



**Dinas a Sir Abertawe**

**Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod**

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

## **Panel Perfformiad Craffu – Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Natur**

**Lleoliad:** Cyfarfod Aml-Leoliad - Ystafell Gloucester, Neuadd y Ddinas / MS Teams

**Dyddiad:** Dydd Mawrth, 13 Medi 2022

**Amser:** 10.00 am

**Cynullydd:** Y Cynghorydd Hannah Lawson

**Aelodaeth:**

Cynghorwyr: C M J Evans, E W Fitzgerald, J A Hale, O G James, M H Jones, S E Keeton, M W Locke, H M Morris, B J Rowlands a/ac W G Thomas

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### **Agenda**

**Rhif y Dudalen.**

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb**
- 2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol**  
[www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau)
- 3 Gwahardd pleidleisiau Chwip a Datgan Chwipiau'r Pleidiau**
- 4 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod(ydd) Blaenorol** **1 - 8**  
Derbyn nodiadau'r cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol a chytuno eu bod yn gofnod cywir.
- 5 Cwestiynau gan y Cyhoedd**  
Rhaid cyflwyno cwestiynau'n ysgrifenedig, cyn hanner dydd ar y diwrno d gwaith cyn y cyfarfod fan bellaf. Rhaid i gwestiynau ymwneud ag eite mau ar yr agenda. Ymdrinnir â chwestiynau o fewn cyfnod 10 munud.
- 6 Rôl y Panel Craffu ar Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Natur** **9 - 20**
- 7 Trosolwg o Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Natur yn Abertawe** **21 - 45**  
*Gwahoddwyd:*  
*Y Cynghorydd Andrea Lewis, Aelod y Cabinet - Trawsnewid*  
*Gwasanaethau*  
*Y Cynghorydd David Hopkins, Aelod y Cabinet - Gwasanaethau*

*Corfforaethol a Pherfformiad  
Y Cynghorydd Andrew Stevens, Aelod y Cabinet - Yr Amgylchedd ac  
Isadeiledd*

*Mark Wade - Cyfarwyddwr Lleoedd  
Geoff Bacon - Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Eiddo  
Phil Holmes - Pennaeth Cynllunio ac Adfywio'r Ddinas  
Rachel Lewis - Rheolwr Prosiect y Gyfarwyddiaeth  
Paul Meller – Rheolwr yr Amgylchedd Naturiol  
Deborah Hill – Arweinydd y Tîm Cadwraeth Natur  
Jane Richmond - Rheolwr Prosiect, Newid yn yr Hinsawdd Strategol*

**8 Rhaglen Waith ddrafft 2022-23**

**46 - 47**

**Cyfarfod nesaf:** Dydd Mercher, 9 Tachwedd 2022 am 10.00 am

*Huw Evans*

**Huw Evans  
Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd  
Dydd Mawrth, 06 Medi 2022**

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**Cyswllt: Liz Jordan 01792 637314**

# Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel - Natural Environment**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 10.00 am

**Present:** Councillor P K Jones (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**  
E W Fitzgerald  
H Lawson  
B J Rowlands

**Councillor(s)**  
S J Gallagher  
I E Mann  
W G Thomas

**Councillor(s)**  
O G James  
C Richards  
L J Tyler-Lloyd

**Officer(s)**

Deb Hill  
Paul Meller  
Kathryn Jones  
Mark Barber  
Michelle Roberts

Nature Conservation Team Leader  
Natural Environment Section Manager  
Planning Ecologist  
Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer  
Scrutiny Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): M H Jones and M Sherwood

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**74 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None

**75 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**

None

**76 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

The minutes of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting, held on 12 January 2022, were agreed as an accurate record.

**77 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**78 Nature Conservation Team - Project Updates**

The Panel received an update on the main project work currently identified as actions for delivery by the Council's Nature Conservation Team under the Corporate

Plan Natural Resources and Biodiversity Objective and also arising out of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Recommendations. An Action Log was attached to the report provided and this highlighted the relevant progress made since last reported to Panel in March 2021.

The following issues were raised by the Panel in relation to individual actions within the log:

*Action 2 - Prepare Corporate Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan*

Panel recognised that this is a major piece of work and were pleased to hear the action plan to 2023 is now being developed. They asked about Councillor involvement in the development of this plan and were informed that this would be most welcome and would follow as part of the Councillor training in the new Council term.

*Action 3 - Preparation of Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan*

The Panel heard that this has been delayed due not having a full-time biodiversity officer, now this person is in post things are progressing and an action plan will be developed by the end of the year.

*Action 5 - Prepare a County wide GI Strategy*

The Strategy has been on hold due to the ability to consult with the public being critical to developing this plan. Work has begun again and public engagement should start in the summer.

Under this item the Panel raised the issue of monitoring of compliance and the enforcement of green infrastructure aspects of planning applications. The Panel felt that this is currently insufficient and how it can be improved needs to be considered. The Panel heard that ideally legislation would change to enable the Council to be informed when infrastructure projects start so they are able to start monitoring, rather than finding out after the project has started. The Panel recognised that monitoring compliance and enforcement is resource intensive. The Panel would like Cabinet to consider how this can be solved, one suggestion included projects requiring green infrastructure sign off at the end of a project to ensure developers have satisfied the requirements. The Panel would like this to be scheduled for further discussion at one of their meetings early in the new municipal year.

*Action 6 and 7 - Develop and adopt a Council tree policy, and prepare and adopt Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)*

The Panel were pleased to hear about this policy but highlighted the importance of being mindful of where trees are planted. They heard that one of the pieces of work being completed is 'the right trees planted in the right place for the right reason' and that there are many things to consider when tree planting, so an assessment is done to decide what type of tree is most appropriate at a particular spot.

The Panel suggested that this information be made available on the Council's website and shared with Community Councils etc. The Panel heard that the webpages are being developed and will be launched shortly.

*Action 10 - Develop and deliver biodiversity training for Council staff, elected Members and PSB Members*

The Panel welcomed the programme of ongoing training and emphasised the importance of Councillor training at the beginning of the new Council Term. The Panel heard that Welsh Government are also developing Wales wide training for elected members, so this will form part of the programme moving forward.

The Panel recommended that the basics of biodiversity and climate change form part of the new Councillor Induction Training.

*Action 12 and 13 – Recruit new Planning Ecologist and Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer*

The Panel were pleased to meet the new Planning Ecologist and Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer and look forward to hearing more about their progress in due course.

*Action 15 - Co-ordinate and deliver the Local Places for Nature Grant programme (2020-2023)*

The Panel heard that grants over and above those mentioned in the report have been and will be received. In total over ½ million pounds of grant monies have been received including from Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales in 2021/2022.

There has been over 1 million pounds of grants approved for the coming year, the Panel heard from officers that this is fantastic but would add to the already considerable workload. The Panel recognise that it does take a large amount of time and resources to spend and deliver on these grants but welcome this as a good problem.

*Action 18 - Plan, support and deliver new tree / woodland/hedgerow/orchard planting initiatives*

The Panel recognised that this is becoming more important as we move forward and that assessment of the number of trees planted was necessary but also emphasised the importance of monitoring the number of trees being removed, so we can understand our overall tree stock and therefore make a carbon assessment regularly.

*Action 23 - Deliver and provide support for school biodiversity awareness activities and practical initiatives and opportunities for schoolchildren to access and learn about their natural environment*

The Panel heard that staff capacity and the pandemic has stopped this from proceeding but now we have the new posts in place, progress will be made over the coming year.

## **79 Panel Review of the Year 2021-22**

As this is the final meeting of this municipal year, the Panel was invited to reflect on the year's scrutiny work, experience and effectiveness. Any ideas that will improve the effectiveness of the scrutiny of Natural Environment, and scrutiny generally was asked for.

Have things worked well?

The Panel felt that there have been real positives from their work, that it had been productive, that it had allowed people to raise issues of environmental concern and that it had been interesting and informative.

Has the Panel's work focused on the right things?

The Panel believed that they have focused on the right things and has dealt with fundamental issues of biodiversity and impacts of climate change. They would like to see further work done in the new municipal year on enforcement of green infrastructure/biodiversity aspects of planning applications

What, if anything, could be done better?

The different roles of Policy Development Committees and of Scrutiny was raised and the Panel felt that many areas of policy development and scrutiny can overlap when it comes to the Natural Environment. Although they felt that this was not necessarily a bad thing and it is good that ideas for improvement are forthcoming from whatever source.

The Convener thanked the Panel members and Council Officers for their support in the work of this Panel over the past two years.

Officers in attendance thanked Cllr Jones for the support he has given to enabling nature recovery through his work as chair of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Panel.

The Panel thanked the Convener for his enthusiasm for the subject and his good leadership of the Panel.

