

## Report of the Chair

### Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 November 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 David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Transport</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, Director – Resources
<b>Report Author</b>	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 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 David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

Within this Cabinet portfolio, he is responsible for:

- Highways & Engineering
- Marina
- Repairs and Capital
- Streetscene (link with Wellbeing & Healthy City)
- Sustainable Transport
- Transport Policy
- Waste Management

2.2 The Cabinet Member has provided some ‘headlines’ in relation to the portfolio to help the committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact (see **Appendix 1**).

## 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 The committee is also interested in:

- Sustainability and future trends - to what extent long-term thinking is influencing work / decisions, in light of the Well-being of Future Generations Act?
- Public Services Board (PSB) – what is the relationship with the work of the PSB? how is the work of the PSB impacting on their portfolio and helping them to deliver on priorities, and making a difference?

3.3 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.

3.4 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 May 2016. Amongst the issues discussed then included:

- Commissioning Reviews
- Recycling
- Road Maintenance and Repair
- Bus Services
- Parking Services
- Streets (Closures, Cleansing, Lighting)
- Councillors Environmental Allowances
- Parks
- Dog Fouling
- Swansea Marina
- Safe Routes to School
- Home to School Transport
- Fleet Management / Depot Rationalisation

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:

- Waste Management Commissioning Review – The Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel carried out pre-decision scrutiny in June. The Panel found that the commissioning review process undergone by the Waste Management Service was sound and effective however some key issues were missed. In particular the Panel recommended that all future commissioning review reports should include a section on stakeholder involvement/consultation. The Panel also felt that more detailed information should be given on the financial implications of selected options. These recommendations have been acknowledged by Cabinet Members for future reports.

A decision on the Commissioning Reviews relating to Parks & Cleansing, and Highways & Transportation are also expected in December and will be looked at by the Panel.

- The Panel will consider the Annual Recycling and Landfill Performance report in December.

## **5. Other Questions**

5.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Session 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