

## **APPENDIX 1: The Leader's Portfolio - Key Headlines**

### **1. Regeneration Strategy and Major Projects Lead, including City Centre redevelopment**

The city centre redevelopment has taken major steps forward with significant progress on the key City deal Swansea Central and Kingsway schemes.

#### Swansea Central – Phase 1

Phase 1 of Swansea Central will progress to the end of Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 2 Stage by the end of December, while the construction contract procurement commenced on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The arena, car parks and public realm will be completed 31st July 2020. Negotiations with Ambassador Theatre Group are at an advanced stage and they are expected to sign before Christmas. The scheme includes an Arena, south side car park with play area/parkland on top, digital square, serviced site for hotel, covered digital bridge, multi storey car park on north side incorporating residential units and A3, north side public realm, demolition and meanwhile uses.

#### Swansea Central – Phase 2

Work has been undertaken to consider the scope of phase 2 of Swansea Central with discussions ongoing with potential tenants for the leisure and retail opportunities, and with Swansea University regarding taking space in the development.

#### Kingsway – Infrastructure and Public Realm

The Kingsway's new public realm and road layout has received positive feedback during the public drop-ins held on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The enabling works contract has been awarded to the Swansea Highway Partnership, who have started on site. The main contract is out to tender and the main works will commence in mid-February 2018. Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) funding has been approved as a contribution to overall costs.

#### Kingsway – Property and Employment Hub

Initial designs have been prepared to RIBA stage 2. A professional team is being procured to undertake detailed design, secure planning permission and deliver on site. Discussions with potential occupiers are underway.

#### Castle Square

Cabinet has agreed to progress the development of Castle Square with the Council undertaking the role of developer. Funding has been identified to appoint a development manager and professional team to take forward delivery. The scheme could see new restaurant units in Castle Square and re-imagined public space.

### Mariner Street

Planning consent has been secured by the developer for 750 student units and ground floor retail. It is expected site investigations will start imminently.

### Hafod Morfa Copperworks

The restoration of the Powerhouse at the Hafod Morfa Copperworks will see it become the home of Penderyn's new distillery and visitor experience, with expected completion in 2020. Heritage Lottery Funding will provide their decision on the Heritage Enterprise Fund award in May 2018.

### Skyline

The Skyline Board have decided to proceed with the scheme, draft Heads of Terms has been circulated to Skyline to progress the cable car and luge proposal which could see the Copperworks become a tourist and leisure hub.

### Wider Regeneration and Strategic Sites

There has been good progress in bringing forward development opportunities outside of the city centre. Felindre Business Park, and Tregof residential sites located at Swansea Vale will come to the market at the beginning of 2018. Parc Tawe has witnessed a major refurbishment by Hammerson, which has provided a new café and frontage for Plantasia. A new housing development at Trawler Road and new Medical Centre in Mayhill will also be completed early in 2018.

## **2. City Deal Governance & Projects (including 5G)**

The Swansea City & Waterfront Digital District business plan will be submitted to government at the end of December. The advertisement for the Economic Strategy Board Chair has now been published and promoted by all City Deal partners until the close of the advertising period on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The City Deal Communications and Marketing Officer post has also been advertised. An amended version of the draft Joint Committee Agreement is being prepared for consideration and a revised Implementation Plan is being prepared for submission to UK & Welsh governments for agreement. Shadow Programme Board meetings continue to take place.

The Regional Office is finalising the Swansea Bay City Deal programme business case. This is the strategic case which both UK and WG has requested outlining the overall City Deal. The Regional Office continues to meet with, and provide support to, the Project Leads in the development of their individual Full Business Cases. Two business cases are currently being appraised by the UK & Welsh Governments. A further two first draft business cases have been received for initial Regional Office feedback for the regional Digital Infrastructure project and the Life Science & Well-being Village. Mike Galvin (formerly of BT) is now leading the Regional Digital Infrastructure Project (including 5G component). A Local Full Fibre Network workshop has taken place in Cardiff with representation from the Swansea Bay region.

