

# CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

Please ask for: Gofynnwch am: Direct Line: Llinell Uniongyrochol:

Councillor David Hopkins (01792) 637439

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E-Mail / E-Bost: Our Ref / Ein Cyf: Your Ref / Eich Cyf:

cllr.david.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk

DH/JW

Date / Dyddiad:

29 July 2016

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**Dear Councillor Jones** 

### **CABINET MEMBER QUESTION SESSION - 9 MAY 2016**

Further to your letter dated 7 July 2016 in relation to the Scrutiny Programme Committee meeting held on 9 May, I confirm / comment as follows:

### **Road Maintenance and Repair**

The Council has launched a new process to respond to pothole complaints which will reduce the number of ongoing pothole defects.

The highways maintenance backlog is a longer term issue which would require significant levels of investment over several years across Wales and the whole of the UK.

You mention that not every road is routinely inspected, this is not the case as all adopted roads are inspected on a routine basis.

Subsequent to the inquiry, this year's independent results in relation to road condition of principle roads has been received and Swansea have been listed as 2 out the 22 Authorities.

# COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD DAVID HOPKINS CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION / AELOD Y CABINET YR AMGYLCHEDD A THRAFNIDIAETH

CABINET OFFICE, THE GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE SWYDDFA'R CABINET, NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE

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#### Page 2

#### **Bus Services**

A Quality Partnership Agreement between the Council and First Cymru Buses has recently been signed. The aims and objectives of the partnership will be taken forward by a Partnership Board comprising of 3 Council Members, the Managing Director and General Manager of First Cymru and The Head of Highways and Transportation and the Group Leader for Transportation. The Board will meet quarterly and will be supported by a Working Group.

### **Street Lighting**

The new LED lanterns provide brighter and more efficient lighting but the spread of light is less than traditional son/sox lamps. In most locations the lighting levels between columns conform with required standards of illumination. In the limited number of areas where this cannot be achieved it is planned to install additional columns as part of the capital programme as budgets permit.

### **Home to School Transport**

The current home to school transport policy is being reviewed and areas of discretionary transport identified. Any proposals to change this policy will be subject to public consultation and normal member's approval and would only be implemented at the start of an academic year.

Home to school transport provided in accordance with the current policy is reviewed each year to take into account the changes in pupil numbers and pupil movements during the year. In addition to this there is a planned programme of tendering whereby approximately one quarter of all routes is retendered each year to ensure best value.

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### Page 3

## Questions requiring response:

• Information / breakdown on the cost of the Parking Services and particularly whether it covered the repair of the council's multi-storey car parks:

The financial report for 2015/2016 has not been finalised as yet. However, as a guide to the costs here is the actual outturn for Parking Services for 2014/2015.

Breakdown of Parking Services actual outturn 2014/2015

Breakdown - Costs	Total (£)
Employees Premises Transport Supplies and Services Overheads	1,509,8 <b>25</b> 1,090,718 56,064 1,042,846 291,416 3,990,869
Breakdown - Income	Total income (£)
Car Parks (26082) Civil Parking Enforcement Park & Ride (26097)	3,063,339 (26081) 1,240,230 517,667
	4,821,236

The maintenance costs for the Council's multi storey car parks are not directly funded from the car parking budget.

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#### Page 4

The multi storey car parks are part of the corporate property portfolio and are maintained in accordance with wider asset priorities.

### Street cleansing schedules

- The Cleansing Service is a multifunctional section responsible for satisfying the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, other associated legislation and relevant Codes of Practice throughout City & County of Swansea. The primary purpose is to ensure public areas are kept clean, safe and fit for purpose.
- o Litter All adopted highways and verges (where footway is present) are litter-picked on a weekly basis. Litter can consist of a wide range of materials including that related to smoking, fast-food, confectionary, dog-fouling, sharps (needles etc.), chewing gum etc. Other roads without a footway are litter-picked routinely and are subject to stringent health and safety regulations. Areas of high footfall (e.g. City Centre, other shopping areas etc.) are cleared on a daily basis;
- o **Litter bins** All bins are emptied routinely and at least once a week. Litter bins in areas of high footfall (e.g. City Centre, other shopping areas etc.) are emptied on a daily basis;
- o **Dog bins** All bins are emptied routinely and at least once a week. Dog bins which are used regularly are emptied more frequently as necessary;
- o **Mechanical Brush** Compact and LGV Mechanical Sweepers routinely sweep the highways and footways of general debris and detritus. Most adopted areas are swept at least 2/3 times per year. Areas of high footfall (City Centre, main shopping areas etc.) are swept on a daily basis. The Mechanical Sweepers respond to specific complaints received often following specific incidents (e.g. RTAs etc.). Additional sweeps are undertaken generally and in specific areas where need is greatest during the autumn to combat leaf fall;
- o **Dog Fouling** Reports of Dog Fouling are removed from the adopted highway as soon as reasonably practicable;

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#### Page 5

o **Fly-tipping** – Under the fly-tipping protocol, Cleansing respond and clear all small scale fly-tipping on publicly owned land, including roads and laybys within 5 days. Approximately 8300 service requests relating to fly-tipping were received during 2015/2016. Any evidence collected is passed to the Enforcement Team for further action;

### • Breakdown of penalty notices issued in relation to dog fouling

5 fixed penalty notices have been served this year for dog fouling, three of those on Beaches.

I trust this information provides a response to the issues recorded at the Scrutiny Programme meeting.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR DAVID HOPKINS

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION** 

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