



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 12 February 2018

Cabinet Member Question Session

Purpose:	To enable the Committee to question Cabinet Members on their work. The Committee's questions will broadly explore Cabinet Members' priorities, actions, achievements and impact in relation to areas of responsibility.
Content:	The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee to participate in a question and answer session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Services
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question the Cabinet Member on relevant matters• Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Business Intelligence
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1. Introduction

1.1 One of the most important roles that scrutiny carries out is holding the council's cabinet to account. The cabinet is made up of the Leader and 9 additional councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific responsibilities:

Cllr Rob Stewart	- Economy & Strategy (Leader)
Cllr Clive Lloyd	- Service Transformation & Business Operations (Deputy Leader)
Cllr Jennifer Raynor	- Children, Education & Lifelong Learning
Cllr David Hopkins	- Commercial Opportunities & Innovation

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies	- Culture, Tourism & Major Projects
Cllr Mark Thomas	- Environment Services
Cllr June Burtonshaw /	- Future Generations
Cllr Mary Sherwood	
Cllr Mark Child	- Health & Wellbeing
Cllr Andrea Lewis	- Housing, Energy & Building Services
Cllr Will Evans	- Stronger Communities

1.2 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and monitor performance in relation to their areas of responsibilities.

1.3 Cabinet Member Question Sessions have become a main feature of Committee meetings. At least one cabinet member is scheduled to appear at each monthly Committee meeting, ensuring all Cabinet Members appear before the Committee over the course of a year, in order to ask questions on their work. Questions will focus on their priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

2. Cabinet Member Question Session

2.1 The following Cabinet Member will appear before the Committee:

a) Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Services

Within this cabinet portfolio, he is responsible for:

- Local Transport Policy
- Parking
- Highways & Engineering
- Waste Management & Recycling
- Regional Collaborations for Transport, Highways & Waste
- Streetscene
- Infrastructure Repairs and Maintenance
- Sustainable Transport
- Pothole Task Force
- Fly Tipping Task Force
- Environmental Health
- Public Protection
- Tend & Mend
- Green Transport & Green Vehicle Adoption (incl. infrastructure works)
- All Grass Cutting Services
- Poverty Reduction
- Lead Elements of Sustainable Swansea

3. Approach to Questions

3.1 At the Cabinet Member Question Sessions the Committee will generally ask cabinet members about:

- priorities / objectives
- specific activities and achievements, progress against policy commitments, key decisions taken, and impact / difference made
- headlines on the performance of services and the key targets monitored to measure improvement and success
- their engagement with service users / public and what influence this has had
- what they hope to achieve over the coming months and challenges (e.g. resources / budget)
- key decisions they are expecting to take to Cabinet over the next year
- interactions with scrutiny over the last year, and whether there is any specific scrutiny activity they would welcome

3.2 The Committee will also be interested in:

- Sustainability and future trends - to what extent long-term thinking is influencing work / decisions, in light of the Well-being of Future Generations Act?
- Public Services Board (PSB) – what is their relationship with the work of the PSB? how is the work of the PSB impacting on their portfolio and helping them to deliver on priorities, and making a difference?

3.3 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee. The Cabinet Member has provided some 'headlines' in relation to the portfolio to help the Committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact – see **Appendix 1**.

3.4 Following the session the chair will write to the Cabinet Member in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for the Cabinet Member to consider.

3.5 If the Committee wishes to conduct more detailed scrutiny of any of the issues raised during this item then this should be agreed through the normal work planning process and planned for a future meeting. This will also allow proper time for preparation.

4. Previous Correspondence

4.1 Amongst the issues discussed during the relevant Q & A session last year (November 2016) included:

- Waste Management and Recycling
- Bus Services
- Parking Enforcement
- Park and Ride Provision
- Street / Highway Works
- Road Safety
- Tawe Barrage
- Dog Fouling
- Street Lighting

Relevant correspondence between the committee and cabinet member is attached, as the Committee may wish to follow up on these issues and previous discussion, as necessary. Note: this session was with Councillor David Hopkins.

4.2 Other relevant contact with scrutiny since November 2016:

Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Panel:

- Parks & Cleansing - The Panel carried out pre-decision scrutiny of the Parks & Cleansing Commissioning Review in December 2016.
- Recycling & Landfill – The Panel annually looks at recycling & landfill performance and did so in December 2016 and November 2017
- Public Protection - The Panel carried out pre-decision scrutiny of the Public Protection Commissioning Review in October 2017

Local Flood Risk Management Working Group:

The scrutiny work programme includes a standing annual Working Group to discuss plans, activities and preparedness in relation to local flood risk management. A meeting was held in March 2017.

Car Park Charges Working Group:

A meeting was held in November to discuss a range of concerns about car park provision and charges. The Working Group wrote to the Cabinet Member with its views and recommendations. The correspondence with the Cabinet Member, including his response, is included in this agenda pack within item 11 (scrutiny letters)

Tethered Horses Working Group:

An issue originally discussed in early 2016, the Cabinet Member attended the Working Group in January 2018 to provide update on the current situation, explain how things have changed / improved since the scrutiny in 2016, and identify any issues outstanding.

Roads & Footway Maintenance Working Group:

The Cabinet Member attended a meeting in January 2018 which enabled questions and discussion on the current service, issues and challenges.

The Cabinet Member will also be engaged in the following planned / future activities:

- Natural Environment Inquiry
- Local Flood Risk Management Working Group – 20 February
- Bus Services Working Group
- Public Conveniences Working Group

5. Other Questions

5.1 For each Cabinet Member Q & A Session the Committee invites members of the public and other scrutiny councillors (not on the Committee) to suggest questions.

5.2 The committee has been asked to raise concerns about the following with the Cabinet Member:

- Incidents of Fly tipping and cost to the Authority
- Rules regarding vehicle entry / acceptance of household waste at Civic Amenity Sites, and possible link between refusal of waste and flytipping
- Information / Awareness Raising efforts to increase use of Civic Amenity Sites
- Policing / Enforcement to check if relevant businesses hold Waste Carrier Licenses

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Environment Services Portfolio – Key Headlines

Appendix 2: Previous Correspondence