

Panel Perfformiad Craffu – Newid yn yr Hinsawdd a Natur

Lleoliad: Cyfarfod Aml-Leoliad - Ystafell Lilian Hopkin, Neuadd y Ddinas / MS Teams

Dyddiad: Dydd Mawrth, 14 Mai 2024

Amser: 10.00 am

Cynullydd: Y Cynghorydd Sara Keeton

Aelodaeth:

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

Agenda

Rhif y Dudalen.

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb**
- 2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol**
www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau
- 3 Gwahardd pleidleisiau Chwip a Datgan Chwipiau'r Pleidiau**
- 4 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod(ydd) Blaenorol** **1 - 14**
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 diwrnod 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 Diweddariad ar Newid yn yr Hinsawdd (gan gynnwys cyflawniad yn Ymrwymadau Polisi Corfforaethol / Amcanion / Erbyn Blaenoriaethau)** **15 - 67**

Gwahoddwyd:

Andrea Lewis – Aelod y Cabinet dros Drawsnewid Gwasanaethau

Mark Wade - Cyfarwyddwr Lleoedd

Geoff Bacon - Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Eiddo

Rachel Lewis - Rheolwr Prosiect y Gyfarwyddiaeth

- 7 **Diweddariad am Natur a Bioamrywiaeth (gan gynnwys cyflawniad yn Ymrwymiadau Polisi Corfforaethol / Amcanion / Erbyn Blaenoriaethau)** 68 - 74
- Gwahoddwyd:*
David Hopkins, Aelod y Cabinet Dros Wasanaethau a Pherfformiad Corfforaethol
Paul Meller – Rheolwr Adran yr Amgylchedd Naturiol
Deborah Hill – Arweinydd y Tîm Cadwraeth Natur
- 8 **Adolygiad y Panel o'r flwyddyn 2023-24** 75 - 77

Cyfarfod nesaf: Dydd Mawrth, 16 Gorffennaf 2024 am 10.00 am

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Dydd Mawrth, 7 Mai 2024

Cyswllt: Liz Jordan 01792 637314

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel - Climate Change and Nature**

Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor S E Keeton (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C M J Evans
W G Thomas
M W Locke

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
O G James
B J Rowlands

Councillor(s)

J A Hale
M H Jones

Other Attendees

David Hopkins
Andrew Stevens

Cabinet Member for Corporate Service and Performance
Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Officer(s)

Stuart Davies
Liz Jordan
Carol Morgan
Tom Price
Mike Sweeney
Mark Wade

Head of Highways & Transportation
Scrutiny Officer
Head of Housing & Public Health
Team Leader Pollution Control
Team Leader Highways and Transportation
Director of Place

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

No disclosures of interest were received.

2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

No declarations were made.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Panel agreed the Minutes of the meeting on 30 January 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

5 Local Flood Risk Management - Annual Update

Andrew Stevens, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure and relevant officers attended to update the Panel and answer questions. David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance was also present.

Discussion Points:

- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is currently being produced which will incorporate the Flood Risk Action Plan. This will place an additional financial burden on the Authority and increase workload.
- Construction of flood defence walls at Mumbles is well underway with completion anticipated early 2025. Panel pleased to hear this and praised everyone involved for a really good job.
- Panel queried if the Authority is looking to have such things as catchment tanks in Swansea Valley to prevent flooding. It was confirmed that attenuation features and storage schemes are being used in many schemes to alleviate flooding and all new developments will have attenuation installed.
- Panel feels the way attenuation ponds are constructed on large development sites could be a danger to children, and there needs to be some kind of supplementary planning guidance. Informed there is legislation and standards that the Authority uses to approve such schemes in terms of construction.
- Panel queried when the new TAN 15 will be approved and heard the Welsh Government is currently gathering further evidence and working on the detail, but it is expected to be approved soon.
- Panel believes people should be encouraged to use water butts on the outside of their homes to catch rainwater and to add water tanks into housing so it can be used to flush toilets. Informed there is already a process in place through Planning and the Local Development Plan to encourage use of water butts etc.
- Panel queried if there is a priority list for the capital maintenance drainage budget and if consideration is given to paths that are flooding as well as infrastructure and roads. Heard much of it is reactive work and there is priority given to where highway flooding is a serious concern and risk to highway users or risk to property.
- Panel noted planning consent has been given for Blackpill but expressed concern about issues at the bottom of Mill Lane where there is something happening under the road, possibly a burst pipe or sink hole. Officers asked to meet the relevant Panel Member on site to discuss.
- Panel asked what is being done regarding pollution going directly into the Tawe. Informed Natural Resources Wales is constantly engaged with Welsh Water with the aim of reducing some of the inputs and overflows into the Tawe. In Swansea Bay, the water quality has improved and is currently good.
- Panel queried if there is a way of finding out from the Met Office if total rainfall is rising and heard there is good data on the Met Office website. Link will be shared with the Panel.
- Panel discussed flooding on Mumbles Road whenever there is heavy rain, and asked if anything is being done. Informed there is lots of flooding outside university entrance due to blocked outflow, which has been rectified. Maintenance team currently on-site cleaning gulleys from Brynmill Lane to Blackpill Lido and Department will be checking outflow by Ashley Road to ensure not blocked again.

- Panel feels strongly that relevant staff and councillors need to do SUDS training. Officers happy to arrange another training course for Members if they are interested. Cabinet Member stated all planning officers have had SUDS training and agreed a need for more training, particularly for the Planning Committee on use of SUDS and he is more than happy to facilitate this.
- Panel requested sight of the red list on maintenance of grids, water courses, gully hotspots etc and heard the Department has no issues with sharing it.
- Panel queried if cleansing is carried out more times in the autumn because of leaf fall or if it is throughout the year. Informed it is ongoing but is increased in autumnal months to clear leaf fall.
- Panel discussed coastal flooding and particularly the walkway on Trafalgar Bridge which was closed off due to flooding last winter. Panel asked if anything can be done to alleviate this. Informed study work and investigation is being carried out to identify what is happening in that area, and there could be a localised solution which gets implemented. Also, a strategic flood consequence assessment for that area of Swansea has just been commissioned.
- Panel asked for clarification on what the offer is under Operation Update (paragraph 4) and heard it is a scheme where ward members pay for a gully team to be onsite over weekends where gully attention is needed.
- Panel asked if there is legislation in place stating when people dig up drives and put down artificial hard surfaces that it must be permeable. Cabinet Member agreed to provide a full written response.

Actions:

- Link to Met Office website to be shared with the Panel
- Training on SUDS to be arranged for Planning Committee
- Red list on the maintenance programme to be shared with the Panel
- Information on legislation relating to permeable surfaces to be provided.

6 Air Quality Management

David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Corporate Service and Performance and Tom Price, Team Leader Pollution Control attended to brief the Panel on this issue.

Discussion Points:

- Panel queried if the trend for pollution from motor vehicles is going down and heard there are two main pollutants linked with motor vehicles. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is seeing a long-term downward trend in concentration. For particulate, although seeing a slight downward trend, it is too early to state what is driving it.
- Panel commented that buses leave their engines idling outside Bishop Gore School, and asked what can be done about this. Cabinet Member offered to take this back through the procurement chain to ensure it does not happen anymore.
- Panel queried if proximity of residential properties to busy roads should be considered before planning permission is given. Heard it is taken case by

case and applicants are required to submit an air quality assessment for the particular environment.

- Panel queried if research shows whether tree-lined streets make a meaningful difference to air quality and if there is a material difference in air quality between roundabouts and traffic lights. Heard in Swansea it will take time to do monitoring and analyse data to see if there is any impact of green infrastructure. A written response will be provided on whether roundabouts or traffic lights are best in terms of air quality.

Actions:

- Comments on engine idling outside schools to be taken back through procurement chain.
- Information on whether roundabouts or traffic lights are best for air quality to be provided to Panel.

7 Work Plan 2023-24

Panel considered the work plan and noted items for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.15 am



To:

**Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member
for Corporate Services and Performance**

and

**Councillor Andrew Stevens, Cabinet
Member for Environment and Infrastructure**

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

Scrutiny

Scrutiny Office

01792 637314

Line:

Llinell

Uniongyrochol:

e-Mail

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

e-Bost:

Date

15 April 2024

Dyddiad:

BY EMAIL

cc Cabinet Members

Summary: This is a letter from the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel to the relevant Cabinet Members following the meeting of the Panel on 19 March 2024. It covers Local Flood Risk and Air Quality. A formal written response is required.

Dear Cllr Hopkins and Cllr Stevens

The Panel met on 19 March 2024 and received its annual update on Local Flood Risk Management and a briefing on Air Quality Management.

We would like to thank you both, Mark Wade, Stuart Davies, Carol Morgan, Mike Sweeney and Tom Price for attending to present the items and answer the Panel's questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learned from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response.

Local Flood Risk Management

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

www.swansea.gov.uk / 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

You both attended to provide an update and answer questions along with relevant officers.

We heard the Local Flood Risk Strategy is currently being produced which will incorporate the Flood Risk Action Plan. We noted that this will place an additional financial burden on the Authority and increase workload, and that introduction of the new Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 and demand on delivery of the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) Approving Body (SAB) function will also increase workload.

We were pleased to hear that construction of flood defence walls at Mumbles is well underway with completion anticipated early 2025, and we praised everyone involved for a really good job.

We queried if the Authority is looking to have such things as 'catchment tanks' in Swansea Valley to prevent flooding by holding back water from the river Tawe and releasing it when suitable to do so, for example at Pontardulais. We heard that attenuation features and storage schemes are being used in many schemes to alleviate flooding and that all new developments will have attenuation installed. You confirmed that in Pontardulais there is a Natural Resources Wales scheme where attenuation has been put in to restrict flows.

We believe that the way attenuation ponds are constructed on large development sites could be a danger to children, and there needs to be some kind of supplementary planning guidance. We were informed there is legislation and standards that the Authority uses to approve such schemes in terms of construction.

