that every contact counts and that multiple queries are dealt with in one place at first point of contact.

## The Way We Work - Governance

### The Sustainable Development Principle

Swansea PSB is committed to acting in a manner which seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We do this by ensuring every decision we make or action we take considers the sustainable development principle's five ways of working.



**Long term:** The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.



**Prevention:** How to act to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.



**Integration:** Considering how public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.



**Collaboration:** Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of that body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives.



**Involvement:** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body services.

### ***The National Well-being Goals***

We aim to make our actions deliver as much value as possible by ensuring we look for multiple outcomes in all we do. By ensuring we think about each of the national Well-being Goals below we maximise our contribution to the Wales We Want.

Goal	Description of the Goal
<b>A prosperous Wales</b>	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including action on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
<b>A resilient Wales</b>	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
<b>A healthier Wales</b>	A society in which people's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
<b>A more equal Wales</b>	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
<b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b>	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b>	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b>	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

## Our Commitments

In addition, all Swansea PSB Partners have signed up to a set of commitments. These commitments are below and go beyond the legal duties that the different organisations have and are reviewed taking account of advice from Wales' Commissioners.

## Healthy City Status

Swansea is part of the Healthy Cities network promoting good health and addressing health inequality in our communities.

## **Swansea as a Human Rights City**

Swansea Public Services Board supports the development of a Human Rights City approach in Swansea.

## **Children and Young People's Rights (UNCRC)**

The Board is committed to making sure that services have a positive effect on children and young people in Swansea and have embedded the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into the way we set our policies.

## **First 1000 Days Collaborative**

Swansea Public Services Board has joined the First 1000 Days collaborative, which supports families throughout pregnancy and the first two years of life.

## **Age Friendly Cities and Communities**

The Board endorses the principles and actions set out in the Dublin Declaration on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe.

## **Good Practice in Public Engagement**

The Board endorses the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales and will follow them in all engagement and consultation. The Board is committed to engaging people who are interested in improving local well-being in the development of both the Well-being Assessment and the Well-being Plan and will strive to reflect the diversity of the population when doing so.

## **Participation of Children and Young People**

The Board is committed to the principles of the National Standards for Children and Young People's Participation.

## **Armed Forces Community Covenant**

The Board is committed to the Armed Forces Community Covenant and to nurturing understanding and awareness amongst the public of the issues affecting the armed forces community.

## **Convention on Biological Diversity**

The Board is committed to delivering the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity as set out in the adopted Swansea Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005.

## **One Public Sector**

The Board is committed to a culture that cuts across organisational boundaries and sectors. Where everyone involved in the delivery of public services in Wales is part of this common endeavour, sharing common values and working together for the benefit of the people of Wales

### **How we work**

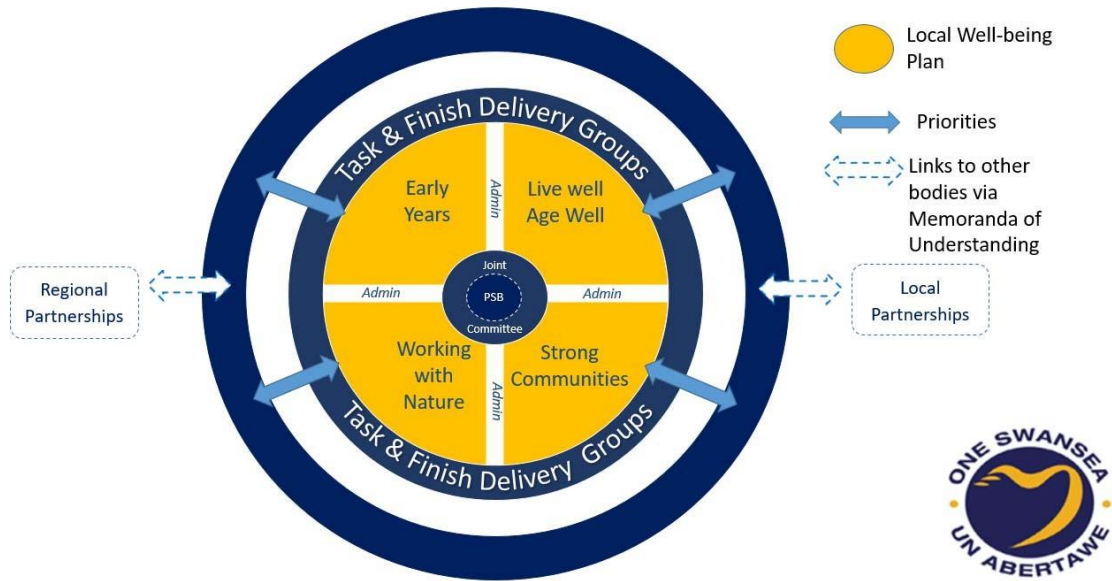
The limitations of the previous PSB governance structure were recognised and a Governance Review was undertaken to address this. The Review also took on board advice from the Future Generations Commissioner and a new Governance structure was put in place. The new Governance arrangements embraces sustainable ways of working and places the delivery of the Well-being Objectives at the heart of what the PSB is trying to do to make a difference.

The key principle of the review was that the work of the PSB is a core part rather than an addition to the existing work of its members. All levels of organisational staff should see PSB priorities as the day job not an additional responsibility.

The Statutory PSB members along with the wider Core Group proposed that the PSB benefit from a streamlined governance process with the a new focus on delivery objectives as the driver of the PSB. This provides an opportunity to focus the PSB on making a difference by shifting the emphasis to the Objective Delivery Groups. Involvement can be more meaningful and involve a wider range of partners through the creation of a Partnership Forum. Task and finish groups were formed in response to need and draw on the skills and expertise of the Partnership Forum organisations.

Decision making governance is expedited at a strategic level via a Joint Committee consisting of the PSB Statutory members and invited participants. This group provides advocacy and support at a strategic level for issues raised by PSB partners through the Objective delivery groups each of which are co-ordinated and facilitated by a statutory member. The PSB Joint Committee meetings are held bi-monthly and the Partnership Forums take place every 6 months.

However, it is unfortunate that we have been unable to hold our Partnership Forums and other aspects of the PSB operations have also been affected by COVID-19. We are actively looking to seek alternative ways of engaging with other partners/ organisations.



Whilst Swansea PSB has consciously sought to improve how we involve “usual suspects” there is still scope to include a wider stakeholder audience and opportunities to further involve the public more regularly moving forward.

Regional Working takes place via joint meetings between Swansea and Neath Port Talbot PSBs. Focus has been on Substance misuse/ drug related deaths/ county lines which is still being progressed, reviewed and monitored.



## Swansea's Local Well-being

This chapter of the report summarises the latest situation in Swansea and recent local trends in a selection of National Indicators (Welsh Government) and other measures, using the latest published statistics.

Most of the analysis below relates to a time period before the COVID-19 pandemic and initial national lockdown (March 2020), an inevitable result of the processes and systems for statistical data collection and associated time lags.

The same measures included in the previous Annual Report are highlighted in the analysis below:

- The **healthy life expectancy gap** between the most and least deprived areas in Swansea (2010-14) was 21.9 years for males (Wales 18.7) and 16.3 years for females (Wales 18.2). Since 2005-09, the gaps have slightly reduced for males in Swansea (from 22.4 years), but increased for females (from 15.0). There have been no recent updates to the 2010-14 data at a local level. *(National Indicator 2)*
- 10.8% of adults in Swansea reported fewer than two (of the five) healthy **lifestyle behaviours** (Wales 10.0%) (National Survey for Wales data, 2018-20). Swansea is currently worse than the Welsh average for smoking and drinking (above guidelines), but better than the Welsh average on healthy weight. Measures of eating fruit and vegetables and physical activity are equal for Swansea and Wales. *(NI 3)*
- **Air quality** in Swansea, as measured by annual average levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) pollution exposure, has continued to improve; falling from 13.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2009 to 9.9 in 2019 (modelled data – pollutants per cubic metre of air). However, average NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in Wales are lower (9.2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2019). *(NI 4)*
- In 2019-20, an estimated 14.1% of people aged 16+ living in households in Swansea live in **material deprivation** (that is, cannot afford particular goods and activities that are typical in society at a given point in time); above the Wales average (12.9%) but decreasing from 20.6% in 2017-18. However these are (national) survey-based estimates so short-term changes at a local level should be viewed with caution. *(NI 19)*
- 82.0% of adults in Swansea were moderately or very satisfied with their jobs in 2019-20 (Wales 82.1%), falling from 85.2% in 2017-18. Employed respondents are asked to rate their **job satisfaction** on a scale from 0 to 10, and this includes those that answered 6 or above. *(NI 20)*
- In 2018-19, 76% of adults in Swansea **felt safe** (Wales 71%). Respondents were asked how safe they felt after dark at home, walking in the local area, and travelling (on a five point scale). Those that responded either 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' to all three questions were coded by the National Survey as 'feeling safe'. The Swansea figure has increased since the question was last asked in the

survey (2016-17: 66%). This topic wasn't included in the 2019-20 survey results. (NI 25)

- In the National Survey 2018-19, 46.6% of people aged 16+ in Swansea agreed with all three statements related to **community cohesion** (Wales 52.2%): people agreeing that they belong to the area; people from different backgrounds get on well together; people treat each other with respect. The Swansea figures for the individual statements were 66%, 75% and 75% respectively, with the Swansea figure for 'belonging' the furthest below the Wales average (72%). Again, this topic wasn't included in the 2019-20 outputs. (NI 27)
- **Volunteering** is undertaken by 28.5% of people aged 16+ in Swansea in 2019-20 (slightly below the Wales average of 26.1%). These figures reflect people who stated that they currently (at time of survey) give their time for free (formally and informally) to help a list of clubs or organisations. As with other National Survey indicators included here (for 2019-20), this figure predates the coronavirus pandemic. (NI 28)
- The National Survey also includes a set of six questions to assess levels of **loneliness**, calculated using the De Jong Gierveld loneliness scale. Based on these, 17.0% of people aged 16+ in Swansea (15.4% in Wales) were found to be lonely in 2019-20; slightly lower than in 2016-17 (19.0% in Swansea, 17.3% in Wales). (NI 30)
- The number of households for whom **homelessness** was successfully prevented for at least 6 months, as a rate per 10,000 households, is also a National Indicator. During 2018-19 the rate for Swansea was 81.8 per 10,000 households, up from 73.7 in 2017-18 (Wales: 54.0 in 2018-19; 44.9 in 2017-18). In October 2018, there were an estimated 37 rough sleepers in Swansea, within a Wales total of 405. This data was not collected for 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (NI 34)
- In terms of **child obesity**, 74.8% of children in reception year (aged 4 to 5) were of healthy weight in 2017-18, above the equivalent Wales rate (73.6%). The Swansea figure has fluctuated but remained relatively constant overall since 2012-13 (74.2%). There have been no recent updates to this data. (*Thriving Places 2020 measure*)
- Welsh Government has recently changed the reporting of their **education Key Stage 4** indicators, and currently use a set of interim performance measures. In 2018-19, the percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 inclusive in Swansea (equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A\*-C including English/Welsh or Mathematics), at 57.3%, is higher than the Welsh average of 53.8%. (*Thriving Places 2020 measure*)

During the last year there have been a number of publication updates related to the local measurement of well-being in Wales:

- In December 2020, Welsh Government published their latest annual *Well-being of Wales* report. As part of this release, some of the 46 National Indicators were also updated (where possible). However, many of the national indicators are

based on official data sets which don't yet cover the period of the pandemic, or come from surveys or collections that were paused during this period.

- In July 2020, as part of their on-going Measuring National Well-being (MNW) programme, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published *Personal Well-being in the UK, 2019-20* – containing estimates of life satisfaction, feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety from UK to local authority level, using data from ONS' Annual Population Survey. On all four measures, Swansea mean scores are slightly worse than the Wales and UK averages for 2019-20.
- Data Cymru's *Thriving Places Wales* tool measures the relative prevalence of conditions for well-being and quality of life at a local authority level in Wales, using a wide range of indicators (currently 55) across three 'domains' of well-being. In the 2020 index, Swansea has better conditions for well-being than the Wales average in the 'Sustainability' and 'Equality' domains, but is worse than the Wales average in the 'Local Conditions' domain. Publication of the next version is scheduled for summer 2021.

Work is now underway on Swansea's next Assessment of Local Well-being, which is to be completed and published by the Board by May 2022 in line with legislative requirements. The document will provide an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Swansea and be published one year before the next local Well-being Plan in May 2023.

# Progress towards Our Local Well-being Objectives

## Early Years



To ensure that children have the best start in life to be the best that they can be.

**Lead** – This work is co-ordinated by the Early Years Steering Group and led by Swansea University Health Board.

### Partners/ Stakeholders Involved

Early Years Partnership	Early Years Steering Group	Swansea Council- Education	Flying Start Link Teachers/Foundation Phase Strategic Lead
Public Health Wales	Early Intervention Services	Childcare sector/ Family Information Service	Swansea Bay University Health Board
Primary Care Early Years Pilot	Healthy Pre School Scheme	Active Young People Team	Jig-So service
Early Years Progression Officer	Early Learning and Language Development Team	Health Visiting	University Wales Trinity Saint David
Families, Community groups	Flying Start childcare settings	Midwifery	

## Overview of work within Early Years

As set out in the National Strategy Prosperity for All, we want:

“Children from all backgrounds to have the best start in life. Our aim is that everyone will have the opportunity to reach their full potential and maximise their chances of leading a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling adulthood, enabling them to participate fully in communities, the workplace, and contribute to the future economic success of Wales.”

The past year has seen our Early Years Integration Transformation - Pathfinder collaborative across Swansea Bay develop, with pilot projects beginning. The projects will test the early years system and help us to understand how we can deliver our vision that:

Health, Learning, Childcare, Play, and Family Support services are integrated and provide a seamless pathway that is proportionate to the needs of children, young people and families, from conception until age 7.

Our vision is underpinned by the guiding principles of a healthier, more resilient, and equal Wales. In order to continue to successfully examine the Early Years System, our pilot projects will continue to work in a sustainable, preventative and collaborative way. The key to understanding and interpreting that data from our pilot projects is how they are managing to assist the examination of the early years landscape and supporting long term sustainable and meaningful transformation towards our vision of a seamless pathway proportionate to the needs of all.

Our mapping exercise and subsequent public engagement has identified a number of areas across the early years system that we are keen to explore over the coming year. The ongoing evaluation into our testing has highlighted the need for a thematic approach.

These themes have been highlighted as:

1. Improving access to Speech, Language and Communication Support.
2. Family Support.
3. Early Years Nutrition.
4. Additional Learning Needs and Occupational Therapy support.
5. Transition through Health Services.
6. Physical Literacy.

There is a growing body of evidence on the damaging impact of COVID lockdowns on babies and young children.

Recent research indicated increased concerns amongst new parents about their mental health, including increased anxiety and ability to cope – and that families already facing disadvantage have been worst affected.

There is hidden Harm affecting children aged 0-2 in particular, including reduced access to services, health and developmental risks associated with increased time indoors, restricted social interaction and increased likelihoods of exposure to traumatic experiences and material deprivation.

*“We have known for some time just how important the first 1,000 days are for the rest of a person’s life. This period has a long-lasting impact on children’s intellectual, emotional and social development, affecting educational outcomes, future relationships and opportunities and longer-term physical and mental health. Of course, rich and positive experiences also create immediate benefits for children, especially for their wellbeing. Much attention has been given to the experiences of school-age children during Covid. But we cannot afford to overlook the needs of our youngest children if we are to avoid lengthening the time it takes for us to deal with the impact of the pandemic.”*

Children in Wales

*“Babies born during the pandemic have been reliant on care from parents that are more likely to be experiencing heightened stress, social isolation and mental health problems. But many new parents are not receiving the mental health support they need because there are gaps in these vital services in Wales. Urgent action is needed to help families recover by ensuring that perinatal mental health support is available for every family no matter where they live. Without this there is a real concern that the pandemic will have a detrimental impact on the mental health and wellbeing of parents and babies that is severe and long-lasting.”*

NSPCC Cymru/Wales

*“There has rightly been a lot of attention given to getting children back to school. Whilst this is important, we must not overlook the vital role that the home environment plays in shaping a child’s earliest development. And whilst the last eleven months have been challenging for many, we must not forget that some families have had positive experiences of being together during lockdown. We need to learn from all these experiences if we are to find creative solutions that help us build a better future for the next generation.”*

Home Start Cymru

**Our challenge – to reflect on the work undertaken to date and work co-productively to explore and deliver on the ambition, ensuring the child is always at the centre.**

Integral to this process is adherence to the Plan, Do, Check, Review approach to achieve a balance between systems and behavioural aspects.



## What work have we undertaken?

### Early Years Integration Transformation – Pathfinder (EYITP)

The EYITP is a Welsh Government programme aiming to “build on our current early years programmes and create a more joined-up, responsive system that puts the unique needs of each child at its heart” (Prosperity for All – The National Strategy, Welsh Government). The focus of Pathfinder is the co-ordination of services for all children in their early years from conception to age 7.

The completion of our mapping exercise highlighted key themes to explore. These were:

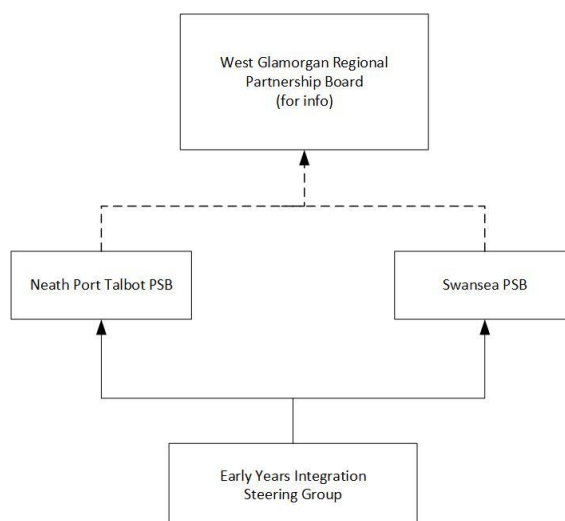
- 1) Transitions between services.
- 2) Workforce Development.
- 3) Equity of service.
- 4) Engaging with seldom heard family voices.
- 5) Systems and Process.
- 6) Design of the pathfinder approach.

The last year has seen a focus on projects designed to test the early years system through the following projects.

We have explored:

- 1) A Co-ordinated Early Years Support System in the Llŵchwr GP Cluster area.
- 2) Improving access to Speech, Language and Communication Support, through the use of the Wellcomm toolkit.
- 3) Support continued workforce development of Health Visitors with New born Behaviour Observation training, and the wider Early Years workforce with training to support a great understanding of Physical Literacy through the Successful Kinaesthetic Intervention for Pre School training.
- 4) Supporting the UNICEF baby friendly Initiative, following public consultation with over 300 new mums in Swansea & Neath Port Talbot around Breastfeeding; we have supported the Breast Feeding Co-ordinator with programmes designed to help mums with infant feeding.

Learning from the year one evaluation has informed our direction of travel as we move forward. The governance of the EYITP is set out below:



### **Repurposing of the Childcare offer**

During Spring 2020 Welsh Government repurposed the existing Childcare Offer Grant for a timed period, which saw Local Authority’s in Wales developing and implementing a specific COVID response Childcare Assistance Scheme (CCAS). The CCAS grant enabled access to registered childcare provision predominantly for pre-school aged children of key workers, as well as pre-school aged children identified by Social Services as vulnerable.

During the period CCAS was available, the funding supported a total of 750 children, of which 8.4% (n=63) were under the vulnerable category to attend Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registered pre-school childcare provision in Swansea.

In addressing the ever evolving nature of Early Years it has once again become necessary to address the Flying Start Childcare Assistance Scheme and transition out of the “pilot” phase to the Early Years Childcare Assistance Programme (EYCA). The EYCA Programme will be available for children and young people aged 0-16 for 52 weeks of the year and will create an application process for childcare whether this be as part of the current Assisted Places Scheme, Flying Start Outreach Programme and also enable dovetailing to the 30 hour Childcare Offer.

### **The Child Development fund**

The Child Development Fund is a grant awarded to Local Authorities across Wales to support with the initial impact of Covid on early child development. The grant enabled us to support the development of specific projects that would support across 6 key work streams:

- 1) Pre Diagnosis Intervention targeted to need



- 2) Support for the workforce in meeting the needs of children experiencing delay due to Covid-19 lockdown
- 3) Additional training for parents, activity bags and support packs & additional resources to support delivery
- 4) Providing additional resource to third sector projects to support children and families due to increased demand and emerging need inducing the development of gross and fine motor skills, social and personal development through access to play, sport and leisure activities
- 5) Intensive Early Years Support within Schools
- 6) Promoting engagement, bonding and attachment

The Child Development fund links with the Early Years Integration Transformation – Pathfinder work and some of the projects are being supported via this grant as we move into 2021/22 to ensure that the learning from the support is evaluated and understood in the context of transformation. The People Commissioning group has oversight of the projects and all outcomes are supporting our PSB objective to ‘Give every Child the Best Start in Life’.

### **Early Years Additional Learning Needs Support and Inclusion Team**

The Additional Learning Needs Educational Tribunal for Wales Act will be implemented on a three year rolling program from September 2021. One key purpose of the Act is to ensure children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) receive early, timely and effective identification and interventions. In order to promote this key purpose Swansea Council’s Early Years ALN Support and Inclusion Team have been working extremely hard to provide an equitable service across the early years landscape. Our aim is to provide advice, support and strategies to help those in the childcare sector to create inclusive environments and support children within their care who have ALN, learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Swansea Council’s Early Years ALN Support and Inclusion Team have worked with colleagues within the Early Years Programme Team in order to amalgamate referral processes to ensure that those who seek support all have access to the same level of service. This is the first step in providing our early years population with equal opportunities. Moving forward the process will align further to ensure the best possible outcomes are made placing the child at the heart of all decisions.

### **Early Help Hubs/Jigso**

There is a continuation of funding to support the Early Help Hubs and Jigso as part of a multiagency collaborative approach.

### **Intentions for the Future**

Key areas for us to focus on in 2021 are:

1. Undertaking an Early Years Integration Transformation Programme – Pathfinder - System Thinking (Vanguard) Review

2. Development of Thematic Early Years groups to examine the early years system across Swansea & NPT in conjunction with SBUHB
3. Understanding the data from the Pathfinder Speech and Language project, in order to help understand how we can ensure that all children across Swansea are supported with their speech and language development
4. Continued alignment of Early Years ALN panels, and implementation of the ALN ACT 2021. Understanding and aligning services following the Acts implementation in September 2021
5. Continuation of the Early Years & Childcare ALN Inclusion and Support Officer and understanding the impact this role will have
6. Understanding the learning from the continuation of the Child Development Fund. Ensuring the approach is consistent with the identified work streams
7. Understanding the appropriate Covid recovery support needed
8. Exploring an examination of transition through Health Services by supporting the creation of a "Wellbeing Passport" with Midwifery and Health Visiting partners
9. Continue Development of the Early Years Childcare Assistance Scheme

We have also included examples of some of the excellent projects delivered over the past 12 months by Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and partners on early years work.

### **Penderi Primary Care Early Years Worker**

Following a presentation to the Penderi Cluster Network about Early Years Developments in Swansea and priorities under the Healthy City programme, a range of partner agencies worked closely together facilitated by the Health Board, to develop an exciting new role to be developed for the Penderi Cluster.

### **Transitional Care Unit – Singleton Hospital**

Our newly refurbished Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has been designed to be compliant with latest healthcare standards in the UK and is equipped with modern equipment and advanced monitoring technologies required to care for the sickest and the most vulnerable babies to a very high standard.

The NICU in Singleton Hospital, Swansea is the only unit for South West Wales. This new facility allows our staff to deliver excellent specialist care for the sickest babies and support their families in a state of the art built environment, fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The provision of this facility at Singleton Hospital has been hugely beneficial. In addition to serving local population in the Swansea area, we routinely receive referrals for the most critically ill neonatal babies from the rest of the South West Wales region including Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. During busy periods we often accept referrals from other parts of Wales or England.

During the project, families were pro-actively involved in the design of how the unit would look. A portfolio of artwork was undertaken in collaboration with families which demonstrates how the artwork for the unit was developed from design concept with them right through to installation.



## Sale of Fairfield



Selling land and property allows the Health Board to create a more efficient estate. Income received generates vital capital to rebuild our infrastructure so that we can meet modern standards of service delivery that enables excellent patient care.

The sale of its most recent property 'Fairfield'- shows how the Health Board utilised a whole organisational approach to apply the sustainable development principle to ensure that estates are sold in-line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The evaluation of tenders received was based upon how they addressed the WBFGA Goals and how the tenders aligned themselves to the Health Board's three wellbeing objectives.

Taking into consideration all the bids received and following discussions with the Health Board, the evaluation team were able to recommend Kids Cancer Charity, a national children's cancer charity, whose headquarters are based in Swansea were the successful bidder.

The charity currently provide a range of services to improve the quality of life for UK children and teenagers diagnosed with cancer. The diagnosis of a child with cancer brings deep distress to the family as a whole, and the charity therefore provides practical and emotional support to the affected child, siblings, and their parents.

Fairfield would offer them a 'fit for purpose' facility, with added benefits of ramps, wheelchair access, indoor and outdoor options'. These are provisions that was not currently available to them within their existing premises.

The WBFGA has demonstrated that there is a 'bigger picture' and that disposing of properties could deliver wider societal benefits aside from the immediate financial benefit to the Health Board.

## Live Well, Age Well



To make Swansea a great place to live well and age well.

**Lead** – This work is co-ordinated by the Live Well, Age Well working group and led by Swansea Council.

### Partners/ Stakeholders Involved

Swansea Bay University Health Board	Citizens within the Ageing Well Network	Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board	Swansea Council	Housing Associations
Swansea University	South Wales Police	Third Sector and Voluntary Sector

The original areas of focus within the PSB “Live Well, Age Well” Objective remain unchanged and will be reviewed as part of the new well-being assessment:

- **Culture Change** - To start a debate across generations about what it means to live and age well and develop a campaign based on the feedback
- **Innovative approaches to health and social care** – Supporting dementia Friendly Communities and maximising existing approaches and exploring evidence-based approaches to end of life care
- **Community based approaches** – Exploring a range of initiatives to tackle social isolation and build personal resilience across PSB and voluntary sector
- **Innovative housing and technology** – To explore options for people with additional care needs that help them remain independent at home.
- **Making every contact count** – The development and sharing of joint messages and resources that support people remain safe and independent in their homes.

## **Overview of work within Live Well, Age Well Objective:**

Supporting people's rights throughout COVID 19 has never been so important. Evidence demonstrates how the pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and impacted on rights with citizens being pushed into poverty, an observed widening of inequalities and worsening mental health especially for the vulnerable.

Despite the pandemic, which has required adapting how we all live and work and emphasised the importance of even greater partnership working across all sectors in order to support citizens to continue to access essential services and address issues of well-being during an unprecedented period, much progress has been made against many of the 'steps' outlined in the Well-being Plan as demonstrated below.

### **Culture change:**

During the last 12 months, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to explore how in Swansea we can embed a continuous approach to human rights across the life stages, ensuring that all citizens have every opportunity to access and enjoy their rights from the moment they are born, living well and ageing well throughout their life course, particularly in respect of being listened to and heard in decisions that affect them.

As part of plans to support recovery out of COVID, attention has turned to co-producing fit for purpose, inclusive mechanisms to engage citizens of all ages to ensure those who would traditionally be marginalised from civic participation, e.g. those who possess protected characteristics and/or have additional needs, lack confidence, or do not wish to commit to formal elected positions but equally have a right to have their voice heard in decisions, service changes and city plans are included.

To help drive forward cultural change, citizen engagement and participation has continued to be a key feature through mechanisms such as the Big Conversation, Ageing Well Forum, Poverty Truth Commission, Parent Carer Forum and many other community engagement opportunities throughout Swansea.

### **Embedding Human Rights through “The Right Way” Approach:**

Work has begun to map the common themes and differences within National strategy relating to children & young people as well as those citizens 50+ to understand what a “City for all” looks like. This includes taking themes from the Older Person’s Commissioners “Leave No-one Behind” report, National Strategy for an “Ageing Society”, the UNCRC call for evidence, Coronavirus and Me Survey and feedback from citizens to establish a common framework underpinned by Human Rights.

Swansea’s Children’s Rights Scheme, adopted in 2014, has been redeveloped and refreshed, ensuring that it complements the ‘Right Way’, a principled approach that is being embedded nationally. Although not a far leap from the existing Scheme in

Swansea, alignment provides consistency in terms of language and measurement (using the Children Commissioners for Wales matrix), and provides increased opportunity to access resources. A draft plan on a page of the Children and Young People's Rights Scheme has been co-produced in preparation for formal consultation. This plan incorporates National Principles for a Rights Based Approach to Children, and takes account of previous extensive work with children, young people and practitioners on what a new Scheme could look like.

The Welsh Government strategy for an "Ageing Society" also highlights 'The Right Way' principled approach to rights as a framework for embedding human rights in supporting older people in Wales. The potential of a draft Charter for Citizen 50+ has been explored, which could encourage Council departments to pledge to achieve the tangible tasks required to embed right-based practice within this field of work.

Work is also being done to map the 8 domains of an Age Friendly city, the key themes from Leave No-One Behind, the Strategy for an Ageing Society against the 5 principles of The Right Way in an action plan. This would help when reporting our progress on each so we are recognising how fulfilling each maximises opportunities for Citizens 50+ to access and enjoy their rights. It also offers a smart way to bring together many components of what is regarded to successfully drive forward the Ageing Well agenda locally.

## **Participation with Citizens across the Age Range**



### **Listening to Children & Young People:**

In Swansea, meaningful and inclusive opportunities for children and young people to be heard in decisions that affect them is a priority.

Since 2014, the county mechanism to ensure this has been called the Big Conversation, offering opportunities for nearly 10,000 children and young people aged 5-25 years to engage and to be heard.

The Pandemic meant that thought had to be given to how and where we engage with children and young people in this new and unprecedented time of working. Engagement with children, young people, families, practitioners and data was undertaken between April-September 2020 to understand what good involvement may now look like.

In order to effectively take on board the learning, the following areas of focus were identified and actioned:

*Development of fit for purpose infrastructure (including a review and repurpose of the Life Stages Team and redevelopment of a partnership approach to children's rights via the Children's Rights Network):*

The Life Stages Team has been restructured and renamed as the Partnerships and Involvement Team to facilitate and co-ordinate the partnership approaches required to embed rights based practice in areas concerning children and young people and citizens 50+.

The Children's Rights Network has been relaunched and a multi-disciplinary partnership approach to embedding children's rights in Swansea has been refreshed.

*Review and refresh of Swansea's Children and Young People's Rights Scheme, including SMART and robust methods for measuring and evidencing its impact on the lives of children;*

A draft Scheme has been co-produced and will undergo a period of further consultation during Jun-August 21.

*Further development of fit for purpose, meaningful and inclusive mechanisms that engage children and young people aged 0-18 in decisions that affect them:*

Evidence showed that children and young people in Swansea and across Wales/UK who are already considered vulnerable and sometimes harder to engage, have experienced further marginalisation during lockdown periods. Therefore, mechanisms developed need to be inclusive, accessible and flexible to enable all children and young people to engage and relay their own personal experiences. Co-production of new and fit for purpose mechanisms for listening to children are currently being worked on with a plan to launch in Autumn 2021.

It has been important to recognise that forum mechanisms form only one part of listening. The embedding of children's human rights as part of our commitment to the UNCRC requires a partnership approach to engagement and involvement. The effort of departments to adapt and change to continue to work with children and young people has been significant and effective.

### **Swansea Neath Port Talbot Junior Safeguarding Board: Keeping Connecting, Staying Safe:**

The SNPT Junior Safeguarding Board worked hard during National Safeguarding Week (16th- 20th November 2020) to promote every child's right to be safe, under the wider Safeguarding Board banner of 'Keeping Connected, Staying Safe'.

This has been a particularly pertinent theme during lockdown where feelings of isolation and disconnect have been voiced by children and adults alike. Children and young people across the region addressed this theme in the following ways:

- Highlighting the need for workshops for foster carers on discussing sensitive topics that can foster connectedness between carer and young person.



- Combatting isolation and engagement in activities that promote connectedness with others; E.g. Children, young people and senior decision-makers including Head of Child and Family Services and the Children’s Commissioner took part in regional ‘Pitchin, in the Kitchen’ events to work together, connect, build relationships and have fun.
- Raising awareness of safeguarding in sport.
- Promoting children’s right to be safe and to participate and be connected in society.
- Promoting how and where children and young people can contact services if they feel they are not safe or need support.

### **UNCRC Article 31– Right to Rest, Leisure & Play**

Council Services & organisations with remit for the provision of play & leisure were busy during lockdown promoting and supporting children’s right to play and relax. Work has included:

- Information and advice, provision of links to play ideas, and the promotion of play through social media;
- Distribution play bags to vulnerable families;
- Funding support to partners to ensure covid safe playful opportunities;
- 121 socially distanced outdoor family play sessions;
- Partnership working to advise on the safe opening of play spaces and parks;
- Piloting 4 outdoor activity trails to enable safe opportunities for play and physical literacy in the community;

Successfully hosting a virtual National Play Day where organisations such as Circus Eruption, Menter Iaith, Swansea Museum, Faith in Families Family Centres- the Children’s Rights Team, the Best Start Team and early years providers offered online and digital opportunities for children and their families to get involved in play opportunities through the day and to take away ideas for play through lockdown.

In Swansea, meaningful and inclusive opportunities for **Citizen 50+** to be heard in decisions that affect them remains a priority. Feedback from previous community sessions with citizens 50+ (e.g. UK Day of Older Persons”) saw the development of an “Ageing Well” forum and “Ageing Well Information Network”, which both aim to encourage the widest possible engagement of citizens 50+ in Swansea.

**Ageing Well Forum:** Prior to the pandemic the “Ageing Well Forum” in Swansea moved around community venues and communities in order to improve accessibility and encourage new participation from local residents and groups relevant to that community, as well as wider attendance by providing transport if required and ensuring that venues are located on good public transport routes.

Ageing Well sessions included refreshments and light lunch along with some entertainment from community groups and schools and were an opportunity to hear guest speakers, participate in workshops and consultations as well as access associated organisations/services invited to attend, depending on the theme. This was done in an attempt to improve access to services and organisations that may be

able to bring about change or address issues experienced by participants.

Topics previously covered within “Ageing Well” sessions and events thus far have been initiated and voted on by community members from a wide range of groups and forums but also individuals who do not wish to join a formal group but wanted to be engaged and participate in sessions and events with topics that impact on their lives. The following “Ageing Well” community sessions and events took place post pandemic and these included Digital Inclusion, Communication, Health and Well Being, Transport/Getting around and Staying Safe along with a number of intergenerational Big Conversations with Children & Young People from both Primary & Secondary Schools.

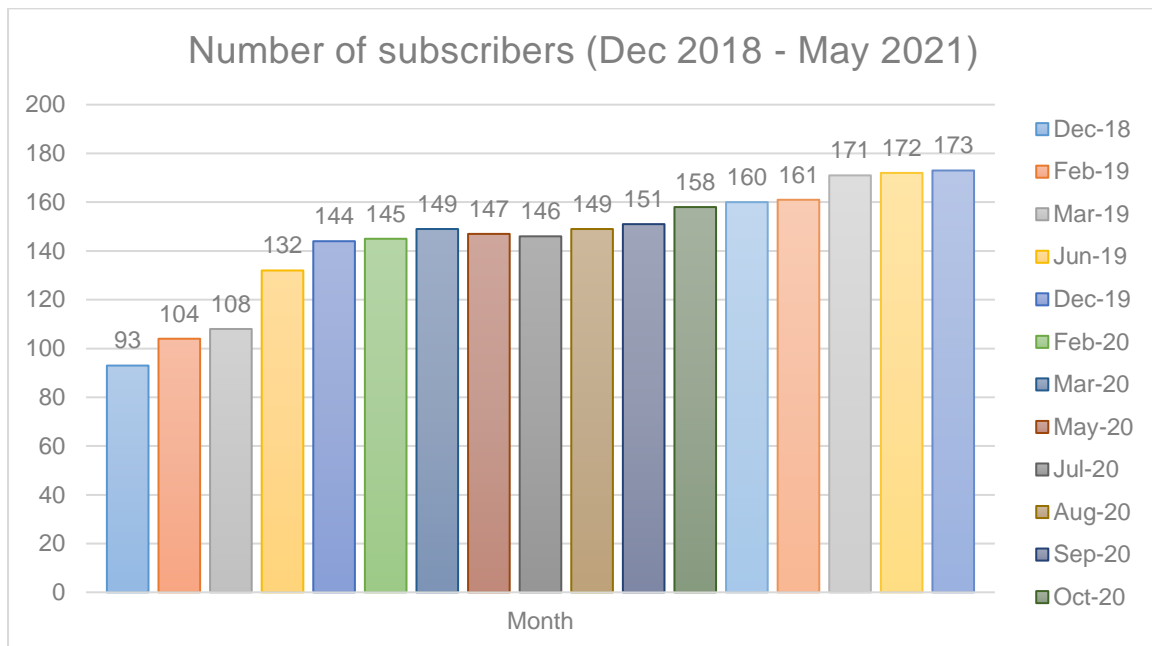
Swansea University’s Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research (CADR) have supported many of the “Ageing Well” forums with a small amount of sponsorship and have added a research context to many of the forums where appropriate. An incredible support for local “Ageing Well” work and a partnership that we intend to grow.