## **80 Letter(s)**

The Panel received the correspondence sent following the meeting of the Panel held on 12 January 2022.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm

**Chair**

**To:**  
**Cllr Andrea Lewis,**  
**Cabinet Member - Climate Change**  
**& Service Transformation**

**BY EMAIL**

*Please ask for:*  
*Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:*  
*Llinell Uniongyrochol:*

*e-Mail*  
*e-Bost:*

*Date*  
*Dyddiad:*

Overview & Scrutiny

01792 637256

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

28 March 2022

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation. The letter concerns the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and the updates received regarding Nature Conservation Project Updates.

Dear Councillor Lewis

The Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel met on March 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Nature Conservation Team Project Updates. We were grateful to the officers for attending to aid discussions and answer questions.

The Panel received an update on the main project work currently identified as actions for delivery by the Council's Nature Conservation Team under the Corporate Plan Natural Resources and Biodiversity Objective and also arising out of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Recommendations. An Action Log was supplied that highlighted the relevant progress made since the last report to the Panel in March 2021.

We raised and discussed the following issues in relation to individual actions within the log provided:

*Action 2 - Prepare Corporate Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan*

We recognised that this is a major piece of work and were pleased to hear the action plan taking us to 2023 is now in development. We asked about Councillor involvement in the development of this plan and we were informed that this would be most welcome and will follow after Councillor training in the new municipal year.

*Action 3 - Preparation of Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan*

We heard that this action has been delayed due to the Council not having a full-time Biodiversity Officer in post, now this person is in situ things are progressing and an action plan will be developed by the end of the year.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**

**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**

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

[www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) / [www.abertawe.gov.uk](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk)

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod  
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

*Action 5 - Prepare a County wide GI Strategy*

We were told that this strategy has been on hold due to the ability to consult with the public being critical to development of this plan. Work has begun again and public engagement should start in the summer.

Under this item we raised a concern about monitoring of compliance and the enforcement of green infrastructure aspects of planning applications. We felt that this is currently insufficient and we believe improvement is needed. We heard that ideally legislation would be changed that would then enable the Council to be informed when infrastructure projects start, rather than finding out after projects have commenced. We do recognise that monitoring of compliance and enforcement is a resource intensive activity. We would like Cabinet to consider how this can be solved, one suggestion included requiring a green infrastructure sign off at the end of a project to ensure developers have satisfied the requirements. We have asked that this be scheduled for further discussion at one of our meetings early in the new municipal year.

*Action 6 and 7 - Develop and adopt a Council tree policy, and prepare and adopt Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)*

We were pleased to hear about this policy but highlighted the importance of being mindful of where trees are planted. We heard about one of the pieces of work being completed 'the right trees planted in the right place for the right reason' recognising there are many things to consider when tree planting, so an assessment is done to decide what type of tree is most suited to a particular spot.

*Action 10 - Develop and deliver biodiversity training for Council staff, elected Members and PSB Members*

We welcomed the programme of ongoing training and emphasised the importance of Councillor training at the beginning of the new Council Term. We heard that the Welsh Government are also developing Wales wide training for elected Members, so this will form part of our programme moving forward.

We did agree that the basics of biodiversity and climate change should also form part of the new Councillor Induction Training.

*Action 12 and 13 – Recruit new Planning Ecologist and Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer*

We were pleased to meet the new Planning Ecologist and Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer and look forward to hearing more about their progress in due course.

*Action 15 - Co-ordinate and deliver the Local Places for Nature Grant programme*

We heard that grants over and above those mentioned in the report have been and will be received. In total over half a million pounds of grant monies have been received including from Welsh Government and National Resources Wales in 2021/2022. There has been over one million pounds of grant money approved for the coming year, we did hear from officers that this is fantastic would add to the already considerable workload. We recognise that it does take a large amount of



time and resources to spend and deliver on these grants but welcome this as a good problem.

*Action 18 - Plan, support and deliver new tree / woodland/hedgerow/orchard planting initiatives*

We recognise that this is becoming more important as we move forward and that assessment of the number of trees planted was necessary but we also emphasised the importance of monitoring the number of tree being removed, so we can understand our overall tree stock and therefore make a carbon assessment regularly.

*Action 23 - Deliver and provide support for school biodiversity awareness activities and practical initiatives and opportunities for school children to access and learn about their natural environment*

We heard that the mixture of staff capacity and the pandemic has stopped this from proceeding but now we have the new posts in place, progress will be made on this action over the coming year.

We are interested in any thoughts you may have on the contents of this letter and would ask that you consider the following recommendation and provide us with a response by 18 April 2022.

1. We recommend that the basics of biodiversity and climate change form part of the new Councillor Induction Training.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Peter Jones**

**Convener, Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel**

✉ [cllr.peter.jones@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.peter.jones@swansea.gov.uk)

Cllr Peter Jones  
Convener  
Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance  
Panel

Please ask for: Councillor Andrea Lewis  
Direct Line: 01792 63 7442  
E-Mail: [cllr.andrea.lewis@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.andrea.lewis@swansea.gov.uk)  
Our Ref: AL/JG  
Your Ref:  
Date: 30 March 2022

Dear Councillor Jones,

**Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel March 15<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Thank you for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 following the above Panel meeting.

I was pleased to learn of and fully support the progress being made on delivering actions under the Corporate Plan Natural Resources and Biodiversity Objective and also arising out of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Recommendations.

With regard to the Panel's recommendation arising '*that the basics of biodiversity and climate change form part of the new Councillor Induction Training*', I would advise that I have discussed the matter with the current Director of Place/Interim Chief Executive who is happy to include reference to this within the overall presentations to Council as part of the induction process. There will also be a "market place" event on the same day where officers will be in attendance and will be able to share details and plans with councillors throughout the day.

In addition we are considering a further Member seminar on climate change/nature emergency as part of our corporate priorities and this will follow on from the above formal session. As such we believe the combination of these sessions will be able to convey the importance of the Council approach to managing the natural environment and biodiversity.

I trust this provides the assurance the Panel are seeking.

Yours sincerely



**Y Cyngorydd/ Councillor Andrea Lewis**  
**Y Ddirprwy Arweinydd/ Aelod y Cabinet dros Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Thrawsnewid**  
**Gwasanaethau**  
**Joint Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation**

# Agenda Item 6



## Report of the Convener

### Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 13 September 2022

### Role of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel

<b>Purpose:</b>	As it is the first meeting of the municipal year (and Council term) this report has been written to help give clarity and ensure understanding of the role of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel. It is also designed to aid discussion on effective working.
<b>Content:</b>	A description of the role of Performance Panels is provided, the focus of the Climate Change and Nature Panel, and link to relevant Council Priorities / Policy Commitments.
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	Discuss the role of the Panel and effective working
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Hannah Lawson, Convener of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel
<b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author:</b>	Liz Jordan, Scrutiny Officer E-mail: <a href="mailto:liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk">liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Within the Council's arrangements for Overview & Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing a Scrutiny Work Programme and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.
- 1.2 The broad aim of the scrutiny function is to engage non-executive councillors in activities to:
  - provide an effective challenge to the executive
  - help improve services, policies, and performance
  - engage the public in its work.
- 1.3 At the same time the Committee must ensure that the work of scrutiny is:
  - manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available to support activities
  - relevant to council priorities
  - adding value and having maximum impact

- coordinated and avoids duplication.
- 1.4 In order to discharge the work of Scrutiny, the Scrutiny Programme Committee can establish informal Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.
- There are two types of Panel:
- Inquiry Panels will undertake discrete in-depth inquiries into significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis.
  - Performance Panels will undertake provide ongoing in-depth monitoring and challenge to particular services / service areas
- 1.5 The Committee has established six Performance Panels, each with a specific focus:
- Service Improvement & Finance
  - Education
  - Adult Services
  - Child & Family Services
  - Development & Regeneration
  - **Climate Change & Nature.**
- 1.6 Panel meetings will typically involve consideration / assessment of service performance reports from Cabinet Members, with support from lead officers, and discussion of issues arising. Where necessary, Panels will drill down into specific matters. Panels may request relevant reports on activities, performance and information that will help it to assess progress regarding the Council's work, commitments, and implementation of agreed plans.
- 1.7 Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant Cabinet Members in order to share views and recommendations, arising from monitoring activities, holding them to account for service performance, quality and improvement.
- 1.8 The Committee also determines the frequency of Performance Panel meetings that can be supported within the overall Scrutiny Work Programme. Performance Panels will meet on an on-going basis during the Council term until otherwise agreed by the Committee. Accordingly, Panels will develop a work plan for meetings that effectively discharge their responsibilities and Committee expectations.
- 1.9 Non-executive councillors who are not members of the Committee have the opportunity to participate in Panels and other informal task and finish groups. The membership of Panels and Working Groups is determined by the Committee. The Committee will appoint Panel Conveners in the first year of a Council term, however, has agreed for Performance Panels to then re-confirm / appoint their Convener at the start of every subsequent municipal year. There are no fixed number of seats on Panels, however, more than one political group should be represented on each and should be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning. A minimum of 3 members should be present at all meetings.