We queried when the new TAN 15 will be approved and heard the Welsh Government is currently gathering further evidence and working on the detail, but it is expected to be approved soon. We were pleased to hear this.

We believe people should be encouraged to use water butts on the outside of their homes to catch rainwater, and to add water tanks into housing so it can be used to flush toilets. We heard there is already a process in place through Planning and the Local Development Plan to encourage use of water butts etc. and that both of you very much support this and it is something the public can do themselves.

We queried if there is a priority list for the capital drainage budget and if consideration is given to paths that are flooding as well as infrastructure and roads, as active travel is a Welsh Government priority. We heard much of it is reactive work and there is priority given to where highway flooding is a serious concern and risk to highway users or risk to property. We noted you are not aware of money being funded towards active travel schemes in terms of prevention of flooding to paths. We feel this is worth looking at if funding ever becomes available.

We noted planning consent has been given for Blackpill but expressed concern about issues at the bottom of Mill Lane where there is something happening under the road, possibly a burst pipe or sink hole, and asked if this is being investigated. Officers expressed great concern about this and asked to meet the relevant Panel Member on site to discuss it.

We discussed how the river Tawe is in the top 20 most polluted rivers in the country and asked what is being done regarding pollution going directly into the Tawe. We were informed Natural Resources Wales is the regulator and is constantly engaging with Welsh Water with the aim of reducing some of the inputs and overflows into the Tawe, and that over the years through investment by Welsh Water in Swansea Bay water quality has improved and currently it is good.

We queried if there is a way of finding out from the Met Office if total rainfall is rising and heard there is good data on the Met Office website on monthly, seasonal and annual precipitation. We noted that for Swansea there are signs that there is increasing rainfall and you offered to share the link with the Panel.

We discussed the issue of flooding on Mumbles Road whenever there is heavy rain, and that it doesn't seem to be improving and asked if anything is being done. We were informed the Department has had concerns over the last 12 months. We heard there has been a lot of flooding outside the university entrance due to a blocked outflow, which has been rectified; the maintenance team is currently on-site cleaning gulleys from Brynmill Lane to Blackpill Lido and the Department will be checking the outflow by Ashley Road to ensure it is not blocked again.

We feel very strongly that relevant staff and councillors need to do SUDS training. Officers stated they are happy to arrange another training course for Members if they are interested. Cllr Hopkins you stated all planning officers have had SUDS training and added that SUDS is there to protect the drainage system and has positive opportunities but there is a need to educate more people about what it does and the reason for it. You agreed there is a need to get more training in place particularly for the Planning Committee on use of SUDS and that you are more than happy to facilitate this.

We asked if there is a list to show which watercourses/drains are on the red list and heard the Department has no issues with sharing the red list on the maintenance of grids, water courses, gully hotspots etc.

We commented that the increase of cleansing is to be welcomed and where drains have been cleansed it shows an improvement from flooding in that area. We queried if cleansing is carried out more times in the autumn because of leaf fall or if it is throughout the year and heard it is ongoing but is increased in autumnal months to clear leaf fall.

We discussed coastal flooding and particularly the walkway on Trafalgar Bridge which was closed off due to flooding last winter and asked if anything can be done to alleviate this. We were informed investigations are being carried out to identify what is happening in that area, and there could be a localised solution which gets implemented. We also heard that in terms of coastal risk, planners have just commissioned a strategic flood consequence assessment for that area of Swansea, which looks at climate change projections and will feed into thoughts going forward about how to protect communities in coastal regions of Swansea.

In the report under Operation Update (paragraph 4), it states the Authority offers paid service which has been taken up by a small number of councillors. We asked for clarification on what the offer is and heard it is a scheme where ward members pay for

a gully team to be onsite over weekends where gully attention is needed. This is useful to know.

We asked if there is legislation in place stating that when people dig up drives and put down artificial hard surfaces that it must be permeable. Cllr Hopkins agreed to provide a full written response on this.

Air Quality Management

Cllr Hopkins and relevant officers briefed the Panel on this issue.

We queried if the trend for pollution from motor vehicles is going down and heard there are two main pollutants linked with motor vehicles. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is seeing a long-term downward trend in concentration driven by fuel types, progression in vehicle technology and road layouts etc., for example, there is evidence to confirm the effect Morfa distributor road has had on air quality. We heard that for particulate, this travels a lot further so can be impacted by other sources, and although you are seeing a slight downward trend, it is too early to state what is driving it. We also heard that target thresholds that have been set are being reviewed but it is accepted there is no safe limit for pollution.

We commented that outside Bishop Gore School, particularly at pick up time, school buses leave their engines idling for up to half an hour, which is causing issues for residents as well as children coming out of school, and asked if there is anything that can be done about this. Cllr Hopkins stated that when the Authority procures it insists buses should not do this and offered to take this back through the procurement chain to ensure it does not happen anymore. We also heard that NO₂ has been monitored along De La Beche Road for several years and has demonstrated compliance with the annual mean. We were pleased to hear this but added that there is the same problem outside all schools. We noted that a new act came into force recently giving local authorities increased powers on engine idling.

We noted a point made about the closer properties are located to the road, the bigger the impact of pollution from motor vehicles, and referred to a block of flats being built close to the road by Sketty Cross where there are continual queues of traffic. We queried if proximity of residential properties to busy roads should be considered before planning permission is given and heard that through the planning process, it is taken case by case and applicants are required to submit an air quality assessment for the particular environment. In respect of Sketty Cross, data has shown achievement of this objective, at almost half the annual mean concentration on nitrogen dioxide.

We queried if research shows whether tree-lined streets make a meaningful difference to air quality and if there is a material difference in air quality between roundabouts and traffic lights. We heard there is some research on trees and green infrastructure and that in Swansea, it will take time to carry out monitoring and analyse data, for example, green screens at a school, to see if there is any impact of green infrastructure. We were informed results from this will be considered as part of the green infrastructure strategy. We heard you will provide a written response on whether roundabouts or traffic lights are best in terms of air quality.

Your Response

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and would welcome comments on any of the issues raised within. However, on this occasion, a formal written response is required by Monday 6th May 2024 to the following:

- Link to Met Office website to be shared with the Panel
- Training on SUDS to be arranged for Planning Committee
- Red list on the maintenance programme to be shared with the Panel
- Information on legislation relating to permeable surfaces to be provided
- Comments on engine idling outside schools to be taken back through procurement chain
- Information on whether roundabouts or traffic lights are best for air quality to be provided to Panel.

Yours sincerely

SARA KEETON
CONVENER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE SCRUTINY PANEL
CLLR.SARA.KEETON@SWANSEA.GOV.UK



Councillor S. Keeton
Convener, Climate Change & Nature
Scrutiny Panel

(VIA EMAIL)

Cllr.Sara.Keeton@swansea.gov.uk

Please ask for: Councillor David Hopkins

Direct Line: 01792 63 6141

E-Mail: Cllr.David.Hopkins@swansea.gov.uk

Our Ref: DH/JG

Your Ref:

Date: 3 May 2024

Dear Councillor Keeton,

**Re: Convener's Letter to Cabinet Members David Hopkins and Andrew Stevens –
Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Panel 19 March 2024**

Thank you for your letter sent on 15 April 2024. Please find the following response:

- **Link to Met Office website to be shared with the Panel.**

Please see attached link to Met Office Website which holds precipitation data from 1836-2024.

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/datasets/Rainfall/date/England SW and S Wales.txt](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/climate/datasets/Rainfall/date/England%20SW%20and%20S%20Wales.txt)

- **Training on SUDS to be arranged for Planning Committee.**

Referring to the recommendations that you have made, requesting Suds Training to the Planning Committee, I can confirm that enquiries have been made with Bob Bray Associates to provide formal training. Once confirmation has been received on availability and costs for the course then committee members will be informed accordingly. In the meantime, I would like to attach a summary of the training pack/slides which were used in the training events to officers.

- **Red list on the maintenance programme to be shared with the Panel.**

Please see 2 attachments:

- Watercourse Inspections April 24
- Watercourse Red List Record Sheet

- **Information on legislation relating to permeable surfaces to be provided.**

With regard to legislation relating to the use of permeable paving. I wish to confirm there are permitted development rights in Wales. A Householder can lay or replace a hard surface to the front of their house with permeable or porous materials without the need to apply for planning permission. Alternatively surface water run-off from an



impermeable hard surface, such as concrete, directed to a permeable or porous surface to the front of the home is also permitted development.

In addition, planning permission is not required for a householder to replace or repair a small area, up to 5 square metres, of existing hard-surfacing without using permeable or porous materials - for example to repair potholes in a driveway, or replace paving slabs in an existing patio.

In the above circumstances, no application is required and therefore conditions cannot be used.

If planning permission is required and an application submitted, if the approved plans indicate permeable surfacing, the condition requiring development to be undertaken in accordance with the approved plans deals with this issue.

Where no materials are specified, we have the following condition which is used where necessary:

The proposed parking area hereby approved/illustrated on the submitted plan shall be:

- (i) porous or permeable; or
- (ii) constructed to direct run-off water from the hard surface to a porous or permeable area or surface within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse; and
- (iii) be permanently maintained so that it continues to comply with the requirements of paragraph (i) and (ii).

Reason: In the interests of sustainability.

If the development requires SAB approval, which applies to any construction exceeding 100m² which has drainage implications, then permeable paving or porous tarmac is frequently used as developers find solutions for making their developments compliant to Suds Legislation. However, the choice of Suds materials and features within any particular development rests with the developer.

- **Comments on engine idling outside schools to be taken back through procurement chain.**

I have confirmed with colleagues in Public and School Transport and Procurement that conditions are in place within contracts regarding the idling of vehicles engines and that Contractors must comply with all relevant legislation in all matter arising in performance of the contracts. Contact will be made with the providers of services for Bishop Gore Comprehensive School regarding the requirement for engine idling to be kept to a minimum.

If instances are observed and vehicle registration recorded, then specific contact can be made with operators.

Furthermore, Welsh Government has included a fixed penalty provision within the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024 for Stationary Idling offence that the Council will consider once further guidance is provided by Welsh Government.