One of the major considerations of engagement of citizens 50+ was the removal of face to face opportunities during the pandemic, which resulted in us focussing attention on information sharing & engagement via our on-line “Ageing Well Information Network”.

**Ageing Well Information Network:** Through the Ageing Well Information Network, Swansea Council’s Partnerships & Involvement Team has been able to provide information to subscribers (Citizens 50+, services and partner organisations etc.) regularly via Newsletters and update emails. The emails are sent out via Mailchimp. Having the mailing list on Mailchimp allows subscribers to access and update their contact information, or unsubscribe if they wish.

173 people are currently subscribers to the Ageing Well Information Network. In the last year subscriber numbers have risen from 93 to 173 (80 people). That is over a 185% rise. Around 60% of all subscribers open their Ageing Well Information Network emails regularly.

At first only Newsletters were sent out via the Network, but in January 2020 the team trialled some Update emails to get useful information out more quickly to subscribers. In March 2020, it was decided that these updates would become more regular; which turned out to be a timely decision as the Coronavirus pandemic and then the first lockdown announced that month. With the Update emails, engagement has remained pretty consistent, with an average of 85 people opening the emails and an average of 19 people clicking on the links they contain.



The Update emails have contained a variety of information, including Coronavirus related information links, information on support services, information on online courses and online activities / groups (including exercise classes) and survey links for consultation opportunities for example.

While the “Ageing Well Information Network” has increased participation of citizens 50+, it is recognised that a gap exists within the current “Ageing Well Forum” in Swansea for dialogue between citizens 50+ and senior change-makers and this will be a focus over the coming months.

Despite a gap in civic participation evidence suggests that much engagement and support continued on a local level throughout the pandemic to protect the rights of older people in Swansea. It enabled the shielding of those vulnerable and allowing for the continued provision of services and additional needs to be met by very local community structures that already existed (e.g. where “Local Area Co-ordination Teams” were in place and volunteering networks established).

A major strength of locally established teams has been the connections and visibility they had within communities in Swansea and the bringing to the fore of many people who were willing to get involved, supporting members of their community and neighbours.

Although engagement work has had to change there has been opportunities for new ways of working and new subjects to be explored. Examples of continued provision of community support include:

- Ageing Well Information Network
- Regional citizen engagement panel with the Older Person’s Commissioner
- Citizens 50+ on recruitment panels
- Local Area Co-ordination

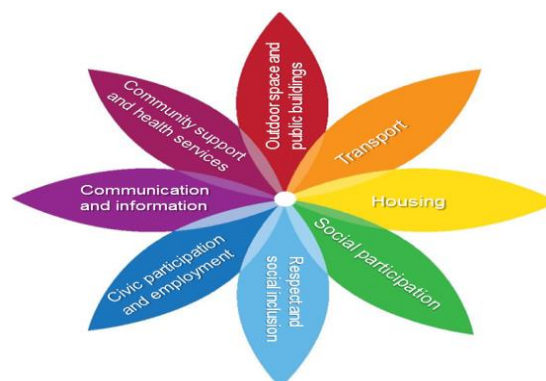
- Lifelong Learning Service (Digital inclusion support, telephone 121 support & Digital Café Initiative)
- Call Centre Hub (A point of contact for community response during COVID)
- Electronic library services, Home deliveries etc

**Older Person’s Partnership & Involvement Officer:** This Officer’s remit and purpose is to embed the UN Principles for Older Persons and ensure effective and inclusive mechanisms are in place to enable the participation and engagement of citizens aged 50+ yrs, in all decisions that affect their lives and ensure their views are heard and listened to.

**Re-establishment of the Ageing Well Steering Group:** The Ageing Well Steering Group was established in 2014 to support the commitment to the 2014-2019 Ageing Well in Wales Programme and was a great success. With the development of the new draft Welsh Governments “Ageing Society Strategy” in March 2021 where all local authorities will be expected to develop a local version and the recommendations within the Older Person’s Commissioners “Leave No-one Behind” report 2021, it has been decided to re-establish the steering group to:

- Support the development and implementation of Swansea’s Strategy for an Ageing Society, progressing actions within an action plan that encompasses WG recommendations, Leave No-one Behind directives, the 8 domains of Age Friendly Cities and The Right Way Approach;
- Take on the role of Ageing Well Champions, promoting greater knowledge and understanding of the UN Principles for the Rights of Older Persons;
- Identify areas of need within the Ageing Well agenda, in terms of workforce development, sharing learning and resources in order to further embed rights within practice.

**World Health Organisations “Age Friendly Cities”:** In November 2020, Swansea’s Public Service Board (PSB) met with the Older Person’s Commissioner where the PSB committed to Swansea working towards “Age Friendly City” status.



Work has begun to explore opportunities to produce a local Swansea “Ageing Well” strategy and action plan using “The Right Way” principled approach to rights and the eight domains within the “Age Friendly City” criteria, as a framework to join up work across the PSB and ensure implementation and measurement of impact is achievable

in order to demonstrate the difference the strategy and action plan has on the day to day lives of citizens 50+.

## **Community based approaches – Exploring a range of initiatives to tackle social isolation and build personal resilience across PSB and voluntary sector**

### **Local Area Co-ordination Team (LAC Team):**

Local Area Coordination believes that ‘all people live in welcoming communities that provide friendship, mutual support, equity and opportunities for everyone’. The LAC Team can be introduced to anyone, for any reason. The team will walk alongside people as they identify and move towards their version of a good life. The LAC Team are embedded in communities as a single, accessible point of contact and therefore are in a position to listen to people in the community if they identify gaps or express an interest in establishing a community resource.

Over the past year and throughout the pandemic a major strength of the Local Area Co-ordination Team proved to be the connections and visibility developed in communities in Swansea. Ordinarily the team would foster relationships within the community, as well as with key community champions, the statutory sector, the business sector and the third sector.

Once lockdown was being talked about, the LAC Team begun communicating with key people who could provide support to those that may end up struggling in the pandemic. What developed was a network of street champions/ buddies, who fielded requests for help and support. (e.g. shopping support, food parcel drop offs, prescription pick-ups or welfare calls).

Whilst Covid-19 has seen the suspension or closure of many community groups or activities, we are starting to see some of them re-emerge and adapt. Outdoor activities will hopefully flourish in the coming months with the good weather, but it will be vital to provide support for groups to meet indoors again, with confidence and safety.

During lockdown, most of the communication with people had been online or over the phone with outdoor, distanced, visits only when essential. This had sometimes impacted ability to build long term relationships with people. But, working creatively and without time limits much of this has been overcome.

The pandemic brought to the fore many people who were willing to get involved, supporting neighbours. This has led to continued provision of community support, with, for example, meals continuing to be delivered weekly to people who may be isolated in one area of Swansea and discussions about establishing a community café elsewhere.

On an individual level, we are in a position to give people the time they need to talk and, in turn, identify what is important to them, what their strengths are, what they would like to do and achieve in their lives and then be there with the skills and the links to help them put this into practise.

**Tackling Poverty:** The Tackling Poverty Strategy Development Team have been working with partners to develop a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, which will be the first Poverty Truth Commission in Wales. A Poverty Truth Commission is a unique and powerful way of placing those affected by poverty at the heart of decision making about poverty. The Commission will be made up of a mix of Community Commissioners, with lived experience of poverty and key decision makers, known as Civic/Business Commissioners. The Commission will identify key issues that it will work on. The Facilitation Team has been recruited and is hosted by SCVS (Swansea Council for Voluntary Service) and commissioner recruitment is currently underway.

During last year, **the Lifelong Learning Service** supported almost 2,800 learners offering a range of courses to improve health and wellbeing and increase skills and job prospects. The Lifelong Learning Service worked tirelessly to maintain contact with all learners during the pandemic, particularly the most vulnerable. They offered one-to-one telephone support, doorstep deliveries of equipment and improving digital skills to enable learners to take part online, including offering daily digital support sessions. All courses were moved to online, with support available to get online if needed and for the majority of the year were provided free of charge. They ranged from family learning and essential skills such as maths and English to computer skills, cookery and yoga.

The **Welfare Rights Team** were instrumental in the implementation of a Pension Credit Take-Up Campaign. It is estimated that 2 out of 5 people are not claiming the Pension Credit they are entitled to and are missing out on an average of £39 per week. Being eligible for Pension Credit has a knock-on effect for eligibility for other help such as a free TV licence, NHS costs and Council Tax reduction. The Welfare Rights team is working in partnership with Citizens Advice, Age Cymru, Care & Repair and Neath Port Talbot Council to promote the take-up of Pension Credit, including offering a free phone number for people to ring for advice and support.

The **Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus Team** have been a part of the Digital Communities Wales ICT loan scheme providing members of the community with Chromebooks in order to improve their access to job opportunities. This year, the teams have helped 197 people into work and 490 people enrolled on the programmes. In response to Covid19, some staff were re-allocated to crisis response roles such as Local Area Coordination.

Both the Communities for Work teams and Swansea Working helped coordinate the deliveries of free school meals, plus delivered food parcels and resources for digitally excluded clients. Swansea Working has supported programmes and initiatives aimed at vulnerable groups such as prison leavers, those on probation and care leavers. The team have also signposted to mental health support and followed this up with residents to check on their wellbeing. Bespoke training packages have been provided with the offer of related work experience with contractors and employers in Swansea.

The Tackling Poverty Service and its partner Swansea Council for Voluntary Service have rolled out the Community Calling campaign in Swansea in partnership with

Hubbub and O2. The project will see around 700 donated phones distributed to people who are digitally excluded in Swansea with O2 providing 12 months of free data and unlimited calls and texts. So far, around 150 residents in Swansea have benefitted with people saying it has made a huge difference in reducing isolation. Phones have been requested for individuals by referral organisations for all sorts of reasons including; staying connected with friends and support services, help to look for jobs to get back into work, access to English language courses online, accessing services such as online banking and health appointments, contacting family abroad to feel less isolated and help to study online.

The Tackling Poverty Service were able to offer over £200,000 in grants for Men's Sheds, Food Poverty and Period Dignity in Communities. Almost £32,000 is supporting 9 new or existing Men's Sheds in Swansea to enable them to provide community spaces where people from all backgrounds can meet, chat and take part in activities to help reduce loneliness and isolation. 41 organisations were awarded a total of £155,000 in order to tackle Food Poverty in Swansea. This money is being used in a variety of ways including creating community gardens, crisis support, training in preparing healthy and nutritious meals on a budget and equipment to help deliver improved services. Almost £17,000 was provided to 19 organisations through the Period Dignity in Communities Grant in order to help combat period poverty. These organisations included food banks, YMCA, Women's Aid, the African Community Centre and STOPP (Swansea Takes on Period Poverty) who have distributed free period products to those who need them. The grant required at least 50% of products purchased to be eco-friendly.

**Sport and Health:** The recent pandemic and resulting restrictions have highlighted how important exercise and use of the outdoors is to communities and in particular the benefits that being active has for mental and physical well-being. There has been a clear uptake in the use of local outdoor spaces for exercise and well-being activities across all age groups with individuals and families reconnecting with their local parks, beaches, and rights of way

The Sport and Health service has had to respond to new ways of working to develop sport and physical activity opportunities across Swansea whilst responding to Government restrictions and guidelines (e.g. offering and sharing online information through social media platforms, delivering virtual activities, supporting communities and families with physical literacy packs to offering face to face activity when alert levels have allowed)

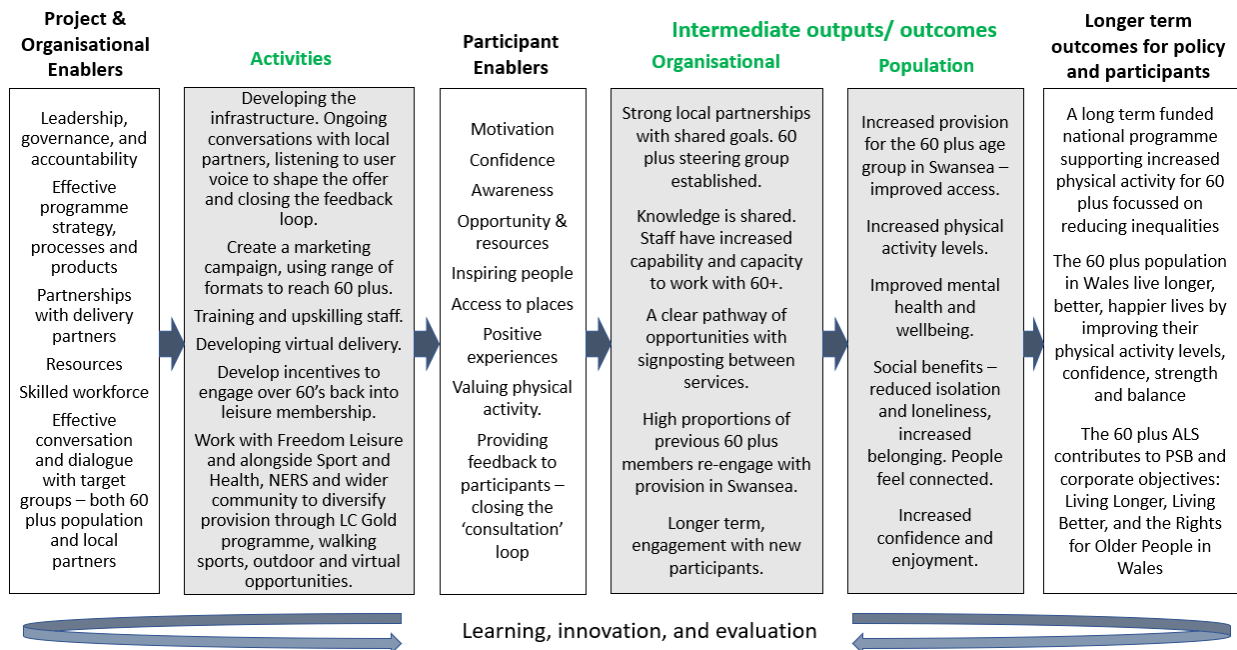
**National Exercise Referral Programme:** The NERS team aim to support the communities of Swansea in becoming lifelong participants of various physical activity opportunities with an emphasis on health and quality of life.

Regular contact was maintained with participants throughout via phone calls and email with 7301 contacts made across the year. Feedback gained during this time has highlighted the importance of this contact. 968 Home exercise programmes were distributed. Virtual delivery started in October 2020 and a total of 458 sessions delivered in 20/21. Virtual sessions included Tai Chi Movements for wellbeing (TMW),

Foodwise, Circuits, Strength and balance, Relaxation, Cardiac circuits, Functional Circuits seated/standing, low impact aerobics. A number of Video's have been produced by Exercise Referral Professional's (ERPs) for clients to access at home including Sit to stand demonstrations, low impact warm-ups and cool downs, and Active walking.

**Active Older Adults:** January 2021 saw the launch of a new Active Older Adult Programme in Swansea. As part of the Welsh Government's Healthy Weight Healthy Wales (HWHW) Action Plan 2020-2022, Sport Wales has invested in Swansea until 2022 to deliver a local leisure offer for over 60s which will encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices. This is a targeted approach to reduce health inequalities and social isolation. The initial phase of the programme has seen consultation work, theory of change development and free virtual physical activity opportunities.

### Model for an effective 60 Plus Offer Swansea 2021-22



### Outdoor Activities Sport and Health

Local, free, or low cost outdoor and walking activities have been delivered across the Sport and health service during 2020-21 from early years to older adults.

Health Walk Leader training has continued apace, with seven online courses since summer 2020 bringing the graduate total to 133. All the new social prescribers and SCVS Our Neighbourhood officers have been trained along with Local Area Co-ordinators across the City. Increasing demand in the community has seen new health walks established in partnerships across Swansea.



## **Library Services**

Library Services managed to offer a service throughout 2020 and into 2021 (have remained online and providing electronic services throughout and 'open physically for 8 months in 2020 and offering click and collect in 2021). and home delivery out of community settings was stepped up where needed.

**Click and Collect and Home Delivery response to covid 19:** Swansea Libraries introduced a click and collect (or phone and pick up) service for all customers. This service also included the offer to anybody who could not leave home to visit the library themselves to have their books or audio books delivered to their home - either by the housebound service or by their local library staff (in a covid safe way). It was available in addition to an increase eBooks and eAudio offering this year. Anecdotally it has been particularly beneficial to older customers.

## **Adult Services**

Over the past year and during the pandemic, the Council delivered emergency food parcels to 500 shielded individuals to help them cope with the pandemic. Social Care Teams took over responsibility for the service from the Welsh Government and 100% of planned deliveries were made in the first week. Support was provided for those who need to shield themselves from the virus in a number of ways and many services have worked together to provide that support. The council took bulk delivery of the food parcels on a Monday and delivered the following day. Officers took on new responsibilities to make this possible - through taking calls, processing information and delivering the parcels.

## **In-House Older People Day Services**

In-house Older People Day Services was suspended due to Covid-19, staff continued to contact all of their clients/carers weekly. Carers found this invaluable as they were a friendly voice and could offer support and intervention when necessary. This reduced crisis as they offered early intervention support and advice and were always at the end of the phone if someone needs a chat.

We are now offering emergency day care services including our respite at home service as many carers are on the verge of a crisis. A panel of professionals considers each case individually to recommend and agree the safest and most appropriate service for each person.

The community transport scheme managed by an In-house Day Service is supporting carers who are shielding by offer shopping, prescription pick-ups etc. This is supporting people to manage at home and is linked to the Local Area Co-ordination to support the community too where there is a big sign up from local residents to help, many carers found this a vital service.

## **Adult Learn Disabilities Day Services**

Learn Disability teams have been supporting dozens of adults with learning disabilities through the coronavirus pandemic. When lockdown began day centres that provided service users with social interaction, activities and projects had to temporarily close and will not reopen until it is safe to do so. Staff have been working in a different way through the Flexible Support Service to keep in touch with users and support them to live independently in their own homes.

They are now providing day service support to those in crisis and working with our day service and respite colleagues who have given their all in accommodating those in dire need of services at this difficult time. They have been flexible in the use of domiciliary care packages, direct payments and Ategi commissioned support service.

Over the year, Flexible Support Service supported more than 40 service users in their homes and a further 20 plus over the phone with wellbeing calls.

The Work Development Service and Glandwr Day Service have been ringing all their parents and carers on a weekly basis. All carers who have asked for additional support have received it and all concerns were promptly followed up.

## **Social Care Income, Finance & Benefits:**

Through new ways of working, especially during a global pandemic, more care has been provided at, or close to home, so that people can stay living at home independently and remain part of the community, achieved from the increased support of our domiciliary care service and community equipment store, some internal services have been flexed and adapted to best meet the most vulnerable.

In response to the Covid pandemic, Social Services re-opened an internal residential care home and an emergency respite facility and adapted many other services which demonstrated the ability to act quickly in a crisis.

The Social Services finance team have administered WG Hardship Fund to assist with addressing additional costs incurred by internal and external services, as a result of the Covid pandemic, this has largely contributed to services having the ability to remain financially sustainable and continue to deliver social care services to older people.

The global pandemic may have highlighted the importance/where improvements are needed in order to reform the Social Care system (included in the White Paper – bringing the NHS and local government together).

## **Domestic Abuse Hub:**

The VAWDASV sector had been forced to move service delivery to remote / online format where possible, which has made some services more accessible to those who may have difficulty in leaving the house. While there are always risk / safety

considerations to be made, this model of working may continue for those whom it is more suited to.

Prior to COVID when staff were able to visit, some older people benefitted from face to face contact, particularly if there are additional issues such as hearing/ poor sight etc. Older people may not feel comfortable using devices such as tablets/ laptops to communicate with professionals so this may also impact the relationship with support worker.

### **Work of the Third Sector**

Following the Covid outbreak, the Third Sector played an important and valuable part in responding to the pandemic in a quick and practical ways. An infographic was produced which clearly demonstrates the work undertaken with partners in combatting the social and well-being issues affecting residents of the city.

The Third Sector Liaison Group requested that SCVS co-ordinate a survey on the effect of COVID, and an infographic was formulated which demonstrated the contribution of the sector as part of the COVID community response.

### **Family Support Network**

In April 2020, a Family Support Network was established in response to the Covid 19 situation with a remit of establishing strong communication between family support services both from the local authority and the third sector. The group has a membership of over 50 organisations and departments. The outcomes of the group included:

- A joined up response to Covid 19 across Swansea.
- Keeping family support services up to date with relevant information and changing guidance.
- Pooling resources where appropriate.
- Identifying emerging needs and how to address.
- Discussing additional grant funding and how best to utilise it.

Once the initial concern was reduced the remit opened up to general family support issues and not specifically Covid.

The group has looked at a number of issues such as delivering services online, contingency plans in case of additional lockdown and demand management looking at referral data. The group is now a permanent meeting which regularly has a large attendance from local authority services and Third Sector partners.

### **Innovative housing and technology – To explore options for people with additional care needs that help them remain independent at home**

A review around this area will be undertaken in 21/22.

## Housing Department

The Sheltered Housing Service has continued to provide a service to all its tenants during the pandemic including:

- Low level support.
- Daily calls as required.
- Attending emergencies if needed.
- Continued to liaise with other services and agencies working in sheltered housing schemes.
- Liaising with family members when needed.
- Ensured tenants are not isolated during lockdown through regular contact.
- Ensured that all communal areas and facilities are cleaned regularly and deep cleaned where necessary.
- Implemented social distancing measures in communal areas to ensure residents are kept safe.

## Cluster Whole System Transformation - A New System of Primary Care

The Health Board's Clinical Services Plan is central to the Health Board's ambition to provide Better Health and Better Care to enable Better Lives for all our communities and this links to wider system of transformation as part of the local and regional health and social care economy.



The key principles are:

- One system of Care
- My Home First
- Right Place, Right Person, Right Time
- Better Together Welsh Government Transformation funding:

The Health Board received £10.6M from Welsh Government to deliver the Cluster Whole Systems Approach (CWSA) across Swansea Bay UHB, one of our key mechanisms for ensuring care is delivered as close to people's homes as possible.

### Swansea Wellness Centre

For this exciting capital project, Swansea Bay University Health Board are collaborating with Coastal Housing Group. Coastal are already instrumental in the regeneration of development of Swansea City Centre delivering capital and inner city rejuvenation projects.

This scheme provides an opportunity for sectors to cut across traditional organisational and service boundaries to work together and make a difference to wider, social and economic influences such as housing, education and employability, which in the long term contributes to the formation of strong, dynamic and creative societies.

This innovative approach provides the Health Board with an excellent opportunity to work in collaboration with Coastal Housing Group in order to deliver this scheme

This scheme lends itself in its entirety to "The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, 5 ways of working.



We want to shift services out of hospital to communities. People should receive care closer to home, or at home, and people will only go into hospital for treatment that cannot be provided safely anywhere else. We hope that this new way of working with partners to deliver health care is the start of the formation of long lasting relationships.



We want services, which support people to stay well, not just treat them when they become ill.



A Wellness Centre will co locate a range of agencies under one roof to provide a range of comprehensive services for the public



Working in collaboration with Housing and other partners to achieve a common goal of health and wellbeing for all.



When treating people we adopt a person centered approach this means that we to find out what is best for them and agree how to make those things happen. We want people to manage their own health, and manage long-term illnesses. We also want to make it easier for people to remain active and independent in their homes and communities

## Conclusion

During 20/21 all partners have worked tirelessly to ensure that our most vulnerable members of the community across the ages were communicated with and supported to continue to thrive despite the challenges of the pandemic.

## Achievements

- Good citizen engagement and involvement within this objective across the age range
- Good Partnership buy in around the objective.
- Huge amount of work around this area is already underway and has continued despite a pandemic.
- Expanded knowledge base through existing involvement out to wider partners.

## Challenges/ Barriers

- Not joining up existing work so that we are able to make sure it adds value and not duplicate business as usual.
- Not having the right people around the table to take the necessary action or make a decision to be able to deliver the outcome.

## Future work of the Live Well, Age Well Objective Group

21/22 will be focussed on recovery from Covid and building back better and stronger together, with an obvious need to review areas of focus within the “Live Well, Age Well Objective” to support further partnership working of revised and remodelled services and initiative that are fit for purpose in what is now seen as a new normal.

**Partners/ Stakeholders involved-** PSB partners, wider partners outside of the PSB, operational leads and citizens across the age ranges.

## Working with Nature



To improve health, enhance biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

**Lead** – This work is coordinated by the Working with Nature Task Group and led by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF).

### Partners / Stakeholders Involved

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	Swansea Environmental Forum	Swansea Council
Swansea University	Swansea Local Nature Partnership	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue
Swansea Bay University Health Board	Low Carbon Swansea Bay network	The Environment Centre
Swansea Community Green Spaces Project	Swansea Tree Forum	Welsh Government
Green Infrastructure Consultancy	Pobl	4theRegion

### Overview of work within Working with Nature

The Working With Nature Task Group brings together representatives from several PSB organisations and others that support actions under the Working with Nature objective. The Task Group was impacted by the onset of the pandemic restrictions but still managed to meet a few times online during 2020/21. Whilst some activities related to the Working with Nature action plan were postponed and delayed, the Covid pandemic had some positive impacts too such as the reduction in travel and car use, greater use of green spaces and engagement with the natural environment, an increase in community growing and more opportunities to engage online with citizens and organisations on environmental issues.

In spring 2020, the Task Group reviewed its priorities in light of Covid and the potential for a Green Recovery. It decided that the priorities outlined in the Working with Nature

action plan were all still relevant and needed little alteration. However, a simplified priority list was agreed, which highlighted seven areas of work including transport and active travel which was listed as a distinct priority, reflecting the prominence this issue was gaining with partners and the opportunity to respond to changes in behaviours and awareness due to the pandemic.

- **Green Infrastructure (GI)** (completing county-wide strategy and ensuring implementation).
- **Tree Planting** (identifying usable land and supporting community-led schemes).
- **Green Spaces** (supporting community use of and involvement with green spaces).
- **Nature Recovery** (producing Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and supporting pollinator projects).
- **Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation** (supporting work on climate plans).
- **Transport and Active Travel** (developing a healthy travel charter and organising a transport forum event).
- **Community Engagement** (developing an online resource of replicable project templates for nature and climate recovery and a programme of public webinars).

Natural Resources made available a funding pot of £25,000 for use to Swansea PSB which was used to support four projects, all of which contributed to the Working with Nature priorities. These projects are outlined in the following table.

<b>Project / Lead / Grant</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Fire breaks on Common Land</b> Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service £8,000	Co-ordinating land management activities including controlled burning and provision of fire breaks in areas of high fire risk.
<b>Supporting Working with Nature in Swansea</b> Swansea Environmental Forum £8,000	A suite of activities including: organising a regional transport conference and an extensive programme of public webinars related to the green recovery; extending the Swansea Community Green Spaces project; and supporting the development of an online resource with practical solutions for climate action and nature recovery.
<b>Crymlyn Circular Walk</b> Natural Resources Wales £1,500	Engaging a consultant to prepare a costed design brief for a new circular walking route for the local community to make full use of the natural resources on their doorstep for health and well-being and quiet enjoyment of nature.
<b>Collaborative Biodiversity Awareness and Action Project</b>	Providing training for PSB partners to support them in meeting their Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and in delivering biodiversity recovery actions



Swansea Council £7,500 (including overall grant admin fee)	both individually within their own estate and collaboratively working with other partners.
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Another notable development with the Task Group was engagement with the Penderi Regeneration Project led by Pobl. The Task Group felt that this has the potential to be an effective exemplar for the implementation of several Working With Nature priorities including green infrastructure, tree planting carbon reduction and community engagement. Representation from Pobl was invited to join the Task Group and some members of the Task Group joined the Penderi Green Infrastructure Forum.

Here are some of the achievements of the Penderi project so far:

- £20,000 funding secured through NRW SOR fund to build a green roof shelter at the Drop-in Centre in Blaenymaes and to run a community engagement programme to connect people to green spaces in their community.
- Green Infrastructure sub group established for Penderi Regeneration Masterplan and Swansea GI principles adopted.
- Connections made through LCSB, WWN group, Wales GI Forum and others.
- Pobl purchased 650m2 of wildflower turf to be laid in Penderi in September.
- Collaborative CRF funding application submitted involving Pobl, Environment Centre, Room2Grow and Swansea Council's Nature Conservation team.
- Misconnections survey completed on the Ravine by NRW.
- Pobl committed £10,000 to GI Mapping as baseline and community engagement tool for GI options.

The following sections take each of the priority areas in turn and outline some of the progress made in the last year.

### **Green Infrastructure (GI)**

Swansea Council and Natural Resources Wales jointly published the green infrastructure strategy *Swansea Central Area: Regenerating Our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife* which is designed to bring more nature into the Swansea Central Area.

The Strategy was adopted by both organisations in February 2021 and follows significant engagement work with stakeholders from the local community and public, private and third sector organisations in Swansea. The strategy's vision is for ***“a city with high quality multifunctional green infrastructure, which delivers resilience, prosperity, nature, health, wellbeing and happiness to the citizens and visitors of Swansea.”***



The vision will be achieved by applying the 5 Principles of Green Infrastructure (GI) as follows:

1. **Multifunctional** - making sure that all GI in the city centre provides as many benefits as possible. For example, it may reduce pollution and/or flooding, offer shelter and/or food for native animals (birds, insects and/or small mammals), provide shade during hot summer days, and create attractive pleasant and/or calming spaces for people to meet, relax and play.
2. **Adapted for climate change** - absorbing water to reduce flooding, providing summer cooling and accommodating wildlife. GI also helps mitigate climate change by capturing and locking up carbon.
3. **Healthy**- helping our physical and mental health by absorbing pollution, providing clean air, clean water, food and space to exercise, socialise and play and space to have contact with nature.
4. **Biodiverse** - supporting a wide variety of native species providing shelter and food and creating green corridors across the city centre linking to existing strategic wildlife corridors.
5. **Smart and Sustainable** - providing solutions, techniques and technologies that are low maintenance and reduce pollution and waste and maximise the use of recycled or sustainably sourced materials.

The vision is supported by strategic objectives. Each strategic objective contributes **directly** to any elements of the vision and **indirectly** to all the elements of the vision:

- Provide a high quality nature rich environment.
- Create a distinctive destination city.
- Ensure the city is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure stakeholder and community involvement in the design and maintenance of GI.
- Create a skilled and knowledgeable local economy to deliver and maintain GI.

Success will be measured via a number of performance indicators and two targets: to double GI by 2030 (from 13% to 26%) and to increase tree canopy cover to 20-25% by 2044.

The strategy is designed to support the Local Development Plan and the application of the Statutory SuDS Standard 2019. It also delivers the Council's duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Environment (Wales) Act 2016 through the Council's Well-being Objective: Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity and, the Swansea Public Service Board's Working with Nature Objective.

The development of the plan has received a lot of interest both nationally and internationally, in particular in the *power of the process* or the way the development of the strategy embedded the ways of working for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act into the design and development of the Strategy:

1. **Looking at the long term** – taking a long term approach to using GI to future proof the city against existing and future challenges i.e. the climate and ecological emergencies, improving residents and visitors health and welling, improving the visitor experience and dwell time, reducing energy costs.
2. **Integrated approach** – working in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure the strategy makes a positive contribution to all the wellbeing goals and the wellbeing objectives of the PSB, Swansea Council and Natural Resources Wales.
3. **Involving people** – early, authentic engagement with the community, local primary schools and public, private and 3rd sector stakeholders throughout the development of the Strategy
4. **Collaboration** – Joint project between Natural Resources Wales and Swansea Council 50 / 50 approach and in partnership with Green Infrastructure Consultancy and local stakeholders.
5. **Prevention** – the Strategy's vision and strategic objectives will help address existing, and build resilience to prevent or reduce the impact of future environmental, social, economic and cultural problems in the Swansea Central Area. The Strategy including PI's and targets to track progress.

The focus is now on delivering the strategic objectives, both in terms of practical implementation and through the development of an action plan.

**Practical Implementation:** To date a green roof and green wall have been installed on the Environment Centre and a green roof at the Coastal offices in High Street. More installations are planned for the 2021/22 financial year.



**Infographic:** A bilingual infographic on the aims of the strategy and its aims has been designed aimed at schools, using the comments for the schools for example de-jargoning multifunctional GI to ‘busy nature’.

**Swansea Planning our future**

Climate change is changing life for all of us.

By 2050 Swansea will have more heavy rain storms, droughts and warmer summers.

We need to start planning, preparing and making changes now.

We've been asking people what they think. That's helped us make this plan.

**Our vision**  
 "A city with high quality green infrastructure delivering resilience, prosperity, nature, health, well-being and happiness to the citizens and visitors of Swansea."

**Swansea city needs...**

**We want more Busy Nature in Swansea!**

**Busy Nature is about green infrastructure**  
 It's about green spaces and building in ways that protects nature and the environment.

We have **13%** now and we want **26%** by 2030

Types of green infrastructure: Renewable energy (Like Bio-solar Roofs), Sustainable Urban Drainage, Green transport, Hedges and verges, Trees, Wildlife, Footpath with green corridor, Parks, Green walls, Allotments, Green roofs, Flowers.

**This benefits...**

- the environment
- nature
- people's health
- the economy

and everyone in Swansea.

We're working together

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales, Cyngor Abertawe Swansea Council, and other partners.

**Action Plan:** The action plan is currently being developed and will initially focus on building skills and knowledge within the, local economy and communities and professionals in the public, private and third sectors.

**Countywide Strategy:** The engagement process for the county wide strategy started in Feb 2020, unfortunately due to Covid this had to be put on hold. The aim is to restart the engagement for the Countywide Strategy once Covid restrictions are lifted.

## Tree Planting

A number of practical projects have been delivered, led by the Council's Nature Conservation Team in collaboration with other members of the Working with Nature steering group and the Swansea Local Nature Partnership. These include native tree/woodland and wildflower planting and enhancing ecological connectivity and resilience. This work has largely been grant funded by Welsh Government (Local Places for Nature scheme) and NRW as well as Trees for Cities and Glastir.

The total number planted is approximately 3,175 trees (mostly whips plus 100 standards). All native species, mostly of local provenance. This totals an area planted of 1.27hectares. The sites include:

- Ganges/Pentyla playing fields.
- Singleton Park.
- Cwmrhydyceiriw Park.
- Cockett Park.
- Dunvant Park.
- Tir John landfill site.
- various school grounds.

All the sites involved extensive community consultation but due to COVID community /volunteer engagement in the actual planting was limited.

**Orchards:** Funding and support was provided to the Orchard Project to establish small community orchards at a number of sites across the city including Pentilla Playing Fields, Cwmdonkin Park and Primrose Hill Community Park.

**Community Tree Nursery:** Supported the establishment of a community tree nursery growing native trees from local stock at Clyne gardens.

**Mapping and Guidance:** Started to map potential areas for future tree planting and have produced a draft tree planting guidance note /checklist (The Right Tree in the Right Place) for community groups and others.

## Nature Recovery

Further work has been undertaken to gather data to inform the preparation of the local Nature Recovery Action plan. This includes a pilot project with SEWBREC to develop a mapping tool for ecological resilience within a pilot area of Swansea.

Membership of the Swansea Local Nature Partnership has increased and a number of Biodiversity projects and events were organised using the LP4N project budget.

**Pollinator Actions / Wildflower Planting:** Swansea Council is working in collaboration with other partners such as Neath Port Talbot Council, Swansea University and Welsh Water to develop a pollinator project in Swansea Bay – *'The Margam to Mumbles Meadow'*. Last year, the initiative seeded and plug planted 4,000 native wildflowers grown from native stock at strategic sites across Swansea Bay. A biodiverse green roof and wall were also created at the Environment Centre (see above). The Council's Parks Department has brought about the purchase of

cut/collect machinery to enable a range of parks and highway grassland areas to be better managed for pollinators and biodiversity.

**Biophilic Wales:** Following discussions between Swansea Environment Forum (SEF) and Working With Nature (WWN) partners in 2019, the Biophilic Wales was initiated with funding through ENRaW and involving a partnership between the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Swansea University and NRW.

The programme is made up of three work-streams:

- 1) Grasslands for Life.
- 2) Plants for People.
- 3) Inspiring Spaces.

The Inspiring Spaces scheme aims to bring native flora and wildlife to 40 Health Board sites in Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot to improve people's wellbeing and in doing so is contributing to a number of WWN priorities – nature recovery, green spaces, tree planting, green infrastructure and community engagement.

Whilst some of the volunteering has been restricted during the pandemic, work has continued on site. Over a thousand native wildflowers, grown by volunteers at home during lockdown have been planted on health board sites to enhance planters and no-mow verges. In addition, during 2020/21, 288 trees were planted- including three orchards and six relaxation areas have been provided for staff, patients and visitors to get away from the hospital buildings and be amongst nature. Bird boxes and bug hotels have been installed as well as interpretation panels to explain the work that is ongoing.



Work will continue through to March 2022 with another green roofed shelter, floating reedbeds, hedges, art installations and more relaxation areas. Volunteering is at the heart of the project and all their volunteers are encouraged to take part in Biophilic Wales Skills Development Awards which provide training to increase confidence and well-being. There is also a research element measuring the effects of growing wildflowers on well-being – Growing Together is the biggest study of its kind with 6,000 participants.

