



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Committee Room 3A, Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 8 January 2018 at 4.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor M H Jones (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

M Durke  
D W Helliwell  
B Hopkins  
I E Mann

**Councillor(s)**

E W Fitzgerald  
T J Hennegan  
P Jones  
G J Tanner

**Councillor(s)**

L S Gibbard  
C A Holley  
E J King

**Co-opted Member(s)**

D Anderson-Thomas  
J W Jones

**Co-opted Member(s)**

P M Black

**Co-opted Member(s)**

P R Hood-Williams

**Officer(s)**

Sarah Caulkin  
Kate Jones  
Brij Madahar  
Phil Roberts  
Stephanie Williams

Interim Director of Resources  
Democratic Services Officer  
Scrutiny Team Leader  
Chief Executive  
Principal Lawyer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): S E Crouch, J P Curtice, C R Evans, M Sykes and W G Thomas

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**81 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

**82 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.**

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

**83 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 11 December 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**84 Public Question Time.**

There were no public questions.

**85 Cabinet Member Question Session: Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy (Councillor Rob Stewart)**

The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy provided a verbal address further to the written report circulated.

The Leader specifically highlighted the following: -

- City Regeneration
  - Swansea Central
  - Kingsway
  - Castle Square
  - Mariner Street
  - Skyline
- City Deal
- Budget
- Public Services Board

The Chief Executive and Interim Director of Resources were also present to assist the question and answer session.

Questions and Discussions with the Leader focussed on the following: -

- Availability of Business Plan for the Arena and the agreement with Ambassador Theatre Group
- Competitiveness of the Arena and likely acts the Arena may attract
- Sufficient provision of hotels to accommodate additional visitors to Swansea
- City Deal – Development of Joint Working Agreement, and submission of business plans in order to draw down funds
- Funding / Governance of Cross Cutting Projects such as the Skills & Talent Initiative
- Involvement of Colleges / Universities and Industry in the Skills & Talent Initiative
- Relationship between Public Services Board (PSB) priorities and the Council' Corporate Plan – suggested incorporation of Natural Environment / Biodiversity to the Corporate Plan to mirror the PSB's 'Working with Nature'
- Hafod Morfa Copper works – impact on the Warehouse and Landore Park & Ride
- Tidal Lagoon – still awaiting decision from UK Government
- Felindre Business Park – effect of development opportunities on current parking on the site
- External Funding Panel – support for funding to Hillside Animal Sanctuary
- Upcoming budget scrutiny meetings

**Resolved** that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Leader, reflecting the discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

**86 Scrutiny Performance Panel Progress Reports.**

As Convener of the Panel, Councillor Peter Black presented a report on the progress of the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel. He reflected on meetings held since August and highlighted some of the key issues / concerns within Adult Services, for example in respect of Domiciliary Care, bed blocking, allocation of care packages and budget overspend.

Specific issues were raised by committee members on Local Area Co-ordinators and evaluation of the same, Direct Payments and frequency / methods of payment as well as the re-evaluation of care needs following a period of hospitalisation.

Councillor Black referred to the Panel's work plan and agreed to raise the issues highlighted by Committee Members with relevant Officers at future meetings.

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

**87 Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.**

The Chair presented a report on Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups. Having invited expressions of interest from scrutiny councillors to participate in the inquiry on Swansea's Natural Environment, the proposed membership was verbally reported to the Committee for agreement.

**Resolved** that the membership of the Natural Environment Inquiry Panel be agreed as follows:

**Labour Councillors:**

Louise Gibbard	<b>Peter Jones (CONVENER)</b>
Yvonne Jardine	Hazel Morris

**Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors:**

Wendy Fitzgerald	Jeff Jones
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**Conservative Councillor:**

Paxton Hood-Williams	
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**Uplands Councillor:**

Irene Mann	
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**88 Scrutiny Dispatches - Quarterly Impact Report.**

The Chair presented a draft of the Quarterly Impact Report from the Scrutiny Programme Committee 2017/18.

The report intended to demonstrate scrutiny achievements and outcomes, and the impact and difference made.

**Resolved** that the content of the draft 'Scrutiny Dispatches' be agreed and submitted to Council on 25 January 2018

**89 Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18.**

The Chair updated the Committee on the Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18. It was highlighted that: -

- Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Services would be attending the next Scrutiny Programme Committee for the Question and Answer Session. The Committee was prompted to give thought to possible questions.
- A Special Scrutiny Programme Committee was scheduled for 5 March 2018 for Crime and Disorder Scrutiny. The Joint Chairs of the Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership would be attending to discuss the performance of the partnership.
- A request has been made for the Archive Service to be added to the list of future Working Groups in the work programme.

Referring to the Cabinet Forward Plan, the Chair also proposed that Pre-Decision Scrutiny be carried out on the Cabinet report on 'Management of Allotments' scheduled for 15 February Cabinet meeting.

**Resolved** that: -

- 1) the cabinet report on 'Management of Allotments' be added to the Committee meeting agenda for 12 February;
- 2) The Archive Service be added to the Scrutiny Work Programme as a future Working Group.

**90 Scrutiny Letters.**

The Chair presented a report on Scrutiny Letters. Correspondence relating to the committee's pre-decision scrutiny of the Liberty Stadium lease arrangements was included.

**Resolved** that the contents of the report be noted.

**91 Audit Committee Work Plan (For Information).**

The Audit Committee Workplan was noted.

**92 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel / Working Group Meetings.**

The dates and times of upcoming Panel / Working Group meetings were noted.

**93 Exclusion of the Public.**

The Committee was requested to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business identified in the recommendations to the report on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exclusion paragraph 14 of 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2007, relevant to the item of business as set out in the report.

The Committee considered the Public Interest Test in deciding to exclude the public from the meeting for the items of business where the Public Interest Test was relevant, as set out in the report.

It was **Resolved** that the public be excluded for the following item of business.

**94 Scrutiny Letters.**

The Chair presented the Scrutiny Letters in respect of the Oceana building demolition.

**Resolved** that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Health and Safety Executive about their involvement in the building demolition and advice provided to the Council.

The meeting ended at 5.45 pm

**Chair**