

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions at Council
20 September 2018**

1.	<p>Councillor P M Black</p> <p>In relation to Agenda Item 14 - Treasury Management Annual Report 2017-2018 What is the nature of the loan from the Welsh Government referred to on Page 132 under the Debt Portfolio.</p> <p>Response of the Leader This is an award of funding by way of repayable loan up to a maximum of £6.2m, of which up to £5.5m could be claimed for 2017-18 – which we have claimed in full for 2017-18 and hence disclosed in our treasury report.</p> <p>The award of Funding is in relation to working up the retail and leisure led Swansea Central Scheme - as effectively an economic development led Welsh Government enabling loan. The Purposes of the Funding is to support Council to work up the retail and leisure led Swansea Central Scheme to a point of readiness for development. The Funding is to be used to contribute to the cost of purchasing professional services.</p> <p>This would be on the following basis:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repayable loan of total up to £6.2m, up to £5.5m (claimed in full) for 17-18 • 0% interest • Repayable in equal annual sums payable on the first day of April in each year commencing on 01/04/22 and with the final payment made 01/04/38.
2.	<p>Councillor W G Thomas</p> <p>In relation to Agenda Item 18 - Councillors' Questions –Question 2 Asked the relevant Cabinet Member for a list of the current membership of the NEET Board.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills Changes in personnel in the Council and our partner organisations provides us with an opportunity to review our work with NEETs young people. We will shortly be holding a workshop looking at how best to support the very complex needs of the small percentage of pupils recorded as NEET.</p> <p>The management, delivery and scrutiny structures to provide support to achieve long term employment and training will evolve from the workshop with all the stakeholders.</p>
3.	<p>Councillor C A Holley</p> <p>In relation to Agenda Item - Councillors' Questions – Question 5 Asked the relevant Cabinet Member under what basis was Freedom Leisure Trading i.e. were they a Charitable Trust, a Trust or a Trading Company.</p>

Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

Freedom Leisure are a not for profit charitable trust, with a governance structure that was been set up specifically for the purposes of delivering Leisure Centres. Their organisational make up means that they must distribute any surpluses generated across their 80 plus leisure sites back into delivering leisure facilities. This continual cycle of investment into their businesses reduces costs and increase income, particularly when investments are in the appropriate areas to maximise commercial opportunities (increased gym sizes) and drive down costs (reduced utilities).

With a large number of contracts and facilities in their portfolio, there are economies of scale advantages from suppliers and contractors, and they will have and own consistent and established marketing strategies, all of which reduces overheads. Similarly in relation to staffing, whilst they typically TUPE transfer facility based staff from Councils or other contractors into their organisation on transferring terms, they have an established Head Office team that is dedicated to supporting all elements of their operational delivery across each element of the business, from finance, HR, marketing, safety and operations. Finally, their business structure offers them excellent VAT and Business rates advantages, again reducing overheads.

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