

## Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the **Council of the City and County of Swansea** to be held in the Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Guildhall / MS Teams on Thursday, 1 December 2022 at 5.00 pm.

Watch Online: <http://bit.ly/3WLgT3f>

The following business is proposed to be transacted:

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**  
[www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests)
3. **Minutes.** **1 - 13**  
To approve & sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.
4. **Written Responses to Questions asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council.** **14 - 17**
5. **Announcements of the Presiding Member.**
6. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council.**
7. **Public Questions.**  
Questions can be submitted in writing to Democratic Services [democracy@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@swansea.gov.uk) up until noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Written questions take precedence. Public may attend and ask questions in person if time allows. Questions must relate to items on the open part of the agenda and will be dealt within a 10 minute period.
8. **Mid-term Budget Statement 2022/23. (Verbal)**
9. **Policy Commitments - The First 100 Days.** **18 - 33**
10. **Council Tax Base Calculation – 2023/2024.** **34 - 42**
11. **Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report 2023-2024 – Consultation.** **43 - 49**
12. **Membership of Committees.** **50 - 51**
13. **Councillors' Questions.** **52 - 72**

**Webcasting:** This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to be filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and / or training purposes.

**You are welcome to speak Welsh in the meeting.**

Please inform us by noon, two working days before the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, 8 December 2022 at 2.00 pm



**Huw Evans  
Head of Democratic Services  
Guildhall,  
Swansea.**

**Wednesday, 23 November 2022**

**To: All Members of the Council**

# Agenda Item 3.



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the Council

Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Friday, 28 October 2022 at 2.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor A M Day (Lord Mayor) Presided

### Councillor(s)

P M Black  
A M Day  
P Downing  
M Durke  
C R Evans  
R Francis-Davies  
F M Gordon  
K M Griffiths  
C A Holley  
P R Hood-Williams  
B Hopkins  
D H Hopkins  
M H Jones  
M Jones

### Councillor(s)

S M Jones  
E J King  
E T Kirchner  
A S Lewis  
M B Lewis  
W G Lewis  
P Lloyd  
D Phillips  
C L Philpott  
S Pritchard  
K M Roberts  
B J Rowlands  
R V Smith  
A H Stevens

### Councillor(s)

R C Stewart  
L G Thomas  
T M White  
P N Bentu  
H J Gwilliam  
D H Jenkins  
M W Locke  
N L Matthews  
J D McGettrick  
J E Pritchard  
M S Tribe  
A J Jeffery

### Officer(s)

Huw Evans	Head of Democratic Services
Tracey Meredith	Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer
Samantha Woon	Democratic Services Officer

### Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): C Anderson, C R Doyle, V M Evans, E W Fitzgerald, R Fogarty, N Furlong, L S Gibbard, T J Hennegan, J W Jones, H Lawson, P N May, H M Morris, L V Walton and R A Williams

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## 68. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

The Chief Legal Officer gave advice regarding the potential personal and prejudicial interests that Councillors and / Officers may have on the agenda.

The Head of Democratic Services reminded Councillors and Officers that the "Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests" sheet should only be completed if the Councillor / Officer actually had an interest to declare. Nil returns were not required. Councillors and Officers were also informed that any declarable interest must be made orally and in writing on the sheet.

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea no interests were declared.

**69. Conferring Title of Honorary Alderman / Honorary Alderwoman.**

The Lord Mayor stated that Council at its meeting on 7 July 2022 resolved to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on the following former Councillors June E Burtonshaw, Mark C Child, D Gareth Sullivan & Des W W Thomas in recognition of their long and eminent service to the City and Council of Swansea and its predecessor Authorities. The Ceremonial Meeting of Council ceremoniously conferred those titles.

The title is derived from the Old English title of "Ealdorman", literally meaning "Elder Man", and was used by the Chief Nobles presiding over Shires. The position of Honorary Alderman / Honorary Alderwoman is non-political.

The title is used within the City and County of Swansea as a reward for individuals who have reached the end long and eminent services to the Council providing the criteria has been met.

**June E Burtonshaw**

Former Councillor and Former Lord Mayor June E Burtonshaw served the Penderry community. She was Lord Mayor of the City & County of Swansea 2002-2003. The periods of service being:

- Swansea City Council. 5 May 1983 to 31 March 1996.
- City & County of Swansea. 4 May 1995 to 9 May 2022.

**Mark C Child**

Former Councillor and Former Lord Mayor Mark C Child served the West Cross community. He was Lord Mayor of the City & County of Swansea 2020-2021. The period of service being:

- City & County of Swansea. 6 May 1999 to 9 May 2022.

**D Gareth Sullivan**

Former Councillor and Former Lord Mayor D Gareth Sullivan served the Llangyfelach community. He was Lord Mayor of the City & County of Swansea 2008-2009. The periods of service being:

- Lliw Valley Borough Council. 7 May 1987 to 31 March 1996.
- City & County of Swansea. 4 May 1995 to 9 May 2022.

### **Des W W Thomas**

Former Councillor and Former Lord Mayor Des W W Thomas served the West Cross community. He was Lord Mayor of the City & County of Swansea 1996-1997. The periods of service being:

- Swansea Borough Council. 4 May 1972 to 31 March 1974.
- Swansea City Council. 1 April 1974 to 5 May 1976.
- West Glamorgan County Council. 1 November 1979 to 31 March 1996.
- City & County of Swansea. 4 May 1995 to 9 May 2022.

The Leader of Council and the Leader of the Largest Opposition Group paid tribute to the long and eminent service of these former Councillors. The four Honorary Aldermen responded.

The meeting ended at 2.25 pm

**Chair**



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the Council

Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Guildhall / MS

### Teams

Thursday, 3 November 2022 at 5.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor J P Curtice (Chair) Presided

#### Councillor(s)

C Anderson  
S Bennett  
P N Bentu  
P M Black  
P Downing  
C R Doyle  
M Durke  
C M J Evans  
V M Evans  
C R Evans  
E W Fitzgerald  
R Fogarty  
N Furlong  
L S Gibbard  
F M Gordon  
K M Griffiths  
H J Gwilliam  
J A Hale  
V A Holland  
C A Holley  
P R Hood-Williams

#### Councillor(s)

B Hopkins  
D H Hopkins  
O G James  
L James  
Y V Jardine  
A J Jeffery  
D H Jenkins  
M H Jones  
M Jones  
S M Jones  
L R Jones  
J W Jones  
S Joy  
E T Kirchner  
H Lawson  
M B Lewis  
R D Lewis  
W G Lewis  
A S Lewis  
P Lloyd  
M W Locke

#### Councillor(s)

N L Matthews  
P M Matthews  
J D McGettrick  
H M Morris  
F D O'Brien  
A J O'Connor  
C L Philpott  
J E Pritchard  
S Pritchard  
A Pugh  
S J Rice  
K M Roberts  
B J Rowlands  
R V Smith  
A H Stevens  
R C Stewart  
L G Thomas  
M S Tribe  
G D Walker  
L V Walton  
T M White

#### Officer(s)

Gareth Borsden	Democratic Services Officer
Allison Lowe	Democratic Services Officer
Tracey Meredith	Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer
Martin Nicholls	Interim Chief Executive
Ben Smith	Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer

#### Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A Davis, A M Day, R Francis-Davies, S E Keeton, E J King, P N May, W G Thomas and R A Williams

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**70. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

The Chief Legal Officer gave advice regarding the potential personal and prejudicial interests that Councillors and / Officers may have on the agenda.

She reminded Councillors and Officers that the "Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests" sheet should only be completed if the Councillor / Officer actually had an interest to declare. Nil returns were not required. Councillors and Officers were also informed that any declarable interest must be made orally and in writing on the sheet.

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea the following interests were declared:

- 1) Councillors P N Bentu, P Downing, M Durke, C M J Evans, Y V Jardine, L James, J W Jones, M H Jones, S J Rice, K M Roberts, G D Walker, T M White declared a Personal Interest in Minute 77 "Implementation of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016."
- 2) Councillors N L Matthews declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 79 "Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea - Kevin Johns MBE" and left prior to the item being considered.
- 3) Councillor C M J Evans declared a Personal Interest in Minute 80 "Councillors Questions – Q5".

**71. Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the following Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record:

- 1) Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 6 October 2022.
- 2) Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 October 2022.

**72. Written Responses to Questions asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council.**

The Chief Legal Officer submitted an information report setting out the written responses to questions asked at the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Councillor C A Holley indicated that in relation to response 3, he had also sought information on the physical transfer of buildings.

The Corporate Services & Performance Cabinet Member stated that an updated written response would be provided.

**73. Announcements of the Presiding Member.**

**a) Condolences**

**i) Iris Richard, Former Lady Mayoress**

The Presiding Member referred with sadness to the recent death of Iris Richard, former Lady Mayoress. Iris was the wife of Honorary Alderman, former Lord Mayor & former Councillor Ian M Richard.

**ii) Former Councillor Miles Thomas**

The Presiding Member referred with sadness to the recent death of former Councillor Miles Thomas. Miles represented the Newton Ward on the City & County of Swansea from 21 October 2010 to 4 May 2017.

**iii) Former Councillor Sonya Morris**

The Presiding Member referred with sadness to the recent death of former Councillor Sonya Morris. Sonya represented the Uplands Ward on Swansea City Council from 1992 to 1996.

All present stood in silence as a mark of sympathy and respect.

**b) LAPF Awards 2022**

The Presiding Member announced that the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund had been shortlisted in several categories in the LAPF Awards 2022. The Awards recognise excellence in the field of pension fund investment. The winners will be announced on 15 December 2022. The shortlisted categories being:

- i) LGPS Fund of the Year (Assets under £2.5 Billion at 31 March 2022).
- ii) LGPS Investment Strategy of the Year.
- iii) Best Climate Change Strategy.

**c) Estates Gazette Awards 2022**

The Presiding Member announced that the City & County of Swansea had been shortlisted in the City of the Year Award category of the Estates Gazette Awards 2022. The Award seeks to celebrate the UK's cities and the work they are doing to create liveable, successful places. The winners will be announced on 2 November 2022.



**d) Shortlisted entries for Welsh Housing Awards 2022**

The Presiding Member announced that Swansea Council had been shortlisted in several categories for the Welsh Housing Awards 2022. The Awards celebrate excellence within Wales' Housing sector. The winners will be announced on 18 November 2022. The shortlisted categories being:

- i) Category:** Delivering High Quality Homes.  
**Shortlisted Project:** Building Better Homes. Hillview.  
**Organisation:** Swansea Council
  
- ii) Category:** Housing Team of the Year.  
**Shortlisted Project:** Housing Rents Team.  
**Organisation:** Swansea Council.
  
- iii) Category:** Working in Partnership.  
**Shortlisted Project:** The Swansea Standard – Providing Affordable Low Carbon Housing for the Future. Submitted by Welsh School of Architects (WSA).  
**Organisation:** Low Carbon Built Environment (LCBE), Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University & Swansea Council.
  
- iv) Category:** Sustainability in Housing.  
**Shortlisted Project:** Whole House Energy Retrofit of 6 Terraced Bungalows in Swansea driving towards Zero Carbon Targets. Submitted by Welsh School of Architects (WSA).  
**Organisation:** Low Carbon Built Environment (LCBE), Welsh School of Architecture & Swansea Council.

**e) 26 January Council Meeting**

The Presiding Member announced that following consultation between herself and the Political Group Leaders and due to uncertainty around the budget announcements the meeting would be moved back a week to 2 February 2022.

An additional Council meeting would also need to be arranged in January and updated information on both meetings would be sent to Members by Democratic Services in due course.

**f) Warm Blankets for Ukraine**

The Presiding Member announced that various local supermarkets continue to collect items, and any donations would be welcome.

**74. Announcements of the Leader of the Council.**

**a) Budget Update**

The Leader outlined that the current position is extremely worrying in terms of finances for Local Government in Wales. The WLGA have estimated that the financial black hole across Wales could be £750 million.

This is driven largely through two factors which are that many of the current energy deals that various councils and public bodies have at the moment will come to an end early next year, which is the same time as the current cap being provided by the UK also comes to an end.

He indicated that hopefully further information and clarity would be provided on 17 November.

If the current cap is not extended it could see the Council's energy bill rise from £5m to £20m.

Additional to that pay awards for staff are also close to being agreed. The monies for these pay awards is normally funded by UK and Welsh Governments but at the moment there is no commitment on this additional funding which could leave an extra £10m of pressure on this authority's budget.

On top of that are the current inflationary pressures being faced by all Councils, businesses and individuals.

**b) Economic Recovery Fund**

He indicated that due to the budgetary pressures outlined above, he had agreed in conjunction with the Chief Finance officer that applications to the above fund would be suspended.

Applications that have been submitted will be examined and discussed in line with the various funding options available and Members will be made aware if they will proceed or be suspended for the time being.

**c) Estates Gazette Awards**

He outlined that he had attended the awards last night where Swansea was nominated into the final four for the 'City of the Year' award, unfortunately Swansea was not successful with Birmingham, who had hosted the Commonwealth games earlier in the year, winning the award.

It was the first time that Swansea had been nominated for such a prestigious award and he thanked Officers for the work they had undertaken in delivering the various projects across the City.

**d) Together at Christmas**

The Leader outlined that once again Swansea Council in partnership with JR Events & Catering will be running the Together at Christmas initiative again this year. The event aims to provide a free Christmas carvery lunch for the homeless, isolated and those in need. It will be held between 12-3.00pm on Tuesday, 6 December 2022 at the Brangwyn Hall. Councillors and others are encouraged to volunteer via email [events@jr-eventsandcatering.co.uk](mailto:events@jr-eventsandcatering.co.uk)

**e) Recent Bad Weather**

He paid tribute to the work undertaken by Council staff across the board during the recent bad weather and outlined the huge demand for services due to the extreme amount of rain that fell in such a short period of time and led to flooding in some areas. Some issues were experienced with the ability to respond to the huge amount of calls/ e mails received in a such a short period which will be reviewed.

