



Report of the Leader

Council – 28 September 2017

The First 100 Days and Beyond

Purpose: This report records the achievements and successes of Swansea Council during its first 100 days following the election and details the proposals for action in the next few months and beyond.

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For Information

Introduction

- 1.1. At the Council meeting on the 27th July 2017, a report to establish a number of the Policy Commitments of the Council was adopted.
- 1.2. This report moves the Policy Commitments report on one stage further and reports on what the Council has achieved in the first 100 days and outlines some of the key actions that will be taken in the months to come.
- 1.3. The Council will continue to place an urgent emphasis on the delivery of high quality services for all. The Council has become an award winning Council recognised as excellent in many of the services it delivers and has been shortlisted for national awards in Waste Management, Building Services and Construction, Workforces (including our Apprenticeship Scheme) and has been shortlisted for Council of the year. In addition, a range of Independent assessments of our services by ESTYN (Education), CSSIW (Social Services) and the WAO (Wales Audit Office) provide strong independent validation of the strength and quality of the services in Swansea.

- 1.4. We want to continue to be recognised for high quality public services. To this end we will continue to modernise and invest in our front-line services to ensure their long-term sustainability through our budget and change programme - Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future. We are in the process of establishing a Delivery Unit to embed effective delivery and cross-departmental co-ordination.

2. What Has Been Achieved

- 2.1. A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken over the last five years in delivering the Council's policies. The Council will build upon these achievements to create an environment which enables people to lead flourishing lives, secure local well-paid employment, live in strong and resilient communities which promotes physical and psychological wellbeing, with access to excellent services and protective of our natural environment.
- 2.2. All the 100 days commitments have been started and some are well advanced including the following;
- 2.3. The City Deal We have secured a City Deal for the Swansea Bay Region which has the potential to transform the fortunes of the region, representing more than £1.3 billion pounds of investment and 35,000 associated regional jobs. We are making good progress in terms of developing governance arrangements. A report has been shared with the region that will act as a template to take through the political process in each unitary authority area that sets out and seeks approval of the governance arrangements and supporting structures for the SBCR City Deal. A schedule of meetings for the Joint Committee and Programme Board is in place for the next 12 months. In addition, a public appointments process for the Chair of the Economic Strategy Advisory Board has been drafted. At the recent Shadow Joint Committee meeting, it was agreed that Cllr. Rob Stewart, Leader of City and County of Swansea, will be appointed as Chair of the Joint Committee with the Leaders of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot councils appointed as Deputy Chairs. Project teams are currently drafting each of their 5-case business plans.
- 2.4. Regenerate the Kingsway area and transform it to a digital employment district An outline 'Kingsway Infrastructure' scheme has been approved and design work is advanced with the main works contracts anticipated to commence early 2018. Enabling works at West way have been completed to facilitate future highway investments at Kingsway. A detailed business plan has been submitted to the Welsh European Funding Office for European Regional Development Fund money to undertake the necessary infrastructure enhancements (public realm, road layout) to facilitate the creation of the Digital Village. Welsh Government Vibrant & Viable Places pipeline monies have also been secured to complete property acquisitions needed to progress the Digital District development, including the demolition of Oceana which is now complete.

- 2.5 The Swansea Central and Swansea Waterfront regeneration schemes on the old St David's and Civic Centre sites Outline planning permission for the overall Swansea Central scheme was granted in June. Phase 1 will include the development of a new 3,500-capacity digital indoor arena, a digital square, a hotel and a car park on the current LC car park site, as well as a broad pedestrian bridge over Oystermouth Road. Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) has been selected as the operator of the digital indoor arena, which will attract up to 200 days of concerts, exhibitions and other events every year. The company is now working with Swansea Council and Rivington Land on the detailed design and specification of the attraction which is set to commence in 2018. Phase 2 of Swansea Central will include the development of new shops, restaurants, cafes, a boutique cinema and other new facilities introduced on the former St David's shopping centre site.
- 2.6 Establish new bilateral trade and economic agreements with cities and regions across the world (a top priority) and build on special links with China and other twinned cities around the world – growing Swansea's reputation and wealth The Council have strengthened its economic and cultural ties with a number of Chinese cities including; Nantong, Gaochun, Wuhan and Beijing by hosting exchange visits, developing memoranda of understanding and exploring investment and commercial opportunities. Earlier this year Swansea also showcased to some of the world's most influential property developers and investors at MIPIM 2017 in Cannes, France. It was one of only three cities asked to present at the UK Government's pavilion there.
- 2.7 5th G network technologies Working with its partners, the Council is seeking to create a greener, smart and sustainable city by encouraging the development of 5th Generation network technologies to promote the development of 'low carbon' approaches and innovations in energy capture, storage, and distribution.
- 2.8 Put sustainable development at the heart of all our policies and value and seek to protect Swansea's unique natural and built environment The LDP has undergone considerable public consultation. Further work was commissioned to test the impact of the City Deal and amended economic growth projections on the LDP strategy and allocations, together with an update on the financial viability appraisals on each of the residential led strategic development areas. The draft deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) has been deposited with the Welsh Government for examination, due to commence later this year.
- 2.9 Regional Transport Plan Aligned to the City Deal, the Council is working with its partners to develop a sustainable transport plan which works for everyone, regardless of what community they live in and whatever mode of transport they use. It will explore the feasibility of innovative transport solutions such as an Integrated Passenger network solution.