- **Information on whether roundabouts or traffic lights are best for air quality to be provided to Panel.**

There are peer reviewed publications that indicate that positive effects upon NO_x (Nitrogen Oxides) concentrations from vehicles when traffic lights junctions have replaced roundabouts. In Swansea, the introduction of traffic light control junctions on Gower Road, Sketty and on Vivian Road, by Tycoch College, have indicated a reduction in NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) concentration. However, it is acknowledged that a downward trend in concentrations over time is occurring and so the contribution of the infrastructure changes has not been calculated.

It is important to note that the reductions observed relate to NO₂ which is one of the pollutants that the Council must assess under Local Air Quality Management functions. However, peer reviewed publications also indicate that emissions of CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) had been observed to increase at traffic lights.

Highways colleagues do contact the Pollution Control & Private Sector Housing Team when looking at significant infrastructure projects and air quality is a consideration.

We hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Y Cynghorydd David Hopkins / Councillor David Hopkins
Dirprwy Arweinydd / Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau a Pherfformiad
Corfforaethol
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance



Y Cynghorydd /Councillor Andrew Stevens
Aelod y Cabinet dros Yr Amgylchedd ac Chydraddoldebau
Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure

Enc.

Water Course Inspection Procedures (April 24)

Water courses to be checked at the frequencies below depending on weather. During dry periods inspections will not be carried out if deemed unnecessary.

At weekends daily checks will only be carried out at the discretion of the duty/manager.

	October to March	April to September
Blackpill, Birchtree Close & Kingrosia	Daily	Weekly
Red List	Weekly	Monthly
High Priority	Fortnightly	Monthly
Low Priority	Monthly	Bi-Monthly

Watercourses to be cleared on inspection as necessary. Arising's to be left on site where it can be placed in such a way as to not re-enter the water course. (debris, logs, rocks, large quantities of compacted silt) small material to be left to wash down.

Red List to be checked following notification of a severe weather warning relating to wet weather.

All Inspections including out of hours visits are to be recorded on the Highways management system.

WATERCOURSE RED LIST RECORD SHEET

No.	Watercourse Location	Mayrise Ref	PLEASE ENTER TIME		SEE CODE
			Checked Time	Cleaned Time	Weather *
1	Blackpill (x4)	7589	:	:	
2	Derwen Fawr	7592	:	:	
3	Birchtree Close	7595	:	:	
4	Norton Road	7599	:	:	
5	Bryn y Mor Road	7605	:	:	
6	Cwmbach Road	7608	:	:	
7	Heol y Gors (x4)	7611	:	:	
8	Quarry Road	7613	:	:	
9	Rifleman's Club	7616	:	:	
10	Cwm Level	7623	:	:	
11	DFS	7624	:	:	
12	400 Birchgrove Road (+2 grated covers)	7625	:	:	
13	Capel Road	7626	:	:	
14	93 Kingrosia Park	7627	:	:	
15	Waverley Park (x3)	7628	:	:	
16	Bowens Arms	7629	:	:	
17	Morrison Comprehensive	7630	:	:	
18	Bryntawe Road	7631	:	:	
19	Cadle Mill Stream	60986	:	:	
20	Libanus Road, Gorseinon Between 17-19	74771	:	:	
21	Hendrefoilan Lane, Killay	MSForms	:	:	
22	Graig y Pal, Glais	MSForms	:	:	

Comments

Date of inspection/...../ 20..... Signed Print Name	Mayrise Updated
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*** Weather Codes**

Rain	F: Fine/Dry L: Drizzle M: Moderate rain H: Heavy rain	Wind	C: Calm B: Breeze S: Strong G: Gales/Gusts
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Agenda Item 6



Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14th May 2024

Climate Change (NZ2030 & NZ2050) Update

For Information

Purpose	To present the latest progress report on meeting the Council's ambition to enable Net Zero by 2030 and support the county's Net Zero 2050 work in line with the current Corporate Objectives – delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change.
Content	The report concludes that the monitoring and scrutiny of the Council's Climate Change agendas has been successful throughout 2023-24 with sound governance in place, resulting in a high level of outcomes. Emissions data represents 2022-23 Welsh Government submission.
Councillors are being asked to	Endorse the contents of the report
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Andrea Lewis Battery recycling (Cllr C Anderson)
Lead Officer(s)	Mark Wade, Director of Place & Geoff Bacon, Head of Property Services
Report Author	Rachel Lewis (Rachel.lewis@swansea.gov.uk)
Legal Officer	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer	Ben Smith
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 The 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' corporate wellbeing objective has been in place for 2 years. The objective has three clear workstreams:
 - Swansea Council NZ2030
 - Swansea Net Zero 2050
 - Nature Recovery
- 1.2 This report focuses on the first two items in sections 2&3 - a follow up to last years scrutiny report specifically on Swansea Net Zero 2030 activity during the period of 2022-23, plus an additional update on the Net Zero 2050 wider Swansea programme.
- 1.3 A separate report will be presented on the Nature Recovery element at the May 14th meeting.
- 1.4 The report also includes section 4 which provides an update on performance monitoring on both the Net Zero 2030 and Net Zero 2050 steps, success measures and KPI's during 2023-24.
- 1.5 Finally, section 5 notes a specific request for more information on the recycling of batteries.

2. Swansea Council Net Zero 2030 ambition

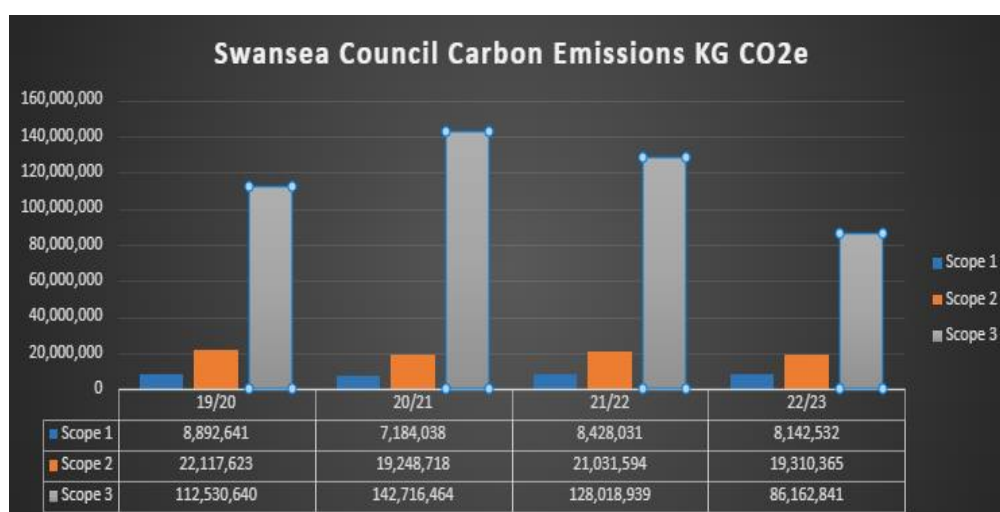
The Net Zero Programme centres on implementing the Net Zero Delivery Plan which comprises thirty key transformative actions, to support the ambition for Swansea Council to be a net zero business by 2030.

Swansea Council has reduced scope 1&2 emissions for the 2022-23 period. *Please note the Welsh Government reporting cycle operates on the previous full year of data.* See **Appendix 1** for Welsh Government report.

2.1 Swansea Council Carbon Footprint (Scope 1 & 2)

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
	kg CO2e	kg CO2e	kg CO2e	kg CO2e
Fleet and Equipment	6,071,863	5,016,347	6,100,463	5,729,507
Buildings and Energy	22,117,62	19,248,718	21,031,594	19,310,365
Business Travel	575,168	129,319	285,794	615,015
Street Lighting	2,245,610	2,038,372	2,041,774	1,798,009
Sub Total emissions	22,692,791	19,378,037	21,317,388	19,925,381
Land based Emissions	-5,849,311	-5,849,311	-5,594,070	-6,702,325
Carbon Emissions	25,160,95	20,583,445	23,865,555	20,750,752

2.2 Swansea Council continues to reduce its carbon footprint.



To note, Scope 3 figures include municipal waste, new ways of working and supply chain. As a council currently supporting large redevelopment and investment programmes, along with a programme to build new homes, the supply chain figures are to be expected, and show parity with similar Welsh city's eg Cardiff.

A reduction in waste has been realised from the transition from Landfill to Incineration, which was completed in April 2022, so due to the reduction in Emission factors on WG reporting this has resulted in a large reduction on waste emissions. As an authority this now puts us in line with other local authorities in this category. Actual tonnage of waste is on par with the previous year and the focus remains on reduction, repair, and recycling.

2.3 The council continues to work towards a 30-point action plan for Net Zero 2030:

Swansea Council Net Zero – 30 Actions by 2030

Buildings & Energy	Fleet & Mobile Equipment	Land Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonise our public estate by reviewing our asset management strategy. Reduce the energy consumed across the council's buildings and estate. Encourage employee behaviour change through training and process improvement Decarbonise street lighting with more LED's Ensure all new buildings are constructed to the highest possible sustainability standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition the Council's fleet to zero emission equivalents in accordance with the Welsh Government's expectation of light commercial vehicles by 2025 and other vehicles by 2030 Establish a fleet vehicle charge point infrastructure that supports this transition Optimise fleet vehicle use and efficiency Establish integrated data systems for GHG measurement Revise and approve the appropriate supporting policies, procedures and working practices Decarbonise Grey Fleet travel Decarbonise mobile plant equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP policy reviewed to protect land soils and habitats rich in carbon Increase terrestrial Central Area GI to 26% Tree planting areas mapped county wide 1000s new trees planted 30% of protected sites (local nature reserves, etc.) in positive management for biodiversity
Waste	New Ways of Working	Supply Chain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage circular economy values within Swansea Council – to minimise and prevent - reduce, reuse, recycle, Reduce operational single use plastics wherever possible Reduce operational waste e.g. food, paper Encourage operational recycle and repair. Reduce Construction Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop emissions data monitoring processes Reduce commuting miles Deliver agile working policy Develop staff active travel plan Implement Healthy Travel Charter in Swansea Council Develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit to Net Carbon Zero in our supply chain by 2050 Through forward planning and innovation develop new specifications for our contracts that deliver Net Carbon Zero Map and monitor our progress, with appropriate prioritisation and target setting

Despite the positive progress on Swansea Council emissions reduction, the project will remain on the corporate risk register as RED due to costs / budget issues around meeting the 2030 target. The good work will continue, and situational awareness is improving. We will continue to leverage grants as available and will work within existing budgets. The agenda will continue to face many challenges through to 2030, as per the recent internal audit review, see **Appendix 2**. The programme will continue to be monitored through the CC&NR programme board and steering group governance mechanism.