He indicated that unfortunately due to the bad weather forecast for the weekend, the Fireworks Event on November 5<sup>th</sup> in Swansea Bay will not be able to proceed but the Special Events Team will now focus on delivering the Christmas Parade on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November .

**75. Public Questions.**

No public questions were submitted.

**76. Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Local Government Education Services in Swansea.**

The Cabinet Member for Education & Skills presented a report which outlined and detailed the outcomes arising from the 2022 Estyn Inspection of Local Government Education Services in Swansea.

**Resolved** that the findings from the 2022 Estyn Inspection be noted.

**77. Implementation of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016.**

The Cabinet Member for Service Transformation presented a report which sought to raise awareness of the Act and its implications and to consider the recommendation to end the use of introductory tenancies.

**Resolved** that

1) The implications of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 be noted.

2) Council agrees to end the use of Introductory Tenancies and allows all existing Introductory Tenants to be issued with Secure Occupation contracts on implementation of the Renting Homes Act.

3) All new Swansea Council tenants be issued with Secure Occupation Contracts from 1st December 2022.

#Note: The Cabinet Member for Service Transformation agreed to hold a Members Seminar to look at the Anti-Social behaviour issues raised during the debate on this item.

**78. HMO Licensing Policy.**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Service and Performance presented a report which presented the requirement to include an addendum to the HMO Licensing Policy 2020 with regards to the Waterfront Ward.

**Resolved** that addendum to the existing HMO Licensing Policy to change the ward names in the Policy to Uplands, Castle, St Thomas and Waterfront as set out in Appendices B, C, D and E to the report be approved and these appendices be added to the HMO Licensing Policy.

**79. Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea - Kevin Johns MBE.**

The Leader presented a report which sought consideration of the conferring of the Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea to Kevin Johns MBE.

**Resolved** that

1) The Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea be granted to Kevin Johns MBE.

2) A ceremonial council meeting be held on 8 December 2022 at 2.00 pm to confer the title of Honorary Freedom.

**80. Councillors' Questions.**

1) **Part A 'Supplementary Questions'**

Fourteen (14) Part A 'Supplementary Questions' were submitted.

The relevant Cabinet Member(s) responded by way of written answers contained in the Council Summons.

Those supplementary questions required a written response are listed below.

**Question 7**

Councillor Stuart Rice asked a question relating to the breakdown of the investments relating to the various projects that the council is funding or is coming from private or public sector.

The Leader stated that a written response would be provided.

**Question 10**

Councillor Angela O'Connor asked a question relating to the employment of the community liaison officer and what stage of the process are we currently at with the appointment.

The Leader stated that a written response would be provided.

2) Part B 'Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions'

Three (3) Part B 'Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions' were submitted.

**81. Notice of Motion - Adopting a Definition of Islamophobia.**

Proposed by Councillor L S Gibbard and Seconded by Councillor R C Stewart.

Swansea is proud of its diversity and has a strong history of promoting cohesion and welcoming people from all over the world. Its residents have always united and supported each other in the fight against racism and discrimination in all its forms.

This Council therefore welcomes, endorses and adopts the working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia[1], including all of its examples in full cited as follows:

"ISLAMOPHOBIA IS ROOTED IN RACISM AND IS A TYPE OF RACISM THAT TARGETS EXPRESSIONS OF MUSLIMNESS OR PERCEIVED MUSLIMNESS."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, considering the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism and claims of a demographic 'threat' posed by Muslims or of a 'Muslim takeover'.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the 'Ummah' (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

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Cont'd

- Denying Muslim populations, the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia.
- Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.

Therefore, we call on:

1. The Leader of Council to write to the UK government asking them to listen to Muslim communities and the cross-party group of MPs and peers.
2. The Council to formally adopt this definition of Islamophobia which classifies discrimination against Muslims as a form of racism.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 30 "Voting" a recorded vote was requested. The voting was recorded as follows:

<b>For (59 Councillors)</b>		
<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>
C Anderson	C A Holley	P M Matthews
S Bennett	P R Hood-Williams	J D McGettrick
P N Bentu	B Hopkins	H M Morris
P M Black	D H Hopkins	F D O'Brien
J P Curtice	L James	A J O'Connor
P Downing	Y V Jardine	C L Philpott
C R Doyle	A J Jeffery	J E Pritchard
M Durke	D H Jenkins	S Pritchard
C R Evans	J W Jones	S J Rice
C M J Evans	L R Jones	K M Roberts
V M Evans	M H Jones	B J Rowlands
E W Fitzgerald	S M Jones	R V Smith
R A Fogarty	S A Joy	A H Stevens
N Furlong	H Lawson	R C Stewart
L S Gibbard	A S Lewis	L G Thomas
F M Gordon	M B Lewis	M S Tribe
K M Griffiths	W G Lewis	G D Walker
H J Gwilliam	P Lloyd	L V Walton
J A Hale	M W Locke	T M White
V A Holland	N L Matthews	

<b>Against (0 Councillor(s))</b>		
<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>
-	-	-

<b>Abstain (0 Councillors)</b>		
<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>

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Cont'd

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<b>Withdrawn from meeting due to declarable interest (0 Councillors)</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
-	-	-

**Resolved** that the Notice of Motion outlined above be adopted.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

**Chair**

# Agenda Item 4.



## Report of the Chief Legal Officer

Council – 1 December 2022

### Written Responses to Questions asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council

The report provides an update on the responses to Questions asked during the Meeting of Council held on 3 November 2022.

#### For Information

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 It was agreed at Council on 8 April 2010 that a standing item be added to the Council Summons entitled “Written Responses to Questions Asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council”.
- 1.2 A “For Information” report will be compiled by the Democratic Services Team collating all written responses from the last Ordinary Meeting of Council and placed in the Agenda Pack;
- 1.3 Any consequential amendments be made to the Council Constitution.

#### 2. Responses

- 2.1 Responses to questions asked during the last ordinary meeting of Council are included as Appendix A.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** Appendix A (Questions & Responses)



**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council  
3 November 2022**

1.	<p><b>Councillor CA Holley</b></p> <p><b>In relation to Minute 72 - Written Responses to Questions asked at The Last Ordinary Meeting of Council. (Q3)</b></p> <p>He indicated that in relation to response 3, he had also sought information on the physical transfer of buildings.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>Further to your question raised at Council on 3rd November 2022 in relation to Q3, you asked for information on the physical transfer of buildings.</p> <p>Please find the list below:</p> <p><u>Swansea Council - Completed Community Asset Transfers November 2022</u></p> <p>Coed Bach Park Bowling Green  Coed Gwilym Park Bowling Green  De La Beche Bowling Green  Dunvant Park Bowling Green  Dyfatty Park Bowling Green  Hafod Park Bowling Green  Jersey Park Bowling Green  Coed Bach Park Football Pitches and Changing Room, Pontarddulais  Morrison Park Bowling Green  Mumbles Bowling Green  Parc Llewelyn Bowling Green  Parc Williams Bowling Green  Parc Y Werin Bowling Green  Primrose Park Bowling Green  Graig Y Coed Football Pitch and Changing Rooms  Land at Blackpill for Skatepark  Forge Fach, Clydach  Graig Felen Hall, Clydach  Swansea Indoor Bowls Centre  Southgate WC  Langland Tennis Courts  Wanarwydd Park  Killay Scout Hall  Underhill Park, Mumbles  Graig Y Coed Nature Reserve  Coed Gwilym - Bowls Green and Surround  Land at Clyne Gardens  Football Pitches at the Ganges  Swansea Community Farm  Castle Road Allotments, Mumbles  Cwmgelli Allotments, Treboeth</p>
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Frederick Place Allotments, Llansamlet  
The Grange Allotments, West Cross  
Heol Y Gors Allotments, Townhill  
Lon Mafon Allotments, Sketty  
Lower Norton Allotments, Mumbles  
Seaview Terrace Allotments  
Singleton Allotments, Sketty  
Acre Field Allotments, Mumbles  
Castle Acre Allotments, Mumbles  
Upper Norton Allotments, Mumbles  
Plunch Lane Allotments, Mumbles  
Eynon Street Allotments, Gorseinon

Eastside Allotments, Port Tenant  
Fairfield Allotments, Mayhill

**2. Councillor S J Rice**

**In relation to Minute 80 – Councillors Questions – Q7**

He asked a question relating to the breakdown of the investments relating to the various projects that the council is funding or is coming from private or public sector.

**Response of the Leader**

The Council has a significant regeneration agenda which is in the process of delivery.

The following projects costs or position is set out below.

**Copr Bay**

Cost £135m with circa £22.4m City Deal and £2.4 m from WG for active travel linked to the bridge and £1m ERDF. The remainder from Council funding.

**71/72 Kingsway**

Cost £32m with circa £13.6m from the City Deal and ERDF £500k with the remainder from the Council.

**Palace Theatre**

Cost £7m, funded £4.9m ERDF, £2.1m Council core match funding.

**Power House**

Cost 7.1M funded £3.8 from NLHF grant, £716k Welsh Government grant and the balance from the council.

**Former BHS**

Tender process running and therefore costs commercially confidential at present.

**Castle Gardens**

Tender process about to start and therefore costs commercially confidential at present.

**3.**

**Councillor A J O'Connor**

**In relation to Minute 80 – Councillors Questions – Q10**

She asked a question relating to the employment of the community liaison officer and what stage of the process are we currently at with the appointment.

**Response of the Leader**

I can confirm that the ERF funded position of Community Volunteer Coordinator was successfully recruited and Nichola Fencott joined the Community, Partnership & Destination Development Team on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 and will be employed until end March 2024.

# Agenda Item 9.



## Report of the Leader/Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

Council – 1 December 2022

### Policy Commitments - The First 100 Days

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report highlights the achievements and successes of Swansea Council during the 'first 100 days', in line with the Policy Commitments Statement agreed at Council on 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022.
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Richard Rowlands
<b>Report Author:</b>	Emily Davies
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Roach
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar
<b>For Information</b>	

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022, a report to establish a number of policy commitments of Swansea Council was adopted (Policy Commitments Statement 2022-27).
- 1.2 This report moves the Policy Commitments Statement on one stage further and reports on what the council has achieved by the end of the first 100 days, outlining some of the key actions that have been taken. It should be noted that not all actions have been detailed in this report, as many aspects continue to evolve and progress.
- 1.3 Swansea Council continues to work in partnership to promote and develop the well-being of all our citizens and our communities, working co-operatively and co-productively both within the council as well as with other bodies / organisations.
- 1.4 The council will continue to place an urgent emphasis on the delivery of high-quality services for all. Swansea Council has become an award-winning council, recognised as excellent in many of the services it delivers

and has been shortlisted for national awards in numerous categories including Council of The Year, Waste Management, Building Services and Construction, and Workforces (including our Apprenticeship Scheme). In September 2022, Swansea hosted more than 300 UK delegates at the annual Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) conference and awards, at which Swansea Council won the award for the best commercialisation and entrepreneurship initiative.

1.5 In addition, a range of independent assessments of our services by Estyn (Education), CiW (Social Services) and Audit Wales provide strong independent validation of the strength and quality of the services in Swansea. For example, officers from Estyn inspected Swansea Council's education services in June 2022, noting that pupil performance is above the national average and there is important work being done to support vulnerable young people to ensure they succeed and remain in school.

1.6 The council wants to continue to be recognised for high quality public services. To this end, the council will continue to modernise and invest in our front-line services to ensure their long-term sustainability through our Corporate Plan 2022/23, which outlines our ambitions and commitments to residents - our 'well-being objectives':

- **Safeguarding** people from harm - so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- Improving **Education & Skills** - so that everyone in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- Transforming our **Economy & Infrastructure** - so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- **Tackling Poverty** - so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- Delivering on **Nature Recovery and Climate Change** - so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.
- **Transformation & Future Council Development** - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

1.7 The Corporate Plan and corporate priorities are currently being reviewed with a new plan being adopted early in 2023 for the period 2023-27.

## 2. What Is Being Achieved?

2.1 A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken over the last five years in delivering the council's policies. The council will build upon these achievements to create an environment which enables people to lead flourishing lives, secure local well-paid employment, live in strong and resilient communities which promotes physical and psychological wellbeing, with access to excellent services and protective of our natural environment.

- 2.2 All of the 100 days commitments have been started and some are well advanced, including the following;

### **Education**

- 2.3 The council made a commitment to mapping out future priorities, in line with our Quality in Education (QEd) / Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. This pledge is aligned to the Corporate Plan under the 'Improving Education and Skills' objective, and has been included in the work programme for the Education and Skills Corporate Delivery Committee (CDC). The next phase of the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is mapped out and supported, with final delivery being noted as on track.
- 2.4 Swansea Council has commenced the upgrade works at Cefn Hengoed Community School, progressing the £7m investment in a new Community Sports Barn in Bonymaen. South Wales-based contractor Morganstone have successfully tendered to deliver the project and work is now underway on site. The investment at Cefn Hengoed Leisure Centre and Community School will see a new sports barn complete with indoor 3G pitch and fitness studio as well as a re-purposed outdoor five-a-side pitch. The development should be completed by Autumn 2023.
- 2.5 Swansea Council has begun the delivery and development of new special school facilities, a commitment aligned to the Corporate Plan under 'Improving Education and Skills'. Progress to date includes the approval by Welsh Government of the strategic outline case and completion of some ground investigations.
- 2.6 The council has expanded free school meal provision, in line with Welsh Government guidance and the freeze on school meal prices. New or improved equipment has been ordered and delivered, and the majority of school kitchens surveyed. Parents have been informed of programme delivery for Reception children, which commenced in September 2022.
- 2.7 The council has commenced the new regional partnership arrangements; the South West Wales Education Partnership will be a regional collaborative arrangement designed to promote excellence in all of our schools. In November 2021, a legal partnership agreement was approved by the respective Cabinets of the City and County of Swansea, Carmarthenshire Council and Pembrokeshire Council to establish a joint committee for a new regional education partnership, 'Partneriaeth', to support the delivery of school improvement. The joint committee of Partneriaeth is now in place.

