



Council – 28 September 2017

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

PART A – SUPPLEMENTARIES

1	<p>Cllrs Kevin Griffiths, Jeff Jones & Gordon Walker</p> <p>Cllr Rob Stewart promised our community when he visited us to discuss the LDP that he would look into some sort of banking service for us. Has he made any progress on this as this is important not only for Pontarddulais but other communities that are without banks. With the LDP going out to consultation after Council agreeing last month, Pontarddulais has the potential of 750 houses which could result in 1500 residents needing some sort of banking facility.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Commercial Opportunities & Innovation</p> <p>Whilst the decision maker for delivering banking facilities within communities is ultimately the private sector provider of financial services, the Council's decision to allocate land to the north of Pontarddulais as a Strategic Development Area in the LDP offers the exactly the sort of growth potential that can help sustain such facilities and increases the likelihood of securing future investment. The close proximity of the LDP allocations to Pontarddulais Town Centre will help sustain the vitality and vibrancy of the high street by providing a greater critical mass of population to attract businesses and support community facilities.</p>
2	<p>Cllrs Lyndon Jones, Myles Langstone & Linda Tyler Lloyd</p> <p>Swansea's bid to be the UK City of Culture 2021 is very important to the City and is something we all support.</p> <p>I would be grateful if the Cabinet Member could confirm that everything possible is being done to promote this bid.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects</p> <p>We have been working to promote Swansea's status as a city of culture and candidate city for UK City of Culture since 2014 and have established the partnerships and relationships necessary to put forward a credible case. This has involved us maintaining a policy commitment to being Wales' Capital of Culture and ongoing, widespread engagement with stakeholders, all of which are part of our ongoing promotional activity. These include Welsh Government, both Universities, the Health Authority, local businesses, Swansea BID, Coastal Housing, Museums Wales, Arts Council and Heritage Lottery Wales, British Council, Creative & Cultural Skills, Wales Arts International and hundreds of local artists, organisations and sector representatives across Swansea and the Bay Region.</p>

We continue to regularly meet and brief community groups and local bodies, and the bid itself has been developed through collaboration with local community groups and artists, producers, businesses and academics. We have written to all national organisations, from Tate – to Sport UK – to the National Theatres, as well as Arts Councils for Scotland, England and Wales – outlining our ambitions and asking for their endorsement, along with prominent individuals in Parliament. For visibility during this critical stage of shortlisting, we have invested in an extensive range of on and offline promotional and marketing activity including;

- Editorial campaign partnership with the SW Evening Post (including backing the bid on front page mast head, online sponsorship bar, weekly column, etc.)
- Campaign Toolkit for Businesses – sent to all leading businesses within and external to Swansea, including letterheads, email footers, press release templates etc.
- Window decals for businesses across the City and County of Swansea
- Promotional activity at High Street Station and Swansea Bus Station
- City Centre Dressing – including lamp post banners in High Street, Wind Street and Mumbles Road / Oystermouth Road
- Drinks Coasters at café's, pubs and other food and beverage locations
- Bookmarks at libraries and commercial book stores
- Branding at major events e.g. Commonwealth Baton relay, Proms in the Park, 10k etc.
- Branding at non Swansea events e.g. Cardiff 10K and Half Marathon etc.
- Branding at Edinburgh Fringe Festival
- Bus Advertising
- Advertising in key consumer publications - B2B and business
- Perimeter advertising - LED at Liberty Stadium for the Manchester Utd Game and watched by a global audience of up to 700 million people
- Perimeter campaign advertising at Liberty (static) for all Swans and Ospreys games
- 48 sheet advertising board on Fabian Way
- Advertising on digital information screens – internal at all Cultural Services venues
- Advertising at key external locations e.g. side of LC
- Campaign branding at all Cultural Services venues
- Public engagement campaigns through Facebook Swansea2021, Twitter @Swansea2021 and Instagram
- Public engagement through www.Swansea2021.co.uk including a digital mosaic and how to back the bid
- Promotional collateral at a range of venues e.g. pop up's and backdrops
- External Communication Groups with strategic partners (e.g. Swansea University, UWTSD, ABMU, Ospreys, Swans etc.) to share messaging and PR opportunities
- Stunt based media activity both within and outside of Swansea
- Inclusion in all Enjoy and Visit Swansea Bay marketing campaign activity (e.g. web, journalist visits, advertising, competitions etc.)