3. Swansea Net Zero 2050 ambition

3.1 2050 general update

Electricity & Heat Generation	Transport	Residential Buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete first phase of Blue Eden Develop Energy Parks e.g. Tir John Solar Farm Support delivery of Regional Energy Plan Support delivery of Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated and affordable public transport system Safe active travel networks across the county to recognises work and leisure hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More EV charging points Residents aware of and able to access advice and funding for home improvements to cut carbon emissions More Homes built to Swansea Standard Decarbonisation of Housing Stock Continue to finance the Energy Awareness Hub through SPF Aim for 30% of (non –residential) Council buildings with wildlife features Swift boxes installed during retro fit projects where appropriate

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retro fit project for private homes to be piloted
Industry & Business	Agriculture	Waste & Circular Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards Carbon Zero training developed and delivered to businesses to aid decarbonisation with partners. • Grants for SME's to aid decarb from SPF anchor project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunity for healthy, local food production and sales • 3 projects undertaken through EPF to look at which community groups are involved in promoting the food agenda, what is the current state of play regarding farming and one looking at what plans the big suppliers to Swansea have in place to cope with CC. • Officer support for Bwyd Abertawe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve Welsh Government recycling targets • Promote the waste hierarchy and prevent, reduce, or reuse materials wherever feasible • Continue to monitor technologies and engagement with partners to recycle a wider range of waste material types • Plastic Free July to be promoted through events run by EPF • Initial funding for Library of Things • Pilot project for End of Term with SU and UWTSD to divert from landfill
Education and Engagement	Enriching our Natural Resources	LULUCF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting green skills and job creation through networks • School on Energy Sparks and moved to Sigma to monitor energy consumption. Decarb Plan written for practical behaviour change to cut usage and emissions. • Staff training – eLearning modules created for CC&NR with 00 staff completed module 1. Face 2 Face training delivered to different service areas. Toolbox talks for staff and public on energy, helping wildlife and water written. • Environmental Partner Framework set up and delivering projects • Engagement, Comms Plan developed • 3 events to be run across Swansea in 2024 – GBGW, Plastic Free July and another on September to engage the people of Swansea over the year • Workshops being delivered for the new A&M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Infrastructure policy for city centre delivered and one for county being developed • Training on installation and maintenance developed and delivered with partners • Tree Policy developed and awaiting approval • LNRAP delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP in review • Digital twinning project for COP with WG and partners to deliver 3D digital model of Swansea

The council continues to work on the 2050 net zero ambition. Projects and engagement are subject to funding and therefore there are risks associated with that.

See **Appendix 3** link for full review presented to the CC&NR STC in December 2023.

3.2 Climate and Nature Charter Signatories Group

The Climate and Nature Charter Signatories has been in existence as a group for just over one year, with the first meeting held online in January 2023. There are currently 15 members from a range of organisations. These are organisations who signed the Charter recognising the need to work collaboratively for net zero 2050 and for nature recovery.

The group undertook a branding project to enable messaging and identity for the net zero Swansea ambition. This was undertaken with students from UWTSD, with some members of the Charter Signatories judging the work. The Swansea Project Zero branding was officially launched in November 2023 by The Leader and Deputy Leaders of the Council, together with the Signatory Group members at the Green Business Conference.

Opportunity to make a significant contribution towards the goal of collaborative working for the net zero 2050 ambition was made very early on, with the availability of grant funding, through SPF, for the independent development of an Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Swansea. This is being developed at present. It will identify key priorities and an action plan that will enable proper forward planning with meaningful actions to be taken by those that deliver services across the authority as well as ensure the communication and engagement for a more resilient Swansea takes place.

3.3 Environmental Partner Framework update

The Environmental Partner Framework (EPF) is proving a successful way of delivering projects identified as needing to be carried out either for internal information gathering or for Swansea community engagement. Since the framework was put in place in March 2022 the EPF has delivered 16 projects to benefit the net zero ambition. These range from behaviour change projects to more direct emissions reduction projects.

The projects delivered in 2022 -23 were mainly fact finding, foundation projects whereas in 2023 -24 these have been mainly behaviour change engagement projects that have used the information from the previous year to formulate and plan for project delivery.

Two behaviour change projects will be part funded into 2024 -25 with the ambition that future financial input from Swansea Council will be minimum, with the funding being used to kick start annual events across Swansea and to run a pilot project with both universities to divert waste from landfill at the end of the summer term.

4. Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments

The tables below show efforts against both Swansea Council NZ2030 and Swansea 2050 streams of the 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' wellbeing objective for the 2023-24 period.

4.1 Wellbeing objective steps

Steps to achieving the Well-Being Objective	Mar 24	
	Assessment of Overall Progress	RAG
Collectively support the wider Swansea ambition, working alongside Climate Charter signatories, PSB, citizens, schools, businesses, community groups and environmental partners to help deliver the Welsh Government ambition of Net Zero Wales by 2050.	Schools on Sigma. Training delivered and more schools engaging with system than before. EPF has delivered 6 projects with 2 still being delivered and running into next financial year. Energy Awareness Hub continuing with SPF funding - on track with funding spend and deliverables. Signatories A&M project continuing with workshops due to be delivered in early summer and Strategy due for completion by Dec 24. Mapping completed and expected to go to PSB shortly. Working with some Early Years providers to help reduce energy consumption. Part of WG group for CC Adaptation.	Green
Net Zero Wales by 2050	.	
Develop a Swansea Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.	Consultants working on background requirements for workshops etc to be delivered by summer 24. All ongoing.	Green
Support delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project.	Land Transaction talks are progressing with Heads of Terms being reviewed in detail. UK Govt, Heat Networks Design Unit grant bid successful and this will fund a Detailed Project Development (DPD) report.	Green
Progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site.	Now linked in with the Swansea Energy and Transport Hub and Port Redevelopment Project.	Green
Aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements.	Ongoing project work across County. New GI enhancements underway e.g. Sandfields, High St, Townhill	Green
Support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.	Funding has been awarded for 2024/25	Green
Progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub.	Swansea Council discussions with Transport for Wales (TFW) are progressing.	Green
Work towards announcing new Active Travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity.	Funding has been awarded for 2024/25	Green

4.2 Wellbeing objective success measures

Success Measures	Mar 24	
	Assessment of Overall Progress	RAG
Reported to Welsh Government on Swansea Council 2022-23 emissions.	Report successfully submitted to WG for 22/23. Final summary received for review internally.	Green
Progressed phase 2 of the public buildings retrofit programme.	FPR7 Report to be submitted to Cabinet for approval to proceed with the energy efficiency and renewable projects detailed in the High Level Assessment reports; including approval to finance projects by Welsh Government Funding Programme, managed by Salix Finance.	Green
Delivered a second year of projects with our environmental partner.	Project slow to come in during last financial year but some successful projects were delivered and completed with 2 being delivered across the 23/24 and 24/25 financial years. Some projects already lined up for 24/25.	Green
Agreed a development model and progressed with the Tir John solar farm development.	Swansea Council Planning Committee approved planning permission (6th Jun 23). Now linked in with the Swansea Energy and Transport Hub and Port Redevelopment Project.	Green
Agree and announce progress on the Blue Eden project with our development partner.	Further announcements will be made at key stages of progression.	Green
Built strong collaborative working relationships with climate charter signatories on the 2050 Swansea agenda.	Climate Signatories continuing with A&M as above. Work also looking at the 9 areas for Net Zero Wales and what projects could be run and who to potentially bring on board to assist. Commitment/time of Signatory members an issue.	Green
Begun to implement our ULEV Transition Strategy 2021-2030, with over 150 ULEV vehicles and fleet charge points.	117 ULEV vehicles deployed in fleet of approximately 950. 110 charge points installed for fleet vehicle use. reviews of ULEV Transition Strategy, Home to Work arrangements and fleet utilisation to be undertaken in 2024. Significant overall financial barriers to ULEV transition remain. Fleet renewals will continue to seek green fleet viable options	Amber
Continue with the LED street lighting installation programme.	2,890 LEDs fitted in 23/24, 3.4% reduction in CO ² emissions compared to 22/23. CO ² reductions would have been higher but the government determined emissions factor used in the calculation of CO ² emissions has increased for the first time since 2014-15.	Green
Produced a series of Climate Change and Nature Recovery e-training modules.	201 staff completed training in 2023/24. Need to do another drive for staff to complete the course.	Green

4.3 Wellbeing objective performance measures 2023-24

2023-24	KPI measure	KPI actual
CCNR1	Numbers of trees planted during the year across the council.	350
CCNR2	The increase in number of council locations with renewable energy sources.	40
CCNR3	Number of Members and officers that have completed Climate Change and Nature Recovery Training.	201
CCNR4	Number of projects delivered through the Environmental Partners Framework to support ambition of Swansea Net Zero 2050.	4
CCNR5	Percentage of the Council fleet which are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs).	12%
WMT009b	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated.	70.82%

5. Battery Recycling

Household batteries include the following: car batteries, disposable household batteries, battery operated small electrics (e.g. power tools, toothbrushes) etc. These batteries are collected by a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) who are responsible for the targeted recovery and recycling of household electrical items sold by producers in the UK.