- 1.10 Performance Panel Conveners are required to provide the Scrutiny Programme Committee with regular progress reports on the work and impact of their Panels. Performance Panel conveners can attend meetings of the Scrutiny Programme Committee as co-opted members.
- 1.11 Panels and Working Group meetings are accessible to the public, just as the Scrutiny Programme Committee. Agendas, reports, letters relating to scrutiny activities are published on the Council's modern.gov online platform:  
<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

## **2. The Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel**

- 2.1 The Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel is responsible for ongoing monitoring of Council performance in relation to climate change and the natural environment. It will monitor delivery of the Council's work, commitments and implementation of agreed plans, and assess progress.
- 2.2 The Panel currently has a membership of 11 councillors.
- 2.3 In accordance with the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme, the Panel meets every two months. This has been programmed for 10am, usually on a Tuesday or Wednesday.
- 2.4 The development of this Panel followed a scrutiny inquiry, which looked at how the Council manages its responsibilities in relation to the natural environment in Swansea, including statutory requirements under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and subsequent introduction of a new Corporate Priority of Maintaining and Enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity. This also links with the Climate Emergency, declared by the Council in June 2019, and the recent declaration by the Council in November 2021 of a Nature Emergency.

The Panel was established by the Committee in July 2019 as the Natural Environment Panel and was renamed the Climate Change and Nature Panel in July 2022. The Panel has been focused on contributing to the ongoing development and enhancement of Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity, acting as a critical friend for the Cabinet, and helping to ensure accountability for performance. To support regular monitoring of key activity the Panel has received a 'Nature Conservation - Project Updates' report annually, providing an overview of all projects and assessment of progress. This provides a regular 'health check' on natural environment activity to facilitate challenge by the Panel. The Panel has then, where necessary, drilled down on specific work, to provide a more in-depth level of scrutiny. For example, during 2021/22 this included discussion on: Ash Dieback, Water Pollution, Local Flood Risk, Climate Emergency Declaration Action Plan. From this municipal year the Panel will increase its focus on Climate Change and receive regular updates to provide an overview of Council work in this area and support monitoring of key activity.

- 2.5 The Panel will write to the relevant Cabinet Members, to convey its views including suggested action, arising from meeting discussions. Letters, and responses where requested, are reported back to the Panel for comments and discussion as necessary.
- 2.6 Link to Corporate Objectives as set out within the Corporate Plan 2022/23:

*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.*

The 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' objective is new for 2022/23 and is a development from the previous Well-being Objective 'Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity'. This new Well-being Objective has been adopted to place particular emphasis on addressing the long-term challenges arising from climate change and the threat to biodiversity; following Welsh Government declarations for Wales, the Council has declared both a Climate Emergency and a Nature Emergency, which will be responded to through this Well-being Objective.

The Council's Corporate Plan, pages 29-33, relate specifically to Climate Change and Nature matters and have been **appended to this report**.

- 2.7 Link to Policy Commitments 2022-2027 (taken from Council report 7 July 2022):

#### Climate Change

- Swansea Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- We will support delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project.
- We aim to progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site.
- The Council will strive to install more electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the county, supporting a move to more EV ownership.
- We will install more LED street lighting.
- We will develop a new city-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees in communities.
- We aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements.
- Swansea Council will continue to review the council transport fleet to maximise opportunities for use of a green fleet in line with its green fleet strategy.

#### Housing

- Swansea Council commit to providing more energy efficient homes and more affordable homes, alongside more investment in social housing.

100 days target:

#### Transport and Energy

- The Council will announce progress on the Blue Eden project.
- and consider further extensions.
- Swansea Council will support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.
- We will continue to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with its agreed green fleet strategy.
- We will progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub.

### **3. Support**

3.1 Performance Panels have the dedicated support of a member of the Council's Scrutiny Team. For the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel it is currently Liz Jordan, [liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk). This lead Scrutiny Officer will assist with work planning and project-manage scrutiny activities and help to ensure that things run smoothly, for example by:

- directly supporting meetings
- liaison with Cabinet Members, departments, partners and the public
- contacting and arranging witness sessions
- carrying out research and arranging evidence gathering
- carrying out and assisting with any consultation and public engagement exercises
- helping to keep the work to time
- capturing and reflecting back the ideas, evidence gathered and any key issues that have been highlighted
- assisting in the drafting of scrutiny letters and reports
- promoting work using social media and other methods of communication.

3.2 The Corporate Management Team and Service Departments are also an essential source of advice and support. Engagement with departments will be important in providing context for areas of work, knowledge about policies and service delivery, and technical expertise.

3.3 The Committee should recognise that resource constraints may have an impact on the scrutiny activity and delivery of work plans. Being focussed, proportionate and flexible will be important as we carry out scrutiny.

### **4. Effective Working**

4.1 The Panel is encouraged to consider how it can work more effectively, for example in its preparation for meetings, and think about its approach to issues including the following:

- Developing Questions and Questioning Strategy
- Use of short Pre-meetings / Post meetings
- Team / Inclusive Working and Communication
- Decorum at meetings
- Meeting times / length

- Any other practical considerations.

**Background Papers:** None

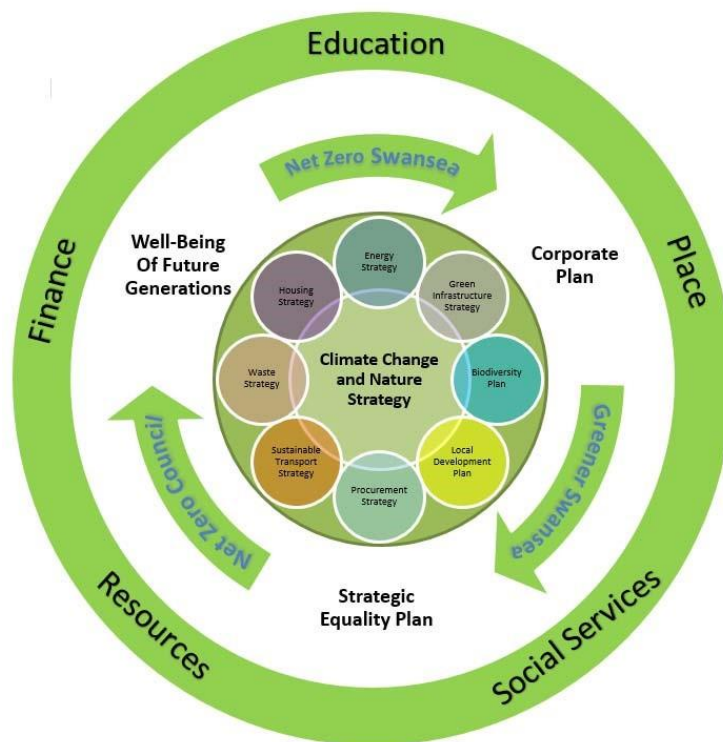
**Appendices:** Extract from Corporate Plan 2022/23 on 'Nature Recovery and Climate Change'.



## Delivering on **Nature Recovery and Climate Change**

### Why this priority is a well-being objective.

- Following Welsh Government declarations for Wales, the Council has declared both a Climate Emergency in June 2019 and a Nature Emergency in November 2021.
- Using the Welsh Government Route map to net zero, Swansea Council will align with its principles, knowing what needs to be done now, by 2022-26 Low Carbon becoming the norm and by 2030 where choosing carbon zero is routine.
- Sound governance has been established within the council to act on such challenges and all activity will be driven within the parameters of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, the Strategic Equality Plan and the Corporate Plan and the Swansea (PSB) Well Being Plan.



- To ensure that in addition to achieving net zero 2030 for Swansea Council, we will work with partners, organisations, schools, businesses to support Swansea as a whole county and citizens in its efforts to become net zero by 2050, aligning with the Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget (2) 2022/2025. Establishing both Climate and Nature Charters and a Pledge Wall to encourage active participation and help build a healthier, more prosperous and biodiverse/ ecologically resilient Swansea.

- Swansea is one of the most ecologically rich and diverse counties in the UK. Its unique variety of habitats and species and wonderful range of parks, greenspaces, nature reserves, beaches and landscapes needs to be maintained, enhanced and sustainably managed for the benefit of everyone now and into the future.
- Our natural environment and biodiversity is under threat and in decline due to unsustainable human activities. Habitats and species are being lost at an alarming and unsustainable rate. We need to raise awareness of the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change at the local level and provide information, advice, and practical support and incentives to encourage others to take action and collaborate to deliver positive solutions to these challenges.
- We want everyone to have access to, understand, appreciate and benefit from Swansea's outstanding natural environment and to play their part in looking after and enhancing it, resulting in a healthier, greener and more prosperous Swansea.
- Our future survival and quality of life is dependent on healthy resilient natural environment, the multiple benefits it provides to society and on reducing our carbon emissions to net zero.
- We have a moral responsibility to look after biodiversity for its own intrinsic value.

