

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

This Councillor's Annual Report outlines their activities over the year ending **18 May 2016**. It is provided for the information of all constituents and for no other purpose. The views expressed in this report are those of the Councillor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the City and County of Swansea.

Councillor:	Desmond Thomas JP	Electoral Division:	West Cross
--------------------	-------------------	----------------------------	------------

Senior Salary Position:	Chair of Education & Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee
--------------------------------	--

Section 1: Constituency activities

Surgeries held each Monday evening at West Cross Community Centre, alternating attendance with fellow West Cross Councillor Mark Child. Main issue being lack of affordable housing.

Conducted numerous street surgeries across the ward. Instigated many site visits with Officers in order to improve traffic safety issues.

Member of the West Cross Community Centre's Management Committee.

Held quarterly meetings with West Cross Housing Managers and half yearly walkabouts in order to ensure the good management of the estate.

Section 2: Councillor attendance at selected Council body meetings

Attendance at Council body meetings is only one of the important elements of a Councillor's duties. Councillors are also active by holding surgeries, attending meetings and dealing with general electoral division enquiries.

Attendance % based on Committee membership shown below:

Appeals & Awards Committee	2	/	2	100	%
Audit Committee	4	/	7	57	%
Business & Administration Cabinet Advisory Committee	3	/	4	75	%
Constitution Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
Council	18	/	18	100	%
Planning Committee	8	/	8	100	%
OVERALL	36	/	40	90	%
Scrutiny Meetings:					
Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel	5	/	12	42	%
Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group	1	/	1	100	%
Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel	5	/	11	45	%
Tethered Horses Scrutiny Working Group	3	/	3	100	%
OVERALL	14	/	27	52	%

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

Section 3: Councillors role and responsibilities

Presiding Member of Council (Chairman)
Chairman of Constitutional Working Group
Chairman of Chief Officers Disciplinary Committee
Deputy Cabinet Member for Education
Chair of Education & Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee
Member of Council's Planning Committee
Member of Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel
Member of Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel
Governor of Whitestone Primary School and Member of its Finance and Premises Committees.
Governor of Pennard Primary School
President of West Cross Community Centre.

Section 4: Initiatives and Special activities

Arranged numerous site visits in order to improve road safety and environmental issues within West Cross.

Secured sponsorship from local food outlets, for the provision of picnic tables and litter bins on West Cross Village Green.

Responsible, as Chairman of Education & Young People Cabinet Advisory Committee to address the issue of ensuring all our young people are ready for work, training or education when they leave school.

Section 5: Learning and Development

I attended the following training:

04/05/2016 - Development Economics & Financial Viability Training
04/05/2016 - Dismissal Appeals and Collective Grievance
18/04/2016 - Guidance on Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment & Scrutinising Changes to Community Services
13/04/2016 - S.106 Planning Agreements / Obligations
12/04/2016 - Residential Design Guide Refresher Training
08/03/2016 - Wales Planning Act - Development Management Procedures
25/02/2016 - Planning Committee Training - Rights of Way
05/11/2015 - Introduction to Community Engagement
29/10/2015 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Training
12/10/2015 - The Determination of Applications for Town or Village Green Status
08/09/2015 - Appeals and Awards Committee Training
03/06/2015 – School Data (Governor Training)

40 years experience as a Councillor on successive Councils. Member of the Planning Committee for which special training received.

30 years experience as a Justice of the Peace, which helps when chairing Appeals & Awards Committee.

City & County of Swansea - Councillor's Annual Report 2015-2016

Section 6: Other activities and issues

Lifelong member of Trade Union.

Member of the University of the Third Age (U3A).

Member of Mumbles Branch of the Labour Party.

Interested in gardening, sport and keeping fit.

Section 7: Councillors Remuneration

Senior Salary: £22,000

Councillors travel and subsistence claim forms can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13266&path=0&LLL=0>

I only claim for "out of county" expenses.

Councillors annual expenses and allowances can be viewed here:

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13284&path=0&LLL=0>

Date:	18.05.2016
--------------	------------