There are no recovery targets for non-household electrical items, including commercial batteries. This means that the Council would need to seek outlets if it was required to dispose of non-household batteries.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Whilst Swansea Council is 'on its way', both the net zero 2030 and 2050 work is currently proving a challenge with the NZ2030 target being raised as a RED risk corporately. This is in light of concerns over resources, technological advancement, skills, supply chain, and inability in some areas of the council to fully commit to the agenda in some areas due to conflicting pressures and funding.

Continued consideration needs to be given to embedding climate change and nature recovery impacts into all council wide activity, reporting and governance.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

8. Finance Implications

- 8.1 It remains unclear whether any substantial financial assistance will be forthcoming from Welsh or UK governments to meet all or any of the costs given this Council, like all others, face a plethora of other legal obligations and a stark outlook in real terms for public finances for the foreseeable future of the decade.

- 8.2 No significant future budgets have been provided for any indicative costs to date to be met by the Council. This reflects the explicit presumption that the Council will not be expected to fund costs out of core spending, but that alternative external sources of finance will be provided by national governments. However, consideration should be given to spend to save initiatives, for example future phases of the ReFit programme.

8.3 As has been previously reported, Cabinet and Council will have to have due regard to this in all future budget setting and MTFP decision rounds.

9. Integrated Assessment Implications

9.1 This report is for information only and an IIA is not therefore required.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Welsh Government Swansea Council Emissions report 2022-23

Appendix 2: Swansea Council Internal Audit Report March 2023

Appendix 3 – CC&NR STC report Dec 2023 – Net Zero 2050 Update [Report - Corporate Template \(swansea.gov.uk\)](#)



Gwasanaeth Ynni
Energy Service

Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting (2022/23)

Swansea Council

Cyngor Abertawe

Local Authority



Introduction and Context

This report summarises the 2023 carbon footprint for **Swansea Council**. The footprint has been compiled based on the data submitted to Welsh Government for the purpose of tracking Welsh public sector carbon emissions.

Carbon emissions are calculated based on the guidance provided in Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Guide and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This covers the main sources of emissions from Welsh Public Bodies which includes buildings, fleet, business travel, commuting, homeworking, waste streams, land use and removals and supply chain. Other sources are included for some organisations where these are relevant: streetlighting, agriculture, and other gases (medical gases and refrigerants). Lastly it covers reporting of renewable energy procured and generated.

The standard approach to calculating carbon emissions is to multiply units of 'activity' data by an emission factor (EF). Activity data refers to a measure of the amount of the action that produces emissions. This can be tonnes of fuel used, kilometres travelled, kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity consumed etc. Emission factors describe the amount of carbon emissions produced from one unit of an activity.

Some emission sources are straight forward to assess, such as those associated with fuel used in buildings and fleet. Other sources that involve significant uncertainties are more difficult to address. These more challenging emission sources often utilise proxy approaches to make estimates. A key source which introduces a high level of uncertainty is supply chain-based emissions. Commuting and home working-based emissions also rely on high level estimates or survey data.

The scope of reporting and methods taken were updated for 2023. The resulting datasets are not well suited for comparison between years in aggregate. Building related emission estimates are largely comparable between years however (due to the year-on-year consistency in source data and methods). Given the nature of operations and emissions sources for **Swansea Council** and across Welsh Public Bodies, any direct comparisons are to be avoided. Where possible however, average emissions for the public sector and average emissions for Local Authority organisations are provided.

This individual report supplements the main report which summarises the entire carbon footprint for all Welsh Public Sector bodies. The two reports should be read in conjunction for a full understanding of the emissions landscape and progress towards targets.





Disclaimer

This report presents data that has been submitted through the 2023 Net Zero Reporting process. If data hasn't been submitted against a particular emissions source, then it will not appear in this report. All emissions data is presented in ktCO₂e. Some values may not appear if they are below a certain threshold. This report also provides percentage change in emissions against previous years. Where data has been submitted for one year but not another, this may result in an error, or blank or null values being shown within the body of the text.

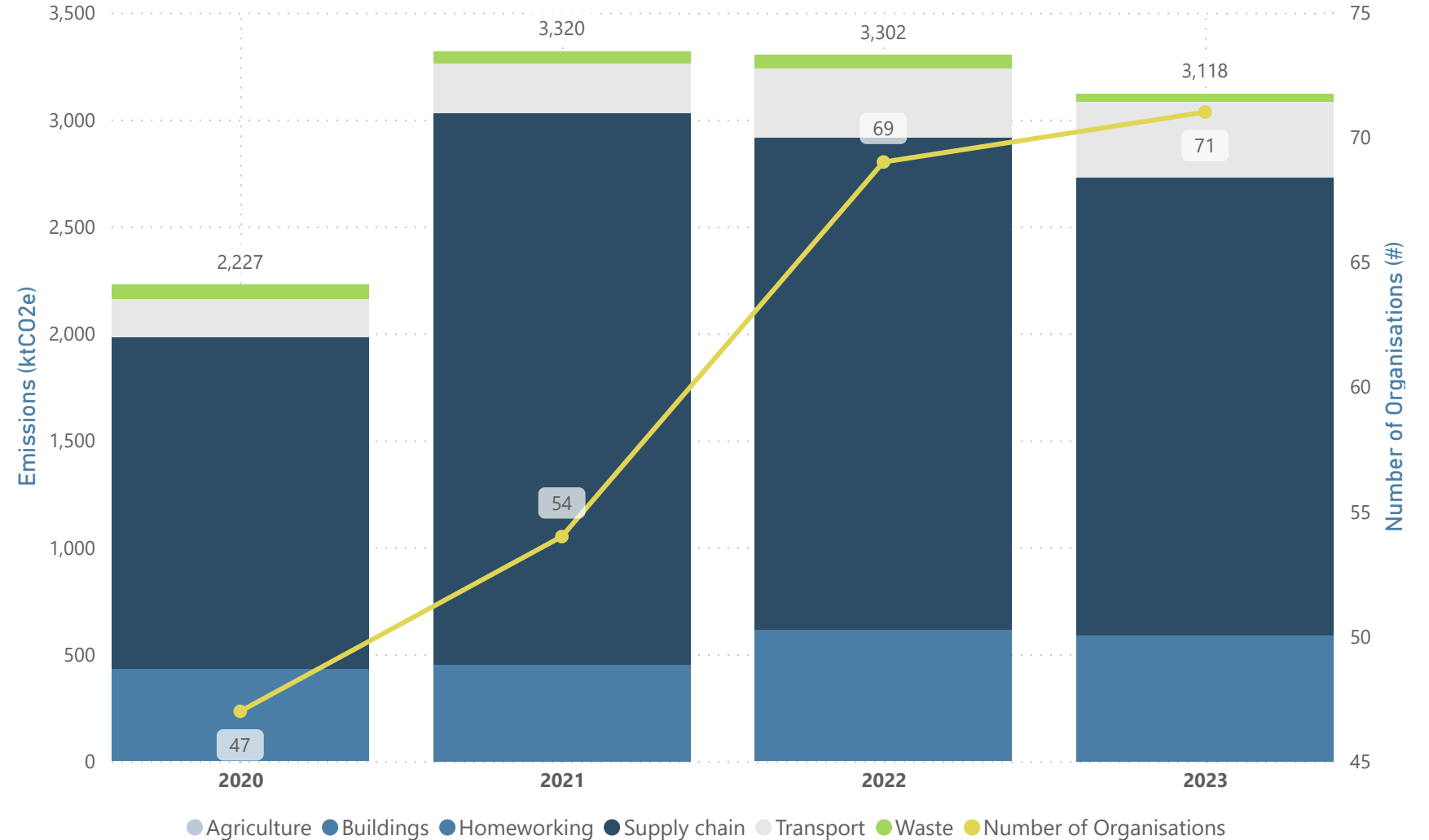
Emissions summary 2023

This page details an overview of the entire Welsh public sector emissions for the most recent reporting year (2023), and previous reporting rounds.

This reporting year saw the highest number of public sector bodies submit emissions data returns, totalling seventy-one organisations.

The chart (right) shows the total emissions for the entire Welsh public sector, broken down by emissions categories. Included is the number of organisations that submitted emission reports each year (yellow).

Excluded from this chart are emissions associated with land. These are explored further in this document and within the main report.



