

Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Summary: This is an agenda pack for a meeting for the Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel taking place on the 3 February 2016. The main item is looking at community action.

Date: 3 February 2016 **Time:** 10.30am

Venue: Committee Room 6, Guildhall, Swansea

Members of the Panel:

Cllr Terry Hennegan (Panel Convener) Cllr June Burtonshaw Cllr David Cole Cllr Chris Holley Cllr Wendy Fitzgerald Cllr Keith Marsh	Cllr Lynda James Cllr Anthony Colburn Cllr David Lewis Cllr Gloria Tanner Cllr Mike White
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Copies of Agenda for information to:

Alex Williams – Head of Adult Services (Lead for Building Sustainable Communities priority)
 Tracey McNulty – Head of Culture and Tourism (Lead for Community Action Strand)
 Dean Taylor, Director Corporate Services

AGENDA

No.	Item
1.	Apologies and declarations of interest*
2.	<p>Roundtable Discussion 1 <i>(see some issues of discussion forwarded in advance attached)</i></p> <p><i>Those invited to participate include:</i> Swansea Council for Voluntary Service Community Connector Local Area Co-ordinator</p>
3.	Work Programme Timetable

***Please note members should declare personal and prejudicial interests and party whipping in the usual manner**

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Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Terms of Reference

Key Question

The panel has agreed that the primary focus for the inquiry should be building sustainable communities through developing community action. The key question, therefore, is:

How can the council best support residents to run services in their own communities?

Lines of Inquiry

The panel will specifically be looking at the following aspects:

- **What does the community action strand mean in practice:** what is the Community Action Strand and how does it help to Build Sustainable Communities?
- **Level of support:** what level of support will the authority provide
- **Transition:** how do/will the transition of services from the local authority to communities actually work in practice and are the processes effective
- **Finance:** how will the transition and support be financed
- **Cross Authority/agency working:** how do we/will we work across the authority and with others to deliver the community action schemes?
- **Working with Communities:** how are we working with local communities to develop this strand
- **Impact:** What has been the impact of community action schemes to date
- **Good Practice:** look at successful and unsuccessful community action schemes and good practice here and elsewhere
- **Sustainable:** how do we/will we ensure continuity of the service provision

Intended Impact and Contribution

This inquiry intends to support the work of the council by:

- Drawing together some general principles for the development of the Community Action Strand
- Offering proposals for improvement in the long, medium and short term
- Providing a councillor perspective on how well the aspect is working
- Pointing to good practice examples
- Sharing of views of different people involved within this aspect

Roundtable meeting on 3 Feb 2016

Points of Discussion

The following points (based on your inquiry Terms of Reference) have been sent to those invited for their consideration prior to the meeting and in readiness for the roundtable discussion.

1. From your experience working within communities what challenges/barriers do you think there might be in developing services that are run by communities/community action?
2. How do you think the council could support/help communities to run certain services?
3. How do you think interest in running certain services could be created or developed in communities?
4. What do you think are the best ways to raise awareness and develop interest in running services in the community/community action?
5. Do you have any experiences of being involved with or working with services that are currently run by a community organisation/group? Do you have any good examples that the panel could learn from?

Building Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Inquiry Panel Timetable of Work

When / Where	What / Who
Pre Inquiry Working Group 26 November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of service by Tracey McNulty, Lead for Community Action Strand • Discuss whether to hold inquiry
Planning the Inquiry 14 Jan, 10.30am Councillor Meeting Room 235 Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of key question, lines of inquiry and evidence gathering • Call for evidence • Survey questions and email questions for councillors
Late January/early Feb	Send out survey to councillors, community councils, community groups (with closing date for receipt of survey late March)
Evidence gathering	
Meeting 1 27 Jan, 10.30am Councillor Meeting Room 235 Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transformation Fund and how the project is connecting with poverty agenda - <i>Sarah Crawley</i> • Legal – how we are preparing for and currently dealing with the legal aspects of community action (given that this will increase) – <i>Patrick Arran</i>
Meeting 2 3 Feb, 10.30am Committee Room 6 Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable meeting with different people working in the community including: community connectors, local area co-ordinators and SCVS
Meeting 3 17 Feb, 10.30am Committee Room 5 Guildhall	New item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Property Services – Geoff Bacon (to be contacted)
March – date tba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Buildings Forum - Slot on agenda for representatives from panel to attend and consult with forum
Meeting 4 3 Mar, 10.30am Committee Room 5 Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable meeting with different people working in the community including: Communities first community engagement officer, community development officer, area co-ordinator and tenancy support officer
Meeting 5 15 Mar, 10.30am Councillor Meeting Room 235 Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at wider aspects of building sustainable communities including understanding the national influences on the local agenda. Discuss corporate view and policy priorities (Cabinet Member and relevant corporate priority lead officer) • Desk based research examples elsewhere in Wales and wider
Meeting 6 14 Apr, 10.30am Committee Room 6 Guildhall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities First – how connecting with and using communities first in relation to community action. • Consider the results of Panels survey of community councils and community groups.
TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Centres/village halls Speak to representatives of: community centres/village halls (non-council)
Finalising Inquiry	
Meeting 7 TBA	Draw together evidence and discuss emerging themes arising from the inquiry. (Start to put together final report to Cabinet).