



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee

At: Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

On: Monday, 4 March 2024

Time: 3.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Rebecca Fogarty

Membership:

Councillors: M Baker, O G James, S E Keeton, H Lawson, A J O'Connor, D Phillips and S J Rice

Watch Online: <http://tiny.cc/CCNR42>

Agenda

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2 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests. www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests	
3 Minutes: To approve & sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.	1 - 4
4 Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan for Swansea.	5 - 19
5 Work Plan.	20

Next Meeting: Monday, 15 April 2024 at 3.00 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Huw Evans'.

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
26 February 2024

Contact: Democratic Services - (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Monday, 11 December 2023 at 3.00 pm

Present: Councillor R Fogarty (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M Baker
H Lawson

Councillor(s)

O G James
A J O'Connor

Councillor(s)

S E Keeton
S J Rice

Officer(s)

Andy Edwards
Rachel Lewis
Kieran O'Carroll
Jeremy Parkhouse
Jane Richmond
Mark Wade

Project Manager, Property Services
Project Manager
Associate Lawyer
Democratic Services Officer
Project Manager Strategic Climate Change
Director of Place

Also Present:

Anna Lawson Principal Energy Consultant, City Science

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): D H Hopkins, A S Lewis and D Phillips

24 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City & County of Swansea, the following interests were declared: -

Councillor S J Rice declared a personal interest in the agenda as a whole.

25 Minutes:

Resolved that the Minutes of the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee held on 16 October 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

26 Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change - Updates on Net Zero 2050.

Jane Richmond, Project Manager Strategic Climate Change and Rachel Lewis, Directorate Project Manager, Property Services presented a 'for information' report which provided an update on progress, setting out a delivery plan for net zero 2050 and presented the Swansea Council activity on the 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' Engagement Plan.

It was outlined that Swansea Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and a Nature Emergency in November 2021. In 2022 a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and Delivery Plan for 2022-2030 was approved by Cabinet to deliver 30 actions by 2030. This strategy and plan would deliver net zero for its own operations by 2030.

The Council was also working in parallel, to the internal strategy and plan, by delivering a plan for net zero 2050, the county wide approach to net zero and decarbonisation. Swansea Council recognised that it cannot accomplish net zero for Swansea as a county on its own and that it needed to work in partnership with others to enable the best possible outcomes.

It was recognised that Welsh Government would expect future progress reports in respect of 2050, in a similar way to the reporting it does for net zero 2030. The activity for the wider Swansea city and county net zero 2050 and creating the carbon literate workforce that would be required to enable delivery across all sectors of Swansea Council work was outlined in the report.

The Committee were updated in detail on Swansea Council Activity for Net Zero 2050, including Appendix A - Climate Change Delivery Plan Update 2022-23; the Climate Change and Nature Action Signatories Group, the Environmental Partner Framework and the Local Nature Partnership; Internal Delivery Plan for 2030 and 2050, including the Climate Change Communications Plan for 2023-27 at Appendix B; and External Delivery Plan for Net Zero 2050; and delivery of Net Zero 2050 and Nature Recovery through Swansea Public Service Board.

It was summarised that the delivery plan for engagement for Net Zero 2050 was based on 3 main areas of work. This would form the basis of some of the work to be carried out by the Strategic Climate Change Project Manager for the duration of the present Swansea Well-being Plan, to ensure alignment with the reporting procedures of Swansea Public Service Board. The 3 areas of focus would be: -

- Internal delivery to ensure a climate literate workforce and well-informed Council Members to enable positive change and reduced emissions;
- External delivery through the Environmental Partner Framework; and
- Delivery through the Climate Change and Nature Action Signatories and by the taking on of the delivery group role for step 3 of the Swansea Well-being Plan.

The Committee discussed the following: -

- How people will only react when suffering an actual physical impact and the need for any changes introduced to be person based and not scientific.
- The importance of the available training sessions being completed.
- The importance of simple communication and empowering people to help make the achievable changes.
- Importance of the Energy Awareness Hub.

The Chair thanked the Officers for the report.

