



Council – 6 March 2025

Councillors' Questions

Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p>Councillors Sam Bennett, Mary Jones & Susan Jones</p> <p>There is now mounting evidence that vaping is damaging to health, and whilst admittedly it is a positive step for smokers, this is not the case for non-smokers.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update Council on what steps are being taken in our schools to mitigate against children from taking up vaping.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning</p> <p>All schools have a statutory responsibility to teach the six areas of learning and experiences (AoLEs) as part of their curriculum offer.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing AOLE has five statements of what matters which outlines how pupils should be taught to make good decisions and to assess the risks of such activity both to their own health/wellbeing and that of others.</p> <p>Additionally, schools in Swansea have engaged very well with the Police/the Welsh Government's School Beat programme which has modules to support the teaching of risks associated with vaping.</p>
2	<p>Councillors Andrew Williams, Mike Lewis, Bev Hopkins, Lesley Walton & Fiona Gordon</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Members update council on progress with the roll out of new bus shelters and new multi-use bins and the smart bin trial across Swansea.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Members for Community (Services) & Environment & Infrastructure</p> <p><u>New Bus Shelters:</u> The Public Transport Team are on schedule to complete the installation programme (24/25) of more than 76 new bus shelters in a city-wide modernisation programme. Works will be complete by April 25.</p> <p><u>Multi-purpose Bins:</u> The litter and dog bin replacement programme is now into 'Phase 2' following a recent procurement exercise to supply multipurpose bins (MPBs) to the Council. Phase 1, which was largely based on an authority wide bin condition survey and replacement of end-of-life bins, received a positive response and was welcomed by Ward Members.</p> <p>The Team is currently working its way through the Wards (roughly from north to south and east to west) as per phase 1 of the bin replacement programme. Full</p>

Ward Member engagement continues to occur for any proposed works. The Team is also charged with bin overhauls, repairs (locks for example) and cleaning where appropriate to do so. Replacement of ad-hoc dog and litter bins continues to complement the main replacement programme. This generally occurs via receipt of service requests or referrals made by Cleansing Operatives where immediate bin replacement is required following damage, vandalism or the bin has simply come to the end of its useful life.

All existing and replacement MPBs are plotted on the Council's GIS database. Clearly this is a 'works in progress' with the database being updated weekly as existing bins are removed and new MPBs are installed. Currently, we have installed approximately 1300 new MPBs throughout all wards in Swansea. It is anticipated that phase 2 will take approximately a further 12 months to complete.

Bin Sensors:

ICT approached each HoS to trial Welsh Government and City Deal grant funded sensors and gateways for use in litter bins. These battery powered sensors send data via long wave wireless signals to a LoRaWAN Gateway (low-power, long-range, Wide Area Network); the Gateway then sends the data via the mobile 4G network to the cloud.

A "Pilot" was agreed by Waste, Parks & Cleansing, where Three Crosses Village and the Marina were selected as initial sites to test a total of 53 "BrighterBins" waste bin sensors in public waste bins. Via a Dashboard, Cleansing Services staff can view the fill levels of all bins in RAG status, and individual bin fill levels and rates in graphical format. The pilot was expanded by a further 34 sensors installed in public waste bins at Garnswllt, Rhossili, Llangennith, Llanmadoc. Landimore, Port Eynon, Reynoldston, Bury Green, Oxwich, Penmaen & Nicholaston. To achieve better operational efficiencies and savings, the Marina sensors (25 in total) were re-located to Penclawdd, Wernfwrdd and Llanmorlais bins.

The Dashboard provides near real time objective data for our bins (sensors report every 4 hours). This data is being analysed against pre sensor bin data, to identify where improvements to service can be made, looking at reduced or removed wasted travel time, reduced vehicle emissions, improved resource efficiencies, reduced bin spill levels and littering complaints.

Gateway coverage in South Gower is proving challenging with limited or no council owned infrastructure to host a gateway. Gateway installs at Pennard on public lighting columns are planned to attempt resolution of this. The trial continues.

3 **Councillors Francesca O'Brien, Lyndon Jones, Will Thomas, Angela O'Connor & Richard Lewis**

Can the Leader provide an update on the hydrogen ferry boat.

