

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Work Planning Conference – COMBINED GROUP FEEDBACK SUMMARY

(topics gaining wider support in bold)

WHAT?	WHY?	HOW?	Relevant Considerations to aid prioritisation
TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY	WHAT IS THE CONCERN / PROBLEM THAT NEEDS SOLVING?	APPROACH Inquiry / Performance Panel / Working Group / Committee	e.g. significance of topic, clear concerns / focus, good use of time, timely, duplication etc.
Anti-Social Behaviour	<p>Community Safety concerns. Rising levels, seemingly worse through the pandemic, and increasing concern across communities. Could focus on partnership working and resources, as well as individual responsibilities; powers; what is ASB and key causes of ASB; response to ASB hotspots; experience in managing the problem / notable work; good practice elsewhere. Some specific issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police responsiveness to ASB hotspots, ease in getting hold of the Police and Police communication - level of crime / knife crime - County Lines / drug issues - Impacts of substance misuse - Off-road motorbikes - Current / future impact of cost of living crisis - Is social media contributing to rise in ASB? 	Inquiry	<p>Significant Community Safety issue. CMT priority. Public issue. Already in previous scrutiny programme and clear support for an inquiry to proceed, as a priority.</p> <p>Need to consider there is a difference between ASB and criminal behaviour, so that any inquiry is focussed on ASB. ASB is wide-ranging large issue – may need to focus on a particular strand or aspect, where a difference can be made.</p>
Domestic Abuse / Violence	<p>Ongoing area of concern with increase in domestic abuse cases, exacerbated during the pandemic. Range of aspects including public safety, Social Services, Education / schools; 3rd sector organisations. What support have victims been able to receive since the end of the lockdown? What could the Council (and partners) be doing better? Felt Scrutiny should have an in-depth look at this within this Council term if not during 2022-23.</p>	Inquiry	<p>Public issue. Domestic Abuse has been discussed within Adult Services Performance Panel, and as part of Committee discussion on Crime & Disorder / Safer Swansea Partnership work as it is a priority area.</p>
Bus Services	<p>Concern at network coverage and levels of service across Swansea as bus services are mainly privately delivered and there are issues where routes not considered profitable. Desire to exert more pressure on bus operators to provide better service. Inquiry could look at ways and means for Council to have more power / say in local bus services. An inquiry could involve contacting WG to see if they can support local authority to hold First Buses to account</p>	Inquiry	<p>Public Issue. Working Group already carried out during 2021-22. Follow up on recommendations to be carried out by Committee which can prompt further questions to Cabinet Member about improvements and way forward.</p>

Swansea's Built Environment	Cross-cutting inquiry potentially could address wide-ranging issues including development / land use, infrastructure, roads / transportation, accessibility, safety, environmental health, cleanliness, to identify ways to improve the quality of life in our built / lived environment, so that it is more person-friendly and meeting people's needs. Specific issues of concern include pedestrian access, traffic / road safety; access to public transport (including disabled users).	Inquiry	Too big / complex? Clear enough focus / concern? May need to focus on a particular aspect.
Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on young people / support available for young people	To investigate the impacts of the pandemic on young people's wellbeing, social wellbeing, mental health, education and learning beyond education. What support is there for young people who have been significantly impacted by the pandemic? Topics of discussion to include: drug abuse, alcoholism, lack of family support for young people, and impacts of social media on the mental health of young people.	Inquiry	
Tackling Poverty / Cost of Living	Huge issue. Concern that inflation is rocketing. People having to choose whether to eat or heat. What is the Council doing to help our citizens manage? What practical help is being provided or can be regularly provided locally, e.g., help with filling in forms etc to access financial help / benefits etc.	Inquiry	Timely but a massive issue and would need focus. CMT priority. Committee has committed to looking at Tackling Poverty and achievements against the Corporate Priority / Objectives so can pick up current issues / challenges and how Council is responding to cost of living crisis.
Public Consultation	Should look at how the Council consults with principal stakeholders and resident and explore how effective / meaningful our consultation processes are, as there is a view that Council tends to inform rather than consult. Need to look at how Council consults and how previous consultations have been carried out and look for evidence of how successful and impactful they have been to decision-making.	Inquiry	Important topic for future inquiry, if not during 2022-23.
Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	To explore how purpose-built student accommodation is impacting on the number of HMOs. Is there a clear impact? Feeling that there may not be as suggestion that purpose-built accommodation is far from full as students / tenants prefer HMOs, e.g., potential for more parking provision etc. How are communities affected as a result?	Inquiry or Working Group	Public issue. Working Group on HMOs last held in 2017. Committee could revisit with Cabinet Member rather than any standalone activity.
Sand Dredging / Mining	To explore management and controls of local sand dredging / mining. Concern about effects on Gower beaches, and other impacts including biodiversity. Want to find out about extent of dredging and sand loss and how we can mitigate negative impacts. May need discussion with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to address the issue.	Inquiry or Performance Panel	Important issue for possible future inquiry.