27 Swansea Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

Andy Edwards, Project Manager, Property Services, supported by Anna Lawson, Principal Energy Consultant, City Science presented a report which advised the Committee of the development of Swansea's Local Area Energy Plan.

It was explained that a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) is the strategic plan, within a defined geographic area, for how the energy systems would be decarbonised. It results in a fully costed plan that identifies the change that needs to happen, detailing 'what, where, when and by whom', with the aim of achieving Net Zero by 2050.

It was added that an LAEP addresses electricity, heat, and gas networks, future potential for hydrogen, the built environment (industrial, domestic and commercial) its fabric and systems, flexibility, energy generation and storage, and providing energy to decarbonised transport e.g. electricity to electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Furthermore, Welsh Government had split councils into 4 regions, with Swansea part of the South West Wales region, along with Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Welsh Government had appointed a specialist company to work with each region, and the individual councils, to produce their LAEPs. City Science had been appointed to work with the South West Wales region and these locally developed plans would feed into the regional and national energy strategies.

It was highlighted that City Science had developed a process to progress matters, working with Swansea Council and a wide range of stakeholders, it commenced in February 2023 with a view to producing a first draft of the plan in December and the final document was due to be signed off in March 2024. Appendix B provided the Overview of LAEP Development Stages.

The development of Swansea's LAEP had considered a number of likely scenarios and modelled them to identify a pathway the Council may be able to follow to achieve of Net Zero Swansea by 2050. From the scenarios, a range of possible actions were identified and split into specific categories, which were listed.

It was further explained that the South West region had received Welsh Government funding to employ a Project Manager and two Project Officers to oversee the initial

implementation of the individual LAEPs and their integration into the Regional Energy Strategy. These officers would be employed by Carmarthenshire Council but would work across the region, until November 2025.

Each action would have its own governance arrangements and the overarching governance arrangements for implementing the LAEP would be outlined within the final plan.

The Committee discussed the following: -

- Potential energy being produced locally, including power storage.
- Ensuring communities are included in developments, producing energy efficient homes and being conscious that biodiversity energy options do not dominate local areas.
- The importance of cost effective and energy efficient public transport.
- Solar energy system pilot projects which were ongoing within communities and some of the issues raised by the schemes.
- The Council being mindful of how much they were asking of residents and ensuring that changes made were positive, empowered and was manageable for individuals.

Anna Lawson, Principal Energy Consultant, City Science highlighted the importance of working regionally, involving business in the journey and making decarbonisation financially viable.

Resolved that the Committee notes the development of Swansea's Local Area Energy Plan.

28 Work Plan.

The Chair presented an updated Work Plan report.

Resolved that: -

- 1) The contents of the report be noted.
- 2) The meeting scheduled for 22 January 2024 be cancelled and a workshop session be held on Sustainable Transport Strategy – next steps.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 4



Report of the Director of Place

Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee – 4 March 2024

Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan for Swansea

Purpose:	The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the draft Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan for Swansea. (2023-2025)
Policy Framework:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate priority for Climate Change & Nature Recovery• Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales.• Environment Wales Act (Section 6 Biodiversity Duty).• Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Resilient Wales Objective• Local Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea (LNRAP)
Consultation:	Finance, Legal, Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: - <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Climate and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee (STC) approve the draft Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action plan for Swansea Council prior to it being forwarded to Council for adoption.
Report Author:	Deb Hill/ Mark Barber
Finance Officer:	Peter Keys
Legal Officer:	Jonathan Wills
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Miller

1. Background

Policy background

Since 2015, Swansea Council (together with all other public bodies) has been given increased responsibilities and legal duties to maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity in order to comply with the following legislation:

- 1.1. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Resilient Wales Goal: 'A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)'
- 1.2. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Part 1) Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty which requires that: 'A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions'.
- 1.3. Swansea Council has a legal duty to report to the Welsh Government every 3 years outlining actions undertaken to comply with the Statutory Biodiversity Duty
- 1.4. The Welsh Government has also committed to a '30x30' target, stating that they aim to protect "[at least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea in Wales by 2030](#)"
- 1.5. One of the key corporate wellbeing objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan is 'Delivering on Climate Change and Nature Recovery'.
- 1.6. Swansea Council endorsed the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan 2023 produced by the Swansea Local Nature Partnership in October 2023

2. Section 6 Duty Action Plan Report Overview

- 2.1. Outside of policy drivers for Section 6 Biodiversity plans, there is also a real need for them as a tool in delivering nature recovery as we are in a nature emergency. The Senedd and Swansea Council both declared nature emergencies in 2021 Species are declining in abundance and distribution, habitats and protected sites are in poor condition and overall ecosystem resilience is poor. There is therefore the urgent need for coordinated and cohesive action at all scales to achieve nature recovery.