## Green Spaces

One of the main delivery mechanisms for this priority theme is through the Swansea Community Green Spaces Project which is a partnership initiative managed by Swansea Environmental Forum and a steering group involving representatives of Swansea Council, NRW, Swansea CVS and the Environment Centre. The project helps citizens and communities to have a greater involvement in the management and use of local green spaces. Over the past year during the Covid crisis, interest from communities in their local green spaces has clearly been on the increase, partly due to travel restrictions and an increased awareness and interaction people have had with their localities.

The Swansea Community Green Spaces project has provided support to a huge number of new and established initiatives on sites across the City and County of Swansea. As a result of the practical support and advice given by the project officer, more individuals and community groups have gained the confidence, understanding and skills to establish or develop initiatives in their local green spaces.



The project has also engaged successfully with PSB partners and other bodies to support green space enhancement and community growing. For example, facilitating discussions between Swansea Bay University Health Board and Cae Tan on the possibility of establishing community growing and Community Supported Agriculture projects at two hospital sites and working with South Wales Police to create greenhouses from old riot shields for two local community projects.



## Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation

Low Carbon Swansea Bay (LCSB) network continues to be a key conduit for knowledge-sharing and collaboration between organisations across Swansea and the wider region. Restrictions associated with Covid presented a number of challenges to LCSB and its members. Networking events and site visits that had been lined up ahead of the first lockdown had to be cancelled or postponed. However, a programme of online webinars was arranged instead. These tended to be shorter than the previous half-day network events and generally focussed on one organisation or project. Instead of four quarterly events, seven webinars took place in the year:

- **May 2020: Natural Resources Wales Carbon Positive**  
NRW gave an update on their Carbon Positive Project and the newly published Area Statements.
- **July 2020: DVLA Carbon Calculation**  
The DVLA outlined their work on measuring and reducing their carbon footprint.
- **September 2020: Embodied Carbon and Active Buildings**  
With presentations from Welsh Water and the Specific Project at Swansea University.
- **October 2020: DVLA Carbon Calculation (repeat)**  
The July session (above) was repeated so more could attend.
- **November 2020: Zero Carbon 2050**  
The National Grid and CR Plus provided an overview of the strategic decarbonisation project - *Zero 2050*.
- **January 2021: Becoming Net Zero-Ready - January 2021**  
Wales and West Utilities outlined their greening policies and practices.
- **February 2021: Sustainability on Campus - February 2021**  
Swansea University's Sustainability Team outlined their Sustainability and Climate Emergency Strategy.



Both the Low Carbon Swansea Bay ULEV Task Group and the Sustainable Travel Plan Group met during the year and a new regional EV infrastructure group with representation from PSBs across the region was initiated.

In addition to Swansea Council's organisational objective to become a 'Net Zero' organisation by 2030, the Council committed to working towards a 'Net Zero' City and County of Swansea by 2050. This objective can only be achieved with everyone in Swansea on board so Swansea PSB is an important way to involve citizens and private public and third sector partners.

In March 2021, Swansea Council launched its first survey focusing on climate change looking at attitudes of people in Swansea to climate change, their priorities and support for climate action. Almost 1000 people responded to the survey and a further 400 to a complementary Twitter poll. The result was overwhelmingly positive with a clear majority of respondents concerned about climate change and prepared to take action. This huge response was made possible by the support of our PSB partners in circulating and raising awareness of the survey. Most importantly, the survey report will be shared with partners enabling us to work together on the priorities identified towards a Net Zero Swansea.

### **Transport and Active Travel**

In early February 2021, an online regional transport conference, "*Moving Forward Together*" was held. This event brought together a wide range of stakeholders across the south-west Wales region to grapple with the challenges and opportunities around travel and transport. It was facilitated by SEF in collaboration with 4theRegion with support from several other partners, including PSB partners. It ran over two consecutive mornings (9th and 10th February) and included an opening address from Lee Waters and a presentation on pioneering projects and good practice related to the theme, but the main focus and approach was on group discussions and workshop sessions about what actions could be taken. 215 people registered for the conference and 148 attended (127 on day 1 and 91 on day 2).

Ahead of the conference, on 19th January, a regional transport roundtable discussion was held with a panel of ten experts from a variety of organisations with experience and knowledge on transport, health, community and associated fields. This was recorded and edited clips were used to promote the conference and as an introduction on the first day of the conference. Video clips from the conference and the roundtable event, along with the manifesto and other related materials were made available online.

**Healthy Travel Charter:** Whilst this continued to be discussed in various partnership meetings and with key individuals, progress was limited due to a combination of scheduling of other events, limited resources and time, and availability of partners. However, SEF and partners will pursue this in the coming year as part of its Low Carbon Swansea Bay initiative.

## Community Engagement

At the start of 2021, Working with Nature partners collaborated on a programme of webinars, online workshops and other events linked to a range of topics associated with a green recovery. The three-month programme, supported by funding from the NRW/PSB SOR grant, included 5 Waste Wednesdays Webinar Sessions, delivered in association with the Environment Centre's Beyond Recycling Swansea (BRS) project plus 4 other events organised by either Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF) or The Environment Centre, each in collaboration with other bodies. The programme included a mix of events with some aimed at the public and community groups whilst others were primarily aimed at organisations and professionals.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Delivery Partners</b>
27th January	Recycling in Swansea	Environment Centre (BRS) / Swansea Council Recycling Team
3rd February	Biophilic Living Swansea (professionals)	Swansea Environmental Forum / LCSB / Hacer Developments
4th February	Biophilic Living Swansea (public)	Swansea Environmental Forum / Hacer Developments
17th February	A Plastic Free Future	Environment Centre (BRS) / Plastic Free Mumbles
24th February	What is a Repair Cafe and How to Start One	Environment Centre (BRS) / Repair Cafe Wales
28th February	Plastic Free Periods	Environment Centre / Women's Environmental Network
4th March	Climate Justice for a Fairer World	Swansea Environmental Forum / Fair Trade Wales / Swansea Fair Trade Forum
10th March	Borrow Don't Buy	Environment Centre (BRS) / Benthg Library of Things
17th March	Beyond Recycling, the new circular economy strategy for Wales	Environment Centre (BRS) / Welsh Government

Two additional online events initially planned for March (a workshop discussion on hedge laying) and (an initial open session to discuss the proposed Townhill Community Tidy Up project) both organised by the Environment Centre were delayed but took place in April.

Swansea Council's Nature Conservation Team also organised a webinar on green infrastructure on 24th March, which was attended by representatives from a range of partner organisations, including members of LCSB and the Swansea Nature Partnership. The online events programme also incorporated the LCSB webinars outlined earlier.

**New Online Resource:** In early 2020, Swansea Environmental Forum initiated a collaboration with VocalEyes CIC to develop a new easy-to-use online resource to promote proven, adaptable and replicable solutions for climate action and nature recovery. The intention was to recruit a researcher/organiser in early April 2020 to research and collate the information and then go on to collaborate with community engagement workers to promote use of the resource. The recruitment of the worker was delayed by the onset of the Covid pandemic and as the project developed and expanded, the process proved to take much longer than originally anticipated. Two part time researchers were taken on in mid-May and a working group established (with representatives from SEF, VocalEyes, NRW, The Environment Centre, Swansea Council and Swansea University) to oversee and advise on the project. By the end of March 2021, a beta-version of the resource had been created and initial testing was carried out with representatives of partner organisations and potential user groups. Further testing and final adjustments will be made ahead of a public launch of the resource and the transfer of long-term management responsibility for the project to VocalEyes.

### **Future Work**

Key areas of work for the coming year will include:

- Ensure that the Working with Nature Task Group actions and priorities respond effectively to the latest State of the Natural Resources report (SoNaRR) and the Bridges to the Future priority areas, along with the Area Statement priorities for South West Wales and the national Green Recovery Priorities for Action elements.
- Provide information and resources to support the wellbeing assessment and wellbeing plan processes, including providing feedback and supporting consultation.
- Support the engagement process for the county-wide GI strategy and the practical implementation of green infrastructure initiatives across Swansea.
- Map potential areas for future tree planting and publish The Right Tree in the Right Place guidance note/checklist for community groups and others.
- Support and promote the Biophilic Wales programme and opportunities to build on this.
- Support stakeholder engagement on climate change and the development of a county-wide 2050 climate strategy and action plan
- Finalise, launch and promote the online Climate Action & Nature Recovery solutions resource.
- Support and promote the Healthy Travel Charter initiative involving public sector partners across the Swansea Bay region.

## Strong Communities



To build strong communities with a sense of pride and belonging.

**Lead** – This work is coordinated by the Strong Communities Steering Group and is led by Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

### Partners/ Stakeholders Involved

Coastal	Pobl	SCVS	Family Housing
Public Health Wales	Clase 4 All	Council-Local Area Co-ordination	Regeneration Swansea Council
Swansea Learning Partnership	Poverty Partnership Forum	Regional Partnership Boards (RPB);	Partner agency Procurement staff
GP Cluster Networks	housing and social landlords	West Glamorgan Social Value Forum	Beyond Bricks and Mortar
South Wales Police	Swansea City of Sanctuary and others supporting refugees and asylum seekers (Eyst and others)	Swansea Council, Community Cohesion Steering Group (which sits under Safer Swansea Partnership);	City of Culture Steering Group Swansea
Menter Iaith Abertawe	Merched Y Wawr	Co Production Network	Human Rights City group
Womens Aid /multi agency domestic violence practitioners	Regional Black Minority Ethnic Network	Community Cohesion group	

## **Overview of work within Strong Communities**

Since the new governance arrangements, this Objective has been allocated to Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS). Since this new arrangement has been in place, a full review of the intended action plan has been in progress. The review has included identifying actions that are now complete, those that are ongoing and new actions that need to be included going forward.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, several meetings had taken place between the previous and new lead, and a new strategic stakeholder group was identified. This group was developed to ensure that it included partners who were able to reflect the work of the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and the Transformation programme, as there were many close links and common goals, which have links to a number of actions within the workstream.

The group's membership enables there to be intelligence sharing and joint working across other PSB Objectives and between other agencies and departments.

## **Achievements**

There is a clear Governance of the Critical Incident Group to the Safer Swansea Partnership and then to Public Service Board. All communications are channelled through the Safer Swansea Partnership (all partners are signed up with South Wales Police leading) and all work is branded Safer Swansea Partnership.

## **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) contribution to Strong Communities.**

During the last twelve-month period, (MAWWFRS) have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- The COVID-19 pandemic required the Service to work closely with a wide range of partners to ensure that key services could continue to be provided to the communities we serve. Advice and resources were provided to third sector partners, such as smoke alarms which were then able to be delivered to homes where required.
- Amendments were made to Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to reflect the changes required to assist partners in delivering Safe and Well visits. These amendments helped to ensure the highest level of support continued to be provided to vulnerable members of the community, whilst adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.
- The multi-agency taskforce set-up to bring a dedicated focus on deliberate and accidental grass fires across Wales (Operation Dawns Glow) continued to make good progress, with information about the multi-agency collaboration publicised at Public Services Boards and Community Safety Partnership meetings across the Service area. Further information can be found on the Service's website [www.mawwfire.gov.uk](http://www.mawwfire.gov.uk)
- The key messages for Operation Dawns Glow were developed to include a more holistic approach to messaging via partners and included a specific

reference to COVID-19 considerations. This messaging ensured that consistent safety messages were promoted on community risks as they became apparent, such as the temporary closure of waste recycling centres and the hazards of burning domestic garden waste.

- Operation BANG (Be a Nice Guy) saw an adapted multi-agency approach to Halloween and Bonfire night in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Safety messages were successfully co-ordinated between the Police, the three Welsh Fire and Rescue Services', Education Officers, and other agencies to incorporate new parameters and guidelines.
- MAWWFRS staff supported the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust (WAST) by driving ambulances.
- MAWWFRS staff were available to provide mortuary assistance.
- Community Safety (CS) staff assisted with the implementation of the COVID-19 inoculation programme.
- Educational Resources were widely developed to ensure that our safety education messages were accessible to our target audience, schools, and parents through HWB.
- The Service's Arson Reduction Team maintained partner links and adapted collaborative working practices to safeguard personnel and reduce the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions when attending multi-agency initiatives.
- Home fire safety intervention equipment, such as smoke alarms were provided to food banks across the Service area to be included in food parcels.
- The Service supported digital awareness, and volunteers were trained in digital skills, which enabled them to become digital champions, who have been able to share their knowledge and skills within the community.
- The Service has fully trained digital champion volunteers, who can share their knowledge and skills within the community.
- The Swansea Public Services Board secured £8,000 worth of grant funding from Natural Resources Wales, to enable the Service's Arson Team to identify areas of high risk within Swansea that would benefit from the provision of fire breaks.
- Training was provided to partners to allow them to deliver telephone Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) audits to their clients. Training was also provided to new partners to allow for referrals to be made to the Service.
- The Service's Business Fire Safety (BFS) team developed a local engagement strategy to provide guidance and support to businesses who were about to transition from lockdown to a state of progressive unlock, with the aim of providing fire safety guidance that was specifically relevant to the current situation whilst ensuring that fire safety considerations were not neglected.
- The (BFS) team provided support in the safe delivery of the temporary field hospitals in Swansea.
- The Service signed up to the zero-tolerance policy to racism in Wales and is committed to promoting racial harmony and equity, supporting the Zero Racism Wales campaign. Furthermore, the Service is committed to implementing the commitments, together with taking a stand against racism

and promoting a more inclusive and equal workplace and society that gives every individual in Wales the right to feel safe, valued and included.

- The Service's Corporate Plan 2021-2026 outlines our commitment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how our Improvement and Well-being Objectives contribute to the seven Well-being Goals, by demonstrating how each one helps the Service to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Further information can be found on the website [www.mawwfire.gov.uk](http://www.mawwfire.gov.uk)

### **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) partnership working during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

With the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines and the restricted working within the community, our priority remained looking after the most vulnerable at a time when things were very uncertain.

- During the pandemic, MAWWFRS's CS team adapted the way in which it worked and engaged with partner organisations and vulnerable communities.
- Following the Welsh Government's (WG) shielding guidelines for vulnerable people, Local Authorities, the voluntary sector, and community networks initiated delivering meals, groceries, and medication, to the elderly and vulnerable. Assistance was offered with the addition of offering home safety advice.
- A supply of smoke detectors and safety leaflets were provided to foodbank services to be included with food parcels.
- Assistance was provided to Third Sector partners by undertaking wellbeing calls via the telephone.
- HFSC's were adapted so that they could be delivered online to partner organisations that were engaging with their service users. The training enabled staff to signpost vulnerable members of the community to the Fire Service for a HFSC, as well as the ability to identify risks within the home if they were conducting a visit and fitting smoke detectors. Some of the agencies that received the training included Platform, Llys Nini animal centre, British Red Cross.
- Age Connect Volunteers and staff were also trained to enable them to conduct telephone HFSC's whilst making welfare calls to lonely, isolated older people.
- The team also worked in collaboration with Oxygen Nurses, Smoking Cessation, and Baywater to help and support patients on Oxygen.
- Surplus fire safety equipment was issued to partner organisations to enable them to be provided to vulnerable members of the community.
- To keep in touch with hard to reach groups, virtual coffee mornings were conducted to discuss home safety to tenants through Housing Associations. HFSC training and advice was also provided to the Gas Safety Teams undertaking home visits.
- Work was undertaken with the Burns Team from Morriston Hospital to look at burns prevention, with a focus on older adults over the age of 65, as they are more likely to suffer from a life threatening burn and take longer to recover from a serious burn.

- In collaboration with SCVS, HFSC training was offered to all volunteers as part of their introductory training. Befriending service calls were made to people suffering from loneliness and isolation. Following this training, befrienders provided home safety advice and referred vulnerable individuals to the Service for further assistance.
- Work was undertaken with the Community Cohesion Team to assist with monitoring potential tensions within the community, such as hate crime. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood disputes and tensions around transmission. The meetings enabled the consideration of immediate responses, that would mitigate those risks or any tensions escalating. The Service also shared information on Arson hotspots and key areas of concern with the team.
- The Partnership Officer worked with key stakeholders, including Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and Public Health Wales (PHW) on the 'Tell Me More' campaign, which provided accurate information to allow people to make informed decisions about the vaccine, with the hope that more people, including those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities would decide to take up the offer of the vaccine.
- The CS team continued to provide Violence against Women Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) training to all staff to enable the identification of those experiencing abuse within the community.

### **Swansea Council for Voluntary Service's (SCVS) contribution to Strong Communities.**

During the last twelve-month period, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS) have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- Formal and informal volunteering and voluntary organisations contributed hugely to ensuring that communities have remained resilient over the last year.
- Very few Third Sector and community services utilised the furlough scheme, as they were still required to continue providing vital services, all be it whilst utilising alternative ways of working, such as online, outdoor, and socially distanced visits.
- SCVS were able to obtain COVID-19 specific funding, for example, emergency VSEF and Comic Relief funding, the Austin Bailey Foundation and Moondance Foundation which provided funding for COVID-19 related activities.
- Additional funding was also received from WG to fund volunteering opportunities, with local and regional partners working together to ensure a volunteering legacy and plans for the future.
- Previous "hidden" community needs became apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with regards to food insecurity, barriers to accessing transport and access to healthcare settings.
- Groups have started to look at the longer-term responses to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, obesity and other health and behaviour impacts linked to lockdown sedentary lifestyles.



## **Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Services contribution to Strong Communities.**

During the last twelve-month period, Swansea Council's Tackling Poverty Services have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- One of the priorities identified at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic was supporting access to food.
- At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team engaged with food banks in order to understand their concerns and challenges, which were; an expected rise in demand for crisis food support, food bank volunteers becoming vulnerable themselves and the risk of food supply to food banks. In response to their concerns, 4 Food Distribution Centres across Swansea were established to procure and store surplus food which helped to meet the rise in demand and ensured that supplies were available. Food bank volunteers were equipped with essential travel letters, FareShare Membership for the independent food banks was paid for to ensure a weekly supply of food coming in, and Local Area Coordinators provided strong links in the communities which helped this to work effectively.
- In response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, Matthew's House, Zac's Place, Swansea Council, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services, The Wallich, Crisis Skylight South Wales, Neath Port Talbot Council, Caerlas/Goleudy, YMCA, Mecca Bingo, Where's Doris, The Shared Place, Sameerea Foundation, Goggi's Cuisine, Swansea City Football Club, Thai Bach, NHS, Public Health Wales and local politicians came together to ensure that homeless, vulnerably housed and vulnerable people received meals daily in a safe way.
- 55 organisations and 100 volunteers collaborated to deliver a project to ensure that people's basic needs of daily food support were met safely, this ensured that everyone on the streets was offered a bed, and the winter provision was extended to all year round, including a substantial hot meal every day. This crucial bit of work helped keep rough sleeping in Swansea to the lowest levels for over 20 years.
- Each week volunteers in five venues (Matthews' House, Goggi's, The Shared Plate, Swansea City Football Club and Mecca Bingo) prepared hot meals, which were transported using community transport schemes and volunteers to get the meals to those who were unable to either cook for themselves or were having difficulty buying food.
- Over 18,000 prepared meals were delivered over a four-month period (seven days a week) to 21 locations. 307 emergency food parcels were also delivered during this period. Once the lockdown period had ended, plans were put in place to offer a takeaway service instead of a delivery service.
- The Swansea Together network created a seven days a week emergency outdoor food service, which was available on regular days, times, and locations to enable people to access a hot meal if they need it. This initiative is now meeting an even greater need as the number of people at risk of homelessness is rising.

- As the demand continues to grow, so has the provision to match it in a way that is collaborative and effective, with an opportunity every day of the week for people struggling with housing to touch base with a person who can help.
- A Council COVID-19 helpline was established with a food help administration team processing requests for food help, together with help with shopping directed to Local Area Coordination Teams and SCVS. 850 requests for food help were processed and 7,700 shielding food parcels were delivered.
- Third Sector Grant Support received 41 Food Poverty grants, 19 Period Dignity in communities' grants and 17 Men's Sheds grants.
- Staff across the Council whose normal roles were restricted were reallocated to crisis response roles, such as the COVID-19 helpline, food administration team, and local area coordination team.
- The Local Area Coordination team supported vulnerable community members impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, supported over 23,000 requests for food, medication, or support for social isolation, and provided coordination and support for community and voluntary action working with over 5,000 community and street champions.
- The welfare rights advice line was extended to be open 5 days a week, with additional information kept up to date on the Council's Coronavirus help webpage.
- The Lifelong Learning Team moved their learning to online classes, and they also established help for the digitally excluded to access devices and support to use it to help them stay in touch with family and friends and gain access to services.
- The Employability Team and Swansea Working supported the delivery of free school meals, provided employability support online, and introduced an ICT loans scheme for digitally excluded clients.

### **Safer Swansea Partnership's contribution to Strong Communities.**

During the last twelve-month period, the Safer Swansea Partnership (SSP) have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- The SSP worked alongside partner agencies to deliver the Operation BANG initiative to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents during the Halloween/Fireworks period.
- The management of 33 Hot Spot cameras was utilised to capture evidence to help deter ASB, fly-tipping, and criminal damage.
- CS teams continued to play a key role through community engagement in key areas and empowering the local community, by providing sustained and positive solutions, such as Paws on Patrol.
- Engagement sessions and a monthly newsletter were published for the Paws on Patrol initiative.
- Through the work of the ASB team, the CS team also assisted with the identification of emerging ASB hotspots and trends and assisted in the mapping of local networks to identify other at-risk young persons.
- Work was undertaken to reduce criminal activity within the Sandfields and Vetch areas through the Vetch Development Scheme.

- Regular target hardening survey site visits were conducted to premises ranging from domestic properties, building sites, parks, schools, and open spaces, with advice given regarding stopping/reducing the risk of the area becoming a target for criminal activities.
- Support was provided to the monthly Problem Solving Groups (PSG) with other key partners in each sector, to provide solutions to developing issues within that area, following an increase in youth annoyance over the past 6 months, significantly in December, which aligned with the easing of restrictions over the Christmas period. Neighbour annoyance continued to make up the majority of complaints, which consisted mainly of both statutory and non-statutory noise nuisance complaints.
- The Management of the City Centre Crime Prevention Christmas public event and Christmas Advent Calendar Social Media Crime Prevention campaigns were undertaken.
- Community engagement/consultation events targeting hot spot areas in the city, including High Street (City Centre) and Sandfields were held. As a direct result of these community engagement sessions, 19 residents requested and received bespoke crime prevention advice as well as targeted hardening packs.
- The Swansea Contextual Missing Exploitation Trafficking multi-agency forum (CMET) developed and embedded a contextual safeguarding approach, which was supported by the University of Bedfordshire. The pilot is working in Townhill as well as in 16+ and Youth Justice Services. The pilot is not about stopping young people from being young people but understanding them and their context and making places and their relationships sustainably safe or safer.
- The CMET forum consists of representatives from social services, Early Help, Community Safety, Police, YMCA, NSPCC, Barod and many more. CMET pulls together to see who is best placed to do what is required to achieve what matters, which is to disrupt criminal networks and behaviour by acting on the context in which the harm occurs or potentially could occur.

### **Regeneration Swansea's contribution to Strong Communities.**

During the last twelve-month period, Regeneration Swansea have been involved in several initiatives that have contributed to Strong Communities in Swansea, these include:

- [Regeneration Swansea](#) continued to meet virtually during 2020/21, with a focus on informing Swansea Council's Economic Recovery Action plan, which sets out the actions the Council needs to take in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support businesses, support individuals and improve the resilience of the local economy.
- The partnership gathered city centre business intelligence information from BID, considered Demand and Supply of Office Floorspace in the city centre and received feedback from the construction sector via 4the Region, all of which will help inform future plans and activities.
- The partnership heard about proposals to establish an Urban Farm and room to grow space in Uplands, to maximise green infrastructure within the City.

- Funding was secured to launch a shop local campaign <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/shopmorrison> and work continued to bring vacant properties back into use.
- Funding to support the development of a Green roof on the Post Office building was granted and work on this to improve the biodiversity of the area has been completed.
- As local project board for the Welsh Government Transforming Towns / Target Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme, the Partnership supported three new Property Enhancement Development Grant schemes in 2020, which between them will bring 870m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floor space back into use in the City Centre and Morrision. These schemes will accommodate 6 enterprises creating 36 jobs.
- The partnership awarded funding for a shop front improvement pilot scheme in Morrision and funding for a pilot 'meanwhile use' project led by Urban Foundry.
- Eight WG Transforming Towns TRI schemes approved in previous years were completed in the city centre and Morrision in 2020, which gave rise to 1047 m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floorspace becoming available for use and 19 new housing units.
- Following the award of WG Valleys Taskforce Property Enhancement Development Grant funding for the South West Wales Valleys Taskforce areas, the partnership awarded £224,069 to three schemes in Clydach and Pontarddulais.
- Seven Town Centre Loans were approved with £2.19m funding released on an interest free terms mostly over five years.

### **Challenges/ Barriers**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a considerable delay to the progression of this Objective, with the majority of partners and stakeholders being required to re-direct their resources to maintaining business as usual.

Further challenges include the wider impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, linked with individual organisations' return to the workplace, access to longer term funding and the impact of remote working, particularly with public facing, community-based roles.

The ability to ensure consistent and appropriate representation from all stakeholders, ensuring success from different partnerships is captured effectively, together with the capacity of partners workloads particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to be a challenge.

The lack of hypothecated funding available to PSBs, in comparison to other strategic partnerships, has certainly reduced the effectiveness and speed of delivery of PSB Wellbeing plans, and in particular the Strong Communities Objective.

**Future activity** for the 21/22 year includes:

- To embed amongst all our partners, approaches that support individual, family and community resilience.
- To work towards us working as a whole organisation and whole public sector with one approach.
- To deliver collective action to remove barriers to participation including fear of difference, sharing resources regularly to do so.
- To further embed our Intercultural City approach to promote Welsh language whilst also recognising and celebrating the other cultures, languages, and communities in Swansea.
- To fully embed the economic regeneration plans within all our partners and actions will be taken to enhance a social benefits approach.
- To work together and jointly design and implement local projects that support the achievement of the Minimum Income Standard.

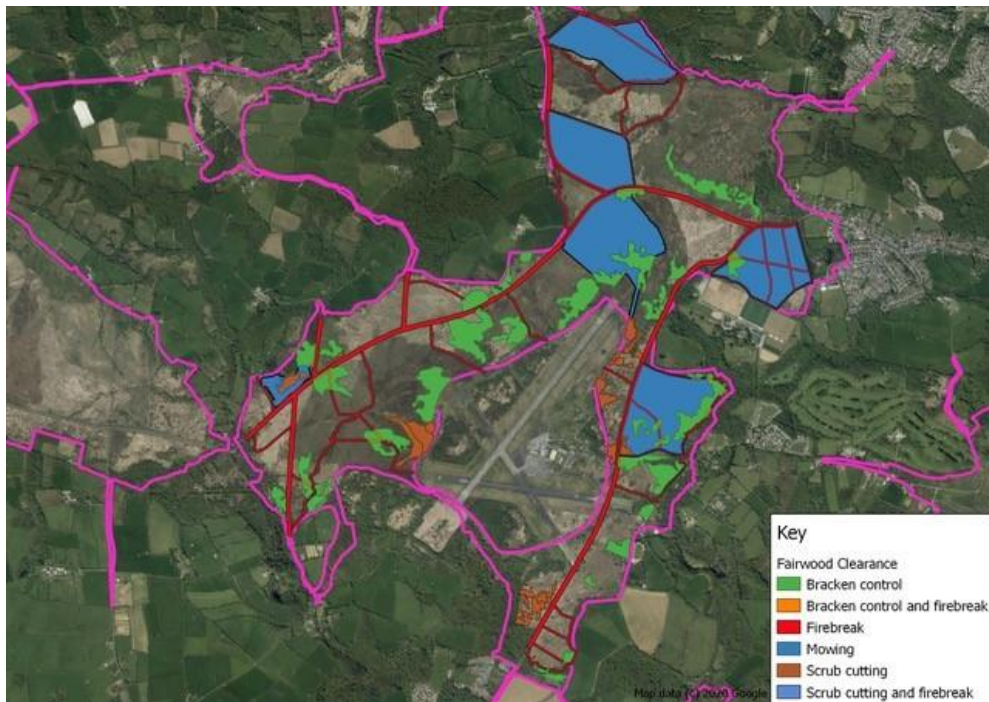
## **Case Study**

### **Provision of fire breaks in areas of high fire risk to prevent their spread and severity.**

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MWWFRS) work on an annual basis with two key partners to reduce the impact of wildfires within the Swansea area. We assess vegetation fuel loads in combination with fire incident data to put prevention in place at various locations predominantly by means of creating spaces often known as 'firebreaks' to reduce the travel, severity and environmental impact of fire. The safe use of dedicated mechanical devices to cut and reduce vegetation at specific sites in order to limit the spread of a grass fire is proven to be effective in safeguarding the environment, reducing demand of fire and rescue resources utilised to control and extinguish the fire as well as provide valuable benefits to the immediate community.

A Swansea based company 'Commonsvision' work with MWWFRS, City & County of Swansea Council and other partners (including NRW) to look at practical solutions to reduce the occurrence and impact of fire for common land and ecological issues utilising controlled burning or mechanical land management methods. Problematic sites include Garngoch, Fairwood, Pengwern, Clyne and sometimes Pennard Cliffs/Rhossili depending on the condition of vegetation and what the National Trust have already done.

Following site assessments and prioritisation, Commonsvision facilitated five days of Tractor cutting for the breaks. This also included motor manual work dependent on what was being cut and removed. There was a significant amount of vegetation cleared. Residents who live on the edge of Fairwood had been in touch enquiring about similar cutting work outside their property. This was within the line of one of the breaks and within the notice from NRW, so is to be cleared utilising a Welsh Government funded I-Cutter in partnership with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.



The working group have completed the project in the Gower area that utilised NRW funding to focus on prevention, awareness, and improvement of the rural areas. The holistic approach will continue via the group and can hopefully be emulated within other service areas.

ITV Wales' Coast and Country programme (series 9, episode 5) have filmed with the arson reduction team and partners to highlight the implications of wildfires and the partnership working that has been carried out in the Swansea area. Focus areas were service impacts and Operation Dawns Glaw, Firebreak cutting, Farming, Ecology and Local Policing. Red Watch Morriston and Green Watch Swansea West have also been involved.





**Kilvey Hill** (where the first part of the ITV filming took place) remained a priority for the Service. Subsequent multi-agency patrols were planned and community engagement utilising the local resident's wildlife group. MWWFRS regularly coordinate grass fire prevention work with the City & County of Swansea Council to reduce grassfire impact on Kilvey Hill, this is an ongoing project to safeguard common land sectors at the location such as areas adjacent to Grenfell Park Road, Wallace Road, Dupre Road and Gwynne Terrace. Arrangements were also made with ITV Wales to coordinate an episode for their Coast and Country television programme to highlight the partnership working and benefits of the project that utilised the funding. The episode was aired on 06 April 2021.

Cutting work was organised via contractors approved by MWWFRS and its partners, supported by the requisite risk assessments. This was completed on 16 February 2021. In order for the prevention of grass/wildfires to be optimally effective, and for the protection of habitats, the prevention work was carried out during the months of January to March.

**Partners/ Stakeholders involved-** Key partnerships are Swansea Poverty Partnership, Regeneration Swansea, Swansea Community Safety Partnership, Safer Swansea Partnership board and Regional Partnership Board. \*This is not an exhaustive list there are other groups that sit under these looking at local issues and developing asset based solutions.

# Partnership working at its best during Covid-19

## **PSB Partners Response to COVID-19**

**It has never been more important for us to pull together, connect and understand the resources we have here in Swansea. All PSB members have shown willingness to work together collectively to come out of this situation stronger, more resilient and better connected.**

Maintaining effective communication and relationships has been vital. It has been important to use our relationships and networks we have built up over the past years and draw on one another's knowledge and experience. It has been crucial for all our different organisations to come together to help and support one another.

PSB members/stakeholders together are stronger and we must not lose sight of how much we can achieve when we work together and support one another. The people of Swansea have never needed our support as much as they do now.

Innovation often springs from a reaction to crisis and chaos. Staff generating new ideas to help us win this battle. Our working lives have been revolutionised. Regular conference calls with the local health board and regional partners have removed the need to travel and working remotely is the new normal for many of us. The crisis and the need for social distancing and self-isolation has required these changes and suspect this will influence our ways of working in the longer term.

An example of how partners came together was the construction of the Bay Field Hospital.

In responding to the COVID pandemic the health board adopted a highly involved and collaborative approach to working with partners to understand potential risks and design integrated solutions to supporting resilient communities and a health and social care workforce.

## **Bay Field Hospital**

In order to respond the global Covid-19 pandemic to support Swansea Bay University Health Board a temporary field hospital setting was to be created to meet potential demand. The over-riding aim was that the field hospitals would relieve pressure at the acute sites to maintain patient flow across the region at all times.

In March 2020, one of the final locations was confirmed as Bay Studio Complex. The site was selected as it would allow for expansion, a phased move-in while works were



completed on other areas, and had a delivery bay, good access roads and parking, and was accessible from to Morriston Hospital.

The site, which is usually a home to a film studio and was formerly a Ford / Visteon factory, was vast at 21,000 sqm. The brief was that we needed to potentially care for 1,000 low level care patients. Unlike all other field hospitals being created at the time, Bay Studios came with nothing but a shell. Whilst mostly watertight, there were no primary services - electricity, water, gas, telecoms or drainage - and the existing building had no intrinsic thermal properties or any method of providing heating. All we had was a huge corrugated shed on a multi acre site that required a full conversion into a field hospital. We recognised that we had to pull out all the stops to succeed in this huge task.

Building a hospital would usually take years of planning even before any foundations are laid. The Bay Field Hospital was required to be built & equipped within a matter of weeks. A fully serviced unit had to be built to exacting hospital standards within the old factory shell. It was essentially a box within a box, that had to be designed and built from scratch in a matter of days and weeks – a build that would under normal circumstances take years. This was by no means an easy undertaking.





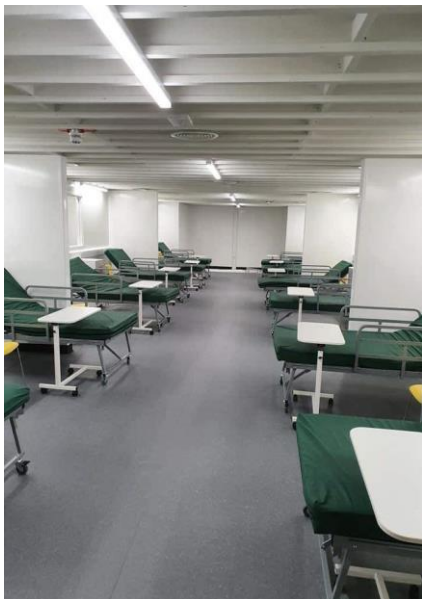
The hospital had to be built and then equipment procured and installed in rapid time. We recognised that we could not do this alone and people wanted to and were willing to help. We worked with Swansea Council, Keir Construction and others to build this hospital, at its peak we had 650 people per day on site working together. The dedication shown by the workforce and everyone involved led to enormous progress being made.

This quote from **Rob Stewart, leader of Swansea Council**, shows how the partnership approach was so vital.

*“It took collaboration and co-operation to whole new levels. What was achieved was phenomenal and we couldn’t be prouder to be a partner with them.”*



Staff who have been involved with this project have all agreed that the construction of the field hospitals have been most one of the most challenging but equally one of the most enjoyable and rewarding projects of their careers. It has been humbling to witness people pull and work together for a shared goal. It was collaboration at its best, at a time when it was needed the most.”



## How the Arts are supporting the Welsh NHS Support to Covid-19

The field hospitals were constructed within matter of weeks; they were blank canvasses for some stunning pieces of art to welcome patients and staff.

A series of panels depicting meadow flowers, designed by Cardiff artist Louise Shenstone, now adorn some of the walls at Bay and Llandarcy field hospitals.

The artwork was requested by nursing staff to send out a clear message to the public that their loved ones would be cared for with dignity and compassion, even though they are not in one of the main hospitals. Staff selected the phrases and words used and were enthusiastic about using meadow flowers to create a positive, humanising atmosphere after seeing some of Louise's work.



Key bilingual words and phrases from poems have been combined with visual motifs to evoke a positive atmosphere of peace and calm. Poetry in Welsh and English has been introduced along the 'Dignity' corridor; a significant journey made by staff with patients who have passed away.

## Our Next Steps

Swansea PSB's strengths lie within the expertise, experience and enthusiasm of its partners, from the frontline staff working to deliver the Local Well-being Objectives to the leadership representatives who work together to strategically improve Swansea's well-being.

Austerity and continued uncertainty will continue to challenge our organisations moving forward. However, significant opportunities have been identified to build our capacity by working together and increasingly share assets and resources. In particular, the benefits of increased regional working, improved communications that enables the greater involvement of wider stakeholders and clearer relationships with other partnerships such as West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board will be a focus for the future.

## How you can get involved?

The work undertaken by Swansea Public Services Board is published online at [www.swanseapsb/swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swanseapsb/swansea.gov.uk).

Our Joint Committee Meetings are held in public and questions from the public are invited via a standing agenda item Public Question Time.

