

Report of the Cabinet Member for Future Generations

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INQUIRY PANEL PANEL DATE – 17 October 2017

IMPACT REPORT: SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Purpose	To help the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to assess the impact of their report into Building Sustainable Communities
Content	This report deals with three questions related to the impact of the inquiry: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?2. Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?3. What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?
The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the contents of the report• Reach conclusions about the impact of the inquiry
Lead Councillor(s)	Cabinet Member for Future Generations – June Burtonshaw and Mary Sherwood
Lead Officer(s)	Tracey McNulty – Head of Culture and Tourism Rachel Moxey – Head and Poverty and Prevention Sue Reed – Community Recreation Development Manager Jane Whitmore – Partnership, Performance and Commissioning Manager
Report Author	Sue Reed – Community Recreation Development Manager

1. Introduction

1.1 The Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook an in-depth inquiry in 2015/16. The resulting final report is attached at Appendix B. The Cabinet Member response and action plan are attached at Appendix C.

1.2 The reporting timeline of the inquiry is as follows:

Commenced	26 Nov 15
Agreed by the Scrutiny Programme Committee	12 Sep 16
Presented to Cabinet	20 Oct 16
Cabinet Response agreed	19 Jan 17

1.3 The final stage of the scrutiny inquiry process is the follow up. It is at this point that the original panel reconvenes in order to assess the impact of the work.

1.4 The purpose of this report is to assist the panel as it seeks to answer the following three questions, each of which will be dealt with in detail below:

- What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?
- Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?
- What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?

2. What has changed since the report was presented to Cabinet?

2.1 Since the inquiry concluded the following changes [to the measure] have taken place. Community Action has been removed as a measure against this priority as it is a workstream for Sustainable Swansea, Fit for the Future and not a 'service' provision.

3. Have the agreed recommendations been implemented?

3.1 In responding to the inquiry an action plan was drawn up showing what steps would be taken to implement all of the scrutiny recommendations agreed by Cabinet (Appendix A).

3.2 The table at Appendix C shows progress against each recommendation and specifically:

- the Cabinet decision in respect of each recommendation
- the action taken / proposed to implement the recommendations
- the responsible officer(s)
- timescales involved

4. What has been the impact of the scrutiny inquiry?

4.1 Local elected members becoming aware and supporting local groups which exist across the authority and encouraging people to engage with services.

APPENDIX A

Scrutiny Inquiry of Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel Cabinet Action Plan

	Recommendation	Action already being undertaken	New Action Proposed	Timescale	Responsible Officer
1.	<p>Develop a communication plan which should include</p> <p>a) Undertaking a campaign to promote the role of volunteers including celebrating and valuing the role and highlighting benefits of volunteering.</p> <p>b) Publicity and promotion of successful Community Action projects more widely, using for example individual success stories.</p> <p>c) Being clear about what assets and services are available for Community Action and communicating these proactively to communities and local councillors.</p> <p>d) Holding an annual open day or community fayre for community facilities and community groups designed to improve communication, networking and</p>	<p>a) There are a number of volunteer recruitment and promotion campaigns underway in specific service areas, in particular: Friends of Parks; Museums; Galleries; Libraries; Archives; Community Centres; Sports Development have very successful programmes including training and development for volunteers and young Ambassadors. Annual awards are also held for some areas eg. Swansea Sports Awards; Green Flag Awards; Fields in Trust.</p>	<p>Volunteering campaign: we support 'volunteer week' provided by SCVS and display flags to indicate our support of volunteering in early summer;</p> <p>The Community Centres have regular open days and celebration days for volunteers and community participation to find out more. This will include Parks Friends going forward.</p>	6months	Tracey McNulty

