



Council – 25 July 2019

## Councillors' Questions

### Part A – Supplementaries

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>Cllrs Brigitte Rowlands, Lyndon Jones &amp; Myles Langstone</b></p> <p>Fly Tipping is a huge and costly problem. What is Swansea Council doing to try and prevent the problem escalating further.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The Council works with many partners to highlight the impact of fly tipping on environment. Social Media information provided by Flytipping Action Wales is used to support media campaigns.</p> <p>We have a dedicated flytipping cleansing team regularly checking known hot spots, removing fly tipped waste, and recycling as much as possible. Where evidence is available enforcement officers take the appropriate action. This may include fixed penalty notices and or prosecution. The dedicated Fly Tipping Team also seeks to implement measures to prevent fly tipping at hot spots.</p> <p>Where door to door campaigns are carried out, officers advise residents of the dangers of giving waste to a person in a van for a fee and the subsequent repercussions if they are not registered waste carriers.</p> <p>We work with district housing offices and social housing sectors to support any incidents of fly tipping and again take action where evidence is available.</p> |
| 2 | <p><b>Cllrs Chris Holley, Mary Jones &amp; Jeff Jones</b></p> <p>Now that Freedom Leisure has taken over the running of our Leisure Centres, has there been any change in the number of Personnel working in them.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>The Freedom Leisure contract commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and whilst there have been some structural changes in terms of roles and personnel appointed to specific positions, the front line staffing levels are the same as the were at point of transfer. These changes are in line with the bid submitted by Freedom Leisure, and relate to the creation of a fit for purpose management, technical and supervisory structure that are needed to facilitate the inclusion of the LC waterpark into the management of the community leisure centre portfolio. An example of additional posts is the creation of a</p>   |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
|          | <p>community focussed development role, to increase participation from hard to reach groups. The post holder is working closely with our Sport and Health team on joint projects across the City and County.</p>   |
| <p>3</p> | <p><b>Cllrs Linda Tyler-Lloyd, Lyndon Jones &amp; Myles Langstone</b></p> <p>The Vision Impaired West Glamorgan Group is anxious that the sensory services of Swansea are being overlooked.</p> <p>The Group were expecting to be involved and informed of progress of the proposed models of service presented to the commissioning Officer now that the RNIB and CIB has received a termination contract notice.</p> <p>Can we be assured that Swansea City Council will protect the well-being of the 800 visually impaired who are supported by the West Glamorgan Group.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Care, Health &amp; Ageing Well</b></p> <p>The council acknowledges the concerns about our decision to terminate contractual arrangements with RNIB and having carefully considered the issues raised have decided to rescind our termination notice to enable us to undertake a further review.</p> <p>In the forthcoming weeks we will begin this further review the services provided by RNIB. This contract review will inform a wider commissioning review of day support provision, part of which will examine the local authority's in house Sensory Impairment Services.</p> <p>The Council can offer assurances that well-being of visually impaired people who are supported by RNIB and other similar services will be properly considered and that our statutory duties to citizens with sensory impairment will continue to be met in the most appropriate and effective way possible.</p> <p>The Council recognises that decisions to change services can be upsetting for people who receive them and we will endeavour to ensure that commissioning decisions are arrived at in a manner which is inclusive, and communicated to people affected as sensitively as possible.</p> |
| <p>4</p> | <p><b>Cllrs Lyndon Jones, Myles Langstone &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>Having past the motion on Climate Emergency in our last Council Meeting, does the Cabinet Member agree with me that the policy of not allowing residents to deposit wood at Council Recycling sites, like Clyne, goes against that policy, because now people from right around Swansea, from the tip of Gower, Mumbles and residents in my Bishopston ward now all have to travel to Llansamlet to deposit the wood.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The diversion of all wood waste to the Llansamlet Household Waste Recycling Centre does not go against the motion on Climate Emergency as this allows us to quickly adjust to any regulatory or market changes to maximise the percentage of waste wood recycled. This change also encourages increased re-use of wood instead of throwing it away, as the longer residents hold on to wood waiting for a full load to dispose of, the more likely a need for re-use will</p>   |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
|          | <p>present itself. Even though Recycling Centres in both Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot have recently introduced restrictions on non-residents, waste wood has still reduced by over 10% in Swansea, with no increase in fly tipping.</p>   |
| <p>5</p> | <p><b>Cllrs Lyndon Jones, Myles Langstone &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member explain the rationale behind issuing a parking fine to people who have not displayed their ticket correctly, but later prove that they have paid to park in our car parks.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The tariff boards in each of the council car parks clearly state that in order to use the facility a ticket must be purchased and clearly displayed. Motorists who fail to comply with these simple requirements will find themselves at risk of receiving a Penalty Charge Notice.</p> <p>It is inefficient for a service to consider appeals for non-display of tickets, especially as the Penalty Charge Notice has been correctly issued. This approach has been tested at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, an independent adjudication service set up to ensure that local authorities act in a fair and transparent manner in relation to issuing of Penalty Charge Notices and consideration of any resultant appeals. All such adjudication decisions, relating to non-display of tickets, have been found in the Council's favour.</p> <p>The council is currently progressing cashless payment parking systems which will allow parking staff to enter a vehicle registration and know if the motorist has paid to park, without the need to display a ticket. However, this will only relate to customers that use the cashless parking application, motorists who prefer to purchase a ticket from the machine will still be required to properly display the ticket. However, as the new cashless payment system becomes more popular it is anticipated that the incidents of failure to properly display tickets will diminish.