



**To/
Councillor Mark Thomas
Cabinet Member for Environment
Services**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrchol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

Overview & Scrutiny

01792 636292

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

6th March 2018

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Service Improvement and Finance Panel Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Environment Services following the meeting of the Panel on 14th February 2018. It concerns the Highways and Transportation Commissioning Review.

Dear Councillor Thomas,

On 14th February 2018, the Service Improvement and Finance Performance Panel met to consider the Highways and Transportation Commissioning Review.

We are grateful to everyone involved for providing information and answering questions and we recognise the amount of work which has gone into this commissioning review.

We have made a number of observations that we wish to share with you and have some questions we would be grateful to receive responses to.

1. We feel that this commissioning review is too big. The scope and content of the work is too broad and does not form the basis for a coherent commissioning review. It may have been better to split the services out to create a more manageable document.

2. Regarding 3.2 the Central Transport Unit – we feel that combining the services is the best way going forward and provides for more effective management of the services. A new site (yard) has been talked about for many years. Can you advise what progress has been made?

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE

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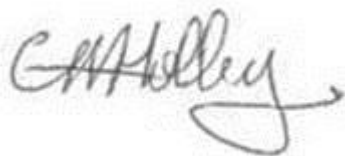
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3. Servicing vehicles and undertaking MOTs under a depot reorganisation would create a revenue stream which would be beneficial to the Council.
4. It is important to remember that bus services are vital to many people. Any changes will be a huge pressure for the public and for us as a Council. We should have a clear view of the subsidies and the reasons for them. Can you provide this?
5. In previous years we had an excellent relationship as part of the SWITCH group. It appears that we are moving back (albeit informally) to this arrangement and we believe this is a positive approach.
6. We were very pleased to see that the bus station management is both effective and cost neutral. It is a much improved bus station and this is a good outcome.
7. Not enough money is being spent on roadway and network maintenance. Continually patching roads is not a long term solution. Accompanying this, the areas surrounding the roads need to be looked at and dealt with as part of highways maintenance. Insufficient drainage and water discharging directly onto road surfaces is also contributing to the poor state of roads and causing problematic driving conditions. There is no clear view on the cost effectiveness of patching, in relation to resurfacing a road. Can you provide this?
8. Following on from this, can you advise whether there is a limit to the amount of road patching (in financial terms) which can be done in an electoral ward in one year?
9. We read about the money saving and environmental benefits of LED lighting. Which specific areas of Swansea are yet to have LED street lights installed? As a percentage, how much of Swansea does this represent?

This review was widespread in nature and required a great depth of work into each specific area. It was complex and thorough and we compliment the team for putting together the report.

I would be grateful if you could reply to this letter by 27th March 2018.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Chris Holley
Convener, Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel
✉ cllr.chris.holley@swansea.gov.uk