3	<p>Cllrs Chris Holley, Mary Jones & Jeff Jones</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member tell Council if there are plans to reprofile the beach this winter to stop Oystermouth Road and Mumbles Road being covered with sand from the beach.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects</p> <p>The beach is not due to be re-profiled in order to seek to preserve the marram grass on the dunes, however the channel between the dunes and the sea wall will be maintained to catch sand being blown towards Oystermouth Road. This will minimise sand blown onto the road, but will not totally prevent sand blowing across the channel in very strong winds.</p>
4	<p>Cllrs Mary Jones, Chris Holley & Peter Black</p> <p>In the August Council meeting under Part B Councillors Questions it clearly states that a commissioning review has taken place into Leisure and Cultural services. Will the Leader/Cabinet Member explain to Council why this commissioning review has not been to scrutiny.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects</p> <p>The commissioning review of Culture, Leisure and Tourism was one of the first year 1 reviews carried out. Whilst scrutiny was engaged in the review process via the workshops, at that stage a decision hadn't been taken to refer the reviews to pre decision scrutiny. Following discussion with scrutiny it was agreed that all future commissioning reviews would go via the pre decision scrutiny process prior to being reported to cabinet. That's has been a positive step welcomed by the wales Audit Office during their recent review of the council change programme.</p>
5	<p>Cllrs Chris Holley, Jeff Jones & Peter Black</p> <p>Given that the retail developments for the city centre are now on hold until the Arena is built and open to the public (we are told this is to aid footfall and help attract new and different retail outlets). Will the Leader/ Cabinet Member tell Council what the business plan is for the Arena and if is there is any council subsidy required, if so over what time period will the repayments be.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects</p> <p>ATG have been selected as the Councils preferred operator of the New Arena venue based upon their unquestionable experience in the entertainment industry.</p> <p>We are currently engaged in negotiating a lease and agreement to lease with ATG where they will occupy the arena for a term of 30 years on a full repairing and insuring lease. ATG will also pay a rent and share of profit rent.</p> <p>The full and final cost plan forms part of the confidential lease negotiation and at this stage we are therefore not in a position to share this information but will be happy to do so at an appropriate time in the near future.</p>

	<p>A significant amount of work is currently being undertaken to work up the design for the Arena, bridge and car parking elements as part of this first phase of development. The arena will be a catalyst for a number of projects in the city centre. This project and the City Deal has significantly raised the profile of Swansea across the UK.</p> <p>We should also mention that the retail element of the Swansea Central scheme is not on hold but is currently being considered as part of the wider proposals for the North side delivery alongside further leisure and educational uses. BREXIT, the economy and funding market have all had a significant impact on the leisure and retail industry which we are mindful of and have to be considered within any proposals moving forward.</p>
6	<p>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Gareth Sullivan & Graham Thomas</p> <p>During the campaign for the local elections last May a commitment was made by the Labour party that Garngoch Amenity Site would be reopening for black bag waste. This was subsequently publicised in election material and in the Press as a welcome decision taken by Labour.</p> <p>In June the Cabinet Member stated, in response to a Council question, that options for residents in terms of maximising the amount of recycling from both black bags and green bags will be considered later this year after which the Council will consider all of the options going forward before making a decision.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member inform Council what further progress has been made in considering these options and indicate when Garngoch will reopen to black bag refuse in line with the election promise.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Services</p> <p>Additional recycling opportunities being progressed at Recycling Centres are Nappy Recycling and the recycling of Freezer/Fridge breakdowns. Land availability is being assessed in the vicinity of the Garngoch Recycling Centre to assess whether a Black Bag Challenge Area can be accommodated, how much the infrastructure would cost, and what the additional running costs would be. Additional space would be required to avoid returning to the days of restricted parking, extensive queuing, and traffic congestion.</p>
7	<p>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Lynda James & Mike Day</p> <p>Recent reports are suggesting that, across Wales, there has been a massive fall in teenagers studying English Literature with subjects such as Geography and History likewise declining in popularity. The numbers studying French and German have also plummeted.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member tell Council if these trends are reflected in Swansea?</p>

