



Council – 21 March 2024

## Councillors' Questions

### Part A – Supplementaries

**1 Councillors Francesca O'Brien & Richard Lewis**

Swansea Council has announced that 33 essential bus routes are being protected for the next 5 years. Can the Cabinet Member confirm which 33 routes are protected.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure**

There are 34 routes which are currently being funded and these are listed as follows:

<b>Service No(s) and Times of Operation</b>
3A, City Centre to Mumbles, Weekday Evenings & Sunday Evenings
4A, City Centre to Morriston Hospital, Sunday Evenings
5, City Centre to Cwmdonkin, Weekday Daytime
6, City Centre to Port Tennant, Weekday Evenings, Sunday Daytime & Sunday Evenings
7, City Centre to Marina & Maritime Quarter, Weekday Daytime
12, City Centre to Townhill, Sunday Evenings
14, City Centre to Pennard, Weekday Daytime, Weekday Evenings & Sunday Daytime
15, City Centre to Gowerton, Monday to Friday Daytime
16, Swansea to Pontarddulais, Weekday Daytime & Evenings
16, Swansea to Penclawdd, Sunday Daytime
20, City Centre to Derlwyn, Weekday Evenings & Sunday Evenings
24, City Centre to Morriston Hospital, Weekday Daytime
25, City Centre to Blaen-y-Maes, Sunday Evenings
28, City Centre to Penplas, Weekday Evenings
30, City Centre to Trallwn, Monday to Friday Daytime
31, City Centre to Morriston, Weekday Daytime, Weekday Evenings, Sunday Daytime & Sunday Evenings
33, City Centre to Trallwn, Weekday Daytime
34, City Centre to Enterprise Park, Monday to Friday Morning Peak
35, City Centre to Llangyfelach, Weekday Daytime
36, City Centre to Morriston, Sunday Daytime & Sunday Evenings
41 & 42, Clase to University, Weekday Early Mornings
43, City Centre to Morriston Hospital, Weekday Daytime
45, City Centre to Morriston Hospital, Weekday Daytime
46, Morriston to Gorseinon area, Weekday Daytime
49, City Centre to North Hill, Weekday Daytime
51, City Centre to Fabian Way P&R, Weekday Daytime
52, City Centre to Landore P&R, Weekday Daytime
54, City Centre to Parc Llewellyn, Weekday Daytime

	111, Swansea to Llanelli, Weekday Evenings & Sunday Evenings
	115, North Gower to South Gower, Weekday Daytime
	116, Swansea to North Gower, Weekday Daytime
	117, Killay to South Gower, Weekday Daytime
	118, Swansea to South Gower, Weekday Daytime
	119, Swansea to South Gower, Weekday Daytime
2	<p><b>Councillors Peter Black, Jeff Jones &amp; Wendy Fitzgerald</b></p> <p>How much are the Council paying in business rates for the Debenhams site.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>We became liable with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. We paid £1,099.32 against a valuation of £401,250 for 22/23.</p> <p>For 23/24 we have paid a substantially lower amount of rates of £231,387,50 compared to £432,500 as original RV.</p> <p>We anticipate a similar saving being applied until the building is let to new tenants. Our agents are currently evaluating interest from a number of retailers and operators in the Debenhams site, and we propose to announce new tenants in due course.</p> <p>It should be noted that we received grant funding support from WG which totals £4.5m to assist with the purchase and repurposing of the Debenhams store.</p>
3	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien, Richard Lewis &amp; Brigitte Rowlands</b></p> <p>Has the Cabinet Member or the Leader engaged with local farmers in Swansea and Gower in relation to the proposed new Welsh Labour Governments Sustainable Farming Scheme.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Sustainable Farming Scheme is a Welsh Government Policy, and it wouldn't be something that the Council would directly consult on. However, in a personal capacity I have discussed the proposed changes with many farmers over the past few iterations of the scheme and encouraged them all to feed into the consultation.</p>
4	<p><b>Councillors Mary Jones, Sue Jones &amp; Jeff Jones</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Education state what support has been given to Swansea Schools by Police Officers through the Schoolbeat Cymru scheme in the last year. How important do schools perceive these visits and what benefits do they bring.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education &amp; Learning</b></p> <p>The Schoolbeat Cymru programme is a collaboration of Welsh Government and Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales and South Wales Police which created the role of Schools Police Officer (SPO), a dedicated point of contact for every school in Wales and delivers teacher-developed lessons for ages 5 – 16 at schools across Wales.</p> <p>The local authority does not keep a record of the support provided to individual schools by SPOs via the programme, however we can confirm that our schools have benefited greatly from their individual SPOs, not only to supporting the delivery of</p>

