

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups / Regional Scrutiny

1. Inquiry Panels:

These will undertake in-depth inquiries into specific and significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis and will be expected to take around six months to complete to enable wide-ranging evidence gathering, and production of a final report with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers).

a) **Anti-Social Behaviour** (convener: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: to be determined

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

Arrangements have been made for the Inquiry Panel to initially meet to have a briefing on the issue and then determine the key question and terms of reference for the inquiry. A date of 24 November 2022 has been arranged.

(NB - Inquiries may take up to six months to complete, as they will call for wide ranging evidence, and will lead to a report with conclusions and recommendations that will be presented to Cabinet)

2. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
Procurement	20 Oct	14	0	0	tba June/July 2023

3. Performance Panels:

Performance Panels enable regular and structured in-depth monitoring of performance and challenge within these key areas:

a) **Service Improvement & Finance** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every month. On 4 October, the Panel looked at the Quarter 1 2022/23 Budget Monitoring Report and the Annual Performance Monitoring Report for 2021/22. At their next meeting on 8 November the Panel will look at the Review of Revenue Reserves, Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Monitoring Report, Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Performance Report and the Welsh Housing Quality Standards Annual Update.

b) **Education** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This Panel meets every month. At their first meeting on the 27 October the Panel agreed their work programme, looked at the outcome of the Estyn Inspection into Education Services in Swansea, the structure of and key priorities for education currently, a briefing on Partneriaeth and the pupil voice manifesto. At the next meeting on the 17 November they will look at progress with Additional Learning Needs Reform, Pupil Development Grant Spend, the school improvement service and receive an update on the introduction of the New Curriculum for Wales in Swansea.

c) **Adult Services** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The first meeting of this municipal year took place on 27 September, and to start with the Panel received an overview of Adult Services in Swansea, including key priorities and challenges, and Performance Monitoring Report, including update on workforce pressures and impact. The Panel also agreed a work programme for the year ahead. At its next meeting on 8 November the Panel will discuss actions following the Audit Wales report on Direct Payments for Adult Social Care, receive a briefing on recent CIW Inspection Reports, and discuss the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams)

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. The Panel met on 1 November to receive an update on the Corporate Parenting Board and to discuss Residential Care Services. At the next meeting on 5 December the Panel will receive an update on the Child and Family Improvement programme and Performance Monitoring, discuss how regional arrangements are working with the Regional Safeguarding Board and look at the Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report.

e) **Development & Regeneration** (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

This Panel meets every two months. On 5 September the Panel met to look at the Regeneration Programme/Project Monitoring Report, they then discussed and agreed their work programme for the rest of 2022/23. The next Panel meeting will be held on 14 November will

continue to review the Regeneration Programme/Project Monitoring Report as well as a focus on City Centre Retail Development.

f) **Climate Change & Nature** (convener: Cllr Hannah Lawson)

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel is meeting on 9 November and will hear from lead Cabinet Members and officers who will provide an overview on the subject matter and information on relevant priorities, plans and challenges. The Panel will also discuss Water Quality and Management and agree its Work Programme for the year ahead.

4. Regional Scrutiny:

This is collaborative scrutiny with other Local Authorities for topics / issues of shared interest or concern, and models of regional working.

a) **Partneriaeth - Regional Education Partnership**

Following approval of a legal agreement by each Council's Cabinet, the new regional education partnership called 'Partneriaeth' includes Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils. Within the agreed governance structure, there is a Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, similar to that which existed to scrutinise the Education Through Regional Working (ERW) Regional School Improvement Consortium.

The first Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group took place on the 24 October 2022 where they looked at the legal agreement, received feedback on items on the agenda for the Partneriaeth Joint Committee agreed their work plan for this school year.

Partneriaeth Scrutiny is expected to take place every school term, mirroring meetings of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee. Two further meetings have been scheduled so far in February and June 2023.

b) **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal**

The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets every two months. On 6 September the Committee focussed on financial monitoring and looking at the City Deal Annual Report for 2021/22 which provides summary of key activity for the last 12 months and forthcoming 12 months planned activity along with case studies of completed work and various other aspects covering delivery achievements and planned benefits/outcomes.

The next meeting takes place on 6 December.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee is supported by Scrutiny Officers in Neath Port Talbot Council and agendas / minutes of meetings can be found on-line:

<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=417>

c) **South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee**

The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, and will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers. The Committee has agreed to set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, is being serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council, and will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Scrutiny arrangement will not preclude scrutiny within constituent Councils in order to discuss the impact of the CJC on their Council and locality. The first CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting will take place on 8 November 2022 (re-arranged from 23 September).

5. **Working Groups:**

A number of new topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Working Groups. These enable a 'light-touch' approach to specific topics of concern and will be planned as a one-off meeting (in the order shown below) primarily involving discussion with relevant cabinet member(s) / officer(s), and any other persons called, to gather information, ask questions, and give views / raise any concerns.

a) **Road Safety** (convener: Cllr Hazel Morris)

This Working Group will meet on 7 December to enable information, focussed questioning & discussion to understand the Council's role and responsibilities on road safety, e.g., asking about hot spots; work to improve safety; preventative measures; speed controls – use of signs / humps / cameras; proposed new 20mph limits; condition of roads; safety of cyclists & pedestrians; partnership working, etc. A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations will then be sent to the Cabinet Member.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

b) **Co-production** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress, helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners, and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc.

c) **Healthy City** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion exploring the Healthy City Partnership, key activities and achievements, work in relation to health promotion, particularly physical activities, including provision of outdoor sport and activities and opportunities for young people, etc.

This has been carried over from previous work programme.

d) **Customer Contact** (convener: Cllr Rebecca Fogarty)

This will enable information, focussed questioning & discussion on the user experience when contacting the Council / accessing services whether by telephone or on-line / through digital means; provision for off line and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.