</p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p><b>Cllrs Mike Day, Cheryl Philpott, Jeff Jones &amp; Mary Jones</b></p> <p>In the light of major banks closing branches throughout the area, can the Cabinet Member tell Council what assessment has been done on the effect such closures are having on the ability of elderly and vulnerable people in accessing appropriate financial services and whether such closures are leading to an increase in problems in making payments for Council and other essential services? Can he/she further tell Council what actions the Council is taking or could take to help and support such vulnerable families and individuals.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Care, Health &amp; Ageing Well</b></p> <p>Through our engagement and consultation work with older people in our Live Well Age Well Forum and through the 50 plus network, this has not come up as an emerging issue to date. However we will continue to work closely with citizens to understand if the closure of banks are causing problems in making</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>payments for services through future forum work to understand what alternative solutions would be helpful. We do recognise the difficulties that physical branch closures can cause communities and residents. Whilst we can't replace the banking network ourselves we continue to offer a variety of payment means to all. This includes where possible online payment (direct debit, bank transfer, payment card – debit and credit), payment by phone, payment in person at the Civic Centre (including cash) and at District Housing Offices, payment by cheque/post, payment at Post Office or Payzone outlet wherever possible. The exact mix of payment options available can vary by service purchased. We have no evidence that users of services and taxpayers are being left unable to pay for services as a result of bank branch closures albeit there may be significant inconvenience as a result of those decisions taken by others.</p>  |
| 7 | <p><b>Cllrs Will Thomas, Lyndon Jones &amp; Myles Langstone</b></p> <p>With what appears to be an increased number of pre-planning applications received by the authority, does the cabinet member agree procedure should be amended so that ward members are consulted, or at least made aware of pre-applications.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Delivery</b></p> <p>The majority of pre-application enquiries the Authority received are submitted on a confidential basis and are treated as such even in circumstances where a request has been made under the Environmental Information Regulations.</p> <p>The Local Planning Authority has, however, only 21 days within which to respond to a pre-application enquiry from the date of its receipt. Timescales do not, therefore, allow consultation to take place and there is no provision for consultation as part of the pre-application advice process prescribed by Welsh Government.</p> <p>The prescribed purpose of a pre-application enquiry is for the Local Planning Authority to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the planning history of the land on which the proposed development is to be carried out, so as far relevant to the proposed application,</li> <li>• the provisions of the development plan, so far as material to the proposed application,</li> <li>• any supplementary planning guidance, so far as material to the proposed application,</li> <li>• any other considerations which are or could be material in the opinion of the authority,</li> <li>• an initial officer assessment of the proposed development on the basis of the information provided under paragraphs (a) to (d),</li> <li>• details of any documents and particulars or evidence that would be required for a subsequent application to be a valid application,</li> <li>• for major developments whether planning obligations (within the meaning of section 106 of the 1990 Act (planning obligations) are likely to be required and, if so, an indication of the likely scope of such</li> </ul> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>planning obligations, including an indication of any sum which may be required to be paid to the authority.</p> <p>Consultation with ward members by developers on major schemes, however, takes place as part of the Pre-Application Consultation process. So in summary, I feel that adequate procedures are already in place and working well. There is no need to amend the Planning Authority's current practice at this time.</p>   |
|   |  |
|   | <b>Part B – No Supplementaries</b>   |
|   |  |
| 8 | <p><b>Cllrs Mike Day, Cheryl Philpott &amp; Chris Holley</b></p> <p>We note that the Highways Maintenance Forward Programme of Works covers 2015 to 2020. Can the Cabinet member update Council on progress to develop the Programme for the period following that, and what criteria will be used to determine the priority of schemes to renew/replace highway surfaces, footpaths and street lighting columns.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure Management</b></p> <p>The Highways Maintenance Forward Programme of Works 2020 to 2025 is currently being prepared with a target date towards the end of the year. Once complete it will be approved by myself. An assessment of the 6,000 streets has been undertaken.</p> <p>The prioritisation of schemes will be based on a split 60/40 between corrective work (resurfacing a road in poor condition) and preventative work (extending the life of a road in average condition).</p> <p>As with previous programmes of work, repairs to carriageways and footways will be carried out based on factors such as network importance, condition, and likely deterioration.</p> |
| 9 | <p><b>Cllrs Mike Day, Jeff Jones &amp; Susan Jones</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet member provide an analysis by ward of the number of individuals and families affected by poverty and to provide figures for those who are deemed to be experiencing 'in-work' poverty.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Care Health &amp; Ageing Well</b></p> <p>We do not have specific data available to us relating to individuals and families affected by poverty or in-work poverty at ward level in Swansea. According to UK Government statistics, around 700,000 people in Wales live in poverty. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Minimum Income Standard (MIS) tells us what UK households need today in order to have a decent living standard in 2019: <a href="https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/minimum-income-standard-uk-2019">https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/minimum-income-standard-uk-2019</a></p> <p>The closest data that we have in relation to this question is from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2014. Within the WIMD, the indicator</p>  |