Unfortunately, our Partnership Forums which should take place every 6 months have not gone ahead for the past year because of the Pandemic. However, we are now looking to re-establish these Partnership Forums where we welcome everyone along to contribute.

You can also contact our Public Services Board Co-ordinator directly by email at [Swansea.psb@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Swansea.psb@swansea.gov.uk) or telephone 07989 138917.

We welcome your involvement, ideas and suggestions in all areas of our work so that we could consider for our future work.

## **Update on PSB Live Well, Age Well Objective**

**Purpose:** To update the Scrutiny Programme Committee on progress made within the Live Well, Age Well objective since the submission of the Annual report.

**Context:**

As noted in the annual report 21/22 the focus has been on recovery from Covid and building back better and stronger together, with an obvious need to review areas of focus within the “Live Well, Age Well Objective” to support further partnership working of revised and remodelled services and initiative that are fit for purpose in what is now seen as a new normal.

In order to inform how we build back better and stronger focus of the work under the Live Well, Age Well objective has been twofold: Firstly a review of mechanisms to listen to the voice of people living in Swansea and ensure that what they have to say informs services. Secondly work has been done to refine partnerships to ensure that what people say is acted upon.

This update includes headlines of what has been done and progress made since the submission of the PSB annual report.

**Progress to date 21/22**

**Embedding “The Right Way” approach:**

- A substantial amount of work has been undertaken to explore how in Swansea can embed a continuous approach to rights across the life stages, ensuring that all people have opportunity to access and enjoy their rights from the moment they are born, living well and ageing well throughout their life course, particularly in respect of being listened to and heard in decisions that affect them.
- “The Right Way” approach is a nationally recognised framework which offers a five-principled approach to embedding rights based practise, (Participation, Empowerment, Embedding, Accountability, Non-discrimination). Use of “The Right Way” provides consistency in terms of language and measurement. (using the Children Commissioners for Wales matrix) Alignment to the process means opportunity to provide clear guidance, and tangible benchmarks for council departments to embed a whole council approach and evidence outcomes.

- Work has begun to map the common themes within National strategy relating to children & young people as well as those people 50+ which includes taking priorities from the Older Person's Commissioners "Leave No-one Behind" report, National Strategy for an "Ageing Society" the UNCRC call for evidence, Coronavirus and Me Survey along with feedback from the public to understand what a "City for all" looks like.
- As Swansea looks to become an official Human Rights City, work is ongoing to engage the public in what this might look like, and how the working group might proceed.
  - 1) An invitation was sent via schools and the Children's Rights Network offering an opportunity for children and young people to meet with Cllr. Gibbard and members of the Partnership and Involvement Team to discuss this. 8 sessions are taking place in schools during the first two weeks of December.
  - 2) Cllr Gibbard has also attended the Ageing Well Marina Walk & Cuppa & Chat sessions with people 50+ to gather their views on what a "Human Rights City" would look like and what matters to them.

### **Swansea's Children's Rights Scheme:**

- Swansea's Children's Rights Scheme, adopted in 2014, has been redeveloped and refreshed to complement "The Right Way" framework. The scheme along with a "Plan on a Page" version was co-produced with children, young people and practitioners from April 2021 – September 2021 and unanimously agreed and signed off at full Council in November 2021.
- The Children's Rights Scheme was launched on Universal Children's Day on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021. As part of the launch of the refreshed scheme, launch packs were distributed to all schools in Swansea on behalf of Cllr Elliott King along with all partners of the Children's Rights Network and wider partnerships. Children's Rights Scheme Reports are available on-line on the Council's website and in hard copy.

### **Working in Partnership to make Swansea an Age Friendly City:**

- In Nov 2020 the PSB met with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales and agreed to join the World Health Organisation and work towards achieving "Age Friendly City" recognition. Age Friendly Cities & Communities work by Local Authorities is identified by Welsh Government & Older Person's Commissioner For Wales, as the way to continue to deliver against the pledges made in the Dublin Declaration and in addressing the aspirations contained within the (WG) Strategy Age Friendly Wales: Our Strategy For An Ageing Society (Oct 2021)
- In October 2021 Welsh Government (WG) launched Age Friendly Wales: Our Strategy for an Ageing Society which highlights 'The Right Way' principled approach as a framework for embedding rights from strategy development to face to face delivery when working with older people in Wales. (Awaiting guidance from WG for local authorities in relation to development of local "Ageing Society" strategies and implementation plans)

- Swansea’s “Ageing Well Steering Group” was re-established in July 2021 to review mechanisms to hear the voice of older people in Swansea and develop a local “Ageing Society” strategy and implementation plan in line with Welsh Government guidance. The refreshed membership includes community members/groups, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations, Council departments and public services as well as representation from the Older Person’s Commissioners Office for Wales.
- Work has begun to map the eight domains of an “Age Friendly City” with key themes from the commissioner’s “Leave No-One Behind” report, and Welsh Governments strategy for an “Ageing Society”, against the 5 principles of the “Right Way” approach, so that when reporting our progress on each of the eight domains, we are also recognising how fulfilling each domain maximises opportunities for people 50+ to access and enjoy their rights.

### **Listening to the voice of people living in Swansea:**

- As part of plans to support recovery out of COVID, attention turned to co-producing fit for purpose, inclusive mechanisms to engage people of all ages to ensure those who would traditionally be marginalised from civic participation, e.g. those who possess protected characteristics and/or have additional needs, lack confidence, or do not wish to commit to a formal elected positions but equally have a right to have their voice heard in decisions, service changes and city plans etc.
- Recruitment of dedicated “Partnership & Involvement Officers” took place in June 2021 with one officer having remit for Children, Young People & Families and the other officer focussing on partnership and involvement work with people 50+ in Swansea.
- The Pandemic meant that greater thought had to be given to how and where we engage the public in this new and unprecedented time of working. Engagement with children, young people, families, people 50+ and practitioners was undertaken between April-September 2021 to understand what good Involvement may now look like and the emerging priorities to be addressed.
- Two separate formal consultations took place from July to September 2021, one for “Listening to Children & Young People” and the other in relation to “Listening to People 50+” in Swansea, in order to identify barriers to engagement, preferred mechanisms to enable **all** to have a voice on issues that impact on their lives and identified priorities to make Swansea the best place to live and age well. Both surveys identified the need for informal and varied mechanisms to ensure an inclusive approach that meets the needs of participating individuals.

### **Listening to the voice of Children & Young People:**

- Feedback from the children and young people identified that the key issues they wish to work on to make Swansea a better place to live are:

1. Protecting the Environment and Green Spaces
2. Quiet voices – developing systems for listening to children and young people who do not wish to ‘speak up’ but do want to have their say, e.g. digital platforms and virtual suggestions boxes
3. Supporting disabled children – working on making change so that disabled children feel integrated and able to have their voices heard as any other child would.
4. Equality for LGBTQ+ children and young people – developing resources that address discrimination and promote diversity and equality for children and young people who identify as LGBTQ+
5. Politics – developing resources for children and young people to understand what politics is, who local politicians are and how to organise change
6. Listening to Learners – strengthening collective pupil voice across the County, building on good practice currently taking place in individual schools.

Work has started to ensure we identify relevant Council staff stakeholders to be involved within each theme, to ensure listening to children and young people is a whole council approach. These leads will form a steering group to oversee reporting and monitoring impact of the Forum mechanisms.

- Safeguarding/Equality in LGBTQ+: Children and young people in Swansea have developed a LGBTQ+ resource pack for schools. ‘Equali-tea’ is a pack raising awareness of LGBTQ+ issues faced by young people locally, based on the issues raised by young people themselves. Work continues to disseminate this pack and support staff to facilitate conversations with young people based on it.
- Votes at 16/Political Literacy/Democracy: Preliminary work has begun to map and understand current work in this field. A working group is to be developed upon the recruitment of a Newly Qualified Voter Engagement Officer (who has responsibility for engaging young people to register to vote). This group will include this officer, members of the Partnership and Involvement Team (with remit for engagement of children and young people) and education officers (with remit for supporting democracy in Schools). This group will be tasked with the recruitment of young people to develop a project that:
  - Promotes democracy, providing information about what Councillors do and the voting process;
  - Encourages young people to register to vote ahead of the May elections.
- Protecting the Environment - Climate Change: Preliminary work has begun to map and understand current work in this field. Work is ongoing to understand the current work and priorities of the Council and Public Service Board in this area. This includes linking with the Head Teachers Climate Change Forum and lead council officers in this field, to make links and develop joint working. Once this is established, if appropriate, a forum event opportunity will be offered to children and young people to further develop co-produced work in the area.



- **Women and Young Women’s Safety in Public Spaces:** In the aftermath of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa, safety of young women in public spaces has become an emergent issue for young people in Swansea. As such, a partnership approach to supporting this issue is developing. Young people have been taking part in local conversations facilitated by Swansea Council, South Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner to explore how young people feel about the safety of young women locally. These conversations have included understanding the issues from a young women’s perspective, but sessions have also been held specifically for young men as part of White Ribbon Day and the ‘All Men Can’ campaign. Feedback has been presented to a regional forum, where young people were able to discuss their issues with officials such as the Police and Crime Commissioner and Children’s Commissioner with a view to agree actions and bring about change.

### **Listening to the Voice of People 50+:**

- A review of mechanisms to “Listening to People Aged 50+” in Swansea was undertaken via a formal consultation which ran through August & September 2021 with 236 completed on-line surveys and a series of community events which took place over the summer, collecting face to face feedback, as part of our review of mechanisms to influence decision making processes and overall service delivery and priority setting for people 50+
- Feedback from the people aged 50+ identified that the key issues they wish to work on to make Swansea a better place to live are:
  1. Transport
  2. Social Isolation
  3. Active Ageing
  4. Services & Support
  5. Digital Equality
  6. Information & Communication
  7. Improving Swansea
- As a result of public feedback regular face to face engagement activities now take place on a weekly basis, to build relationships, reduce social isolation, share information and communicate opportunities to have a voice on issues that impact on the lives of people 50+ in Swansea.
  - 1) Weekly Marina Walking Group (Every Thursday) – Regularly attended by 30+ participants aged 50+
  - 2) Weekly “Cuppa & Chat” sessions (Every Friday) – Regularly attended by 30 – 40 people aged 50+
- Based on community feedback in relation to social isolation, organised events and activities in partnership with “Action For Elders”, Re-engage, Freedom Leisure, Swansea Waterfront Museum, Tawe Butterflies, Swansea Community Boat Trust and many more have been co-ordinated such as:

- 1) Monthly River Boat Trips in partnership with Swansea Community Boat Trust (40 participants per boat trip)
  - 2) Transgender Day of Remembrance at the Waterfront Museum on 16<sup>th</sup> November 21 (45 participants in attendance)
  - 3) Swansea's Festive Dinner at the Brangwyn Hall in partnership with Action For Elders (250 people 50+ attended on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 21)
  - 4) Panto scheduled at the Grand Theatre on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 21 (40 people 50+ booked to attend)
- The Ageing Well Steering Group has expanded its membership to take forward the feedback from the recent consultation and to work in partnership to improve services, increase social participation and positively impact on social isolation, improve communication and information and co-ordinate multiple mechanisms to hear the voice of people 50+ in Swansea. Current task groups include:
    - 1) Data sharing across services and partnerships to inform strategy development
    - 2) Improving Information & Communication to people 50+ & to respond to the Older Person's Commissioner For Wales who exercised her legal powers (18.11.21) to issue formal guidance to local authorities and health boards in Wales, setting out the action they should be taking so that older people can access information and services in an increasingly digital world

### **Measuring Performance and Outcomes:**

The impact of Covid has meant that our normal metrics and measures of performance has not been developed in the way we would have planned post pandemic. We have been driven to work differently and take stock of how we measure performance and capture outcomes for individuals and we recognise this is an area for development in the coming year.

Over the last 12 months, emphasis have been placed on working in partnership to enable a wider reach for all of this work. We are already working with both the Children's Commissioners Office and the Older Person's Commissioners Office to pilot the "Right Way" matrix as a tool to measure impact and distance travelled. This also feeds into our planned Human Rights Approach for Swansea.

We are also exploring the use of IT systems such as Power BI as part of the Microsoft Suite to enable us to create reports and dashboards to analyse data faster and more effectively, giving us the ability to create interactive, visual data insights that can be used to drive success.

We recognise that there is an important balance to be struck when developing performance and outcome measures that captures both quantitative and qualitative metrics. Case studies are an important part of enabling this, so we capture the impact on people's lives and the difference it is making to their wellbeing.



**To/  
Councillor Clive Lloyd  
Chair of Public Services Board**

**BY EMAIL**

cc Roger Thomas, Vice-Chair of Public  
Services Board  
Swansea Council 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

PSB/2019-20/2

20 March 2020

Summary: This is a letter from the Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Chair of the Public Services Board following the meeting of the Panel on 5 February 2020. It is regarding the PSB well-being objectives on Early Years and Live Well, Age Well.

Dear Councillor Lloyd,

**Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel – 5 February**

Thank you for attending the Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting on 5 February 2020 in which we discussed progress on two of the PSB's four well-being objectives: Early Years (lead partner: Swansea Bay University Health Board) and Live Well, Age Well (lead partner: Swansea Council).

We appreciated the attendance of a number of representatives from the Health Board and Public Health Wales in support of the work on Early Years, and Councillors and Council officers attending in support of the work on Live Well, Age Well. We thank all for answering questions about the impact and difference made.

We are writing to you, as Chair of the Public Services Board, in order to share with you our views (and any concerns / recommendations) about progress with the delivery of actions in respect of each objective, and outcomes.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**  
**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**  
 GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE  
[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) / [www.abertawe.gov.uk](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk)

## **Early Years – Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life**

The Panel heard from a range of people including Dr. Keith Reid, Executive Director of Public Health at Swansea Bay University Health Board, who is the new strategic lead for this well-being objective. We also had contributions from Siân Harrop-Griffiths (Executive Director of Strategy, Swansea Bay University Health Board), Nina Williams (Public Health Wales NHS Trust), Claire Fauvel (Public Health Wales NHS Trust) and Gary Mahoney (Early Years Progression Officer, Swansea Council).

The Panel appreciated their written report, which gave an overview of activities and progress against a number of key 'steps' to deliver improvement:

- To promote Swansea's First 1,000 Day Programme.
- To make sure parents are supported for birth and early childhood.
- To work towards effectively integrating local early years services.
- To make sure the right interventions are made earlier in life.

It was acknowledged that because of the leadership changes operational officers maintained activity under the 2018/19 action plan but have undertaken a review with a view to refreshing the work plan for 2020/21.

We also noted that Swansea PSB is now collaborating with Neath Port Talbot PSB as part of the Welsh Government sponsored Early Years Pathfinder Programme that seeks to create a streamlined, seamless and agile local early years system across the region.

We appreciated sight of detailed action plan against each of the 'steps' and progress to date, which also highlighted actions that will continue into 2020/21.

Things that were highlighted to the Panel:

- Significant progress has been made on all 'steps'.
- An evaluation of a Primary Care Early Years pilot in Penderi Cluster, focussing on reducing the gap in readiness for school, has demonstrated a more cost effective approach, compared to usual primary care patient pathways, and improved outcomes. A funding proposal to scale up the Primary Care Child and Family Service across all GP cluster areas in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea has been endorsed by the Children and Young People's Transformation Board (a sub-group of the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board (RPB)). A decision is anticipated to request release of funding from the Welsh Government to support the continuation and roll out of the programme.
- An evaluation of the Jig-So Project Journey has demonstrated significant cost avoidance and improved outcomes for children and vulnerable families.

- Work is being done to scope and map the early years system so that there is a better understanding of what services are out there and improve co-ordination and integration – so that there is a whole system / holistic approach across all organisations and service providers, not silo working, rather than a patchwork of services that families have to negotiate,. This has been shown to work in other areas, e.g. Leeds and Brighton, with impact on the readiness for school.
- Examples of the work involved and impact made by the Flying Start Programme, Jig-So Project, and Primary Years Pilot, around improving health, habits, relationships, and development of skills and resilience.
- Work done to improve awareness and understanding of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (a risk factor that may cause problems into adulthood) with professionals that work routinely with children and families, that enables front line staff to explore behaviours, tailor support for individuals and evaluate the appropriateness of services that are being delivered to vulnerable families.
- Planned improvements in perinatal mental health care, including Swansea Bay UHB hosting the in-patient service for the population of South, Mid and West Wales.
- The Public Services Board provides a good place for public service leaders to challenge each other, share information, and work together to contribute to and achieve the desired improvements. There is ongoing debate around finances, and whether pooled budgets would be a more effective way forward, in tackling shared well-being objectives.

Main points arising from our discussion:

- The clear leadership on this objective and work streams by the Health Board and Public Health Wales was evident and welcomed.
- The work of officers on the ground, working on a day-to-day basis in efforts to give every child the best start in life, is to be congratulated.
- The Panel recognised the focus on and benefits to a small number of children and families or specific areas in Swansea, but hoped to see a rollout / scaling up of approaches across Swansea given demonstrated cost savings and benefits – subject to funding. Given the scale of the problem the gap in resources to make a bigger difference is concerning. Limited resources of course have to be directed at the greatest need, and spent in the right way.
- Some issues around Flying Start coverage given it is postcode based, rather than catchment area, meaning some children in the same school not benefitting from the Programme. Similarly, this means that it is not necessarily needs led. We noted that professionals have already made the case to the Welsh Government for system change.
- The importance of early intervention to help children and families with needs, and the vital role of midwifery as first contact to identify support and referral to appropriate services.

- Demonstrating the return on investment and achievements from early intervention projects and initiatives can be challenging in the short term – but changes and the difference made over the long-term need to be clearer, to know whether we have really moved forward e.g. over the last 20 years, to break the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage.

### **Live Well, Age Well – To Make Swansea a Great Place to Live and Age Well**

The Panel heard from you, Councillor Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well, and Adam Hill, Strategic Lead Officer, and operational lead officers, Jane Whitmore and Julie Gosney. The report provided to the Panel enabled us to understand progress to date with the Live Well, Age Well objective, as well as the developing future priorities.

We noted the following ‘steps’ key to this objective, and progress on these:

- Cultural change – starting a debate across generations about what it means to live and age well and develop a campaign based on the feedback.
- Innovative approaches to health and social care – supporting dementia friendly communities.
- Community based approaches – maximizing existing approaches and exploring evidence-based approaches to end of life care.
- Innovative housing and technology – exploring a range of initiatives to tackle social isolation and build personal resilience across the PSB and the voluntary sector.
- Making every contact count – developing and sharing of joint messages and resources that support people to remain safe and independent in their homes.

We heard that:

- During 2019/20 the focus has been to revisit existing steps in the Well-being Plan to establish what is business as usual and what actions would benefit from a collaborative partnership approach that will make a difference.
- There has been a lot of work on citizen engagement and participation through mechanisms such as the Big Conversation, Live Well, Age Well Forum (updated version of the 50+ Forum), and other intergenerational opportunities. Understanding what matters to people across age ranges and what it means to live and age well, to guide actions.
- Digital Friendly Generations is an ongoing digital storytelling project that has been successful in bringing together the young and older people of Swansea, to create an understanding of dementia and explore issues, and help people with dementia to improve their sense of well-being, and have a stronger sense of control and a voice in sharing their life experiences with the younger generation.

- The Local Area Co-ordinators approach continues to work in our communities to help anyone build relationships within their community and access support. Local Area Coordination will be expanding in 2020 with five new officers joining the team, making 16 in total.
- Moving forward three key thematic priorities (encompassing all elements of the above 'steps'), with SMART targets, have been identified to deliver on the well-being objective and ensure partnership buy in, with actions planned for the coming year. The three priorities, would each have a specific working group with a nominated lead and action plan with expected outcomes and timelines:
  - A City for All – mapping existing commitments and initiatives, e.g. City of Sanctuary, Human Rights; and identifying opportunities, overlaps and commonalities.
  - Active Travel – improving ability of people to routinely walk or cycle, identifying barriers to overcome to help achieve this, be more active and live well (noted this is not the same thing as accessible travel / transport)
  - Healthy Literacy / Healthy Ageing – encouraging people to live healthier lifestyles, which can reduce a person's risk of getting early onset dementia.

Main points arising from our discussion:

- Not every area across Swansea has the service of a specialist Local Area Coordinator, and the Panel supports expansion of this approach. Additionally, there may be an opportunity for community councils, if present, to step into the void. Perhaps the Public Services Board could improve its links with Community Councillors to assist with and support ageing well initiatives in the community, and develop community contact.
- The role of other community-based groups, including churches, was also recognised as playing a very important part in efforts and the wider network to engage with people. We noted that there is a lot of work going on in the Third Sector, with SCVS as the umbrella body, which are saving costs for statutory partners.
- There is concern about the impact of air pollution on our ability to live well and age well. Recent findings published by the Centre for Cities called 'Holding our Breath' make bad reading for Swansea. According to their research, on a per-capita basis, of the UK's 63 largest towns and cities Swansea has the highest particulate emissions per 10,000 inhabitants, and for NO<sub>2</sub>, Swansea is second worst in terms of having the highest emissions per 10,000 inhabitants.  
<https://www.centreforcities.org/reader/cities-outlook-2020/air-quality-cities/>.  
 This should be a priority for the Public Services Board to address.

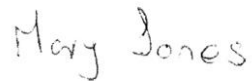
## Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response.

We look forward to a further review of progress against these objectives in due course.

Please note that our next Panel meeting will focus on the Stronger Communities and Working with Nature PSB Objectives, hearing from the lead PSB partners, however would welcome your input if you are able to attend.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**COUNCILLOR MARY JONES**

Convener, Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ [cllr.mary.jones@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mary.jones@swansea.gov.uk)





**Minutes of the Swansea Public Services Board  
Joint Committee**

**Remotely via Microsoft Teams**

**Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 3.00 pm**

**Present:**

Mark Brace, Police & Crime Commissioners Office  
Amanda Carr, Swansea Council for Voluntary Service  
Sian Harrop-Griffiths, Swansea Bay University Health Board  
Adam Hill, Swansea Council  
David Hopkins, Swansea Council  
Trudi Meyrick, South Wales Police  
Hamish Osborn, Natural Resources Wales  
Roger Thomas, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service  
Nuria Zolle, Swansea Bay University Health Board (Independent Member)

**Also Present:**

Geoff Bacon, Swansea Council  
James Colthart, Coreus Group  
Russell De'Ath, Natural Resources Wales  
Neil Farquhar, Austin-Smith:Lord  
Helen Grey, Natural Resources Wales  
Becky Jones, Swansea Council  
Steve King, Swansea Council  
Allison Lowe, Swansea Council  
Philip McDonnell, Swansea Environmental Forum  
Rhian Millar, Swansea Council  
Suzy Richards, Swansea Council  
Hannah Thomas, Swansea Council  
Paul Thomas, Swansea Council  
Lee Wenham, Swansea Council  
Jane Whitmore, Swansea Council

**Apologies for Absence**

Leanne Ahern, Swansea Council  
Martyn Evans, Natural Resources Wales  
Andrea Lewis, Swansea Council  
Phil Roberts, Swansea Council  
Rob Stewart, Swansea Council  
Mark Wade, Health & Housing Group

**1 Election of Chair for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.**

**Resolved** that Councillor Andrea Lewis, Swansea Council be elected Chair for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.

**2 Election of Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.**

**Resolved** that Roger Thomas, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service be elected Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2021-2022.

**Roger Thomas, Vice Chair Presided**

**3 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.**

No declarations were made.

**4 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee held on 8 April 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**5 Update on Actions from Previous Meeting.**

**Agreed** that the actions be noted.

**6 Public Question Time.**

There were no public questions.

**7 State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR).**

Russell De'Ath, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), supported by Helen Grey provided a presentation on the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR).

He explained that SoNaRR2020 was an assessment of the extent to which the sustainable management of natural resources was being achieved.

The report provided an assessment on how successfully Wales was addressing the four aims of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR). It split Wales into 8 broad ecosystems and assessed the state of each ecosystem in turn. It then considered the cross-cutting pressures faced by these ecosystems:

- Climate Change
- Land use change
- Pollution
- Over-exploitation
- Invasive Non Native Species

It also addressed our overseas footprint.

He outlined the 4 questions used to obtain the data used towards the assessment:

- Framing the questions - Aim 1 – Are stocks of natural resources being safeguarded and enhanced?

- Framing the questions – Aim 2 – Are ecosystems resilient to expected and unforeseen change?
- Framing the questions – Aim 3 – Do we have healthy places for people protected from environmental risks?
- Framing the questions – Aim 4 – Do we have a regenerative economy achieving sustainable levels of production and consumption?

The conclusion being that Wales was not currently achieving the sustainable management of natural resources SoNaRR2020 as set out in the following 4 aims:

1. stable stocks of natural resources,
2. resilient ecosystems,
3. healthy places for people, free from environmental risks
4. a regenerative economy.

The report proposed that Wales needs to take a systems approach to tackling environmental problems. In order to make Wales's use of natural resources more sustainable, transformational change was needed for things like the food, energy and transport systems. Although those three systems were not the only ones putting pressure on the environment, they were responsible for most of the impacts, therefore it was a good place to start a systems approach.

He stated that NRW could support the development of Wellbeing Assessments by understanding the significance of the Climate and Nature Emergencies and its potential impacts on social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.

NRW recommend PSBs use the SoNaR Report framing (4 aims).

In addition, the 'three horizons' framework could help people to think and plan for the longer term. The toolkit could be designed for anyone who is involved in making decisions that need to consider the future and future generations, like public bodies in Wales with duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It enabled organisations to think about how and why the way things are currently done was not fit for purpose, in what ways emerging trends might shape the future, what an ideal future should look like and the kinds of visionary actions that are needed to get closer to that future.

NRW could help PSBs understand the significance of the Climate and Nature Emergencies and their potential impacts on social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being by:

- Sharing their SoNaR report findings.
- Framing the questions to help the assessments of local well-being through the 4 aims used in SoNaRR.
- Working through Area Statements to deliver well-being outcomes that support transformational change.
- Offer to host a "Three Horizons" workshop, to look at our environmental challenges through a societal lens.

Additional information could be found on the NRW website:

[Natural Resources Wales / State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR\) for Wales 2020](#)

The 4 aims should be considered when discussing the future direction of the PSB in its role as a City for Wellbeing.

**Agreed** that the presentation be noted.

## **8 Human Rights City.**

Lee Wenham, supported by Rhian Millar, Swansea Council provided a report in order that the Joint Committee reconfirm commitment, identify resources and agree the process to support Swansea's ambition to become a Human Rights City.

Whilst the partners continued to support the proposals, it was noted that this was a huge commitment which needed to be kept under review in terms of the inputs required and time commitment involved.

**Agreed** that the Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee reconfirm its commitment to Swansea becoming a Human Rights City by:

- Each statutory Public Service Board member sign the declaration of ambition to be a Human Rights City;
- Agree the creation of a new body to oversee the journey;
- Commit a senior resource to lead on human rights in your organisation and sit on the new governance group to shape our journey (names to be emailed to Lee Wenham);
- Agree to oversee the development of a Human Rights City approach through the Public Services Board.

## **9 Discussion Paper - Focus and Delivery 2021/22.**

The Sustainable Policy Officer presented proposals to stimulate discussion for PSB focus and delivery in response to the pandemic for 2021/22.

Whilst the 4 workstreams would continue, they would focus on:

- Human Rights;
- A Culture of Community;
- Mental Health;
- A City for Well-being & Wildlife.

It was noted that discussions should take place with the Regional Programme Board in terms of the Mental Health item in order to avoid duplication.

**Agreed that:**

- 1) Partners scope areas of overlapping interest for focused delivery to directly address and aid Swansea's recovery from impacts of the pandemic in 2021/22.
- 2) Partners identify Strategic Leads for each of the work streams if approved by the Joint committee.

**10 Domestic Homicide Reviews.**

Paul Thomas and Jane Whitmore, Swansea Council provided a report to highlight the Domestic Homicide Review Process in Swansea.

**Agreed** that the Joint Committee support the overall approach and progress offered in the report.

**11 Critical Incident Group - Anti-Social Behaviour.**

Paul Thomas, Swansea Council provided a report to consider establishing a Critical Incident Group (CIG) to look at Anti-Social Behaviour in Swansea post Covid.

It was noted that the date in paragraph 1.2 should read 20 May 2021.

Adam Hill stated it was important to note that this Critical Incident Group, if formed, would look at Anti-Social Behaviour across the whole of Swansea, not just in relation to the Mayhill incident. The CIG would be time limited to no more than 18 months – approximately 6 meetings.

**Agreed that:**

- 1) The PSB supports the overall approach and proposals outlined in the report;
- 2) Further discussions take place regarding who will Chair the Group and provide secretarial support.

**12 Local Property Board. (Presentation)**

Geoff Bacon, Chair of the Local Property Board, supported by Hannah Thomas & Becky Jones, Swansea Council and James Colthart and Neil Farquhar of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) provided a presentation in relation to the collaborative City Centre Community Hub (former BHS building) which would form an employability hub and link all public sectors.

Hannah Thomas outlined the stakeholder engagement that had taken place to date with both internal and external stakeholders in relation to take up in the building via lease or membership. She outlined a flavour of internal front facing services which include the Central Library, Archives, Family History, Housing Options, Employability projects, Contact Centre, Revenue & Benefits and Lifelong Learning services with initial discussions having been undertaken in relation to individual requirements.

External discussions had taken place with the Princes Trust, Careers Wales, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS), Citizens Advice, Police, Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), Swansea Carers Centre, both Universities and Gower College Swansea and Health. Firm commitment from external stakeholders would be required as the project progressed.

James Colthart, Multi-Disciplinary Team project lead provided an update on the programme undertaken over the last 6-8 weeks:

Stage 1 has just been finalised which included development of the brief and building on the work already progressed by the team. As stated that has been considerable positive stakeholder engagement with many synergies between service providers, both internal & external.

Stage 2 had just commenced and more of the design work would progress, looking at the spatial arrangement and building plans. It was hoped to commence contractor procurement later this year.

In terms of commencement of work on site, this would likely be split into two phases:

The enabling works package would include removal of the asbestos and old systems which would need to be removed prior to the commencement of the main works, which would commence at the start of 2022.

The main works, including the fit out of the building would commence in March 2022 and completion was targeted from the end of September through until the end of that year.

Neil Farquhar provided various images of the building in its current form both internally and externally. He stated there were a number of challenges in relation to the building such as the roof requiring significant repair and the existing services were at the end of their natural lifespan. These would be updated as well as the building fabric to improve the energy efficiency and sustainable credentials of the project.

The Architects would be obtaining information from the stakeholders in terms of the schedule of accommodation, special arrangements to plan how they would all fit in the building in order to give as much visibility as possible to each service area.

In terms of using exemplar standards such as the WELL Building Standard certification scheme, Geoff Bacon confirmed that we would work with the MDT, looking at all different strands and levels of sustainability, which would include the WELL certification scheme in the constraints of the budget available. There was however, significant support from Welsh Government, who view this as an important step in revitalising the City Centre.

The Chair thanked the team for their informative presentation.

**Agreed** that the presentation be noted.

**13 Assessment of Local Well-being 2022: Regional Collaboration and Local Update.**

Steve King, Swansea Council presented a report to set out recent developments in preparing for the next Assessment of Local Well-being for 2022.

**Agreed** that the report be noted.

**14 Swansea Public Services Board Annual Report. (Verbal)**

Adam Hill, Swansea Council reported that the Annual Report was in the process of being finalised that week and would be circulated to partners on 25 June for final checking. He asked for a swift turnaround so that the final version could be sent for Welsh Translation in order to meet the end of July deadline.

**Agreed** that the verbal update be noted.

**15 Partnership Forum Meeting Topics and Conference. (Verbal)**

Adam Hill, Swansea Council enquired whether any partner with good organisational skills in co-production would like to join the Co-ordination Task & Finish Group for the Partnership Forum.

**Agreed** that names should be forwarded to Adam Hill / Leanne Ahern.

**16 Welsh Government Public Services Board Support Grant.**

For information.

**17 Future Work Programme.**

The Chair outlined the Work Plan for the October and December meetings and encouraged other partners to consider providing an update on their organisation / specific topic at a future meeting.

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

The meeting ended at 5.13 pm

**Chair**



## Minutes of the **Swansea Public Services Board** **Joint Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, 21 October 2021 at 3.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor A S Lewis (Chair) Presided

Mark Brace, Police & Crime Commissioners Office  
Mark Brier, South Wales Police  
Amanda Carr, Swansea Council for Voluntary Service  
Kelvyn Curry, Mid & West Wales Fire Authority  
Martyn Evans, Natural Resources Wales  
Sian Harrop-Griffiths, Swansea Bay University Health Board  
Adam Hill, Swansea Council  
Deanne Martin, HM Prison & Probation Service  
Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner  
Roger Thomas, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service  
Mark Wade, Health & Housing Group

**Also Present:**

Leanne Ahern, Swansea Council  
Allison Lowe, Swansea Council  
Rhian Millar, Swansea Council  
Steve Porter, Swansea Council  
Keith Reid, Public Health, Swansea Bay University Health Board  
Suzy Richards, Swansea Council  
Amy Richmond-Jones, Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service  
Richard Rowlands, Swansea Council

**Apologies for Absence**

Phil Roberts, Swansea Council  
Rob Stewart, Swansea Council

**18 Welcome.**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Kelvin Curry, Deputy Chair of the Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service to his first meeting as the new representative on Swansea Public Services Board.

**19 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.**

No declarations were made.



**20 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee Held on 17 June 2021 be signed and approved as a correct record.

**21 Update on Actions from Previous Meeting.**

Adam Hill reported that most of the actions were part of today's agenda.

In relation to the Critical Incident Group – Anti-Social Behaviour – scoping work was currently under way and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

**22 Public Question Time.**

There were no public questions.

**23 Assessment of Local Well-being 2022 Update.**

Richard Rowlands, Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager, Swansea Council presented a report to set out recent developments in preparing for the next Assessment of Local Well-being for 2022.

He outlined the recent developments in paragraph 2 of the report that had taken place since the last meeting which included the revised timetable.

Adam Hill referred to the letter from Swansea Public Services Board and the response from Rebecca Evans, Minister for Finance and Local Government (included at agenda items 13 & 14).

**24 Integrated Public Health Approach to Substance Misuse. (Verbal)**

Keith Reid, Director of Public Health provided a verbal update on the Integrated Public Health Approach to Substance Misuse.

He commenced by outlining the background following the declaration in 2018 of the Critical Incident Group on Substance Misuse in the Western Bay Region to focus action on drug supply. It also highlighted the issue of drug related deaths and the wider social impact of substance misuse in our communities.

An action plan was drawn up and it was recognised there was a requirement to move towards a different model of tackling substance misuse. The joint PSB also agreed that this approach should be adopted in January 2020.

The establishment of an Expert Advisory Panel be created to inform the work around tackling substance misuse by drawing on National and International subject matter experts (SME's) on the best approach in engaging with those both directly impacted and their families.

The Area Planning Board (APB) which oversees the implementation of the Welsh Government Substance Misuse Strategy agreed that the Expert Advisory Panel should take the form similar to the very successful Drugs Commission model that was formed in Dundee, Scotland.

The APB enlisted the assistance of "Figure 8" who were also involved in the Dundee Drugs Commission. Proposals for the implementation of a commission style approach in the Western Bay area continue to be developed and were at the launch position.

Membership of the Expert Advisory Panel would be independent, not drawn from local agencies but on a voluntary basis. They would not be paid for participation but bring expertise that was not routinely available locally. The findings would sit independently as recommendations.

A number of concerns had been raised around the Governance and to who the Panel would be accountable and how and Panel would operate during the Local Government Election purdah period. However, the development of services would continue whilst the Panel undertook its work.

There was a discussion over the terminology for the Panel / Commission and why the single service alliance approach delivery model that had previously been agreed had not progressed.

**Agreed** that further discussions should take place to consider the requirements and governance of the establishment of the Expert Advisory Panel and the single service alliance approach delivery model and an update be provided to a future meeting of the Swansea Public Services Board Joint Committee.

## **25 Human Rights City Status. (Verbal)**

Rhian Millar, Consultation Co-Ordinator, Swansea Council provided an update on the progress regarding the vision of achieving Human Rights City Status for Swansea.

The Steering Group meetings which included representatives from each of the partners on the PSB had commenced with the next meeting scheduled for the following week.

A launch event was scheduled for Human Rights Day on 10 December which would formally launch the intention for Swansea to be a Human Rights City.

Engagement had progressed with community groups and the public via forums and a baseline awareness survey would shortly be progressed to understand the current awareness of human rights and what the priorities for Swansea should be.

In addition, the event on 10 December would showcase the work already ongoing in Swansea. Steering Group members were requested to bring examples of good work or ideas of what they would like to showcase at the launch event to the next Steering Group meeting.

Progress continued in relation to the European framework for Human Rights, and it was pleasing to note that we appeared to be meeting most of the requirements.

**26 Audit Wales Report - Rough Sleeping in Wales - Everyone's Problem; No One's Responsibility.**

Mark Wade and Steve Porter, Swansea Council provided an update on how Swansea was tackling rough sleeping in the City and to respond to the recommendations of the [Rough Sleeping in Wales – Everyone's Problem; No One's Responsibility | Audit Wales](#)

**Agreed that:**

- 1) Members of the Public Services Board (PSB) commit to using the Wales Audit Complex Needs Tool whenever initiating a new partnership, service, project, or service review/evaluation that provides services for people with complex needs outlined in Appendix A. (A revised condensed version would be circulated to partners).
- 2) Members of the PSB assess their services against the '*Wales Audit characteristics of public services that are better placed to respond to people with complex needs*' (Appendix B).