Response of the Leader

The Council has remained committed to exploring the opportunity of a ferry service between Swansea and the Southwest of England. Dialogue has continued with interested parties and a major step forward will soon take place with the launch of consultation on the concept. This is being run on behalf of the council by Ocean – an organisation which has worked closely with the council for the last 12 months. The consultation will seek feedback on the proposals from the public and businesses over the next few months which will then inform potential options and next steps.

<p>4</p>	<p>Councillors Peter May, Stuart Rice, Sandra Joy & Allan Jeffrey</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member list all of the new schools and school refurbishments (over £1m in cost) that have been completed since the beginning of 2022/23.</p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member list them by financial year including the cost for each.</p> <p>Going forward, what works are planned over the value of £1M for financial years 2025/6 and 2026/7.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning</p> <p>The Capital Budget & Programme 2024/25- 2029/30, report of the Section 151 Officer, Council – 6 March 2025 provides the breakdown of actual spend and forecast spend for the next 5 years. Information from 2022/23 onwards is also included there.</p> <p>The link to this report is outlined below: <u>Item 11</u> https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=11686&Ver=4&LLL=0</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Councillors Mike Day, Cheryl Philpott & Kevin Griffiths</p> <p>Will the Leader please tell Council what the protocol is for informing Ward Councillors of major developments and events taking place within their ward</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>Major developments are subject to planning consent and a consultation process, including notifying ward members of the plans. Weekly lists of all planning applications received, and all determinations, are also sent to all Councillors. In addition, where there is grant involvement, ward members are notified as part of the 'Notification of Grant' process as a requirement.</p> <p>In addition, each development will have a specific communication plan detailing how and when stakeholder groups, including Ward members, are updated on key milestones such as planning applications and consultation events. These communications are tailored to each development to ensure effective and targeted engagement. Reporting for all major developments is provided by thorough established internal governance structures, which includes monthly meetings.</p> <p>In regard to major events, these all have a communications plan which identifies the key stakeholders, including ward members, businesses, residents, bus companies, hospitals etc. A key part of that stakeholder engagement is to inform ward members of the event once it is confirmed, and the details are understood, outlining impacts on their wards such as road closures, crowd management and so on. Due to the nature of the space and its surroundings, a further step is incorporated for events in Singleton Park where officers will meet with ward members to more fully present the programme and management plan. This typically takes place twice a year.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Councillors Lesley Walton, Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon, Andrew Williams & Mike Lewis</p> <p>Will the Leader update council in the delivery of Swansea's city deal projects and progress in delivering the other regional city deal projects.</p>

Response of the Leader

Swansea Waterfront City Deal projects consist of the following:

- Swansea Digital Arena and Public Realm
- Digital Village – 71-72 Kingsway
- Innovation Matrix
- Innovation Precinct

Swansea Digital Arena and Public Realm - Project Status: Delivered (Swansea Council).

- Swansea Arena successfully opened in March 2022 and will celebrate its third year of operation with its 750,000th guest through the door, and headline performances for 2025 include The Manic Street Preachers, Paddy McGuinness, Alison Moyet and Max Boyce, as well as diverse range of events, conferences and ceremonies.

Digital Village – 71 72 Kingsway – Project Status: Delivered (Swansea Council.)
Building complete, tenant internal fit outs in progress.

- Building completed in late 2024 and is currently being internally fitted out in preparation for tenants this spring.
- Over 75% of the office space is now under offer and tenants soon to be announced.

Innovation Matrix – Project Status: Delivered (University of Wales, Trinity St David)

- University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) Innovation Matrix is completed and will be formally launched in 2025.
- The state-of-the-art building will connect business and academia and provide space for start-up businesses and researchers. The building will connect the University's research and knowledge exchange activities with complimentary enterprises, entrepreneurs, and investors.
- The resulting collaborations will generate economic impact in the form of new product development, job creation, graduate start-ups, University spin-outs and new intellectual property.

Innovation Precinct: Project Status – Design (University of Wales, Trinity St David).

- Discussions between UWTSD and Swansea Council during 2025 to develop a follow on project to the Innovation Matrix.
- This project will develop additional research and collaboration space at the Innovation Precinct.

The estimated economic benefit for the Arena is £17m annually and 71-72 Kingsway £32m annually.

Jobs created are targeted for the Swansea Waterfront projects at over 1,200 over the course of the City Deal programme timeframe, with over 600 attributed to 71 72 Kingsway on target to be created by 2026.

A look ahead at 2025 for all other City Deal projects in the SWW Region.

