

Council – 20 April 2017

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

PART A – SUPPLEMENTARIES

1	<p>Councillors Cyril Anderson, M Thomas, T M White Congratulations on the work carried out by 'Team Swansea' on obtaining a Swansea Bay City Deal for our Region. Can the Leader give details of the schemes that will benefit residents of Swansea in winning this deal, and its financial value.</p> <p>Response of the Leader I would refer you to the statement provided by the Chief Executive in his weekly blog.</p> <p>"Wales's biggest City Deal represents a massive commitment from UK and Welsh Governments to helping local authorities tackle our challenges and arrest the decline in the economy of South West Wales. It is a long-term plan to invest in our infrastructure, both physical and digital. The plan is evidence-based. The Team Swansea approach is a genuine one and the partners in the city are strongly behind it. It has a total value of £1.3bn, including a UK and Welsh Government contribution of £241m, and £673m of private investment. It will be invested in an area with a population of 680,000 and will create up to 35,000 jobs.</p> <p>We have the opportunity to secure a 15-year funding stream. Add this to the massive investment in housing following the Housing Revenue Account settlement with the Treasury and the strong possibility that the Tidal Lagoon will be approved, then the programme becomes truly ambitious.</p> <p>The arena, office and health campus proposals will be the essential trigger for a more vibrant City Centre with an improved leisure and retail offer resulting from increased footfall.</p> <p>There will be many challenges in the delivery of these projects. We must align the work we do in schools to the opportunities presented by the City Deal. In my discussions with primary head teachers at Ysgolion Cynradd Abertawe (YCA) this week there is clearly much enthusiasm for the City Deal, but a concern that without a focus on investing in education our children could miss out on the opportunities ahead. Changes to the curriculum must be given time to bed-in, key skills developed and we must identify clear pathways to employment for all our citizens. We must retain a focus on those who face the most challenges and break down the barriers that prevent them from achieving their potential. We must use our investment profile to secure social benefits for citizens, increase our apprenticeship programme and support local supply chains.</p> <p>The work done by our staff to date is something that I will always be proud of but the future will require departments and staff to work together in an unprecedented way and with absolute focus. Anyone with an interest in skills and education, health and social care, energy, housing, transport, streetscene, sustainable development, tourism, culture, business support and technology will have an essential role to play in this ambition.</p>
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	<p>We must ensure that governance arrangements for the joint committee that will drive the City Deal are appropriate and that the resources for delivery are in place. Businesses will need a voice and democratic accountability must be transparent so the City Deal is subject to effective scrutiny.</p> <p>As regards 5G technology, this is not currently fully defined nor does anyone fully understand its potential to transform the lives of our citizens or how it can help cities become smarter. However I am confident that the City Deal will put us at the forefront of these developments and we can help define the future.</p> <p>The most important point is that the City Deal will open up new opportunities for our citizens and it is our responsibility to do all we can to make sure that they get the full advantage of them”</p>
2	<p>Councillors F M Gordon, J A Hale, S E Crouch, E T Kirchner We note with interest that Swansea has applied to be The UK City of Culture 2021. If successful what benefits will there be for our City.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City UK City of Culture is led by DCMS with support from an assessment panel, chaired by Phil Redmond; to build on the success of Liverpool as European Capital of Culture in 2008. A full description of its aims, objectives and guidance for bid Cities is available, but principally they are focused on high quality cultural programming (broad definition includes media, arts, learning, sports, health and wellbeing) for social benefit, regeneration and economic impact, with a strong legacy and long term planning. Hull is currently the UK City of Culture for 2017 and has already generated an additional £32m revenue funds, from partners against its initial £4m investment to deliver their programme. This is alongside £1bn of inward investment, accelerated as a result of winning this status as described to us by the Leader and Chief Executive. According to Rough Guide it is now listed as one of the best places to visit in the world and is attracting media interest and positive PR which would have been impossible to achieve otherwise, which has had a significant impact on their tourism industry and the knock on benefits of job creation, volunteering and leisure facilities being improved for the City.</p> <p>The designation would effectively be owned from 1st January 2021 until it was handed on to the next City in January 2025. In all respects, the brand legacy will remain that Swansea is a City where regeneration was underpinned by an investment in culture for all its communities, visitors and businesses, such as has been evidenced in Liverpool and Glasgow; Derry and now Hull.</p> <p>The bid is based on two principle axis of People and Place – in particular focusing on the divide and inequality in the City between those living in the East and those in the West. Our programme will explore this through a number of themes around the industrial heritage and development of the Swansea Valley, decline of traditional industry and the forthcoming regeneration schemes of the Universities as well as the City Deal, putting in place a broad programme in the lead up to, delivery of, and legacy years of 2021. We will develop a series of community based projects supporting cohesion, skills, learning and wellbeing and ensure that access to information and the opportunity to participate in the City’s cultural offer, in its broadest definition, is paramount. One of the success criteria that will be challenged is how we measure this benefit, so we will be working hard to demonstrate the step change that we can achieve for our communities and how this will be evidenced.</p>