**27 Climate Change Commitment from Partners on Swansea Public Services Board. (Verbal)**

The Chair was pleased to report that the majority of partners had already provided their commitment and devised their own climate emergency actions, however a few were still outstanding.

Both the Health Board and Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service verbally provided their commitment during the meeting. In addition, South Wales Police verbally provided their commitment and apologised for the delay as the information was currently with their Legal Department.

**28 Partnership Forum Options.**

Suzy Richards, Swansea Council presented proposals to stimulate discussion for PSB focus and delivery in response to the pandemic for 2021/22.

**Agreed that:**

- 1) A Virtual Partnership Forum be held in November focusing on Human Rights / Human Rights City;
- 2) A Virtual Partnership Forum is held in January / February 2022 focusing on a range of areas around Climate Change, Nature, City of Well-being and Wildlife;
- 3) Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS) technically host the above event;

- 4) An in person Partnership Forum be held in June 2022 focusing on Culture of Communities and future work programme;
- 5) The number of invitees is open to all the Partnership Forum members;
- 6) All partners commit to contributing volunteer breakout room facilitators (Leanne Ahern to email partners requesting nominations).

**29 Scrutiny Programme Committee Letter Dated 21 October 2021.**

For information.

**30 Wellbeing Assessment Letter to Welsh Government.**

For information.

**31 Response letter from Welsh Government dated 5 October 2021.**

For information.

**32 Future Work Programme:**

**Agreed** that the Work Plan be noted subject to the following additions:

16 December 2022

- Integrated Offender Management to include Community Safety development / Safer Communities Network.

10 February 2022

- Swansea Third Sector Compact Agreement Annual Report – Presentation.

The meeting ended at 4.36 pm

**Chair**

# Agenda Item 7



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

## Pre-decision Scrutiny: Covid Recovery and Investment

### Role of the Committee

<b>Purpose</b>	This report provides guidance on pre-decision scrutiny ahead of consideration of the Cabinet report on: a) Covid Recovery and Investment.
<b>Content</b>	This covering report explains the role of the Committee in undertaking pre-decision scrutiny.  The actual Cabinet report, which is to be considered by Cabinet on 20 January, is appended.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• note the pre-decision scrutiny process and role of the Committee</li><li>• consider the Cabinet report and proposals</li><li>• agree any views on the proposed decision(s) that are to be raised with Cabinet</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor</b>	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Report Author</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Telephone: 01792 637257 <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Paul Cridland

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee will carry out pre-decision scrutiny or delegate to relevant Scrutiny Panels, in respect of proposed cabinet reports as requested.
- 1.2 A report concerning 'Covid Recovery and Investment' is scheduled for decision by Cabinet on 20 January. This report is described in the Council's Forward Plan as updating Cabinet of the Covid Recovery to date, highlighting future investment that may be required. The report sets out the background and current position

on recovering from COVID-19, highlighting challenges, risks and issues on individual projects.

1.3 The Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Strategy & Finance (Leader) on this matter is **attached** for pre-decision scrutiny.

## 2. Role of the Committee

2.1 The purpose of pre-decision scrutiny:

- It entitles scrutiny to discuss proposed Cabinet reports, where a clear recommendation(s) exists, before decisions are taken by the Executive.
- Acting as a 'critical friend', it enables scrutiny to ask questions about a report to develop understanding and inform and influence decision-making, for example asking about:
  - the rationale for the report
  - robustness of the proposed decision and decision-making process
  - potential impact and implications (including financial, social, economic and environmental impact) and risks
  - how different options have been considered
  - the extent of consultation undertaken
  - implementation and measures of success etc.
- It enables scrutiny to provide a perspective and report its views and any issues to Cabinet. The chair, on behalf of the Committee, can attend the Cabinet meeting to share the views of scrutiny on the report prior to Cabinet decision. This may include giving support, providing other suggestions on the way forward, or flagging up any concerns.
- The views of scrutiny are required to be formally considered by Cabinet before it makes the decision and feedback should be given including explanation for any rejection of views expressed.

2.2 Lead Cabinet Member(s) will attend the meeting to present the report and respond to questions, along with relevant officer(s) involved in the development of the report who can assist the Committee and provide appropriate advice.

2.3 The Committee (through the chair) will write to the Cabinet Member(s) with its views following pre-decision scrutiny. The Chair will have the opportunity to attend the Cabinet meeting on 20 January to verbally feedback the Committee's views, conclusions and recommendations about the report, based on the contents of letter.

### **3. Cabinet Response**

- 3.1 Cabinet must formally consider scrutiny views at its meeting. It may decide that any issues raised by scrutiny can be dealt with at the meeting and decision taken. It may decide that more time is needed to consider the views of scrutiny and defer decision to the next (or a special) meeting of Cabinet.
- 3.2 The relevant Cabinet Member is expected to write back to the Committee with feedback from Cabinet and should include explanation of any rejection of scrutiny views.

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution "pre-decision scrutiny gives scrutiny the opportunity to influence Cabinet decision making as a critical friend". "The views of the scrutiny committee are formally presented (either in a written report or verbally by the scrutiny Chair) to the Cabinet meeting for the Cabinet to consider and inform its decision making".

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report. Financial implications of the actual cabinet report(s) are contained within those reports.

**Background Papers:** None

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Cabinet Report – Covid Recovery and Investment



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

Cabinet – 20 January 2022

### Covid Recovery and Investment

<b>Purpose:</b>	To inform Cabinet of the Covid Recovery progress to date and to recommend that Cabinet approve the future plans and further investment proposals
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Achieving Better Together Programme
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Notes the good progress to date, and the ongoing flexibility required to respond to ongoing and emerging challenges and changes to the Council, its services and its workforce.</li> <li>2) In line with the requirements of Financial Procedure Rule 7 (capital programming and appraisals), commits and authorises a new £2m scheme onto the capital programme for the data centre move to the Guildhall</li> <li>3) Approves the revised plan and timeline for the implementation of the Oracle programme together with further investment of £3,620,412 in line with the requirements of Financial Procedure Rule 5</li> <li>4) Notes the social services update</li> <li>5) Notes the capital contingency update, the likely allocations and agrees to continue to hold the balance as a remaining contingency sum</li> <li>6) Allocates £2.05m of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) monies set out in the report for the purpose of enhanced play facilities and skate park facilities as a new capital budget in line with the requirements of Financial Procedure Rule 7; and delegates the delivery of this programme to the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration and Tourism and the Director of Place to finalise the detailed delivery programme.</li> </ol>
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Adam Hill / Marlyn Dickson
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 15th October 2020, Cabinet approved the new “From Recovery to Transformation” report detailing the 3 Phases from recovery through to the “Swansea – Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme Framework 2022 – 2026”.
- 1.2 The main purpose of the Achieving Better Together Programme is to ensure the council is sustainable, efficient and effective in what and how it delivers its services with the citizen at the heart of all that we do. We want to ensure the right services are available to our communities in the right way and at the right time for them.
- 1.3 As well as identifying the priorities in the short and medium term, the Achieving Better Together framework aims to set the foundations for establishing the longer term shape of the council, looking ahead to the next 20 years to 2040.
- 1.4 The information below sets out the background and current position of the work programme highlighting challenges, risks and issues within individual projects.

## 2. Recover & Refocus Swansea

- 2.1 The strategic aims of Swansea – Achieving Better Together are:
- The core purpose of the Council
  - Transforming services to be effective and efficient
  - Greater collaboration with other Councils, organisations, community groups and residents, with a focus on regionalisation
  - Balancing the budget for current and future years
  - Greater and more meaningful engagements with our residents and community
  - To meet the aspirations and targets within the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 2.2 The programme phases are not linear but overlap so the work undertaken in the prior phase will inform the next phase.

Phase 1 – Short Term	Re-mobilise	Recovering, restarting & adapting a wide range of Council Services
Phase 2 – Medium Term	Refocus (Up to May 2022)	A strategic response to support the city to emerge and grow from the crisis delivering our corporate priorities
Phase 3 – Long Term (work in Phase 1 and 2 will support the actions in Phase 3)	Reshape (After May 2022)	Longer term City and County regeneration and development strategy

The work of both the Remobilise and Refocus phase have continued throughout the new pressures of the COVID pandemic and continued impact of COVID. The Councils response has had an impact on progress, however the work-streams have all worked through their agendas to Recover and Refocus the Council.

- 2.3 The council did not only maintain services throughout the pandemic but is well underway on its journey to refocus the Council. Many of the services transitioned to working from home and the many capital and development programmes were maintained through the planning and preparation process to ensure at the first opportunity and when safe to do so, the projects, plans and strategies were re-introduced and building work began, ensuring that Swansea didn't fall behind in its ambitions and programmes to make Swansea better.
- 2.4 It helped that the Council was in a strong position going into the pandemic which enabled desk based staff to make the shift to homeworking easily. In addition, staff from across services got involved in volunteering or supporting vital work to help residents and businesses.
- 2.5 The Achieving Better Together programme is clear in its message that the purpose of the programme is to enable a sustainable, efficient and effective organisation with the citizens of Swansea at the heart. The remobilise phase initiated a plan that done just that, it called on resources from across the organisation to support local residents, communities and businesses through the pandemic as a priority. This included a range of interventions from:
- Food banks and support for those shielding
  - Issuing grants to businesses and direct payments to carers, those self-isolating, or to parents for free school meals.
  - A shift to online channels supported more residents completing online forms for service requests.
- 2.6 The Re-mobilise phase set the 2021/22 budget and refreshed the MTFP. This work was undertaken in the Recovery, Reshaping and Budget Strategy Board and has been closely monitored each month from May 2021.
- 2.7 The continued impact of COVID and the Councils response has had an impact on progress, however the work-streams have all worked through their agendas to refocus the Council.
- 2.8 Phase 2 – Refocus is supporting the council to deliver its ongoing corporate priorities and plans, whilst adapting to address the impacts coming out of the COVID crisis.
- 2.9 Work is ongoing in relation to the continued recovery, refocussing and reshaping the Council and is structured around the following work streams;
- Care Services
  - Education and Learning
  - Future Workforce and Equalities
  - Community Support
  - Economy and Environment

- 2.10 The work-streams have shown great examples of working together and in partnerships to achieve outcomes for our organisation, staff and the citizens of Swansea since the start of the refocus plan in March 2021, achievements include (but are not limited to):

#### For Our Staff and Organisation

- Relaunch of the Leadership hub
- Relaunch of the Ideas Hub
- Involvement Workshops
- Programme timetable for MTFP
- Reporting process for Economic Recovery Fund Monitoring
- Renewed Agile Policy
- Ensuring Staff have a safe environment (e.g. office furniture, DSE risk assessment. available for working from home)

#### For Our Citizens

- Local Area Coordination expansion across Swansea
- Volunteering Toolkits and Training Launched
- Safeguarding & Wellbeing - monitoring of vulnerable children with a shared criteria of understanding vulnerability being used between Education and Child and Family Services.
- Both Education and Child and Family have a Single Point of Contact in relation to vulnerable children accessing on site provision.
- Partnership approach to Community Project to provide free refurbished smart phones with free credit via partner organisations to residents; over 162 phones distributed so far this year. More partners engaged to donate mobiles
- Homelessness Strategy - Over 400 positive moves from temporary accommodation into more suitable supported or permanent accommodation
- Covid Economic Recovery Plan Local businesses supported, safeguarding jobs and securing new investment.

### **3. Challenges**

- 3.1 The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has brought huge challenges and changes to the Council, its services and workforce. The Council has never undertaken such change in such a short timescale and in such challenging circumstances. A number of non-essential services were suspended in order to redeploy resources to areas where they were most needed.
- 3.2 As work continues to recover and refocus the Council, it is acknowledged that the programme has a requirement to be flexible as there are influences outside of the Councils control that could require a change in approach such as external issues, legislative or guideline changes.
- 3.3 This has been the case on a number of projects for example: following a recent Nature Emergency declaration by Welsh Government, although the Climate Emergency project has had governance in place and has included Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure and Local Development plans from the outset. The steering group reflected on the nature aspect of their work and

a report presented to Cabinet in November demonstrates this commitment. The programme has been renamed: Climate Change and Nature Strategy.

- 3.4 The COVID crisis has been a perfect storm for Swansea Council. The Council has had to take on new responsibilities to support and protect our communities and businesses. In addition, looking ahead, we will play a vital role in supporting social and economic recovery – but are likely to face ongoing funding pressures.
- 3.5 A Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy presented to Cabinet on 16th December 2021 titled - Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2nd Quarter 2021/22. The report acknowledged an estimated overspend for the year of £15.9million. Bar some “Business as usual” fluctuations, this amount is in effect entirely because of the COVID 19 pandemic and relevant increases in expenditure and reductions in income as a result. More detailed information can be found in section 2 of the report - Revenue Outturn Forecast Based on 2nd Quarter position.
- 3.6 Individual projects within work-streams have their own risks and issues. It has been recognised that a number of projects carry higher risk than others. These projects in particular require flexibility in their plans for delivery. The main projects impacted are below:

Work-stream	Project
Workforce & Equality	Workforce Challenges
	Data Centre Move to Guildhall
	Oracle Programme
	Variation Vaccination Service & Track & Trace
Learning & Education	Developing and maintaining digital interface between schools and local authority
Care Services	Social Care Recovery
Environment & Economy	Capital Maintenance

#### 4. Workforce & Equality

##### 4.1 Workforce Challenges - For Information

- 4.1.1 The Covid-19 pandemic placed significant pressure on the Council’s workforce. That pressure varied across services and became multi-layered throughout 2020 and continuing throughout 2021. During this time, emergency structures were established and resources were prioritised towards Covid-19 activities.
- 4.1.2 The introduction of a revised Agile Working Policy gives greater power to the employee to work in an agile manner, whilst ensuring the needs of the business continue to be met. This is now informing decisions on the future accommodation strategy which will continue to see a reduction in the office estate but ensuring flexibility to meet the needs of the evolving hybrid working model.
- 4.1.3 In the first nine months of the 2020/21 and up to October 2021, headcount and FTE has increased in all Directorates.

Place Directorate	there has been an increase in Traineeship roles (especially in Waste Management) which then result in permanent posts at the end of the Traineeship. Some areas have also received external funding to create specific roles e.g. Workways.
Resources Directorate	the vast majority of headcount increase relates to additional TTP and vaccination-line staff recruitment. There are approximately 276 employees working in that team and are in the process of recruiting additional Staff.
Social Services	Aside from Social Services internally investing within their services, they have applied for and received significant funding, used to create additional posts and in turn has increased headcount and FTE. There remains significant recruitment and retention issues within this Directorate, more detailed information is in section 6 – Care Services.

4.1.4 Management of Absence Officers have been appointed to support managers in Education, Place and Social Services in the pro-active management of sickness absence in those Directorates and particularly in Service areas where sickness absence is at its highest. Sickness absence rates across the Council have reduced significantly from 13.38 in 2019/20 to 6.62 in 20/21. That trend has continued into 2021/22.

4.1.5 Specific response to Covid 19

**Volunteering and Re-allocation of Resources**

During the course of the pandemic, Directorates have been supported in the redeployment of employees.

Staff, in the main, have returned to their substantive roles as services have resumed although it is recognised that there may be a requirement for further redeployment in the event of future lockdowns. more detailed information on this and TTP Activities is in section 4.2.

**Employee Relations Activities**

To support Trade Union and employee engagement, regular weekly and subsequently fortnightly meetings continue to be held with Trade Unions to consider and consult on HR and Health & Safety issues and concerns.

In addition, Trade Unions have been engaged in Social Partnership Workshops to develop working relationships with the Council and Focus Group discussions on development of the proposed Workforce Strategy.

**Corporate H&S Training**

The Corporate H&S training team have continued to support the workforce and managers in a range of activities during the pandemic. Those activities are continuing.

**Occupational Health**

During the pandemic the Occupational Health and Stress Management and Counselling services continue to be delivered remotely to support the workforce, in line with national guidance. There have been 493

occupational health referrals made from April to end of September 2021.

Since April 2021 Occupational Health have extended the SMAC Physiological support project, utilising internal and external contract counsellors and helping hands volunteers until April 2022.

The external Occupational Health Clinics have also been increased to 3 per week, and 1 OHP clinic per week to reduce waiting times, that will continue until April 2022 and reviewed to determine provision for 2022/23.

4.1.6 During the course of 2021 a Staff Survey has been undertaken, employees were asked to comment on the key Strands of the proposed Workforce Strategy and an analysis of the results has been undertaken, focus groups have also been established to encourage staff involvement. Work will continue on the proposed Workforce Strategy for 2022/25 to include further consultations with Trade Unions, Staff and PDC's.

4.1.7 All service areas are continuing to undertake significant and challenging activities to support the organisation and residents during the ongoing pandemic. Social Services continues to be the priority focus, however this update re-affirms the flexibility of the workforce, particularly in adapting quickly and positively to new working environments and, in some cases, new roles and skills.

#### 4.2 Vaccination Service & Track & Trace implications - For Information

4.2.1 In May 2021, Welsh Government tasked all local authorities to create teams that could introduce and carry out the emergency response to the growing pandemic.

4.2.2 In June 2021, TTP management agreed to create a stand-alone service to enable fulfilment of Vaccine Certification to support Welsh Governments adoption of this mechanism as an additional barrier to infection spread whilst facilitating essential activities. The service is known as the Welsh Vaccine Certification Service and deals with around 2000 requests per day and increasing.

4.2.3 At present, it is unclear what Welsh Government's long term strategy for continuing Contact Tracing or TTP generally is, so plans are based on the existing funding to June 2022, current SOPs and caseload modelling provided to WG by Swansea University, together with local expertise from Council infection control officers.

4.2.4 Welsh Government are currently undertaking Task and Finish Group reviews of current procedures across TTP as a whole, to determine future options for delivery of infection control, and outcomes of this work are expected by April 2022.

4.2.5 Swansea Council also undertook to create and deliver a service to fulfil vaccine certification in line with WG's Covid Pass strategy. Initially seen as a short term stopgap whilst the NHS Covid Pass app was deployed, the service has continued due to Equalities requirements, and data quality issues relating to the disparate NHS systems involved.

- 4.2.6 The WVCS is separately regulated and funded under a mandate issued direct to Swansea Council by WG, currently running to at least March 2022 but likely to operate well into 2022.
- 4.2.7 Cabinet will be aware of a later request for expansion of the service to accommodate handling of all queries relating to vaccine certification. After evaluating the resources required to deliver the broader service, due to concerns around likely impacts on existing council departments and TTP delivery, WG were advised that Swansea Council was supportive of the idea but unable to deliver the requested product. Support through any necessary transition was offered and accepted by WG.
- 4.2.8 At present, WG is exploring other options for provision of this service, which could result in the service delivered by Swansea at present being absorbed into the new external arrangements. In this event, staff may be redeployed into Contact Tracing roles or where appropriate consideration could be given to TUPE arrangements.
- 4.2.9 The workforce will continue to be funded by WG, and fully utilised in delivering TTP in Swansea until such time as reduced measures are introduced by the First and Health Ministers.
- 4.2.10 At that time, the significant challenge of decommissioning the TTP teams, including exit management and transition back to substantive posts becomes relevant.

#### 4.3 Enabling Agile Working and Resilience: Data Centre Move to Guildhall

- 4.3.1 The Council has been delivering its agile working programme for many years and was in a good position going into the pandemic. However Covid accelerated remote working and hybrid meetings and this is set to continue. The Council's strategy aims to enable 'digital first and remote first' capability but in a way which complements face-to-face and telephone channels for the public. 'Digital First' and 'Remote First' also aims to support staff in their daily work and make their jobs easier. In addition, the Digital Strategy aims for a cloud first approach to improve and increase resilience.
- 4.3.2 The proposals around the data centre aim to deliver the Digital Strategy objectives with the appropriate use of cloud services for resilience and solutions which will continue to support agile and hybrid working in the longer term.
- 4.3.3 The future of the Civic Centre has been under much discussion over the last few years. Digital Services need to plan for the future of the data centre which is currently situated in the Civic Centre and is a fundamental element of delivering all digital service across the Council.
- 4.3.4 The infrastructure in the Civic Centre will become end of life over the next three years. Therefore, decisions need to be taken now to plan for these and to minimise short-term unnecessary cost on a building that has no long-term future, or whose future is unknown.

- 4.3.5 A new data centre would be smaller and more efficient as the move to cloud progresses over the next five to seven years. The Digital Strategy is cloud first however, this will be a hybrid model of cloud and on premise for identified critical services.
- 4.3.6 The Guildhall would provide a stable location and resource where Digital Services can plan future networking and infrastructure requirements for the long term. It is anticipated the relocated data centre can reduce the footprint of the original space by around 60% of its current size. This in turn will reduce the energy costs and the carbon footprint to maintain the controlled environment required to protect the Council's vital ICT systems.
- 4.3.7 The benefits of cloud are well documented and include:
- Cost savings (power consumption, cooling, maintenance etc.)
  - Ease of use
  - Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity
  - Increased Storage Capacity and Automation
  - Agility, Flexibility and Scalability
  - Cyber security
  - Reduce the Council's Carbon Footprint in supporting the Council's commitment to be a net zero carbon organisation by 2030.
- 4.3.8 It is recommended that a new £2m scheme is committed and authorised into the capital programme for the data centre move to the Guildhall. This is in line with the requirements of Financial Procedure Rule 7 (capital programming and appraisals).

#### 4.4 Oracle Programme Investment

- 4.4.1 On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Cabinet approved the Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) System Upgrade (Oracle Cloud) implementation programme.
- 4.4.2 In March 2020 Covid-19 impacted the programme with staff being pulled on to vital Covid-19 activities and in November 2020 a report to Cabinet approved a pause and re-plan. Additional costs were absorbed within existing budgets at that time. The significant risks were mitigated by Oracle extending the current system and support due to Covid-19.
- 4.4.3 The programme resumed February 2021 as planned. However, not long after restart, the second wave of Covid-19 seriously impacted both the UK and India. Consequently both Swansea Council and the supplier (Infosys) staff resources were affected.
- 4.4.4 Re-planning has been undertaken to realign the programme. Whilst the second wave of Covid-19 has pushed timelines out, there are also other factors influencing the re-plan, including: staff taking delayed leave due to Covid, staff contracting Covid and being absent, delays filling key vacancies in a volatile post Covid recruitment market, support and recruitment as part of the Covid recovery plan / fund, and the timing and complexity of the second data migration pass.



- 4.4.5 The re-planning exercise has been undertaken alongside the service areas and the external supplier. The same limitations have been carried forward with regard to go live dates, i.e. not during year-end and final statement of accounts for Finance teams, or December for payroll teams. After significant consultation, October 2022 is proposed. The overall timeline is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 4.4.6 Despite the impact of Covid-19 on both the Council and supplier resources good work has been delivered on the programme. The Oracle Fusion core system is now close to being built and the programme is entering its testing phase.
- 4.4.7 The Cabinet report in September 2019 identified the main risk to be that the system will not be supported from November 2020 and will not receive regular updates and patches as it does now. Due to Covid-19 Oracle extended the current system and support. This will be extended further to cover the re-planned project. In addition, the Council will move the old database into the cloud, which will mitigate several risks, including moving Discoverer off old hardware. Discoverer is a key piece of software for running critical financial and workforce reports.
- 4.4.8 There are other risks and issues associated with extending the implementation of the programme. While reviewing all options, risks, and issues, mitigations were considered when recommending the best way forward. Key red risks include:
- Support for the current version of Oracle was a risk but this has now been mitigated by extending support
  - The ongoing impact of covid is a risk to the resources of both the Council and its suppliers. This is being mitigated as far as possible by using a range of resources and bolstering capacity. Suppliers have recruited more resources both on-shore and off-shore, learning from the pandemic around the issue of global supply chains and resources.
- 4.4.9 The ongoing impact of Covid on the Oracle project has been added to the corporate risk register and is being actively managed and monitored.
- 4.4.10 Financial implications are identified in the table below. Further investment of £3,620,412 is recommended, funded from the capital equalisation reserve and in line with the requirements of Financial Procedure Rule 5.

<b>Area of Expenditure</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
Backfilling staff in services - staff working on the project part time	365,500
Increase in Oracle Fusion licences. New ways of working during and post Covid and new starters has increased the licence requirement	955,312
Specialist Oracle Fusion project management and support including planning data migrations and testing	192,750
Specialist Oracle Fusion technical skills and resources for data migration, cutover, testing and system integrations	625,100

Area of Expenditure	Cost (£)
Specialist Oracle Fusion change management expertise – changing of processes and ways of working within services	281,750
Infosys extension costs	250,000
Oracle technical specialists, e.g. Fusion solutions architect, Fusion payroll experts etc	450,000
Contingency	500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,620,412</b>

## 5. Learning & Education

### 5.1 Developing and maintaining digital interface between schools and local authority – For Information

- 5.1.1 Developing and maintaining robust databases to support attendance, achievement and tracking are key work streams within Education's contribution to Achieving Better Together. The importance of fit for purpose digital interface with schools is vital if we are to emerge successfully from the pandemic.
- 5.1.2 SIMS is the main management information system (MIS) used by schools in Swansea. 94 schools use the system, as well as Flying Start. There are therefore 95 separate SIMS databases with about 2,500 users. SIMS is used to fulfil many statutory and administrative functions for schools, and its continuity is therefore essential.
- 5.1.3 The ParentPay group own SIMS, and annual entitlement is paid by the authority to them. ParentPay are moving to individual contracts with schools for three year terms from April 2022.
- 5.1.4 SIMS is currently hosted on two servers located in the Civic Centre. These machines are around 15 years old and are at end of life. They can no longer be maintained, so any failure is likely to be terminal. As they are out of support from their manufacturer, they no longer have firmware updates, and are therefore an increasing security risk. **SIMS holds sensitive personal data about all pupils and staff in schools, so the increased risks are unacceptable and cannot be mitigated with the current servers.** We therefore need to **urgently** move SIMS hosting from these servers as well as for other essential education applications and systems currently hosted on physical servers.
- 5.1.5 This move would support the wider corporate strategy of moving to cloud storage for enhanced future resilience and overall efficiency considerations as we emerge from the pandemic.
- 5.1.6 There is a significant cost implication to replace the physical servers (which to replace would require a significant one-off / periodic capital cost) with a cloud based alternative. However this is achieved there will be:
- A one-off migration cost of at least £100k
  - Annual cost of up to £600k

- 5.1.7 As well as ensuring the continuing resilience of data systems that are key to tracking learners in Swansea and storage with a cloud solution, it is also essential to develop and implement a medium term strategy. This must ensure that future data systems for schools and wider education needs continue to be 'fit for purpose' and provide the necessary future functionality and future proofing against a context of changing national and local needs and expectations. Emerging issues, as a result of the pandemic require greater emphasis on well-being, including attendance monitoring and tracking progress of learners who may have lost learning or become disengaged during the disruption to education.
- 5.1.8 The options and costs that might be involved require **considerable further detailed assessment** as part of a robust business case and the appropriate expertise and resourcing will be required to determine the most appropriate solution. An alternative provider or indeed an in-house solution could offer a cheaper longer term option with the appropriate and required up-front investment. Developments at a national level would also need to be carefully considered and any such collaborative developments considered against other options.
- 5.2 The local authority also needs an improved finance application for its schools that can allow support for numerous actions including audit, scrutiny, procurement and our general support for school finance. We currently utilise SIMS FMS with the wider Council utilising Oracle and soon to be moving to Oracle Fusion. Once the move to Oracle Fusion has been completed it will be necessary to look at the possibility of utilising the same package across our schools.
- 5.2.1 A significant cost would be involved and this would likely be in the order of £0.5m to £1m to reflect the staffing and other resources that would be required.
- 5.2.2 All the above will bring a requirement for additional resources to develop and deliver the various sustainable solutions. This includes specialist ICT staff (3<sup>rd</sup> party), back-filling current ICT staff and back-filling current Education staff to develop the solution(s).

## **6. Care Services - For Information**

### **6.1 Social Care pressures**

- 6.1.1 In September 2021, the Local Authority was awarded the Social Care Recovery Grant, with an initial allocation for 21/22 of £3,160,041 (*Based on personal social services sector standard spending assessment*)
- 6.1.2 The Grant was awarded to enable the local authority to work with partners and service providers to support the appropriate recovery of social care and recovery spend required to align with the priority areas in the Social Care Recovery Framework [Social care recovery framework: COVID-19 | GOV.WALES](#)
- 6.1.3 The table in **Appendix B** outlines the spend plan to meet identified need for the period 1st October 2021 – 31st March 2022

6.2 **Risks** Our ability to respond to the additional funding and work within the social care recovery framework to enable the sector to recover and plan has brought some challenges and risks around long term planning and future funding to stabilise the sector, retain staffing levels and recruit staff into key roles.

- **Regional Externally Commissioned Care Group** outlined proposals to stabilise the domiciliary care sector by improving the rates of pay to avoid workforce leaving care work for employment in other sectors. Both Swansea and NPT agreed uplifts of 10% across all domiciliary care registered services, including traditional domiciliary care and supported living services. This increase would be paid to providers on the basis that it must be used to increase rates of pay to at least real living wage (RLW) levels for all workers. The cost of the in year uplift for Swansea (1.5 million) has been met with the additional Social Care Recovery Grant.
- **Internal Staffing Recruitment and Retention** - A combination of factors have led to the services being placed under considerable and sustained pressures that risk it being unable to meet its statutory responsibilities and regulatory requirements. There is an increasing likelihood that risk management will be compromised as social workers in the frontline area teams become overwhelmed with the responsibility of having to manage their workload across all levels of need and demand.

Child and Family Services are facing severe recruitment challenges in its frontline area social work teams. The shortage of adults and children's social workers is acknowledged as a UK-wide issue. The vacancy rates in the three area social work teams are currently 30%, with this increasing by the end of the calendar year. Whilst there have always been challenges it is evident that the global pandemic has impacted further on the ability to maintain a stable workforce who are responsible for case managing our most high risk and complex children in the service. The social care recovery grant has been used to mitigate this risk through implementing a market supplements for child and family frontline social work teams, a retention bonus payment and additional support workers. In implementing this in year, we have added a budget pressure into 22/23 (250k) which will have to be addressed as part of the budget setting process.

Adults Services identified the need for additional staffing above the establishment to address capacity issues in the areas of Direct Payments, Homecare, Community Equipment Store & Assistive Technology and Direct Service Provision. To appoint new members of staff has a timescale of 3 to 4 months and with the grant spend plan only being accepted in October presents a huge challenge for recruitment in an already difficult time within the social care workforce. To successfully recruit to these posts and to best accommodate the staff turnover within front line care recruitment is on a temporary basis to 31st March 2023 In implementing this in year, it has added a budget pressure into 22/23 (1 Million) which will have to be addressed as part of the budget setting process.

6.3 As part of the mitigation, there will be regional grants in terms of transformation and embedding new ways of working for new areas of investment, which of course these posts are. However, at this point in time, it is unclear how much funding this will equate to, expectation is to be able to fund the budget pressure in 22/23 through regional grants as they become available.

The mitigation will be the significant reserves on the balance sheet, which would be used as a backstop if expected grants did not become available.

6.4 **Future challenges** - In November 2021, a notification of a variation to the Social Care Recovery Grant was received, which increased Swansea's allocation to **£5,147,378**

This was made following the receipt of proposals for activity to respond to the Social Care Winter Pressures made through the Care Action Committee and to extend the purposes of the Social Care Recovery Grant 2021-22 to provide funding specifically for Unpaid Carers and Children's Services.

- **Unpaid Carers** Many unpaid carers have had reduced support during the Covid-19 pandemic and continue to care for their loved ones despite negative impacts on their financial and emotional wellbeing. If carers are not able to cope and caring arrangements break down, pressure on statutory services increases. Preventing carer breakdown thus reduces future demand on services and helps the people being cared for to stay at home for as long as possible. *The funding is intended to encourage local authorities to employ a range of mechanisms, including through Direct Payments, to support carers to cope, take a break from caring or access practical support, adaptations or equipment that support them in their caring role.*
- **Children Services** - Local Authorities have particularly highlighted the increased pressures in relation to high-end placement costs particularly due to the ever increasing costs associated with Covid-19. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to support and meet needs and there are now high numbers of children with complex needs requiring multi-agency interventions. There is an increase in children being admitted to or waiting for admission to hospital due to mental health, eating disorders etc and their subsequent discharge from hospital without suitable care and support is leading to increased demand and complexity and challenge of care for very distressed, mentally ill young people. Furthermore care packages are needing to be pulled together at short notice, sometimes with nursing provision and are needing multi-agency planning for discharge to support positive outcomes. The funding is intended to manage the demand for placements, secure better placements whilst activity is taking place to increase the range of accommodation and in-patient options that would meet the need at this highest spectrum of need. Whilst managing highly complex cases Children services are also working to maintain stability in the rate of children on the Child Protection Register. 68% of local authorities are now reporting an increase in safeguarding contacts compare to levels expected at this time of year.
- The funding is intended to support the delivery of preventative interventions to ensure the increased safeguarding contacts do not lead to an increase in child protection registration; ensuring children are both safe and well and can remain with their families. The intended outcomes and scope are the same, and we are working through a range of options to allocate the additional £1,987,337 of funding against. This is presenting a challenge due to the lateness of the award

in year, however we are confident we will be able to utilise the money for the intended purposes as specified below.

## **7. Environment & Economy**

### **7.1 Capital Contingency & Prioritisation**

7.2 As part of the reshaping programme one of the tasks was the need to develop a “Cross Council” approach to capital management and prioritisation. A strategic capital strategy has already been developed and now forms part of the suite of reports as part of the budget setting process and was approved by Council on the 4th March 2021.

7.3 Members will be aware that a sum of £20m capital contingency has been set aside as part of the medium term financial plan budget approved by council on the 4th March 2021. This report sets out the addition £5m to be added to the Economic recovery fund to be allocated in line with the original criteria previously approved by cabinet.

7.4 Since then a number of schemes have progressed and been allocated funding from this capital contingency including Castle Square, 71/72 Kingsway digital district, Cefn Hengoed community hub and 3g pitch, and investment in Afryn satellite special school and Bryn Tawe net zero match funding. The total commitment currently standing at £18.839m. However, an application has been made to Welsh Government for a £2.5m towards the Castle Square development which would then result in a total commitment of £16.339m.

This would leave a balance of contingency funding of the £1.161m, (or £3.661m if the WG application for Castle Square is successful) which should be retained until some of the current major projects are complete or significantly progressed. Officers will continue to explore all additional funding sources including levelling up fund, shared prosperity and all available grant opportunities to aid the development of further proposals to aid the councils ambitions and corporate priorities. A more detailed report is attached as **Appendix C**.

7.5 In addition to the capital contingency there is the opportunity to convert some of the Economic Recovery Fund from revenue to capital. As such it is intended to make a further enhancement in the play facilities to bring all existing council managed playgrounds up to the “green standard”.

7.6 As such it is recommended that £1.55M of the new ERF allocation is ring fenced to a new capital allocation. It is also proposed to allocate £0.5M to assess and improve Skate Park facilities across the Council area, therefore it is also recommended that £0.5M of the new ERF allocation is ring fenced to a new capital allocation for these improvements in line with FPR7.

## **8. Summary**

8.1 In summary, It was inevitable that projects were going be impacted by the pandemic and issues would occur. Since March 2020, the Council has

transformed the way it works to manage the impact of the pandemic. This has been an unprecedented time and the Council's response to the pandemic, has been extraordinary.

## 9. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 9.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 9.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 9.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 9.2 In order to comply with the relevant regulations, this section must note whether or not there are any implications and how the Intergrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process has been applied to the report's subject. Please refer to <http://staffnet/ia> and the IIA guidance for further information.
- 9.3 An IIA Screening Form is complete with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required:
- The IIA covers the cross directorate Cabinet report highlighting the recovery & Investment recovering from Covid has brought to the Council. Each project will have different impact and implications associated; each project will be highlight their implications.
  - IIA screening **Appendix D**
- 9.4 The IIA process takes into account the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which the Council has embedded into the Authority's Policy Framework.

## **10. Financial Implications**

- 10.1 **This update reports covers a range of significant investment activities across both capital and revenue. Wherever possible grants and reimbursement of costs directly due to Covid will be sought directly from Welsh Government.**
- 10.2 The cost of refurbishing the Guildhall and ensuring it is a fit for the future, secure, and a resilient data centre is estimated to be in the region of £2m. Once the Guildhall refurbishment has been completed and the short-term cloud migration plan agreed the known hardware requirements for the Guildhall will be known and costs may reduce for capital. Using the cloud instead of on-premise servers will incur additional revenue costs. These will be reviewed annually as part of the budget process. It is proposed a capital programme is established to cover these indicative costs and funded from the capital equalisation reserve. This is in line with Financial Procedure Rule 7 and the financial implications are attached at **Appendix E**.
- 10.3 It is proposed the £3,620,412 investment in the Oracle programme is funded from the capital equalisation reserve. It is proposed the draw down for this project would be £1,408,506 in the current year (2021-22), and £2,211,906 next financial year (2022-23).
- 10.4 The Council is in the fortunate position of having established substantial reserves both before and during the ongoing Covid pandemic and much of the investment would be being delivered despite Covid. The bulk of these costs will therefore rightly fall to the Council to fund as it represents local choice.
- 10.5 The capital equalisation reserve is available to draw down from now that the general fund borrowing envelope has been fully externalised.
- 10.6 As a reserve established from revenue balances and nominally earmarked to fund capital financing, it is available to smooth costs whether revenue or capital in nature.
- 10.7 The final balance on the capital equalisation reserve will be confirmed at year-end taking into account underspending in the current year on capital financing and the material commitments being made now. The reserve will remain substantially in surplus for the medium term.

