

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			

In May, the Panel has three meetings, it will first discuss and consult with a group of young people, then representatives from the business community and SCVS and finally meet with equalities groups towards the end of the month. The Panel will then meet in June, to look at its findings and to start to conclude the inquiry.

(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	24 Oct 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 18 April the Panel looked at the Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Report 2022/23 and review the Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Plan.

On the 9 May the Panel received a progress update on the Local Government Use of Data Action Plan which had been delayed due to pandemic impacts / diversion of resources and reviewed the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2021/2022. The Panel also undertook an end of year review.

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

This Panel meets every month. In April, they looked at the wider Education Other Than At School Services, received a report designed to help them to hear the voices of Children and Young People, and discussed an update on the Swansea Skills Partnership.

In May, the Panel will look at Harassment in Schools, Tackling Racism in Schools and receive an update on the Quality in Education (QEd)/Sustainable Communities for Learning.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At its meeting on 2 May the Panel discussed the Adult Services Complaints Annual Report, received an update on how the Council's Policy Commitments relate to Adult Services and a Progress Report on Commissioning Reviews. The Panel also undertook an end of year review.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 28 June when it will agree its draft Work Plan for 2023-24.

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

This Panel meets every 6 weeks. At the next meeting on 22 May the Panel will discuss the delivery of Corporate Priorities in relation to Child and Family Services and the Child and Family Complaints Annual Report and will undertake an end of year review.

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

This Panel meets every two months. On 20 March as well as their regular item the Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report the Panel also reviewed the Council's response to the Audit Wales Report on Town Centre Regeneration.

The Panel's final meeting of the year on 15 May was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances and therefore their end of year review will

be carried out at the first meeting of the new municipal year on 11 July, along with the Regeneration Programme / Project Monitoring Report and a focussed review on Swansea Arena.

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

This Panel meets every two months. A fuller progress report appears in the agenda under Item 6.

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 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 2 May focussed on progress with the 'Pentre Awel' project.

The next meeting takes place on 4 July for continued programme / project monitoring and focussed discussion on one of the regional projects.

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 20 April the Committee discussed

23 February the Committee discussed the South West Wales Strategic Development Plan, and South West Wales Energy Strategy.

The next meeting is planned for 20 July.

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<https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/ie/ListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=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 Chris Holley) **COMPLETE**

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 took place on 9 March 2023. It enabled information, focussed questioning & discussion on the development of Co-production in the Council and progress in helping to improve involvement and engagement with service users, partners, and the public in the design & delivery of services & decision-making, etc. A letter with the Working Group's conclusions and recommendations was sent to the Cabinet Member and response received. This is reported to the Committee under Agenda Item 9. The Committee will be responsible for follow up in the next 12 months.

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 / though digital means; provision for offline and on-line contact; effectiveness of Council Contact Centre; on-going actions to improve digital inclusion / access; quality of website, etc.

This working group has been delayed due to the roll out of Oracle Fusion and is currently aiming to hold this Working Group in Autumn 2023.

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. Due to the Healthy Cities Partnership, which is led by the Local Health Board, having not met since before the Covid pandemic, this Working Group has been put on hold.