



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Councillor Clive Lloyd
Cabinet Member, Transformation and
Performance

Civic Centre
Oystermouth Road
SWANSEA
SA1 3SN

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniogyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

**Overview &
Scrutiny**

01792 637491

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

CE/02

11/01/2017

Summary: This is a letter from the Convener of the Civic Events scrutiny working group to The Cabinet Member for Transformation and Performance. It follows up the Cabinet Member's response to the working group's letter.

Dear Councillor Lloyd,

Civic Events Working Group, Cabinet Member's Response

The working group met in November last year and we produced a convener's letter which addressed the following issues:

- The office of the Lord Mayor
- Holocaust Memorial Day
- Royal Visits
- Lord Mayor's civic engagements

The working group proposed a number of recommendations detailed below.

- A review is carried out of the civic engagements that are funded by the Lord Mayor to decide on the appropriateness of each event and to identify budget savings.
- Cost neutral ways for the Lord Mayor to celebrate success are identified
- Consideration is given to improving the commercial offering of the Mansion House
- The support and management of Holocaust Memorial Day be transferred with financial support (£1k) to host schools each year.

Overview & Scrutiny / Trosolwg a chraffu

City and County of Swansea / Dinas a Sir Abertawe
Civic Centre, Swansea, SA1 3SN / Canolfan Ddinesig, Abertawe, SA1 3SN

- The Leader regularly liaises with the Lord Lieutenant to discuss royal visits and how the Council can help improve the management and organisation of these events
- Councillors are consulted about the appropriate people to invite to the royal visit
- A formal feedback mechanism is established between the Council and the Lord Lieutenant to enable feedback on royal visits.

You provided the following responses to our recommendations:

1. Civic Events Review – a review of the appropriateness of civic events will take place at the start of the financial year 2016/17 to manage the budget savings that will be made from the civic hospitality budget.
2. Sponsorship – this will be investigated in early 2016 with the head of commercial services with a view to generating sponsorship for a Lord Mayor's Summer Ball to raise funds to supplement the civic hospitality budget reductions.
3. Commercialising the Mansion House – Cabinet has made a decision to exploit the potential presented by the Mansion House and we are looking at the commercial opportunities that may exist (eg wedding and event venue). In parallel work is being done to ascertain the asset value of the Mansion House.
4. Holocaust Memorial Day – a joint event will be held on January 27 2016 at Cefn Hengoed Community School and this will be the general approach for future events to mark this day.
5. Lieutenancy Liaison – The Leader of the Council will be invited to the initial liaison meeting when any official visit is planned to discuss the issues raised by the Civic Events working group. The Leader of the Council will be regularly briefed on arrangements for royal visits. However, some issues are outside of the control of the council, such as landscaping, catering arrangements and particularly security arrangements, which is a matter for the Council to act upon the instruction of the royal household and close protection officers.

After considering these responses I would like to bring some additional points to your attention.

1. Royal Visits.

While it is agreed that " some issues are outside of the control of the Council" the instructions received could and should be incorporated into the Council organisation of the visit/event. At present the event surrounding the Royal visit, looked upon by the public at large as having been organised by and paid for by the Council, are clearly disjointed none of the participating bodies being in overall control. Why landscaping and catering arrangements should be outside the control of the Council is difficult to understand given that the visits take place in Council owned premises.

Guest lists for such visits/events should be vetted by the Council by way of the Leader or a Cabinet member and as already agreed the relevant Ward member or members.

2. Lord/ deputy Lord Mayor as visitors to outside bodies

When such visits take place there is a below acceptable level of respect afforded to the civic guest. This is not so much a matter for the guest but for the office they hold. Exemplified by the armed services saying " you are not saluting the man but the uniform"

The advice/information forms sent by the Council to those making an invitation need to be revisited and expanded in the hope that the situation, often caused by oversight or lack of consideration can be avoided.

Your Response

I hope that you find this letter useful and informative and that you consider the additional points I have raised on royal visits and the Lord Mayor in the paragraphs above. I welcome your views on any of the issues raised in this letter however a formal response is not required at this time.

Yours sincerely

CLLR ANTHONY COLBURN
CONVENER OF THE CIVIC EVENTS WORKING GROUP
✉ CLLR.ANTHONY.COLBURN@SWANSEA.GOV.UK