### **3. Planning Policy (regional)**

The Council is working closely with WG and other Councils within the City Region to progress regional planning policy.

A National Development Framework (NDF) due for publication in September 2020 will replace the existing Wales Spatial Plan. It will set out a twenty-year spatial framework for land use in Wales and provide a context for the provision of new infrastructure and growth within the region. In April 2018, the Welsh Government will be undertaking a 12 week formal public consultation on spatial options and objectives for inclusion in the NDF.

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 provides a legal framework for Councils to collaboratively prepare Strategic Development Plans (SDPs). This allows regional planning issues such as housing demand, strategic employment sites and supporting transport infrastructure, which cut across a number of local planning authorities, to be considered and planned for in an integrated and comprehensive way. Universal coverage of SDPs across Wales is not necessary and the Planning (Wales) Act does not specify where SDPs should be prepared to allow for future flexibility, although as one of the largest urban areas Swansea is most likely to benefit from this approach. However preparation of an SDP cannot be progressed until the Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) has been adopted – mid/late 2018 at the earliest. The adopted Swansea LDP will also be used to inform the NDF which in turn will likely determine future infrastructure funding for the area/region.

In anticipation of the above, authorities in the City Region have already begun to work in collaboration in terms of gathering evidence on a regional basis to support the preparation of an SDP - for example a six County Housing Needs Study is currently being prepared. In addition, more collaborative regional working arrangements are being explored, with specialist planning services such as ecology, forestry, landscape and minerals already being shared between authorities or provided for one another through service level agreements. Further opportunities for collaborative working are to be considered at the next Regional Heads of Planning meeting in January 2018.

### **4. Finance Strategy & Budget Oversight**

The Council's Statement of Accounts has been signed off and we are in receipt of audit management letters. There are no material issues/qualifications. The Annual Review of Treasury Management, the Review of Reserves and the Mid Term Budget have been reported to Council. The Draft Budget proposals were issued and considered at Cabinet 14<sup>th</sup> December and the Budget consultation process started on this date. The Budget Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is being developed for February 2018. The Council have also undertaken significant lobbying as a Council and via WLGA on budget and local government settlement matters. Financial support from Welsh Government for Band B schools has recently been

successful. Development and near completion of draft of JWA for Swansea Bay City Region Deal – expected to go to Council in January

## **5. Public Service Board (PSB)**

The Public Service Board has produced the draft Wellbeing Plan for Swansea and it is currently out for consultation and will close on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February following a 12 week period of consultation. The Board is working on completing the steps and action plan that will sit under the Wellbeing Plan. Lead organisations have been identified for each of the objectives, ensuring that delivery of the plan is shared through the partner organisations. The final version of the Plan will come for pre-decision Scrutiny and then to full Council.

A question has been raised by Cllr Peter Jones who has expressed concern that 'Working with Nature', which is a draft PSB well-being objective, is not included in the Council's Corporate Plan. He has asked whether I will be taking steps to remedy this deficiency, thus enabling the Council to meet its WFG Act obligation under the well-being goal for 'A Resilient Wales'. In terms of addressing this issue, I would like to make the following observations;

The draft PSB Well-being objectives, along with the Council's duty under the Well-being of Future Generations Act Resilience and Global Responsibility Goals, are effectively reflected in the Council's Policy Commitments Statement. In particular paragraphs 4.1, 4.24 and 4.25, which state:

*4.1 Swansea Council will continue to put sustainable development at the heart of all our policies and value and seek to protect Swansea's unique natural and built environment.*

*4.24 We will seek to protect Swansea's natural and built environment by ensuring that any development and major event within the city complies with sustainable development principles*

*4.25 Working in partnership with our public and private sector partners Swansea Council will seek to develop 'Green Infrastructure' in our buildings and estates*

Clearly, the finally agreed PSB Well-being Objectives will require a commitment from the Council as part of the PSB partnership to review the Corporate Plan objectives accordingly - but our existing Well-being Objectives set out in the Corporate Plan together already seek to address and improve environmental well-being.