Climate Change	Major priority area requiring more frequent scrutiny (monitoring). Council's plans for Net Zero by 2030 assessed by Climate Emergency UK (https://data.climateemergency.uk/councils/swansea-city-council/) as part of Council Climate Plan Scorecards Project (reported in the media) – rated as 19% compared to average of 50%. How can we improve strength of our Plans?	Inquiry or Performance Panel – suggested creation of a Climate Change Performance Panel (replacing Natural Environment Panel)	Corporate Priority / high priority area. CMT Priority. Public issue. Performance Panel can challenge progress and ask about what we are learning from elsewhere to improve local action. Requires on-going monitoring than one-off review.
Use of Glyphosate	Concern about continued use of glyphosate-based herbicides for weed spraying and effect on the environment / biodiversity and links to health issues.	Performance Panel or Working Group	Has been a topic of regular monitoring (Natural Environment Performance Panel) and could continue to be monitored in that way
Air Pollution	Health concerns; need to reduce air pollution	Performance Panel or Working Group	Has been a topic of regular monitoring (Natural Environment Performance Panel) and could continue to be monitored in that way. Public issue.
Fly Tipping	Management of fly tipping. Concerns that it seems to be managed / dealt with differently in different wards. Shouldn't approach and process be the same everywhere. Would be useful to discuss the process. What are our powers and how are they being applied? What can be done to eradicate problems going forward?	Performance Panel or Working Group	Public issue and concern of Councillors. Possible Working Group or Performance Panel topic but could also be picked up with Cabinet Member at Committee
Parks	Looking at improving upon the number of parks in Swansea with green flag status and what is needed to get Green Flag Award and how other parks can be improved. Interest also in the experience to date with community transfer of parks	Performance Panel or Working Group	Could be discussion within Performance Panel or picked up with Cabinet Member within Committee sessions.
City Centre Retail / Development	Concerns around current retail offer in the City Centre, loss of major shops, empty units, and Swansea's appeal as a shopping / visitor destination and ability to compete with other destinations. Concern about impact on the local economy. Forcing people to travel (cars – environmental impact) out of Swansea for shopping. Part of important discussion necessary on progress with wider City Centre development. Some issues around high rents being charged by landlords. Discussion about short term solutions, as well as long term plans.	Performance Panel or Working Group or Committee	Strategic and Public issue. Development & Regeneration Performance Panel may be best placed to monitor / discuss.
New Build Housing Towers	Concern about the support available in terms of health services and education given number of new high-rise dwellings that are being built around the city, for the large number of new people who would be moving into the area. What is the process, who is informed?	Performance Panel or Working Group	Development & Regeneration Performance Panel may be best placed to discuss.
Adult Social Care & Health	To discuss the interaction between Health and Social Care. Process needs to improve to get people home quickly from hospital, so they are not blocking beds. People need more help at home so they can be sent home.	Performance Panel	Often discussed at Adult Services Performance Panel and can continue to be monitored there.

School New Curriculum	Concern some schools are far more advanced than others in developing this. Need to monitor progress across all schools.	Performance Panel	Timely and can be discussed within Education Performance Panel
Outdoor Learning in Primary Schools	Ensuring children are learning about nature, learning from play, etc, and getting out of the classroom for this. Needs to be encouraged, what facilities / opportunities are there in our schools and how can this be improved.	Performance Panel	Can be discussed within Education Performance Panel
Music Provision in Schools	Seems to be limited access to music in some schools, why is this and how can access to music be improved?	Performance Panel	Can be discussed within Education Performance Panel
Racism in Schools	Concern about how schools may be dealing with suspected racist incidents, and whether schools are reporting rates accurately / effectively.	Performance Panel	Could be raised at the Education Performance Panel or potential for standalone Working Group.
Partneriaeth Regional Body	Need to monitor its introduction and effectiveness	Performance Panel	CMT Priority. A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group will meet to scrutinise the Regional Partnership with lead Education Scrutiny Councillors across the 3 Councils involved. Any local issues can be discussed within Education Performance Panel.
Planning Services	Importance of continued monitoring raised.	Performance Panel	Service Improvement & Finance Panel can include as standing annual item in its work plan
Service Improvement and Finance Performance Panel	Support for continuity of the Performance Panel. Also, importance of coordination with Governance & Audit Committee raised, and close working / regular communication due to changing role of audit and involvement in corporate performance assessments.	Performance Panel	Panel is well-established.
Development and Regeneration	Support for continuity of the Performance Panel given significant development and regeneration activity not just in the City Centre that needs an ongoing process of monitoring.	Performance Panel	Panel is well-established.
Environmental Wellbeing	Environmental wellbeing, healthy green areas. Is there a way for communities to grow their own food similar to community area allotments?	Performance Panel	
Road Safety	Support for postponed topic to be carried forward into this year's work programme. Specific issues raised: use of speed humps vs speed cameras (some concern about safety where used on hospital routes for people with injuries / mobility vehicles – need for a safe route in every	Working Group	Issue of public concern. Merits carry over from previous programme.