- 2.10 Improved transport across the city, county and region As part of an overall regional transport plan, the Council is working to develop relationships with bus and rail operators to ensure that there is coverage across the city, county and region. We have signed a partnership agreement with First Cymru and scheduled a series of regular meetings to discuss missing links/ requests for new or improved services, planned services changes, Ticket interavailability, Utrack and Customer engagement.
- 2.11 Invest an extra £5 m in roads and walkways The Morfa distributor was officially opened on the July 27th 2017 and was designed to improve access to jobs and services, open the corridor to development, reduce congestion and air quality problems on the A4067 Neath Road in the Hafod and improve walking and cycling links. The scheme is being developed in stages to tie-in with redevelopment proposals along the route and to align with a phased funding programme. It includes the provision of a new joint use footway / cycleway and will enhance links to the nearby historic Copperworks area as well as the riverside. A review of the Council's Capital programme is also in the process of being scoped as part of a cross cutting review, with the commitment to develop improvements for the major junctions and routes into the city.
- 2.12 Investments in roads, walkways and the cycle path network The Council is reviewing its Capital programme and will seek to improve major junctions and routes including junction 45 on the M4, with a view to improving the access and flow of traffic into and around Swansea. It will continue to invest in our road, walkway and cycle path network and focus resources to deal with roads and pot holes in 48 hours.
- 2.13 Prioritise cleanliness in our communities The Council will continue to prioritise cleanliness in its communities and has created a task force to tackle fly tipping and ensure our streets are cleaned regularly. It is currently in the process of purchasing a new refuse vehicle fleet and drafting new recycling options.
- 2.14 Allotments and garden sharing The Council will continue promote the greater provision of allotments and garden sharing, particularly where public land is available and appropriate.
- 2.15 Community Enterprises The Council has a project in development to establish a community enterprise, based around addressing food poverty. The enterprise is in its early stages and will be launched in November, with the intention that it will become an entity in its own right from 1 April 2018.
- 2.16 Give every child the best start in life The Council is regularly progressing the work to give Every Child the Best Start in Life, along with our partners. It has run a successful media campaign showcasing the Swansea Jacks, to promote positive parenting for everyone working and living with children. This has been a priority action for the Public Service Board.

