

# **Social Justice at the heart of frontline delivery and regeneration**

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# **A few facts about the Council area**

East of Swansea, West of Cardiff

Population: 140,000

Net revenue budget of £270 million

Coastal belt (M4) plus five valleys

Poverty & Deprivation major  
challenges

# **Social justice agenda**

Services targeted towards the most disadvantaged (at the heart of Corporate Plan)

**How do we do it?**

# Emphasis on practical measures (not aspirational strategies)

No rocket science – see Centre for Social Justice, Bevan Foundation and many others:

Key areas:

- Families (preventing breakdown)
- Educational opportunity
- Economic dependency/worklessness
- Regeneration opportunities
- Health and Well Being
- Personal finance/indebtedness

# Families

Two years ago: Council struggling (poor inspection reports)

Heavy investment in prevention agenda and staff

Focus on key causes (e.g. substance/alcohol misuse)

Multi-agency solutions including better commissioning

# Educational opportunity

Historic strength of Council (verified by inspection).

High value added outcomes at KS4

Strong HE/FE sectors locally – good links to employers

Emphasis on vocational courses

# Economic Dependency

- Reasonably strong SME/micro-business base
- But hard core generational worklessness issue
- Less opportunity in public sector and large employers (e.g. TATA) instead minimum wage, part-time jobs a feature of local economy
- Workways: £13m European programme across SW Wales – over 1250 job placements
- Self help – DOVE established during the Miners' Strike . Supports adult education, training and advice on business start up runs café, a day nursery and a community garden

# Regeneration

- Regeneration scheme target local suppliers and local labour market as key component parts. Many examples
- Planning policies support these objectives
- Big opportunities locally in renewables sector e.g. wind and tidal (Swansea Bay tidal lagoon)
- Swansea Bay City Region launched



# Health and Well Being

- Very poor outcomes likely
- Indicators haven't budged in a generation
- Linked to economic and social factors
- Closer joined up working between three Council and the Local Health Board
- Investment in better fewer health facilities with emphasis on community care

# Personal Finance

Preventing meltdown – 1 in 5 in South Wales have a problem

- Welfare reform a key factor. Welfare Rights Unit/other agencies offer support
- More targeted Council services (housing benefit, disabilities, etc.)

# Conclusions

- Doing our best in difficult circumstances
- Not going to solve poverty on our own
- Big challenges remain linked to austerity (e.g. cuts to public transport, adult learning. Leisure facilities, pressures on NHS, etc.)