## **11. Legal Implications**

- 11.1 Any procurement activities in relation to the projects in this report will follow the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A Oracle Programme Timeline  
Appendix B Social Care Outline Spend Plan

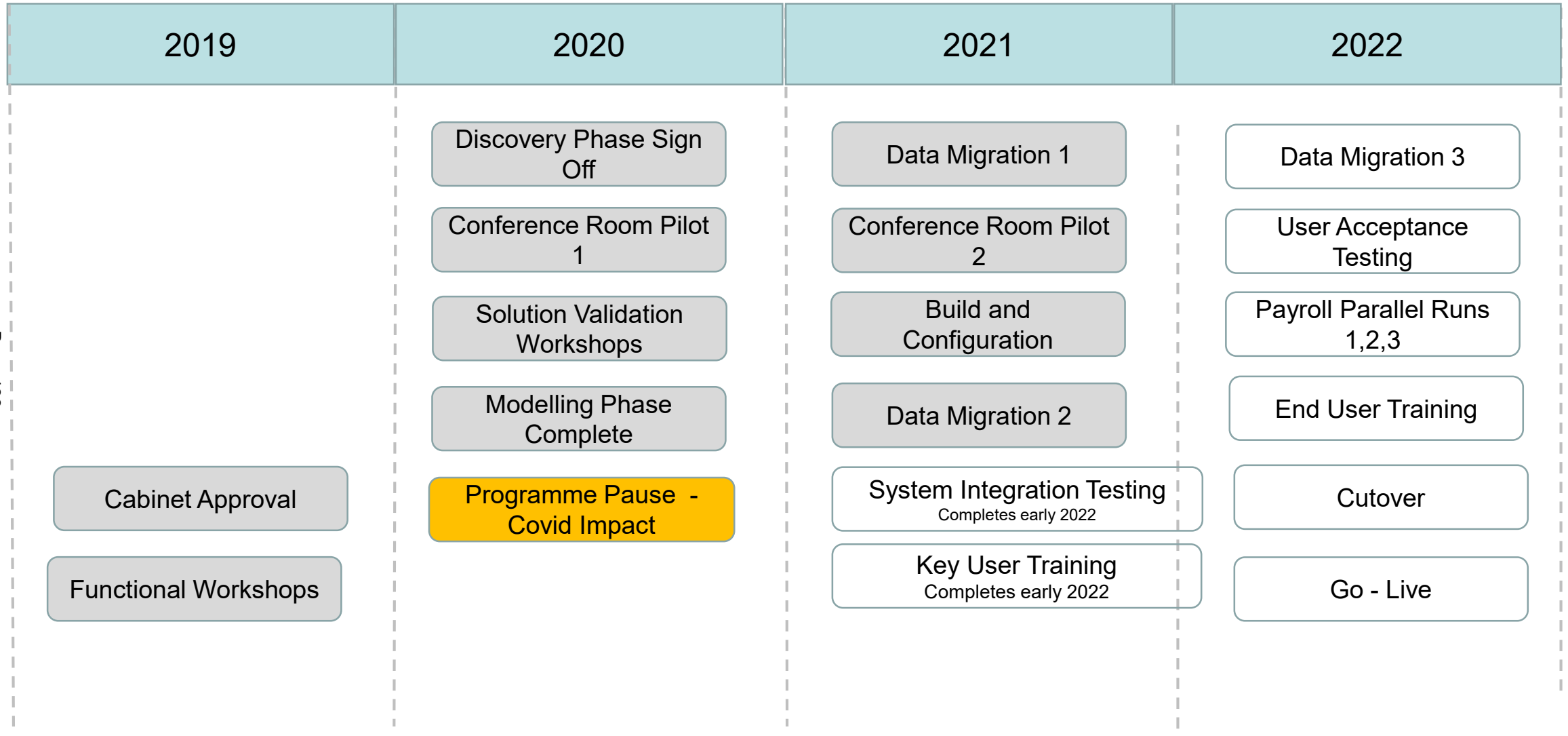


Appendix C	Capital Contingency & Prioritisation Strategy
Appendix D	IIA Screening
Appendix E	Data Centre move to Guildhall Financial Implications

# Oracle Fusion Timeline

Appendix A

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## Appendix B

**Table 1.1 outlines the spend plan to meet identified need for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Key Group	Planned spending area (priority)	Short description of planned spend	Planned spend (amount)	High-level outcomes	How the funded activity relates to the priorities
People (1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the adverse impact Covid 19 has on unpaid carers</li> </ul>	<b>Adult Services:</b> Commission external provision to complete number of outstanding Carers assessments and Carers reviews (Xyla Health & Social Care)	£26,000	Approximately 107 Carers assessments and 100 Carer reviews completed (Nov 21- March 22)	Proactive offer and timely assessment and ongoing review of our carers is essential in offering timely support and access to resources where needed - safeguarding carers wellbeing and mitigation of the risk of carer/support breakdown.
People (1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address the adverse impact Covid 19 has on unpaid carers</li> </ul>	<b>Commissioning:</b> Fund a Third Sector organisation to support unpaid carers through a range of activities (aligning with other grants – adding value not duplicating)	£40,000	250 unpaid carers supported	The funding will be used in conjunction with funding (via Carers Trust Wales) to deliver a project called Carers Connect, which offered a range of activities with the aim of reducing isolation and loneliness amongst unpaid carers, magnified as a result of the Covid pandemic.
People (1.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support families to stay together by facilitating opportunities for families to identify and own solutions to challenges brought about or amplified by Covid 19 and continue to work with</li> </ul>	<b>Child &amp; Family:</b> augment existing resources across all front line teams to provide direct work to support families and children by providing business support to allow time for front line staff to support children and families	£82,000	Expansion of existing business support resource to support the business model and allow direct work. Total of additional 8 temporary posts recruited	All resources and investment identified aim to support the ongoing transformational agenda and practical review of existing resources to inform how services are best maintained / re-framed to meet the needs of children and families

Key Group	Planned spending area (priority)	Short description of planned spend	Planned spend (amount)	High-level outcomes	How the funded activity relates to the priorities
	the Children's Commissioner to promote children's rights	through the what matters conversation, promoting rights based practice			
People (1.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the right support is available to maximise people's ability to remain in or return to their own homes, with commissioners working with the third sector and providers to ensure that people who have been unable to return to their own homes, or other appropriate setting, following hospitalisation or temporary residence in care provision, are able to return home as quickly, sustainably and safely as possible</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adult Services:</b> augment existing resources across Direct Payments Team, internal Homecare teams, internal residential care and assistive technology services. Total of 42 additional temporary posts across services.</p> <p><b>Adults Services:</b> augment existing resources across Brokerage teams and business support teams across adult services</p>	<p><b>£400,000</b></p> <p><b>£120,000</b></p>	<p>Additional 420 hours per week of homecare support (15 Carers)</p> <p>Expansion of existing resource to support promotion and supply and maintenance of assistive technology.</p> <p>Total of additional 42 temporary posts recruited</p> <p>Expansion of existing resource to support the business model and allow direct work and brokerage. Total of additional 7 temporary posts recruited</p>	<p>Care provision essential to support people to remain within their own homes for longer.</p> <p>Likewise, the provision of assistive technology can support individuals to remain independent within their own homes/assist carers (formal and informal) in supporting people to remain at home for longer. Additional resource within residential services support resilience to maintain the provision of step up/step down care as well as longer term residential placements.</p>
People (1.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise in recovery planning the response to Improving Care,</li> </ul>	<b>Adult Services:</b> investment in assistive technology to support existing Supported	<b>£80,000</b>	'Brain in Hand' 20 licences utilised across 6 existing Supported living providers. Monitoring and outcomes to be	All resources and investment identified aim to support the ongoing improvement agenda and practical review of existing

Key Group	Planned spending area (priority)	Short description of planned spend	Planned spend (amount)	High-level outcomes	How the funded activity relates to the priorities
	Improving Lives comprehensive review of specialist learning disability in-patient provision, in particular around improving quality in commissioned services and increasing provision of community-based support, appropriate housing and accommodation	Living/Learning Disability clients and commissioned services – ‘Brain in Hand’. Additional resource aligned to Supported Living commissioning support (x 2 FTE) Investment in temporary posts across service to monitor and review Covid impact / practice during the pandemic to assist with informing future models of delivery. Investment in temporary post in Service provision to co-ordinate review of existing resource provision and flexible models of delivery		developed but expected information from use of application will enable element of right-sizing and informed revision of individuals support in line with system outputs.  Recruitment of 4 additional temporary staff to co-ordinate and inform future models of delivery	resources to inform how services are best maintained / re-framed to meet the needs of our communities.
People (1.6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on improving and enhancing the quality of the conversations between people and practitioners as part of the assessment and review process for care and support.</li> </ul>	<b>Adult Services:</b> Temporarily enhance capacity of Social Work Teams by utilising Xyla health & Social Care to remotely manage proportion of outstanding assessments and reviews (approximately 950 cases)	<b>£474,000</b>	500 Assessments and 450 review assessments completed (Nov 21-March 22) / approximately 48-50 per week managed over project initiation and Christmas period	Quality Framework and SW practice guidance adhered to and monitored via supplier and CCoS SW scrutiny. Focused resource to manage outstanding assessments & reviews will allow in-house teams to focus on timely, strengths based conversations for the most urgent/complex cases during the period.

Key Group	Planned spending area (priority)	Short description of planned spend	Planned spend (amount)	High-level outcomes	How the funded activity relates to the priorities
Providers (2.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Work in partnership to develop the local service structure to deliver care and support to meet local population needs in line with the development (and early findings) of their Population Needs Assessments and Market Stability report</b></li> </ul>	<b>Commissioning:</b> Spend will be in replacement of the Hardship Fund Local Sectoral Support element, providing scope to identify and implement those actions which would be most helpful at local level to address provider sustainability as well as market-shaping issues	<b>£100,000</b>	Continuation of sectoral support on a needs based to address market stability issues as they arise throughout the remainder of this financial year	Changes in market position will be fed into the regional working groups on the population needs assessment to inform this work and market shaping and market sustainability reports
Providers (2.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on placement stability for looked after children</li> </ul>	<b>Child &amp; Family:</b> Providing additional provision for short breaks to maintain stability for children and families	<b>£80,000</b>	Additional short breaks provision in place for children and families to support placement stability	The impact of Covid has led to increased demand in some areas and more complex demand in other areas. This is manifesting in placement costs being higher due to the level and complexity of need in a growing number of our looked after children.
Providers (2.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increase the capacity and reach of domiciliary care, including linking this to the Welsh Government's commitment to the Foundational Economy</b></li> </ul>	<b>Commissioning:</b> Augment commissioned domiciliary care top-up by 10% to the 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 and base fund as part of business as usual into 22/23	<b>£625,000</b>	Improved retention of domiciliary care staff and sustainability of the service as part of the social care recovery	This will allow the market to stabilise and recovery from Covid and begin to explore alternative and different options into future years as part of market shaping work

Key Group	Planned spending area (priority)	Short description of planned spend	Planned spend (amount)	High-level outcomes	How the funded activity relates to the priorities
Providers (2.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider and evaluate new ways of working and innovative practices to build on them where appropriate to do so</li> </ul>	<b>Commissioning:</b> Augment commissioned supported living top-up by 10% to the 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 and base fund as part of business as usual into 22/23	<b>£892,000</b>	Improved retention of supported living staffing and market as part of the social care recovery.	This will allow the market to stabilise and recover from Covid and being to evaluate and consider new ways or working and build on innovative practice moving forward.
Workforce (3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritise the well-being of the social care workforce</li> </ul>	<b>Cross Directorate:</b> Continue to prioritise the wellbeing of the workforce through a dedicated team supporting staff wellbeing and an ongoing recruitment campaign	<b>£62,000</b>	Improved sickness rates, supported and sustained workforce Improved recruitment and retention	This will build upon the ongoing work throughout Covid and continue to support the existing and new members of the social care workforce as we move forward.
Workforce (3.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve terms and conditions for the social care workforce and ensure there is a continued focus on supporting wellbeing and mental health</li> </ul>	<b>Child &amp; Family; Improve the terms and conditions for front line social workers in the service by offering a one off market supplement for 12 months</b>	<b>£180,000</b>	Sustain 54 front line SW and recruit to the 15 vacancies we are currently holding. This would mitigate against the risk to children and young people would escalate with outcomes being sought being negatively affected. Staff would be responding in increasing crisis and it is likely that our looked after children population would increase as SW's have less time to do effective work and manage cases in a risk averse approach	Currently we have a high number of vacancies in the Child and Family Social Work Teams, there are a number of factors that around sustainability and pressure of work due to the pandemic we are addressing. This will improve the terms and conditions of the workforce and ensure that we are able to maintain current staffing levels and capacity to undertake our statutory obligation.

## Appendix C

### Capital Contingency and Prioritisation Strategy

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 As part of the reshaping Swansea transformation programme one of the future tasks is the need to develop a “Cross Council” approach to capital management and prioritisation. A strategic capital strategy has already been developed and now forms part of the suite of reports as part of the budget setting process and was approved by Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- 1.2 Therefore to supplement the “policy context” which also clearly sets out the current capital programme over the life of the MTFP, it is believed appropriate to develop an aligned process to ensure “corporate” visibility of any emerging priorities funded from the set aside capital contingency.

#### 2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 From an officer perspective it is intended to utilise the existing cross Council Asset Management Group to manage this review process with two meetings planned per year, one in April and one in October. Discussion with Cabinet/ CMT would then follow as part of the budget setting process or as each individual capital request would be made by the normal cabinet approval process. This will allow a review of the programme set by Council, and also close the loop at the budget “discussion” stage to feed into each annual review, thus assisting in setting future capital priorities. The benefit of this approach is that cross Council representatives linked to “assets” already attend so it makes best use of an existing forum. The outcomes from the group will then feed into the annual strategy report referred to above.
- 2.2 Therefore as budgets change or additional funding becomes available from WG or other sources a Council wide option appraisal can take place where money is not ring-fenced to a particular activity.

#### 3.0 Current “Opportunities and Challenge”

- 3.1 Attention is drawn to the proposed Covid recovery capital contingency fund as part of the forward capital programme which is currently set at £20m and notionally split as follows:

22/23	£8m
23/24	£6m
24/25	£4m
25/26	£2m

- 3.2 In addition, the opportunity arising out of the UK levelling up fund would appear to a sizable source of future funding albeit subject to a “competitive bidding process”. Initial principles are that over the next 3 to 4 years the



Council can bid for up to 3 schemes of a maximum of £20m with a fourth transport scheme at a maximum of £50m. This makes it even more crucial that the Council has a clearly identified set of future priorities so that it can determine which schemes are best suited to which “funding pot. Two bids were submitted for 2021 call for entries which were unsuccessful and feedback is due by the end of December. Further detail is also awaited on the shared prosperity fund and the process and potential allocation likely to be made available.

- 3.3 The Welsh Government Transforming Towns programme is a further substantial funding programme focussed primarily on the City Centre and larger district town centres, concentrated on ‘core’ areas (e.g. in City Centre would cover Oxford Street, but not St Helens Road or Brynymor Road). Larger grant asks attract more scrutiny, but not unreasonable to look at £2-£5m per financial year across a range of eligible schemes. 2021/22 budget for South West Wales is £11.2m and not unreasonable to expect similar values for the region going forward. The preference is several schemes profiled over 2-3 years. Development costs are eligible to 50% intervention rate, as part of a ‘phased’ approval process. A decision not to proceed further or diversion of a scheme to other funding sources subsequent to development phase would require repayment of the WG 50%.
- 3.4 The authority also has access for 15 years to a £6m ‘Town Centre Loan’ for use by the local authority in city and town centres (separate to the private sector version), which can be factored in to schemes where borrowing is a requirement to save on interest payment for the duration of the loan. This has to be recycled 3 times in the 15 years, average scheme length 5 years, max 7 years currently.
- 3.5 Construction market conditions are having a significant impact on live schemes, and whilst prices and supply chains have settled it is recommended given the size of the capital programme that a reasonable contingency needs to be allowed for ongoing schemes.
- 3.6 Initial discussions have highlighted that there are a range of emerging priorities and it is important that there is visibility of these “competing” schemes to ensure that when allocations are made they are in line with the overall strategy. Eligibility for the funding sources above has to be factored into discussion.
- 3.7 The benefit of having a summary of priorities means that if additional funding becomes available then there is a readymade list to call on.
- 3.8 During this initial scoping a simplistic summary of these emerging schemes has been developed
- 3.9 The following is a summary of the “current” projects where funding has been allocated or is being considered from the £20m capital contingency.

## Funding Allocated

Castle Square Graig Road	Design and Planning FPR7 FEB21 Emergency repairs (original FPR7 to be funded from Highways underspend 2020-21 or annual allocation 2021-22)
Arfryn satellite special school	Essential Maintenance and improvement works FPR7 JAN21
Cefn Hengoed Community hub including 3G pitch	Increased cost to deliver scheme - as detailed in FPR7 report
71-72 Kingsway	Increased borrowing required
Kingsway Infrastructure	FPR7 OCT21 overspend once scheme finalised - worst case scenario after Bond and S106 funding included
Highways	Morfa culvert
Digital	Digital Democracy scheme
Education (Band B)	Bryntawe net zero carbon (match for WG grant)

Castle Square	Construction cost
---------------	-------------------

3.10 This equates to an initial commitment of £18.839m.

3.11 However, an application has been made to Welsh Government for a £2.5m towards the Castle Square development which would then result in a total commitment of £16.339m.

### 3.12 Contingency Balance

As stated above the “council earmarked capital future funding is capped at £20m and given the scale of the current capital programme it is suggested that the balance of the £1.161, (or £3.661 if the WG application for castle square is successful) should be retained as a true contingency until some of the current major projects are complete or significantly progressed.

Officers will continue to explore all and any additional funding sources that are identified and can be used to develop further proposals

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix D

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area:

Directorate: Resources

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

A cross directorate Cabinet report highlighting the Impact and Implications recovering from Covid has brought to the Council.

Projects from the following work streams are included:

Workforce & Equality

Learning & Education

Care Services

Environment & Economy

### Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix D

Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

Throughout the different phases each work-stream within the Achieving Better Together Programme have their individual engagement/consultation/co-productive plans in place. This ensures relevant stakeholder information and views in relation to individual projects are taken on board. Project stakeholders include, subject matter experts, client departments and external consultants / providers.

Some projects are long term and have facilitated many engagement forums. Within the larger ICT projects that impact across the whole authority there has been diligence processes in place, a large number of workshops to assess the readiness of the organisation for change, and map the gaps between existing processes and new. Business owners, leads and resources from across the Council are involved on the larger programmes through implementation.

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
 Yes       No
  
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
 Yes       No
  
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
 Yes       No
  
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
 Yes       No

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

- Yes       No      If yes, please provide details below

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix D

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

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

From across the programme the majority of the projects in this update report are internal business changes therefore the impact on external people and communities is low, however each project/system/service will have an independent IIA completed as part of the project development process recognising the impact on people and/or communities.

Training and learning needs, analysis are completed when necessary.

### **Outcome of Screening**

#### **Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The report adheres to the transformation and future council development well-being objective in the Corporate Plan - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

The summary of impacts has been categorised as low. Whilst this is a cross cutting update on recovery the impact from the recommendations on specific groups remains low.

Key stakeholder (internal & external) are involved in the programme and a communications plan in place. Stakeholders have been identified for individual projects and individual teams are working on communication, engagement, training and development. The recommendations will have very little direct impact on the various groups and communities. Any impact will be positive as we are working towards providing efficient, effective and sustainable services.

Although not all are relevant to the individual updates within this report, The Achieving Better Together Programme as a whole is contributing towards the achievement of the national well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales – Supporting and training the Council's workforce to deliver transformed services that provides the most sustainable outcomes for residents.
- A Resilient Wales – The Managing the Present and Shaping the Future, Swansea Council – From Recovery to Transformation Strategy underpins our recovery from Covid-19 and aims in order to transform services, deliver better outcomes for residents and achieve financial sustainability with reduced carbon footprint.
- A Healthier Wales – The programme work streams have projects in phase 2 – (Refocus) that aim to: encourage greater community ownership, improved health and wellbeing for staff, provide active lifestyle and healthy living for our citizens e.g. our approach to Housing and the Active Travel Project.

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix D

- A more Equal Wales – Providing the opportunity for local citizens to influence how policies are written and services are developed through the development of a co-production strategy.
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities – The Community Response work-stream has a strong focus on community involvement. Projects include supporting community volunteering, Local Area Coordinators expansion and working with third Sector and other statutory and non-statutory partners in Swansea and encourage the continuation of community relationships.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – Through the coproduction framework we will establish a diverse forum for community volunteers to be involve in the decision-making process and give them an opportunity to express their views and opinions. The programme will improve the communication and engagement with communities, which includes welsh medium provision.
- A globally responsible Wales – The Achieving Better Together programme has a focus on the future and delivering social, environmental, cultural, economic and financial sustainability through the work-streams. Any decision making considers future impacts e.g. climate change.

The risks surrounding the programme are considered medium due to the size and complexity of the Council's Transformation Programme. Risks are managed and mitigated on a daily basis and escalated to management boards and senior leadership where appropriate  
With regard to the cumulative impact of projects, there will be changes to processes and ways of working as a result. However, these changes are considered as overall improvements.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

- Full IIA to be completed
- Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: Marlyn Dickson</b>
<b>Job title: Strategic Change Programme Manager</b>
<b>Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Adam Hill</b>
<b>Position: Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Resources</b>
<b>Date: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

## Appendix E – Data Centre move to the Guildhall Financial Implications

<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : SUMMARY</b>					
<b>Portfolio:</b>	<b>Corporate Service</b>				
<b>Service :</b>	<b>Digital Services</b>				
<b>Scheme :</b>	<b>Data Centre Move to Guildhall</b>				
<b>1. CAPITAL COSTS</b>		<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£'000</b>
	Expenditure				0
	Scheme details				0
	Building Refurb	20	230		250
	IT Hardware		700		700
	IT Network - Core Infra and PSBA		200	320	520
	Intangibles		130	300	100
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>100</b>
	Financing				
	Capital Equalisation Reserve	20	1,260	620	100
					2000
					0
					0
					0
	<b>FINANCING</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>100</b>
					<b>2000</b>
<b>2. REVENUE COSTS</b>		<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	<b>FULL YEAR</b>				<b>£'000</b>
	Service Controlled - Expenditure				
	Employees				0
	Maintenance				0
	Equipment				0
	Administration				0
	<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# Agenda Item 8



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

### Scrutiny of Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities – Q & A Session with Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

<b>Purpose:</b>	To enable the Committee to question the Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy on his work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to his areas of responsibility.
<b>Content:</b>	<p>The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance &amp; Strategy will appear before the Committee for a Q &amp; A session which may cover any of his areas of responsibility, but will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COVID response / recovery</li><li>• Brexit effects / response</li><li>• Budget</li><li>• City Centre Regeneration</li><li>• Developments in Partnership / Regional Working</li></ul>
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question the Leader / Cabinet Member on specific portfolio responsibilities</li><li>• Make comments and recommendations as necessary</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Cridland



## 1. Introduction

1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the Council's Cabinet to account. The Cabinet (also known as the Executive) is made up of the Leader and other councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific portfolio responsibilities.

1.2 There are 10 Cabinet portfolios:

	<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>
1	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader of the Council)	Cllr Rob Stewart
2	Delivery & Operations (Joint Deputy Leader)	Cllr David Hopkins
3	Climate Change & Service Transformation (Joint Deputy Leader)	Cllr Andrea Lewis
4	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	Cllr Mark Child
5	Business Improvement & Performance	Cllr Andrew Stevens
6	Children Services	Cllr Elliott King
7	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	Cllr Robert Smith
8	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	Cllr Mark Thomas
9	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
10	Supporting Communities	Cllr Alyson Pugh Cllr Louise Gibbard

### NOTE:

- All Cabinet Members have responsibility for Poverty Reduction
- Supporting Communities Portfolios operate under a job share system with two named Councillors sharing the responsibility, rotated on a regular basis; however, formally they remain as one cabinet portfolio.
- Detailed Cabinet Portfolio Responsibility listing is **attached** to this report.

1.3 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the Cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.

1.4 The Committee should be mindful to avoid duplication of any issue(s) being examined elsewhere in the scrutiny work programme e.g., within Performance Panels.

## 2. Q & A with Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

2.1 The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy, Councillor Rob Stewart, will appear before the Committee to participate in a question-and-answer session. Councillor Stewart has wide ranging responsibilities which may be subject to Committee questions, but the session is planned to focus on a smaller number of key issues, relating to:

- COVID response / recovery
- Brexit effects / response
- Budget
- City Centre Regeneration
- Developments in Partnership / Regional Working

2.2 Councillor Stewart has provided a report on his areas of responsibility and issues identified by the Committee to help focus the discussion and questions - see **Appendix 1**. He will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee.

2.3 Although having specific Cabinet portfolio responsibilities, as Leader of the Council Councillor Stewart is responsible for:

- providing political leadership to the Council
- working with officers to lead the organisation
- appointing the Cabinet
- managing and leading the work of the Cabinet and chairing meetings
- delegation of executive functions that allow the Cabinet and Officers to make decisions and manage day-to-day delivery of Council Services, in line with the Council's overall policies and budget

2.4 The session provides Committee members with opportunity to hold the Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy to account for his work, actions, and challenge performance, improvement, and future thinking.

2.5 In terms of themes that cut across all cabinet portfolios, the Committee can also ask about:

- Well-being of Future Generations Act – impact on their work / decisions e.g., what they are doing to achieve the well-being goals and ways of working, e.g., focus on long-term thinking, collaboration / involvement etc. (including regional / collaborative working, service user / public engagement)
- Links to Poverty Reduction
- Reducing inequalities, including socio-economic disadvantage

- Links to the Council’s Recovery and Transformation Plan, ‘Swansea Achieving Better Together’
  - Links to the Public Services Board (PSB)
- 2.6 The Committee has also invited members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions that the Committee should ask. It is up to the Committee how to deal with any suggested questions within the session.
- 2.7 Following the session the Chair will write to Councillor Stewart to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for him to consider.
- 2.8 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during the session, then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

### 3. Previous Scrutiny

- 3.1 The correspondence following last year’s Q & A session with the Leader (January 2021) is **attached**, and Committee Members may wish to follow up on previous discussion.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee also wrote to the Leader over the past year on the following:
- Council’s COVID-19 response and recovery plan (16 Mar meeting)
  - Council’s Recovery & Transformation Plan – Swansea Achieving Better Together (19 Oct meeting)
- 3.3 There has also been Committee correspondence with Councillor Stewart, as Joint Chair of Swansea Public Services Board, following PSB Scrutiny sessions.
- 3.4 The Committee should note that Councillor Stewart has already been engaged in scrutiny, or is planned, of the following:
- Budget (Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel)
  - Project Updates (Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel)

Other:

Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee:

The Leader has been held to account over the past year as current Chair of the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee. Meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Committee took place in February, July, and November 2021.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

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

#### **5. Financial Implications**

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

**Background Papers:** None

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Leader's Key Headlines Report

Appendix 2: Letter to Cllr Rob Stewart re. Q & A Session  
(19 Jan 2021 SPC meeting)

Appendix 3: Cabinet Portfolio Responsibility Listing



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Key Headlines: Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)

**Purpose:** This report outlines notable activities and achievements in terms of ensuring the delivery of key priorities within the Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader's) portfolio. It focuses on current key areas of national, regional and local significance such as our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, Brexit and replacement EU funding, delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal (SB CD), the progress of other key regeneration programmes and projects in Swansea and the region (including the Swansea Bay and South West Wales metro), the Council's budget and partnership working.

**Report Author:** Joanne Portwood

**Finance Officer:** Paul Roach

**Legal Officer:** Debbie Smith

**Access to Services Officer:** Rhian Millar

#### **For Information**

## **1.0 The Portfolio for Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)**

1.1 Key responsibilities within the portfolio include:

- Brexit & New Economic Relationships,
- Capital Programme Delivery,
- City Centre Redevelopment,
- City Deal Delivery,
- Communications,
- Community Leadership,

- Constitutional Changes,
- Emergency Planning,
- Finance Strategy, Budget & Saving Delivery,
- Financial Services,
- Future Digital Networks (City Deal),
- Legal Services,
- Local and Regional Investment Strategy,
- Planning Policy (Regional),
- Poverty Reduction,
- Public Service Board (PSB),
- Recovery Plan Lead,
- Regeneration Strategy & Major Projects,
- Regional Working Lead (All Bodies),
- Strategic Partnerships,
- Swansea Bay City
- Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) – Deputy Leader,
- WLGA Lead on Europe, Brexit, Economy & Energy,
- WLGA representative to LGA.

1.2 Owing to the breadth and scope of the Economy, Finance and Strategy portfolio, it is not the intention of this report to provide an update on *all* of the responsibilities within the Economy, Finance and Strategy portfolio. Instead, the report is designed to highlight key areas of national, regional and local significance. Progress on each of the constituent elements of the Leader's portfolio are scheduled and reported through existing scrutiny arrangements throughout the Municipal year.

## **2.0 COVID-19 response and Recovery Planning**

2.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee received an update on the progress in delivering the Council's Recovery & Transformation Plan 'Swansea – Achieving Better Together on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021', following on from a previous progress report given in March 2021.

2.2 The report demonstrated that Recovery and Refocus phases of the programme are well underway with associated working groups and actions, reporting mechanisms and governance boards in place. Work is ongoing in relation to the continued recovery, refocussing and reshaping the Council and is structured around the following work streams;

- Care Services
- Education and Learning
- Future Workforce and Equalities
- Community Support
- Economy and Environment

2.3 Our Policy Development Committees (PDCs) have been instrumental in the development of new policy developments in relation to the Council's Recovery and Transformation programme and making recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Members.

2.4 Some of the key achievements for our staff and organisation to date have included;

- the development of a renewed Agile Policy and ensuring staff have a safe working environment at home and in other settings,
- early and continual engagement with Trade Unions,
- increased engagement with staff through different phases of the Recovery programme,
- the relaunch of the revised Leadership Hub and the Ideas Hub,
- a programme timetable for Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP),
- a reporting process for Economic Recovery Fund Monitoring.

2.5 Some of the key achievements for our local residents to date have included;

- improving how we monitor the well-being of vulnerable children by developing a shared criteria of understanding vulnerability, used by both Education and Child and Family Services,
- supplying more than 12,000 computers, lap tops and ipads during last year and providing free wifi in disadvantaged communities,
- expanding the Local Area Coordination service across Swansea,
- working with partners to support a wide range of community based projects, including the development of Volunteering Toolkits and associated training.

2.6 The COVID-19 Pandemic has continued to place significant and unprecedented pressure on Council services, staff and citizens. The Recovery and Refocus phases are not linear and have been affected by the changing nature of the Pandemic. Future reports on our progress in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, our recovery and re-focusing the Council will be made to the Scrutiny Programme Committee in due course.

### **3.0 Brexit and New Economic Relationships**

3.1 A trade agreement between the UK and EU was ratified and given Royal Assent on 31st December 2020. There was a customs transitional arrangement in place until 1 July 2021. The UK government postponed import checks from the EU to the UK until the end of 2021 in order to avoid supply issues during the ongoing Covid crisis. This was followed by another delay of import controls, in the context of truck driver shortages as a result of the pandemic, which are scheduled to be phased in during 2022. The economic impact of EU exit remains

uncertain and continues to be obscured by the ongoing disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.2 The impact from EU Exit on Local Authorities in Wales has been difficult to disaggregate from the effects of disruption from the Covid-19 pandemic. Both the Council and WLGA maintained their respective steering groups following the exit from the EU in order to monitor, gather and share intelligence on the period following the end of EU transition and to be prepared to mitigate emerging risks or take advantage of new opportunities.

3.3 The following were identified during Brexit preparations as key risks associated with EU Exit:

- EU Replacement funding.
- EUSS (EU Settlement Scheme).
- Ports.
- Supply Chains and disruption.

3.4 EU Replacement funding

The UK Government has established a Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to replace EU funding. Wales will get nearly a quarter of the £220m Community Renewal Fund (CRF) to help prepare for the introduction of the SPF. More than 160 projects totalling £46m led by Welsh councils will receive packages between £1.9m and £6,600 and every council in Wales except Flintshire is receiving funds.

Swansea successfully bid for CRF funding totalling £2,471,029 for eight projects, including support for developing the Blue Eden project, the successor to Dragon Energy Island and funds for projects in areas ranging from education and training opportunities for vulnerable groups to green community transport and regeneration schemes.

The full list is set out below:

- Community-led Sustainable Transport Solutions – Investing in Communities and Place: £128,821
- Cowork Local (Swansea): £331,891
- Dragon Energy Island – Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon: £202,650
- Enterprise Swansea: £199,734
- Pathways to Work Swansea: £764,444
- Penderi Green Regeneration: £223,029
- Swansea Business Support and Green Recovery: £526,329
- Time to Learn and Work: £94,131

Debate on the level of funding available through the SPF and the UK Government's 'Levelling Up' funding programme and its parity with EU funding, which continues up until December 2023, is likely to continue



but there is concern in Wales that CRF funding will not achieve the levels provided under EU Structural Funds.

### 3.5 EUSS (EU Settlement Scheme)

The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) was established to allow EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who were resident in the UK before the end of the transition period, 31st December 2020, and their family members to continue to live and work in the UK lawfully in the post-Brexit era. For those eligible, an application should have been made before the end of the grace period, 30th June 2021.

Working on a regional basis, the Council undertook a radio campaign with Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot Councils to raise awareness and encourage eligible citizens to apply for settled status through the EUSS by 30 June 2021. The Council also hosted and promoted Home Office Workshops, contacted local employers and held community events to promote the EUSS and help eligible citizens to apply. The cross-Council Brexit Steering Group worked to identify and support staff to apply for settled status through the EUSS scheme.

At the end of June 2021, approximately 99,100 EU citizens in Wales had applied for settled status. Of those applications 90,580 applications had been concluded; 51,880 had been granted settled status and 34,620 granted pre-settled status. In Swansea at the same point in time, 4,450 EU citizens had applied for settled status; 3,580 had been granted pre-settled status and other outcomes were recorded for 360 EU citizens living in Swansea.

Although applications go above and beyond the numbers initially anticipated for Wales, there are still individuals who need to apply and require support. There are increasing numbers of adjoining family members applying and parents realising they need to apply for their children. Welsh Government has recently announced it will continue to fund Newfields Law, Citizens Advice and Settled until March 2022 to support individuals needing to apply for settled status.

### 3.6 Ports

The re-introduction of border checks on goods to and from the EU could have significant implications for the ports of Holyhead and Fishguard / Pembroke Dock. Anglesey and Pembrokeshire councils have been working with UK and Welsh Governments to identify and put in place the necessary arrangements. Swansea Port however does not deal with people, food or live animals and so is not subject to additional checks or controls. There is a small risk that there could be some diversion to Swansea Port in the event of major disruption to Fishguard / Pembroke Dock but this is unlikely and is being kept under review.

### 3.7 Supply Chains and disruption

A significant amount of preparations in the Council for EU-Exit went into reviewing and ensuring that supply chains were resilient, including in the event of a 'No Deal' Brexit. This work included contacting suppliers to check their resilience, reviewing current stock levels, identifying alternative supplies / suppliers and reviewing / testing business continuity plans.

There have been some related issues across the UK and Wales post EU Exit; but a significant element of this appears to be the result of the impact from Covid-19. All Local Authorities in Wales are experiencing increasing contractual costs for various projects, delays in supplies and difficulties in recruiting staff across a range of services and technical roles. Some Authorities are having particular difficulties in recruiting HGV / PCV drivers and care workers for social care settings.

Broadly, the UK's current supply chain issues stem from global shortages of materials, staff shortages and transport delays occurring at the same time as sharp spikes in demand and increased commodity prices and fuel costs. No particular sector is at severe risk but there are areas of concern, which could be exacerbated by a confluence of events such as severe weather, Covid and/or influenza spikes, etc. Although Covid appears to be the main cause of these difficulties, it is difficult to ascertain from this picture what effect, if any, Brexit might be having on these issues within the UK.

Swansea Council has reviewed the situation and is satisfied that, whilst these matters are being contained, they will be kept under review and closely monitored. The Council continues to engage with WLGA and has incorporated risks into the Corporate Risk Register to mitigate the effects of Covid-19, including on social care and on the supply of construction materials; these are reviewed at least on a monthly basis at Performance & Financial Monitoring meetings and at Corporate Management Team.

## 4.0 The wider “Levelling Up” agenda

- 4.1 It is important to note the distinction between Levelling up Funds and a wider, planned Levelling-up policy to be set out in a White Paper by the UK Government. A report published by the Institute of Welsh Affairs (IWA) in December 2021 into the Levelling up agenda concluded that Wales as a country is likely to receive a lower level of funding from the combined UK Government funding streams directly or indirectly replacing European Union regional funding. The report also suggested that that Welsh Local Authorities may be at a disadvantage when vying for funding due to the competitive nature of the programmes, their small size compared to English Local Authorities and lack of experience in competitive bidding.