Emissions summary 2023

Swansea Council

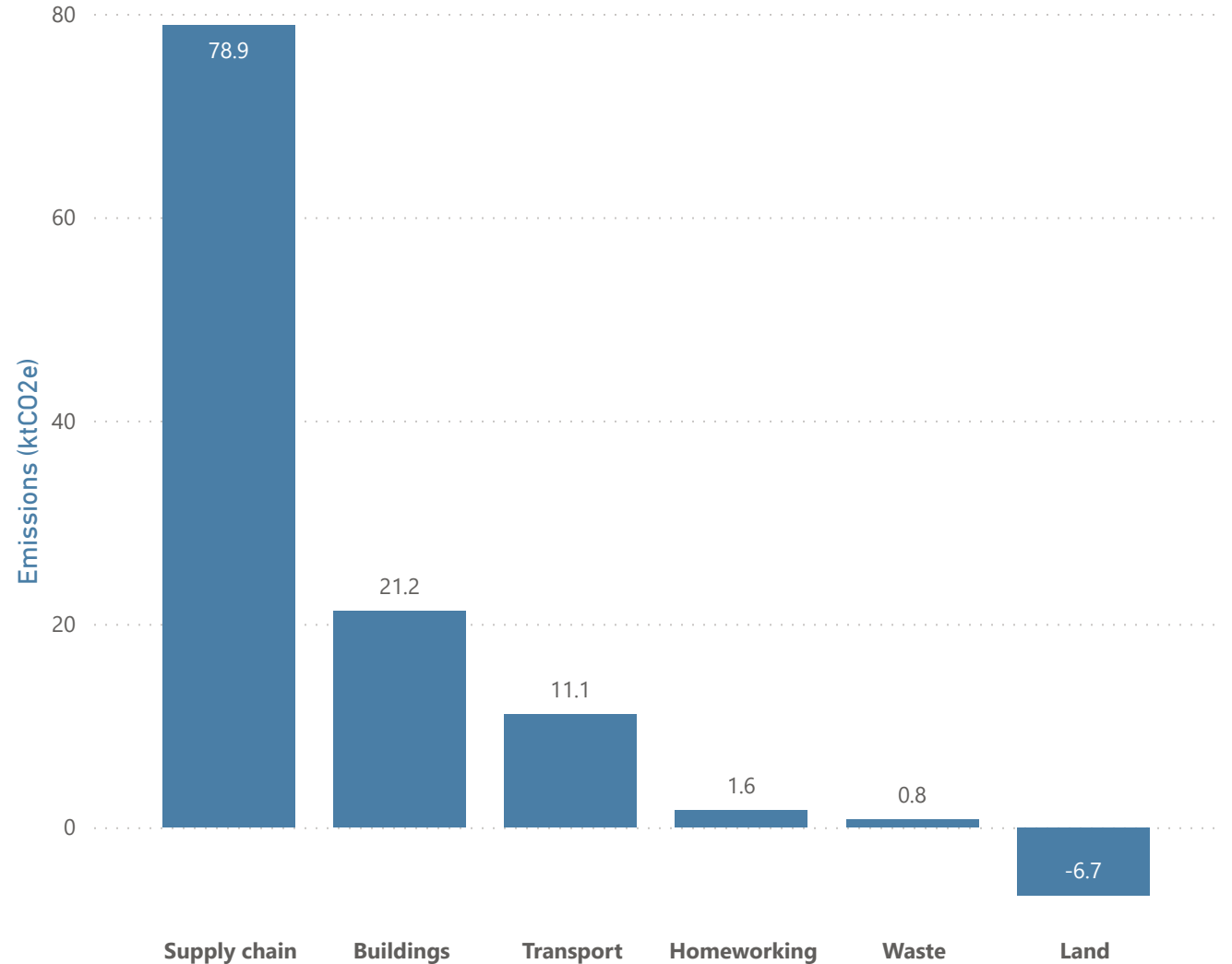
This page details a summary of the 2023 carbon footprint for [Swansea Council](#). The total carbon footprint for 2023 was estimated to be **106.9 ktCO₂e**.

The chart (right) breaks down the 2023 emissions by emissions category.

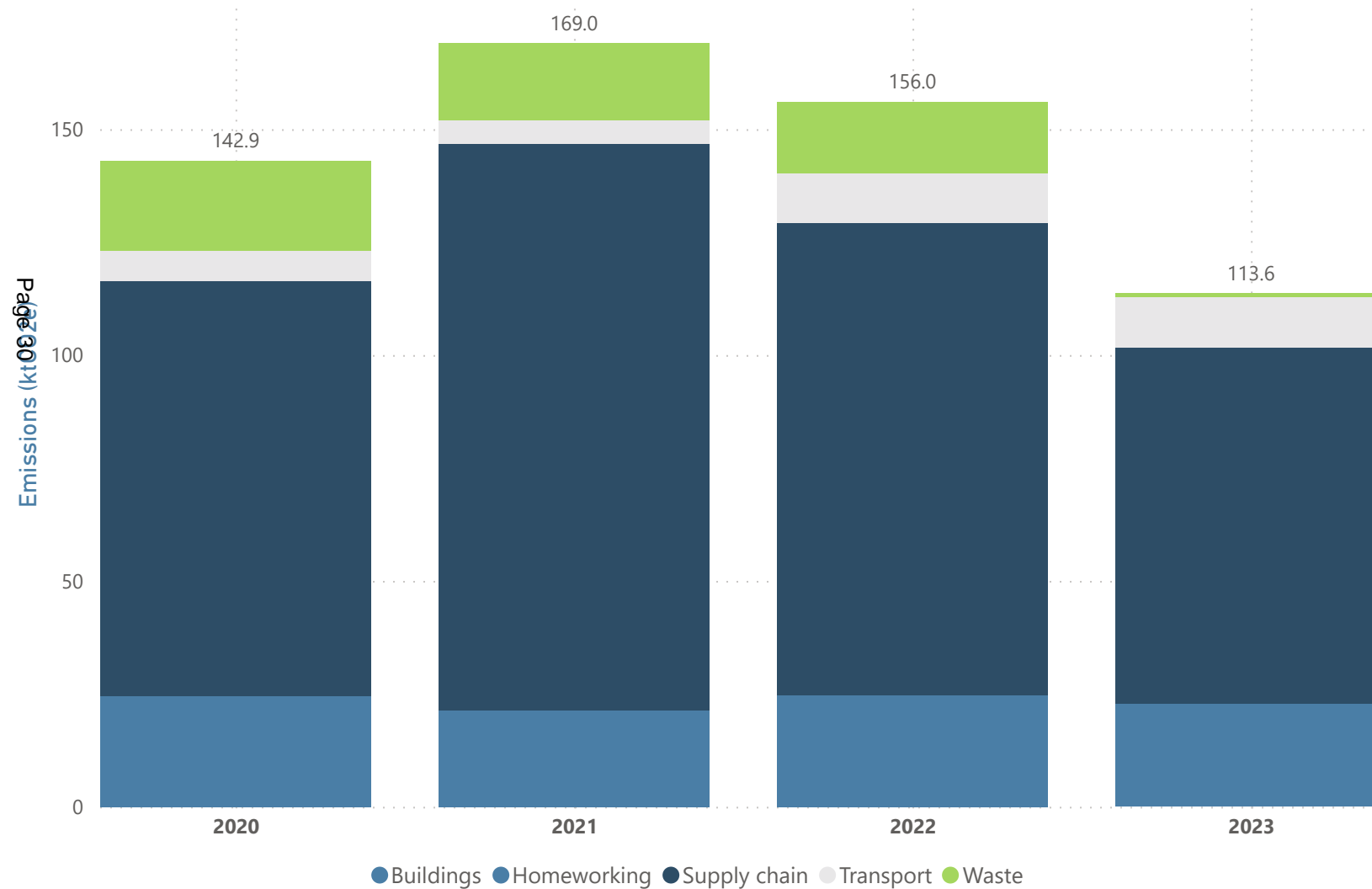
The table (below) highlights the total emissions for [Swansea Council](#) for 2023 showing 'including land' and 'excluding land' emissions. These can be reviewed alongside the average total emissions across all [Local Authority](#) organisations, and the average total emissions across all Public Sector Bodies.

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	Emissions excl. land (ktCO ₂ e)	Emissions incl. land (ktCO ₂ e)
Swansea Council	113.6	106.9
Local Authority	62.5	62.2
Public Sector Average	43.9	38.1



Year on year changes



This chart (left) shows the change in total emissions from the first reporting year to present for Swansea Council. The totals for each year are shown as a stacked bar. The values on the chart show the footprint for each year in ktCO₂e of each year. Land emissions are excluded (presented in another section).

Since the previous reporting year, the total footprint (excl. land) has changed by -27.2 %. This represents an absolute emissions change of -42.3 ktCO₂e.

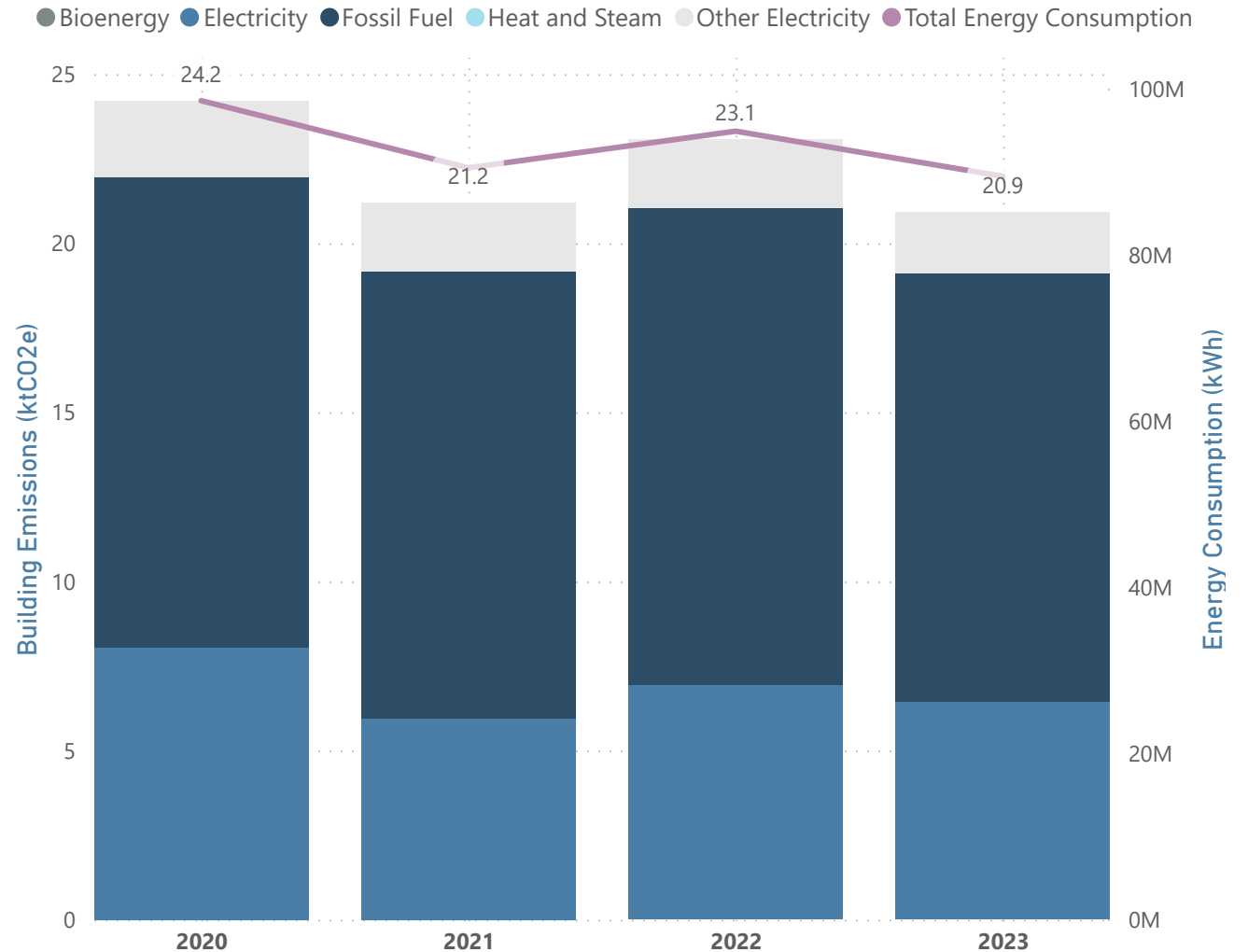
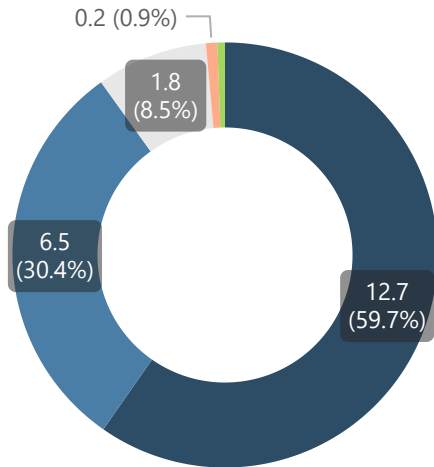
Building emissions