### **Better Care**

- 2.8 Incorporated into the delivery programme for the Safeguarding People and tackling Poverty CDC, the council will undertake a review of post-pandemic care provision, including an internal and external domiciliary

care capacity review. Swansea Council is also looking into the development of an Assistive Technology Strategy and an internal residential care provision review. In addition, the workforce development programme (recruitment and retention) is underway, as well as development of a locality-based prevention and early intervention framework.

2.9 Swansea Council's commitment to begin options appraisal and move to increase council direct delivery of care is underway, with progress including the scoping of current demand and pressures. Work is underway to evaluate the cost comparison of in-house and external provision, as well as identifying and addressing any budget gaps. This commitment is also included in the programme delivery for the Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty CDC.

2.10 Swansea Council is engaging with Health to ensure care plans align with health recovery. Transformation priorities have been aligned with regional transformation agendas, and objectives have been shared with partners across the region. Specific workstreams have been developed including:

- Prevention and Community Co-ordination
- Homes First Model Development
- Learning Disability & Wellbeing
- Transformation Complex Care
- Wellbeing & Mental Health
- Carers

This commitment is also included in the programme delivery for the Safeguarding People and Tackling Poverty CDC.

2.11 Work has commenced on progressing a new children's care facility and we have purchased one home for development and transformation. Recruitment and development of staff for this provision is underway. Work is ongoing to source a second property and additional work is ongoing to secure further regional funding for extra developments in this area.

### **Communities**

2.12 The council is completing bus shelter installations and continuing to review records of current stock to confirm which shelters would benefit from upgrading. Part of the city-wide upgrade includes ten new 'green roof' bus shelters, featuring natural plants on top, which can help filter out dust particles and contribute to better air quality.

2.13 Swansea Council committed to setting up the new Cleansing Ward Operative Team, which will head into every ward in Swansea to undertake deep cleans and tackle major littering and fly-tipping issues, in line with input from ward councillors.

- 2.14 Swansea Council have committed to installing new bins and to replace dog waste bins with larger general bins. Tender bids have been received and new bins ordered, with the first deliveries successfully received during September 2022. This area of delivery is aligned to the Corporate Plan under 'Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure'. The council is also in discussions about introducing new smart bins which send messages to the clean-up team to let them know when they are full.
- 2.15 The council is committed to the roll-out of new drainage teams and new PATCH (Priority Action Team for Community Highways) programmes. A major 4-year contract has been re-issued and the programme is due to start with two teams in early October 2022. All works programmed are scheduled to complete within a year. Consideration will need to be given to next year's programme and whether additional funding will continue or revert to pre- ERF levels.
- 2.16 The council has commenced work on progressing the £10m local road upgrade commitment, with areas of intended focus / priority set out for agreement by Cabinet Members. This area of delivery is aligned to the Corporate Plan under 'Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure'.
- 2.17 Swansea Council has revised community budget rules in full.
- 2.18 The council is progressing roll-out of free public Wi-Fi and continue to work on developing options. Work is progressing around delivery of the following aspects:
- Options Appraisal
  - Agree a Strategic Approach
  - Procurement of Solution
  - Implementation
  - Links with the CCTV roll out to ensure state aid compliance
- 2.19 The council continues to progress investigations into the options for a Substance Use Truth Commission, aligned to the Corporate Plan under Tackling Poverty. Partnership work has commenced to commission a substance use review, to help understand how services can operate differently by listening to the lived experiences of people and services. Exact milestones and timelines are yet to be defined in full and final form.
- 2.20 Swansea Council continues to drive forward work to agree a Local Library Plan, including the community hub developments. The central library project is underway as part of the new Hub and the wider plan is continuously developing throughout its scoping phase.
- 2.21 Swansea Council seeks to expand Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and work has been completed to evaluate success of a City Centre PSPO, informing the business case for roll-out to other areas. The City Centre PSPO is now operational.



- 2.22 Swansea Council has engaged proactively with the Police to improve visibility of local policing. An initial meeting was held in June 2022 with Cabinet Members and the local SWP Inspector, Sergeant and Community Safety Officers. Continuing this work stream, follow-up meetings are scheduled for October 2022, January 2023 and April 2023.
- 2.23 Swansea Council has prepared to receive more refugees. Accommodation options were put in place for the initial reception, inclusive of temporary accommodation and settled accommodation. Robust processes have been put in place using well established support mechanisms, however it should be noted that the level of arrivals has been high, resulting in pressures on temporary accommodation and subsequent delays to move-on options. Hotels have been utilised where appropriate, funded by Welsh Government's Ukraine scheme. The council continue to work with other schemes also in operation, as funded by the Home Office.
- 2.24 The council has progressed the roll-out of next generation CCTV systems. Work is underway for the replacement of the current analogue CCTV system with a modern digital system, providing:
- Faster and more flexible connectivity (digital IP based)
  - More cameras in more locations
  - Analytics Software to assist operators in monitoring activity
  - A robust foundation for further growth of service provision

This area of work continues to develop in line with the Corporate Plan objective of Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure.

## **Housing**

- 2.25 The council has completed the Welsh Quality Housing Standard (WQHS) 1 and has begun work to plan for the implementation of WQHS 2023. Schemes continue to progress at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget.
- 2.26 The council will begin its review of its council housing lettings policy. The review of the Allocations Policy ensures it continues to assist those most in need. The deadline for completion of the review is March 2024. The More Homes programme has an ambitious target to increase the supply of social housing which will help meet future demand and reduce the waiting list.
- 2.27 Swansea Council is progressing work aligned to our commitment to agree a strategy to support homeless individuals as the Covid hotel use ends, whilst striving to continue our 'always a bed' pledge. This will be achieved via the HSG, Rapid Rehousing and Move-On strategies, aligned to our corporate plan priority of Safeguarding People from Harm.
- 2.28 Swansea Council is continuing onto the next phase of the More Homes build, whilst maintaining progress on acquiring and further retrofitting of

council homes. Although some schemes are experiencing delays due to design capacity, most schemes are progressing well through the design and planning stages, with four schemes scheduled to start in 2022/23. Associated costs are contained within 2002/23 HRA Capital Programme.

## **Regeneration**

- 2.29 Working with our regional partners, we are progressing the £1bn regeneration and £750m partnership with Urban Splash as our new strategic partner, with an initial focus on Copr Bay Phase 2, the Civic Centre site and St Thomas site. This new partnership had been announced on signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement and early work has commenced on design of the initial three schemes and delivery strategy.
- 2.30 The council is working towards securing a major new tenant for the Debenhams unit in the Quadrant Shopping Centre. Productive discussions continue, with a focus on securing the use of this unit for the future.
- 2.31 The council continues to progress work on the new Castle Square Gardens project. A planning application was submitted in July 2022, and work continues on the procurement and construction aspects of the project. The design stage is now complete, as well as pre-application consultation.
- 2.32 Swansea Council is driving forward work on the new Central Library project, as highlighted in paragraph 2.20 above. The planning application has now been approved, and the RIBA (plan of work) stage 3 complete. We are pleased to confirm that a contractor has also been successfully appointed.
- 2.33 Swansea Council has begun the phased demolition of Ty Dewi Sant and the old multi-storey car park. Work is underway to begin site demolition to clear footprints for the redevelopment as part of Swansea Central North scheme. Work continues to progress on Ty Dewi Sant and the full car park demolition will follow in 2023. Capital costs for this project are included in the Copr Bay project costs.
- 2.34 Work is progressing on site at 71-72 The Kingsway, to create an innovation hub which will be home to new businesses and up to six hundred new jobs. We successfully appointed Bouygues UK as the development's main contractor, with the development on course for completion by summer 2023. This commitment is also included within the delivery programme of the Economy and Infrastructure CDC.

## **Finances and Resources**

- 2.35 The council continues making cost of living (COL) payments on behalf of Welsh Government until the scheme closes or the fund is spent in full. All Swansea citizens who are eligible for a payment from the scheme and who have made the necessary applications will have been paid their COL payment by April 2023. Over 91% of the people who are eligible for the

main scheme element have been paid. Payments under the discretionary scheme have commenced and are well in hand.

- 2.36 The council has agreed the outturn position, resulting in a report to Cabinet and a substantial add to reserves.
- 2.37 Given the national financial crisis, the council is reviewing the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF). A range of projects and initiatives will proceed but consideration is also being given to retain a proportion of the fund in reserves to deal with future budget pressures, including rising energy costs.
- 2.38 Work is underway to review the 'Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme' goals. In November 2022, Cabinet will be invited to approve an outline transformation strategy and goals to be finalised alongside the corporate plan and Medium-Term Finance Plan before the start of 2023-34 financial year. A 'Lessons Learnt' review of Sustainable Swansea is in progress.
- 2.39 The council has commenced a senior pay and grading review, aiming to ensure it fits with the wider workforce pay and grading scheme. External consultants have been appointed and have started the review, which includes looking at a future scheme, the pay and grading structure and potential impacts of change on Grade 12 National Joint Council workforce. By mid-October 2022 external consultants will have produced a report with recommendations in respect of the senior pay and grading scheme and implications for the wider workforce scheme. The next steps will be determined as part of the work on the MTFP.
- 2.40 The council is ensuring that all planned savings as set out in the budget approved for 2022-23 are delivered in full or if necessary, by exception, mitigating alternative savings are achieved. First quarter monitoring to Cabinet (15 September) and tracking of Achieving Better Together indicates a service shortfall of currently approximately £1m to date, which is a mix of emerging spending pressures and four savings items, which are not fully on track.

Directors and Heads of Service are expected to mitigate the current gap. Spending pressures are likely to become exacerbated during the remainder of this financial year, but a distinction will continue to be made between pressures outside of the council's control, those that are, and those that are directly shortfalls in quantum or delays to timings of savings. £1m in the context of a £0.5bn revenue budget is considered within reasonable tolerance of the budget set and thus currently this commitment is on track.

- 2.41 By the end of October 2022, Cabinet will have been invited to agree principles that will underpin the council's post-pandemic working model, taking account of operational requirements, customer expectations and workforce needs. The council has an extant agile working policy, as well

as an accommodation strategy, a draft workforce and a draft digital and customer service strategy. These are being reviewed together with feedback from members and staff gathered during the pandemic to inform the development of principles to underpin a post pandemic working model. Continued work around this commitment is also included in the delivery programme of the Organisational Transformation CDC.

### **Attractions**

- 2.42 The council continues to progress development and investment through the Skyline park attraction on Kilvey Hill, having hosted the Skyline board visit during June 2022 and various meetings since. We continue to liaise frequently with Skyline on this project and are working closely together to progress funding. This project has been earmarked as part of the delivery programme for the Economy & Infrastructure CDC.
- 2.43 The council continues to progress hotels discussions for the City Centre and Stadium through ongoing dialogue with the private sector to identify viable development opportunities, and gap funding discussions are nearing completion. This commitment is aligned to the Corporate Plan objective of Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure.
- 2.44 The council remains committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons expected by Winter 2022. Progress so far includes completed designs, with which a planning application was submitted in July 2022. The project has now moved into the procurement phase and work is underway to begin installations during Autumn 2022.
- 2.45 Swansea Council continues to work towards delivering new promenade improvements and developments, as well as completing the missing lighting to the promenade along Swansea Bay. These developments are progressing through the design and procurement stages and will advance pending further approvals as and when appropriate.
- 2.46 We are committed to delivering a range of exciting events and immersive attractions, summer concerts and a new phase of Arena shows; encapsulated in a larger than ever events programme (including the half Iron Man event), which commenced with community support for a range of successful Platinum Jubilee events.
- 2.46.1 During summer 2022, five concerts were programmed / supported in Singleton Park, and more than two thousand people took part in the first pro-race of the 2022 Ironman UK season. We continue to liaise with the Ambassador Theatre Group regarding opportunities for designing events / activities in the wider area, although we recognise programme announcements are outside the remit of the cultural services department.
- 2.47 The council remains committed to retaining the Wales National Air Show in Swansea, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to the City for this annual

event and reviewing how its delivery can align with its net-zero carbon targets. The National Airshow took place in July 2022, with two days of flying featuring The Red Arrows, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and many other displays to entertain visitors from across the UK. The Wales National Airshow is set to return in 2023 and work is underway to establish how we can better align delivery of this event with net-zero carbon targets.

- 2.48 Swansea Council has been committed to progressing discussions for the new interactive aquarium, aiming to offer an immersive experience for visitors and a wider educational resource. This commitment is aligned to the Corporate Plan objective of Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure. The project has been progressing and initial design works are underway. Discussions continue to take place with the aquarium operator.