3

Councillors C A Holley, M H Jones, P M Black

Will the Leader/Cabinet Member tell Council

(a) What are the current vacancies in Swansea Market and

(b) Why in the centre of the Market where there are normally tables for hire over the busy trading days of Friday's and Saturday's they been removed.

Response of Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

(a) Current Vacancies

There are currently four vacant units in Swansea Market, however applications have either been approved and are progressing or new tenancy agreements have been signed and are awaiting a start date. The breakdown is as follows:

Stall 59 – agreement signed for stall selling designer children's wear and baby wear

Stall 19B – agreement signed for stall selling plants and ceramic accessories

Stall 38 – application approved in principal for a Thai supermarket

Stall C2 – application approved in principal for a dessert bar but some structural work firstly needs to be undertaken.

Once all four units are trading, occupancy level will reach 100%.

There are additionally, two units which are currently closed. Tenants of these units have given notice to surrender the leases back to the Council and made a decision to close the businesses before the notice period ends. The surrender notice period is 6 months and tenants have an opportunity to assign the lease to another party via an application process during this period.

Surrender notices have been received for three additional units but these are still operating.

A total of five units with notice to surrender equates to 5% of the total number of Market stalls and an occupancy rating of 95%.

(b) Casual Trading Area

The casual trading tables at the centre of Swansea Market are still available for rent on a daily basis. They are advertised via a pop up banner in the area as well as via the Swansea Indoor Market website. Approximately 30 traders per year trade from this location.

It is recognised that the level of demand may not warrant such a large area and where possible event type activities are currently organised to make better use of this space e.g. local radio broadcasts, choirs, St David's Day event, Easter Egg Appeal. Consideration is being given to the longer term, sustainable use of this area whilst still providing a test bed for new businesses and an opportunity for casual traders. Costed plans for the introduction of a modular based system have been designed which will provide flexibility to enhance the level of entrepreneurial activity currently being undertaken as well as to improve the overall appearance of this area.

4

Councillors M Thomas, C A Anderson, H M Morris

After the success by our region in securing the Swansea Bay City Deal, can we put the same effort into securing The Tidal Bay Lagoon for Swansea and our region.

Response of the Leader

The City Deal is only part of our programme for change. The Authority continues to press for an early decision for the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon. The comprehensive and unequivocal report from the chair of the Lagoon Review,

