

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council
23 March 2017**

1.	<p>David Davies Asked questions in relation to Minute 165 “Approval of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan”.</p> <p>a) <i>“Page 199. Paragraph 3.38. Losing European Funding for Transport as a result of Brexit creates financial problems for this Authority, especially at a time when the Welsh Government is planning an integrated transport system nationwide.</i></p> <p>i) <i>Is the Gower Sunday Explorer likely to be affected?</i></p> <p>ii) <i>Will the Council and DANSA Partnership serving Gowerton to Llanrhidian receive ongoing funding and does the Council have any plans to expand the community transport services, an amenity introduced by this Labour Council which is proving a success story?”</i></p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation</p> <p>The Gower Summer Sunday Explorer service operates under contract to the Council and was funded in 2016/17 from the Rural Development Partnership (RDP). A bid was submitted for RDP Leader funding to provide a Gower Summer Sunday Service to cover the period from April 2017 to September 2019. This bid has been successful and so provided there is no change to this funding source then the Summer Sunday Bus service will continue to run. It is not possible to determine at this stage what impact Brexit will have on subsidies and grants for services.</p> <p>The Gowerton to Llanrhidian evening service is operated by DANSA using the Councils Social Services vehicles and is fully subsidised by the Council. The funding to support this service comes from the Council’s own revenue budget and from Welsh Government Bus Services Support Grant.</p> <p>The Council is seeking to expand community transport to fill in gaps in the bus network and to provide a service for those members of the public who cannot use conventional public transport. Three community minibus services were introduced in January using a fully accessible vehicle to provide opportunities for residents from the Clydach area, Felindre and North Gower to access Fforestfach retail park on one day per week. The North Gower service has proved particularly successful and will shortly be increased to 2 days per week. The Council also introduced a Wheels to Work Scooter loan scheme in 2016 which is available to people who are having difficulty in taking up employment or educational opportunities due to lack of available transport.</p>
2.	<p>Councillor E W Fitzgerald <i>Page 192, Paragraph 3.9. Second Sentence. Can the Cabinet Member clarify what plant is being referred to?”</i></p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration The paragraph referred to states that:</p>

“.....Cultivated agricultural land of south-east Gower is home to a highly diverse arable plant community - one of the biggest declining and most threatened groups of plants in Wales.....”

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) has identified Gower as a priority area for biodiversity action in this context. The following description of this community is provided by the WBP:

The cultivated agricultural land of south-east Gower coast is home to a highly diverse arable plant community. Unlike many good arable plant sites in Wales, this community bears more similarities to the typical “rare arable plant community” found in Britain, because it is often developed on a limestone substrate. The Gower arable plant communities are notable for their species richness as well as a number of Section 42 species such as Broad-fruited Cornsalad (found here at its’ only Welsh site) and Small-flowered Catchfly. Several other arable S42 species, Shepherd’s-needle and Red Hemp-nettle, are found nearby but are no longer in truly arable habitats.

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