Source: www.swanseabaycitydeal.wales

Estimated to attract around £1.26 billion of investment by 2033 the Swansea Bay City Deal is an unprecedented investment funded by the Welsh Government and UK Government, the public sector, and the private sector through the counties of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. It will help transform South West Wales' urban and rural areas into a place where businesses

can thrive, and residents can boost their skills and gain access to over 9,000 well-paid job opportunities.

- During 2024, the momentum of the City Deal continued to gather pace, and 2025 is expected to be another successful year for all nine headline projects and programmes. Through collaborative working between key partners, exciting milestones will be met and key constructions completed, further boosting the economy and growing the region.
- Pentre Awel phase one, led by Carmarthenshire County Council, is due to open in 2025. The state-of-the art facility named Canolfan will welcome the community and world-class businesses by combining medical research and business incubation, healthcare delivery, education and training along with leisure facilities to encourage people to lead active, healthy lifestyles.
- Campuses, a further Swansea based project led by Swansea University, will carry out site work preparation for Sketty Lane Innovation Centre and progress the design and tendering process for the Management Centre at Moriston Hospital. The Centres will establish an environment to support the development and testing of medical, health, well-being and sports technologies. The project will also grow the recently established National Network for Innovation in Sports and Health to create a community of professionals collaborating in health technology.
- The Neath Port Talbot Council led Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme have submitted plans for the SWITCH facility and a funding decision is expected in early 2025. This is a collaborative innovation centre to assist in the decarbonisation of the steel and metals industry and its supply chain, to strengthen collaboration between industry and academia and to future-proof the steel and metals industry in Wales and the UK. The programme will also be welcoming further tenants to the energy positive and award-winning Bay Technology Centre, as well as progressing the Property Development Fund applications and delivery.
- Yr Egin, home to S4C's headquarters and 15 creative and digital companies, on UWTSU's Carmarthen campus, will see in 2025 at 100% occupancy. The creative sector hub will celebrate its seventh successful year of operation with a programme of key events, screenings, performances and educational workshops and will continue to provide high quality livestreaming, post production and hotdesking facilities to an array of clients and businesses. Yr Egin generated an economic impact of £21.6m in the Welsh economy in 2022 - 23.
- The Pembroke Dock Marine project will see Pembroke Port continue with their commercial operations of the laydown space and workboat pontoons, and welcome additional tenants to the Hangar Annexes following the official opening in Summer 2024. The Marine Energy Test Area will continue to provide pre-consented real sea test facilities for marine energy technologies. The MEECE element will build on its success of leveraging £2 million private sector funding through university and industry led projects. The Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone will continue to utilise its lease area to support the development and validation of new technology that could be deployed in commercial projects in the late 2020s early 2030s.
- The three regional projects are also on track to deliver against their targets in 2025.
- The Homes as Power Stations project which is facilitating the adoption of energy efficient design and renewable technologies into homes is set to launch its Supply Chain Fund. This is a £7 million fund allocation that will support the development of a sustainable regional supply chain. Having already launched the Financial Incentives Fund a significant part of the £5.75m has been allocated to numerous housing schemes across the region

	<p>where Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture are carrying out Technical Monitoring and Evaluation on hundreds of homes to share the learning and accelerate the number of homes with renewable technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Skills and Talent programme, with over 25 pilot projects and apprenticeship developments already in delivery and will continue to work with industry, developing additional pilot projects to ensure the new skills of the future are met to benefit the region. The success of the Destination Renewables pilot is reflected in the uptake of the curriculum being rolled out by other providers across the UK in 2025. The programme will continue to build on strategic partnerships in both the public and private sectors to ensure the region benefits from a skilled workforce to meet immediate industry demand, as well as the skills needs of the future. • The Digital Infrastructure programme will continue to deliver projects across its three workstreams: Rural, Connected Places, and Next Generation Wireless. Ongoing collaboration with key stakeholders and partners will continue to drive inward investment, enhancing connectivity for homes and businesses throughout the City Deal region.
7	<p>Councillor Lyndon Jones, Francesca O'Brien, Will Thomas, Angela O'Connor & Richard Lewis</p> <p>We would like to thank the staff at Swansea Council for the excellent work in clearing up the trees that came down in the recent storms.</p> <p>In addition to the trees lost in the storms and all those that had to be felled because of Ash Die Back, this has greatly reduced the trees we have in Swansea.</p> <p>Can the Council share their plans for tree planting across the area.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</p> <p>The Council has been delivering against its Performance Indicator target of planting 300 trees per annum for a number of years. This is the maximum number that can be planted annually (not including whips), having regard to available resources and subsequent 5 year maintenance costs. Potential locations suitable for planting trees have been identified across the area. The cost of planting includes ground truthing the suitability of the location to avoid services, etc and consultation with nearby residents. If Members wish to plant any trees in their ward they should in the first instance contact the Nature Recovery Team nature.conservation@swansea.gov.uk</p>
8	<p>Councillors Peter Black, Chris Holley & Jeff Jones</p> <p>Will the relevant Cabinet Member make a statement on the future of the former BBC building in Alexander Road</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>The former BBC buildings are leased from the Council by University of Wales Trinity St David, this lease is not due to expire until 23rd June 2034. Following the recent announcement by the BBC the University made a public statement as follows:- "The university leases the building on Alexandra Road from Swansea Council. As part of this agreement the university has a maintenance requirement and the building will remain in an operationally compliant status as it undertakes a review of its estate."</p>