4.2 The first round of Levelling up Funds (LUF) was launched in the late spring of 2021 and Local Authorities across the UK were invited to bid by 18th June. Announcements about successful bids were made at the end of October. Only around half of Welsh LAs submitted bids in the first round of the LUF due to time constraints and the pressures of simultaneously managing bids to another new UK Government scheme, the Community Renewal Fund (billed as the forerunner to the long-awaited Shared Prosperity Fund). Only 10 out of the 19 bids submitted by Welsh Local Authorities were successful in the first round of funding.

4.3 It was anticipated that the UK Government's White Paper on Levelling-up would be published before Christmas, however, it has been delayed. It was also anticipated that a prospectus setting out the detail of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) will follow or accompany the release of the White Paper. In the UK Government Spending Review, details were given of the 'ramping up' of the SPF, as funding from current EU programmes tails off. The SPF is planned to provide £0.4bn in 2022/23, £0.7bn in 2023/24 and £1.5bn in 2024/25. It is worth noting that Wales received 23% of the £200m recently awarded under the CRF – a far higher share than if based on population share (c5%). However, if the figure of 23% is applied to the projected SPF figures, the award to Wales would rise to £345m by 2024/25 – still £30m short of the £375m p.a. received under EU programmes.

The SPF funding is largely a revenue fund, so by 2024/25 the £1.5bn will be made up of £1.3bn revenue and £0.2bn capital. That suggests it will focus on areas such as skills training and employability, previously funded via the ESF. The Levelling-up Fund (which currently runs up to 2024), by contrast is largely capital and therefore is presumably intended to fill the gap left by the ending of ERDF support. It should be noted, though, that the LUF is not strictly part of replacement EU funds as it is not 'new money'. It actually replaces the UK Government's previous Towns Fund in England, for which Welsh Government received consequential funding.

4.4 Through the WLGA, I recently met with the Secretary of State for Wales (before the announcement of the delay in the White Paper) to discuss the White Paper, the plan for SPF and the timeline for the next round of Levelling Up Funding. Following the meeting, we have written to the Secretary of State for Wales to seek assurance that Wales will receive the previous level of EU funding it received prior to the UK's departure from the EU and clarification around replacement capital funding, the prioritisation of bids and the flexibility of approaches based on local circumstances (in so far that there are different institutional arrangements across the four nations of the UK). We will continue to work through the WLGA and with other Council Leaders to lobby the UK Government to ensure that Wales receives its fair share of funding from the UK Government.

## 5.0 Delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal

- 5.1 We are continuing to make excellent progress in delivering the £1.3 billion investment of the Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD). Despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, all 9 of the programmes and projects within the SBCD portfolio have now been approved by the UK Government and Welsh Government. This means over 99% of the available deal investment fund has been approved and is more than any other deal in Wales has achieved, representing significant progress for our region.
- 5.2 Work on the Swansea Bay City Deal's Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District project has continued at pace. The £135m Swansea Central Phase One transformation scheme - now branded Copr Bay, includes new parkland, around a 1,000 parking spaces, 50 affordable homes and commercial units. A striking new landmark bridge based on a design by artist Marc Rees has been put into place and is based on Swan abstracts and the gold coloured materials which reflect Swansea's copper industry heritage.

The construction of the Swansea Arena is nearing completion alongside the completion of the Copr Bay site. The Ambassador Theatre Group have been appointed as the operator and acts such as Alice Cooper, Rob Brydon, Diversity, the Cult and Katherine Ryan have been confirmed for the Arena's programme for 2022. The first event has been scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 as part of an opening launch. A digital square featuring digital artworks and ultra-fast internet connection speeds will also be developed outside the arena. The Cairn Group have been identified as the preferred bidder for a planned four-star 150 room hotel adjacent to the Arena site.

Site set up and enabling works have commenced on the new digital district at 71/72 the Kingsway which is another key milestone in the project delivery

- 5.3 Some of the other key milestones marking the delivery of the Swansea Bay City Deal during 2021 include:
- the UK Government and Welsh Government released the first tranche of City Deal capital and revenue grant funding of £11.2m for Swansea by the 31 March 2021. We are due a further £4.8m by 31 March 2022 and therefore the total due to be drawn by 31 March 2022 will be £16m.
  - the submission of a planning application to prepare the Pembroke Port site for a major £60m marine renewable energy development and securing a Marine licence from Natural Resources Wales.
  - facilitating an online procurement awareness session to outline key opportunities related to the SBCD and the £250m worth of contracts over 2021.

- the approval of a £40m Pentre Awel project - a world class business, research, education, health and leisure facilities situated over an 83 acre site in Llanelli - by both the UK Government and Welsh Government.
- the approval of a £50m Digital project - aiming to ensure that cities, towns and business parks have competitive access to full-fibre connectivity, improved access to broadband in rural communities and the development of 5G and the 'internet of things' - by both the UK Government and the Welsh Government. It has been estimated that this project will be worth £318m to the region in the coming years.
- the installation of 70 air quality monitoring sensors which will use digital technology to monitor and understand air quality - as part of Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme.
- industry and sector recognition of the design and environmental excellence of the high-tech office development planned for 71/72 the Kingsway. The development is projected to achieve BREEAM Excellent and be an industry exemplar project. Bouygues UK has been appointed as the main contractor for this project and were also recently appointed to start delivering Pentre Awel Scheme in Llanelli.
- the approval of a £15m Homes as Power Stations project - to facilitate the take up of energy efficient design and technologies in homes and helping people save money on their energy bills and cut carbon emissions - by the UK Government and Welsh Government. Part of a £505m project across the region.
- the approval of a £58.7m Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme - aiming to deliver low carbon growth and a greener economy - by both the UK Government and the Welsh Government.
- the approval of a £30m Skills and Talent project by both the UK and Welsh Government in October 2021.
- Yr Egin - the first SBCD project to be approved and currently operational with 12 companies operating from the base - received a successful Gateway 5 review.
- the recent approval of a £132m Campuses project - aiming to develop and expand the Medical Technology and Sports Technology sectors through life science, well-being, and clinical innovation - by both the UK Government and Welsh Government.

### **Other regeneration programmes and projects across Swansea**

5.4 Good progress has also been made in relation to other wider regeneration projects, alongside those programmes and projects funded by the Swansea Bay City Deal. These include:

- Blue Eden.

Pre-planning work has commenced. Discussions are ongoing with Associated British Ports, the South Wales industrial cluster linked to Hydrogen and other partners. The Blue Eden project is being led by

Bridgend-based DST Innovations and their business partners. It includes a 9.5km tidal lagoon structure, a floating solar farm, a data centre, high-tech battery manufacturing plants, a battery storage facility and other features that will place Swansea at the global forefront of renewable energy innovation. It is anticipated that the project will create more than 2,500 permanent jobs and support a further 16,000 jobs across Wales and the UK, while creating additional jobs during its construction. The project will be sited along an extensive area of land and water, to the south of the Prince of Wales Dock in the SA1 area of Swansea. It is anticipated that project would be delivered in three phases over 12 years and subject to planning consent, work on site could start by early 2023. Unlike the older Tidal Lagoon concept, the project will not require public subsidy and will now include new additional features such as Housing, a Battery factory, an Oceanic and Climate Change Research centre, a Data centre and a Solar farm.

- Re-imaging of Wind Street.

Good progress has been made in relation to this £3 million public realm improvement scheme, which aimed to expand the appeal of the area and provide a safer, more accessible and attractive environment. The project, includes new paving, better lighting and seating, LED colour-change tree-lights and greening as well as works to the carriageway to create a one way street with restricted access to vehicles from 7am-11am. Sustainability is an underlying principle of the scheme with retention and cleansing of the York stone paving to reduce the amount of imported stone. Similarly, many of the granite kerbs and other elements will be retained and re-used with much being re-engineered to create drainage 'dish' channels between 'at-grade' footway and highway. The scheme will be subject to a CEEQUAL assessment, which reviews the scheme's environmental credentials and awards accreditation on merit.

- Castle Square Gardens

Following a period of extensive public consultation, work is ongoing in relation to the development of a new concept for Castle Square. The new concept includes increasing the amount of Green space to cover more than 40% of the area, including a new planting scheme to incorporate new trees, green roofs, raingardens, and more accessible landscaped areas, reflecting the Council's Green Infrastructure strategy. The new concept also includes the removal of the existing water feature, two new café restaurant pavilions, new ground level water jets, an upgraded paved area to make Caer Street and Castle Bailey Street more pedestrian-friendly and improved connections with neighbouring areas. Cabinet recently agreed capital investment over the next two years and subject to securing planning permission in the summer of 2022 and further public consultation, it is anticipated that the work will be completed in the latter part of 2023.

- Palace Theatre

The historic but derelict Palace Theatre was acquired by the Council both saving a part of Swansea's heritage and acting as a regeneration catalyst for the Upper High Street. Grant funding was secured and design and refurbishment works are underway. The innovative digital workspace will offer a home for growing businesses in the tech, digital and creative sectors. Heads of Terms have already been signed with the lead tenant Tramshed Tech. Contractor R&M Williams has recently been appointed to bring the historic Palace Theatre building back into use as a new home to tech, start-up and creative businesses.

- Albert Hall

Another landmark building, the grade II 1864 Albert Hall is set for £7m regeneration as a result of Council support. Loft Co were able to invest in the former music hall due to support securing grant funding and loan funding from the Council via the Town Centre Loan Fund. Plans for a mixed leisure, commercial & residential development are moving forward preserving the architectural profile for future generations.

- City Centre Community Hub

Work is ongoing in relation the development of a City Centre Community Hub, aligning the Shaping Swansea and Re-purposing agendas and redeveloping the building into a Community Hub. During early 2021, we established a City Centre Community Hub Steering group and procured the services of multi-disciplinary design team (MDT) led by Coreus, to manage the design and delivery of the project. Discussions are ongoing with Swansea University, other partners and stakeholders in relation to agreeing the appropriate mix of services including the re-location of Swansea's main Library, archives, and other community based services currently located in the Civic centre, which best reflect the ethos of a Community Hub.

- Urban Splash

Urban Splash have been appointed to lead a £750m redevelopment of several sites across Swansea as its preferred development partner for a number of sites in the city, including the Civic Centre, Swansea Central North on the former St David's Shopping Centre site, and a plot of land along the riverside in St Thomas.

To be substantially funded by the private sector, early plans include:

- The transformation of the 23-acre seafront Civic Centre site into a new city waterfront district for Swansea. A mixed-use destination anchored by the beach is proposed, with new homes and a strong leisure and hospitality focus, generous civic spaces and plenty of greenery. Other proposals include a new walkway to the beach and

a mix of permanent and seasonal uses and events to create an all-season visitor destination.

- New office buildings, new apartments for residents and shared workspaces on the 5.5-acre Swansea central north site located at the former St David's Shopping Centre site. Capitalising on the major growth across the UK in demand for craft-based goods, space for small creative businesses to make and sell their products could also feature.
- A residential-led regeneration of a 7.5-acre riverfront site in St Thomas, featuring family homes, apartments, new public spaces and a new terraced river walk providing direct access to the river for the first time in over 150 years.

Urban Splash – an award winning company has been described as 'synonymous' with Manchester's success and has developed over 60 regeneration projects across the UK in the last 25 years, including several in Manchester. These include the regeneration of the New Islington part of the city into one of the UK's best places to live, according to The Sunday Times. Other schemes developed by Urban Splash include the Royal William Yard project in Plymouth, where the company transformed a collection of Grade I and Grade II Listed waterfront structures into apartments, workspaces, galleries, bars, restaurants, markets, cultural events and exhibitions.

Swansea Council's appointment of Urban Splash followed an extensive search for a preferred development partner as part of the Shaping Swansea initiative. Further proposals in future will also include opportunities to develop other key sites across Swansea.

- Tawe Riverside, Hafod Copperworks and Skyline

Work is ongoing in relation to the Hafod Copperworks and Kilvey sites. Good progress is being made in relation to the historic Hafod Copperworks site. The works contract for the Powerhouse has been awarded and is progressing well. A lease has been agreed with Penderyn who plan to expand there and fit it out as a new distillery and visitor centre. The iconic Musgrave Engine House has been restored and Vivian Engine House repairs are underway. Work has also continued on the 110 year old Bascule Bridge working closely with Cadw. Funding has also recently been secured for a new riverboat pick-up and drop-off point near the Liberty Stadium and work is currently underway to survey the best location for the pontoon

Work has continued with Skyline Enterprises who aim to create a gondola attraction with luge tracks, zip lines and visitor facilities on Kilvey Hill. It has developed proposals, which include improving access to and the ecology of the area. Heads of Terms had been signed by the Council and the Skyline board and survey work has



commenced before the pandemic. Although the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in Skyline temporarily stopping all of their projects across the world, we have recently received notification that Skyline intend to pursue their proposed development on Kilvey Hill - subject to securing Welsh Government support for their proposal.

## **6.0. Budget**

- 6.1 The Council's Statement of Accounts has been signed off in record beating time once again and in spite of the COVID-19 lockdowns. We are in receipt of audit management letters which gives the Council a clean bill of health again this year on all bar one historic technical matter which is being rapidly resolved.
- 6.2 The 2020-21 outturn included a managed underspend and some £50m plus was added to reserves across contingency, capital equalisation reserve, schools reserves and social services. That underspend and bolstering of reserves was one of the largest of all Welsh authorities and is noted in Audit Wales review of resilience in local government in Wales and has set the Council in good stead for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6.3 The pandemic has significantly impacted our finances with over £200m of flexed support to local businesses, our own revenue budgets flexed by tens of millions and the largest ever capital programme under way including building the Bay Field Hospital on behalf of the NHS and Welsh Government. I believe the Council can rightly claim to have led the way in terms of scale and pace of action across the spectrum of intervention
- 6.4 We have continued to take action to contain substantial overspending caused solely by Covid activity in Q2. After adjusting for Covid related activity services were already underspent by Q2 and taken in conjunction with significant underspending on contingency and capital financing (once again) , there is already a significant overall underspend expected for the current year which it is hoped will enable us to stretch the local Economic Recovery Fund by at least another £5m.
- 6.5 The outlook is one of significant pressure to Council services if the UK government's austerity programme continues, compounded by the twin impact of Brexit and Covid. I have to hope that the messages around the end of austerity prove to be correct and honoured with real extra funding not just nominal cash increases when pressures remain unabounded and inflation is clearly rampant. Early signs from the UK government from the Comprehensive Spending Review are very encouraging in the extreme short term with very substantial front loading of cash, fully replicated helpfully by the Welsh Government for 2022-23 but not at all encouraging for the medium term with independent commentators indicating tax rises and future real terms

cuts are likely longer term along with Government's attempts to continue to curtail future public sector pay awards which shamefully mean real terms cuts to wages, compounded further by those tax rises, are likely to continue well into a second decade.

- 6.6 Welsh Government has provided very substantial short term relief with a settlement worth 9.3% for 2022-23 but continues to starkly note that its ability to fund more now or for the longer term is entirely dependent upon the actions and plans of the UK government. Most telling is the removal of the bulk of COVID-19 funding for Wales and there is a real fear that the UK and Wales faces a funding cliff edge in the future as well as utter uncertainty as to how the UK government is going to act to rebalance current spending let alone future spending. This is compounded by uncertainty over the UK government use of the Shared Prosperity fund and the economic damage wreaked by COVID-19 and Brexit.
- 6.7 The Draft Budget proposals are due to have be issued and considered at Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 followed by the start of the Budget consultation on the same date. Following the consultation process, the final draft budget will come to Cabinet and Council during February and March 2022 and will include the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). This is later than usual but a direct consequence of the delayed Comprehensive Spending Review and the Welsh Government decision to push back their budget and Local Government funding announcements
- 6.8 The Budget Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is being developed for March 2022. The Council have also undertaken significant lobbying as a Council and via WLGA on budget and local government settlement matters. Swansea Council received an extra £339 million as part of its settlement (anticipated and factored into the Council's draft budget).
- 6.9 Work has continued to progress on the City Deal with significant cash funding being received. The Council remains well placed to access this cash as one of the most advanced projects with substantial elements of the Swansea Central scheme already significantly near completion. The rapid delivery of the Arena and surrounding sites as a catalyst for future investment remains unabated despite and in spite of COVID-19.

## **7.0 Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro Programme**

Work is ongoing in relation to the development of the Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro programme. The Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro proposals aim to make it easier to travel – by public transport, bike or on foot. The aim is to develop an integrated public transport system which will include a variety of modes such as heavy rail, tram-train, light rail and bus, all of which can be accessible by walking and cycling.

Funding from the Welsh Government for this regional project has secured project co-ordination and dedicated resources to develop and deliver a programme. A second stage report produced using the WelTAG methodology specified by both UK and Welsh Governments for the development and appraisal of transport proposals) was published in October 2021.

Options being considered include increased frequency of long-distance strategic services; increased local services from West Wales to Carmarthen and Swansea; new stations and improvements to existing stations; and the development of an integrated regional Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro network. Options include;

- new train stations at Cockett and Landore on the South Wales Mainline.
- new stations on the Swansea District Line at Llandarcy, Winch Wen, Morrision, Felindre and Pontlliw for Services between Swansea, Neath and Pontarddulais.
- a more radical new tram-train route between Swansea and Neath is outlined that will include a significant alignment of street running in the city centre. The route will also make partial use of existing freight routes through Swansea Docks.
- potential new stations include High Street, College Street, Strand, Port Tennant, Langdon Road in SA1, University Bay Campus, Jersey Marine, Llandarcy, Neath Abbey and Neath Riverside.
- a second route would see tram trains running between Llandarcy and Skewen along a section of restored railway.

Discussions have been ongoing with a wide range of stakeholders including a twelve week public consultation. The next steps will include the development of a third stage report and a full business case

## **8.0 Partnership Working**

8.1 During the last 12 months we have strengthened partnership working in our response to recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and re-focusing the future Council. Working is ongoing in relation to our regional arrangements for Education, Health and Social Care services and progress has been reported through existing scrutiny arrangements. Work on these shared agendas have largely been influenced by our response to the Covid-19 pandemic and robust new governance arrangements have been put in place to respond to immediate priorities and service pressures. We have also continued work on shared longer term ambitions though the work of our Public Services Board and our declaration to become Wales' first Human Rights City and our Climate Change charter.

8.2 Good progress has also been made in relation to the planning and arrangements to establish the South West Wales Corporate Joint

Committee. Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the relevant Chief Executives and Leaders of the constituent Councils to secure funding from Welsh Government to put in place the arrangements to establish the CJs in May 2021. A further report was presented to Cabinet in December 2021 on the progress made in relation to the constituting the South West Wales CJC outlining the remit of the CJC, operational responsibilities, the governance of CJs, co-option, governance, audit arrangements, standards and ethics and scrutiny. A draft constitution and supporting arrangement are currently being developed with a view to their discussion and approval at the first meeting of the South West Wales CJC by the end of January 2022.

- 8.3 The last 12 months have continued to present unprecedented challenges to the Council, our employees, our communities, our residents and local businesses. Nevertheless, despite dealing with the immediate pressures of responding to the changing Covid-19 pandemic, we have maintained our focus on recovery, delivered our key commitments at pace and will continue to create, support and seek out opportunities to realise our ambitions for Swansea and the region.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **10.0 Legal Implications**

- 10.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **11.0 Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 11.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 11.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 11.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 11.4 This report is 'for information' and so is not relevant for an IIA.



**To/  
Councillor Rob Stewart  
Cabinet Member for Economy,  
Finance & Strategy (Leader)**

**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

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SPC/2020-21/4

01 February 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member following the meeting of the Committee on 19 January 2021. It is about COVID-19, Brexit, Council Budget, Partnership / Regional Working, and City Centre Regeneration. A response is not required.

Dear Councillor Stewart,

### **Cabinet Member Question Session – 19 January**

Thank you for attending the Scrutiny Programme Committee on 19 January 2021 and answering questions on your work as Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy.

The Q & A session gave us an opportunity to explore priorities and achievements in relation to your areas of responsibility. We appreciate you providing a written paper in support of your appearance at the Committee meeting, which focused on current key areas of local and national significance.

Overall, you reflected on an unprecedented last nine months and the numerous challenges faced by the Council and the people of Swansea during the pandemic. You praised the tireless work of Council staff, recognising in particular the support you have had from the Chief Executive and senior management team, as well as from Cabinet colleagues. Despite the pressures and the pain the pandemic has brought, you were positive and optimistic about the future.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**  
**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**  
 GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE  
[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) / [www.abertawe.gov.uk](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk)

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

### **COVID-19 Latest**

When the Committee last discussed the COVID-19 situation with you in November, the discussion was about rising rates of infections, the impact of local restrictions and national firebreak, and a challenging winter ahead with concerns of a possible second wave of COVID-19 and obvious impacts. However, there was also hope with the development of vaccines. We now of course find ourselves in a further lockdown due to high rates of infection and pressures on health services, and the consequences of a new variant of the virus circulating in the UK. At the same time, the roll out of a mass vaccination programme is underway, following the approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines.

The Committee asked about progress with the vaccination programme and the support the Council is providing to health partners to help deliver as many vaccinations as possible and as quickly as possible. At our meeting, we heard that close to 21,000 people in the priority groups in Swansea had now been vaccinated, utilising all available vaccines. We note that there are now three max vaccination centres: Bay field hospital (with capacity to administer 1500 vaccines per day); Margam Orangery (600 per day), and Canolfan Gorseinon Centre which has just opened (300 per day). In addition, all 49 GP surgeries across the Swansea Bay University Health Board area are now participating in the programme.

You reported good progress with the vaccination of care home residents and staff, and that overall things were on track to complete vaccination of the first four priority groups by mid-February. The Committee was pleased to hear of the progress made and supported all efforts to make sure the vaccine is delivered effectively in Swansea, and facilitated as much as possible by the Council. We are aware of recent concerns about the Welsh Government's handling of the rollout and distribution of vaccines, but hope we are now heading in the right direction.

Committee members did ask whether a local drive-through vaccination centre has been considered, that could benefit the overall effort. We understood that this has been ruled out at this stage, given the centres that have been established, all working to a high throughput, and taking into account specific requirements that need to be met.

The Committee also asked you about any reflection on the Council's local emergency planning arrangements and preparedness. You welcomed any review of that in due course as Swansea recovers, but were proud of the response and reflected on swift action taken at the start of the pandemic last March. For example, the realignment of Council services, the move to remote

working, the repurposing of schools as emergency settings, and the delivery of community support for the most vulnerable and other aid. We heard that Council preparations for a 'no-deal' Brexit had in fact made the Council more alert and ready in terms of emergency planning. A member not on the Committee had asked us to raise with you whether, in light of the current pandemic, a Joint Resilience Committee with Neath Port Talbot ought to be re-established, that better engages councillors in emergency planning. I think you argued that regional resilience structures were in place and operating effectively. You informed the Committee that there is a well-established South Wales Local Resilience Forum, made up of Local Authorities, emergency services and other responders, which help coordination and cooperation in the area.

Given the scale of the emergency, you pointed to the likelihood of national reviews or inquiries being undertaken at some point that will no doubt have lessons for the future. In addition to ongoing scrutiny, the Committee hopes that as part of the Council's recovery plan there is space and time for local reflection by Cabinet / Corporate Management Team.

## **Brexit**

The Committee asked about latest assessments and projections regarding implications for Swansea in light of the deal agreed between the UK and EU at the end of December. You stated that it was still early days into the deal, but previous estimates commissioned by the WLGA on the economic impact, looking at best case and worse case scenarios, would suggest a significant financial hit estimated to be around £1.5bn for Wales. You felt the immediate impact was currently masked by the pandemic.

Committee members had previously shared with you concerns about the loss of EU funding and support to Swansea and the region, and the need to ensure a fair share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund that we understood would replace it. There seems to be continued uncertainty around this funding for Wales and our area, and we asked whether you knew any more about this. Unfortunately, you did not, and shared our concern at the lack of detail and assurance for Wales about the future position, given promises that we would not be a penny worse off from what we would have expected from EU funding.

We briefly touched on a couple of other aspects of the EU exit and possible implications locally, including the disappointing end of our membership of the ERASMUS international education exchange programme, and the effect it may have on our twinning links with EU cities including Mannheim in Germany. You felt that our innovative Universities would find a way to find alternative ways to enable international exchanges and added that any opportunities to strengthen ties with Mannheim and other twin cities would be explored, in particular around turning those friendships into more active economic relationships. There was also some concern at the prospect of the



weakening of workers' rights following Brexit, which we would hope would be strongly opposed by this Council.

We can see that a report is scheduled for Council discussion in March on the implications for Swansea from the EU Exit Deal, which councillors look forward to seeing.

### **Council Budget**

You told us about the unique challenges to finances faced during the pandemic and the need to flex the budget since it was agreed last March. With the unknown potential effects of Brexit, the massive disruption of COVID-19, and late decisions on budgets in London and Cardiff, the Committee asked about the Council's confidence in being able to set a sound budget for 2021/22.

Despite the challenges, you were confident of the Council's ability to set a balanced budget by March, in no small part due to the remarkable work of the Chief Finance Officer and finance staff. You were grateful for the Welsh Government's indicative budget settlement, which earmarks an uplift of around £22m for Swansea. One of the issues however was delay to the long-term Comprehensive Spending Review, which would help us to plan better.

We noted that Cabinet has now published its budget proposals paper, which is now out for public consultation. The budget will be subject to detailed scrutiny led by our Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel in February. Monitoring of the budget and outturn in the first quarter of 2021 will of course provide scrutiny with a clearer picture of council finances.

### **Partnership / Regional Working**

The Committee asked about the continuing development of partnership and regional working, and opportunities to strengthen further, for example where there are still local arrangements in place such as the Public Services Board. You were asked whether it would be more effective and more focussed if there is greater coordination between the Swansea PSB, Neath Port-Talbot PSB and West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board.

You assured the Committee that regional working is under constant review to ensure arrangements are streamlined and effective. Where necessary regional arrangements would be developed if there were a shared desire and commitment across organisations. For example, changes are afoot for the ERW regional school improvement consortium, with a likely move to the City Deal regional footprint. The advent of Corporate Joint Committees also requires us to reflect on regional arrangements, and whether existing structures are fit for purpose and have clear arrangements for accountability through scrutiny.

## **City Centre Regeneration**

Committee members welcomed the news that almost 467 full-time equivalent jobs are to be created at the Swansea Arena, in a range of areas that ATG, are looking for, to help them operate the Arena. This is a great boost to the local economy, and we hope that many of the opportunities available will be recruited locally.

The demise of Debenhams is course a concern, both for the city centre and for those who have lost their job. Any opportunities arising from the Arena and associated development are going to be vital. You told the Committee that Swansea was leading the way in terms of jobs growth in Wales, and despite current challenges, there was a positive picture beyond COVID and Brexit.

You assured us that the Council will do all it can to support Debenhams locally but these were national decisions. Since our meeting, it has been confirmed that all stores will close permanently following a deal with the online fashion retailer, Boohoo, which will see the Debenhams relaunch as an on-line operation only.

## **Your Response**

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any comments, however we do not expect you to provide a formal response.

Yours sincerely,



## **COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK**

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

✉ [cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.black@swansea.gov.uk)

## Appendix 3 - CABINET PORTFOLIOS (as at 20 May)

<b>Economy, Finance &amp; Strategy (Leader) (Cllr Rob Stewart)</b>	<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Community Health Services (Cllr Mark Child)</b>	<b>Supporting Communities (Cllr Alyson Pugh; Cllr Louise Gibbard)</b>	<b>Business Improvement &amp; Performance (Cllr Andrew Stevens)</b>	<b>Children Services (Cllr Elliot King)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brexit &amp; New Economic Relationships</li> <li>• Capital Programme Delivery</li> <li>• City Centre Redevelopment</li> <li>• City Deal Delivery</li> <li>• Communications</li> <li>• Community Leadership</li> <li>• Constitutional Changes</li> <li>• Emergency Planning</li> <li>• Finance Strategy, Budget &amp; Saving Delivery</li> <li>• Financial Services</li> <li>• Future Digital Networks (City Deal)</li> <li>• Legal Services</li> <li>• Local &amp; Regional Investment Strategy</li> <li>• Planning Policy (Regional)</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Public Services Board (PSB)</li> <li>• Recovery Plan Lead</li> <li>• Regeneration Strategy &amp; Major Projects</li> <li>• Regional Working Lead (All Bodies)</li> <li>• Strategic Partnerships</li> <li>• Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee - Chair</li> <li>• Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) – Deputy Leader</li> <li>• WLGA Lead on Europe, Brexit, Economy &amp; Energy</li> <li>• WLGA representative to LGA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities to Promote Independence &amp; Ageing Well</li> <li>• Adult Social Services Modernisation</li> <li>• Assessment / Care Management</li> <li>• COVID-19 Response – Adult Social Care</li> <li>• Elderly Care</li> <li>• Healthy City Partnership</li> <li>• Integration of Health &amp; Social Care</li> <li>• Joint Equipment</li> <li>• Learning Disability</li> <li>• Local Area Coordination Lead</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Physical &amp; Sensory Impairments</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Adult Services Lead</li> <li>• Safeguarding</li> <li>• Strategic Health &amp; Social Care Collaboration Opportunities</li> <li>• Supporting People</li> <li>• Wellbeing</li> <li>• West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board (RPB) – Leader’s Representative</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Alyson Pugh (leading on):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Homeless Support</li> <li>• 3rd Sector Services</li> <li>• Community Cohesion</li> <li>• Community Safety</li> <li>• Community Safety – Board Representative</li> <li>• Community Support for Refugees &amp; Asylum Seekers</li> <li>• Employability</li> <li>• Financial Inclusion</li> <li>• Food Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Lifelong Learning</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Working</li> <li>• NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) 19-25</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction in Communities</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Community Support Services Lead</li> <li>• Safer Swansea Partnership Representative</li> <li>• Services for Vulnerable People in Communities during COVID-19</li> <li>• Substance Misuse</li> <li>• Support for Veterans</li> <li>• Swansea Working</li> <li>• Welfare Reform &amp; Rights</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Louise Gibbard (leading on):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Services</li> <li>• Community Centres</li> <li>• Community Groups, Engagement &amp; Development</li> <li>• Community Growing (inc. Allotments)</li> <li>• Community Support Services</li> <li>• Co-production</li> <li>• Councillor Champions – Coordination, Liaison &amp; Networking</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Equalities</li> <li>• Future Generations Compliance</li> <li>• Human Rights City</li> <li>• LAC Services in Communities</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction in Communities</li> <li>• Preventing Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Violence</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Community Support Services Lead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agile Working</li> <li>• Business &amp; Service Improvement</li> <li>• Community Digital Connectivity (inc. free WiFi)</li> <li>• Community Hubs, Service Protection</li> <li>• Contact Centre</li> <li>• Corporate Building Rationalisation</li> <li>• Corporate Delivery of Priorities</li> <li>• Corporate ICT and Digital Delivery of Services</li> <li>• Councillors Community Budget Scheme Delivery</li> <li>• Councillors ICT Services Lead</li> <li>• Crowd Funding &amp; New Community Funding Models</li> <li>• Digital Inclusion</li> <li>• Information &amp; Business Change (inc. Better ICT)</li> <li>• Localised Services and Opportunity for New Business Models</li> <li>• Performance Management &amp; Improvement</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Digital Services Transformation Lead</li> <li>• Risk &amp; Resilience Management</li> <li>• Rural Economy Lead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeships Support</li> <li>• Best Start in Life</li> <li>• CAMHS (Child &amp; Adolescent Mental Health Services)</li> <li>• Child &amp; Family Services</li> <li>• Children &amp; Young People (CYP) Chair</li> <li>• Continuum of Care</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting Lead</li> <li>• Families First</li> <li>• Flying Start</li> <li>• NEETS Reduction Support (Not in Education, Employment or Training)</li> <li>• Opportunities for Young People</li> <li>• Play Opportunities</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Promoting Youth Inclusion &amp; Youth Citzenships</li> <li>• Readiness for Work (Support)</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Children Services Lead</li> <li>• Regional Adoption Service</li> <li>• Safe Looking After Children (LAC) Reduction Strategy</li> <li>• Safeguarding</li> <li>• UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)</li> <li>• YOS (Youth Offending Service)</li> <li>• Youth Services</li> </ul>

## Appendix 3 - CABINET PORTFOLIOS (as at 20 May)

<b>Delivery &amp; Operations (Joint Deputy Leader) (Cllr David Hopkins)</b>	<b>Education Improvement, Learning &amp; Skills (Cllr Robert Smith)</b>	<b>Environment Enhancement &amp; Infrastructure Management (Cllr Mark Thomas)</b>	<b>Climate Change &amp; Service Transformation (Joint Deputy Leader) (Cllr Andrea Lewis)</b>	<b>Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism (Cllr Robert Francis- Davies)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Control</li> <li>• Cemeteries, Crematoriums, Births, Deaths &amp; Marriages</li> <li>• City Profile</li> <li>• Collaboration Opportunities</li> <li>• Commercial Services, Procurement &amp; Frameworks</li> <li>• Councillor Champions – Overall Responsibility</li> <li>• Corporate Delivery of Priorities</li> <li>• Councillor Development</li> <li>• Democratic Services</li> <li>• Environmental Health incl. COVID-19 Regulation Enforcement</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Policy</li> <li>• Houses in Multiple Occupation</li> <li>• Human Resources</li> <li>• Landlord Licensing</li> <li>• Licensing Policy</li> <li>• Mayoral &amp; Civic Functions</li> <li>• Outside Bodies (Participation Oversight)</li> <li>• Petitions</li> <li>• Planning Policy</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Public Protection</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Policy Change Lead</li> <li>• Scrutiny Services</li> <li>• Strategic Estates &amp; Property Management</li> <li>• Statutory Nuisance Matters (inc. Noise, Pests, Overgrown Gardens)</li> <li>• Sustainable Development (incl. Biodiversity) Lead</li> <li>• Trade Union Engagement (JCC Lead Member)</li> <li>• Trading Standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21st Century Schools Programme (inc. School Building Upgrades)</li> <li>• Apprenticeships Lead</li> <li>• Catchment Review</li> <li>• City of Learning - Member of UNESCO COL Steering Group (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Commonwealth of Learning)</li> <li>• Children &amp; Young People Board Member</li> <li>• Education Regional Working (ERW) - Leader's Representative</li> <li>• Education Services from 3 to 19</li> <li>• Further Education</li> <li>• Future Schools Estate Scoping &amp; Delivery</li> <li>• Inclusion &amp; Learner Support</li> <li>• NEETS Prevention (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Lead</li> <li>• Quality in Education (QEd) Programme</li> <li>• Readiness for Work Lead</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Schools &amp; Education Lead</li> <li>• Regional Workforce Planning &amp; Skills Development</li> <li>• School Improvement</li> <li>• Schools Estate Planning &amp; Resources Planning</li> <li>• Schools' Organisation &amp; Performance</li> <li>• Skills &amp; Talent Project (City Deal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality &amp; Pollution Incidents</li> <li>• Coastal Defence</li> <li>• Community Caretakers (Non Housing Revenue Account - HRA)</li> <li>• Cycleways</li> <li>• Estates Maintenance Management (Non HRA)</li> <li>• Fleet Renewal &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>• Fly Tipping Task Force</li> <li>• Grass Cutting Services</li> <li>• Highways &amp; Engineering</li> <li>• Infrastructure Repairs &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>• Litter &amp; Community Cleansing</li> <li>• Marina, Foreshore &amp; Beach Maintenance</li> <li>• Parking Policy, Control &amp; Enforcement</li> <li>• Parks Maintenance</li> <li>• Pothole Task Force</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Place Based Service Lead</li> <li>• Regional Collaborations for Transport, Highways &amp; Waste</li> <li>• Regional Transport Policy (Lead Member of Joint Transport Authority)</li> <li>• Streetscene</li> <li>• Transport Services</li> <li>• Waste Management &amp; Recycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agile Rollout Programme - Lead</li> <li>• Building Services</li> <li>• Cooperative Housing</li> <li>• Council House Management</li> <li>• Council House Repairs</li> <li>• COVID-19 Response on Housing &amp; Homelessness</li> <li>• COVID-19 Recovery Plan – Strategic Service Transformation Lead</li> <li>• Energy Policy (inc. Generation, Supply &amp; District Heating)</li> <li>• Green Energy Infrastructure</li> <li>• Green Fleet Transport &amp; Green Vehicle Adoption</li> <li>• Homes as Power Stations (City Deal)</li> <li>• Homelessness Lead &amp; Supporting People</li> <li>• Housing Adaptions &amp; Renewal Schemes</li> <li>• Housing Policy, Affordable Housing &amp; Housing Options, Tenancy Support (Housing Support Grant)</li> <li>• More Homes Delivery</li> <li>• Organisational Development</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Public Services Board – Leader's Representative</li> <li>• Safer Swansea – Partnership Lead</li> <li>• Sheltered Housing</li> <li>• Tenancy Enforcement</li> <li>• Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Programme Lead</li> <li>• Western Gateway – Leader's Representative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business &amp; City Promotion</li> <li>• City Centre Management (inc. Swansea Market)</li> <li>• City Projects and Major Development Opportunities (Shaping Swansea)</li> <li>• City Waterfront &amp; Marina Promotion</li> <li>• Creative City</li> <li>• Culture, the Arts &amp; Galleries</li> <li>• Events and Attractions</li> <li>• Healthy Night Life / Purple Flag</li> <li>• Heritage Protection &amp; Restoration</li> <li>• Inward Investment Opportunities</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• New Local &amp; Regional Business Opportunities</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Play Development</li> <li>• Parks, Beaches and Foreshore Events &amp; Promotion</li> <li>• Play &amp; Sports Facilities</li> <li>• Poverty Reduction</li> <li>• Recovery Plan – Tourism Economy Lead</li> <li>• River Corridor Development</li> <li>• Science City</li> <li>• Suburban Centres &amp; Community Regeneration Initiatives</li> <li>• Tourism, Destination Management, and Marketing</li> <li>• Universities Collaboration (Development)</li> </ul>

# Agenda Item 9



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

### Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Report

<b>Purpose</b>	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.
<b>Content</b>	This report focuses on the following Performance Panel: a) Education
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure awareness and understanding of the work of the Panel</li><li>• Consider its effectiveness and impact</li><li>• Consider any issues arising and action required</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Lyndon Jones (Panel Convener)
<b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author</b>	Michelle Roberts Tel: 01792 637256 E-mail: <a href="mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk">scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	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) Education – this is an update on work carried out since the previous update provided in July 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 Education Panel involves the following members:

**Labour Councillors: 2**

Cyril Anderson	Beverley Hopkins
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**Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 3**

Mike Day	Susan Jones
Lynda James	

**Conservative Councillors: 5**

Steve Gallagher	Myles Langstone
David Helliwell	Linda Tyler-Lloyd
<b>Lyndon Jones (CONVENER)</b>	

**Statutory Co-opted Members: 2**

David Anderson-Thomas	Parent Governor Representative
Alexander Roberts	Parent Governor Representative

## 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

## Education Scrutiny Performance Panel – SPC Update

### 1. Remit of the Panel

The overarching purpose of the Panel is to provide ongoing challenge to school's performance to ensure that *pupils in Swansea are receiving high quality education and the authority is meeting its objectives in relation to improving school standards and pupil attainment.*

### 2. Key Activities

The Panel is currently meeting on a monthly basis and the work completed since July 2021 includes:

- a) On the 15 July, the Panel met to discuss the Behaviour Strategy, including how associated delegated spend to schools is being used and as part of this spoke to two secondary schools. They also had feedback from Convener on the ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group on the 28 June 2021
- b) On the 1 September, they looked at the New Estyn Regime and thematic reviews, an update on the education Covid recovery moving into new school year and on changes to Regional Scrutiny
- a) On the 30 September, they discussed how schools are improving in Swansea with the School Improvement Advisers, who are supporting, evaluating and monitoring schools in Swansea
- b) On the 21 October, the Panel looked at the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and progress with the New Curriculum for Wales
- c) On the 18 November, the Panel met with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors at Morryston Comprehensive School to discuss education performance and their improvement journey
- d) On the 9 December, they discussed Performance against identified education priorities (RAG) with the Cabinet Member and Director of Education and received updates on the Swansea Skills Partnership and the Regional Education Partnership now called Partneriaeth.