Building related emissions totalled 21.2 ktCO₂e in 2023. This represents a -8.5 % change from the previous reporting year. There are two charts on this page:

- **Below** - This shows the breakdown of building related emissions for 2023 only; it shows all emissions sources (incl. water supply and treatment). The data labels show the total emission from each source and the associated building emissions proportion (%).
- **Right** - This shows the emissions associated with energy consumption (only) within buildings. This is shown as a stacked bar chart over time. Each area within the stack represents a different emissions source from energy consumption. The total emissions from building energy consumption are shown in the data labels at the top of each stack. Included is the total energy consumption from those sources, represented as a line (related to the axis on the right).

Page 31

- Fossil Fuel
- Electricity
- Other Electricity
- Other Gases
- Water



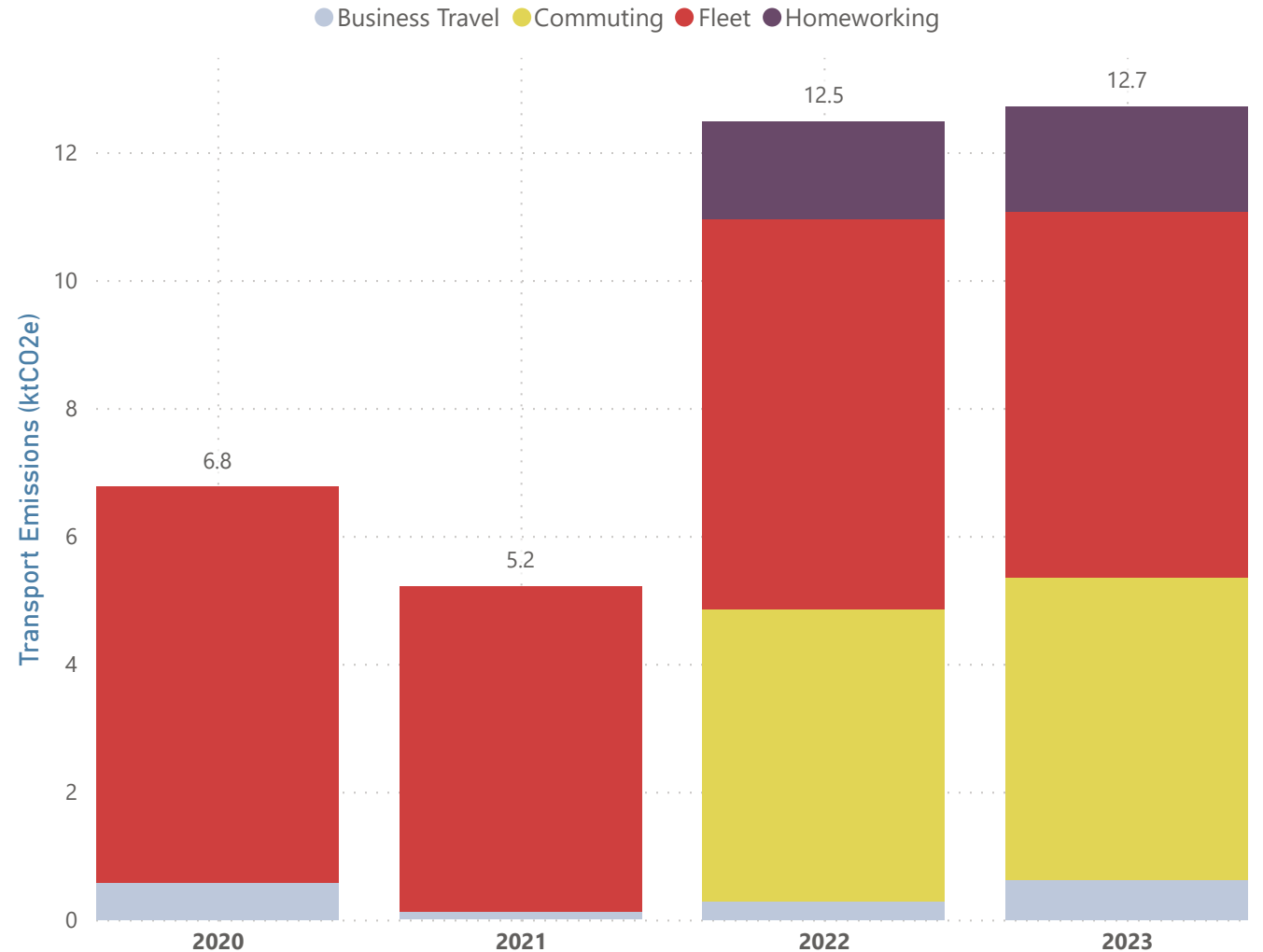
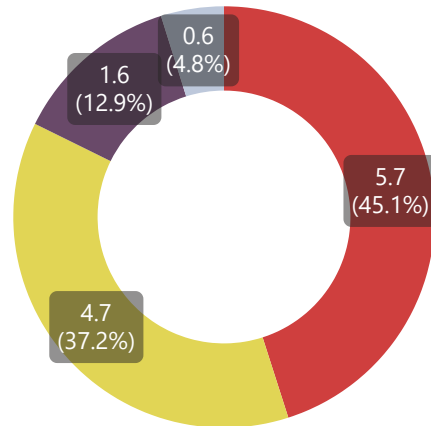
Transport emissions

Transport related emissions totalled 12.72 ktCO₂e in 2023. This represents a 1.9 % change from the previous reporting year. Homeworking has been included within transport given its interaction with commuting. There are two charts on this page:

- **Below** - This shows the breakdown of building related emissions for 2023 only. The data labels show the total emission from each emissions source and the associated proportion of transport emissions (%).
- **Right** - This shows the emissions as a stacked chart over time. Each area within the stack represents a different emissions source. The total emissions from transport related sources are shown in the data labels at the top of each stack.

Page 32

- Fleet
- Commuting
- Homeworking
- Business Travel

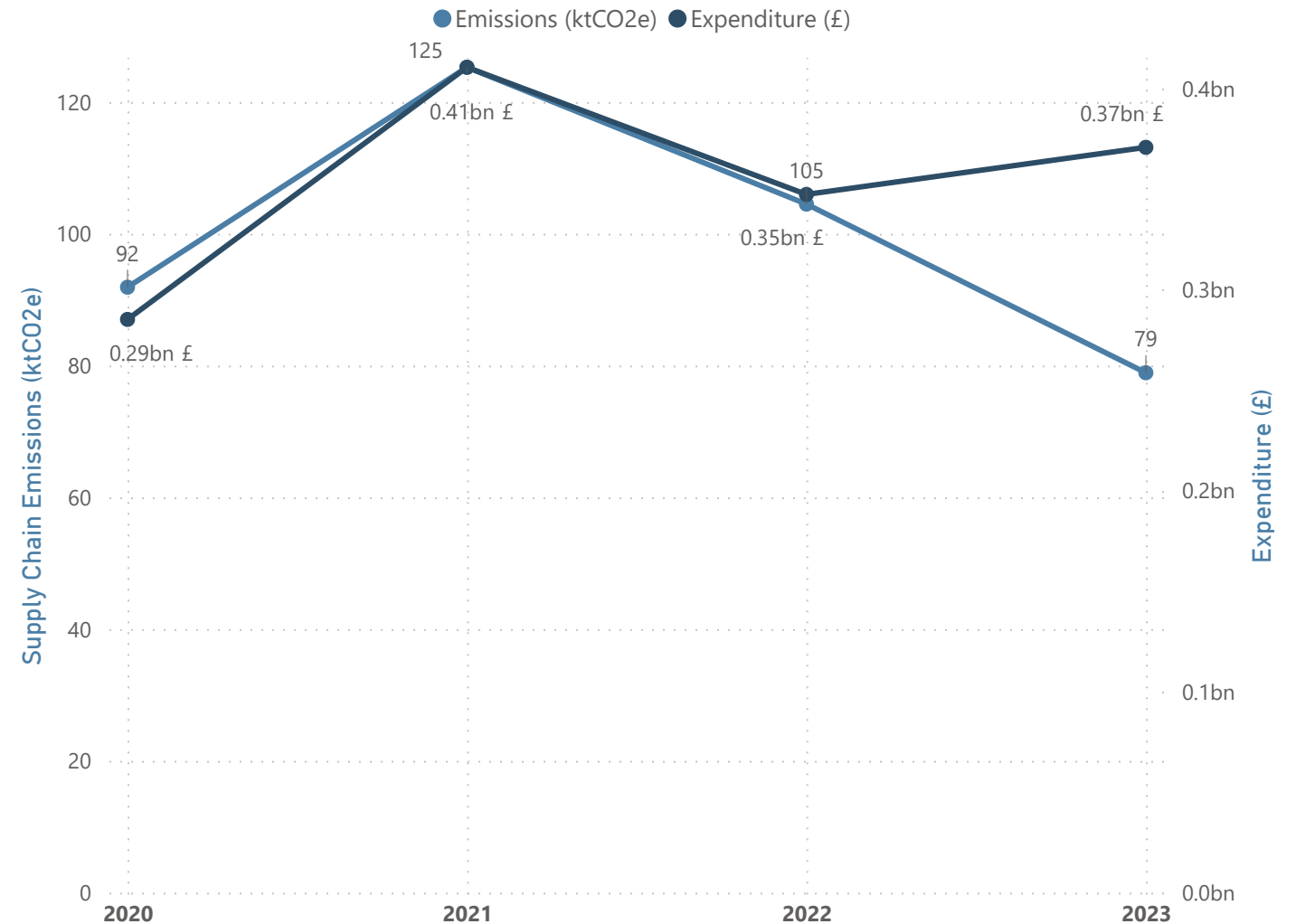


Supply chain emissions

This page summarises emissions from activities related to Swansea Council's supply chain. Supply chain emissions are calculated using a spend-based approach. Total spend related to a particular good or service category are matched with a spend-based emission factor.