	<p>We await the outcome of their review with interest and will do all we can to assist to ensure the future of this historic building is maintained.</p>
9	<p>Councillors Bev Hopkins, Erika Kirchner, Mair Baker, Mike Lewis & Andrew Williams</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update council on progress on all elements of the Swansea Bay Sports Park.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration, Events & Tourism</p> <p>Swansea Bay Sports Park is defined as the area around and encompassing the Wales National Pool Swansea, the sports hall, athletics and hockey centre, King George the V and Ashley Road playing fields, which are owned and managed by both Swansea University and the Council. The mixed use and ownership has made it difficult to achieve efficiencies and so the Council and University are entering into a new Joint Venture arrangement to oversee the creation of a new operating model, either directly by this Joint Venture, or via contractors such as we see with the rest of the Council’s Leisure Portfolio. This Joint Venture will be wholly owned by the two partners and Heads of Terms for Articles and Funding agreements are in development. Working groups are established to look at the governance, financing and best operating model with a procurement strategy underway also. We anticipate the Company being in place end of March ’25 and endowed with the ability – to be confirmed by Cabinet at its March meeting – to enter into agreements concerning the various leases, staffing, financing and operations, by early autumn. A further step later in the year will seek final instruction and approval from the University and Council to finalise all contracts and operational model, which allows a seamless transition of service operation by the end of the current agreement in place for the operation of the Pool and Athletics Centre in April ’26. Adjacent and entirely separate to this site is an extension of the Sports facilities to the east, by way of a new partnership with the Ospreys which will see St Helen’s developed for community and professional sports and fixtures. We are currently discussing the terms of the lease, financial and operational implications with them and consulting with all stakeholders affected in respect of the strategy to maintain and provide for wider sports facilities for cricket and school use in the area.</p>
10	<p>Councillors Mike Lewis, Bev Hopkins, Lesley Walton, Wendy Lewis & Fiona Gordon</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member/s provide an update to council on the roll out of the new CCTV system and free WiFi in communities.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Members for Environment & Infrastructure & Well-being</p> <p>The majority of the CCTV upgrade programme is now complete, with all city centre cameras operational. A small number of locations outside the city centre still require some infrastructure work, and it’s anticipated these works will be completed during this financial year. An upgrade to the CCTV provision at the city centre bus station has been specified and ordered as additional works, and this will commence once the current programme is finished.</p> <p>Free public Wi-Fi is being introduced in the four district centres that already have CCTV—Gorseinon, Morriston, Pontardulais, and Uplands—using the CCTV</p>

provider's infrastructure. A test access point is being set up at the CCTV control room to ensure everything runs smoothly, and once that's done, Wi-Fi will be rolled out in those four centres as soon as practical.
Other district centres will be considered for Wi-Fi in due course.

Part B – No Supplementaries

*** Deferred from 30th January Council Meeting**

11 * Peter May, Stuart Rice, Sandra Joy & Allan Jeffrey

Please can the Cabinet Member confirm how much has been spent in 2024 on renovations, structural works and developments at the current depot premises (including Pipehouse Wharf).

Response of the Cabinet Members for Service Transformation

We have spent in total £508,595 on depot repairs and maintenance in 2024.

