

Council – 25 January 2018

Councillors' Questions

Part A – Supplementaries

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| 1 | <p>Cllrs L Jones, B Rowlands & M Langstone</p> <p>What are Swansea Councils retail offering plans for 2018 in the City Centre.</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>The Council are working up the proposals for Phase 2 of Swansea Central that aims to link new leisure and retail opportunities with the existing city centre, following the delivery of Phase 1 that should act as a catalyst to attract new tenants to the city. In doing so we are working with specialist consultants to identify future retailing trends having regard to market conditions and occupier requirements.</p> <p>Plans regarding the events and activities programme for the City Centre 2018-2019 are also being developed with the delivery of key seasonal events being considered. The Council continues to work closely with Swansea BID (Business Improvement District) and the businesses it represents to help support their priorities.</p> <p>It is still our intention to bring big national and international brands to Swansea and even attract names not operating in the UK presently. We also want to ensure that we support local independent traders to be part of the new city developments.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Cllrs Wendy Fitzgerald, Graham Thomas & Peter Black</p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member inform Council how many new jobs would have been delivered for Swansea had the City of Culture bid been successful and are the bid documents going to be made available to Councillors.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects:</p> <p>Implementing the bid is estimated to have created around 5,000 jobs in addition to the current projections for 2021 as a result of the City Deal projects, plus 5,000 volunteers circa 40 staff within a new delivery company; 1,780 artist contracts supported by 835 production staff (as assessed by programming contributors); 408 jobs in the creative industries growing to 920 by 2030 (as assessed by independent economists Amion); 1,418 additional jobs in the Tourism industries (as assessed by the providers of STEAM data).</p> <p>The bid documents will be published for Members alongside our strategy for driving the cultural agenda forward and building on the learning, outcomes and partnerships that have been generated as a result of this process. We anticipate this being agreed at the end of January.</p> |

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Cllrs M Langstone & WG Thomas

I know the Cabinet Member is aware of issues with rubbish collection in Mumbles, however the problem of missed collections has continued for a long time and there doesn't appear to be a long term strategy to fix this. I'd be grateful for an update on what action the Council intends to take to address the matter.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Services

As the Councillors are aware large parts of Mumbles has relatively narrow streets where refuse and recycling has to be collected using transit tipper type vehicles which are the smallest vehicles that have a viable payload. Unfortunately, there are times when even these vehicles can't gain access to some streets due to inappropriate parking. This means that the waste management team have to visit some streets several times over several days until they are able to make the collection. Where ongoing issues are experienced the waste management team contact the local PCSO and ask that the PCSO visit the area to use enforcement notices as required. This issue isn't restricted to Mumbles alone or just to areas with narrow streets. In some cases inappropriate parking also affects the main rounds meaning that several small vehicles have to go in to areas and do multiple trips to collect waste that should take a few minutes in a 26 tonne RCV. The support of the local ward Member and PCSO is important to ensure cars are parked appropriately so the Council can continue to provide the most effective and efficient service.

I will ask Waste Officers to contact the Ward Members in Mumbles again to seek their support in dealing with parking issues.

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Cllrs Gareth Sullivan, Wendy Fitzgerald & Chris Holley

Why has the Television Screen in the Guildhall Chamber appear to have been abandoned and
(a) why is the quality of the Speaker System poor especially when being used by someone in the Public Gallery and
(b) what was the cost of these apparent inefficient systems.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation & Business Operations:

The television screens in the Guildhall Council Chamber have not been abandoned and are used as required. These screens were never intended to be used at each meeting, but were simply for use if a large number of members of the public attend a meeting and a presentation is being given.

The issue of the hand held mics was addressed several months ago with the intermittent issue being resolved. Should the questioners be aware of new problems, they are asked to bring them to the attention of Officers.

Unfortunately when members of the public do not use the equipment properly (i.e. not keeping the mic to their mouth) this prevents the microphone picking up sound.

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| | <p>The original solution was to have members of the public to come forward from the public gallery in order to ask the question from one or two fixed microphone positions; however Councillors wanted to revert back to Officers taking mics to the public gallery. Officers advice remains the same in that fixed mic positions are the better option.</p> <p>With regards to speakers, no new speakers were installed as part of the council chamber works, existing speakers were utilised in the chamber. The only area where new speakers (sound bars) were installed in the lord mayors reception room as an overflow area when then public gallery is full from 'hearings/events' that would generate larger public audiences. The total cost of these speakers as items were £1,100.</p> <p>With regards to microphones, 1 hand held microphone and receiver was provided at a cost of £510.00; and 1 lapel microphone and receiver at £520.00.</p> <p>All other referred microphones and associated equipment installed were on the chamber desks for attendees.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Cllrs Chris Holley, Graham Thomas & Mary Jones</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member/Leader tell Council what provisions are being made for the future management of the 50 metre pool in connection with Swansea University.</p> <p>Response of the Leader/Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects:</p> <p>The Wales National Pool Swansea (WNPS) board are fully aware of the contractual end date in December 2023 for the agreement that underpins the operation of the pool under the current model.</p> <p>With an end date in the medium term, both funding partners have a shared view that there is a need to strategically review the extent to which financial savings and added strategic and customer value could be delivered through a single management operation of the WNPS facility, as part of an International Sports Village.</p> <p>The WNPS board has endorsed this approach and has appointed one member from the University and one member from CCS to oversee a review which will be concluded by spring 2018.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Cllrs Lynda James, Mary Jones & Chris Holley</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member tell Council what are the costs of setting up Agile working.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation & Business Operations:</p> <p>Agile working is a broad term for the ability for all staff to work more flexibly. It covers not just the physical environment and provision of technology, but also a more flexible HR policy.</p> |

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| | <p>It is difficult to establish the full cost directly attributable to agile working as a large element relates to existing activities that would be required in any event. However, the specific cost for all the appropriate tools such as mobile phones, laptops, docking stations etc., equates to approximately £1,500 per person. Again it is clear though that a large amount of this cost would normally be expected in terms of telephony, computers, etc.</p> <p>There has been an undertaking of minor capital refurbishment works in the Civic Centre to create open plan space, which has used recycled furniture and has recently been the subject of a National Award for the innovative approach.</p> <p>Ultimately the savings that have been made from the implementation of agile working building on the previous Accommodation Strategy is considerably in excess of the cost with revenue savings and income of circa £1.5M per annum.</p> |
| | <p>Part B – No Supplementaries</p> |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Cllrs Lynda James, Mary Jones & Chris Holley</p> <p>With a lot of the proposed development in Swansea going on City Centre Car parks can the Leader tell Council what steps are going to be taken to ensure that there is going to be sufficient space made available for shoppers and businesses.</p> <p>Response of the Leader</p> <p>The developments are planned on a phased basis to ensure maximum provision of car parking is retained in the city centre at all times. Phase 1 of Swansea Central will provide 2 new multi storey car parks, on either side of Oystermouth Road, that builds in potential future demand from Phase 2.</p> <p>The construction phasing will allow us to construct the two new MS car parks before demolishing the existing MS car park so as to ensure sufficient parking capacity remains.</p> |