### **Transport and Energy**

- 2.49 Work continues to progress on the Blue Eden project with cabinet reports expected before the end of December 2022. Work is underway to complete feasibility studies, and this project has been planned for the delivery programme of the Economy and Infrastructure CDC.
- 2.50 The council has successfully continued the 'free bus ride' scheme for 2022 school summer holidays and will consider further extensions in the future.
- 2.51 Swansea Council has increased the availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and continues to work to develop a wider EV charging strategy. In June 2022, fifteen public facing charge points were successfully installed in council car parks.
- 2.52 Work is underway to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with its agreed Green Fleet Strategy. In line with the ULEV Transition Strategy (2022-2030), approximately 100 electric vehicles and 60 fleet charge points are planned for 2022-2023.
- 2.53 Swansea Council has commenced the review of its disabled parking bay policy, and work continues to update the existing policy. Draft papers are scheduled to be presented to the Policy Development Committee in Autumn 2022.
- 2.54 The council continues to strive to progress discussions regarding a new ferry service linking Wales with the South West of England. Although initial discussions have become delayed, we continue to work diligently to identify a viable option that is commercially deliverable.
- 2.55 The council is progressing talks on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub; discussions are ongoing as part of the expanded Blue Eden project.

## **Well – Being**

- 2.56 Swansea Council is progressing the delivery of all-weather sports pitches. Discussions are underway with Football Association Wales, Welsh Rugby Union, local groups and leagues. As outlined in paragraph 2.4 above, work is now underway on the £7m sports and leisure complex at Cefn Hengoed Community School. A turf-cutting ceremony has been held at the site of the new indoor sports barn on the city's east side.
- 2.57 The council remains committed to progressing discussions with partners regarding the International Sports Science Village. A feasibility study is now underway, aiming to identify opportunities around how best to deliver a diverse sporting infrastructure for growing participation; elite performance and international events.
- 2.58 Swansea Council is working towards announcing new Active Travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity. Work is underway to successfully deliver Active Travel grant funding within the current financial year (2022-2023).
- 2.59 The council remains committed to delivering better skate-park facilities within Swansea. Projects are progressing and discussions continue to evolve in line with a feasibility / site consultancy contract (yet to be awarded) and final details will be agreed with the skateboarding community.

## **Other**

- 2.60 The new regional Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) is now formally constituted, with a recent meeting having been held in July and October 2022. A new work programme for 2022-23 has been agreed for each of the four work strands. This area has been incorporated into the delivery programme for the Economy & Infrastructure CDC.
- 2.61 The council has commenced a review of delegated decisions that can be taken by both Officers and Councillors. Work is underway to define the scope and remit of this review, which will include aspects of officer decision making, and the process for recording / publishing decisions. It is planned that any consequential amendments to the constitution will be presented via a formal report to the Constitutional Working Group and to Council.
- 2.62 Swansea Council is working towards agreeing a new Swansea Bay Strategy and a draft delivery plan is emerging. The scoping document(s) are being prepared to capture relevant strategies that should inform an overarching masterplan. This topic has been incorporated into the planned delivery programme for the Economy & Infrastructure CDC.
- 2.63 The council is working towards updating the recognition and naming policy, with a working group to be established to oversee this cross-cutting

project. This is also incorporated into the planned delivery programme for the Organisational Transformation CDC.

- 2.64 The council will progress TAN15 discussions with Welsh Government to find a solution that supports appropriate development, having already instructed commission and received initial reports. We continue to work alongside Welsh Government to attend workshops and events as necessary. This area of delivery is aligned to the Corporate Plan under 'Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure'.

### **3. Integrated Impact Assessment Implications**

- 3.1 The council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.

- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 3.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

- 3.4 This is a statement of progress over 100 days meeting the Council's Policy Commitments. Each individual commitment will need to be clearly defined and built into Corporate / service plans and subjected to consultation and engagement and individual IIAs as appropriate. The report is for information only and so there is no impact on the people and / or communities covered by the IIA.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications arising directly from simply adopting this report, acceptance of the actions contained within the report may result in additional expenditure at a future time which will be dealt with by appropriate and subsequent cabinet reports if additional revenue or capital funding is required.

- 4.2 The first substantial tranche of funding will be aided and assisted by the replenishment of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF).
- 4.3 Acceptance of this report does not mean further additional resources will be made available beyond those in the Economic Recovery Fund, once that is replenished, or already budgeted for 2022-23 and it should be assumed for now that all future spending needs will need to be contained within existing budget and medium-term financial plan provisions and specifically set aside reserves levels.
- 4.4 That assumption regarding overall future revenue spending will be dependent upon the level of future local government finance settlements and decisions to be made by Swansea Council on levels of future Council Tax as part of the annual budget cycle and medium-term planning. Overall real terms future revenue resources are likely to remain significantly constrained given current inflation pressures and expectations.
- 4.5 Capital investment decisions and the associated funding requirement will be primarily a function of decisions by Council regarding the broad level of capital versus revenue spending, including any further amounts that Council may decide to budget for capital financing (borrowing), capital receipts from ongoing asset disposals, continued successful access to large scale capital funding programmes and future funding flexibilities.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Legal advice and assistance will be provided where necessary in relation to the policy commitments.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – IIA Screening form



# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: SDU

Directorate: Corporate Services

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Policy Commitments - the first 100 days. This is a statement of progress over 100 days meeting the Council's Policy Commitments. The report is for information only.

### Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

**Q3** What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?  
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

Policy Commitments - the first 100 days. This is a statement of progress over 100 days meeting the Council's Policy Commitments. The report is for information only and so is not liable to consultation and engagement.

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**Q4** Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
Yes  No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
Yes  No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
Yes  No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
Yes  No  a

**Q5** What is the potential risk of the initiative? (*Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...*)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

**Q6** Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes  No If yes, please provide details below

---

**Q7** Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?

Yes  No If yes, please provide details below

---

**Q8** What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

This is a statement of progress over 100 days meeting the Council’s Policy Commitments. Each individual commitment will need to be clearly defined and built into Corporate / service plans and subjected to consultation and engagement and individual IIAs as appropriate. The report is for information only and so there is no impact on the people and / or communities covered by the IIA .

**Q9** Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:

- Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)
- Summary of involvement (Q3)
- WFG considerations (Q4)
- Any risks identified (Q5)
- Cumulative impact (Q7)

This Statement of progress over 100 days meeting the Council’s Policy Commitments is for information only. There is no impact on the people and / or communities covered by the IIA and so the report is not subject to a full IIA. .

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the ‘Integrated Assessment Implications’ section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name:</b> R Rowlands
<b>Job title:</b> Strategic Delivery & Performance Manager
<b>Date:</b> 14/10/22
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Lee Wenham
<b>Position:</b> Head of Communications & Marketing
<b>Date:</b> 14/10/22

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 10.



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy (Leader)

Council – 1 December 2022

### Council Tax Base Calculation - 2023/24

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report details the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the City and County of Swansea, its Community Councils and the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority for 2023/24. The Council is required to determine the Council Tax Bases for 2023/24 by 31 December 2022.																														
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None																														
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal and Finance.																														
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p>The calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 be approved.</p> <p>In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, the calculation by the City and County of Swansea Council for the year 2023/24 shall be:</p> <table><tr><td>For the whole area</td><td>91,454</td></tr></table> <p>For the area of Community Councils:</p> <table><tr><td>Bishopston</td><td>2,006</td></tr><tr><td>Clydach</td><td>2,561</td></tr><tr><td>Gorseinon</td><td>3,232</td></tr><tr><td>Gowerton</td><td>1,966</td></tr><tr><td>Grovesend &amp; Waungron</td><td>447</td></tr><tr><td>Ilston</td><td>343</td></tr><tr><td>Killay</td><td>2,131</td></tr><tr><td>Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton</td><td>517</td></tr><tr><td>Llangyfelach</td><td>943</td></tr><tr><td>Llanrhidian Higher</td><td>1,559</td></tr><tr><td>Llanrhidian Lower</td><td>339</td></tr><tr><td>Llwchwr</td><td>3,411</td></tr><tr><td>Mawr</td><td>755</td></tr><tr><td>Mumbles</td><td>9,909</td></tr></table>	For the whole area	91,454	Bishopston	2,006	Clydach	2,561	Gorseinon	3,232	Gowerton	1,966	Grovesend & Waungron	447	Ilston	343	Killay	2,131	Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton	517	Llangyfelach	943	Llanrhidian Higher	1,559	Llanrhidian Lower	339	Llwchwr	3,411	Mawr	755	Mumbles	9,909
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Mumbles	9,909																														

	Penllergaer	1,418
	Pennard	1,539
	Penrice	483
	Pontarddulais	2,299
	Pontlliw & Tircoed	1,006
	Port Eynon	467
	Reynoldston	317
	Rhossili	207
	Three Crosses	698
	Upper Killay	598
	For the area of the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority	63,651
<b>Report Author:</b>	Julian Morgans	
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith	
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith	
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar	

## 1. Council Tax Base Calculation.

- 1.1 The City and County of Swansea Council is required to determine the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 based on its estimated position.
- 1.2 The Tax Base is used by the Council to calculate its Council Tax for 2023/24.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales will be informed of the Council's Tax Base in relation to their precepts and levies.
- 1.4 The Tax Base must be calculated as follows:
  - take the number of dwellings for each valuation band as at 31 October 2022
  - adjust for the estimated changes during the year, i.e. additions, reductions (including those for disabled adaptations), deletions and exemptions
  - reduce by the number of discounts allowed
  - adjust for any premiums charged.
  - convert each Band to a Band D equivalent by applying the relevant multiplier, e.g. for Band A multiply by 6 and divide by 9
  - sum the Band D equivalent for each band
  - multiply this by the estimated collection rate
  - add the Band D equivalent of exempt class O properties, i.e. dwellings owned by the Ministry of Defence

- The following assumption has been made –
- the collection rate will be 94.5% (in light of the collection fund deficit in 2022/23, the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis, it is prudent to reduce the assumed collection rate).

1.5 The estimated 2023/24 Council Tax Base for the whole of the City and County of Swansea has been calculated as 91,454. The comparable figure for 2022/23 was 93,114. Percentage changes are shown in Appendix B.

1.6 The calculation of the Council's Tax Base is set out in Appendix A. Percentage changes are shown in Appendix B.

## **2. Financial Implications.**

2.1 The gross tax base, before applying the collection rate, has increased slightly as a result of new properties being built in the area. The assumed collection rate has been reduced by 2% to 94.5% in light of the collection fund deficit in 2022/23, the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the ongoing further anticipated impact of the current cost of living crisis.

## **3. Legal Implications**

3.1 There are no additional legal implications to those set out in the report.

## **4. Integrated Assessment Implications**

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.2 There are no integrated impact assessment implications. The calculation is a statutory requirement using formulae set out in regulations for Council Tax setting purposes. The report fulfils the legal requirement placed upon the Council to pass an annual resolution confirming the Council Tax Base for the coming financial year. The Band D equivalent charge is used to calculate the actual Council Tax charge. As the figures used are statutory and non-discretionary, an IIA is not required.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Council Tax Base 2023/24 – Calculation

Appendix B – Council Tax Base 2023/24 – Percentage changes

Appendix C – IIA Screening form

**Council Tax Base 2023/24 - Calculation**

**Appendix A**

<b>Band</b>	<b>*A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Total</b>
Estimated no of chargeable dwellings		16,272	26,949	23,470	15,879	12,158	7,846	3,771	1,145	520	108,010
Disabled Dwelling Adjustment		133	29	-25	-17	-34	-62	-40	12	-39	
Sub Total (1)	43	16,405	26,978	23,445	15,862	12,124	7,784	3,731	1,157	481	
Discounts Adjustment	-6	-2,471	-3,178	-2,336	-1,431	-909	-509	-217	-70	-20	-11,147
Premium Adjustment	0	305	483	462	376	325	213	127	54	22	2,367
Sub Total (2)	37	14,239	24,283	21,571	14,807	11,540	7,488	3,641	1,141	483	99,230
Ratio to Band D	<b>5/9</b>	<b>6/9</b>	<b>7/9</b>	<b>8/9</b>	<b>9/9</b>	<b>11/9</b>	<b>13/9</b>	<b>15/9</b>	<b>18/9</b>	<b>21/9</b>	
Band D Equivalent	20	9,493	18,887	19,174	14,807	14,104	10,815	6,068	2,282	1,127	96,777

Estimated Collection Rate%	94.5%
Sub Total	
Class O - Band D Equivalent	0
<b>Council Tax Base 2023/24</b>	<b>91,454</b>



## Appendix B - Council Tax Base 2023/24 – Percentage Changes

	2023/24	2022/23	No.	%
<b>For the whole area</b>	91,454	93,114	-1,660	-1.78
<b>Bishopston</b>	2,006	2,024	-18	-0.89
<b>Clydach</b>	2,561	2,639	-78	-2.96
<b>Gorseinon</b>	3,232	3,288	-56	-1.70
<b>Gowerton</b>	1,966	2,008	-41	-2.10
<b>Grovesend &amp; Waungron</b>	447	441	6	1.36
<b>Ilston</b>	343	351	-8	-2.28
<b>Killay</b>	2,131	2,144	-13	-0.61
<b>Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton</b>	517	527	-10	-1.90
<b>Llangyfelach</b>	943	965	-22	-2.28
<b>Llanrhidian Higher</b>	1,559	1,606	-47	-2.93
<b>Llanrhidian Lower</b>	339	340	-1	-0.29
<b>Llwchwr</b>	3,411	3,477	-66	-1.90
<b>Mawr</b>	755	758	-3	-0.40
<b>Mumbles</b>	9,909	10,089	-180	-1.78
<b>Penllergaer</b>	1,418	1,434	-16	-1.12
<b>Pennard</b>	1,539	1,563	-24	-1.54
<b>Penrice</b>	483	485	-2	-0.41
<b>Pontarddulais</b>	2,299	2,327	-28	-1.20
<b>Pontlliw &amp; Tircoed</b>	1,006	1,034	-28	-2.71
<b>Port Eynon</b>	467	478	-11	-2.30
<b>Reynoldston</b>	317	324	-7	-2.16
<b>Rhossili</b>	207	212	-5	-2.36
<b>Three Crosses</b>	698	712	-14	-1.97
<b>Upper Killay</b>	598	603	-5	-0.83
<b>Swansea Bay Port Health Authority</b>	63,651	64,857	-1,206	-1.86

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix C

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Revenues and Benefits

Directorate: Resources

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- X Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

This report details the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the City and County of Swansea, its Community Councils and the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority for 2023/24 and requests Council approval of the Council Tax Base. The Council is required to determine the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 by 31 December 2022.

### Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix C

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?  
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

None - the information in this report is factual and based on the number of domestic dwellings (current and likely to be completed) in the city in 2023/24. It is not a policy decision or initiative, it is a statutory report we are required to submit for Council approval.

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
Yes  No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
Yes  No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
Yes  No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
Yes  No

---

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

---

**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes  No If yes, please provide details below

All Council Services are to some extent funded by Council Tax. Establishing the Council Tax base is part of the process by which the level of Council Tax to be charged for the coming financial year is determined and so the available funding levels.

---

**Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix C

The report satisfies a statutory requirement and in itself has no specific positive or negative implications for any of the groups identified above. It would be better described as 'neutral' as there is no particular impact on any of the protected characteristics.

### Outcome of Screening

**Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The report fulfils the legal requirement placed upon the Council to pass an annual resolution confirming the Council Tax Base for the coming financial year. The Band D equivalent charge is used to calculate the actual Council Tax charge. As the figures used are statutory and non-discretionary, an IIA is not required.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

**X - Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome**

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Julian Morgans
<b>Job title:</b> Interim Head of Revenues and Benefits
<b>Date:</b> 25/10/22
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Ben Smith
<b>Job title:</b> Director of Finance, Section 151 Officer
<b>Date:</b> 25/10/22

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 11.



## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Council – 1 December 2022

### Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report 2023-2024 - Consultation

<b>Purpose:</b>	To consult and comment on the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report 2023-2024. The Democratic Services Committee met on 7 November 2022 and recommend Appendix A of the report as the Authority's formal reply to the IRPW.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, Democratic Services Committee.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The IRPW draft Annual Report 2023-2024 proposals be noted.  2) Section 3 & Appendix A of the report be the Authority's reply to the IRPW.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Huw Evans
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) is tasked with setting the remuneration levels for Councils in Wales. Each year, they publish a Draft Annual Report which is circulated for consultation. The Draft Report may be viewed at <https://gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales>
- 1.2 The consultation period closes on 1 December 2022; however, the IRPW have given Swansea Council an extension until 4 December 2022. The final IRPW report will be published in February 2023.

1.3 This report sets out the determinations affecting the City and County of Swansea and proposes responses as necessary.

## 2. Determinations within the IRPW Draft Annual Report 2022-2023

2.1 The IRPW Draft Annual Report 2023-2024 takes on a new format in that it only includes changes to the previous Annual Report. Whilst this does make the Annual Report shorter, it will require searching for earlier determinations in several locations. It is proposed that the IRPW be asked to include a list of all determinations in one document, to ensure clarity and ease.

2.2 An “Extract of the Determinations of the IRPW Draft Annual Report and City and County of Swansea’s Comments” is appended as **Appendix A**. The IRPW’s Annual Report takes effect from 1 April.

## 3. Consultation on Draft Report - Questions

3.1 In addition to the determinations, the IRPW asks 5 consultation questions relating to the Draft Annual Report. It is proposed that the Authority responds as follows.

### Question 1

*The Panel has continued to use the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) published by the Office for National Statistics as the benchmark for setting the basic salary of elected members of principal councils. There is a corresponding proportionate increase proposed for the members of National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Panel has continued to refer to the last published ASHE which was 2021. Do you agree that the basic salary element should be referenced to the ASHE 2021 data?*

Yes	No	No Opinion
-----	----	------------

Any Additional Comments

**The Authority believes that linking salaries to the AHSE 2021 ensures an independence and clarity for payments to Councillors. It helps ensure that the former ‘Race to the Bottom’ approach by Authorities will not be returned to by putting in place a clear mechanism of how salaries are calculated.**

### Question 2

*The Panel has made changes to the payment of costs and expenses of members of community and town councils. Do you agree with the addition of the “consumables” element?*

Yes	No	No Opinion
-----	----	------------

Any Additional Comments

**It ensures that Community / Town Councillors are reasonably remunerated for such costs.**

### Question 3

The Panel will gather evidence from principal councils to explore whether and how the workload of elected members has changed to inform future Determinations. Are you content that the Panel should build this review into its future work plan and build the evidence base to support decisions?

Yes	No	No Opinion
-----	----	------------

Any Additional Comments

**The creation of evidence-based decisions ensures that remuneration levels are appropriate and reasonable.**

### Question 4

We have significantly reduced the size of the report this year to concentrate on key decisions made and intend to make more use of the website to provide easy to use guidance to users. This approach is also in line with our efforts to respect the challenges facing us in protecting our planet.

How would you like to access information and guidance from the Panel?  
(choose all that apply)

Summary report with links to detailed guidance	X	Social media	X
Easy to use guidance notes	X	Information events	X
Frequently asked questions	X	Other	
Website	X	-	-

If Other, Please Specify:

--

### Question 5

The Panel intend to undertake a series of engagements with all relevant stakeholders over the next year as part of the development of its forward planning and building of its evidence and research strategy.

Have you any comments that would help the Panel shape this engagement?

For example, a preference for online polls, the holding of engagement events, virtual or face to face, which groups should be involved, how do we engage with prospective candidates etc.

**The proposed engagement strategies are supported.**

## 4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the ‘well-being goals’.

4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.4 There are no integrated assessment implications in relation to this report.

## 5. Financial Implications

5.1 The IRPW proposes setting the salaries to avoid further erosion in relation to average earnings:

Description	Current	Proposed 2023/24
<b>Basic Salary (x54)</b>	£16,800	£17,600
<b>Senior Salaries</b> These are inclusive of Basic Salary	-	-
Band 1 (Group A)	-	-
Leader of Council (x1)	£63,000	£66,000
Deputy Leader of Council (x1)	£44,100	£46,200
Band 2 (Group A)	-	-
Executive Members (x8)	£37,800	£39,600
Band 3 (If Remunerated)	-	-
Committee Chairs (x8)	£25,593	£26,400
Civic Head (x1)		
Presiding Officer (Not Remunerated)		
Band 4	-	-
Leader of Largest Opposition Group (x1)	£25,593	£26,400
Band 5	-	-



Leader of Other Political Groups (Not Remunerated)	£20,540	£21,340
Deputy Civic Head (x1)		

5.2 There are no further changes to the payments and benefits paid to Elected Members and therefore all other Determinations from 2022 to 2023 still stand and should be applied in 2023 to 2024, including those covering:

- Travel and subsistence.
- Care and Personal Assistance.
- Sickness Absence.
- Corporate Joint Committees.
- Assistants to the Executive.
- Additional salaries and Job-sharing arrangements.
- Co-opted Members.

5.3 The total theoretical financial cost of these draft IRPW determinations in relation to Salaries is £71,570. This will need to be fully reflected in future budgets. The actual cost in any one year will depend upon who holds any of the Civic or Senior Salary Offices in year (i.e., where one Councillor might discharge two roles but only receive one higher salary).

5.4 It is important to put the proposed salary for Councillors into context. An Independent Member of a Welsh Health Board would currently earn £15,936 p.a. in line with Welsh Government set remuneration levels, based on a minimum commitment of 4 days per month. The IRPW have based a Councillors salary on 3 days per week.

## 6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None.

### Appendices:

Appendix A Extract of the Determinations of the IRPW Draft Annual Report and City and County of Swansea's Comments.

**Extract of the Determinations of the IRPW Draft Annual Report 2023-2024 and the City and County of Swansea’s Comments**

**Note:** This report only outlines the salary figures of Group A Council’s to which the City and County of Swansea belongs.

<b>General</b>	<b>IRPW Annual Report – New Format</b>
<b>Comments</b>	Whilst welcoming a shorter IRPW Draft Annual Report, the Council believe that all previous determinations should be included in one document to prevent error when searching for previous determinations. The dialogue of previous determinations would not be required just the determination.
<b>Determination 1</b>	<b>Basic Salary for elected members of principal councils shall be £17,600</b>
<b>Comments</b>	The basic salary will be aligned with three fifths of the All Wales 2021 ASHE (Annual Survey for Hours & Earnings), the latest figure available at drafting. This represents a 4.76% increase in the basic salary. <a href="https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2021">https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2021</a> This is in line with the IRPW stated aims.  The Authority makes no comment on the increase.
<b>Determination 2</b>	<b>Salaries paid to Senior, Civic &amp; Presiding Member of Principal Councils</b>
<b>Comments</b>	The All Wales 2021 ASHE (Annual Survey for Hours & Earnings) applies to Band 1 (Leader of Council & Deputy Leader of Council) & Band 2 (Executive Members). All other Bands have been decided in reference to this.  The Authority makes no comment on the increase.
<b>Determination 3</b>	<b>The salary level for a Chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall be £8,800 &amp; Vice-Chair will be £4,400</b>
<b>Comments</b>	The current amounts are £8,793 & £4,396 respectively. The Authority makes no comment on the increase.
<b>Determination 4</b>	<b>Payments towards costs &amp; expenses of Members of Community &amp; Town Councils</b> <b>Basic payment for extra costs of working from home</b> All Councils must pay members £156 per year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power & broadband) of working from home. <b>Set payments for consumables</b> Councils must pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables. It is a

	matter for each Council to make and record a policy decision in respect of when and how the payments are made and whether they are paid monthly, yearly, or otherwise. The policy should also state whether and how to recover any payments made to a member who leaves or changes their role during the financial year.
<b>Comments</b>	The Authority makes no comment on the increase.

<b>Determination 5</b>	<b>Payments to National Park Authorities &amp; Fire and Rescue Authorities</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Payments will increase as a result of the uplift proposed for elected members of principal councils. Therefore, there will also be an uplift of 4.76% in the basic salary element.</p> <p>The remuneration for Chairs will remain linked to a Band 3 senior salary of principal councils. Therefore, there will be a small increase to the role element of their pay. Deputy Chairs, Committee Chairs and other senior roles will remain linked to Band 5. Therefore, their role element of pay will remain frozen. The increase in basic salary will apply. Full details of the levels of remuneration for members of National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities, is set out in Table 3.</p> <p>The Authority makes no comment on the increase.</p>

### Summary of Determinations:

#### Determination 1:

The basic level of salary for elected members of principal councils will set at £17,600.

#### Determination 2:

The salary of a leader of the largest (Group A) council will be £66,000. All other payments have been decided in reference to this.

#### Determination 3:

The salary of a chair of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be £8,800.

The salary of vice-chair will be £4,400.

#### Determination 4:

Members of Community and Town Councils will be paid £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home. And Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

#### Determination 5:

The basic pay of members of National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities has been increased by 4.76%. All payments are set out in Table 3.

#### Determination 6:

All other Determinations set out in the 2022 to 2023 Annual Report of the Panel remain valid and should be applied.

# Agenda Item 12.



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service & Performance

Council – 1 December 2022

### Membership of Committees

<b>Purpose:</b>	Council approves the nominations/amendments to the Council Bodies.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Political Groups.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The amendments to the Council Body listed in paragraph 2 be approved.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Gareth Borsden
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	N/A

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Meetings of Council regularly agree and amend the membership of the various Committees/Council Bodies as reflected in the lists submitted by the Political Groups.