relating to income provides the percentage of the population within Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Income Deprivation. The LSOAs with the highest percentages of their population in income deprivation can be found in Penderry, Townhill and Castle. Members can review the WIMD data for their wards by viewing the Ward Profiles available on the Council website <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/wardprofiles> and further information relating to the WIMD can be found at <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/wimd2014>

10 **Cllrs Peter Black, Chris Holley & Jeff Jones**

What arrangements are in place to fulfil the council's legal obligation to assess and support young carers under the age of 18 and what does this assessment consist of? How many young carers currently have such an assessment in place.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Children Services (Early Years)**

The council currently commission the YMCA Swansea to provide support for Young Carers which is an arrangement that has been in place since October 2016. The commissioned work has two elements to it, a Family Support Project and a Young Carers Club.

The Family Support Project consists of the following elements of support:

- Open referral process
- Assessment of needs – linked to Future Generation of Wales Act
- Action plan created with the family
- Signposting to relevant support services
- Advocacy support
- One-to-one support
- Group sessions
- Regular reviews – Distance travelled

The Young Carers Club runs every Wednesday from the 6.30 until 8.30pm from the YMCA Swansea and consists of the following elements of support:

- Provides educative workshops
- Young Carers have a break from their caring role
- Access creative opportunities – Art, music, design, dance, fitness sessions, health and wellbeing campaigns
- Transport is provided
- Peer to peer support
- Support from Youth Workers
- Access to information and support that is specific and appropriate to young carers

In addition, the YMCA have also secured further funding for their work with Young Carers in Swansea, including a PSE Raising Awareness Project with Swansea schools and a GP surgeries raising awareness programme, working as a pilot in the Cwmtawe Cluster of GP Surgeries.

