

## Report of the Chair

### Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 July 2016

#### CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION

<b>Purpose</b>	To enable the committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The committee's questions will broadly explore priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to areas of responsibility.
<b>Content</b>	The following Cabinet Member will appear before the committee to participate in a question and answer session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillor Mark Child – Cabinet Member for Wellbeing &amp; Healthy City</li></ul>
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters</li><li>• Make comments and recommendations as necessary</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Mike Hawes, Corporate Director Services (Resources)
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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the council's cabinet to account. The cabinet is made up of the Leader and 9 additional councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific responsibilities.
- 1.2 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and monitor performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.
- 1.3 Cabinet Member Question Sessions have become a feature of committee meetings over the past 4 years. At least one cabinet member is scheduled to appear at each committee meeting, ensuring all 10 Cabinet Members appear before the committee over the course of a year, in order to ask questions on their work. Questions will focus on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

## **2. Cabinet Member Question Session**

2.1 The following Cabinet Member will appear before the committee:

a) Councillor Mark Child – Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City

Within this Cabinet portfolio, he is responsible for:

- Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Biodiversity
- Community Building & Asset Transfer
- Community Safety/Safer Swansea Partnership
- Culture & Sports (link with Enterprise, Development and Regeneration portfolio)
- Diversity
- Early Intervention & Prevention
- Equalities (Access to Services)
- Healthy Cities / Greener Cities
- Healthy City Partnership
- Healthy Night Life / Purple Flag
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)
- Lead elements of Sustainable Swansea
- Parks
- Public Protection
- Wellbeing

## **3. Approach to Questions**

3.1 At the Cabinet Member Question Sessions the committee will generally ask cabinet members about:

- priorities / objectives
- specific activities and achievements, progress against policy commitments, key decisions taken, and impact / difference made
- headlines on the performance of services and the key targets monitored to measure improvement and success
- their engagement with service users / public and what influence this has had
- what they hope to achieve over the next 12 months and challenges (e.g. resources / budget)
- key decisions they are expecting to take to Cabinet over the next year
- interactions with scrutiny over the last year, and whether there is any specific scrutiny activity they would welcome

- 3.2 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the committee. Following the session the chair will write to the Cabinet Member in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the committee, and any actions for the Cabinet Member to consider.
- 3.3 If the committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during this item then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

#### **4. Previous Correspondence**

- 4.1 The committee last had a Q & A regarding this portfolio in September 2015. Amongst the issues discussed then included:

- Local Area Coordination
- Best Start in Life for Children
- Smoking
- Parks
- Open Spaces
- Japanese Knotweed
- Healthy Eating
- Allotments
- Cycling

The actual correspondence relating to this meeting is attached as the committee may wish to follow up on these issues, as necessary.

- 4.2 Other relevant contact with scrutiny:

- Tethered Horses Working Group – the Working Group has recently written to Councillor Child with recommendations following its consideration of this issue. The correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member is included in the agenda (Item 12 – Scrutiny Letters)
- Transformation of Adult Social Services Panel – the Panel discussed work on Local Area Coordination with Councillor Child and identified risks in relation to: sustainability; financing the development of the project across Swansea; resilience of the local area networks; the volume of referrals; and the ability to deliver what it says it will deliver. The panel felt that the local area networks and co-ordinators should work with and develop relationships with the integrated Network hubs. The panel supported the development of data and performance indicators that would help the development of local area networks.

## **5. Other Questions**

5.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Sessions the committee invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the committee) to suggest questions.

5.2 On this occasion no questions were received.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Legal Officer: Wendy Parkin

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley