



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 13 May 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 Members will appear before the Committee to participate in a question and answer session: a) Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Delivery b) Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism
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
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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
	- Better Communities - Place

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| 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 David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Delivery
 - b) Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism
- 2.2 Specific portfolio responsibilities:

Delivery (Cllr David Hopkins)	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism (Cllr Robert Francis-Davies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing (Support) • Champions Liaison & Coordination • City Profile • Collaboration Opportunities • Commercial Services • Corporate Delivery • Democratic Services • Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) • Licensing & Licensing Policy • Mayoral & Civic Functions • Member Development • New Business Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business & City Promotion • City Centre Management • City Projects and Development • City Waterfront & Marina Promotion • Creative City • Culture, the Arts & Galleries • Events, Tourism & Destination Marketing • Healthy Night Life / Purple Flag • Heritage inc. River Corridor Development

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside Bodies • Planning Policy & Local Development Plan (LDP) • Poverty Reduction • Scrutiny Services • Sustainable Development (Lead) • Trade Union Engagement • Lead elements of Sustainable Swansea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inward Investment Opportunities • New Local & Regional Business Opportunities • Parks, Beaches and Foreshore Promotion • Poverty Reduction • Science City • Sports Facilities • Suburban Centres & Community Regeneration Initiatives • Universities Collaboration (Development) • Lead elements of Sustainable Swansea
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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.
- Poverty Reduction – their contribution to the commitment to tackle poverty.
- Sustainable Swansea – their contribution to the transformation programme.

3.3 Cabinet Members will be invited to make introductory remarks before taking questions from the Committee. Both Cabinet Members have provided a report on 'headlines' in relation to their portfolio to help the Committee focus on priorities, actions, achievements and impact - see **Appendices 1 and 2**.

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

- 'Tawe Riverside Corridor' regeneration plans, links with wider city regeneration, financial implications and timescale. (for Cllr Francis-Davies)
- The Archives Service (for Cllr Francis-Davies)
- Concerns raised directly with scrutiny by a member of the public about the focus and promotion of Swansea as a student city, the scale of university expansion, and detrimental impact on local communities and families from HMOs, as both have relevant portfolio responsibilities in relation to HMOs, universities collaboration and development. (for both)
- Housing for refugees and asylum seekers (for Cllr Hopkins)

With reference to agreed Scrutiny Improvement Objectives the Committee should ensure the Q & A Session also enables it to:

- Follow up, where necessary, on progress with relevant Scrutiny Working Group recommendations to assess impact / outcomes
- Raise any outstanding actions in respect of any other scrutiny activities / recommendations.
- Ask about future key decisions so the Committee can identify any issues which they may want to discuss at an earlier stage than cabinet reporting.
- Encourage Cabinet Members to consider reporting to scrutiny / consulting on significant issues and planned decisions at an early stage to enable views of scrutiny to be taken.

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 the Q & A session 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 Scrutiny

- 4.1 The correspondence with Cllrs. David Hopkins & Robert Francis-Davies following last year's Q & A session is attached. Taking account there have been portfolio changes since last year, the following issues still relevant to the current portfolio were discussed, and Committee Member may wish to follow up:

Cllr David Hopkins	Cllr Robert Francis-Davies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercial Activities• Local Business Engagement• Innovation / Collaboration• Planning• Local & Regional Investment Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dylan Thomas• Skyline Project & Penderyn Distillery• City of Culture• City Centre Management• Universities• Greener Cities• Sports Facilities

- 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:

- Development & Regeneration - Councillor Francis-Davis is involved on an on-going basis, along with the Leader, with the work of the Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel. The Panel has written to the Leader on a number of occasions in the last year about various regeneration matters, including City Deal, and Swansea Central.
- Service Improvement & Finance
 - Cultural Services: Councillor Francis-Davies was also written to following pre-decision scrutiny by the Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel of the Cabinet Report on the Cultural Services Commissioning Review (June 2018).
 - Planning: Councillor David Hopkins attended in support of the Planning Annual Performance Report to the Panel (December 2018)
- Tourism - A Scrutiny Working Group met on 1 May to receive an overview of the marketing and development of tourism in Swansea including eco/sustainable tourism. It will shortly be writing to Councillor Francis-Davies with its conclusions and any recommendations.

5. Future Scrutiny

5.1 The Committee should note that the Cabinet Members will be engaged in the following planned / future activity:

- Development & Regeneration Performance Panel – Councillor Francis-Davies will continue to be involved in the Panel’s work.
- Planning – Councillor David Hopkins reports annual to the Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel on Planning performance.

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 Concerns received previously regarding about the focus and promotion of Swansea as a student city, the scale of university expansion, and impact on local communities and families from HMOs will be raised as both Cabinet Members have relevant responsibilities.

6.3 A question was submitted by a councillor wanting the Committee to ask about the council efforts and contact with landlords to ensure the quality of private rented sector housing, so that all our vulnerable tenants (including asylum seekers and refugees) have at the very least dry, clean and mould free homes.

7. Next Session

7.1 A new schedule of Cabinet Member Question Sessions will be developed for the 2019/20 municipal year.

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 Delivery

Appendix 2: Key Headlines: Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

Appendix 3: Previous Correspondence