**The longer-term challenges this well-being objective will help address.**

- A public sector target of 2030, ahead of the Welsh Government's target of 2050 for the whole of Wales, will give us our best chance of keeping global warming below 1.5°C. This is the tipping point at which the climate impacts we're already experiencing will go from bad to potentially catastrophic. We'll see natural systems cross danger points, triggering lasting changes such as extreme storms, heatwaves, mass loss of natural habitats and species.
- We are at a critical point in time for nature recovery and without urgent transformative change, many of our species and habitats will continue to decline or become extinct.
- Halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity through reducing harm and unsustainable use and moving to a situation where we are working with nature to maintain healthy resilient ecosystems that will continue to provide long-term quality of life (or ecosystem services) benefits upon which we all depend.
- Tackling climate change, which is one of the greatest challenges facing us all and we need to reduce our carbon footprint and to mitigate for and adapt to the likely risks and impacts.
- Creating high quality environmentally and low carbon responsible and sustainable green jobs that make the most of our unique natural resources e.g. through environmental tourism, sustainable land and coastal management, local

food production, sustainable waste management, energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon capture. As such we will explore and support projects such as on and off shore renewables which align to these ambitions

- Reducing inequalities in health and well-being by maintaining and enhancing a high quality and accessible natural environment plus ensuring fair access to low carbon energy, homes, travel options, sustainably sourced food and greener job opportunities.
- Sustainably managing and enhancing the quality of our natural resources including air, water, soils and biodiversity will help increase Swansea's ecological resilience and the well-being of its inhabitants.

### **The steps we will take to meet this well-being objective.**

- **Biodiversity** - Develop, adopt and implement a Corporate Biodiversity (Section 6) Action Plan in line with Welsh Government's 3-year reporting cycle alongside the preparation and delivery of a Nature Recovery Action Plan in collaboration with The Swansea Nature Partnership and the preparation of a County wide Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- **Climate Change and Nature Strategy** - Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and Action Plan, working with and encouraging partners, organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to support nature recovery and reduce their carbon footprint, signing up to the Climate and Nature Charter /Pledge.
- **Energy Action Plan** - Deliver the energy action plan, working towards creating a low carbon economy, which promotes renewable energy and takes actions to reduce the carbon footprint for Swansea Council and Swansea in line with Welsh government reporting guidelines.
- **Procurement and social value** - Review the Councils' Procurement approach to embed its social value within its ward criteria maximising the local spend within the locality and region and reducing the carbon footprint of its commissioned activities.
- **Sustainable Transport Strategy** - Embed and deliver a sustainable transport strategy and encompassed action plans on active travel, green fleet, grey fleet and street lighting.
- **Energy efficient Council homes** - Continue to develop the Councils Energy efficient new builds More Council Homes programme to net zero standards and subject to funding begin to roll out the decarbonisation of its existing housing stock in line with emerging Welsh Government Guidance.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Net Zero** - We will commence and ensure that the design and development of all new 21st Century schools to be Net Zero Carbon targets from January 2022. This will include new builds and major refurbishments.

- **Net Zero buildings and materials** - We will seek to maximise opportunities to lower carbon input into maintenance and renovation work in existing public buildings and work towards utilising net zero materials by 2030.
- **Waste reduction strategy** - Deliver a waste reduction strategy, including minimise our use of non-recyclable products and materials, recycle more waste and promote a circular economy.
- **Air, water and soil quality** - Take action to maintain and improve the quality of our air, water and soils.

**The contribution this well-being objective makes to the national goals.**

A prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of more cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A healthier Wales	A globally responsible Wales
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**How we will maximise our contribution to the national goals through the way in which we work.**

- *Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse* – By halting the decline of biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing a resilient natural environment, we will maintain vital ecosystem services (e.g. flood alleviation, air and water quality, carbon storage and pollination) and help to maintain people’s health, well-being and quality of life. By helping people to understand the causes of problems and how by working together, we can prevent problems occurring. By delivering net zero targets we can help avoid global warming and subsequent consequences. Adaptation activity will help us prepare for change already identified as unavoidable.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – We want to reverse the loss of biodiversity, promote healthy resilient ecosystems, and strengthen green infrastructure to adapt to and mitigate for the impacts of climate change, and ensure that our natural environment and the benefits and services it provides are protected for the benefit of future generations. We want to achieve net zero carbon.
- *Working in partnership with others* – We will continue to support and collaborate with others to co-ordinate the planning and delivery of actions and maximise use of resources.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – By raising awareness of biodiversity and climate change and ensuring that it is taken into account at the

early decision-making /design stages of plans and projects, the potential for conflict will be reduced.

- *Involving people* – We will build capacity and achieve more by involving and supporting the local community to participate in identifying and delivering initiatives that maintain and enhance the natural environment and reduce our carbon footprint . More people will be enabled to access and enjoy their natural environment and contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

**How we will measure progress<sup>1</sup>.**

- Monitor the delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Plan the Nature Recovery Action Plan and the Resilient Wales goal through annual business planning and reporting mechanisms up to 2027. We will report to Welsh Government every 3 years in line with our Biodiversity Duty.
- Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and monitor the delivery of respective Action Plans up to 2027.
- Continue to monitor air and water quality.
- Monitor the delivery the energy action plan targets proposed to 2027.
- Set out new measures for monitoring the impact of our Procurement of goods and services in line with eth emerging Welsh Government carbon measurement toolkit.
- Embed and deliver a sustainable transport strategy to 2027.
- Continue to report the number of new homes constructed to net carbon zero standards and set out new measures of recording the decarbonisation of our existing stock in line with emerging Welsh Government guidance.
- Report on the delivery of a waste reduction strategy.

**The contribution this well-being objective makes to the Public Service Board Well-being Objectives.**

Children have a the best start in life to be the best they can be	People live well and age well	Working with Nature	Strong communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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<sup>1</sup> Provisional pending review and data development.



# Agenda Item 7



## Report of the Cabinet Members for Service Transformation and Corporate Service and Performance

### Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 13 September 2022

#### OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE RECOVERY IN SWANSEA

<b>Purpose</b>	To receive an overview on the Council's current and future planned strategies and actions in relation to Climate Change and Nature Recovery
<b>Content</b>	This report includes a summary of the current position in relation to the work of the Climate Change and Nature Conservation Teams. It outlines how the new Corporate Wellbeing Objective for Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change is planned to be met. It also includes for information details of the 2019 Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations which remain in the process of being implemented. A progress report against these recommendations is scheduled to be reported to this Panel in March 2023.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Consider the update report and raise any questions relating to the content
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillors Andrea Lewis and David Hopkins - Cabinet Members for Service Transformation and Corporate Service and Performance
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Geoff Bacon, Head of Property Services
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Rachel Lewis <a href="mailto:rachel.lewis@swansea.gov.uk">rachel.lewis@swansea.gov.uk</a> and Deborah Hill <a href="mailto:deborah.hill@swansea.gov.uk">deborah.hill@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. Overview

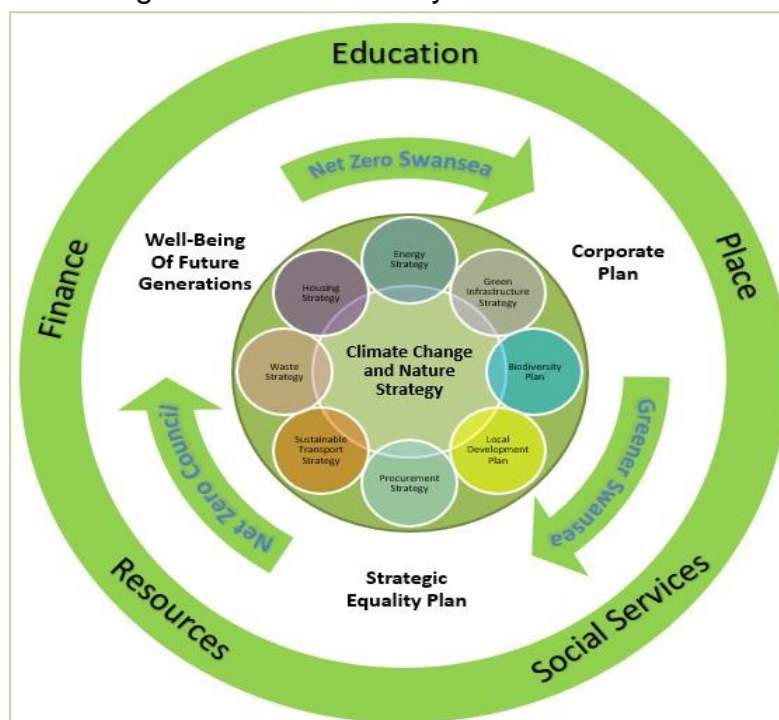
- 1.1 The Climate Change and Nature Recovery agenda is evolving rapidly and over the last 18 months two reports have been approved by Cabinet and Council (Nov 2020 & Nov 2021).
- 1.2 A report was also presented to the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee in March 2022 providing a status update, whilst also proposing projects for a forward plan.