For example, our *Improving Education & Skills* objective contains a commitment to support schools to become *Eco Schools* increasing understanding, respect and appreciation of our environment.

Our *Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure* objective contains steps to promote the green economy and renewable energy to help tackle climate change. There is a commitment to work with others to provide sustainable and low carbon transport to

reduce environmental impact and improve air quality. There is a specific action to promote biodiversity and protect Swansea's green spaces and parks. Finally, there are steps to improve bathing water quality and support recycling.

The *Tackling Poverty* objective sets out commitments to build more energy efficient housing and tackle climate change through the ARBED scheme and energy efficiency measures in social housing. There are plans to provide free or low cost environmental events, workshops, talks and training courses about wildlife and promoting environmental literacy.

This provides the opportunity to show, in line with the Acts 'integration' principle, that **all** of our well-being objectives **taken together** have a positive benefit on the environment. It helps to show that work to improve Swansea's economy, for example, at the same time can have environmental as well as economic, social and cultural benefits.

## **6. Sustainable Swansea Fit for the Future**

We are continuing with the successful delivery of our budget and change programme – Sustainable Swansea Fit for the Future. We have completed 14 commissioning reviews and are implementing the recommendations, which are being delivered and monitored by services area. There are two remaining commissioning reviews which will be completed by the end of December 2017. In addition there are three commissioning reviews on Cross Cutting Themes – Capital, Services in the Community, Outcomes for Citizens & Integrated Transport - which are currently underway. Scoping work has been completed and options are currently being appraised. In terms of modelling "a Future Council" an Organisational Development draft strategy and plan has been completed. An Organisational Development programme is currently being scoped and developed. Workforce modernisation is currently underway which includes an Absence policy and addresses Zero hr contracts as part of our commitment to develop ethical employment practices

## **7. Tackling Poverty**

Following consultation on the revised Poverty Strategy we intend to complete and publish by the end of December 2018, which will set out our action to empower local people, change cultures to emphasise tackling poverty is everyone's business and target resources to maximise access to opportunity and prosperity. In terms of the actions the Council can take to tackle poverty we are currently;

- helping to address the impacts of Welfare reform, such as supporting people to claim the full benefits they are entitled to so that they are able to maximise their income. Our support to maximise Welfare Benefit claim works alongside efficient processing of housing benefit and council tax reduction to maximise their income.
- working to prevent homelessness and support people to maintain their tenancies to help maintain stability and security for families, safeguard health and well-being and prevent social exclusion. Our low use of temporary accommodation particularly Bed and Breakfast by families, demonstrates our efficiency in supporting people into more permanent places to live.
- implementing the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan. The effectiveness of promoting cohesive and inclusive communities with our partners will be evidenced in good and consistent performance of local community satisfaction indicators

## **8. Regional Working and Collaboration**

New regional working arrangements have also formed a key part of Qtr 2 activities, with the Welsh Government (WG) starting a consultation process following the Local Government Reform announcements. WG has identified those services to be delivered at regional level and the proposed governance arrangements. The Council is progressing its Co-Production Strategy with help from the Welsh Local Government Association and other partners. This will provide the opportunity for local citizens to influence how policies are written and services are developed across the whole Council.

## **9. Communications and Corporate Marketing**

The council continues to have positive relations with the media, both locally and nationally, which has resulted in favourable coverage and helps to communicate with the public and key stakeholders. We also continue to develop our direct communications with the public and stakeholders through social media, online and the Swansea Leader to help promote our priorities and engage people to have their say. Our social media followers are at a record number and the website continues to increase in popularity. We've also delivered a number of high profile campaigns such as the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon and the current Budget consultation to help increase community engagement. As a result, the number of people who feel well informed about the council is 62 per cent which is among the highest on record.