



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

**To/
Councillor Clive Lloyd
Cabinet Member for Service
Transformation & Business
Operations**

BY EMAIL

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Our Ref SPC/2017-18/1
Ein Cyf:
Your Ref
Eich Cyf:
Date 16 August 2017
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation & Business Operations following the meeting of the Committee on 14 August 2017. It is about the Cabinet report on the All Council Catering Commissioning Review.

Dear Councillor Lloyd,

**Pre-decision Scrutiny of Cabinet Report:
All Council Catering Commissioning Review Gateway 2 Report**

The Scrutiny Programme Committee met on 14 August to consider the report that you are presenting to Cabinet on 17 August, and give a view on the proposed decision.

We noted that your report concerned school meals, commercial and social services catering (including staff catering in the Civic Centre and Guildhall), and outlines a range of options for future service delivery. Your report recommended creating a single in-house managed catering function which will consolidate existing catering functions, and provides a Business Plan to take this forward, develop more commercial opportunities, and make services more efficient. We noted that there were some areas outside of the scope of the review for various reasons, namely the Mansion House, outdoor education centres, and the Cultural Services portfolio (e.g. leisure centres).

Thank you for meeting with the committee and for your engagement in the process, along with the lead officer, and answering questions. What follows is the view of the Committee, which we ask Cabinet to take into consideration before making its decision on the report.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

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In the short time available to consider the report the Committee broadly understood and had no objection to the proposals. However we had a number of observations for your attention:

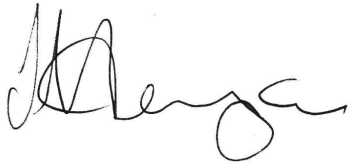
- We recognised that there is a lot of work to be done to implement the business plan, which you state will take some time, and felt that this merited further scrutiny. We will consider how progress can be monitored by scrutiny, in order to keep abreast of developments, achievements, and assess impact.
- With regard to recommendation 'e', the committee was particularly interested in how you will develop the relationship with schools, recognising associated challenges and risks to plans given their autonomy with delegated budgets, which means they can seek alternative catering provisions.
- The committee felt that the integrated in-house service will need to clearly demonstrate that it is competitive, balancing value for money and quality of the offering, in order to win business from schools and other customers. We highlighted the need to take into account that staffing costs would potentially be higher with an in-house service given the Council's wage commitments.
- We were also interested in knowing more about the internal controls (recommendation 'g') that are necessary to support the business model.
- Given that the sale of the Civic Centre is a significant part of city centre regeneration plans, and that the implementation of the business plan will take some time, we questioned the wisdom of investing in catering facilities at the Civic Centre at this time.
- We asked about the achievability of projected savings over the 3 year business plan, which appeared to be fairly ambitious (£338k in 2020/2021).
- The Committee would like to have seen more evidence in the report to support the rejection of outsourcing as the best way forward.
- Members were very keen to see an emphasis within future plans on local food sourcing and improving nutrition.

Your Response

Although I will be attending the meeting on 17 August to verbally feedback our views to Cabinet we would be grateful for a written response to this letter. The Committee can then be informed of the decision taken by Cabinet and its consideration of our views, whether accepted or rejected.

It would be helpful to receive your reply to this letter by 6 September. We will then include both letters in the agenda of our next available committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Hennegan', with a stylized, cursive script.

COUNCILLOR TERRY HENNEGAN

Vice-Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

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