This draft Section 6 action plan (see link at appendix A) sets out the actions the Council proposes to take between now and December 2025 to meet its obligations under its Biodiversity Duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and contribute to the Welsh Governments 30x 30 targets for nature recovery.

- 2.2. Actions have been set out under the six key objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) for Wales](#) and the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan as set out below :

1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.
2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.

- 4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.
 - 5. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.
 - 6. Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery.
- 2.3. Some of the actions listed in the Section 6 Plan are aspirational and long-term, we don't expect to complete them all by December 2025
 - 2.4. Other actions reflect day to day work already being undertaken that contribute to nature recovery.
 - 2.5. Many of the actions are dependent on, and subject to available funding and staff resources.
 - 2.6. This action plan is a living document which will be reviewed and reported on annually.

3 The Section 6 Action Plan has been created with:

- feedback from Heads of Service questionnaires, group presentations /workshops with individual teams and the CC&NR Programme board, plus written feedback, and suggestions from Heads of Service.
- Key global, national, and regional legislation, policies, and plans in mind,
- The draft Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Plan was endorsed by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board on the 15 January 2024 and by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Steering Group on 23 January 2024.

It is intended to review progress towards achieving the actions outlined in the Action Plan on a regular (annual) basis and to report to Welsh Government every 3 years.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 This Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee is asked to approve the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan prior to it being forwarded to Council for approval.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, to reach the 2030 biodiversity targets, further grant funding will be required. Any bids would be subject to the Councils standard grant procedures. For the next two financial years £1,192,300 Local Places for Nature Grant has been approved by Welsh Government.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 This Swansea Council Section 6 Biodiversity Action Plan will contribute to Swansea Council's Corporate Objective for Climate Change and Nature Recovery and its Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016,.The Plan will also assist the Council in its Well-being Duty, especially with regard to the 'Resilient Wales Goal,' under the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

7 Integrated Impact Assessment

7.1 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.

7.2 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'.

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.

7.3 An IIA screening report was completed, and no significant risks were identified. The cumulative impacts were deemed low but positive, and as such a full IIA strategy is not deemed necessary. Screening report attached at appendix B

Background Papers

- [Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2015 and 2020/21 Update.](#)
- [Local Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea 2023](#)
- [South West Wales Area Statement.](#)
- [Marine Area Statement.](#)
- [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016.](#)
- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015.](#)
- [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity \(and the associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011-20\).](#)
- [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.](#)
- [Welsh Government Biodiversity Deep Dive.](#)
- [Swansea Local Nature Partnership.](#)
- [State of Nature 2019.](#)

- [Protected Sites Baseline Assessment 2020.](#)
- [Section 7 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance.](#)

Appendices

Appendix A - Draft Section 6 Biodiversity Action Plan for Swansea Council (attached)

Appendix B – IIA Screening report (attached)

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Action Plan for Swansea Council (January 2023 - December 2025)

Introduction

- Since 2015, Swansea Council (together with all other public bodies) has been given increased responsibilities and legal duties to maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity in order to comply with the following legislation:
 - The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#), Resilient Wales Goal: ‘A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)’
 - The [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(Part 1\) Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty](#) which requires that: ‘A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions’
- Swansea Council has a legal duty to report to the Welsh Government every 3 years outlining actions undertaken to comply with the Statutory Biodiversity Duty, this is called the Section 6 Report.
- Swansea Council has provided Section 6 Reports for the years 2016-2019 and 2020-2022
- This is the first detailed Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Action Plan (Section 6 Action Plan henceforth) to aid future reporting. Previously the Council’s corporate Objective for ‘Protecting and enhancing our Natural Resources and Biodiversity’ provided a high-level strategic framework which identified the key steps that the Council would take to meet its Biodiversity Duty.