- 1.3 In recognition of the urgency needed to tackle the significant challenges posed by Climate Change and Biodiversity loss, the Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019 followed in November 2021 by a Nature Emergency declaration.
- 1.4 The new 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' corporate well-being objective was approved at July 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 Council meeting. Please refer to **Appendix A** which provides a suite of evidence to back up how the Council will meet the proposed objective and how it links to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

## 2. Climate Change & Nature Recovery Governance

2.1 Governance has advanced and continues to adapt to ensure we keep a clear focus on:

- Swansea Council Achieving net zero carbon by 2030
- Swansea achieving net zero carbon by 2050
- Delivering on Nature Recovery

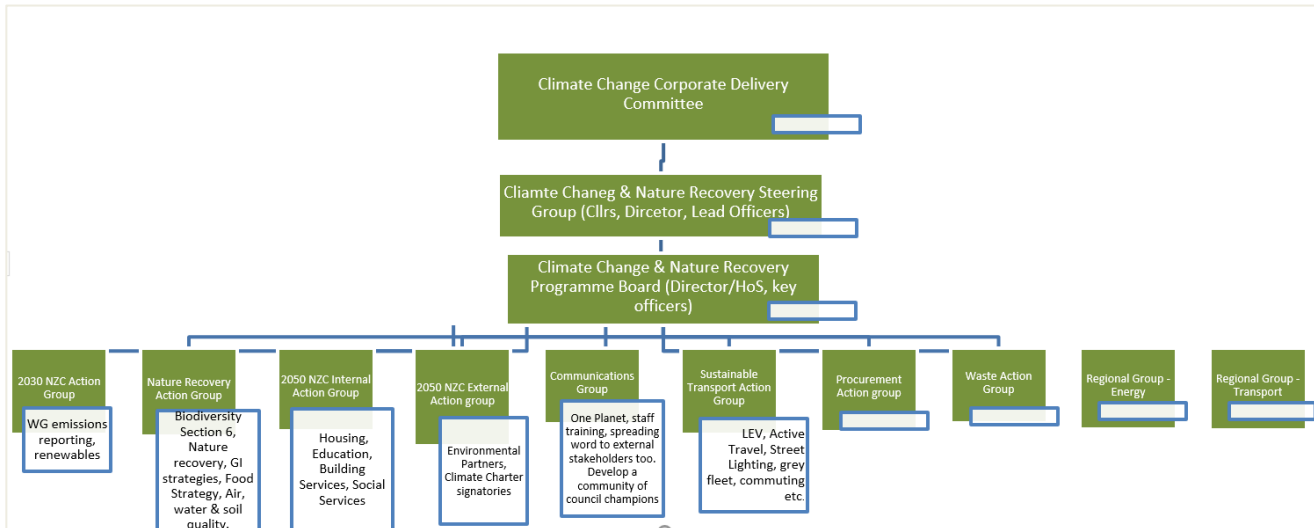


2.2 The majority of strategies under this new well-being objective have been approved or are imminent with both the Street Lighting and Sustainable Transport Strategies and the Council's Biodiversity Plan due for approval in coming months.



### 3. Internal Reporting

3.1 Focus must now turn to delivery with an expectation that each priority area develops a sound action plan that can be reported on annually.



### 4. External Reporting

#### 4.1 Emissions

To date Swansea has submitted two years of data – 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to Welsh Government. We are currently working on the 2021-22 submission which is due for return on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022. There will be new additions e.g. commuting emissions.

Once the data has been collated for 2021-22, the intention is that the team take a report to Cabinet and Council later this year outlining options to ensure delivery of the net zero council target for 2030 and respective funds required to achieve the target.

#### 4.2 Nature Recovery - Council Biodiversity (Section 6) Plan and Nature Recovery Action Plan

As required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Biodiversity Duty, in December 2019 the Council submitted its first monitoring report outlining actions it had taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. This is currently being reviewed in line with the Welsh Government's 3-year reporting cycle. A part time Biodiversity (Section 6) Officer has been appointed to oversee this process and to develop a Council Biodiversity Action Plan for the next 3 years (to Dec 2025).

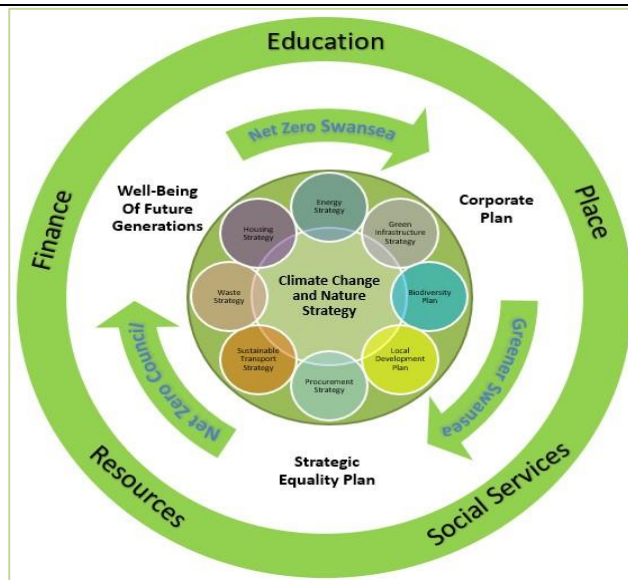
In collaboration with members of the Local Nature Partnership, we are also currently reviewing and updating the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to produce a Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea.

To support working with partners to develop and implement opportunities to enhance biodiversity a number of new posts have been created within the Council's Nature Conservation Team during 21/22, including a Local Nature Partnership Officer, a Woodland Officer and Additionally three temporary grant funded Community Greenspace Officers and a Volunteer Co-ordinator have also been appointed to begin the process of mapping existing biodiversity and Green Infrastructure assets within each ward. They are working with the local community to identify opportunities for enhancement and improving ecosystem resilience, as well as engaging local groups and volunteers in helping to deliver practical improvements, such as tree and wildflower planting, community growing and habitat management.

The former Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel were monitoring the ongoing implementation of the long -term recommendations arising from the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry in 2019, some of which remain outstanding with target dates for implementation or completion by the end of this financial year. Progress is monitored via an Action Log which is included for information only as **Appendix B**, and progress against these recommendations is scheduled to be reported to this Committee in March 2023.

## Appendix A: Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change

Objective Detail	Evidence
<p><b>Why this priority is a well-being objective.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following Welsh Government declarations for Wales, the Council has declared both a Climate Emergency in June 2019 and a Nature Emergency in November 2021.</li> <li>• Using the Welsh Government Route map to net zero, Swansea Council will align with its principles, knowing what needs to be done now, by 2022-26 Low Carbon becoming the norm and by 2030 where choosing carbon zero is routine.</li> <li>• Sound governance has been established within the council to act on such challenges and all activity will be driven within the parameters of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, the Strategic Equality Plan and the Corporate Plan and the Swansea (PSB) Well Being Plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Future Trends Report</b> - This objective aligns and will be pivotal to reacting effectively to the identified trend – Planetary Health and Limits.</p> <div> </div> <p><b>Recovery Plan</b> – October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Cabinet report. The Leader of the Council submitted a report which provided an overview of the initial remobilisation of the Council and the immediate priorities from the COVID-19 crisis, the longer term plan from recovery to transformation and the framework to replace Sustainable Swansea Strategy with Swansea – Achieving Better Together. Climate change and nature recovery are seen as critical to economic and environmental recovery as per:  <u><a href="http://swansea.gov.uk">Report - Corporate Template (swansea.gov.uk)</a></u></p>



- To ensure that in addition to achieving net zero 2030 for Swansea Council, we will work with partners, organisations, schools, businesses to support Swansea as a whole county and citizens in its efforts to become net zero by 2050, aligning with the Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget (2) 2022-2025. Establishing both Climate and Nature Charters and a Pledge Wall to encourage active participation and help build a healthier, more prosperous and biodiverse/ ecologically resilient Swansea.
- Swansea is one of the most ecologically rich and diverse counties in the UK. Its unique variety of habitats and species and wonderful range of parks, greenspaces, nature reserves, beaches and landscapes needs to be maintained, enhanced and sustainably managed for the benefit of everyone now and into the future.

### Future Generations Commissioners Report 2020

– Swansea Council will strive to focus in the following areas and should:

- Demonstrate global citizenship and leadership by supporting sustainable behaviour and making the connections.
- Play our part to ensure Wales is welcoming, safe and fair to all.
- Commit to fair and ethical investment and divestment - making the right financial decisions now to enable future generations to thrive.
- Ensure supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable.
- Ensure that Swansea understands the importance of using the earth's resources efficiently in order to contribute to global well-being.

Swansea Council Climate Change & Nature Recovery – Progress Update November 2021.