#### 2. Changes to Council Body Membership

- 2.1 The political groups have indicated that they have changes to the following Council Bodies:

**Organisational Transformation Corporate Delivery Committee**  
Remove Councillor Matthew Jones  
Add Labour Vacancy

#### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** None

# Agenda Item 13.



Council – 1 December 2022

## Councillors' Questions

### Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p><b>Councillors Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon, Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams, &amp; Mike Lewis</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation provide an update on temporary and emergency accommodation delivered during and after the pandemic by the council and its partners across Swansea to help prevent homelessness.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</b></p> <p>Since the start of the Pandemic, Swansea Council have adopted the 'WG no-one left out approach' and as a result we have ensured that temporary accommodation has been made available to all households that have become homeless. Between 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the Council has successfully moved 1,094 households from temporary accommodation. There are currently 192 households in temporary accommodation, consisting of 166 single persons and 26 families. Appropriate support is being provided.</p> <p>During the pandemic Swansea Council worked in partnership to successfully bid for additional funding from WG to support the response to addressing homelessness during the pandemic by funding additional units of temporary and permanent accommodation and providing additional resources to support homeless households and individuals.</p> <p>Overall, this has supported additional Council investment of £3.5m and has achieved 52 additional units of temporary and permanent accommodation. In addition to this RSLs were also able to bid for funding, and were able to provide an additional 23 units of accommodation.</p> <p>The cost of living crisis and the war in Ukraine are adding increased pressure on demand for temporary and emergency accommodation; this demand is replicated across Wales.</p> <p>Despite this challenging environment, the Council has been able to increase temporary accommodation stock since the start of the pandemic and is committed to continuing to offer temporary accommodation to those that require it.</p>
2	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien, Angela O'Connor &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>Would the Council consider revising their planning policy, so that those wanting to submit a petition of support in relation to a planning application, is taken into account and given the same consideration as a petition of objections.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service &amp; Performance</b></p>

	<p>The Scheme of Delegation for planning decisions was introduced by the Council in response to the Welsh Government’s review of the planning system in Wales. The review identified that planning committees should not be concerned with small scale, none controversial developments but should concentrate on the more sensitive, strategically important schemes.</p> <p>It was recognised however, that some small scale developments can raise concerns locally and the scheme of delegation made provision for members to call in an application to committee where an objection threshold was met. The scheme of delegation only relates to an objection threshold rather than a threshold of support, primarily because there is a right of appeal for an applicant against a refusal whereas there is no equivalent right of appeal for objectors if an application is approved.</p> <p>I will review this aspect of the Scheme of Delegation and consider whether any changes are needed in respect of petitions of support for a development.</p>
3	<p><b>Councillors Mike Day, Wendy Fitzgerald, Mary Jones &amp; Susan Jones</b></p> <p>As Councillors we have had complaints from residents about not being able to receive a response when they telephone for service support across all council departments. Will the Leader update Council on what arrangements are in place to ensure that there are no delays in responding to residents’ calls.</p> <p>Will the Leader share with Council the statistics relating to the number of calls received by Council departments, the average time taken to answer calls, the number of uncompleted calls (as a percentage of all calls made), and the number of complaints received from members of the public about calls not being answered.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>The Council operates a number of call centres across the organisation and the telephone numbers for these are published on the council’s website, alongside email addresses, and signposting to specific service webpages.</p> <p>Between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, 190,672 calls were presented across all call centres. The average speed of answering calls was three minutes and the average call handling time was around five minutes. During this period, on average 31.5% of calls were abandoned. This performance is below the standard our residents should expect, but can be attributed to several factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents abandoning calls because the recorded message they received when calling answered their question, or directed them to the website or relevant email addresses</li> <li>▪ Exceptionally high demand, particularly during periods when the council has been administering thousands of applications for Welsh Government grants (e.g. cost of living and fuel payments) to help with the pandemic and cost of living crisis.</li> <li>▪ The complexity of some calls leading to much longer call times (the average maximum call handling time is around twenty minutes), reducing capacity to take other calls, particularly in respect of calls relating to revenues and benefits, grants, planning, and social services.</li> <li>▪ Call centre officers also support residents with online applications over the telephone, which can take significant time to complete, again reducing capacity to take other calls</li> <li>▪ Some sickness absence within the teams, including COVID, during the period, reducing staff capacity.</li> </ul>

	<p>Officers are working on solutions to improve the council’s customer service performance to identify ways to reduce the call waiting times and abandonment rates within the resources we have available. We are also reviewing Customer Service standards across all services, to ensure clarity for customers and consistency across the council where possible.</p> <p>Measures taken to improve performance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross skilling face to face staff in the corporate contact centre to be able to handle calls to help manage peak periods (helping to reduce the corporate call centre abandonment rate to 17% in October 2022, compared with 24% for October last year)</li> <li>• Increasing the accessibility of the Council’s website</li> <li>• Publishing and promoting our digital channels on social media.</li> </ul> <p>Between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> October the Complaints Team received 17 stage one complaints due to residents being unable to get through to services, this is the same as for the same period in 2021.</p>
4	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien, Angela O'Connor &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>With the money set aside for the skate parks, can the council confirm if they are contributing towards the Mumbles skate park. If not, why not.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>A proposal has been put to the ERF board for a strategic approach to utilising the investment in skate and wheel play facilities. This proposal has been informed by a review of existing facilities and an options appraisal to ensure the greatest impact and best outcomes for as wide a geographical area as possible, within the available finances. This includes improving existing facilities alongside the prospects for additional regional facilities.</p> <p>The Mumbles skate park project is being delivered and funded by Mumbles Community Council under a land lease arrangement from the Council. As part of the business case and funding proposal provided as part of the request for the land, no financial contributions from Council were requested or required to deliver the scheme. The funds available to the City Council will therefore be utilised to increase the quality and distribution of facilities in other areas. The Council has provided a lease of the land at a peppercorn rental under the Community Asset Transfer Policy, which is considered an in kind contribution.</p>
5	<p><b>Councillors Rebecca Fogarty, Sara Keeton, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis &amp; Fiona Gordon</b></p> <p>Could the Leader update on progress with the Blue Eden tidal lagoon project.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>Significant work has continued in relation to Blue Eden Tidal Lagoon and the supporting Integrated renewables project which builds on the project previously developed under the banner of Dragon Energy</p> <p>The project will be an integrated, multi-faceted infrastructure project that would feature many elements, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lagoon wall and turbines producing at least a minimum of 320MW of renewable energy</li> <li>• An increased battery manufacturing plant producing 15GWh of renewable batteries.</li> </ul>



- A doubling of the proposed floating solar to 144,000 m<sup>2</sup> which is believed to be the largest floating solar array in the UK, capable of generating up to 10,000 kWp of energy. An array of this size is estimated to avoid over 4,000,000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- A mega data centre operated by 100% renewable energy and incorporating Hydrogen Fuel cells has been added to the power system of the data centre and District Heating system.
- One of the largest battery storage facility within the UK storing up to 1,200 MWh of energy.
- The Hydrogen production facility producing 100 MW of green hydrogen
- Oceanic and climate research centre plus a public park and infrastructure .
- The Blue Eden consortium headed by DST innovations has agreed to work together with the world-leading Siemens plc and the council to provide 400mW of district heating and cooling supplying the Swansea city centre from its hyper-scale data centre and the council and backed up with Hydrogen Fuel Cells which will provide 90MW of heating and cooling.
- Large-scale housing provision with a large proportion being affordable social housing fed by the renewable heat and electricity. .
- The opportunity to build in appropriate flood defences to protect the development and surrounding land from future flooding risks. .
- A planning pre application is being finalised as the first step towards securing planning permission for all on land facilities and the process to deal with lagoon permissions has also commenced.
- The completion of the detailed work carried out using the Community Regeneration funding bid outlining the economic impact of the development will be completed and submitted to UK Government by December. In addition the CRF has supported the finalisation of a detailed work on a new district heating network utilising the heat generated from the data centre feeding the city centre with positive engagement in relation to funding opportunities.
- Further work is continuing on the additional integrated renewable transport hub further supporting large scale EV and hydrogen usage including public transport with TfW and wider HGV opportunities.
- The submission of a formal levelling up Bid to UK government was submitted in August 2022 for the enabling infrastructure and transport improvement to support the development of the area and a decision is awaited
- Detailed land transactions concluding with agreements in place (subject to due diligence and legal processes) to enable all the land required to be available for the project.

In addition to the Council and DST there are now a significant number of project partners as part of the delivery team and too many to list but some leading project partners include, but are not limited to:

- **HDR** is the master planning and project designer.
- **ENABLE (Formally BCM)** is the electrical installation and infrastructure partner.
- **Ascona** Group is the public facility operation and management.
- designers and providers.
- **TFW** transport electric and hydrogen vehicle operators.
- **Batri** is the EV, Solar, and Battery provider and the Energy and Transport Hub designer.
- **DST Innovations** is the information display, lighting, and CCTV security designer.
- **HSBC** is the leading bank.
- **RC3** is the product pipeline management.
- **BRM** is one of the batteries' electronic control board and cell manufacturers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anditz</b> is the hydro systems provider.</li> <li>• <b>HDR</b> is the civil Engineering Lagoon consultant.</li> <li>• <b>Swansea University</b> and <b>Trinity St David's University</b>.</li> </ul> <p>In addition announcements will be made imminently by an industry leader in renewable energy as power company owner-operator contract and by two industry leaders in System Control and IT infrastructure who will be the systems control. The Consortium is also now in the process of contracting local supply chain partners and further partners will be provided as the project progresses.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the above progress together with the detailed next steps will be set out formally to cabinet in December 2022. Work is currently scheduled to commence on site during 2023 subject to planning.</p>
6	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien, Angela O'Connor &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>Can the council confirm when the electric charge points for EV will be ready to use in Mumbles.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</b></p> <p>The electric vehicle chargepoints in Mumbles are now fully operational, having been commissioned w/c 31<sup>st</sup> October.</p>
7	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffrey, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>Please can the Leader/Cabinet Member provide Council with a full update on the potential bid to become a free port. What role has the Council played in any discussions with potential regional partners and in consulting local businesses.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>Following discussion at the October Corporate Joint Committee meeting, Swansea has provided in principle support for the joint Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire bid. We believe that this submission, if successful, will have significant economic benefits for the wider region and align to the proposals for the Blue Eden lagoon and mega energy hub in Swansea. The link below provides the CJC report which sets out the rationale behind this approach.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>freeports - CJC report oct 2022.pdf (npt.gov.uk)</u></a></p>
8	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien, Angela O'Connor &amp; Will Thomas</b></p> <p>Can the Council commit to improving the tennis courts in mumbles once the work on the sea defence has finished, as they will be used as a depot.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>It is confirmed that the tennis courts are to be used as one of the compound facilities during the construction phase of the project. It is acknowledged that this will unfortunately have a detrimental impact to the leisure provision within the community for the duration of the works, but without such a facility it is not possible to deliver the scale of works required.</p>

	<p>During the Consultation phase for the Mumbles Coastal protection scheme, a number of wider proposals for the regeneration of Mumbles were identified. This included opportunities for potentially repurposing the tennis courts. It has been confirmed that the Coastal protection project is not able to facilitate any such proposals, based on the nature of the funding and primary focus on coastal defence. However, it was acknowledged that there is strong and varied opinion on the future of the facility. It is therefore proposed that a community consultation exercise is undertaken at the start of next year to gain a better understanding of the community needs and to define future aspirations.</p> <p>No formal commitment can be made on the site until such an exercise is undertaken and in the event that redevelopment proposals are identified, funding sources would need to be determined.</p>
9	<p><b>Councillors Fiona Gordon, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis, Terry Hennegan, Lesley Walton &amp; Sara Keeton</b></p> <p>Would the Leader confirm the total invested in communities across Swansea from the economic recovery fund and highlight some of the community priorities the ERF has delivered.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>The Economic Recovery Fund(ERF) has approved funding to the value of £26,860,163</p> <p>Each proposal is considered against set criteria, that requires applications to outline the associated benefits from one or more of the following themes; Local Economy, Well-being, Community, People and Jobs. A number of the approved projects also satisfy several of Council's Policy Commitments.</p> <p>Some examples include;</p> <p><b>Local Business Improvement Grants</b> (Theme – Local Economy) (Policy Commitment linked to the Corporate Plan - Transforming our Economy &amp; Infrastructure) Purpose – To enable improvements to business premises to improve visual amenity of retail areas needing support.</p> <p><b>Essential Playground Works</b> (Theme – Well-being and Community) (Policy Commitment linked to the Corporate Plan - Transforming our Economy &amp; Infrastructure) Purpose – Further to the Capital Play Investment Programme 2021-22, additional investment will address remaining playgrounds currently of a red or amber condition status.</p> <p><b>Pop up Energy Advice Centre</b> (Theme – Local Economy, Well-being, Community, People and Jobs) Purpose – To reach out to the public and their communities struggling with fuel poverty, increasing energy bills, whilst linked to the Climate Change Agenda.</p> <p><b>Paid Work Placement and Training Project</b> (Theme – Local Economy, Well-being, Community, People and Jobs) (Policy Commitment linked to the Corporate Plan - Transforming our Economy &amp; Infrastructure) Purpose – To create paid work opportunities with Swansea Council, for those at risk of facing long-term unemployment.</p> <p><b>First Tier Welfare Rights Support</b> (Theme – Local Economy, Well-being, Community, People and Jobs)</p>

	<p>Purpose – To provide direct welfare benefits advice and guidance to residents. Councillors, together with the Contact Centre will have access to this support also.</p>
10	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien &amp; Richard Lewis</b></p> <p>As each councillor is allocated two days per four weeks of cleansing work, given Gower is a single ward member but attracts tourist in their tens of thousands and the landscape of the ward, would the council consider to increase this.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>The level of resource for the Cleansing Ward Operate Teams has been set to provide the allocated two days per four weeks of cleansing work for each Member, so this allocation could not be increased in one area without being reduced in another.</p> <p>Tourist areas which attract high visitor numbers, such as Gower, are catered for through the deployment of increased Cleansing resource at the beaches and foreshores through peak holiday periods.</p>
11	<p><b>Councillors Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon, Lesley Walton, Penny Matthews, and Sara Keeton</b></p> <p>Would the Leader or Cabinet Member update on how Swansea is assisting the U.K. and Welsh Governments to provide help to people fleeing persecution, conflict, and war.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Well-being</b></p> <p>People fleeing persecution settle in Swansea through a variety of different schemes/means – UK Resettlement Schemes (UKRS), the Afghan Schemes (ARAP), Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Programmes and through Swansea being an Asylum Dispersal area.</p> <p>Swansea is an Asylum Dispersal Area and is in the top 10 in the UK in terms of numbers of asylum seekers in proportion to population size and has long been recognised as a City of Sanctuary. There are at present approximately 900 Asylum Seekers in the City.</p> <p>Swansea Council has actively offered accommodation and support for families of 163 vulnerable refugees through the UK Government's UKRS (from Syria, Sudan, Palestine, Eritrea), 36 through the ARAP. In addition we have approximately 300 Ukrainians currently residing with sponsors or in alternative accommodation through the Homes 4 Ukraine and WG Super Sponsorship Scheme and another 200 in hotel accommodation across the City.</p> <p>Much of the support for these cohorts is contracted out to EYST (Ethnic Minority &amp; Youth Support Team Wales) who assist with settling into life in Swansea – setting up benefits, bank accounts, social links, GPs, applying for Resident Permits etc.</p> <p>Swansea Council works very closely with external third sector and statutory partners through a variety of multi-agency and focused meetings where a joint approach can be adopted to find the best solutions and support for people seeking sanctuary in Swansea.</p>
12	<p><b>Councillors James McGettrick, Cheryl Philpott &amp; Jeff Jones</b></p> <p>Singleton Park has again suffered damage as a result of Special Events. (see attached photos) The combination of damp ground &amp; heavy machinery has – yet again – damaged the grass surface over wide areas and compacted soil over vulnerable tree roots. Can the</p>

Cabinet Member responsible for Special Events please outline why they have again failed to protect Singleton Park.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism**

This year, Singleton Park has played host to over 100,000 people attending a variety of different events from pop concerts, to sport, to outdoor cinema. These events provide our residents and visitors with a much sought-after opportunity to safely enjoy a variety of different forms of entertainment and also offer a very positive economic return and profile for Swansea.