	<p>Sir Charles Hendry, was published on the 12th January this year. Sir Charles concluded that there was an overwhelming case for the lagoon in Swansea Bay and that the Government needs to just “get on with it”.</p> <p>Mark Shorrocks, CEO of Tidal Lagoon Power, said: “Swansea council has been very supportive in helping us reach a stage where Sir Charles Hendry has backed plans for the world’s first tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay. They realise that this project, in combination with an approved City Deal, will be the biggest investment Wales has ever seen.</p> <p>“Not only will the tidal lagoon project generate clean, green electricity for well over a century for many thousands of Swansea residents, but it will also create many jobs – both during the construction phase as well as throughout the project’s operation.</p> <p>“This project is one element of a broader masterplan for the coastline and the city centre that will enhance Swansea’s status on the world stage as an innovative, business-friendly city.”</p> <p>We remain very confident of a positive outcome will not rest until this project is approved.</p>
5	<p>Councillors E T Kirchner, F M Gordon, S E Crouch, D Phillips</p> <p>After the success by our Council in obtaining the purple flag for our City, can the Cabinet Member inform us what progress is being made to ensure we retain this prestigious award.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City</p> <p>I agree this is a prestigious award for Swansea, and one we seek to retain as the only Purple Flag holder in Wales. It signifies the quality, diversity and safety of the City Centre at night-time, something that is valued by the thousands of people who come here and enjoy a good night out.</p> <p>Following an application at the end of January to ATCM (Association of Town Centre Management) to renew Swansea’s Purple Flag status regarding its evening and night time economy; a visit was arranged by the assessors to formally consider the renewal bid. This took place on Saturday 25 March whereby the assessors received a joint briefing with the key partners and then visited the area to review the management practices, services and projects being undertaken by the multiple agencies involved in management, operation and development of this sector.</p> <p>Although the official results of assessment won’t be known until mid-May, positive feedback was provided by the assessors as to the improvements that have been undertaken following on from the original application.</p>
6	<p>Councillor C A Holley, J Newbury, P M Meara</p> <p>Will the Leader/Cabinet Member tell Council the locations of the pieces of land which the Council currently has up for sale.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Transformation & Performance</p> <p>Details of all properties which the Council has for sale at any one time are freely available to view on the Council’s public website, which is updated on a regular basis.</p> <p>To access the relevant pages search for “Council owned property and land for</p>

	<p>sale or lease” in the search facility on the main page. http://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/2006/Available-land-and-property</p>
7	<p>Councillors P Downing, C Anderson, G Owens Can the Cabinet Member inform us how much has been allocated to filling potholes in our City during this year and how much will be in the budget for the next financial year.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation Over 3000 potholes have been filled since the 48 hr initiative was introduced. £75k of additional funding was allocated to the 48hr pothole initiative in 2016/17 (August 16 to March 17). £150k of additional funding has been allocated for 2017/18.</p>
8	<p>Councillors T J Hennegan, J E Burtonshaw, C Anderson We note with pleasure that Swansea Council are building Council houses for the first time in 40 years, will the Cabinet Member inform Council when we expect the first tenant to be handed over keys to take up residence.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services The first properties are due to be completed early July with the whole site due for completion at the end of September. Work is currently underway to assess the practicalities of handing over properties on a phased basis and thus will take into account health and safety and potential disruption to tenants if site works are continuing.</p>
9	<p>Councillors M H Jones, A M Day, J W Jones Will the Leader/Cabinet Member tell Council what the current plan is for setting up a site for the Gypsies Travellers, or is there going to be an extension of time to the current unofficial site.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration A Gypsy and Traveller site was identified in the Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP). In their response to the Deposit LDP consultation, the Welsh Government did not object to the principle of the proposed use on this site but requested that the Council explain how the site meets the flood risk requirements and justification tests set out in national planning guidance through the preparation of a Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA). In addition the gypsy and traveller families have been fully consulted on and responded to the Deposit LDP proposals which will inform future site provision in line with the recommendations contained with the previous scrutiny report.</p>
10	<p>Councillors T M White, C Anderson, B Hopkins Will the Cabinet Member assure Council that the 3G sport pitches that are being established at Penyrheol ,Morrison and Cefn Hengoed be the first of a programme to be rolled out across the City and County of Swansea.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City It is fantastic that the Authority is able to provide these facilities to increase the quality and quantity of sporting activity across various sports and across Swansea. We see these 3 as the start of 3G provision accessible to the public, and have ambitions for a number more. As each full size pitch costs at least £1/2m the council is actively seeking finances to assist in this</p>