- 2.17 Free childcare for 3 and 4 year old children (30 hours a week for 48 weeks a year) The Council will encourage school participation in the Welsh Government's pilot to provide 30 hours a week for 48 weeks a year, free to 3 and 4 year old children. Swansea was selected as one of the six pilot areas in Wales to test the Welsh Government's offer on childcare. The offer is currently being tested in Dunvant, Penclawdd, Llangyfelach, West Cross, Morriston, Pontarddulais and Gorseinon, through a mix of on-school provision and private childcare settings.
- 2.18 Build modern high energy efficient homes for rent and sale/ Build affordable houses so that people can get on the housing ladder Works are underway in terms of progressing our first pilot site at Milford way. The first properties were completed by the end of August 2017. Good progress is being made in relation to developing our second site at Parc Y Helig with a start on site later this year.
- 2.19 Homes as power stations Working with our City Deal partners, the Council will develop and deliver the technology 'homes as power stations' and will aim to commercialise the technology by enabling it to be retro-fitted to existing homes, reducing the energy consumption and bills of residents.
- 2.20 Support tough controls on the level of HMOs The Council will develop and implement tough controls on levels of HMOs in communities and support, subject to consultation, a new 10% saturation limit on HMOs in communities that have not previously been covered by HMO guidance or policy.
- 2.21 Celebrating diversity The Council will continue to ensure that Swansea is a city of cohesive communities that celebrates and promotes diversity, respect, understanding and tolerance, standing up for the rights of all people in Swansea. It will promote Swansea as an open tolerant place to live as a 'City of Sanctuary' The Council is in the process of finalising an application to become a European Intercultural City, and will be undertaking an assessment of our work on this in November.
- 2.22 Give all children a voice, improve pupil engagement and listen to our children's ambitions and aspirations The Council continues to develop its work on Pupil Voice and the Big Conversation. In August it held a Corporate Parenting Challenge for those acting as a Corporate Parent. The Council has a programme of promoting child rights amongst childcare providers that has been very well received by them. It has arranged a celebration event of Swansea Council's UNCRC scheme, to take place in November.
- 2.23 World class exhibitions to The Glyn Vivian Art Gallery As part of its offer to secure the City Of Culture 2021, the Council is working to bring world class exhibitions to Swansea to the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery as part of the Tate network

- 2.24 Retain the Wales National Air show The Council is seeking to retain the Wales National Air Show and explore options for hosting the Wales National Super Prix, stages of the Tour of Britain and other national cultural and sporting events.
- 2.25 Bid to become the UK's City of Culture 2021 The Council has been successfully shortlisted to bid to become the UK's City of culture in 2021. It is currently working with partners to submit our final bid to secure this prestigious event for Swansea and to become the creative capital of Wales.
- 2.26 Support expansion of the Stadium and the Swans and Ospreys to be successful The Council is currently in the process of negotiating a new deal with the Swansea in order to develop the stadium and the surrounding area.
- 2.27 Support people to live independently by ensuring a network of local area co-ordinators is established to cover the whole of Swansea An independent evaluation of the Local Area Co-ordination project in Swansea demonstrated that the project had a number of benefits for participants in terms of reducing isolation, building social networks and supporting people to live independently. During 2016/17, we received 229 new requests for local area coordination , (which exceeded the target) and ensured that people are being actively supported within their communities. We have secured funding to employ an additional 4 LAC co-ordinators extending the coverage of this service to other parts of Swansea.
- 2.28 Take a zero tolerance approach to tackling domestic violence and work with partners to fully support victims of domestic violence/ stand up for those suffering domestic abuse The Council is in the process of finalising the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy which will be going out for consultation in the Autumn. It has worked with Public Service Board to develop a new pathway for the most vulnerable people experiencing domestic abuse and also substance misuse and mental health issues. There is a plan to train all front line workforce in domestic abuse awareness. The Council launched its Domestic Abuse hub on 12 July, which is a multi-agency response to provide the right support from the right people at the right time, and has been well received. The development of this new preventative service is critical to how we support victims in a more coherent way, ensuring they get a faster response.
- 2.29 Sign up to an Ethical Care Charter The Council is actively working through the Safeguarding Policy Development and Delivery Committee to agree a route map to increasing developing towards an Ethical Care Charter. It will be working with providers, staff and trade unions to recommission home care services that are fair to employees (employed by the Council or contracted through another agency) and provide better care and support to people.
- 2.30 Invest in services to help people re-able and recover so that they are able to return to living an active and productive life The Council has developed a joint project with the NHS to develop more responsive care and to reable more people. Over 75% of people who use the reablement home service return home following a period of reablement instead of going into residential care with over

69% needing no package of care and support 6 months later following their return home.

- 2.31 Other Matters This is not a definitive list of either the work undertaken in the first 100 days, or the complete programme for this year or the rest of the Council cycle, but is simply an indication of the scope and breadth of the work which has been undertaken by the Council following the election.

3 Future initiatives

Investing in Education

- 3.1 Investment in schools, teaching and learning The Council intends to spend nearly £1bn on schools, teaching and learning in the next 5 years. It will invest over £100 million in extensive improvements to school buildings across Swansea and also invest in facilities for those who have additional learning needs or require additional wellbeing and mobility support.

