



Report of the Chair

Special Scrutiny Programme Committee – 8 January 2020

Pre-decision Scrutiny – Role of the Committee

Purpose	This report provides guidance on pre-decision scrutiny ahead of consideration of the Cabinet report on: a) Foreshore Sites - Public Consultation and Procurement Responses Summary and Next Steps.
Content	This covering report explains the role of the Committee in undertaking pre-decision scrutiny. The actual Cabinet report which is to be considered by Cabinet on 9 January is appended.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the pre-decision scrutiny process and role of the Committee • consider the Cabinet report and proposals • agree any views on the proposed decision(s) that are to be raised with Cabinet
Lead Councillor	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee
Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Telephone: 01792 637257 brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer	Paul Cridland

1. Introduction

1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee will carry out pre-decision scrutiny or delegate to relevant Scrutiny Panels, in respect of proposed cabinet reports as requested.

1.2 In May the Committee met with Cllr. Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism, and during the Q & A Session asked about the consultation that was underway in respect of a potential seafront development. The Committee was aware that a number of council-owned foreshore sites had been identified by the Council for possible small-scale development in order to generate income and make the prom a more attractive place to visit for locals and tourists, and enhance

the bay. Parallel to public consultation, the Committee were also aware that the council had published a Prior Information Notice (PIN) on the Welsh Government procurement portal Sell2Wales, aimed at potential development partners, in order to gather ideas. The Committee indicated that it wanted to discuss this matter again once a clearer picture of what has emerged in response to the PIN notice and public consultation exercise, and ideas generated.

- 1.3 A report on the public consultation and procurement responses, and next steps is scheduled for decision by Cabinet on 9 January. The report of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism is **attached** for pre-decision scrutiny.

The cabinet report summarises the responses received regarding the development potential of five foreshore sites and establishes how to proceed next, with a number of recommendations for cabinet in respect of:

- Part of Langland Bay Tennis Courts
- Land at the Skate Ramp
- Land at Sketty Lane Car Park
- Blackpill Lido

The cabinet report also recommends that any development of the site known as Land Adjacent to the West Cross Inn is no longer to be considered.

2. **Role of the Committee**

- 2.1 The purpose of pre-decision scrutiny:

- It entitles scrutiny to discuss proposed Cabinet reports, where a clear recommendation(s) exists, before decisions are taken by the Executive.
- Acting as a 'critical friend', it enables scrutiny to ask questions about a report to develop understanding and inform and influence decision-making, for example asking about:
 - the rationale for the report
 - robustness of the proposed decision and decision-making process
 - potential impact and implications (including policy/budget issues, social, economic and environmental impact) and risks
 - how different options have been considered
 - the extent of consultation undertaken
 - implementation and measures of success etc.
- It enables scrutiny to provide a perspective and report its views and any issues to Cabinet. The chair, on behalf of the Committee, can attend the Cabinet meeting to share the views of scrutiny on the report prior to Cabinet decision. This may include giving support, providing other suggestions on the way forward, or flagging up any concerns.
- The views of scrutiny are required to be formally considered by

Cabinet before it makes the decision and feedback should be given including explanation for any rejection of views expressed.

2.2 The Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism will attend the Committee meeting to present the report and respond to questions, along with relevant officer(s) involved in the development of the report who can assist the Committee and provide appropriate advice. The Head of Property Services, Geoff Bacon, and the Client Services Manager - Corporate Property, Lewis Hinds, will attend.

2.3 The Committee (through the chair) will write to the Cabinet Member with its views following pre-decision scrutiny. The Chair will have the opportunity to attend the cabinet meeting on 9 January to verbally feedback the Committee's views, conclusions and recommendations about the report.

3. Cabinet Response

3.1 Cabinet must formally consider scrutiny views at its meeting. It may decide that any issues raised by scrutiny can be dealt with at the meeting and decision taken. It may decide that more time is needed to consider the views of scrutiny and defer decision to the next (or a special) meeting of Cabinet.

3.2 The relevant Cabinet Member is expected to write back to the Committee with feedback from Cabinet, and should include explanation of any rejection of scrutiny views.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution "pre-decision scrutiny gives scrutiny the opportunity to influence Cabinet decision making as a critical friend". "The views of the scrutiny committee are formally presented (either in a written report or verbally by the scrutiny Chair) to the Cabinet meeting for the Cabinet to consider and inform its decision making".

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report. Financial implications of the actual cabinet report(s) are contained within those reports.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Cabinet Report – Foreshore Sites - Public Consultation and Procurement Responses Summary and Next Steps