	<p>lessons but in the management of disputes, responding to parental concerns and having a visual presence in and around our schools.</p> <p>They often play a role in the de-escalation of parental and pupil disputes that could otherwise lead to increased demand for a police intervention and the criminalisation of children and young people.</p>
5	<p><b>Councillors Peter Black, Sam Bennett &amp; Kevin Griffiths</b></p> <p>What is the Council doing to publicise the fact that voters will need ID to cast their ballot in May's police commissioner election and the general election, whenever that is called.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>A leaflet was sent to every household in the 2023 Autumn canvass. Information regarding Voter ID, and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate has been displayed on our webpages since February 2023.  <a href="http://www.swansea.gov.uk/VoterID">www.swansea.gov.uk/VoterID</a></p> <p>We have and are doing periodic social media posts utilising the Electoral Commission resources, this consists of advertising on X, Facebook and Instagram.</p> <p>X advertises from both Democratic Services and Swansea Council accounts. Closer to the election(s) these posts will become more frequent. The Electoral Commission have also started their national TV, radio and media campaigns.</p> <p>The poll card will display the need for Voter ID, and the different forms of ID accepted. As the poll card will now be enveloped because of the large amount of information required, the envelope will also have wording highlighting the need for Voter ID.</p>
6	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien &amp; Angela O'Connor</b></p> <p>Croeso is a free event which promotes Welsh food, drink and culture. This is organised by Swansea Council, in association with First Cymru. Can the Council confirm how this partnership works to deliver this event.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>The Council's Tourism Marketing &amp; Events Team have for a number of years offered commercial sponsorship packages to businesses and organisations who wish to be associated with Council events.</p> <p>The packages offer the commercial sponsor a range of marketing benefits both in the lead-up to and during the event. Benefits are in line with the contribution made by the partner and include a range of marketing benefits from activity agreed at the outset. Business contributions can be in cash or in-kind or a mix of both.</p> <p>The overall aim of the commercial packages is to seek additional event revenue to either enhance the event offer or reduce the net cost of delivering the event.. Particularly important at the present time where budgets for delivery are challenging as event costs are increasing.</p>

	First Cymru have purchased a commercial sponsorship for this year's Croeso celebration.
	<b>Part B – No Supplementaries</b>
7	<p><b>Councillor Mike Day, Peter Black &amp; Lynda James</b></p> <p>Following recent disclosures about losses of artefacts and items of historical and financial value from the British Museum, will the Cabinet Member tell Council what inventories are held of items of value in Council-owned premises, what arrangements are in place to confirm that the location of those items are still known and whether any losses have been identified. If losses have been identified, what is being done to trace and restore those items to Council possession.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Human Rights &amp; Equalities</b></p> <p>Swansea Council's major collections are, in the main managed by Cultural Services for storing, conservation and display at its accredited spaces in the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Dylan Thomas Exhibition, West Glamorgan Archive, Library and Swansea Museum Stores.</p> <p>Our Galleries and Museums are fully accredited and members of the Museum Association, which applies all relevant standards and guidelines on care of collections. A key test of accreditation and audit is maintaining an accurate record and location log of museum objects. The 'inventory' of the Museum (includes the Dylan Thomas Collection) and Glynn Vivian collections is held on a specialist Collection Management Database called Modes, created for Museum Collections.</p> <p>All objects are given unique reference and location numbers before being added to the database, whether in store or display, or loan, in or outside of the city's premises. In all cases, when we move an object we adjust the location reference and regular documentary checks ensure things are where they should be and in good condition. Keys to store rooms and cases are kept within locked key cabinets, and only specific named staff have access to these, with a signatory form. The museum and store are also covered by 24hr CCTV as is the Gallery. The Libraries and Archive have an inventory for checking items out and in, supervised by management and subject to relevant paperwork, accreditation and audit checks.</p> <p>With regard to loans, these are documented and monitored to museum standards. This would include local loans of objects to other council venues such as the Mansion House, Guildhall and Civic Centre as well as national and occasionally international loans. For any loan we would also request all necessary documentation to exacting museum standards to ensure the security of any work on loan; to include environmental controls, facilities reports condition checks and insurance in transit, storage and display. All works are monitored by our team for the duration of the loan and their safe return to storage. Our inventories/ checks also form part of internal audit processes, valuation and insurance audits for added checks and balance.</p> <p>No losses have been identified and to note the assessment, review, and learning of the situation at the British Museum, which has been widely published, concludes that it was historic lack of these checks and balances, inventories and supervisory processes which allowed that situation to emerge.</p>

