



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Councillor David Hopkins  
Cabinet Member, Environment &  
Transport

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**Overview &  
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**03/03/2016**

Summary: This is a letter from the Street Scene Scrutiny Panel to The Cabinet Member for Services for Environment & Transport following the meeting of the Panel on the 20 January 2016. It is about the impact of the street scene scrutiny inquiry and progress in implementing the recommendations

Dear Councillor Hopkins,

## **Street Scene Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, 20 January 2016**

The Panel met on 20 January to assess the impact of its inquiry on Street Scene services. The aims of the meeting were to identify what had changed since the panel's final report was presented to Cabinet (December 2014); whether the agreed recommendations had been implemented; what had been the impact of the inquiry.

We would like to thank you and your officers for attending the meeting and answering our questions. Overall the panel was pleased with the broad impact of the inquiry's recommendations and felt that there had been change as a result of the inquiry.

### **What has changed since the panel's report was presented to Cabinet?**

A very visible change related to the panel's recommendation of better working relationships between cleansing and waste services. Our recommendation helped lead to a change in structure which meant that the cleansing service formed part of a new Waste Management and Parks Service.

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## **Implementation of recommendations**

The panel was pleased with the progress in implementing the agreed recommendations. You provided the panel with assurances that the recommendations that were not yet completed would be implemented by the dates given in the action plan.

It was particularly pleased with the ongoing progress of recommendation 13 which recommended providing information to commercial waste customers on waste collection and recycling services provided by the Council. One to one contact with commercial waste customers has led to an increase in separation of commercial food waste by over 10 tonnes a week. The panel also learned that the Council collected 40-50% of all trade waste.

In responding to our recommendation to review replacement of refuse and recycling bags you informed us about the pilot scheme of reusable pink recycling bags. The panel supported this and was pleased to learn that participation levels were high.

## **Impact of the inquiry**

The panel was really pleased with the impact of the recommendation for better working relationships between cleansing and waste services. You reported that the change in structure had meant the realisation of additional operational efficiencies.

## **Recommendations**

We discussed the ongoing budget situation and the importance of continuing to provide good quality street scene services. The panel therefore recommends to the Scrutiny Programme Committee that it considers adding to its work plan a piece of work on how the current budget situation will affect street scene services.

Some of the panel's members felt it important that the street scene scrutiny panel meet again to discuss progress made with implementing this report's recommendations. We recommend that this is something the Scrutiny Programme Board would need to consider.

The panel was pleased to learn that there were no plans to cut the NEAT programme but that it was not possible to identify further funding at the current time as our report originally recommended. The panel is firm in its support for the NEATS programme. The panel therefore recommends that you investigate the feasibility of councillors using their environmental budgets to help fund the NEATS scheme.

In conclusion, the panel agreed that the monitoring and follow-up work for this inquiry had been completed.

## **Your Response**

I hope that you find this letter useful and informative. We welcome your views on any of the issues raised in this letter but in particular we would like your views on our recommendations.

We would be grateful to receive your response by 21 March.

**Yours sincerely**

**CLLR JOHN BAYLISS**  
**CONVENER OF THE STREET SCENE INQUIRY PANEL**  
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