A City of Lifelong Learning

- 3.2 A seamless education and skills 'pipeline' through all levels of education. Working with the Welsh Government, our regional partners and schools, the Council will explore developing a new approach to learning which will create the workforce for the new technology skills and knowledge economy we will need to compete and succeed in the 21st century.
- 3.3 Skill development for our new economy As part of the Swansea Bay City Deal and working closely with the Regional Skills & Learning Partnership, the Council will help people to attain the skills they need to find a job. It will align our education system to ensure we create the right people with the right skills to supply the new economy, and to fill jobs offering routes to well-paid careers.
- 3.4 UNESCO Cities of Learning to share ideas and best practice Swansea received a UNESCO Learning City Award at the Mexico conference – the only one in the UK and one of only 12 worldwide at that point in time.

The Swansea Bay City Deal

- 3.5 Establish a dedicated investment and growth team In addition to the developments outlined earlier in this report, the Council will establish a dedicated investment and growth team to attract inward investment and create the right conditions for job creation and growth. The team will focus on the development of key developments sites in Swansea city centre including; Parc Tawe, Mariner Street car park, the Kingsway and the Digital Village, Castle Square, the Digital Square, the Quadrant, the Civic Centre / City Beach site and the Central/North site.

Delivering Green Energy

- 3.6 Tidal Bay Lagoon The Council will strive to make Swansea Bay one of the greenest regions in the UK and create a low carbon economy. We will continue to lobby the UK government and Welsh Government and harness support from local people to act upon the recommendations of the Hendy report and take forward the Tidal Lagoon, complementing the City Deal and our suite of initiatives relating to green energy such as turning homes into power stations.
- 3.7 Establish an energy company The Council will explore the feasibility of establishing an energy company to manage the new energy generating facilities across the authority ensure the taxpayers of Swansea receive the benefits of cheaper energy and income from energy generated in Swansea.

Smart Sustainable Transport

- 3.8 The electrification of the main line from London to Swansea The Council passed a motion on the 27th of July to challenge the UK government decision and the Secretary of State's decision to abandon its plans for electrification of the main-line rail link from Cardiff to Swansea.
- 3.9 Park and Ride schemes The Council will seek to expand this network to ensure better coverage in the west of the city, in the east around the growing university campuses, and in the north as part of planning with the Swans and Ospreys for match day parking.

Greener and More Sustainable Transport

- 3.10 Charging stations and hydrogen filling stations The Council will work with the WLGA and the Welsh Government to develop a network of charging stations and hydrogen filling stations to promote the use of electric vehicles and hydrogen vehicles for public transport.
- 3.11 Development of new technologies to support the development of green technologies The Council will work with global partners to develop the technologies to support the development of new green technologies. It will work to attract inward investment in R&D and production facilities for these technologies in Swansea.

A Bike and Cyclist Friendly Swansea

- 3.12 'Wheelrights Manifesto' The Council has adopted the 'Wheelrights Manifesto' aiming to significantly increase access to safe, quicker and more cost effective cycle and walking routes through the city and expand the cycle network.

Fairer Parking

- 3.13 City centre parking and adopting fairer car park charges in local authority controlled car parks The Council will be adopt fairer car park charges in local authority controlled car parks and expand parking provision across the city. It will freeze car parking charges in the city centre for two years and has started to amend the disabled parking policy criteria.

Valuing Our Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Environment

- 3.14 Community Ownership of Parks The Council will support actions that protect and enhance our parks, natural habitats and biodiversity and encourage greater community ownership of these assets, working with 'friends of parks' organisations. Scoping work is currently underway and a workshop will be held with stakeholders shortly. Data gathering and analysis is underway for four pilot areas in relation to services within the community. Parks and Cleansing will continue to support existing groups and any new groups.

Community Resilience

- 3.15 Community Budgets The Council will continue to make available dedicated money for community budgets so that local people can decide, via their Elected representatives, what their Local priorities are, and importantly will have the funds to deliver them.

Promoting Community Safety

- 3.16 Take a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour, neighbour nuisance The Council will take a tough stance against those who seek to disrupt the lives of the people of Swansea. It will work with the police and local agencies to make Swansea a safe and attractive city and implement 'public space protection orders' where required to prevent on street drinking and the sale and distribution of so called 'legal highs'.

