



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 March 2021

COVID-19 Update / Recovery Plan

Purpose:	The Committee will receive an update on, and discuss, the latest position on how the Council is dealing with COVID-19 and the progress with recovery planning.
Content:	The Leader of the Council, along with the Chief Executive, will address the Committee. The Deputy Chief Executive will also advise the Committee on progress with the Council's Recovery and Transformation Plan – 'Swansea – Achieving Better Together'.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, 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 The Scrutiny Programme Committee's work plan includes a regular focus on the Council's COVID-19 response and recovery, with input from lead Cabinet Member(s) and officers, in order to monitor and challenge Council action.
- 1.2 The last Committee discussion on this was at its meeting on 19 January including asking the Leader, Councillor Rob Stewart, about the recent experience and pressures with further lock down measures in place, progress with the vaccination programme, emergency planning arrangements and reflections on the Council's effectiveness in dealing with the pandemic.

- 1.3 Councillor Rob Stewart and the Chief Executive, Phil Roberts, will address the Committee in order to share the main / latest COVID-19 headlines for Swansea and current local situation, and address any questions arising.
- 1.4 The Committee is also keeping a watching brief on the Council's recovery and transformation plan, following agreement by Cabinet in October 2020. The Committee discussed this previously in November 2020. Then the Committee was keen to hear about the key recovery milestones, that will aid monitoring and assessment of progress and help the Committee to understand what success looks like, as the plan is rolled out. Members also asked about the link between the plan and corporate priorities. As it considers progress, the Committee will want to see a measure of performance against objectives and achievements against each of the key recovery themes. The Committee acknowledged that in the midst of the pandemic and uncertain outlook, the plan would be flexible.
- 1.5 The Deputy Chief Executive, Adam Hill, will be attending to update the Committee on how things have developed since agreement of plan last October, and in light of events how the plan is currently shaping. A report has been provided and is ***attached***.

2. Legal Implications

- 2.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy: 'Update on Swansea Achieving Better Together'.