

**Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups**

**1. Inquiry Panels:**

These will undertake in-depth inquiries into specific and significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis, and will be expected to take around six months to complete to enable wide-ranging evidence gathering, and production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers).

a) **Equalities** (convener: Cllr Louise Gibbard)

Key Question: How effectively is the Council meeting and embedding the requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Duty for Wales)?

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The final report produced by the Inquiry Panel was presented to Cabinet on 19 September. A response to the recommendations is expected to be reported to Cabinet within two months. It is currently scheduled for cabinet meeting on 21 November.

Projected End Date: Complete

b) **Procurement** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

Key Question: What is the Council doing to ensure it procures locally, ethically, and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Procurement Pre-Inquiry Working Group met on the 24 October and involved an overview / briefing on the subject matter. This helped Councillors to be informed about how scrutiny can contribute to improvement and the focus, scale and direction of any inquiry. The Panel agreed to undertake an inquiry and the Terms of Reference were discussed. The inquiry will start evidence gathering Feb 2020 and this will explore, for example

- effectiveness of process & strategy
- value for money / social value
- benefits to local economy
- impact of local procurement on regeneration / jobs
- financial savings to the Council

- collaboration

The inquiry may take up to six months to complete, as it will call for wide ranging evidence, and will lead to a report with conclusions and recommendations that will be presented to Cabinet.

## 2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
Regional Working	16 Aug 2018	11	0	0	15 Oct 2019 COMPLETE
Natural Environment*	18 Jul 2019	18	0	2	tbc

\*this inquiry will be followed up within the work of the new Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel

## 3. Performance Panels:

Performance Panels enable regular and structured in-depth monitoring of performance and challenge within these key areas:

### a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every month. The recent meeting on 21 October looked at the review of revenue reserves, recycling and Landfill Annual Report and the Quarter 1 performance monitoring report. The next meeting in December will look at a budget update ahead of proposals, the mid-year budget statement for 2019/20, Quarter 2 budget monitoring 2019/20 and the planning annual performance report along with the response a Wales Audit Office report.

### b) **Education** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Panel meets every month. In October the Panel met with the Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Challenge Advisor for Penclawdd Primary School to discuss their improvement journey. At the next meeting on 14 November the Panel will discuss the National Mission and New Curriculum for Wales and the Healthy Schools Initiative.

c) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Peter Black)

This Panel meets every month. The Panel last met on 29 October and discussed the Commissioning of Residential Care and the Performance Monitoring Report for August/September 2019, and also received an update on the Adult Services Transformation Programme. The meeting on 19 November will look at the Telecare and Community Alarms mini commissioning review and Workforce Development and receive a briefing on Carers Assessments.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

This Panel meets every two months. A progress report appears separately in the agenda as Item No. 8.

e) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel will next meet on 18 November for the usual dashboard update and progress on these projects. The Panel is also planning to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the cabinet report on FPR7 for Swansea Central Phase 1, which is scheduled for Cabinet on 21 November. The Service Improvement & Finance Panel will be invited to the meeting for this item, for joint input.

f) **Natural Environment** (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

This Panel meets quarterly. The Panel held a special meeting on 22 October in order to deal with a public request for scrutiny on urban gull nuisance. The Panel will meet again on 16 December to focus on Weed Management, and Local Flood Risk Management.

g) **Public Services Board** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

This Panel meets twice yearly. The Panel will focus on action plans associated with Public Services Board objectives, progress and outcomes. The next meeting takes place on 4 December, and will be held at St Teilo's Community Cwtch, in Portmead. The meeting will focus on the Early Years and Live Well, Age Well objectives, and plan to hear from Council and Local Health Board leads.

#### 4. **Regional Scrutiny:**

This is collaborative scrutiny with other Local Authorities for topics / issues of shared interest or concern, and models of regional working.

a) **Education Through Regional Working**

The Scrutiny Councillor Group met on the 23 September 2019 and looked at:

- Progress with reform programme and meeting the national mission with the Interim Managing Director of ERW

- Discussed the costed ERW business plan
- Spoke to the ERW Lead for Digital Learning Systems
- Spoke to the ERW Lead for Health and Wellbeing

The next meeting has been scheduled for the 27 January 2020 and will be hosted by Powys Council.

#### b) **Swansea Bay City Region**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee met on 28 October in Swansea to continue its City Deal Programme monitoring but also discuss local projects for Swansea (Digital Village; Digital Square) with the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Rob Stewart. The Committee will meet again on 15 January.

### 5. **Working Groups:**

#### a) **Tourism** (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

The convener of the Working Group presented a report to Cabinet, on 18 July, which reflected on the Working Group meeting in May. A number of recommendations have been made by the Working Group, and a Cabinet response is expected on 21 November.

#### **NEW TOPICS:**

A number of new topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups. These enable a 'light-touch' approach to specific topics of concern and will be planned as a one-off meeting (in the order shown below) primarily involving discussion with relevant cabinet member(s) / officer(s), and any other persons called, to gather information, ask questions, and give views / raise any concerns.

#### a) **Brexit** (convener: Cllr Peter Jones)

This Working Group met on 23 September to enable information, questions and discussion about Council preparedness and resilience; how this is being discussed; what plans / contingencies are being put in place given possible impact, relationship with Wales / UK Government, etc. A letter was sent to the Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy with the thoughts of the Working Group and a response has been received – included in the Committee's agenda under Item 12.

#### b) **Staff Health & Well-being** (convener: Cllr Cyril Anderson)

This will enable information, questions and discussion on how the Council supports members of staff; issues around staff sickness; pressures, etc.

c) **Road Safety** (convener: Steve Gallagher)

This will enable information, questions and discussion on hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls; safety of cycling routes; partnership working, etc.

d) **Digital Inclusion** (convener: Cllr Lesley Walton)

This will enable councillors to follow up on the Working Group meeting originally held in March 2017. At that meeting the Working Group detailed a number of issues to be considered as part of a review of the Council's digital inclusion strategy. Councillors will be able to have a discussion around digital transformation, the Council's digital inclusion strategy, and how well prepared both the Council and the public is to use and communicate / engage via digital technology to avoid exclusion / poor access)