Why do we need a Section 6 Plan?

- Swansea Council [declared a Nature Emergency](#) in November 2021, shortly after the [Senedd had also declared one](#) at a national level in June 2021.
- Swansea Council owns a significant area of land assets so there is considerable opportunity for the Council to implement actions for nature recovery in Swansea. This plan has prioritised key actions the council can take that best impact positively on nature in Swansea.



- The [Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan \(LNRAP\)](#) published in 2023 identifies 25 Action Themes for Nature Recovery in Swansea. Swansea Council is a key member of the Swansea Local Nature Partnership and as well as helping to co-ordinate collaborative actions through the Partnership will contribute to the delivery of the Swansea LNRAP through its Section 6 Action Plan.
- The Section 6 plan will also contribute to a number of other national, regional and local plans/strategies which recognise the importance of biodiversity, and the wider benefits it can provide for people including:
 - Swansea Public Service Board Well-being plan (Climate Change and Nature Recovery objective)
 - [Swansea Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28](#) - One of the key corporate wellbeing objectives in the is 'Delivering on Climate Change and Nature Recovery'.
 - Council [Green Infrastructure \(GI\) strategies](#) and plans.
 - Natural Resources Wales [South West Area Statement](#) and [Marine Area Statement](#).
 - Welsh Government [Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales](#).
 - Welsh Governments biodiversity [deep dive](#).

Structure of the plan and key points to note

- Many of the actions are dependent on, and subject to, available funding and staff resources.
- The following sections set out tables of actions that the Council aims to progress over the reporting term of the Section 6 Plan.
- The action plan below sets out the work we will undertake from now until December 2025 to deliver our commitments to maintaining and enhancing Biodiversity.
- Actions have been set out under the six key objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales, which are the main headings in the action table below.
- The Swansea LNRAP Action Themes addressed are noted in column 2. It is worth reading and referring to the Swansea LNRAP as it provides an overview of nature recovery in Swansea.
- Key departments or teams primarily responsible for actions listed in the plan are identified in column 3.



- Some of the actions listed are aspirational and long-term, we don't expect to complete them all by December 2025.
- Other actions reflect the day-to-day work already being undertaken that contribute to nature recovery.
- The S6 plan is everyone's responsibility but the Nature Conservation Team are happy to support and advise.

Monitoring and updating of the plan

- This action plan is a living document which will be reviewed and reported on regularly through the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board and annual Corporate Plan reporting.
- Additional actions may be added as needed.
- The next Section 6 monitoring report will be published in January 2026 and will be combined with the updated version of this action plan.
- Where there are fundamental changes to policy, terminology, or advancements in our understanding of ecosystems, this plan may be updated to reflect those changes at any time.



Swansea Council Nature Recovery Actions	LNRAP action themes addressed	Key department(s)/team(s)
NRAP Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels		
1a. Deliver external nature recovery training, citizen science and educational awareness raising events for communities, groups, schools and businesses.	1.1; 1.2	Nature Conservation & AONB
1b. Deliver bespoke biodiversity and Green Infrastructure training to council staff and elected members.	1.2; 1.4	Nature Conservation, Landscape
1c. Raise awareness of threats to nature and positive nature recovery efforts through official council social media platforms, website and other.	1.1	Communications, Nature Conservation, AONB
1d. Participate in online nature recovery training.	1.1; 1.2; 1.4	All staff and Elected Members
1e. Engage and support elected members, including the biodiversity champion, on relevant nature recovery issues and opportunities within their ward and portfolio responsibilities.	1.2; 1.4	Nature Conservation, Elected Members
1f. Facilitate council sections with land and building management responsibilities to undertake appropriate short, medium and long-term management and actions to enhance biodiversity.	1.3; 1.4	Parks, Housing, Nature Conservation, Schools, Social Services, Highways, Corporate Property, Building Control, Cemeteries, RoW
1g. Planning decisions must maintain and enhance biodiversity by considering all relevant information available which may include species and habitats of principle importance, SINCs, ecosystem resilience, and relevant SPGs.	1.4; + others	Planning and Strategic Planning, Nature Conservation (advice) SAB Officers, Tree Officers
1h. Continue to embed nature recovery within current and future Corporate Plans, the Wellbeing Plan, and the Replacement Local Development Plan, to ensure that it is considered in decision making and is prioritised at the same level as the Climate Emergency.	1.4	Planning Policy, Climate Change
NRAP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management		