12 * Councillors Mike Day, James McGettrick & Kevin Griffiths

Will the Leader tell Council how many visits has the Council received from potential inward investors for each of the previous 3 calendar years, who they are, what industry they are in, how many jobs would be created and what the outcome of these visits have been. Where the information is commercially sensitive, will the Leader provide a confidential means of communicating the information to Councillors.

Response of the Leader

The Council receives a wide range of direct inward investment enquiries, as recorded in the table below. Additionally, there are informal requests for information on development and investment opportunities, and ongoing dialogue with potentially interested parties through forums such as Regeneration Swansea, and ad hoc meetings. These diverse engagement channels provide for an adaptable responsiveness to potential inward investors and their differing needs. Due to the varied nature of these communications and correspondences, across a number of Council teams, the number of these instances are not captured in the formal figures below.

Inward Investment Queries by Sector

Sectors	2022	2023	2024
Automotive		3	1
Aviation			1
Business services			2
Call centre	1	1	1
Construction		2	
Developer	4		
Distribution			3
Education/skills		1	
Energy/Renewables	1	3	
Engineering		1	

Food Manufacturing	1	2	1
Health/Medical/Social Care	2	3	3
Hospitality/Leisure		4	2
ICT/Tech	6	2	
Manufacturing/engineering	9	5	7
Media/Publications	1		1
Oil/Gas	1		
Professional Services	1	1	1
Recycling	1	4	1
Retail	5		2
Social Enterprise		1	
Sports	1		2
Tourism		2	
Transport		1	1
	34	36	29

Jobs Created

Enquiries can range dramatically from small SMEs to large multi-national organisations.

We are not always told the potential for job creation, however over the years the potential for job creation can range anything from 1 to 600 jobs.

Outcomes

Outcomes can vary from enquiry to enquiry, some will just require information/sign posting whereas others will require more in depth ongoing support. A positive example of an outcome would be Jayplas which was an ongoing enquiry for two years. Jayplas just recently obtained planning approval for a £45m investment at the former Toyoda Gosei factory, with the potential to create over 100 jobs.

Confidential means of communicating

Officers would be happy to arrange a closed session where commercially sensitive details of can be discussed

13
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Councillors Kevin Griffiths, Mark Tribe & Gordon Walker

Can the Cabinet Member update us on where we are with combustible external materials on council owned buildings and are we now compliant.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

There are no issues with combustible external materials on schools and public buildings. In relation to our Highrise housing stock we have undertaken a range of refurbishments over an extended period of time and these remain ongoing with works at Croft Street commencing this year. All works, including external materials are specified to comply with relevant building safety standards at the time. Our buildings also contain a range of fire precautions including installed sprinkler systems, fire doors and automatic fire detection to keep residents safe. We also have an extensive fire risk assessment process and regular inspections by the Fire Service. This includes a programme of external wall construction surveys to a code of practice (PAS 9980).

14

Councillors Peter May, Stuart Rice, Sandra Joy & Allan Jeffrey

	<p>Please can the relevant Cabinet Member/s provide the number of vehicles on hire for more than a month and the associated cost for 2023/24 and anticipated cost for 2024/25. Please can you also provide the number of how many are used on at least a weekly basis.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</p> <p>There are currently 244 spot hired vehicles on the fleet that have been on hire for more than one month.</p> <p>The cost for spot hire vehicles in 2023/24 was £1,781,750 and the anticipated costs for 2024/25 is £2,145,019</p> <p>It is difficult to determine the exact number of those used at least once a week as not all spot hired vehicles have the corporate tracking system fitted. It is estimated that over 95% are used on a weekly basis as they are embedded in front line service delivery.</p>
15	<p>Councillors Peter May, Stuart Rice, Sandra Joy & Allan Jeffrey</p> <p>The main two sided bus time information board in the Quadrant has not worked properly for a considerable time now. Also at each individual bus stop there are individual screens that have never properly functioned too. Are there plans to fix them.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure</p> <p>The Public Transport team (within the Integrated Transport Unit) have identified that the information boards/ screens have reached end of life and will be superseded with new technology as part of the Welsh Bus Data Content Management (WBDCMS) roll out. This is the technology that provides Real Time Information (RTI) capabilities to passengers accessing Public Transport.</p> <p>A procurement process to upgrade this infrastructure has been undertaken by officers who will be progressing to contract award imminently. Delivery and installation of the new equipment is to be confirmed but expected to conclude by April 2025.</p>