Response of the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Lifelong Learning

Between 2016 and 2017 there has been a decline in the proportion of pupils taking English literature, geography and French in Swansea. The table below outlines the differences.

Full Course GCSE Entries

Subject	2016		2017	
	Entries	Percent	Entries	Percent
English Literature	1903	79.3%	1476	61.1%
Geography	758	31.6%	549	22.7%
History	733	30.5%	751	31.1%
French	319	13.3%	242	10.0%
German	24	1.0%	28	1.2%

Across Wales, the number of pupils entered for English literature GCSE was notably lower than in 2016. However, Qualification Wales suggests this is largely due to the significant increase in pupils taking the exam a year earlier when they were in Year 10. In 2016, the proportion of Year 10 entries across Wales increased by 276% from 2,038 to 7,657. Overall, 21,925 of the Year 11 cohort in 2017 achieved a GCSE in English Literature (either sat in Year 10 or Year 11) compared to 24,542 in 2016, which represents a decline of 10.7 percentage points.

Across Wales, the number of pupils in Wales studying a foreign language to GCSE has declined by 44 per cent between 2002 and 2015.

8 Cllr Peter May

This question is about the Declaration of Understanding document relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation

An Evening Post article dated 24th August 2017 states that: "Swansea was among the first councils in the country to introduce a Declaration of Understanding, which compels landlords to sign a document that outlines their responsibilities in areas like fire safety, waste management and antisocial behaviour."

Is it correct to add that the occupiers of the HMO also have to sign the document?

The declaration in bold immediately prior to signature reads as follows:

I have read and understood the Declaration of Understanding in relation to Fire Precautions, Waste Management, Anti-Social Behaviour and the Management Regulations summary.

I understand that if I fail to comply with these, I may be committing an offence for which I may be prosecuted.

I understand that the Licence holder of this property may have to provide a copy of this document, including my details below, to the City & County of Swansea as required under the conditions of the HMO licence for the property.

My details will only be used in connection with the enforcement of legislation and conditions relating to the letting of this property as a licensable house in multiple occupation.

Who does the "I" refer to? (The licence holder, occupier(s), or both)
When was this document introduced and how many times since this date has it been "used in connection with the enforcement of legislation and conditions relating to the letting of this property as a licensable house in multiple occupation"?

How many times has an occupier been prosecuted by failing to comply with the declaration of understanding since its introduction?

How many documents have in fact been provided to the council as indicated in the declaration since its introduction?

To the best of the council's knowledge, how many documents have in fact been completed and signed by all parties in the first place since its introduction?

Response of the Cabinet Member for Housing Energy & Building Services

a) Yes it is correct that HMO occupants are asked to sign the Declaration of Understanding indicating that procedures in relation to fire precautions, waste, anti-social behaviour and the duties imposed on occupants by the HMO Management Regulations, have been explained to them.

b) The 'I' refers to the occupier.

c) The declaration of understanding was originally introduced as part of the HMO licence conditions in Swansea in 2006. It has subsequently been updated to its current version. It was designed to aid licence holders in communicating various pieces of information and legal responsibilities to HMO occupants. This is seen as good practice and has since been adopted by a number of other Local Authorities. Specific records are not kept on the number of times the declaration has been used in connection with the enforcement of legislation and conditions. It is however used by Officers as part of investigations relating to complaints made about HMOs.

