



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 14 January 2019

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 Rob Stewart, Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy
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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Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland

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 Mark Child	- Better Communities - Place
	- 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 Member will appear before the Committee:
- a) Councillor Rob Stewart, Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy.

This Cabinet Portfolio includes responsibility for:

- 5G project (City Deal)
- City Centre Redevelopment
- City Deal Implementation
- City Region Joint Committee Chair
- Community Leadership
- Constitutional Changes
- Corporate Communications
- Corporate ICT Strategy
- Economic Twinning (Brexit)
- Factory of the Future (City Deal)
- Finance Strategy & Budget Oversight
- Local and Regional Investment Strategy (Regional Bank)
- Planning Policy (regional)
- Poverty Reduction
- Public Services Board (PSB)
- Regeneration Strategy and Major Projects
- Regional Working / Collaboration
- Strategic Partnerships
- Lead Elements of Sustainable Swansea

As Leader of the Council, Cllr. Stewart is responsible for:

- providing political leadership to the Council
- working with officers to lead the organisation
- appointing the Cabinet
- managing and leading the work of the Cabinet and chairing meetings
- delegation of executive functions that allow the Cabinet and Officers to make decisions and manage day-to-day delivery of Council Services, in line with the Council's overall policies and budget

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 Amongst questions from the Committee is the intention to ask about:

- Budget Proposals – further to Cabinet report 14 December.
- Swansea Bay City Deal – including current position / latest developments.

- Brexit – possible impact & Council preparedness.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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 The correspondence with Cllr. Stewart following last year's Q & A session (January 2018) is attached, as the following issues relating to his portfolio were discussed, and Committee Member may wish to follow up:

- Budget
- Regeneration & Major Projects
- City Deal
- Corporate Priorities
- Tidal Lagoon
- External Funding Panel

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 Leader / Cabinet Member over the past year:

The Leader was written to over the past year about the following issues:

- Development & Regeneration Performance Panel:
 - Reflection on Panel's work during 2017-18 (May 2018)
 - City Deal Financial Implications (Aug 2018)
 - Monitoring of Regeneration Activities (Nov 2018)
 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny - Swansea Central Update and FPR7 (Nov 2018)
- Public Services Board Performance Panel:
 - Draft Well-being Plan (Jan 2018)
 - Early Years Work Stream (Apr 2018)
 - Governance of Public Services Board (Aug 2018)
- Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel:

- Annual Review of Performance and Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring (Jan 2018)
- Pre-decision Scrutiny – Annual Budget (Mar 2018)
- Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring (Apr 2018)
- End of Year Performance Monitoring (Aug 2018)
- Financial Monitoring (Nov 2018)
- Reserves / Mid-year Budget / Performance (Dec 2018)

In addition, the Leader provided a response to the Regional Working Scrutiny Inquiry final report at Cabinet in Aug 2018. All 11 scrutiny recommendations were agreed. The Inquiry Panel will reconvene during 2019-20 to follow up on the implementation of recommendations and impact of this scrutiny inquiry.

5. Future Scrutiny

5.1 The Cabinet Member will continue to be involved in the regular monitoring activities of the above Performance Panels.

5.2 More specifically, the Committee should note that the Cabinet Member will be engaged in the following planned / future activity:

- Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel:
 - Budget Proposals (15 Jan 2019)
 - Pre-decision Scrutiny – Annual Budget (11 Feb 2019)
- Public Services Board Performance Panel:
 - Q & A with Statutory Members of PSB on their role, involvement, PSB objectives, and achievements (6 Feb 2019)
- Regional Working Inquiry Panel (follow-up) – date around May tbc

6. Other Questions

6.1 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.

6.2 On this occasion no questions have been received.

7. Next Session

7.1 The next Cabinet Member Question Session on 11 February will be with Councillor Mark Thomas, with focus on the Environment & Infrastructure Management cabinet portfolio.

8. Legal Implications

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

9. Financial Implications

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

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Key Headlines: Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy

Appendix 2: Previous Correspondence