



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair
Scrutiny Programme Committee

Please ask for:
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BY EMAIL

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Our Ref / Ein Cyf: WE/CM
Your Ref / Eich
Cyf:
Date / Dyddiad: 31 October 2016

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.**

Dear Councillor Jones

CABINET MEMBERS QUESTION SESSION – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Thank you for your letter dated 11th October 2016 and I respond as follows.

Tackling Poverty Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

I will liaise with the convener of the Tackling Poverty Scrutiny Inquiry Panel on the key issues arising from the Integrated Impact Assessment of the Poverty Strategy and how it might impact the revised strategy. A document was produced by officers earlier this year, but has not undergone any formal process of adoption. I therefore welcome the scrutiny approach and am keen to view the outcome of the inquiry, which will in turn be used to inform new strategy development.

Community Cohesion

You asked me to consider making regular reports about community cohesion. As officers collect information on a quarterly basis around all key issues, I will be happy to provide you with key figures and statistics via an annual briefing note to all ward councillors following the end of the financial year (subject to continued funding availability).

COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
WILLIAM EVANS
CABINET MEMBER FOR ANTI POVERTY & COMMUNITIES /
AELOD Y CABINET DROS WRTHDLODI A CHYMUNEDAU

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Homelessless

In relation to Cllr Ioan Richard's query about families apparently living in tents, I can confirm this has been investigated thoroughly and Cllr Richard has received a detailed direct reply accordingly.

Our Housing Options Service has a strong partnership with local charities who offer Outreach Services to rough sleepers locally. Reducing rough sleeping is a key strategic priority in homelessness terms. Two particular geographical areas were highlighted by Cllr Richard where tents had been seen. These have both been visited. We are certain that this is a couple that services have been supporting for some time. At the time of the original query they had recently moved from one location noted by Cllr Richard to the other, these being from the Enterprise Zone site to the old Copperworks site on the East bank of the river respectively. The couple in question are very well known to Housing Options and the Rough Sleeping Intervention Team. A number of housing solutions have been tried over the last few years but have unfortunately failed.

I am assured that we will continue to work with the couple to try and find a solution to their difficult situation. Importantly it should be noted we are not aware of any families with children living in tents in Swansea currently.

Levels of rough sleeping are monitored closely and Outreach Services are offered to anyone noted as needing assistance. Every Local Authority in Wales is required to carry out a rough sleeper count annually. The count is undertaken in November.

We would encourage members of the public to refer anyone seen rough sleeping to Streetlink Wales or to contact Housing Options. Information from the public is very important as this enables the Council to take a coordinated approach and ensures that every rough sleeper is given appropriate advice and assistance. All referrals will be visited the next working day.

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If Rough Sleeping within the City Centre then clients have access to toilet facilities at Zac's Place, Access Point and various church led drop in centres. Outreach teams do strongly encourage clients to dispose of their refuse and provide black bags for them to do this.

Rough sleeping can be a very complex issue and no one solution will be suitable for all. We do however have robust mechanisms in place to offer support, assistance and help for those who need it most.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR WILLIAM EVANS
CABINET MEMBER FOR ANTI POVERTY & COMMUNITIES

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