

Commercial Services - update

The Commercial Services Team continue to be active in supporting the Council's commercial development, seeking to generate both income and cost savings to help the Council transform, as a core part of our Sustainable Swansea programme. The Commercial Service operates as a centre of expert advice and support and works with all service areas, the projects listed below have yielded in excess of £1 million benefit to the Council:

- we have supported the Council's Facilities Team to create an eBay account allowing the Council to sell its surplus assets - for example surplus furniture from the former Penllergaer site. The advantage of this method is that we can obtain the best price for these assets through a public auction and we can reduce storage space and importantly reduce waste through recycling items that we no longer have use for. The use of eBay has been very successful and will now be expanded for use across the Council to generate further income
- we have supported the whole Council to obtain a significant discount on the cost of using external media for the purposes of placing statutory Public Notices
- we have assisted in the creation of new forms of advertising for example pillar wrap advertising within our car parks
- We have worked with the private sector to furnish schools with free 'buddy benches' to help schools create positive learning environments.

In addition we assist with reviewing our commercial arrangements with suppliers and savings have been made on everything from home-to-school transport, waste bags (recycling sacks), postal costs and pumping station maintenance. We continue to assist with revenue generation from public sector partners.

We are also involved in multiple development projects in order to improve what the Council does and seek new future opportunities:

- we are working with the Planning Department to create a new advertising strategy
- we are assisting colleagues consider how we may improve our environmental performance and generate energy from waste in Swansea
- our Parks Service is keen to generate income from the private sector through sponsorship
- we are reviewing our Community Care Alarms service to see how that may provide an enhanced service to residents.