Strong Council Finances

- 3.17 Explore innovative funding and investment strategies The Council will explore innovative funding strategies and borrow prudently to support the City Deal delivery, only when it is right to do so.
- 3.18 Retain business rates in Swansea The Council intends to strike a new fairer deal with Welsh Government and retain business rates in Swansea for the re-investment in the local economy.
- 3.19 Explore collaborative and innovative ways of financing local services The Council will continue to work with the Welsh Labour Government, other local authorities, the third sector, the NHS, Police and other social partners, to explore collaborative and innovative ways in which local services can be financed and delivered most efficiently, and how the value of Council assets can be maximised.

- 3.20 Maximise the value of the 'Swansea Pound' The Council will seek to maximise the value of the 'Swansea Pound' - the considerable expenditure the Council and other local public bodies make on the procurement of goods and services for the benefit of the local economy, jobs and training.

Council Democracy

- 3.21 Policy Development and Delivery Committees (PDDCs) The Council has established new PDDCs to review and develop key policies which enable a wider range of Elected Members and the public to participate in the formation and review of key Council policies.
- 3.22 Web broadcasting of key council meetings and electronic voting The requirement has been scoped and meetings are scheduled with suppliers to agree costs and implementation plan.
- 3.23 Zero hour contracts Work is underway to audit all zero hours contract jobs across the Council and to understand the nature of them with a view of working towards their elimination in the Council.

Foodbanks

- 3.24 Reduction of food waste The Tackling Poverty (PDDC) has adopted this priority within its work plan and will be exploring how to encourage business to reduce food waste by potentially supplying goods to local food banks.
- 3.25 Explore tax relief and support for food banks locations The Tackling Poverty (PDDC) has adopted this priority within its work plan and will be exploring options and consequences of reducing tax liability and of supporting local food banks.

Housing

- 3.26 Work with Welsh Government and tenants to explore innovative ways to improve the quality of social housing and target HMOs for improved standards of management and maintenance Around £270 million will be spent up to 2020/21 (including current financial year ie 2017/18) to improve Council houses which includes the £11 million identified within the policy commitment. The Housing Revenue Account Capital programme is focussed on the improvement of the housing stock up to the WHQS (Welsh Housing Quality Standard) but also includes provision to support additional council housing

Independence, Dignity and Respect

- 3.27 Promote independent living The Council will work to promote independent living, providing people with the support to live in their own home with dignity and respect for as long as they want.

Prevention and Health Promotion

- 3.28 New facilities to create sheltered accommodation Working with its partners, the Council will explore options for the provision of new sheltered accommodation extra care facilities to deliver next generation elderly care services.

Older People

- 3.29 Ensure that the voice of older citizens, like those of our children and young people, should be heard The Council intends to work with older people locally and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales to establish a Charter for Older People to ensure that our commitment is delivered.

A River Renaissance

- 3.30 Establish a new hotel and leisure development near the Liberty Stadium The Council is currently exploring the feasibility of establishing a new hotel and leisure development near the Liberty Stadium in order to complement cultural developments and the river walk way developments.

Discounts for all Swansea Residents

- 3.31 Commission work on the citizen card / app
Work on single citizen ID is in progress with the technical infrastructure currently underway. A website upgrade during August has enabled the development of new functionality that will include the ability for citizens to log in to their Council account via social media accounts. Following this upgrade the actual citizen account software build can then commence from September.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

There are no direct equality or engagement implications arising from this report. The corporate Equality Impact Assessment process continues to be applied to individual projects along with appropriate consultation and engagement activities.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no immediate legal implications with this report. However, some of the Policy Commitments will need legal advice and assistance to ensure that the Council acts within its powers and that good governance arrangements are in place.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications arising directly from this report, acceptance of this statement could result in additional expenditure at a future time. Acceptance of this statement does not mean that additional resources will be made available and it should be assumed for now that

future spending needs will need to be contained within existing budget provision.

That assumption regarding overall revenue spending will be dependent upon the level of future local government finance settlements and decisions to be made by Council on levels of future Council Tax as part of the annual budget cycle and medium term planning. Overall real terms revenue resources are likely to remain significantly constrained in the medium term.

Capital investment decisions and the associated funding requirement will be primarily a function of decisions by Council regarding the broad level of capital versus revenue spending, including the amount that Council decides to budget for capital financing (borrowing), capital receipts from ongoing asset disposal, continued successful access to large scale capital funding programmes (e.g. 21st Century Schools, City Region Deal), and future funding flexibilities that may flow to Welsh Government, and ultimately to local authorities, again predominantly, but not exclusively, through the City Region Deal.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None