We have undertaken an **Integrated Impact Assessment** screening to align with the most recent strategy:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 18 November 2021, 10.00 am - Swansea](#) (Item 69)

Appendix 1 – Survey analysis

Appendix 2 – Strategy

Appendix 3 - IIA

Our natural environment and biodiversity is under threat and in decline due to unsustainable human activities. Habitats and species are being lost at an alarming and unsustainable rate. We need to raise awareness of the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change at the local level and provide information, advice, and practical support and incentives to encourage others to take action and collaborate to deliver positive solutions to these challenges

- We want everyone to have access to, understand, appreciate and benefit from Swansea's outstanding natural environment and to play their part in looking after and enhancing it, resulting in a healthier, greener and more prosperous Swansea.
- Our future survival and quality of life is dependent on healthy resilient natural environment, the multiple benefits it provides to society and on reducing our carbon emissions to net zero
- We have a moral responsibility to look after biodiversity for its own intrinsic value

- The wellbeing objective aligns with our policy commitments, in particular:

#### A GREENER MORE RESILIENT SWANSEA

Standing Up for a Greener Swansea  
 Delivering Green Energy  
 Lighting Our Communities  
 Delivering Better & Smarter Transport  
 Greener, More Sustainable Transport  
 A Bike and Cyclist Friendly Swansea  
 Fairer Parking  
 Valuing Our Parks, Open Spaces and Natural Environment  
 Growing Local

Swansea council is currently working towards Bronze One Planet Standard accreditation. [The One Planet Standard – Transform your organisation into a successful changemaker](#)

#### **The longer-term challenges this well-being objective will help address.**

- A public sector target of 2030, ahead of the Welsh Government's target of 2050 for the whole of Wales, will give us our best chance of keeping global warming below 1.5°C. This is the tipping point at which the climate impacts we're already experiencing will go from bad to potentially catastrophic. We'll see natural systems cross danger points, triggering lasting changes such as extreme

#### **Swansea Council**

Internally there is clear understanding of meeting the long term challenges.

Decarbonisation - In October 2021 Swansea Council submitted its first emissions report to Welsh Government, evidence was collated for 2019-20 and 2020-21, work will continue through National and Regional groups to set ambitious targets in order to deliver net zero carbon for the Council by 2030 and for Swansea by 2050.

The Council prepared and submitted to Welsh Government in Dec 2019 a report (Section 6 Monitoring Report) outlining what it has done to comply with the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty.

storms, heatwaves, mass loss of natural habitats and species.

- We are at a critical point in time for nature recovery and without urgent transformative change, many of our species and habitats will continue to decline or become extinct.
- 
- Halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity through reducing harm and unsustainable use and moving to a situation where we are working with nature to maintain healthy resilient ecosystems that will continue to provide long-term quality of life (or ecosystem services) benefits upon which we all depend.  
Add targets for Nature recovery in here yes please
- Tackling climate change, which is one of the greatest challenges facing us all and we need to reduce our carbon footprint and to mitigate for and adapt to the likely risks and impacts.
- Creating high quality environmentally and low carbon responsible and sustainable green jobs that make the most of our unique natural resources e.g. through environmental tourism, sustainable land and coastal management, local food production ,sustainable waste management ,energy efficiency , renewable energy and carbon capture. As such we will explore and support projects such as on and off shore renewables which align to these ambitions
- Reducing inequalities in health and well-being by maintaining and enhancing a high quality and accessible natural environment plus ensuring fair

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s62825/11%20-%20Section%206%20Biodiversity%20Monitoring%20Report%20Dec%202019.pdf>

### Swansea

Collaborative working to influence Swansea wide behaviour change can be demonstrated through the introduction of a climate pledge, the sign up of large businesses across Swansea to our climate charter, , ongoing work with PSB and collaborative working with an environmental partner, schools, community groups and businesses.

Risks are monitored through the corporate risk register and Swansea has declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019, A Nature Emergency in November 2021 and an Energy Crisis Notice of Motion in January 2022.

The Climate Change and Nature Strategy reflects the detail of this two pronged approach.

[07 1 of 4 - Climate Change.pdf \(swansea.gov.uk\)](#)

access to low carbon energy, homes, travel options, sustainably sourced food and greener job opportunities

Sustainably managing and enhancing the quality of our natural resources including air, water, soils and biodiversity will help increase Swansea's ecological resilience and the well-being of its inhabitants.

**The steps we will take to meet this well-being objective.**

- Develop, adopt and implement a Corporate Biodiversity (Section 6) Action Plan in line with Welsh Government's 3 year reporting cycle alongside the preparation and delivery of a Nature Recovery Action Plan in collaboration with The Swansea Nature Partnership and the preparation of a County wide Green Infrastructure Strategy .
- Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and Action Plans, working with and encouraging partners, organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to support nature recovery and reduce their carbon footprint, signing up to the Climate and Nature Charter /Pledge.
- Deliver the energy action plan, working towards creating a low carbon economy, which promotes renewable energy and takes actions to reduce the carbon footprint for Swansea Council and Swansea in line with Welsh government reporting guidelines.

**Policy Development**

Meeting this objective can be demonstrated through the approval of a variety of new policies/strategies, for example:

Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG):  
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/biodiversityspg>

Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands SPG:  
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/treespg>

Energy Strategy:  
[Issue details - Energy Strategy 2020-2030. - City and County of Swansea](#)

Green Infrastructure Strategy:  
[Agenda for Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee on Thursday, 17 December 2020, 2.00 pm - City and County of Swansea](#)

ULEV Strategy:  
[Agenda for Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee on Thursday, 18 November 2021, 2.00 pm - City and County of Swansea](#)

Active Travel:  
[Report - Corporate Template \(swansea.gov.uk\)](#)

- Review the Councils' Procurement approach to embed its social value within its ward criteria maximising the local spend within the locality and region and reducing the carbon footprint of its commissioned activities  
  
Embed and deliver a sustainable transport strategy and encompassed action plans on active travel, green fleet, grey fleet and street lighting
- Continue to develop the Councils Energy efficient new builds More Council Homes programme to net zero standards and subject to funding begin to roll out the decarbonisation of its existing housing stock in line with emerging WG Guidance.
- We will commence and ensure that the design and development of all new 21st Century schools to be Net Zero Carbon targets from January 2022. This will include new builds and major refurbishments.
- We will seek to maximise opportunities to lower carbon input into maintenance and renovation work in existing public buildings and work towards utilising net zero materials by 2030
- Deliver a waste reduction strategy ....including minimise our use of non-recyclable products and materials, recycle more waste and promote a circular economy.
- Take action to maintain and improve the quality of our air, water and soils.

More Homes and Housing Decarbonisation:  
[Report - Corporate Template \(swansea.gov.uk\)](https://www.swansea.gov.uk)

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 27 January 2022, 5.00 pm - Swansea](#) (Item 100)



## How we will maximise our contribution to the national goals through the way in which we work.

- *Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse* – By halting the decline of biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing a resilient natural environment, we will maintain vital ecosystem services (e.g. flood alleviation, air and water quality, carbon storage and pollination) and help to maintain people's health, well-being and quality of life. By helping people to understand the causes of problems and how by working together, we can prevent problems occurring. By delivering net zero targets we can help avoid global warming and subsequent consequences. Adaptation activity will help us prepare for change already identified as unavoidable.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – We want to reverse the loss of biodiversity, promote healthy resilient ecosystems, and strengthen green infrastructure to adapt to and mitigate for the impacts of climate change, and ensure that our natural environment and the benefits and services it provides are protected for the benefit of future generations. We want to achieve net zero carbon.
- *Working in partnership with others* – We will continue to support and collaborate with others to co-ordinate the planning and delivery of actions and maximise use of resources.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – By raising awareness of biodiversity and climate change and ensuring that it is taken into account at the early decision-making /design stages of plans

## Future Generations Commissioners Report 2020 [Future Generations \(futuregenerations2020.wales\)](https://futuregenerations2020.wales)

Examples provided in main text.

