

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: *How can the Council ensure that it is working with its partners to appropriately and effectively tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in Swansea?*

Progress Bar:

Planning				Evidence Gathering				Draft Final Report			

The Panel had two meetings in February, firstly, they spoke with South Wales Police and then the Education Department. In March, they will also meet twice to look at Social Services including Youth Justice Team, Evolve and the Missing Trafficked and Exploited Team. Later in the month they will discuss Council Housing, Public Protection and Fly-tipping.

(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 2022	14	0	0	Tba 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 14 February this Panel carried out pre-decision scrutiny on the budget papers in advance of Cabinet on 16 February.

The next meeting on 14 March will look at the Planning Annual Performance Report and Annual Complaints Report.

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

This Panel meets every month. At their meeting in February, they carried out pre-decision scrutiny on the annual budget as it relates to education matters.

In March, they will take a visit to Maes Derw Pupil Referral Unit and also receive an update on the Education Other Than At School Services (EOTAS).

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At its meeting on 31 January the Panel discussed the Performance Monitoring Report for November 2022, received an update on the Adult Services Transformation Programme and the Options Appraisal for Community Alarms and Assistive Technology.

At the next meeting on 21 March, the Panel will receive an update on the West Glamorgan Transformation Programme, discuss the latest Performance Monitoring Report, receive a briefing on the Annual Review of Charges (Social Services) 2021/22 and an update on Local Area Coordination.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. A progress report appears in the agenda under Item 8.

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

This Panel meets every two months. On 30 January this Panel reviewed the Regeneration Programme/Project Monitoring Report as well as a focussed look on the Tourism Destination Management Plan.

The next meeting on 20 March will focus on the Council's response to an Audit Wales Report regarding Town Centre Regeneration and continue reviewing progress on the Regeneration Programme/Projects.

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

This Panel meets every two months. The Panel met on 10 January and received an update on Climate Change including the response to Audit Wales report on Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Panel also discussed Green Vehicle Adoption and Public/Residential Electric Vehicle Charging and received a briefing on Weed Management/Use of Glyphosate.

At the next meeting on 8 March the Panel will discuss Nature Conservation - Project Updates and Air Quality Management and receive its annual update on Local Flood Risk Management.

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

Partneriaeth Scrutiny is expected to take place every school term, mirroring meetings of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee.

The Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group met on the 13 February where they looked at the Joint Committee's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements. They also received an update on the progress and performance of Partneriaeth Priority 1 - Curriculum & Assessment.

They will next meet on the 19 June, where they will meet with all three Directors of Education and the Chair of the Joint Committee, as it is stipulated in the Joint Agreement that this happens annually. With the purpose of seeking reassurance and to consider if the Partneriaeth is operating according to the Legal Agreement, its Business Plan and that its timetable is being managed effectively. They will also receive an update on Partneriaeth Priority 2 - Developing a high-quality education profession.

b) Swansea Bay City Region City Deal

The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets every two months. As well as overall programme / project monitoring including the latest financial position, the meeting on 28 February focussed on progress with the 'Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District' and 'Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth' projects. The Committee also considered issues around increasing construction costs and carbon reduction as they relate to the delivery of the City Deal programme.

The next meeting takes place on 2 May.

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 CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee will meet at least quarterly. At the last meeting held on 23 February the Committee discussed the CJC Draft Corporate Plan, South West Wales Economic Delivery Plan, and Regional Transport Plan 2025-30.

The next meeting on 20 April will focus on CJC activity in relation to Energy and Strategic Development.

The Overview & Scrutiny Sub-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=499>

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 met 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 was sent to the Cabinet Member and response received. This was reported to the Committee on 14 February and the Committee will be responsible for follow up in the next 12 months.

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

This Working Group has been arranged for 9 March 2023. It 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) **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.

d) **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.