Singleton Park is a working park, located close to the city centre and which has, for many years, been developed to become one of the city's leading locations for major outdoor events. Given the variety, seasonality and scale of the events, it is inevitable, despite best efforts to mitigate against this, that some damage will occur. Whilst there has been some damage, it is only a very small area of the Park that has been affected and which will be repaired once conditions allow. Similar park based outdoor event venues throughout the country encounter the same challenges.

The Council's Events Team is relatively small and not all events are directly delivered by the team - some events are delivered by private event promoters. In this latter instance, the Events Team works with the promoter to agree on site and event delivery plans and then they undertake best efforts to oversee such events. This along with a monetary damage bond usually ensures that a good level of care and responsibility follows.

The promoters of the Oktoberfest event, whilst showing significant improvement as compared to 2021, could have done more to protect the Park. As a result, despite the fact that the event was well-received by the attendees, the Events team will be reviewing future applications from this individual promoter.

In addition, weather conditions during October do seem to be deteriorating each year and the Events Team is currently reviewing the level of risk that this entails when considering any events during this period. .

Where resources permit, we will continue to invest in the Park infrastructure to ensure its continued development as a key outdoor events location and in order to minimise any damage.

Where damage occurs, the costs for any repairs are borne by the promoter and not the Council.

13 **Councillors Michael Locke, Kevin Griffiths & Graham Thomas**

Change Machines at the Bus Station toilets are old, unreliable and have inadequate capacity. Will the Council consider upgrading these machines so that reliability and capacity are improved.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)**

The Change Machines in the Bus Station could be upgraded, however, due to them being located within the open 24/7 area of the bus station there is risk of vandalism and theft.

The current machines are filled with coins from the toilets. When machines are full they hold approximately £100 of ten pence pieces and £200 of twenty pence pieces.

	<p>The machines are filled on a Monday morning and usually by Tuesday they are empty due to high customer demand including use by taxi and bus drivers to obtain change. Unfortunately because the machines are publically accessible there is no ability to control who may choose to use the machines. We are unable to refill the machines daily as the coins held in the toilets is not enough to refill the change machines.</p> <p>In view of the above and in order to provide customers with a variety of payment options efforts are currently being focused on scoping options around provision of contactless card payments in addition to cash. This is viewed as a more sustainable and cost effective long term solution to manage some of the challenges around provision of change.</p>
14	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, Erika Kirchner, Terry Hennegan, Mike Lewis &amp; Wendy Lewis</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on progress with the roll out of new bus shelters across Swansea.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The 19 locations across the County due to receive new bus shelters have been agreed, and the order for their supply and installation has been raised with the Council’s preferred supplier. It is anticipated that the new shelters will be installed in the next couple of months.</p> <p>Further locations for either new shelters or upgrade works to existing shelters are being identified across the County.</p>
15	<p><b>Councillors Mike Day, Lynda James &amp; Mary Jones</b></p> <p>Understandably, most staff were asked to work from home during the pandemic. As the situation has improved and there are now no requirements for staff to work from home, can the Leader inform Council of what reviews have been undertaken to assess how this system of working has affected the delivery of Council services.</p> <p>Does the Council envisage that staff will be required to return to office based working. How many staff are authorised to adopt a ‘hybrid’ working arrangement (actual numbers and percentage of all employees)? If all staff were to return to office based working, is there sufficient space to accommodate them all.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>We are not a work from home organisation, and we are attempting to retain the flexible working model utilised throughout the pandemic to ensure where possible staff work flexibility within business needs. Getting the balance right it good for staff, and our residents. The question as to how the Council would be working post pandemic was the subject of a recent Cabinet report <a href="#">Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 20 October 2022, 10.00 am - Swansea</a> . Managers will now be expected to adopt the following key principles when working on the delivery of their services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each service will have a written set of operational requirements which reflect when, where, how, and what customers (external (i.e., the public, internal (i.e., other services/partners/members) can expect to access in terms of services, information, advice and/or guidance</li> <li>2. The council will set out corporate customer contact standards (e.g., response times, contact options including alternative formats to meet our duty under the Equality Act 2010) as part of a customer contact strategy to provide consistency across the organisation</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Each service will ensure all job roles fulfil the service’s operational requirements and clarify whether they are available for agile working driven by the service’s operational requirements</p> <p>4. Each service will ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to supervise and performance manage employees in line with corporate policies, their job roles and their terms and conditions of employment</p> <p>5. Each service will seek to minimise the accommodation space each service requires and will aim for a maximum staff:desk ratio of 2:1</p> <p>6. During the cost-of-living crisis agile employees will be supported to work from their assigned work base or another public sector building, if they choose</p> <p>7. Each service will ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of employees wherever they are working from (including regular 121s, formal supervision or team meetings as appropriate, regular in-person team contact, ergonomic workstations and clear work / home life boundaries and recognition of caring responsibilities, housing issues and risks of domestic violence/coercive control)</p> <p>8. The council will ensure the workforce and digital strategies provide employees with the training and development they need to work in an agile environment</p> <p>9. The council will work with Public Service Board partners and other local authorities to identify physical locations in and outside the county from which employees can work on a hot desk basis.</p> <p>10. Directors and Heads of Service to determine definition of services for the purpose of applying working model principles; Leadership (i.e., Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service) to be included as a distinct group to define the model to be used to meet the council’s democratic / Members’ needs</p> <p>11. Hot desking is when multiple workers use a single physical workstation during different time periods. Employees will also be encouraged to use the Welsh Government’s Local Remote Working hubs.</p>
16	<p><b>Councillors Lesley Walton Fiona Gordon Mike White, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis &amp; Rebecca Fogarty</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the smart bin trial and the roll out of multi-use bins.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>There are two pilots underway, one in Swansea Marina and another at Three Crosses. Surveys have been completed and the Landlord’s consent has been gained for the installation of the communication gateways for both trials. The installation of the first gateway is planned for the Marina this month. There is a delay in the supply of the sensors going into the bins. There are general global supply issues for certain hardware components at the moment and therefore there is no estimated timescale available.</p> <p>The roll out of the new multipurpose litter bins to replace existing dog bins and life expired litter bins commenced in October and 35 replacement bins were installed in the first 4 weeks. It is planned to install 300 replacement bins by the end of March and Ward Members are being consulted with regards to proposed replacements in their Wards following bin condition surveys.</p>
17	<p><b>Councillors James McGettrick, Sam Bennett &amp; Peter Black</b></p> <p>Can the responsible member please confirm that the promised Hydrogen Ferry will include contractual obligations to use Green Hydrogen as the fuel source as opposed to other</p>

hydrogen sources such as Blue Hydrogen, which may actually increase Greenhouse gas emissions over the full life-cycle.

### **Response of the Leader**

Final decisions regarding any specific fuel type for the proposed Bristol Channel ferry service have not yet been reached. Following the most recent meeting of the associated Stakeholder Group, a Working Group has been established. Amongst the variety of elements this expert led group will look at will include the terminal requirements, the type of vessel and how this could be powered.

It is recognised that in pursuing any future proposal, a ferry service needs to be sustainable, both in terms of its operation and environmentally. Furthermore it is acknowledged that the source of power will need to compliment the local Net Zero target. Contractual considerations are a future stage; the focus at present is working to ensure that appropriate evidence is gathered and therefore that informed judgements can be made.

## **Part B – No Supplementaries**

### 18 **Councillor Chris Evans**

After Audit Wales' recent report on Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030, could we please confirm using examples where we currently stand against the five actions outlined within the report, namely

1. Strengthening leadership and demonstrating collective responsibility through effective collaboration.
2. Clarifying strategic direction and increasing pace of implementation.
3. Getting to grips with finances required.
4. Identifying our skills gaps and increasing capacity
5. Improving data quality and monitoring to support decision making.

and in particular confirm how we will be measuring our net zero plans"

### **Response of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation**

Please see response prepared for Audit Wales below:

## **Audit Wales Report - Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 Swansea Council Response - August 2022**

### **Background**

The Auditor General has committed to an ongoing programme of work on climate change. Their report 'Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030' is their first piece of work looking at decarbonisation in 48 larger public sector bodies.

Swansea Council responded to a call for evidence to inform the report in November 2021. Lead officers also met in person to discuss some subjects in more detail, prior to the report being published in July 2022.



Audit Wales concluded that there is “uncertainty that the ambition for a net zero public sector will be met.” and the report calls for “stronger public sector leadership on reducing carbon emissions in Wales”

Considerable activity is taking place to reduce carbon emissions. However, public bodies need to increase their pace of activity amid clear uncertainty about whether they will achieve the collective ambition to have net zero carbon emissions by 2030. There are real barriers that public bodies need to address, and decarbonisation needs to be put at the heart of their day-to-day activities.

In the report, the Auditor General makes the following five calls for action from public bodies:

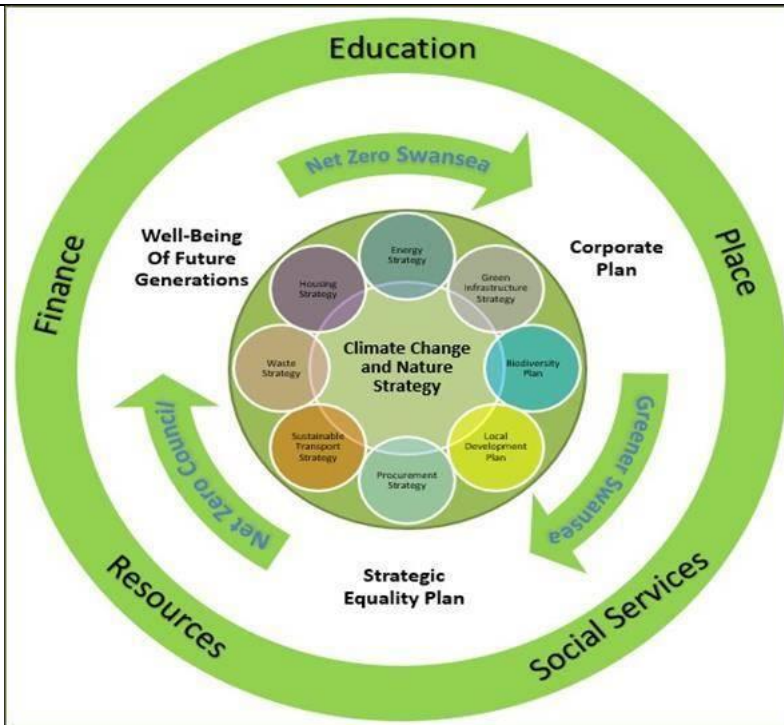
- Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration
- The Cabinet Member for Service Transformation and the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service and Performance (our two Deputy Leaders) both chair the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Steering Group.
- Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation.
- Get to grips with the finances you need.
- Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity; and
- Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making.

As with any “all Wales” audit report the overall position and recommendations do not reflect the Councils specific position which is already strong with clear commitments to address the challenge. However, it is accepted more needs to be done and the following sets out the Council’s response to each of the recommendations.

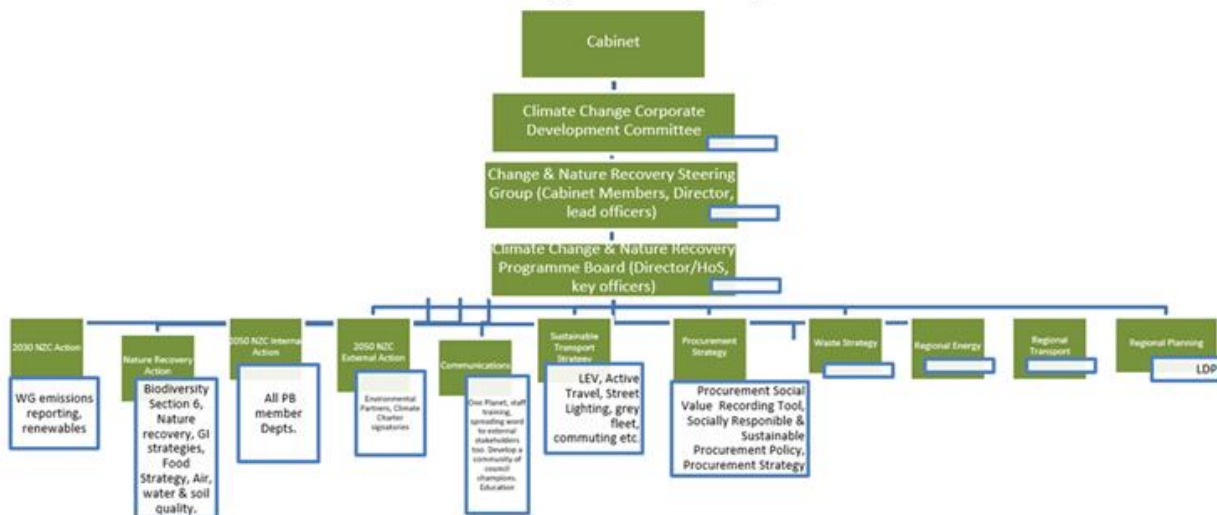
## **Response**

### **Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration.**

- Climate change and nature emergency already declared and action in train
- New Well-being objective already created in the corporate plan for 22/23 – Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change and aligned corporate priorities demonstrates full commitment to the subject.
- Leader/Cabinet member WLGA Climate leadership training. Geoff Bacon Head of Property Services and Jane Richmond Strategic Climate Change Project Manager attending.
- New Climate Change Corporate Delivery Committee established to focus on new strategy and policy with work programme for the coming year already agreed.
- Nature Recovery and Climate Change governance reflected below.