<p>and projects, the potential for conflict will be reduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Involving people</i> – We will build capacity and achieve more by involving and supporting the local community to participate in identifying and delivering initiatives that maintain and enhance the natural environment and reduce our carbon footprint . More people will be enabled to access and enjoy their natural environment and contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change,.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>How we will measure progress <sup>1</sup>.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will monitor the delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Plan the Nature Recovery Action Plan and the Resilient Wales goal through annual business planning and reporting mechanisms up to 2027. We will report to WG every 3years in line with our Biodiversity Duty</li> <li>• We will embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and monitor the delivery of respective Action Plans up to 2027</li> <li>• We will continue to monitor air and water quality.</li> <li>• We will monitor the delivery the energy action plan targets proposed to 2027</li> <li>• We will set out new measures for monitoring the impact of our Procurement of goods and services in line with eth emerging WG carbon measurement toolkit.</li> </ul>	<p>Next ( 3 yearly) Section 6 Biodiversity Duty monitoring report due to be submitted Dec 2022</p> <p><a href="#">Report - Corporate Template (swansea.gov.uk)</a> Tree Management Strategy</p> <p><a href="#">07 1 of 4 - Climate Change.pdf (swansea.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Currently monitoring emissions in line with WG reporting guidelines, 2019-20 and 20-21 submitted, but not published. New delivery plan for 2030 NZC to be developed over the summer of 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Issue details - Energy Strategy 2020-2030. - City and County of Swansea</a>  <a href="#">Report - Corporate Template (swansea.gov.uk)</a> Regional Energy Strategy</p> <p>New Social responsibility and Sustainability in procurement Policy currently in draft.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional pending data development. Reporting likely to commence in 2019/20

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will embed and deliver a sustainable transport strategy to 2027</li> <li>• We will continue to report the number of new homes constructed to net carbon zero standards and set out new measures of recording the decarbonisation of our existing stock in line with emerging WG guidance</li> <li>• We will report on the delivery of deliver a waste reduction strategy</li> </ul>	<p>New Sustainable Transport Strategy in draft (July 2022)</p> <p><a href="#">Report - Corporate Template (swansea.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Report - Corporate Template (swansea.gov.uk)</a></p>
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Page 33 **The contribution this well-being objective makes to the national goals.**

A prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of more cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A healthier Wales	A globally responsible Wales
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**The contribution this well-being objective makes to the Public Service Board objectives.**

Children have a the best start in life to be the best they can be	People live well and age well	Working with Nature	Strong communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**APPENDIX B (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

**Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Action Log (March 2022)**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Comment/Update</b>	<b>Target date</b>
1.	Facilitate, co-ordinate, deliver and monitor the steps in the Corporate Plan Objective for Maintaining and Enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity	Steps monitored by Climate Change and Nature Steering Group and Programme Board. Currently being reviewed for 22/23 Corporate Plan.	Completed  Monitored every 6 weeks and reviewed annually
2.	Prepare Corporate Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First 3 year Section 6 duty monitoring report agreed and submitted to Welsh Government Dec 2019.</li> <li>• Action Plan to Dec 2023 in preparation</li> </ul> <p>Links with other relevant cross organisational policies at a strategic level being monitored by Climate Change and Nature Steering Group which includes representatives dealing with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Environment</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure</li> <li>• Local Development Plan</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Policy</li> <li>• Sustainable Transport Plan</li> <li>• Energy Strategy</li> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Parks</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Procurement</li> </ul>	Completed  Dec 2022  Bi-monthly meetings

3.	Preparation of Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan	Preparation of draft plan commenced – work to be taken forward by Local Nature Partnership Officer – 2x part time officers taking up post April 2022.	March 2023
4.	Adopt Swansea Central Area Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy and Green Space Factor Tool	<p>Approved by Cabinet Feb 21.</p> <p>The Green Space Factor Tool provides practical guidance to help assess the level of green space required for developments in urban areas. The tool is now being used by applicants for planning applications in the city centre. Advice is being given regarding GI throughout the planning process, including how to meet target GSF tool scores.</p>	Completed Feb 2021
5.	Prepare a County wide GI Strategy	<p>Public Engagement on the draft strategy delayed by Covid, recommencing in March 2022</p> <p>However GI assessments and strategies are being submitted with planning applications throughout the County, for minor and major applications, in order to comply with LDP policies.</p>	March 2023
6.	Develop and adopt a Council tree policy	<p>Suite of tree policies/protocols developed over the past couple of years, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protected Tree Protocol</li> <li>• Ash Die-back guidance</li> <li>• City Centre GI Strategy</li> <li>• Tree Planting checklist and consultation protocol</li> <li>• Local Development Plan Tree protection policy</li> </ul>	Completed Feb 2022

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplementary Planning Guidance ( Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands)</li> </ul> <p>More recently (Feb 2022) a Tree Management Strategy has been approved by Cabinet setting out protocols relating to management of trees on /affecting property land in Council ownership and setting out the Council's duties in relation to protected trees. All above documentation is cross referenced in this document  <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/13807/17-February-2022">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/13807/17-February-2022</a></p> <p>Ongoing work in support this year includes mapping all sites on Council land that may be suitable for tree planting as well as mapping all trees planted in celebration of designation as a Queen's Green Canopy Champion City.</p>	
7.	Prepare and adopt Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	Guidance prepared and adopted by Planning Committee <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/</a> The SPG is referred to in consults on planning applications, including the requirement to use the Tree Replacement Standard where necessary.	Completed Oct 2021
8.	Prepare and adopt Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	SPG Adopted by Planning Committee <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/biodiversityspg">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/biodiversityspg</a>	Completed Feb 2021

		<p>The SPG is referred to in consults on planning applications, including the requirement to provide ecological enhancements.</p> <p>The requirement for biodiversity conservation and enhancement has also been included in the following SPG which have been adopted over the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gower AONB Design Guide</li> <li>• Placemaking Guidance for Residential Development</li> <li>• Placemaking Guidance for Infill and Backland Developments</li> <li>• Placemaking Guidance for Householder Developments</li> </ul> <p>All available to view here:  <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/spg">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/spg</a></p>	
9.	Prepare and upload Biodiversity SPG guidance notes onto Council webpages	Guidance available on Council webpages <a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/biodiversityspg">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/biodiversityspg</a>	Completed Nov 2021
10.	Develop and deliver biodiversity training for Council staff, elected Members and PSB Members	<p>Ongoing action for biodiversity officer and others. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and address biodiversity training needs (including specific training session for new Members post- election )</li> <li>• Identification of opportunities and actions within each relevant Service Area to maintain and enhance biodiversity</li> <li>• Identify Service Areas where advisory support could be provided by the Nature Conservation Team</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>June/July 2022</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of on and offline training packages including further development of web pages</li> <li>• Development and implementation of a Comms Strategy for biodiversity</li> <li>• Ecological advice and support provided for Development Management Section on planning and SUDs applications ranging from advice on the installation of bird and bat boxes to carbon literacy training</li> <li>• Other specific training delivered includes grassland management of parks/verges; cut and collect; right tree in right place; nature emergency</li> </ul>	
11.	Develop, promote and deliver a programme of public environmental events and activities	Annual programme of events published on line to improve awareness and understanding of our natural environment	Completed May annually
12.	Appoint new Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer	Permanent appointment made to 0.5 Post	Completed June 2021
13.	Appoint new Planning Ecologist	<p>Additional Planning Ecologist now in permanent full time post to complement previous 0.8 post on the structure. Nature Conservation Team now have capacity to respond to planning application consults within the 14/21 day deadlines.</p> <p>Planning Ecologist has weekly open session with Planning Officers for the officers to raise any</p>	Completed June 2021



		<p>biodiversity queries when needed. Queries being used to determine further training requirements.</p> <p>Planning Ecologists also provide services and advice to Council Highways, Parks, Drainage and Housing teams as well as local councillors, external developers, ecologists and planning applicants. Fee-earning works has been undertaken for Highways team – surveys to inform Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Planning ecologists attend Local Nature Partnership meetings, Association of Local Government Ecologist (ALGE) meetings and Welsh Govt Biodiversity &amp; Planning Forum meetings.</p>	
14.	Facilitate and support the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) meetings and projects	Meetings held quarterly on an ongoing basis. Covered by temporary appointment to LNP post during 21/22. Permanent appointment now made commencing April 2022 ( 2 x part time posts)	Completed Feb 2022
15.	Co-ordinate and deliver the Local Places for Nature Grant programme (2020-2023)	<p><u>2020/21</u> Successfully bid for and delivered capital projects worth over £190k, including tree planting in various parks and other sites, green infrastructure enhancements e.g. green roofs and walls, establishment of a new tree nursery; as well as local events, habitat management and flood alleviation works</p> <p><u>2021/22</u> Successfully bid for projects worth over £240k, including request for additional £53k to cover</p>	To be completed by March 2023

		<p>increased costs. These projects to be delivered by end of financial year include the City Centre Pop up Park; green wall at Pier Street; green bin shelters; and tree planting.</p> <p><u>2022/23</u>  Bid worth further £377k submitted Feb 2022 including revenue costs. Includes proposals to restore existing and create new natural capital assets within Swansea focussing on urban and peri-urban areas. The aim is to facilitate, support and deliver an increase in biodiversity and ecological resilience across Swansea by increasing the diversity, extent condition, connectivity and adaptability of Swansea's natural assets and contributing to the enhancement of Swansea's Nature Network.</p>	
16.	Co-ordinate and deliver the NRW grant programmes	<p>NRW grant programme coordinated by AONB team and split between AONB, Countryside Access and Nature Conservation Teams. Claim for 21/22 schemes currently submitted to NRW</p> <p>Full year funding not allocated until Oct 2021 which caused issues with project delivery and a revised programme of works which has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat Restoration ( Killay Marsh, Mumbles Hill, Port Eynon and Pwlldu) – mainly scrub removal £10k</li> <li>• Production of interpretative panels (Penclawdd, Port Eynon, Horton) £6k</li> <li>• Improved public access within Council Local Nature Reserves £3k</li> </ul>	Completed March annually

