



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Terry Hennegan
Vice-Chair, Scrutiny Programme
Committee
City and County of Swansea

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Cyf:
Date / Dyddiad: 4 September 2017

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Summary: This is a letter from the Cabinet Members for Culture, Tourism & Major Projects and Commercial Opportunities & Innovation to the Scrutiny Programme Committee in response to the letter dated 16 August 2017 following the meeting of the Committee on 14 August 2017. It is about the Cabinet report on the Planning & City Regeneration Commissioning Review.

Dear Councillor Hennegan

**OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF SERVICES IN THE
SCOPE OF THE PLANNING & CITY REGENERATION COMMISSIONING REVIEW**

Thank you for your observations on the Planning & City Regeneration Commissioning Review Report.

It is very pleasing that scrutiny found the report to be well evidenced, providing a clear case for in-house transformation. Cabinet agreed with this view and approved the report and all its recommendations at their meeting on 17th August.

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
ROBERT FRANCIS-DAVIES
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM & MAJOR PROJECTS /
AELOD Y CABINET DROS DDIWYLLIANT, TWRISTIAETH A PHROSIECTAU MAWR**

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Turning to your specific points, we would comment as follows:

1. Implementation – We agree that a significant amount of work lies ahead to achieve the desired transformation. Also that progress should be monitored, potentially by scrutiny. As such, an overview presentation will be made to the Development & Regeneration Scrutiny Performance Panel on 7th September by the Head of Service to assist their consideration of any future monitoring requirements.
2. Sustainable Development Team – Whilst we acknowledge the committee's concerns about splitting up the current team (2 x 0.8 officers) we feel that this option offers the greatest benefits to the Council. As the committee identify, the team's lead role in relation to the delivery of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (WFG) Act and embedding sustainability in procedures and practice is one which needs greater support and priority. To achieve this the work of the team is being transferred from its current marginal position within the Planning and City Regeneration Service to the corporate centre which will provide access to additional resources and enable wider influence. There is a new central Strategic Delivery Unit in the process of being set up which would incorporate one member of the Sustainable Development Team who would bring with them experience of enabling Council services to deliver the WFG Act, change management, central policy development, as well as servicing and supporting the PSB.

The main advantages of this approach are: access to a wider team in a central role; an improved and more influential implementation route for cascading the WFG Act throughout the Council; greater commercial opportunities; transformation of skills and knowledge - through knowledge transfer within services and across the organisation; increased capacity to develop new ways of working at a corporate level.

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As a consequence of this split the other member of the Sustainable Development Team would remain within the Planning and City Regeneration Service acting as the lead officer dealing with delivery of more sustainable forms of development, Sustainability Appraisals of plans, Climate Change, Green Growth, Smart Cities, Foresighting, etc. to address the limited resources currently being allocated to embedding sustainable development

3. Land Charges – To ensure the desired outcomes are deliverable the development of a core land charges team with a lot more automation in the process will now be the subject of further research and testing before a final design is agreed and implemented.

Thank you again for the helpful observations provided in relation to this commissioning review.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR ROBERT FRANCIS-DAVIES
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM & MAJOR PROJECTS

COUNCILLOR DAVID HOPKINS
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES & INNOVATION

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