

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) School Governance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

Key Question: How can the Council ensure that school governors provide effective challenge for their schools?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Panel's final report was presented to Cabinet on 17 March. A response to the recommendations from Cabinet is expected on 16 June.

Projected End Date: Complete

b) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

Key Question: How is the Council working with health and other partners to reduce demand for specialist child & adolescent mental health services?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The panel met in May to consider its findings. It is now in the processes of drafting its final report

Projected End Date: July 2016

c) Building Sustainable Communities (convenor: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: How can the council best support residents to run services in their own communities?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Panel will meet on the 22 June to discuss their findings and to begin to conclude the inquiry.

Projected End Date: July 2016

d) Tackling Poverty (convener: Sybil Crouch)

Key Question: How can the Council's Tackling Poverty Strategy be improved?

Progress Bar:

Planning			Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report				
█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

A pre-inquiry Working Group took place on 20 April, where the group agreed to proceed with an in depth inquiry into this topic. Terms of reference have since been agreed by the Committee and the planning meeting is due to take place on 8 June.

Projected End Date: December 2016

3. 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	
Services for Looked After Children	17 Sep 2013	14	1	0	15 Jul 2014 (Follow up complete)
Public Transport	12 Nov 2013	13	1	0	20 Oct 2014 (Follow up complete)
Affordable Housing	3 Dec 2013	7	2	4	3 Dec 2014 (Follow up complete)
Tourism	14 Jan 2014	14	0	0	17 Nov 2014 (Follow up complete)
Economic Inactivity	3 Jun 2014	7	0	0	24 Jun 2015 (Follow up complete)
Attainment & Wellbeing	1 Jul 2014	11	0	0	11 Jun 2015 (Follow up complete)
Inward investment	20 Jan 2015	10	0	2	14 Jul 2015 & 3 March 2016 (Follow up complete)
Public Engagement	17 Feb 2015	15	1	0	25 Aug 2015 (Follow up complete)

					complete)
Streetscene	14 Apr 2015	14	4	3	20 Jan 2016 (Follow up complete)
Social Care at Home	20 Aug 2015	16	5	1	Jun /Jul 2016
Corporate Culture	15 Oct 2015	19	0	0	6 Jul 2016
Education Inclusion	21 Jan 2016	19	0	1	Oct 2016

4. Performance Panels:

a) Service Improvement & Finance (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

The Panel met on 11 May where they discussed their Annual work plan review and draft work plan for 2016/17.

The Panel's next meeting is on 6 June where they are intending to carry out Pre-Decision Scrutiny of the Waste Management Commissioning Review.

b) Schools Performance (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel met on the 11 May and agreed their work programme for the year. They consulted with Councillors, Officers and the public to look for the most relevant topics within the field of education. The Panel in June will speak to a school that has been assessed by Estyn as sector leading Cefn Hengoed Secondary School. In July members will meet with the Chief Executive of ERW and the Hub Head of School Improvement Service to discuss the ERW Business Plan and progress locally.

c) Public Services Board (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

As reported at the last Committee meeting the Local Service Board Scrutiny Performance Panel has now changed to the Public Services Board Performance Panel. It remains a multi-agency Panel and recruitment of the external members is underway. These include members from the non-executive arms of the statutory members and invited participants of the Public Services Board, including: Natural Resources Wales, Mid and West Wales Fire Service Scrutiny Panel, South Wales Police and Crime Panel, ABMU Health Board, SCVS Board of Trustees, the Probation Service.

The Panel has agreed that following the recruitment of the new Panel members an induction meeting will take place during June. This will be to ensure that the new membership is fully aware of their role and responsibilities. The Panel intends to invite a representative from the Future Generations Commissioner's Office to provide an overview of

the requirements on the Public Services Board and the powers and responsibilities of the scrutiny role.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Paxton Hood-Williams)

The panel is in the process of finalising its work plan for the coming year. It is proposed that the first meeting will take place at the end of June.

e) **Adult Social Services** (convener: tbc)

The panel will meet on June 21 to appoint a convener and discuss its draft work plan

5. **Other Panels / Working Groups:**

A number of topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Panels / Working Groups.

a) **Education Through Regional Working** (regional scrutiny group)

A meeting for scrutiny councillors and officers from the six councils participating in ERW was hosted by Swansea on 11 March. Swansea was represented by Cllr Fiona Gordon. It was agreed that a scrutiny councillors group will be set up in order to coordinate scrutiny work and ensure a consistent approach. The group agreed its terms of reference, discussed individual Councils scrutiny education work programmes, looked at the ERW Business Plan for 2016-19, shared good practice in relation to individual schools scrutiny and looked at the data for school standards and categorisation. The next meeting will be hosted by Pembrokeshire Council and is being arranged for September 2016. Swansea Scrutiny Team will provide the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

b) **Local Flood Risk Management** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

The Committee previously agreed that the Local Flood Risk Management Working Group can continue to meet on an annual basis in order to provide an on-going scrutiny involvement in the annual review of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan. The Head of Highways and Transportation has been contacted and asked to provide a timescale for future scrutiny involvement.

c) **Civic Events** (convener: Cllr Anthony Colburn)

The Convener of the Civic Events Working Group requested a follow-up meeting to address a number of issues that the Working Group felt needed further consideration. This is being arranged.

d) **Tethered Horses** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

The Working Group has concluded its work and written to the relevant Cabinet Members with their findings and recommendations. A response has since been received from the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City and this is being considered by the working group.

e) **Tree Preservation** (convener: Cllr David Cole)

The Working Group met on 21 April. Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration, attended along with the relevant offices, and provided an assessment of the current service in relation to the tree preservation process, and information on objectives, procedures/practice, challenges, and improvement plans etc. The Panel wrote a letter to the Cabinet Member on 9 May containing its findings and recommendations. The Cabinet Member response has now been received and the correspondence is included in the committee agenda (item 11).