Since the establishment of the YMCA commissioned service, the table below highlights the numbers of Young Carers worked with, with all identified young carers receiving an assessment. This year has seen an average of 43 individuals being worked with each quarter with referrals for the service

coming from; Social Services Child and Family, Evolve, Schools, Team Around the Family, Health Visitors, Parents, Self-referrals, Barnardo's, Women's Aid, EYST, CAMHS and Adult Social Services.

|   | Current Total | Overall |
|---|---------------|---------|
| Total Young Carers Identified   | 63            | 93      |
| Total Number of Families Engaged  | 56            | 83      |
| Sibling Carers  | 19            | 27      |
| Parent Carers   | 42            | 64      |
| Sibling and Parent Carers   | 7             | 9       |
| Sibling carers of disabilities  | 7             | 10      |
| Young Carers caring for someone with a disability                       | 25            | 32      |
| Young Carers Caring for someone with poor Mental Health                 | 13            | 24      |
| Young Carers Caring for someone with a long-term illness                | 27            | 40      |
| Young Carers Caring for someone with alcohol and/or substance use issue | 2             | 3       |
| Young Carers with Child Protection Status                               | 4             | 6       |
| Young Carers who are home schooled                                      | 4             | 4       |
| Young Carers with transport issues                                      | 24            | 54      |
| Young Carers Engaged in Young Carers Club                               | 29            | 60      |
| Young Carers where school attendance is a concern                       | 2             | 8       |

The assessment is based on seven elements:

|   |
|---|
| <b>Part 1:</b> Physical, Mental and Emotional Health and Well-being |
| <b>Part 2:</b> Protection from Neglect and abuse.                   |
| <b>Part 3:</b> Education training and recreation                    |
| <b>Part 4:</b> Domestic, Family and Social Relationships            |
| <b>Part 5:</b> Contribution made to Society                         |
| <b>Part 6:</b> Securing Rights and Entitlements                     |
| <b>Part 7:</b> Social and Economic Well-being                       |

The work has received recognition through a number of National Awards including:

Winners for Best Family Project – YMCA England & Wales Youth Matters Awards 2017

Finalists for The Young Carers Award - Children and Young People Now 2017

Finalists for Youth Work Excellence Award 2017

Money For Life Wales Champions 2018

There is currently a cross sector Task and Finish group set up to establish a new strategy for Young Carers in Swansea by the end of 2019, ensuring that the work taking place across services and sectors is fully integrated, consistent and to the best possible standard. The new strategy will also enable a robust recommissioning process to take place during 2020 and continue to drive the work with Young Carers in Swansea forward.

11 **Cllrs Irene Mann & Peter May**

The weed killer Glyphosate, which is currently used by the council, has been acknowledged to destroy insect habitats and pose some risk to human health. The council acknowledge on their website, that weed treatment with spraying methods is also ineffective when the weather is hot, windy or about to rain. There is an alternative method called Foamstream which has been trialed by Lewes Council. It uses a mixture of steam and natural oils to kill the weeds. Its advantages include:

- It is less harmful to the environment than the current method.
- It can be used in all seasons offering more paced and efficient staffing.
- It is versatile as the system can also be used to remove chewing gum and graffiti.

Would the council consider, if it has not done already, investigating this method with a view to trailing it please.

### **Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management**

In November 2017, the European Union re-approved the continuing use of glyphosate from 16 December 2017. Reviews of the scientific data by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment have found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval, and UK scientists agree with this assessment. The new approval lasts until 15 December 2022; use beyond that date would be subject to a further decision.

In 2018 the Authority contributed to a full review carried out by the Welsh Local Government Association and the Welsh Government and have undertaken a scrutiny review in relation to the use of Glyphosate. The Authority has adopted the national position that was discussed and agreed with Public Health Wales. Glyphosate has been subject to hundreds of clinical trials that have concluded that glyphosate is indeed safe when used under label recommendations. Council Sprayers and Contractors used by Swansea council are fully qualified.

Following a recent APSE network query regarding the use of herbicides containing Glyphosate, some councils stated they had conducted trials using alternatives such as steam and their collective conclusions were that hot steam/foam applications not practical for use in landscaped areas such as herbaceous borders or shrub beds, for areas with difficult access, or extensive but spread out spraying such as on highways. From their research, alternative methods including foam and hot water blanching are also more expensive than using glyphosate based herbicides.

Glyphosate is by far the most efficient and cost-effective method for the broad-spectrum treatment of common weeds. Some alternative methods do see specific niche use, but none can approach the value and efficacy of total systemic herbicide (specifically glyphosate), particularly when addressing the scale of treatment required for street pavements. Moreover, alternative methods (e.g. steam) often come at the price of a significantly increased carbon footprint.