	<p>to share information, good practice and training opportunities. This should include information and opportunities for Community Action.</p>	<p>b) press releases and good news stories are issued and published on the Council website's dedicated Community Action pages, as and when they come to fruition; c) The Asset register/audit has been completed and this identifies the status of Council assets in terms of whether they are surplus to need. All others are key to providing continued services or facilities for the community. We respond quickly to enquiries and expressions of interest but we don't promote services or facilities as being 'available' to be taken on unless we have acknowledged they are at risk of closure/ cessation of service provision. d) We hold regular events and community</p>			
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		days for a wide network of groups including presentations on Community Action to Community Forums and Councils.			
<p>COMPLETED – YES</p> <p>Progress: A joint forum meeting between Friends of Parks and Community Centre Committee members took place in June 2017 and it has been agreed that this will continue annually to share best practice, individually the groups will meet separately quarterly. Community recreation Development team report that there has been a dramatic increase in requests to form Friends groups and have therefore produced an information booklet to guide them through the process.</p>					
2.	Investigate the viability of having an annual Lord Mayor's Award for Community Work.	There are already several Awards for community work, hosted by CCS as well as others including the Wave/Swansea Sound. We've recently seen the success of the Lord Mayor's Awards for outstanding contributions to Swansea for ambassadors/individuals of note. The Council and partners	Investigate the inclusion of an overall award for Community Work with the Lord Mayor's office.	6months	Tracey McNulty

		<p>are developing a proposal for a 'Celebrating Swansea Together' series of events, culminating in a parade or similar, to show the Council's commitment to the community cohesion agenda, working with key partners from public and third sectors. One of the events includes the proposal for a Swansea Stars/Good Neighbour award. Further information will be available in January.</p>	<p>Progress as at Oct 17:</p>		
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COMPLETED – YES

Progress: Our Abertawe: Celebrating Swansea Together event, took place on Saturday 4 March, 2017. The event was successfully attended with a view that it would encourage positive connections and forge stronger relationships between Swansea's growing, diverse, multi-cultural population. Discussions are currently ongoing with regard to the event taking place in June 2018.

3.	Ensure that the Third Sector Strategy includes an updated Compact agreement.	Part of the Councils agreement with SCVS through the Change Fund is to work in partnership to develop a Third Sector Strategy which will include an up dated Compact arrangement. Consultation and engagement has taken place with the third sector in relation to what should be included in this document to ensure the sector is developed and fit for the future.	Maintain the current direction of travel to ensure this is in place by March 2017 Progress as at Oct 17 :	6months	Jane Whitmore
COMPLETED – YES					
<p>Progress: A new Third Sector Strategy has been drafted, which has included an updated Compact Agreement. Input and involvement from the third sector was sought as part of their annual conference in June 2017. The views of the sector then fed into the draft version of the Third Sector Strategy/Compact Agreement. The draft version has been shared with the sector for further input before sign off through the formal channel, which is likely to be in November 2017. To ensure this is co-produced a series of workshops have been set up prior to formal sign off. The sector have been fully engaged in this piece of work and welcomes the participation and involvement in this development along with developing the remodel of the Change Fund for 18/19.</p>					
4.	Undertake a mapping exercise to understand what advice, guidance and support is out there	This has been undertaken as part of bringing advice on	Ensure we keep this up to date.	6months	Tracey McNulty

	for community groups and volunteers across Swansea.	Community Action together in one place with signposting, information, advice and guidance provided by SCVS; Cultural Services; Estates; Corporate Property and Poverty & Prevention colleagues. Discussions have taken place with the Welsh Football Trust in relation to advice, guidance and support for football clubs in Swansea.			
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Progress as at Oct 17 :

COMPLETED – YES

Progress: Toolkits for Community Groups have been produced and include; Setting up of Friends Groups, Setting up and Developing Community Groups and Community Building Induction Pack for new voluntary management committee members available via community development/action webpages together with hard copies if required from the Community Development Service.