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystem resilience mapping project £9k</li> <li>• Cultural Heritage interpretation Mumbles Hill £5k</li> <li>• Access improvements to Public Rights of Way Network and Coastal Path £22.5k</li> <li>• Gower Landscape and Sensitivity and Capacity Study for caravan and camping £8k</li> <li>• Fixed point photo monitoring survey of AONB £4.5k</li> <li>• Hedgerow management £3k</li> <li>• Interpretative panels and environmental events £2k</li> <li>• Practical works with Cadw - £2k</li> </ul>	
17.	Co-ordinate and deliver the ENRAW Green Infrastructure grant programmes	<p>Grant finally awarded in full Nov 2021. Part time Coed Cymru Officer recruited Dec 2021.</p> <p>Currently recruiting to 3 temporary posts to deliver programme :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Community Green Space Officers to work with local communities to develop and delivery green infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Natural Environment Volunteer Co-ordinator to develop and support opportunities for environmental volunteering</li> <li>• Interviews arranged for mid- March</li> </ul>	Until March 2023
18.	Plan, support and deliver new tree / woodland/hedgerow/orchard planting initiatives	No. of trees planted on Council land is a Corporate Performance Indicator Measured annually. During 20/21 a total of 230 heavy standard trees and 2800 whips were planted on Council land.	Ongoing Monitored end of March annually

		Through 21/22 up to 1000 trees and over 5600 whips are planned to be planted across all Council land by various services and departments.	
19.	Deliver new wildflower meadow planting and management initiatives	<p>Extent of wildflower planting is an annual Performance Indicator</p> <p>On the ground the Council's wildflower planting programme has now extended to around 40,000sq.m (about 6 football pitches) of wildflowers across approximately 190 sites. IN support of this new grant funded cut and collect machinery has been trialled to help better manage grass cutting and help boost wildflowers and pollinators by maintaining species-rich vegetation. Plans are being prepared for extending this method of cutting next season using lessons learned and further public and stakeholder engagement.</p>	Ongoing. Monitored end of March annually
20.	Undertake a preliminary biodiversity audit of Council owned land and where possible manage our corporate assets for the benefit of biodiversity and natural resources	<p>Initial work in hand to undertake a desktop audit of all More Homes sites as a pilot project for wider roll out – the planning ecologist reviews preliminary ecological reports where surveys have been undertaken and advises on what surveys need to be undertaken.</p> <p>Planning Ecologist and Nature Conservation Team Leader co-wrote paper in Jan 2022 which summarised the results of a questionnaire sent to all ALGE Wales members regarding their SINC's. Reported to Welsh Govt Biodiversity &amp; Planning</p>	March 2023

		Forum to call on WG for support to enhance the protection of SINCs, e.g. in updates to Planning Policy Wales (PPW), producing guidance on designating SINCs, consistency on allowing mapped/non-mapped SINCs in Local Development Plans. .	
21.	Promote and support community biodiversity projects /initiatives, green projects for well-being , facilitate environmental voluntary groups, etc	<p>Despite the impact of the pandemic, considerable support for, and collaboration with, community groups and other partners has been maintained and increased over the past year. This includes support for the Swansea Local Nature Partnership, Clyne Community Volunteers, Rosehill Quarry, various Friends of Parks Groups, the Environment Centre, etc.</p> <p>The recent award of ENRAW GI grant will enable greater engagement with local communities to encourage volunteering and to support them taking action to enhance and maintain and enjoy their local greenspaces and wildlife sites</p>	Ongoing annually through grants and volunteer work
22.	Develop a set of 'Wild about your Ward ' maps and packs	<p>To be delivered through ENRAW GI grant by Community and Nature Project officers once in post. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping existing Green Infrastructure assets and ecosystem service provision, and identifying areas, which provide the best opportunities for improvement and, where appropriate, maximise match funding opportunities afforded by Member's community fund</li> </ul>	March 2023

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving access to and maintaining the quality of our parks and greenspaces.</li> <li>Mapping of ecosystem services</li> </ul>	
23.	Deliver and provide support for school biodiversity awareness activities and practical initiatives and opportunities for schoolchildren to access and learn about their natural environment	<p>Funding from the ENRAW GI grant will enable this support to continue</p> <p>All school governing bodies to identify an environmental link e.g. premises committee or schools eco-committee, etc – task for Communities and Nature Project Officers once in post</p>	<p>March 2023</p> <p>Sept 2022</p>
24.	Investigate and secure grant funding for tackling biodiversity and climate emergencies	Action for Biodiversity Officer. Amount of funding secured and schemes delivered to be reported annually	March annually
25.	Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) funding of GI projects	<p>GI Projects undertaken: Completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal Office High Street - green roof</li> <li>Potter's Wheel - green roof</li> </ul> <p>Being delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dragon Hotel - green walls</li> </ul> <p>Green roof bin shelters around the city centre</p>	Completed March 2022
26.	City Centre GI improvements	Wind St: Public realm improvements include additional tree planting and large planting beds along whole length of street with a mixture of trees shrubs and pollinator attracting herbaceous species	March 2022
27.	External Environment Enhancement on Council owned Housing land	Enhancements to greenspace as part of an environmental works programme to meet the Council's commitment to the Welsh Housing Quality	Ongoing until March 2024

		<p>Standard and to address deficiencies in access to natural greenspace</p> <p>Swift bricks have been installed and will continue to be installed on all new More Homes houses. Planning ecologist involved in plans for future More Homes sites in order to further conserve and enhance biodiversity on the sites.</p>	
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Note: Grey shaded = completed project or part of ongoing business as usual

# Agenda Item 8

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

<b>Meeting 1</b> <b>13 September</b> <b>2022</b>  10am	<b>Role of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel</b>  <b>Overview of Climate Change and Nature in Swansea</b> (including key priorities and challenges) <i>Invited to attend:</i> <i>Cllrs Andrea Lewis / Andrew Stevens / David Hopkins</i> <i>Relevant Officers</i>  <b>Draft Work Programme 2022-23</b>
<b>Meeting 2</b> <b>9 November 2022</b>  10am	<b>Water Quality and Water Management</b> <i>Cllr Andrew Stevens, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure</i> <i>Relevant Officers (Tom Price)</i> <i>Representative from Natural Resources Wales TBC</i> <i>Representative from Dwr Cymru TBC</i>  <b>Local Flood Risk Management – Annual Update</b> <i>Invited to attend:</i> <i>Cllr Andrew Stevens – Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure</i> <i>Stuart Davies – Head of Highways and Transportation</i> <i>Mike Sweeney – Team Leader, Highways and Transportation</i>
<b>Meeting 3</b> <b>10 January 2023</b>  10am	<b>Climate Change Update</b> (including action plan for 2030 and Response to WAO report: Public Sector readiness for net zero carbon by 2030) <i>Invited to attend:</i> <i>Cllr Andrea Lewis - Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</i> <i>Relevant Officers</i>  <b>Green Vehicle Adoption</b> <i>Invited to attend:</i> <i>Cllr Andrea Lewis – Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</i> <i>Relevant Officers TBC (Mark Barrow)</i>  <b>Public / Residential EV Charging</b> <i>Invited to attend:</i> <i>Cllr Andrea Lewis – Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</i> <i>Relevant officers TBC</i>  <b>Weed Management / Use of Glyphosate</b>



	<p><i>Invited to attend:</i>  <i>Cllr Andrew Stevens – Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure</i>  <i>Relevant Officers (Bob Fenwick / Jeremy Davies TBC)</i></p>
<p><b>Meeting 4</b>  <b>8 March 2023</b></p> <p>10am</p>	<p><b>Nature Conservation – Project updates</b>  <i>Invited to attend:</i>  <i>Deborah Hill – Nature Conservation Team Leader</i>  <i>Paul Meller – Natural Environment Section Manager</i>  <i>Cllr Andrew Stevens / Cllr David Hopkins</i></p> <p><b>Air Quality Management</b>  <i>Invited to attend:</i>  <i>Cllr Andrew Stevens – Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure</i>  <i>Tom Price – Team Leader, Pollution Control</i>  <i>Victoria Seller - Swansea University, Research Officer</i>  <i>TBC</i></p>
<p><b>Meeting 5</b>  <b>2 May 2023</b></p> <p>10am</p>	<p><b>Climate Change Update</b> (including action plan for 2030)  <i>Invited to attend:</i>  <i>Cllr Andrea Lewis - Cabinet Member for Service Transformation</i>  <i>Relevant Officers</i></p> <p><b>Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments</b>  <i>Cllrs Andrew Stevens / Andrea Lewis / David Hopkins</i></p> <p><b>End of Year Review</b></p>

**Future work programme items:**

- Environmental Tourism (from work plan 2021-22)