

## Councillor Handbook, Section B - Support Services

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## 1 Cabinet Office and Democratic Services

The Cabinet Office provides a Personal Assistant role to the Cabinet (Executive) Members.

The Democratic Services (DS) Team provides general administrative support to all non-executive Councillors.



## 2 Correspondence

~~1 As part of the Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future programme, Councillors and Co-opted Members have become more self-sufficient. The self-serve agenda has seen Councillors embracing IT, associated software and the Oracle payments system.~~

1 Councillors are expected to manage their own e-mails, diary and correspondence. Should they require any support then training can be provided in certain areas by the Training Team.

~~2 The Cabinet Office / DS Team can assist with proof reading of documents on request.~~

~~32~~ The Cabinet Office / DS Team can send out general non-political mailings for Councillors Electoral Ward work. However, Councillors are expected to type their own letters although the Teams can assist with formatting. The Cabinet Office / DS Team will arrange for the letters to be printed via DesignPrint but any folding or postage costs will be taken from the individual's Councillors Community Budget.

43 The Cabinet Office / DS Team can't deal with correspondence that is political, contains information which could be deemed to be libellous or is of a personal nature.



### 3 Council Bodies Diary

- 1 The Council Bodies Diary may be viewed online at <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/councildiary>.
- 2 The Cabinet Office will assist with the management of diaries for Cabinet Members. All other Councillors and Co-opted Members are expected to manage their own diaries.



### 4 Political Group Rooms

- 1 Depending on the size of a Political Group, it is likely to have a room allocated to it. Rooms will be provided with the following items:
  - Pigeonhole for your ~~agendas~~, mail etc. to be left for your collection;
  - PC(s);
  - Telephone(s);
  - Storage facilities (~~currently 2 filing cabinet drawers per Councillor~~);
  - Office furniture.



### 5 Identity (ID) Card

- 1 All Councillors are required to wear their ID Card at all times. The Card allows access within the Civic Centre and Guildhall.
- 2 If your ID Card won't allow you access, visit <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/staffnet/replacementflexicard>.
- 3 If you lose or misplace your ID Card please inform the Cabinet Office / DS Team immediately. HR will "block" the card to ensure it is not misused by anyone else. A replacement can be ordered at a personal charge to the Councillor (~~currently~~ £5).
- 4 Temporary passes can be obtained from ~~Security~~ the DS Team and must be returned prior to exiting the building on the same day.



## 6 Receipt of Mail / Agendas etc.

- 1 Incoming mail ~~including agendas for Council meetings will be normally be scanned and e-mailed; however, some will be distributed daily and left~~ in pigeonholes provided for each Councillor.
- 2 ~~The Authority currently provides a mail delivery service for all Councillors on a Friday evening; however Councillors are asked to make every effort to collect any agendas / mail directly from their pigeonholes in order to reduce costs.~~
- 32 ~~A number of Councillors have opted out of the mail delivery service~~ Councillors are encouraged to use the e. They have chosen to collect agenda(s) themselves and ~~utilise the Modern.gov app to download electronic versions of the agenda.~~ Agendas are also emailed out ~~directly~~ to all Councillors. The Councillors, Democracy and Elections web pages may be viewed at <https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/>.
- 4 ~~If you wish to Opt Out of the Mail Delivery Service, please inform the Cabinet Office / DS Team.~~

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## 7 e-mailing and Postage

- 1 Councillors are advised to use electronic correspondence wherever possible. The Authority can send mail on behalf of a Councillors; however for bulk mail the cost will be deducted from their Councillors Community Budget.
- 2 The Cabinet Office / DS Team will not print out all e-mails for a Councillor. However training can be arranged so that the Councillor is taught how to do so.



## 8 Councillors Microsite (SharePoint)

Bookmark 8

~~A dedicated Councillors “micro-site” online tool is available to display useful information for Councillors.~~



## 9 Administrative Support

- 1 Both Teams will answer general telephone queries from members of the public, and signpost where necessary to the relevant Councillor or, provide Assembly Member / Member of Parliament etc. contact details.
- 2 Both teams will act as a central contact point for Councillors for their general enquiries for Departments and provide information regarding Officer contacts within Service Departments.



## 10 Photocopying, ~~Fax~~ and Scanning Services

- 1 Multi-Functional Devices (MFD's) are available in key locations throughout the Authority. All Councillors will be provided with a printer account which may be accessed via a Councillor ID card. Please note that personal printing is not permitted.
- 2 The MFD's also include a scanning facility which allows documents to be scanned and sent via e-mail.



## 11 ICT Support

1 Councillors can log calls / changes 24/7 on the service desk portal using the link <https://servicesdesk.swansea.gov.uk>

~~1 There are two ways to contact the ICT Service Desk~~

01792 63 6900

~~or [ict.servicedesk@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:ict.servicedesk@swansea.gov.uk) -~~

[ICT Service Desk Icon on your desktop](#)



## 12 Training

- 1 The Authority will arrange or inform Councillors of training opportunities which will include Courses, Seminars, Conferences, Induction Training for all Councillors and Other training subject to resources / budgetary availability.



## 13 Electoral Ward Surgery Support

- 1 The Authority will pay a reasonable charge for surgery hire, following prior agreement from the Head of Democratic Services.
- 2 Invoices for surgeries should then be forwarded to the DS Team on a monthly or quarterly basis and by the end of March of the relevant financial year for processing.
- 3 Surgery Posters can be printed indicating surgery details for distribution within the electoral ward [and displayed online](#).



## 14 Web Pages

- 1 Councillors are advised to take advantage of the “About You” section on the Council’s website as it allows an opportunity for you to highlight your interests etc. Information may be found at [www.swansea.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/councillors).



## 15 Councillor Meeting Room

- 1 A Councillor Meeting Room is located in Room 235, Guildhall. The room will accommodate 12-14 people around a table.
- 2 Bookings will be allocated on a “first come first served” basis and meeting slots shall be restricted to 2 hours. Block bookings shall not be permitted unless it is for a purpose such as a regular Political Group Meeting. The Head of Democratic Services shall operate a reasonable use protocol for the room.
- 3 Bookings are to be made by contacting the Democratic Services (DS) Team on 01792 63 6923 or e-mail [democracy@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@swansea.gov.uk).



## 16 Further Information Contact List

Title	Tel:
Cabinet Office	01792 63 6141
Democratic Services (DS) Team	01792 63 6923
Head of Democratic Services	01792 63 5757
Chief Executive	01792 63 7501
Section 151 Officer	01792 63 6423
Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal, Democratic Services and Business Intelligence	01792 63 6699
IT Service Desk	01792 63 6900