### 3. Feedback from the Convener on Achievements / Impacts

We have sent six letters to the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills since July 2021, which gave our views, raised concerns and made recommendations. Some of these include, for example:

- When we met with two schools about the Behaviour Strategy, we were encouraged to hear that the impact of the work being done at both schools has reduced exclusions, EOTAS referrals, improved educational outcomes and has increased pupil confidence. We were keen to emphasise the importance of sharing the good practice being shown by both schools including what has been learnt through the pandemic. We asked how this is done and we heard that there are a number of formal and informal mechanisms designed for this purpose, by using online platforms and via meetings.
- We welcomed the overall 10-year vision and strategic plan for the development of Welsh education and were pleased to see definite actions and proposals to move forward. We recognise that resourcing this plan will not come cheaply and emphasised the importance of ensuring that it is financially supported both locally and nationally.
- We heard concerns remain over schools' capacity to engage fully with curriculum reform. Currently, the pandemic is affecting school staff significantly, and the ability of schools to release staff for curriculum-related development is difficult. The Welsh Government has recognised this challenge, somewhat, in its new guidance with a

more sensitive language around readiness, for example, it states: “We do not expect schools to have perfected or completed all aspects of curriculum design reform by roll-out”. We stress the need to get this right including teacher engagement, otherwise those who suffer will be the pupils themselves. We agreed that it is important the School Improvement Advisers and Curriculum Advisers sensitively monitor and support schools in areas related to curriculum development.

- When we spoke to Morrision Comprehensive School we agreed that it was impressive that the school has been able to continue to improve through such difficult times. We wished to ensure that the lessons learned from Morrision are shared with other schools. We congratulated the Headteacher, the Governing Body and staff at the school for their continued hard work in moving the school forward.
- We heard that in the last seven years Swansea Autistic Spectrum Disorder pupils have increased threefold, which indicates a demand for specialist places. We were encouraged to hear that we are creating more places here and bringing pupils back from out of county places into Swansea closer to home. We were pleased to see that making sure there are places for all our learners was a key objective for Swansea.

***Actions recommended, questions or views of the Cabinet Member asked:***

1. View on continued Cynnydd funding of pre-14-16 to prevent EOTAS referrals and to train more staff in the Thrive approach.
2. Views on the improvements to behaviour strategy that could be made including ensuring strategies and approaches are being flexible to meet the changing needs of the pupils. This means upskilling staff to ensure they have training in such aspects. This is costly but we need the agility to respond swiftly. The need to develop programmes around mental health, tolerance and contextualised safeguarding. Initiatives such as the Cynnydd Learning Coaches help and support our pupils to look at pathways and self-regulation. These roles are grant funded and the money is coming to an end for many of these types of projects.
3. How we subsidise our provisions, the need to ensure that roles and provision are sustainable to enable planning to take place to continue to meet the needs of learners given the very specific issues that are now emerging as a result of the pandemic.
4. Provide us with some more information on the position of strength we are in Swansea in relation to harassment in schools and safeguarding.
5. Why was the level of support from the education department absent at Morrision Comprehensive before the Estyn Inspection and if it was not, how were these indicators at the school missed?

**4. Education Scrutiny Performance Panel - Future Work Programme 2021/22**

Date	Items to be discussed
<b>Meeting 8</b> 20 Jan 22	School Scrutiny Session 2 – Penyrheol Comprehensive School
<b>Meeting 9</b> 14 Feb 22	Annual Budget as it relates to Educations matters
<b>Meeting 10</b> 24 Mar 22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional Learning Needs Reform and implementation New Curriculum update including progress with implementation</li> <li>2. EOTAS Update</li> <li>3. End of year report - Education Scrutiny</li> </ol>



# Agenda Item 10



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

### Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

<b>Purpose:</b>	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.
<b>Content:</b>	This report is provided to facilitate any changes that need to be made.
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• agree the membership of Panels and Working Groups reported, and any other changes necessary.</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author:</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	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. Guiding Principles**

3.1 When determining membership / conveners or agreeing any changes there are some key considerations for the Committee:

- It is necessary for more than one political group to be represented on each Panel / Working Group.
- These bodies also need to be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning.
- 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.

### **4. Legal Implications**

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

### **5. Financial Implications**

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

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** None

# Agenda Item 11



## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

### Scrutiny Work Programme

<b>Purpose</b>	This report presents the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/22, which the Committee is responsible for monitoring.
<b>Content</b>	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.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• plan for the Committee meetings ahead</li><li>• consider opportunities for Pre-decision Scrutiny</li><li>• review the Scrutiny Work Programme (including progress of current Panels and Working Groups)</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor</b>	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
<b>Report Author</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	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 15 February are:
- Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Session - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.2.4 Pre-decision Scrutiny – this is carried out by the Committee unless delegated elsewhere. The Committee is invited to consider the available information on future Cabinet business and any opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny, taking into account strategic impact, public interest, and financial implications (see Cabinet Forward Plan attached as **Appendix 3**). Any requests will require discussion with relevant Cabinet Member(s) to confirm timescales and window of opportunity for scrutiny involvement. Pre-decision scrutiny enables scrutiny to develop understanding about and ask questions on proposed Cabinet reports to provide 'critical friend' challenge and influence decision-making.
- 2.2.5 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 or adjustment to the work plan. Therefore, the Committee Work Plan remains flexible and subject to change to accommodate such requests and any urgent issues arising during the year, to ensure each meeting is manageable.

## 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.

<b>In Progress</b>	<b>Completed (follow up stage)</b>
1. <b>Procurement</b> (drafting final report)	1. <b>Equalities</b> (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. <b>Service Improvement &amp; Finance</b> (monthly)	Cllr. Chris Holley
2. <b>Education</b> (monthly)	Cllr. Lyndon Jones
3. <b>Adult Services</b> (every six weeks)	Cllr. Susan Jones
4. <b>Child &amp; Family Services</b> (every six weeks)	Cllr. Paxton Hood-Williams
5. <b>Development &amp; Regeneration</b> (every two months)	Cllr. Jeff Jones
6. <b>Natural Environment</b> (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.

#### 2.5 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. <b>Workforce</b> (29 Mar 2021, further meeting 2 Feb 2022)	3. <b>Bus Services</b> (7 Jul 2021, further meeting 21 Mar 2022)
2. <b>Digital Inclusion</b> (11 May 2021)	

#### 2.6 Regional Scrutiny:

2.6.1 **New Education Partnership ‘Partneriaeth’** – A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, comprising of Education Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs or equivalent from Swansea, Carmarthenshire, and Pembrokeshire Councils (like the previous scrutiny arrangement for ERW) will scrutinise the work of the new regional Partnership which will support the delivery of school improvement, and ensure greater public accountability over decisions made. Scrutiny will seek reassurance and consider if the Partnership is operating according to the Joint Committee Agreement, and its Business Plan, and is being managed effectively. Responsibility for scrutiny support, as well as responsibility

for other functions, will be determined in due course by the Partneriaeth Joint Committee, comprising the Leaders of the three Councils, as the strategic decision-making body.

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 At the last meeting it was reported that an issue was raised by a member of the public regarding difficulties for those without off street parking to charge electric vehicles at home, and solutions that would help to encourage electric vehicle take up in Swansea. The relevant Cabinet Members were asked to respond directly to the member of the public, and they have now done so.

The response states that the Council’s current focus is on the provision of charging hubs in Council-owned carparks and in some on-street locations in community hubs that have been identified as suitable, where there are no suitable council owned carparks. However, work

will take place to develop a wider strategy for implementing electric vehicle charge points and the issue of on street charging will be taken into account as part of the strategy. When developed the draft strategy will be subject to public consultation.

Following review of the response no immediate action is recommended in terms of picking this issue up within scrutiny. However, the Committee may wish to scrutinise the draft strategy when it is available.

## **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

<b>New Inquiry Panel</b> (time-limited in-depth scrutiny – six months)	<b>New Working Groups</b> (light-touch scrutiny / one-off meetings)	<b>Performance Panels</b> (ongoing in-depth performance / financial monitoring & challenge)	<b>Issues for Scrutiny Programme Committee</b> (Overall work programme management; discussion of broad range of policy and service issues)
<p><b>1. Procurement</b>                      (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><b>2. Anti-Social Behaviour</b>                      (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><b>1. Equalities</b></p>	<p><b>1. Workforce</b>                      (how the Council supports health &amp; well-being of staff; issues around home working; staff sickness; staff turnover; use of agency staff, pressures, etc.)</p> <p><b>2. Digital Inclusion</b>                      (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><b>3. Bus Services</b>                      (discussion about bus network coverage and levels of service; community transport provision; integration with other forms of transport, etc.)</p> <p><b>4. Healthy City</b>                      (exploration of activities, promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.)</p>	<p><b>1. Service Improvement &amp; Finance</b> (monthly)</p> <p><b>2. Education</b> (monthly)</p> <p><b>3. Adult Services</b> (every 6 weeks)</p> <p><b>4. Child &amp; Family Services</b> (every 6 weeks)</p> <p><b>5. Development &amp; Regeneration</b> (every two months)</p> <p><b>6. Natural Environment</b> (every two months)</p> <p>Specific issues to cover within wider work plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Service Improvement &amp; Finance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporate Plan – Review / Progress</li> <li>- Council Byelaws</li> <li>- Budget Scrutiny</li> <li>- Performance Management</li> <li>- Waste Management &amp; Recycling – incl. questioning on fly-tipping experiences &amp; council activity</li> <li>- Welsh Housing Quality Standard</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Education:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools</li> <li>- Additional Learning Needs</li> <li>- Children Educated at Home</li> <li>- Delivery of Corporate Priorities</li> <li>- Remodelled Education Other Than at School Provision</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Adult Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COVID-19 and Community Mental Health</li> <li>- Delivery of Corporate Priorities</li> <li>- Domestic Abuse</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>COVID-19 Council response and Recovery Plan / Transformation</b></li> <li>• <b>Brexit Preparedness</b></li> <li>• Specific reports:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Children &amp; Young People's Rights Scheme</b></li> <li>- <b>Corporate Safeguarding</b></li> <li>- <b>Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty Homelessness Strategy – progress</b> (incl. discussion on Young People's Supported Housing Provision)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Leader Q &amp; A Session(s):                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Brexit</b></li> <li>- <b>Partnership Working</b></li> <li>- <b>Great Western Gateway</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other Cabinet Member Q &amp; As (issues to pick up):                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- tbc</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Public Services Board</b></li> <li>• <b>Crime &amp; Disorder (Community Safety)Scrutiny:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incl. Community Cohesion / Hate Crime</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Wales Audit Office Reports</b></li> <li>• Follow Up on Previous Working Groups:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Tourism</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Appendix 1 – Agreed Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/22

	<p>Reserve List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Road Safety</b> (hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls; safety of cycling routes; partnership working, etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Active Travel</b> (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.)</li> <li>• <b>Accessibility for the Disabled / Elderly</b> (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.).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Child &amp; Family Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivery of Corporate Priorities</li> <li>- Forced Marriages – Safeguarding issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Development &amp; Regeneration:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City Deal and effects of COVID-19</li> <li>- Delivery of Corporate Priorities</li> <li>- Economic Regeneration Strategy</li> <li>- Foreshore Developments</li> <li>- Historic / Listed Buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Natural Environment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change</li> <li>- Delivery of Corporate Priorities</li> <li>- Environment Bill 2020 Implications</li> <li>- Nature Conservation – regular monitoring of activity and performance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Regional Scrutiny</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ERW</b> (Education through Regional Working) Specific issues to pick up: ERW Replacement organisation – post April 2021</li> <li>• <b>City Deal</b> (Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee)</li> </ul>			

## Scrutiny Programme Committee – Work Plan 2021/22

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

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>14 Dec 2021</b>	<b>18 Jan 2022</b>	<b>15 Feb 2022</b>	<b>15 Mar 2022</b>	<b>19 Apr 2022</b> (to be cancelled)	
<b>Scrutiny Work Programme</b>				Work Programme Review		
<b>Cabinet Member Q &amp; A Sessions</b>		Leader / Economy, Finance & Strategy (focus on COVID response / recovery, Brexit effects / response, Budget, City Centre Regeneration, Developments in Partnership / Regional Working)				
<b>Specific Cabinet Member / Officer Reports</b>	Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement	Scrutiny of Public Services Board, incl. Annual Report	Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership			
<b>Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports</b>	Natural Environment	Education	Service Improvement & Finance			
<b>Pre-decision Scrutiny</b>	Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way	Covid Recovery and Investment				
<b>Final Scrutiny Inquiry Reports / Follow Up on Scrutiny Recs.</b>				Procurement Inquiry Final Report		
<b>Scrutiny Reports to Council</b>	Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report			Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report		

\* denotes extra meeting

### 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
<b>Cultural and Digital Hub at Swansea Grand Theatre; Management Agreement and Lease.</b>	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	20 Jan 2022	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
<b>Proposed Lease to Part of Coedgwilym Park to Friends of Coedgwilym Park.</b>	Under the proposals, the Friends will in this initial phase undertake the management of the bowling green and additional surrounding land to enable the construction of an associated club house and community building. The Friends Group is made up of the existing eight formal park organisations being three bowling clubs, three football clubs, the Canal Society and the Heritage Centre. The group is run by volunteers and formally by Trustees with each of the park organisations represented. The lease will allow them access to grants for the further investment in the park in the future.	Sue Reed	Cabinet Member - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	Open
<b>South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy Plan.</b>	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	20 Jan 2022	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
<b>Budget Proposals 2022/23 – 2025/26.</b>	To consider budget proposals for 2022/23 to 2025/26 as part of the Council's Budget Strategy within the Achieving Better Together Framework. To enable consultation to take place with residents, employees, partners and other interested parties.	Ben Smith	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	Open
<b>Future Strategy for Outside Hospitality.</b>	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

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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><b>Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032.</b></p>	<p>This report seeks Cabinet approval to submit Swansea’s final Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2022-2032) to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. The plan sets out proposals on how Swansea Council will carry out its education functions to:</p> <p>i. Improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh; and</p> <p>ii. Improve the standards of Welsh-medium education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area;</p>	<p>Rhodri Jones</p>	<p>Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning &amp; Skills</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>20 Jan 2022</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
<b>Third Sector Compact Agreement Update.</b>	The report updates on Swansea's Third Sector Compact Agreement and the work to date of the Third Sector Liaison Group who were formed as part of the updated Swansea Compact Agreement with the Voluntary Sector in 2018.	Spencer Martin	Cabinet Members - Supporting Communities	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	Open
<b>Covid Recovery and Investment.</b>	<p>To update Cabinet of the Covid Recovery to date, and highlighting future investment that may be required.</p> <p>The report sets out the background and current position on recovering from COVID-19. Highlighting challenges, risks and issues on individual projects.</p>	Marlyn Dickson, Adam Hill	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	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
<b>Housing Rents Management Strategy 2022 – 2026.</b>	The Housing Rents Management Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan sets out the guiding principles for the development and delivery of Swansea Council's Housing Rents Management Service, which is delivered for all Council tenants, over the next 4 years.	Helen Andrew	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	Open
<b>South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan.</b>	The report presents the new Regional Economic Delivery Plan for South West Wales and recommends its referral to Council for adoption as the Council's over-arching economic regeneration policy (to replace the 2013 Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy).	Clare James	Cabinet Member - Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)	Cabinet	20 Jan 2022	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
<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 3rd Quarter 2021/22.</b>	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
<b>Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2021/22.</b>	This report sets out the annual review of Swansea Council's charges (social services), providing a transparent framework for the setting of charges and the application of allowances to citizens who receive managed care and support, provided or arranged by the council.	Simon Jones	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open
<b>Swansea Council Tree Management Strategy.</b>	Adoption of a strategy for the management of trees on/affecting land/property in Council ownership and setting out the Council's duties in relation to protected trees	Paul Meller	Mandy Evans, Andrea Lewis	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Open
<b>Promoting Affordable Credit Policy.</b>	To adopt a policy which embeds the promotion of affordable credit.	Anthony Richards	Cabinet Members - Supporting Communities	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	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
<b>FPR7 Report - Hafod Copperworks Powerhouse Redevelopment Project Update Report.</b>	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 - Investment, Regeneration & Tourism, Cabinet Member - Business Improvement & Performance	Cabinet	17 Feb 2022	Fully exempt
<b>Disposal of Highway Land at Mumbles.</b>	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	17 Feb 2022	Fully exempt
<b>Disabled Facilities &amp; Improvement Grant Programme 2022/23.</b>	To provide details of Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme and to seek approval to include schemes in the 2022/23 Capital Programme.	Darren Williams	Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)	Cabinet	17 Mar 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	
<b>SCRUTINY PROGRAMME COMMITTEE</b> 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	
<b>INQUIRY PANELS:</b>		Planning	Evidence Gathering					Findings/Final Report		SPC	Cabinet		
<b>Procurement</b> 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	
<b>Equalities Follow Up</b> (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
<b>PERFORMANCE PANELS:</b>												
<b>Service Improvement &amp; Finance</b> (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	
<b>Education</b> (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	
<b>Adult Services</b> (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	
<b>Child &amp; Family Services</b> (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	

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
<b>Development &amp; Regeneration</b> (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Jeff Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Emily Davies Lead Cabinet Member: Rob Stewart / Robert Francis-Davies Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls Lead Head of Service: Phil Holmes			1		7		2		25		8	
<b>Natural Environment</b> (every 2 months) Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Peter Jones Lead Scrutiny Officer: Emily Davies Lead Cabinet Member: cross-cutting Lead CMT: Martin Nicholls Lead Head of Service: cross-cutting	19 2020/21 year	29		26		6			12		15	
<b>WORKING GROUPS:</b>												
<b>Topic 1 – Workforce</b> First meeting – 29 March 2021 Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Cyril Anderson Lead Scrutiny Officer: Liz Jordan Lead Cabinet Member: David Hopkins / Andrew Stevens Lead CMT: Adam Hill Lead Head of Service: Sarah Lackenby										2		
<b>Topic 2 – Digital Inclusion</b> Meeting held 11 May 2021 Lead Scrutiny Councillor: Lesley Walton Lead Scrutiny Officer: Michelle Roberts Lead Cabinet Member: Andrew Stevens Lead CMT: Adam Hill Lead Head of Service: Sarah Lackenby	11 2020/21 year											





Appendix 4a

Activity / Month	MAY 2021	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
<b>Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee</b> (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				9 23		25		22	

\* denotes extra meeting

\*\* not public

15  
9  
2021

Information correct as of 11/01/22 15:48

## 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			

The Panel met on the 24 November to look at all the findings from the Inquiry and to start to draw their conclusions and recommendations. They will next meet on the 31 January to discuss the first draft of their final report to Cabinet.

(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 15 December to discuss the Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance Monitoring Report and the Budget Monitoring Report 2021-22.

The Panel will next meet on 18 January to discuss the Q2 2021/22 Performance Monitoring Report and the cabinet report on budget proposals.

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

This Panel meets every month. A progress report appears separately under Agenda Item 9.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel last met on 30 November to receive an update on the management of Covid and Performance Monitoring.

The next meeting on 12 January will focus on the same items.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel last met on 13 December to discuss the Performance Highlight Report and Emergency Staffing Plan and to receive an update on progress with the action plan for Ty Nant.

The next meeting will be held on 25 January and will discuss the Performance Highlight Report and Emergency Staffing Plan.

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

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel last met on November 2 to discuss the City Centre Travel Plan update and the Project Update Report.

The next meeting will be held on 25 January, when the Panel will receive an update presentation from the Swansea Business Improvement District. The Panel will also discuss the Foreshore Developments Update Report and the Project Update Report.

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

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel last met on 6 October to discuss Local Flood Risk Management and Water Pollution. At this meeting, officers from Natural Resources Wales were also in attendance to aid discussions.

The Panel will next meet on 12 January to discuss Management of Green Space / 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) Regional Education Partnership**

The new regional education partnership called 'Partneriaeth' will commence shortly, and will include Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils. Following recent approval of a legal agreement by each Council's Cabinet, the next step will be for the new Partneriaeth Joint Committee to meet to agree responsibility for functions / organisational support for the Partnership and other arrangements. Within the agreed governance structure, there will be a Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, similar to that which existed to scrutinise the Education Through Regional Working (ERW) Regional School Improvement Consortium.

##### **b) Swansea Bay City Region City Deal**

The last Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting, on 23 November, looked at the current status of the Swansea Bay City Deal Homes As Power Stations (HAPS) project which is a regional project led by Neath Port Talbot Council. It also received an update on financial monitoring, and progress made to the recommendations resulting from the City Deal Internal Audit review, and the independent Gateway Review, as part of assurance arrangements.

The next meeting on 25 January will focus on the Skills & Talent regional project and review quarterly programme monitoring documents.

The Joint Scrutiny 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.

The Working Group will meet again on 2 February 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. This further meeting will be held on 21 March.

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

Following adjustment to the Scrutiny Work Programme this Working Group was 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.

A meeting was planned for February 2022 but has had to be cancelled due to service pressures affecting ability to report and support the meeting at that time. This topic will be carried forward and held at the earliest opportunity, subject to agreement of a new Scrutiny Work Programme after May 2022.

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 12



## Report of the Chair

### Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

## Scrutiny Letters

<b>Purpose:</b>	To ensure the Committee is aware of the scrutiny letters produced following various scrutiny activities, and to track responses to date.
<b>Content:</b>	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.
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the scrutiny letters and responses</li><li>• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
<b>Report Author:</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	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:

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
a	Committee (Discussion on Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty)	16 Nov	Letter to Cabinet Members for Supporting Communities

## 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 / Responses

## Scrutiny Letters Log (2021-2022)

Ave. Response Time (days):

18 (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	01-Dec	27
32	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	19-Oct	Q1 Performance Monitoring	Business Improvement & Performance	09-Nov	n/a	n/a
33	Adult Services Performance Panel	20-Oct	Workforce Support Programme; Update on management of Covid and Performance Monitoring	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	10-Nov	n/a	n/a
34	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	16-Nov	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Swansea Airport	Delivery & Operations	17-Nov	n/a	n/a
35	Committee	19-Oct	Recovery & Transformation Plan	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	23-Nov	n/a	n/a
36	Committee	19-Oct	Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	24-Nov	n/a	n/a
37	Education Performance Panel	18-Nov	Morrison Comprehensive School	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	24-Nov	01-Dec	7
38	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	02-Nov	City Centre Travel Plan	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	01-Dec	21-Dec	20
39	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel	02-Nov	Dashboard Project Monitoring Report	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	01-Dec	07-Dec	6
40	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	16-Nov	Planning APR	Delivery & Operations	08-Dec	n/a	n/a

41	Committee	14-Dec	Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Proposed Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 - 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way.	Joint Delivery & Operations & Investment, Regeneration & Tourism	15-Dec	11-Jan	27
42	Committee	16-Nov	Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty	Supporting Communities	17-Dec	n/a	n/a
43	Adult Services Performance Panel	30-Nov	Update on management of Covid and performance monitoring	Adult Social Care & Community Health Services	20-Dec	20-Dec	0
44	Education Performance Panel	09-Dec	School meals, Performance against objectives (RAG), Swansea Skills Partnership and Partneriath	Education Improvement, Learning & Skills	21-Dec	n/a	n/a
45	Committee	14-Dec	Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	05-Jan		
46	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	15-Dec	Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance Report 2020-21	Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management	06-Jan	n/a	n/a
47	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	15-Dec	Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2nd Quarter Report 2021/22.	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	06-Jan	n/a	n/a
48	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	13-Dec	Performance Highlight Report and Emergency Staffing; Update on Ty Nant	Children Services	10-Jan		
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**To/  
Councillors Alyson Pugh &  
Louise Gibbard  
Cabinet Members for Supporting  
Communities  
BY EMAIL**

cc: Cabinet Members

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SPC/2021-22/9

17 December 2021

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Members following the meeting of the Committee on 16 November 2021. It is about the Delivery of the Corporate Priority of Tackling Poverty.

Dear Councillor,

### **Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 November**

We are writing to you following our scrutiny session to monitor and challenge Council action in relation to Tackling Poverty.

We thank you both, and officers, for attending the Committee meeting to present a detailed report on the delivery of the corporate priority, so we can comment on progress, achievements, and implementation of strategy.

You will be aware that there was a Scrutiny Inquiry on Tackling Poverty which reported in 2017. This was followed up in October 2018 and recorded good progress with most of the scrutiny recommendations. The inquiry was credited with generating and helping to bring a clear focus to tackling poverty activity and informed the development of the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Your report provided us with information on aims and objectives, a comparative assessment of poverty in Swansea, an outline of key plans and priorities, available resource, an overview of delivery and performance, case studies / examples of the difference made to people's lives, and key service

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**  
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achievements, as well as describing current challenges and risks, and future priorities.

We noted that 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.

You reported that 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. Causes can include unemployment or low-paid jobs lacking prospects and security, low levels of skill or education, an ineffective benefit system, high cost of housing and essential goods and services, discrimination, weak relationships, and abuse, trauma, or chaotic lives. Common triggers of poverty are often life changing events or changes in circumstances such as becoming sick, bereavement, redundancy, or relationship breakdown.

We were told that 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; and that the Council's ongoing response to the pandemic in relation to mitigating the impacts of poverty and meeting demand continues to shape new ways of working.

You highlighted that there is a holistic approach to tackling poverty and praised the work of officers involved in the Council's Tackling Poverty Service working hard to improve people's lives, though we noted that there is a heavy reliance on grant funding with approximately 15% core funding which was an ongoing risk to service delivery. You provided a list of service achievements and case studies of support to families and individuals. You also highlighted the importance of partnership working in tackling poverty and dealing with the impacts, and felt that relationships both within the Council, and between the Council and external organisations was good, with the common aim of improving lives, and that there is an active quarterly Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum.



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.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The Committee recognised that this is a massive agenda and poverty is of course a problem across Wales and affected to a great degree by national and UK policies and decisions. Given that the Council is limited in its powers to reduce or eradicate poverty we questioned whether the aims and objectives of the Council could be more clearly defined, i.e., was it best described as 'tackling poverty'? Looking at the range of actions being taken, you agreed that what the Council is trying to do is alleviate the problem / effects and deal with the impacts to improve people's lives, for example with welfare rights / benefits advice, lifelong learning opportunities to gain skills and qualifications, employability support, supporting health and well-being, etc.

We recognised the importance, nevertheless, of small wins, given the scope of what one Council can achieve, contributing towards a bigger goal. The Committee acknowledged that there is a lot of good work being done, as shown in the detailed report provided, but felt that the Council should be better placed to monitor, measure, and clearly demonstrate the success from all the clearly considerable efforts being made. We felt that the suite of current corporate / national performance indicators alone does not adequately tell the story, and each of the objectives the Council has should have clear targets and an effective measure, so that we can see the value from the resources being put in. We heard that this is acknowledged to be an area where more work could be done, so that it is clear what 'good' or 'success' looks like, how we measure that, and where we are in achieving that. We would welcome future reports being able to tell this clearly, tell us what the headlines are, with supporting evidence, linking investment to action and activities. Measuring the success was essential to check if actions were working and having the desired impact. An improved 'performance and delivery' report will help us to monitor and challenge whether there has been change and improvement.

As an example, there was a discussion on what the Council is doing, as part of its Tackling Poverty Strategy, to ensure poverty was not a barrier to doing well at school. It was unclear from the report whether we have been successful in achieving this. We know from performance data that children in receipt of free school meals do less well at school academically, which would tell us that poverty remains a barrier to academic success. Did we know whether the gap is widening or being closed, which will help assess the effectiveness of resources being put in and actions being taken by the Council under the Strategy? This is something which our Education Scrutiny Performance Panel can explore in more detail, particularly around the effectiveness of the Pupil Development Grant, but the overall report on the delivery of the Corporate Objective would be better if it can tell us how work

being done is helping poorer pupils to succeed, and what we mean by success. This is something that the Committee can return to next year.

### **Link to Well-being Goals**

Your paper referred to how Swansea's Tackling Poverty actions align with the seven well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. A Resilient Wales is a key goal and is about maintaining and enhancing a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic, and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change, for example climate change. With that in mind, we asked you to clarify how tackling poverty actions support this goal, which were unclear from the report.

We heard that work across the Council in supporting that goal, with links to 'tackling poverty', has focussed on things like improving access to green space to improve people's environment and health, the development of energy efficient houses that will reduce the cost of heating, and employability support in relation to the green economy.

### **Swansea Poverty Truth Commission**

One of the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Inquiry was to create a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, with real input from people who have experienced poverty, to provide challenge and promote culture change. The evidence the Inquiry Panel heard from the Leeds Poverty Truth Commission persuaded the Panel that this was a model which Swansea should follow and should be at the heart of our Strategy. It is pleasing that this has been progressed and that it is planned to launch the Poverty Truth Commission in 2022. We noted that it has been developed based on learning from Leeds Poverty Truth Commission and the Poverty Truth Commission Network, who have provided valuable assistance in our work on this here and ours would be the first in Wales.

We discussed the benefits of having an independent Poverty Truth Commission and how it will add value and improve lives, by bringing together key multi-agency decision makers with people who have direct lived experience of poverty to work together to bring about change, based on issues raised by those experiencing poverty. This will be a good example of co-production, with partners and the public involved in shaping the solutions to poverty, which we welcome.

You reported that 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. A Facilitation Team has been recruited, 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.

### **Access to Advice & Support**

We asked about sources of advice and support for people and whether there was any intention of setting up a one-stop-shop in communities to support families, e.g., in a school or community centre, where people can access a range of information and advice? We are aware of the development of a Community Hub within the City Centre and asked whether that could also be utilised.

It was explained to us that a range of methods are employed to offer advice and support, with much of this available on-line, and that the one-stop-shop approach already exists in some quarters but is also being developed further. You referred to the Common Access Point and Early Help Hubs within Social Services, Local Area Coordinators supporting communities, projects in Libraries, and the development of a multi-agency facility within Dyfatty shops which will grow organically. You stated that there are still discussions around which front-facing services will be delivered out of the new City Centre Community Hub.

### **Food Poverty**

The Committee noted plans to focus on improving opportunities for people to grow food. It has already been a Policy Commitment of this Council to 'Support Community Enterprises, Growing and Cooking Skills to help people escape food poverty'. Your report told us that there has been grant funding to many organisations to tackle food poverty and food insecurity. We asked about the impact this has made, how successful this support been in the development of community gardens, etc, and which areas of Swansea have benefited most.

We heard that over the last three years, a total of £463,484 of funding has been allocated to over 100 applications supporting organisations, with projects right across Swansea, 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, which is hoped to reduce dependency on food banks or other food support. You felt that it may be too early to be able to show the impact, but referred to some good examples, including the St. Johns Day Centre in Cwmbwrla and Matthew's House and Swansea Together in the City Centre, with positive feedback from organisations which have helped people during the pandemic. We also noted the Council's emergency food support effort, and help to food banks and other organisations, provided during the lockdown. The Committee praised the number of people volunteering to support vulnerable people their communities. We also noted that there is a Swansea Food Poverty Network, facilitated by the Council, which meets

monthly to discuss food crisis support and how best resources can be co-ordinated to deal with food poverty.

You told the Committee that, with increasing interest, you were looking at developing a community food growing policy that would be able to facilitate the development of community gardens more quickly and easily than might be possible under the Council's existing Community Asset Transfer policy, where there may be parcels of suitable land that could be utilised for growing. You stated that more work on this would be done by the Policy Development Committee and wanted the Council to be pro-active in identifying suitable areas across Swansea. Councillors will be interested in hearing more on this and opportunities in their local areas.

Our Education Scrutiny Panel could also investigate practice in Swansea following concerning reports in the national media that pupils have been denied school meals through no fault of their own because of accounts being in debt, as no child should be left hungry at school.

## **Earnings**

We note from the Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings, which you included in your report data showing 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. We asked whether it was likely to be the case that many people in Swansea would need to work more than one job to earn that median income amount. You agreed that this would be the case for some people, and of course the data shows that some earn much less than the median figure and are struggling. You stated that the pandemic has made matters worse for many and officers in the Welfare Rights Service have had contact from many new people. We can see the spike in claimant count totals / rates since March 2020 which have not come down to pre-pandemic levels. You stated that there were many people in 'in-work' poverty when they work more hours or hold down more than one job, but then reach a certain threshold and benefits stop. You talked about the various employability projects to support people.

We also asked about the key issues that are affecting employability, and whether there were any areas of concern that was making it difficult for people to gain employment, e.g., access to transport. You stated that transport – lack of personal transport and public transport - was a significant issue making it difficult for some people to take up employment, particularly shift work. Childcare is also a significant problem for some. Both issues were made worse by the pandemic. You also talked about lack of experience (and opportunities to gain experience) and the gap in receiving pay after starting work as barriers to employment, where people cannot wait until they are paid.

It is clear that the transition from unemployment to work is difficult for many people.

We will re-visit work on Tackling Poverty at least annually within the Committee and will advise on meeting arrangements in due course. This will enable us to keep close watch regularly on progress, follow up on the issues we have raised, and enable scrutiny views to influence action and improvement. We acknowledge that tackling poverty cuts across the whole organisation therefore this is something that our Scrutiny Panels can also explore with other Cabinet Members, during their scrutiny work, about their efforts and contribution. The Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel will regularly review poverty performance indicators as part of corporate performance monitoring reports.

### **Your Response**

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and would welcome any comments on any of the issues raised within; however, we do not expect you to provide a formal response.

Yours sincerely,



**COUNCILLOR PETER BLACK**

Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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# Agenda Item 13



## Scrutiny Programme Committee – 18 January 2022

### **Date and Time of Upcoming Scrutiny Panel Meetings**

#### **18 January – 15 February**

- a) 18 January at 9.30am – Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel
- b) 20 January at 4.00pm – Education Performance Panel
- c) 25 January at 11.00am – Development & Regeneration Performance Panel
- d) 25 January at 4.00pm – Child & Family Services Performance Panel
- e) 26 January at 10.00am – Equalities Inquiry Panel (follow up)
- f) 31 January at 10.00am – Procurement Inquiry Panel
- g) 2 February at 3.00pm – Workforce Working Group
- h) 14 February at 1.00pm – Joint Adult Services and Child & Family Services Performance Panel
- i) 14 February at 3.00pm – Education Performance Panel
- j) 15 February at 9.30am – Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel

Meetings will be held remotely via MS Teams