	expansion.
11	<p>Councillors C A Holley, Graham Thomas, Cheryl Philpott Will the Leader/Cabinet Member tell Council what the current position is with the owners of the Mumbles pier and their scheme for the regeneration of the area and the building of flats.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration The Mumbles Pier development which would involve the comprehensive re-development of land at Mumbles Headland (ground floor commercial with hotel or residential apartments (32 units) on the upper floors) and Foreshore / Coastal Strip (26 residential apartments) together with new pedestrian boardwalk was granted outline planning permission 20 December, 2011 following the completion of a Section 106 Planning Obligation (ref:2010/1451) which amongst other things would require the refurbishment of the Pier.</p> <p>A Section 73 application to vary the conditions in particular to extend the time in order to submit the reserved matters was reported to the Planning Committee on 17 February, 2015 (ref:2014/1946) where it was resolved to approve the application subject to the applicants entering into a new Section 106 Planning Obligation incorporating the existing provisions. Whilst a draft Section 106 has been prepared, it has yet to be completed by the applicants. The Local Planning Authority has received a recent (Jan. 2017) pre-application enquiry on behalf of a private housebuilder for the potential residential development for the first phase of the development relating to the residential development of the Foreshore / Coastal Strip but a planning application for the detailed design has yet to be submitted.</p>
12	<p>Councillors S E Crouch, F M Gordon, D Phillips, E T Kirchner After the success of 'Our Abertawe' event held in Castle Square recently, can the Cabinet Member confirm that this will become an annual event.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City This was a fantastic event that brought large numbers and a diversity of citizens together around a St David's Day celebration. Congratulations are due to all involved in organising it. Such was its success, and the significance of the event that the council is exploring the possibility of making it a regular St David's Day celebration. One of the key features that drove creating the Our Abertawe event was the feeling of concern about belonging, and in particular to counter a small number of unwelcome comments expressed. Swansea is a welcoming city, a City of Sanctuary, and the event demonstrated this.</p>
13	<p>Councillors C A Holley, P M Black, L G Thomas With the long expected new road in the Hafod almost complete will the Cabinet Member tell Council</p> <p>(a) What was the cost and (b) Was there any grant monies received from the Welsh Government towards it and (c) Was there any land exchange with Network Rail to help the development and if so how much.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation</p>

a) The total scheme cost (inclusive of land, works and design) is yet to be finalised, but is estimated to be circa £5.8m. (Note that the Council is yet to finalise the account with the Contractor, with some CCS funded works extending beyond March 2017).

b) The following table summarises the budget allocation for the scheme.

Funding Body and total value	Funding Stream	Value
Welsh Government £5,204,000	Local Transport Fund	£4,604,000
	Additional Road Transport Grant	£600,000
Private Developer Contribution £372,000	S106 Contributions	£372,000
City and County of Swansea £232,000	Bus Stations Receipts	£232,000
	Total	£5,808,000

c) Land was acquired from Network Rail for circa £200k which formed part of the car park frontage to Pipehouse. This land was required to realign the carriageway, to introduce a new right turn lane and to facilitate a 3m joint use footway / cycleway.

14 Councillors A M Day, J W Jones, T H Rees

Will the Cabinet Member tell us what the revenue (and if possible, the number of vehicles), was for the coastal car parks for the period 1 October to 31 March for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17? Can he also give us the number of PCNs issued for those car parks for those periods and the revenue generated from the fines.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transportation

Coastal or Foreshore Carparks include the following: The Baths, Bracelet Bay, Caswell Bay, Caswell Hill, Clyne, The Dairy, Horton, Llangland, Port Eynon, Oyster Foreshore, The Quarry, Southend and Sketty Lane.

	14/15	15/16	16/17*
Revenue	£221,627	£222,546	£275,721
Tickets purchased	169,201	148,115	125,423
CEO Visits	894	727	631
PCNs Issued	295	380	392
Recovery	£6505	£8423	£7475

To date

15 Councillors A M Day, M H Jones, C A Holley

Will the Cabinet Member give Council an update on Welsh Medium Education in the City and County of Swansea.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Education

The following table outlines the increase in the percentage of pupils (measured by the number of pupils in Year 2) receiving Welsh-medium Education in Swansea.

Year	All pupils in Y2	Y2 pupils in Welsh-medium	
		No.	%
2007	2525	247	9.78
2008	2446	267	10.92
2009	2369	275	11.61
2010	2460	320	13.01
2011	2472	297	12.01
2012	2441	332	13.6
2013	2546	366	14.4
2014	2603	369	14.8
2015	2822	413	14.6
2016	2650	404	15.2
2017	2673	432	16.2

Further information is available in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020, that is being submitted to Council on 20 April 2017.

PART B – NO SUPPLEMENTARIES