d) Occupiers cannot be prosecuted in connection with the declaration of understanding. The Declaration simply explains procedures in relation to fire precautions, waste, anti-social behaviour and the duties imposed on occupants by the HMO Management Regulations.

e) Licence holders are not required to provide a copy of each signed Declaration of Understanding. Depending on the nature of specific complaints received about HMOs, Officers may require provision of such documentation as part of their routine investigations. Specific records relating to the actual number of declarations submitted by licence holders are not kept.

f) As indicated, licence holders are not required to provide a copy of each signed Declaration of Understanding and on that basis records regarding total numbers of signed declarations in existence are not kept.

9	<p>Cllrs Myles Langstone & Lyndon Jones</p> <p>At the last election, the Labour Party campaigned on allowing free parking in Mumbles when there are events taking place. I understand, from traders, that they have heard nothing more on this promise and we are still waiting for this to be implemented.</p> <p>Can you please confirm that you will uphold this election pledge for all future events in Mumbles.</p> <p>This would be a big help to make sure that events are successful, would ease pressure on residents who would not find their roads filled with visitors cars and will boost the local economy.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Services</p> <p>One of the roles of the City & County of Swansea is to support local traders across the county and this is achieved by providing off street car parks in convenient locations, augmented by short stay on-street parking, where appropriate.</p> <p>Parking tariffs are carefully considered so as to meet the operating costs of car parks, encourage regular turnover of shopper parking, whilst ensuring that trade is not stifled by excessive tariffs.</p> <p>As with other commercial centres, including the city centre, the Council is working with partners to identify periods of low retail activity, to assess how best to encourage greater levels of activity.</p>
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	<p>PART B – NO SUPPLEMENTARIES</p>
10	<p>Cllrs Susan Jones, Chris Holley & Wendy Fitzgerald</p> <p>Will the Leader/Cabinet Member please explain to Council how the areas for free children care were chosen.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>It is important to emphasise that the pilot areas are based on Wards and not Schools or school catchments.</p> <p>In line with the purpose of the Pilot, Swansea’s selection of Wards were chosen to test out different models of delivery so that the learning can be applied to Welsh Government’s plans for a future rollout.</p> <p>As such the following principles were central to Swansea’s proposals for the Pilot areas for year 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Testing “all on one” sites – selecting wards with schools that provide the Foundation Phase for 3 and 4 year olds as well as already registered Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) wrap around, after school and holiday childcare on site. This will be important as it will ascertain levels of take-up of on site provision and

	<p>levels of demand.</p> <p>2. Testing areas where there are no or low level of on school site registered childcare however high levels of registered childcare providers/places across a mixed economy (e.g Day Nurseries and Childminders etc) in the wider Ward area. This will be important as it will ascertain the advantages and disadvantages of a multi-site package of provision.</p> <p>Due to the eligibility criteria of the scheme set by Welsh Government it was also important to choose areas which would have the potential for a good take-up.</p> <p>Parents can choose any CSSIW registered provision for their Child whether that is within or outside the Pilot Wards.</p>
11	<p>Cllrs Mary Jones, Graham Thomas & Gordon Walker</p> <p>There has been a lot of publicity recently about motorists being fined when using the bus lane near the Liberty Stadium during the road works that were being carried out there in the spring. Will the Leader / Cabinet Member tell Council how much it is costing too fight these claims including all Officer time. This is to include the appeal resulting from the decision from the Traffic Penalty Tribunal.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Services</p> <p>The Civil Parking Enforcement operation is, by law, self-financing, placing no financial burden on the council. Officers routinely deal with appeals from motorists, and with the Traffic Penalty Tribunal. The appeals process is a fundamental part of the civil parking enforcement process and ensures a transparent and independent review process, the costs of which are accommodated within the overall civil parking enforcement budget. It would be inappropriate to comment in any further detail until matters are concluded with the current appeals process.</p>