

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) **Regional Working** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

Key Question: How can the Council, with its partners, develop and improve regional working for the benefit of Swansea and its residents?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Scrutiny Inquiry into Regional Working started on the 2 October with a strategic overview given by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. The panel met again on the 30 October to look at the financial picture as it relates to regional working and Swansea. The next step will be to get the different Directorate perspectives starting with place on the 13 November and then Education on 1 December.

Projected End Date: March 2018.

NB - An inquiry into the Swansea’s Natural Environment is anticipated to commence at the end of 2017 / early 2018.

2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
School Governance	16 Jun 2016	6	2	4	25 Sep 2017 (complete)
		Response to other 4 recommendations: Action already in place			
Building Sustainable Communities	19 Jan 2017	10	0	0	17 Oct 2017 (complete)
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services	16 Feb 2017	13	1	1	15 Nov 2017
School Readiness	15 Jun 2017	9	0	0	Mar 2018
Tackling Poverty	15 Jun 2017	12	1	2	Mar 2018

3. Performance Panels:

a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

On 4 October the Panel looked at the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report and had the Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring Update and Local Government Performance Bulletin. The Panel also scrutinised the Public Protection Commissioning Review on the 16th October. Coming up on 1 November will be the Recycling and Landfill Annual Performance Monitoring, the mid-year budget statement and the Reserves update.

b) **Schools Performance** (convener: Cllr Mo Sykes)

The Panel have so far met three times, the first of which was planning the coming years work, they then received an update on progress with the Education Other Than At School Services (EOTAS) improvements and then in October received an update on the School Improvement Services and the 21st Century Schools Programme. On 16 November the Panel will go out to Olchfa School to meet with them and Parklands Primary Headteacher and Chairs of Governors about the 'Curriculum for Wales: Curriculum for Life Pioneer Schools' and the two schools collaboration work.

c) **Public Services Board** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

The first meeting was an update and overview of the Wellbeing Assessment and Wellbeing Plan. The meeting on 25 October will look at the Domestic Abuse and Ageing Well Work Streams. The December meeting will focus on scrutiny of the draft Wellbeing Plan.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

The Panel met on 30 October to consider the Quarter 2 Performance Management Report and Performance and Progress on the Leaving Care System. The next meeting on 14 November will undertake pre decision scrutiny on the Family Support Services Commissioning Review – Focusing on Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities.

e) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Peter Black)

The Panel met on 10 October and considered the latest Adult Services Performance Management Report and a report on how the Council's Policy Commitments translate to Adult Services. The Panel will meet again on 21 November to consider Demand Management including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and to receive a presentation on the Western Bay Programme.

f) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

The Panel had their initial meeting on 7 September and had an overview from Phil Holmes on the current development projects being undertaken in Swansea. The next meeting is planning to focus on the business plans which will inform the development projects.

3. Regional Scrutiny:

a) **Education Through Regional Working**

A regional scrutiny councillors group has been set up in order to coordinate scrutiny work and ensure a consistent approach across the six councils participating in ERW. At present this involves two meetings per year. Swansea is represented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and Convener of the Schools Performance Panel.

The Group met on 29 September 2017 and was hosted by Powys Council. The group discussed the ERW Business Plan, Performance Management and met a representative of Estyn to look at the new inspection regime for local authorities, ERW and individual schools. The next meeting will take place on 9 March 2018 and will be hosted by Carmarthen.

Swansea's Scrutiny Team is providing the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

4. Working Groups:

A number of topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups.

a) **Emergency Planning & Resilience** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

On the 11 October the Working Group had a service overview from Craig Gimblett. The Panel found the meeting very interesting and informative. A letter has been sent to the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation and Business Operations and a response is awaited. This will be reported to the committee as soon as it is received.

b) **Community Cohesion & Hate Crime** (convener: Cllr Elliot King)

This Working Group will meet on 14 November to enable information and discussion / questions about the council's work to support and promote community cohesion and tackle issues and effectiveness, and consider the current situation. The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities will attend the meeting.

c) Car Park Charges (convener: Cllr Will Thomas)

Based on concerns raised this will enable scrutiny councillors to ask about:

- the impact / effectiveness of increase in winter charges and generally (beaches and city centre) and complaints from businesses (challenge of council raising income versus business development)
- price rises contributing to fewer people visiting Gower and the City Centre and discouraging tourism
- loss of city centre footfall to out of town shopping precincts as people can park there for free
- how we compare with elsewhere

The Working Group meeting will take place on 28 November at 4.00pm.

d) Roads & Footway Maintenance (convener: tbc)

This is an area of public concern and will enable scrutiny councillors to ask about the situation in Swansea and work / measures to tackle problems, with reference to:

- service practices and procedures (e.g. dealing with pot holes)
- use of resources / impact of budget cuts
- quality and effectiveness of maintenance and repair
- efforts to minimise disruption to major access roads
- challenges / improvement issues

e) Local Flood Risk Management (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

This is an annual recurring item in the work programme.

The working group will meet on 20 February to receive an annual update to monitor progress on the delivery of the Flood Risk Management Plan. The Cabinet Member for Environment Services will attend to update the group.

Further Working Groups to be convened, in the order of priority shown (membership / conveners to be appointed in due course):

1. Homelessness

This will enable information and discussion / questions on the draft Homelessness Strategy, and performance of relevant services.

2. Renewable Energy

This will enable information and discussion / questions on the Council's aims and objectives, development projects / initiatives, and progress in the promotion and use of renewable energy, and benefits. This topic is relevant to the

aims of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and sustainable development.

3. Digital Inclusion

This will enable councillors to follow up on the Working Group meeting held in March 2017. At that meeting the Working Group detailed a number of issues to be considered as part of a review of the digital inclusion strategy. Councillors will be able to consider how well prepared both the Council itself and the public is to use digital technology.

4. Bus Services

This will enable information and discussion / questions about the relationship between the Council and service providers e.g. progress with the agreement of a Quality Bus Contract, and consider current service issues.

5. Public Conveniences

This will enable information and discussion / questions on public convenience provision / access in Swansea, and relevant concerns.