2a. Ensure collation of up-to-date and accurate data on statutory protected nature sites in council ownership to monitor condition and inform appropriate management and nature recovery interventions.	2.1; 5.1	Nature Conservation, AONB
2b. As the responsible authority, conduct a review of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and in line with relevant guidance. Begin to re-survey the 73 SINCs that are largely or partly council-owned regularly to maintain accurate and up to date data that informs management and conservation intervention.	2.1; 5.1	Nature Conservation, AONB
2c. Audit current council buildings and aim to install at least one bat and bird nesting feature on all suitable, existing and new, council owned or council-leased buildings.	2.2; 2.3; 3.1	Nature Conservation, Building Services, Schools, More Homes
2d. Prepare, implement and monitor management plans for Council owned SINCs and LNRs plus other public green spaces including beaches and parks, where appropriate and funds allow.	2.1; 2.2	Nature Conservation, Parks, and other relevant landholding departments
NRAP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation		
3a. Expand current wildflower meadow management (cut and collect) scheme across suitable council land, where funding and resources allow.	3.1; 3.2	Nature Conservation, Parks
3b. Work corporately and with stakeholders to continue to implement city centre GI Strategy and prepare and adopt the county wide Green Infrastructure strategies.	3.5	Nature Conservation, Landscape, Planning and Strategic Planning, Development Management, Economic Regeneration, Parks Services, Highways and Drainage
3c. Improve the management of council owned sites to improve their condition and overall ecosystem resilience.	3.3; 3.4; 2.2; 3.2	Nature Conservation, Parks, and other relevant landholding departments
3d. Increase and monitor tree canopy cover throughout the county using relevant opportunity mapping data.	3.5; 3.2	All landowning departments
3e. Prioritise and deliver the nature recovery elements of the Gower AONB management plan, within and surrounding the AONB.	3.1; 3.1:2	AONB, Nature Conservation
3g. Ensure the Active Travel Fund Scheme maintains and enhances biodiversity in all its planned works going forward.	3.2	Active Travel, Nature Conservation, Planning and Strategic Planning,
3h. Explore opportunities to declare, enhance and manage new Local Nature Reserves on Council owned land to contribute to the Swansea LNRAP and WG 30x30 targets.	3.3	Nature Conservation, AONB
NRAP Objective 4: Tackle Key pressures on species and habitats		
4a. Reduce and minimise the use of pesticides and herbicides used in council operations where feasible alternatives are available.	4.1	Parks, Nature Conservation
4b. Within the remits of the council's responsibilities reduce incidences of water, soil and air pollution.	4.1	Pollution team, Highways, Nature Conservation, Landscape (GI)
4c. Further improve sustainable procurement throughout all council services so biodiversity is maintained and enhanced.	4.6	Procurement
4d. Create a council-wide Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) guidance note in collaboration with all relevant sections/teams to reduce the council's light pollution impact and increase ecosystem resilience by minimising light pollution barriers to species.	4.1	Nature Conservation, Housing, Highways, Planning and Strategic Planning, AONB, Street Lighting team
4e. Develop and utilise a checklist to ensure council organised activities and events minimise disturbance/damage to habitats and species.	4.4; 4.6	Nature Conservation, Special Events, Other
4f. Manage Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) on council owned land. Prioritising protected sites contributing to being in effective management for 30x30.	4.2	Nature Conservation, Parks,
4g. Create a council-wide Japanese knotweed guidance note in collaboration with all relevant sections/teams to control the species on council land.	4.2	Nature Conservation, Parks

