

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at
Council 6 March 2024 & 21 March 2024**

Council 6 June 2024

1	<p>Ben Houghton</p> <p>In relation to Minute 100 - Public Questions(Q1)</p> <p>Asked numerous questions regarding Skyline.</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>1. Financial Justification for Skyline Investment Independent due diligence evaluations and financial assessments of Skyline's business plan, economic impact assessment and financial model have been undertaken on behalf of the Council and this reflects the proposed level of support and phasing of payments. It is difficult to make comparisons with other allocations of funding given the unique nature of the individual projects and services.</p> <p>2. Strategic Alignment with Community Needs The council's LDP made provision for the relocation of the current Landore park and ride to Swansea vale as it was deemed that such a provision would further improve the park and ride service and its usage. It was also intended to assist with traffic and parking concerns in the wider area including with the DVLA. There was no connection between this potential relocation and the subsequent Skyline development and in the short term it is not intended to relocate the P&R service from Hafod. However as part of the wider master planning for the area it is likely its relocation would be necessary in time regardless of the potential skyline development although this is itself would be subject to a further report and decision by Council.</p> <p>3. Financial Safeguards & Accountability The terms and conditions of any potential financial support will have targets, safeguards and accountability measures included in the normal way. These are commercially sensitive to the company.</p> <p>4. Economic Impact & Risk Assessment Independent due diligence evaluations and financial assessments of Skyline's business plan, economic impact assessment and financial model have been undertaken on behalf of the Council and this reflects the proposed level of support and phasing of payments. The company would have sole responsibility for addressing inflationary pressures and cost overruns.</p> <p>5. Surrendering NRW Lease & Financial Burden The property transactions relating to the project remain confidential as negotiations are ongoing and transactions have not been finalised. However, I would advise that all acquisitions must comply with the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules.</p>
2	<p>Councillor Stuart Rice</p> <p>In relation to Minute 112 - Councillor Questions (Q1)</p>

Who has been spending the money earmarked for the Skyline project. Is it being spent by the Council or is it being transferred to Skyline for them to spend in some way.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

To date, all expenditure of earmarked funding for the project has been spent by the Council, none has been transferred to Skyline.

3 Councillor Stuart Rice

In relation to Minute 112 - Councillors Questions (Q3)

Having looked at the Education Capital Programme and slippage within the programme. When you compare the budget reports last year with this year, it appears that there has been substantial slippage in the Education Capital Programme. Why has Bryntawe, Gowerton, Loughor & Kingsbridge moved back about 2-years in the prospect of their build.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning

Due to the pandemic and inflationary pressures, a number of the projects which formed part of the Band B programme have slipped and are subject to higher than originally anticipated costs. This slippage has also had a negative impact on resource pressures.

YGG Bryn Tawe

The Outline Business Case for funding for YGG Bryn Tawe was approved by Welsh Government in December 2021 and at that time the anticipated start date for this project was September 2023.

Since then, additional funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme, has been agreed in principle by Cabinet and was approved in principle by Welsh Government in February 2024. This was reflected in the September 2023, and February 2024 reports to Cabinet. In this period, we have also been successful in securing some Welsh-medium funding.

Now that the revised funding strategy has been agreed, it is now the intention to commence the first stage tender for this project in the next few weeks to enable detailed design phase and planning consent. A further report outlining the pre-construction cost and next steps is due to be reported to Cabinet in the summer.

Gowerton School

Gowerton was originally intended as a Mutual Investment Model (MIM) project. We were informed by Welsh Government early in 2023 that they were reviewing the MIM funding model and conducting an internal review of the programme. We were advised that Gowerton School was unlikely to now be a suitable project for MIM investment and that we could apply for the Gowerton School project to become a capital funded project. The proposed change in funding model and request for additional funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme was reported to Cabinet in September 2023 and approved in principle by Welsh Government in February 2024.

Now that the revised funding strategy has been agreed it is proposed to submit the Strategic Outline Business Case to Welsh Government in the summer and progress to first stage tender in the autumn.

Loughor and Kingsbridge

Timeframes for this project are outside of the control of the Council. Contributions and their timings from the developer are based on their build rate. Since planning was approved in 2018 with the s106 amended in 2019 the development has still not officially started. Persimmon are undertaking the s278 highway works to allow access to the site. In addition to the s106 payment for education, there are two outstanding pre-commencement conditions which have to be met. It is anticipated that formal commencement will occur in April.

The programme was based on the developer's anticipated start on site and the build rate provided. Once the development commences, we will receive £266,503 (anticipated April 2024) at which point we will be able to undertake some feasibility studies. At occupation of unit 201 we will receive £5,233,497. We will also have to seek funding from Welsh Government to be able to achieve a school build in the new development. These milestones have been met before we are able to start on site for the education build.

4 Councillor Peter May

In relation to Minute 112 – Councillors Questions (Q9)

Can a copy of what has been submitted to Welsh Government in relation to the Active Travel proposal for Gower Road, Sketty Road, Uplands Crescent & Walter Road incorporating a two-way cycle lane.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure

- Engagement Report – Drafting of this report is ongoing as the report will cover both feedback from engagement and proposed next steps in respect to the feedback received. We hope to conclude by mid-April due to Easter / School Holidays.
- Engagement Surveys – Just over a thousand survey replies were received, many of which contained text within some of the boxes. This feedback was particularly welcomed and assisted with a more comprehensive understanding of responses. However, often this text would also contain personal details such as name and address. The contents of these boxes will therefore require review and redacting where applicable to ensure compliance with GDPR prior to issue delaying such information being released. Please bear with us whilst this is undertaken.
- Grant submission –The Walter Rd / Sketty Rd project was part of a larger group of projects submitted for funding. We will therefore arrange for the Walter Rd / Sketty Rd elements of this grant bid to be extracted but with financials redacted as these are cumulative to both projects and not solely to Walter Rd / Sketty Rd. These are also only indicative figures, subject to tender. The redacted grant information will be issued by Monday 8th April.

Council 21 March 2024

1

Councillor Brigitte Rowlands

In relation to Minute 128 – Councillors Questions (Q3)

Asked for a copy of the Council's consultation response to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure

Please find enclosed for your information a copy of the response submitted on behalf of Swansea Council. (Appendix A)