	ward to A&E); roads and footways (including road conditions – how roads are graded (process) and transparency of this – view that some roads have been repaired but others in less need have been); maintenance of street signs and road markings; enhanced safety for young / new drivers (e.g. black boxes fitted); safety of cyclists and pedestrians.		
Healthy City	Support for postponed topic to be carried forward from last year.	Working Group	
Co-production	Support for proposed topic (arising from previous Equalities Inquiry) to be looked at in a Working Group meeting. How are we progressing with this in Swansea? Important to get this right and include users, public and partners in our decision making.	Working Group	Working Group to follow up on Recommendation 13 of the Equalities Inquiry (Build upon the development of a Co-production Strategy with inclusion of a Toolkit for use by staff across the authority)
Customer Contact	Exploration of the user experience when contacting the Council / accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / through digital means. Concerns around public access to relevant information / ability for public to contact relevant officers within services. Councillors receiving complaints from members of the public about difficulties in getting in touch with services. Could incorporate aspects of digital inclusion strategy (addressing people's ability to engage digitally), and how well the Council's contact centre is operating. Is there enough information (and awareness / promotion of that information) available (and organised effectively) on the Council's website that would avoid need for people to ring the Council – including ability to report things / and get feedback? Would be useful to undertake a public survey about their experiences.	Working Group	Public issue.
Provision for Electric Car Charging	What is available currently? How are we addressing the issue of infrastructure of charging points, particularly those integrated in lamp posts people in houses that do not have direct access to points (i.e., on Terraced properties etc). How are we future proofing this?	Working Group	Public issue. Committee has previously undertaken to look at the Council's approach to implementing EV charging points, including on street charging. Were told a Strategy is being developed.
Waste and Street Cleansing	Meeting with relevant parties to discuss how this is managed, prioritised etc	Working Group	Public issue. Could be part of discussion on Annual Recycling Performance which is reported to Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel. Best placed for questions on this there.
Recycling of Business Waste	Is business waste recycled in Swansea? It was felt that business waste has a particularly large amount of recyclables and wanted to ensure that all business waste across the city is collected and recycled where possible.	Working Group	Could be part of discussion on Annual Recycling Performance which is reported to Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel. Best placed for questions on this there.

Listed Buildings	Look at ones fallen into disrepair and potential redevelopment and restoration.	Working Group	Could be item for Development & Regeneration Performance Panel.
Value for Money on Large Procurement Projects	Do we get value for money on large projects, or is there only a limited pool of contractors able to do this scale of work? How can this be improved?	Working Group	Issue was touched upon in the Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry. Inquiry follow up and questions at future Service Improvement & Finance Panel can consider this.
Whistleblowing Policy	Do people use it, it is successful. Contentious issue but important.	Working Group	Standards Committee planning to look at this.
Community Engagement	Engagement with community centres and friends of groups. There is an issue around getting people to being involved with community centres / community activities.	Working Group	
Housing for Young People (age 16/17)	As a result of Covid there are more domestic issues and many more young adults are leaving the family home with nowhere to go. There is a need for more supervised flats for young adults aged 16/17.	Working Group	Could be raised with Child & Family Services Performance Panel instead
Arts, Culture and Heritage	What is our offer here in Swansea and how do we support it?	Working Group	
Policy Commitments / Council priorities	To monitor / challenge progress on new policy commitments / council priorities, and funding	Committee (overview) and Performance Panels (specific services)	Awaiting confirmation of agreed policy commitments / priorities
Active Travel	Delivery of active travel plans in the community; concerns about community awareness / engagement; benefits	Committee or Performance Panel	Public Issue. Committee has previously discussed Active Travel consultation process with Cabinet Member and may be best placed to monitor future plans / issues.
Workforce	Follow up on previous Working Group – also to enable questions on specific issues such as recruitment & retention, and wider Workforce Development Strategy.	Committee	
Introduction of 20mph speed limit across Wales	Implications for Swansea; to check local priorities / plans (and use of funding) in delivering the proposed new law which will reduce the default speed limit on residential / restricted roads from 30mph to 20mph.	Committee	Need to await confirmation of law change and any Cabinet / Council reports about implementation
Public Services Board	What response are we getting from health partners? Is there effective collaboration? More needs to be done in relation to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. We should be working proactively to support children before they reach critical stages. What impact is social media having on the mental health of young people?	Committee	Committee could raise when scrutinising the PSB or within Performance Panel for anything specific on Mental Health. PSB Scrutiny is a CMT Priority.