4h. Raise awareness of INNS internally within the council, especially regarding kerbside waste collection and managing INNS on council land.		Parks and Waste, Nature Conservation
4i. Support actions that work towards the Net Zero 2030 Plan to tackle the climate emergency, which also helps nature recovery.	4.3	All staff/departments
4j. Use official media platforms, plus tourism and visitor promotional material to raise awareness about how tourism and the public can contribute towards wildlife disturbance and advise on how to minimise impacts within Swansea.	4.4; 1.4	Nature Conservation, CBEEMS, Communications, Tourism Marketing Events and Support
4k. Increase ecological connectivity and resilience using relevant data (such as ecosystem resilience mapping and ward mapping) to identify priority areas for improvement and prevent any further losses to key connectivity areas.	4.5; 3.1	Nature Conservation, all landholding departments
4l. Ensure that all available ecological data are considered during allocation of sites for the Replacement Local Development Plan, as well as identifying any gaps in the data and undertake work to fill the gaps.	4.5	Nature Conservation, Planning
4m. Explore ways in which special events, such as large crowd drawing events, can offset negative impacts on nature by undertaking mitigation and/or financially contributing to nature recovery in Swansea.	4.4; 4.1; 2.2	Nature Conservation, Tourism Marketing Events and Support
NRAP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring		
5a. Continue the annual Service Level Agreement (SLA) with South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) to maintain access to up-to-date species and habitat records to be able to use the best available evidence for decision making.	5.2	Nature Conservation, Planning and Strategic Planning
5b. Support the development of new mechanisms and plans that use local environmental data to identify and target nature recovery opportunities.	4.5	Nature Conservation, AONB others?
5c. Ensure all council funded ecological survey reports are provided to the Nature Conservation team and data is submitted to SEWBRc by contractors.	5.1	Nature Conservation, Planning and Strategic Planning, Development and Physical Regeneration, Estates
5d. Investigate mechanisms for ensuring compliance with planning conditions related to biodiversity.		Nature Conservation, Planning and Strategic Planning.
<i>*Actions 2a, 2b + 6c overlap with this objective too*</i>		
NRAP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery		
6a. Continue to be a lead member of the Swansea Local Nature Partnership and co-ordinate and assist other members in the delivery of the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.	6.1; 6.3; 5.3	Nature Conservation, AONB, Elected Members
6b. Seek opportunities to source more core revenue and capital funding for nature recovery through grant bids, fee charging and contributions from other internal budgets, Section 106 agreements, including administrating and co-ordinating the delivery of the Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature grant.	6.2; 6.3	Nature Conservation, Planning and Strategic Planning
6c. All council sections to report annually on work undertaken to achieve above listed actions, via the CCNR programme board and steering group, S6 report and new plan to be submitted to WG by December 2025.	6.2	All sections
6d. Nature Recovery is embedded within the Public Service Board Well Being Plan.	1.4; 6.2	Nature Conservation

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix B

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

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: **Strategic Planning and City Regeneration**

Directorate: **Place**

Section 6 Biodiversity Action Plan for Swansea Council

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
- X - 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 is to seeks approval of the draft Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan for Swansea.

Since 2015, Swansea Council (together with all other public bodies) has been given increased responsibilities and legal duties to maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity in order to comply with the following legislation:

- 1.1. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Resilient Wales Goal: 'A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)'
- 1.2. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Part 1) Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty which requires that: 'A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions'
- 1.3. Swansea Council has a legal duty to report to the Welsh Government every 3 years outlining actions undertaken to comply with the Statutory Biodiversity Duty
- 1.4. The Welsh Government has also committed to a '30x30' target, stating that they aim to protect "at least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea by 2030"
- 1.5. One of the key corporate wellbeing objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan is 'Delivering on Climate Change and Nature Recovery'

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix B

- 1.6. Swansea Council endorsed the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) 2023 produced by the Swansea Local Nature Partnership in October 2023

2. Action Plan Report Overview

Nature Emergency

- 2.1. Outside of policy drivers for Section 6 Biodiversity plans there is also a real need for them as a tool in delivering nature recovery as we are in a nature emergency. The Senedd and Swansea Council declared nature emergencies in 2021, species are declining in abundance and distribution, habitats and protected sites are in poor condition and overall ecosystem resilience is poor. There is therefore the urgent need for coordinated and cohesive action at all scales to achieve nature recovery.

