



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 10 December 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 Child, Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well
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, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer
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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 (also known as the Executive) is made up of the Leader and other councillors, appointed by the Leader, who are allocated specific portfolio responsibilities:

Cllr Rob Stewart	- Economy & Strategy (Leader)
Cllr Clive Lloyd	- Business Transformation & Performance (Deputy Leader)
Cllr Mary Sherwood & Cllr June Burtonshaw	- Better Communities - People
Cllr June Burtonshaw	- Better Communities - Place
Cllr Mark Child	- Care, Health & Ageing Well

Cllr Elliot King	- Children Services - Early Years
Cllr Will Evans	- Children Services - Young People
Cllr David Hopkins	- Delivery
Cllr Jennifer Raynor	- Education Improvement, Learning & Skills
Cllr Mark Thomas	- Environment & Infrastructure Management
Cllr Andrea Lewis	- Homes & Energy
Cllr Robert Francis-Davies	- Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

- 1.2 By acting as a 'critical friend' scrutiny has the opportunity to challenge the Cabinet and individual cabinet members on their actions and 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 Members will appear before the Committee:

- a) Councillor Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well

This Cabinet Portfolio includes responsibility for:

- Activities to Promote Independence & Ageing Well
- Adult Social Services modernisation
- Assessment / Care Management
- Elderly Care
- Healthy City Partnership
- Integration of Health & Social Care
- Joint Equipment
- Learning Disability
- Local Area Coordination Lead
- Mental Health
- Physical & Sensory Impairments
- Poverty Reduction
- Safeguarding
- Supporting People
- Wellbeing
- Western Bay Lead member
- Lead Elements of Sustainable Swansea

3. Approach to Questions

3.1 At each Cabinet Member Question Session the Committee will generally ask Cabinet Members about:

- relevant priorities / objectives, notable activities and achievements, improvement / impact made, and service user / public engagement.
- what they hope to achieve over the coming months and challenges, including any key decisions they plan take to Cabinet over the next year.
- reflections on their engagement with scrutiny and whether there is any issue relevant to their portfolio that they would suggest for scrutiny, not otherwise covered in the work programme – to ensure scrutiny activity is aligned to priorities and focussed on the right things.

3.2 In terms of themes that cut across all cabinet portfolios, the Committee is interested in asking Cabinet Members about:

- Well-being of Future Generations Act – impact on their work / decisions e.g. what they are doing to achieve the well-being goals and ways of working, e.g. focus on long-term thinking, collaboration / involvement etc.
- Public Services Board (PSB) – their relationship with the work of the PSB; how the PSB impacts on their portfolio and how it is making a difference etc.

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

3.4 Following each session the chair will write to Cabinet Members in order to capture the main issues discussed, views expressed by the Committee, and any actions for them 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 Changes were announced by the Leader to Cabinet portfolios at the Council Annual General Meeting in May. Councillor Mark Child was previously portfolio holder for Health & Wellbeing, which included responsibility for both Adult Services and Child & Family Services. The correspondence with Cllr. Child following last year's Q & A session (November 2017) is attached, as the following issues relating to his current portfolio were discussed:

- Integration of Health & Social Care
- Domiciliary Care
- Local Area Coordinators
- Adult Services Budget
- Winter Preparation

4.2 Members may also wish to follow up, as necessary, on the Cabinet Member's engagement with relevant Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups over the past year.

Scrutiny involving the Cabinet Member over the past year:

- Adult Services Performance Panel:
There is regular contact / correspondence with the Cabinet Member to give scrutiny views following performance monitoring activities. The Cabinet Member attended a Question and Answer session with the Panel in March 2018. He was also written to over the past year about the following issues:
 - Demand Management (Dec 2017)
 - Workforce Development & Systems Support (Jan 2018)
 - Social Services Charges (Jan 2018)
 - Intermediate Care, The Welsh Community Care Information System, Draft Annual Budget (Mar 2018)
 - Complaints Annual Report (Apr 2018)
 - Pre-decision on Outcomes of Residential Care And Day Services Commissioning Reviews (Apr & May 2018)
 - Budget Outputs (Jun 2018)
 - Western Bay Programme (Dec 2017 & Oct 2018)
 - Supporting People Programme Grant (Oct 2018)

4.3 The Committee should note that the Cabinet Member will also be engaged in the following planned / future activity:

- Adult Services Performance Panel:
 - The Cabinet Member will continue to be involved as the Panel monitors and challenges adult social services.
 - The Cabinet Member will be attending the Panel on 11 December to update on how the Council's policy commitments translate to Adult Services.

- The Cabinet Member will be attending the Panel on 11 February to discuss and question draft budget proposals.

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. It is up to the Committee how to deal with any suggested questions within the Session.
- 5.2 On this occasion a question has been received relating to Western Bay. The question relates to whether the Council ensures that agendas / content / minutes of external bodies which it is involved in are published by that external body e.g. Western Bay Regional Partnership Board, or if not then published by the Council itself to ensure openness and transparency to the public. As, in the case of Western Bay, its work impacts on many residents, service users, carers and family members.

NB - With regards to other partnerships this would not be a matter for the Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well, but others.

The Committee should note that questions relating to Western Bay were raised by this member of the public at the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting on 25 September. These related to the concerns about the provision and accessibility of information about Western Bay to the public, and a response was provided by the Lead Officer for Western Bay to the member of the public on 13 November.

The questioner had asked why Western Bay Board agendas / meetings were not published on the Swansea Council's Website. The response confirmed that minutes and agendas are currently published on Western Bay's own website (www.westernbay.org.uk/regional-partnership-board-minutes/). It was felt that this made best sense and would negate the need to upload documents by each Council separately. However a link to the papers would be included on the Western Bay page of Swansea Council's website (www.swansea.gov.uk/westernbay). The response added that some other regional collaborations do not have their own website and in that case information / Board papers feature on the site of the lead organisation.

The other questions put at the Adult Services Panel meeting related to the Western Bay Quarterly Newsletter, the Western Bay Citizen Panel, and the exclusion of public attendance at Western Bay Board meetings.

6. Next Session

- 6.1 The next Cabinet Member Question Session on 14 January will be with the Leader of the Council, Councillor Rob Stewart, with focus on the Economy & Strategy cabinet portfolio.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Key Headlines: Cabinet Member for Care, Health & Ageing Well