



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Scrutiny Programme Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, 14 July 2020 at 4.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

C Anderson  
J A Hale  
P K Jones  
W G Thomas

**Councillor(s)**

E W Fitzgerald  
D W Helliwell  
E T Kirchner  
T M White

**Councillor(s)**

L S Gibbard  
T J Hennegan  
W G Lewis

**Statutory Co-opted Member(s)**

D Anderson-Thomas      A Roberts

**Councillor Co-opted Member(s)**

C A Holley      L R Jones  
P R Hood-Williams      J W Jones

**Also Present**

Councillor R C Stewart      Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy

**Officer(s)**

Kate Jones	Democratic Services Officer
Brij Madahar	Scrutiny Team Leader
Martin Nicholls	Director of Place
Phil Roberts	Chief Executive
Debbie Smith	Deputy Chief Legal Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): G J Tanner

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**138 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

**139 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.**

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

**140 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Scrutiny Programme Committee held on 16 June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

**141 Public Question Time.**

There were no public questions.

**142 Update on COVID-19 Response and Recovery.**

The Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy, the Chief Executive and the Director of Place, were present for the Committee's consideration of the update on the Council's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and recovery planning.

The Leader provided a presentation which included: -

- Current Covid-19 Position
- Key Decisions
- Development of Test, Trace & Protect Programme
- Recovery Planning Timetable / Outline
- Current Challenges

Questions and discussions with the Leader and Officers covered a range of issues, including the following:

- Current Covid-19 position and information on instances of Covid-19 in the area
- Advice available to Community Centres and businesses to help with re-opening
- Partnership working with other Authorities on Test, Trace & Protect Programme
- £18 million underspend on expected budget outturn
- Costs outlaid in respect of Covid-19 and potential recovery of costs
- Swansea being a high land owning Council – additional exposure to loss of income
- Financial support for Swansea Market and Freedom Leisure
- Current status regarding the acceptance of black bags at civic amenity sites and the re-opening of libraries and district housing offices
- Continued testing in care homes
- Resource / staffing implications of Test, Trace & Protect Programme
- Intended focus of the Council's recovery plan
- The Welsh Government's recovery plan
- Impact of Covid-19 on future private sector investment
- UK / Welsh Government investment into local infrastructure projects / schemes
- The proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund and potential allocation following Brexit
- Amount of City Centre businesses which have re-opened – approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of hospitality remains closed until they can open indoors
- The impact on bus services and current level of service
- Dealing / learning to live with Covid-19 longer term

- Support for asylum seekers and refugees – jurisdiction / lobbying for better or free travel

The Chair thanked the Leader, the Chief Executive and the Director of Place for attending.

**Resolved** that the Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee write to the Leader, reflecting the discussion and sharing the views of the Committee.

**143 Date and Time of Upcoming Panel Meetings.**

The dates and times of the upcoming Panel / Working Group meetings were **noted**.

The meeting ended at 5.25 pm

**Chair**