### Climate Change & Nature Recovery Governance



November 2022

- South West Wales Economic Delivery Plan reflects collaboration on this agenda.
- Regional energy strategy agreed and included in the corporate joint committee work programme and governance even though not required by statute
- Regional support and funding for resourcing via the Earth Programme
- WLGA supporting masterclasses to share good practice across all Welsh public bodies.
- Swansea Council already has a dozen signatories to the Climate Charter who will help develop the Net zero Swansea strategy/agenda, these include health board, fire, police services, universities, NRW, etc.
- Working with the PSB and the Working with Nature group to collaboratively drive the Swansea Net Zero 2050 agenda.
- Working with BID and the economics delivery team to support small businesses.
- Working with schools on this agenda can we elaborate e.g., energy sparks.
- Recently established a new Environmental partner procurement framework with council funding to procure support.

- Working with The Swansea Environment Centre to run an Energy Awareness Hub to help citizens during the energy crisis recently extended for another 6 months, through to March 2023.

### **Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation**

- Three years of emissions data now submitted to Welsh Government.
- An options report will be presented to Cabinet with proposals as to how Swansea Council could achieve net zero by 2030. Once options have been agreed and respective funding identified a full delivery plan can be formalise, once policy clashes and funding determined.
- Collaborate with climate signatories to develop action towards delivering the Swansea wide 2050 target.
- Utilise new environmental partners to undertake groundwork in 22-23, establish clear picture of what's happening across Swansea from a community perspective.
- Climate Pledge wall introduced with 144 amounts signed up.
- Citizen survey undertaken March 21 with over 1000 responses, intention is to undertake face to face consultation to follow up and gain more current views on our progress- The main message received was to go faster and go further, which continues to be our ambition.

### **Get to grips with the finances you need**

- The ability and the costs of being able to deliver NZ will be set out in a report to Cabinet towards to the end of 2022, once the WG emissions data collection is clarified and updated information has been returned
- The Council continues to challenge WG on the stance taken on renewables within WG guidance which discounts the use of renewable energy from the calculations which the council believe is a fundamental flaw in the data collection process. If WG do not change this stance then it is expected that to meet the requirements as currently set out will be likely unachievable and almost certainly unaffordable without significant additional Welsh Government funding. There is a need for further dialogue with WG regarding delivery timeframe and how the public sector will be funded to reach the standard we all need to achieve as the council does not have headroom within existing finances.

### **Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity**

- Skills gaps have mainly been identified in operational and technical fields. Examples include technical design, drainage, ecologists, trades (new technologies), and carbon reduction.
- Alongside continuing to recruit externally in a very limited, competitive market, strategies are also in place to 'grow our own' and work more closely with the local universities to try and bridge the skills gaps.
- There is undoubtedly a lack of available talent which has led to an overly competitive market where the public sector is chasing a limited affordable supply.
- Teams will seek opportunity of recent funding – 'SBCD skills and talent'
- There has be Welsh Government support to drive regional working.
- The council will also explore the opportunity for funding via the CJC mechanism as part of the delivery of the regional energy strategy.

### **Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making**

- Currently operational officers are working as a team to collate all required WG reporting data which whilst onerous has worked extremely well to date. However, recognising we will need to drill down to the finer detail going forward the Council is in the process of recruiting a Carbon Reduction Project Manager to work alongside officers to analyse and monitor our data going forward.

- Swansea will be using 'Team Sigma' to start collating data electronically offering monitoring and reporting facilities. It is considered that a consistent national standard on-line reporting format would help improve consistency.

**Conclusion**

Swansea Council has made a commitment to delivering on nature recovery and climate change as per the new corporate plan wellbeing objective 2022-2027. It has already made significant progress in advance of the audit Wales report but accepts that the challenges now is to ensure adequate skilled resource and funds are sourced from Welsh and UK governments to ensure effective delivery.

To note a report is due to be presented for approval at December Cabinet on a proposed delivery plan for achieving net zero Swansea Council by 2030.

19 **Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffrey, Sandra Joy & Stuart Rice**

Given the Administration's election promises to provide more bins in Swansea, please can the Cabinet member provide council with a full and specific breakdown of the following by electoral ward since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 please.

- a) The number of litter bins removed and not replaced.
- b) The number of new additional litter bins introduced.
- c) The number of dog waste bins removed and not replaced with a dog waste bin.
- d) The number of bins replaced or introduced at the new replacement bus stops.
- e) The number of bins removed and not replaced in parks and green spaces.
- f) The number of new bins that cater for separated recyclables.

In addition to this information, please can the cabinet member inform Council of the additional staffing resources that have been invested in collecting and emptying litter and dog waste bins? As in past the Council clearly struggled to empty certain bins on a regular enough basis

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)**

The number of litter bins known to have been removed and not replaced since 1 January 2022 are:

- 1 – Sketty
- 1 – Cwmbwrwla
- 1 – Fforestfach
- 1 – Morriston

Litter bins can be removed for a number of reasons, including being inappropriately used to dispose of household waste, which prevents it being used for litter and results in overspill of litter and bags of waste being deposited around the bin. The Cleansing Service consults with Ward Members prior to the removal of litter bins unless removal is urgent due to damage.

There have 8 no. additional litter bins installed as part of project work since 1 January 2022. Dog waste bins are now being replaced with multi-purpose litter bins unless the location does not have the space for the litter bins.

Bins are not generally being introduced at any new replacement bus stops.

	<p>I am not aware of any bins recently being removed and not replaced in parks and green spaces. The Cleansing Service consults with Ward Members prior to the removal of litter bins unless removal is urgent due to damage.</p> <p>Whilst the city centre and some other areas of high footfall do have litter bins with recycling facilities, the ongoing bin replacement programme uses single compartment litter bins. Recycling litter bins suffer from very high levels of contamination and result in very poor quantities of recycling.</p> <p>The Council has funded an additional 2no. Operative Cleansing Team to focus on bin emptying at peak times, bin cleaning, repairs, and replacements.</p>
20	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffrey, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>The council has now failed to provide a firework display on bonfire night for the past 2 years.</p> <p>In 2021, the council press released stated: <i>“High tides mean that a show on November 5 isn't possible for this location, so the best alternative date - Friday, November 12 - is when the show will take place. Low tide that evening will means maximum space for spectators.</i></p> <p><i>”The press release added: “It's the first time the show hasn't taken place on November 5.” Finally in the release the cabinet member stated. “We really wanted to hold the event on November 5 as usual - but the tide just wasn't with us this year.”. “We considered other locations such as St Helen's sports ground and Singleton Park for November 5 but, for a number of reasons, they wouldn't have been as good as the bay.”</i></p> <p>In 2022, the event was cancelled altogether with the council giving the following reason. <i>“Due to high tides on the night of November 5, it was planned that the fireworks would be launched from a seaborne barge. However, the council's experienced Swansea-based marine supplier said high winds expected in the area now means the show can't go ahead”</i></p> <p>We sympathise with the aspiration to provide the spectacular but, would the cabinet member please now give an assurance that the 2023 event will return to the tried, tested and traditional St Helen's to maximise the chance of it actually happening on 5<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>2019 saw the celebration of Swansea's city status and as part of those celebrations, a number of the Council's annual events were enhanced to ensure that they were accessible to as wide an audience as possible. This included, for the first time, a free fireworks display in the bay. The event was a great success attended by over 30,000 people - three times more people than would traditionally have enjoyed a ground-based display at St Helen's.</p> <p>Similarly, the 2021 display was among one of the first major events to take place following the pandemic. At this time, with some restrictions and social distancing guidance still in place, it wouldn't have been feasible to host the display within the confines of the St Helen's. Therefore, to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the display with family and friends, in a safe, large, outdoor space (something many had not been able to do for quite some time), a free display was successfully held in the bay. Like the 2019 event, the display was very well received and attracted a significant audience.</p> <p>It was unfortunate that safety considerations forced the cancellation of this year's event, which would have again offered thousands of our citizens and visitors the chance to enjoy a safe and free public display. The decision to cancel such a major event was not taken</p>

	<p>lightly. Unlike smaller community displays which can be set up in a matter of hours, the city's free display takes several days to set up and relies on the support of several external contractors. This year, as a result of high tides, the fireworks were going to be set off from a barge tendered in the bay. Torrential rain and high winds experienced during the week of the 5th along with further high winds forecast on the 5th itself meant that the company providing the barge took the decision, on health and safety grounds to advise the council that they could no longer supply it. The display, which was specifically designed for this location, could therefore no longer go ahead.</p> <p>Whilst, not a regular occurrence the display has, as a result of weather been both cancelled and held on alternative dates.</p> <p>As with all events, the plans for the 2023 annual fireworks display will be fully reviewed with all options considered.</p>
21	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffrey, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>In July, the council issued a press release saying <i>“Join our cleansing team and help keep Swansea tidy. Swansea Council is launching a major recruitment campaign that'll boost its front-line cleansing teams and make sure every ward gets the chance for a spruce-up. Seventeen street cleansing team jobs are up for grabs at the council as part of a clampdown on littering that will help keep communities cleaner than ever.”</i> This release gives the firm impression that 17 new jobs were to be created.</p> <p>Last month the council issued a further gave this impression with press release saying: <i>“New city clean-up teams deployed to communities in Swansea. A brand new team of cleansing staff are making their way around Swansea, tackling a wide range of issues to help smarten up communities.”</i></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the total workforce in Waste, Parks and Cleansing has in fact increased by 17 full time employees since September please.</p> <p>If not where are the staff coming from for the new Community Ward Operative Teams (CWOT) coming from.</p> <p><b>Response of the Community (Services)</b></p> <p>A very successful recruitment campaign was run for the Cleansing Ward Operative Teams. Due to the well-publicised financial uncertainties nationally, it was decided, as an interim position, to fill the 17 positions with 9 new employees and 8 existing employees redeployed from Cleansing project teams.</p> <p>Since the commencement of the scheme, there has been a high level of engagement with Ward Members and the works undertaken by the Teams have been extremely well received.</p>
22	<p><b>Councillors Mike Day, Susan Jones &amp; Mark Tribe</b></p> <p>How much revenue is being generated from the Council selling advertising space, either via websites and social media, or physically via advertising on Council vehicles and on hoardings and banners. How much does it cost the Council to undertake such advertising on behalf of customers. Is there scope for increasing the net revenue from such sources and what plans does the Council have for doing so.</p>

### **Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service & Performance**

The Council generates in excess of £400,000 net income p.a. from parties advertising and sponsoring the Council's assets and the costs for generating such income equate to approximately 30% of the cost of the opportunity. The Council is working to increase such revenue following pandemic disruption, with a number of initiatives under consideration: the Council is reviewing the potential of expanding digital advertising, so considering a movement from vinyl / static adverts to digital screens where possible and financially advantageous. We have a small digital base installed within some car parks for example in the new Copr Bay facility. Outdoor advertising is considered a robust and growing market as advertisers seek new ways of engaging with their target audiences as the use of traditional media, such as TV, is under review due to audiences increasingly turning to streaming services. The work is on-going and is subject to receiving the appropriate permissions, e.g. planning consents, and will also consider new opportunities for additional fixed / traditional advertising. The Council has aligned resources into one team to focus on supporting interested commercial partners and the Council also considers other value-added opportunities through this work - the digital advertising installed allows the Council to display its own public service messaging at no additional cost with that benefit 'in-kind' worth thousands of pounds to the Council at market rates / if we were to pay external companies for such a service. Linked work that the Council also undertakes includes ensuring that when the Council is required to advertise itself - such as for the publication of its statutory notices - that it does so in a co-ordinated manner and benefits from economies-of-scale in pricing, so achieving best value.

### 23 **Councillors Mary Jones, Jeff Jones & Chris Holley**

As this council is promoting walking and cycling with many shared use paths can the Cabinet Member tell us what steps are being taken to ensure the safety of both walkers and cyclists on these paths.

### **Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure**

In developing Shared Use Paths designers follow the best practice set out in Welsh Governments Active Travel Guidance. Designers seek to create an environment where all road users are aware of the presence of other users and guided along the route using the appropriate signing, lining and different pavement types to relay messages on how facility should be used.

To ensure that this is carried out appropriately, schemes are Safety Audited at various stages through the design, construction and operational phase. With amendments to the design being made to support the safe operation of the facility as required.

After Oktoberfest  
2022



After 1st Day  
90s Event 2022





Sep 2021 After Escape



Oktoberfest 2021



After Oktoberfest 2022