The draft Section 6 action plan (see link at appendix A) sets out the actions the Council proposes to take between now and December 2025 to meet its obligations under its Biodiversity Duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and contribute to the Welsh Government's 30x 30 targets for nature recovery.

- 2.2. Actions have been set out under the six key objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) for Wales](#) and the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan [add link](#) as set out below:

1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.
2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.
4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.
5. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.
6. Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery.

- 2.3. Some of the actions listed in the Plan are aspirational and long-term, we don't expect to complete them all by December 2025

- 2.4. Other actions reflect day to day work already being undertaken that contribute to nature recovery.

- 2.5. Many of the actions are dependent on, and subject to available funding and staff resources.

- 2.6. This action plan is a living document which will be reviewed and reported on annually.

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

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	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

- 3 The Section 6 Action Plan has been created with:
- feedback from Heads of Service questionnaire, group presentations/workshops with individual teams and the CC&NR Programme board and Steering Group plus written feedback, and suggestions from Heads of Service.
 - Key global, national, and regional legislation, policies, and plans in mind,
 - Consultation with the Climate & Nature STC Committee.
 - Awareness raising workshops and pilot projects with specific teams.

It is intended to review progress towards achieving the actions outlined in the Action Plan on a regular (annual) basis and to report to Welsh Government every 3 years

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

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
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Yes

- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

Yes

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
Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

Yes

If yes, please provide details below

Yes, the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan will potentially impact all Council Services directly and indirectly in a positive manner. The section 6 Action Plan will provide the overarching framework to inform and direct actions the council will undertake to contribute to nature recovery.

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.)

The cumulative impact on people and communities will be low but positive. The Section 6 plan will help to coordinate and direct nature recovery action across all council services which will hopefully benefit everyone in Swansea long term. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity is clearly associated with improved health and wellbeing by providing access to biodiverse greenspaces to exercise, socialise, play and enjoy nature. Exposure to nature facilitates social interaction and is calming and inspiring, lowering stress and improving mental health and cognitive development. So, the Council's Section 6 Action Plan will provide long term health and well-being benefits to local communities as well as benefiting nature. Alongside the environmental and health benefits of nature there are numerous well documented economic benefits.

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)

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The impacts are considered low and positive due to the nature of the plan which is designed to aid nature recovery in Swansea, thereby improving environmental, social, and economic wellbeing. As such no mitigation is required.

The Swansea Council Section 6 Plan has been created with consultation and input from all Heads of Services as well as regard to relevant national, and subnational policies and legislation, evidence reports and community consultations. The plan will also have been reviewed by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board and Steering Group.

The plan will contribute to Swansea Council's Corporate Objective for Climate Change and Nature Recovery, and will assist the Council in delivering its Well-being Duty, especially with regard to the 'Resilient Wales Goal', under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It will also ensure compliance with the Council's Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

There are no significant risks associated with the plan, and the cumulative impacts are deemed low but positive. As such a full IIA strategy is not deemed necessary.

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

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.

Screening completed by:
Name: Deb Hill
Job title: Nature Conservation Team Leader
Date: 6 February 2024
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Phil Holmes
Position: Head of Strategic Planning and City Regeneration
Date: 6 Feb 2024

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5



Report of the Chair

Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee - 4 March 2024

Work Plan 2023-2024

Date of meeting	Agenda items
5 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work Plan 2023-24 Discussion
17 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Use of Reusable Containers for Recycling• Local Nature Recovery Action Plan overview presentation (PH/PM)• TFW presentation (BG)
4 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LNRAP for Swansea – Report endorsement (PH/PM)• Future Waste Strategy – collections, Circular Economy elements (CH)
16 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Transport Strategy (SD/MB/CL)
11 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swansea 2050 and Local Area Energy Plan (GB/JR)
22 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop Session - Sustainable Transport Strategy – next steps (SD/MB/CL)
4 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan for Swansea. (PH/PM)
15 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waste Strategy – Collections update (CH)

TBC:

- Public EV Charging Strategy (SD/CL) Appropriate time to be confirmed, via appraisal from Cllr Fogarty.