5.	Conduct a piece of work that considers the information needs of Community Action applicants from the user perspective.	This has been undertaken and information is now all available in one place, including guidance on the process, timelines, criteria, requirements	Maintain the current resource and processes in place.	6months	Tracey McNulty
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		and sample documents and contacts. Officers also hold regular face to face meetings to talk users through the information and guide them during the process.	Progress as at Oct 17:		
COMPLETED – YES					
Progress: Process is as previously and Estates and Community Development Manager liaise frequently.					
6.	All information on Community Action, the Transformation Fund, training, advice and guidance for groups and volunteers is available from one place.	This is already in place on the Council website – with access and signposting from SCVS and from face to face meetings with groups and volunteers. Advice, guidance and support is provided throughout the process.	Maintain the current resource and processes in place. Progress as at Oct 17 :	6months	Tracey McNulty
COMPLETED – YES					
Progress: Process is as previously and maintained by the Community Recreation Development Manager who also meets frequently with the Volunteer Centre Officer within SCVS.					

7.	Involve SCVS in the option appraisal stage of future Commissioning Reviews, when appropriate.	Put forward to colleagues with responsibility for governance of and implementing Reviews and is welcomed where appropriate.	Engage SCVS alongside the Community Action officers input when engaging in the options appraisals whenever the opportunity arises. Progress as at Oct 17 :	Ongoing	All Commissioning leads across services
<p>COMPLETED – YES / Ongoing</p> <p>Progress: An example to date is that there are two internal cross cutting reviews looking at Adult Community Learning and Welfare Benefits. SCVS were involved at the scoping stage and will be involved in the options development together with Citizens Advice. These examples of good practice will be shared with other commissioning reviews going forward.</p>					
8.	Proactively link community groups, community councils and volunteers with the possibilities that are available for Community Action.	Officers regularly present on Community Action to community groups; councils and Friends groups or other smaller groups of volunteers; signpost them to the Community Action information and other relevant officers and support them through the process for expressing interest in facilities/ services that	Continue to ensure that Community Action is a consideration, with appropriate steps in place, during Commissioning Reviews and annual budget setting so that new opportunities can be captured and shared.	6-9months	Tracey McNulty / Commissioning leads

		could be sustained through Community Action. Possibilities of Community Action are known once a group has already expressed an interest and it has been assessed, or if a facility/ service has been appraised as being appropriate for volunteers /community groups to maintain during a commissioning review, or through budget setting, if the facility or service is under threat of cessation/closure or reductions.			
<p>COMPLETED – YES</p> <p>Progress: Awareness has been raised about working together with communities to meet the challenges ahead but also bearing in mind that many communities do not have the capacity to sustain services without support from the Council.</p>					
9.	Encourage and support mixed economy applications (more than one organisations working together to make application for asset or service viable and accessible to smaller groups)	This is key factor of a successful Community Action project and groups/volunteers and organisations are introduced or encouraged to work together; open up	A register of interest can be made available within parameters of the Community Action guidance; Current information to be monitored and enhanced where	Ongoing	Tracey McNulty

		facilities to other organisations or develop new ways of working together.	appropriate. Progress as at Oct 17:		
COMPLETED – YES					
Progress: Community Asset Transfer Policy encourages partnerships to ensure sustainability. An example of which is currently been reviewed by Cabinet.					
10.	Develop peer to peer networks and mentoring programmes to help share expertise and support across community groups particularly around assisting new groups and with their longer term sustainability.	Groups and organisations are introduced to each other and meetings and forums are facilitated with examples of good practice shared. We also supply templates and 'dummy' copies of key documents such as leases; constitutions; terms of reference; agm's etc. and advise groups on governance. We request larger groups and organisations that received funding support from us previously to do the same for smaller groups	Link this in with our promotional activity and open days; Enhanced what's already in place in partnership with third sector.	Ongoing	Tracey McNulty

			Progress as at Oct 17:		
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COMPLETED – YES

Progress: Model Constitutions, Licence and Lease for use by community groups is included with the Information packs previously mentioned. Community Development Officers are also able to provide governance support and guidance to voluntary groups.