The spend-based emissions factors are produced by [Defra](#). They were updated in 2022 to include emissions factors up to 2019. The most recent reporting year uses the 2019 factors. Previous reporting rounds all used the same set of (2011) factors. The new factors have decreased by 15% on average across all goods and service categories.

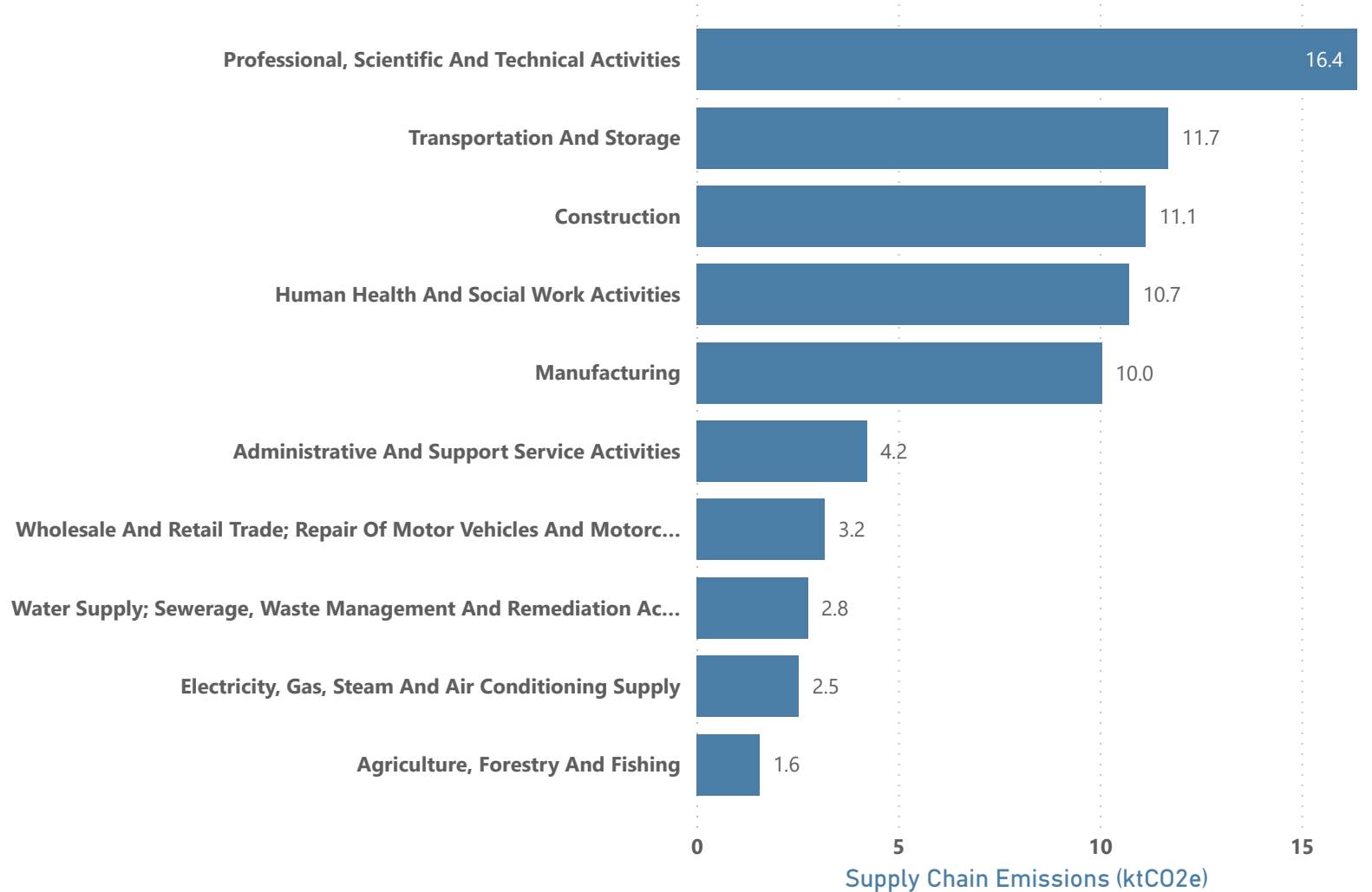
The chart (right) shows the total spend (£) for [Swansea Council](#), and the associated total emissions (ktCO₂e). Total emissions for 2023 are estimated to be [78.9](#) ktCO₂e. Emissions have changed by [-24.5 %](#) between 2023 and the previous reporting year. Over this same period total spend has changed by [6.7 %](#).



Supply chain hotspots

This page summarises Swansea Council's supply chain hotspots. The chart (right) gives the top 10 highest emitting categories (only). In total, Swansea Council submitted spend data against 74 categories.

The top 10 emitting categories accounted for 74.2 ktCO₂e equivalent to 94.1 % of Swansea Council's supply chain footprint.



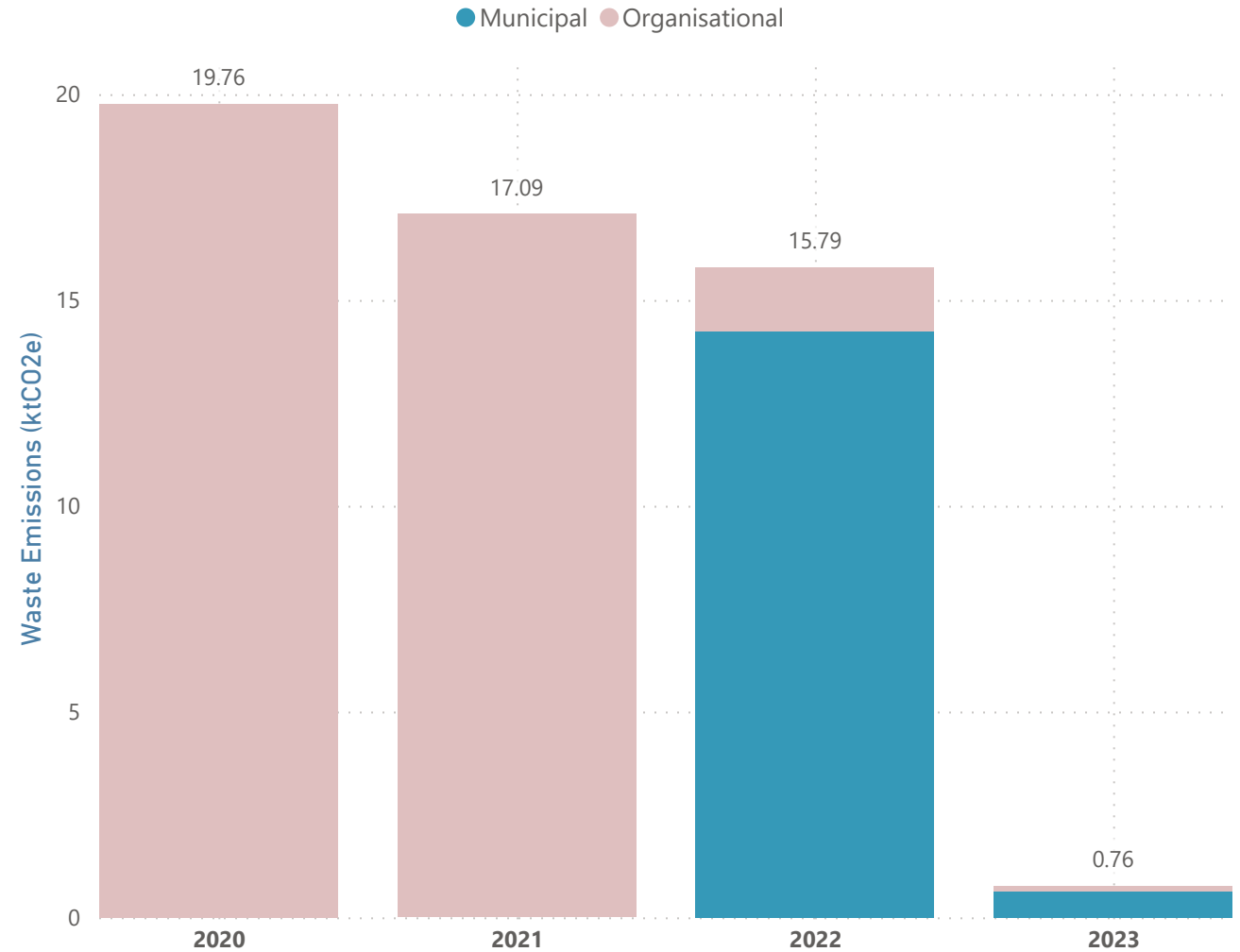
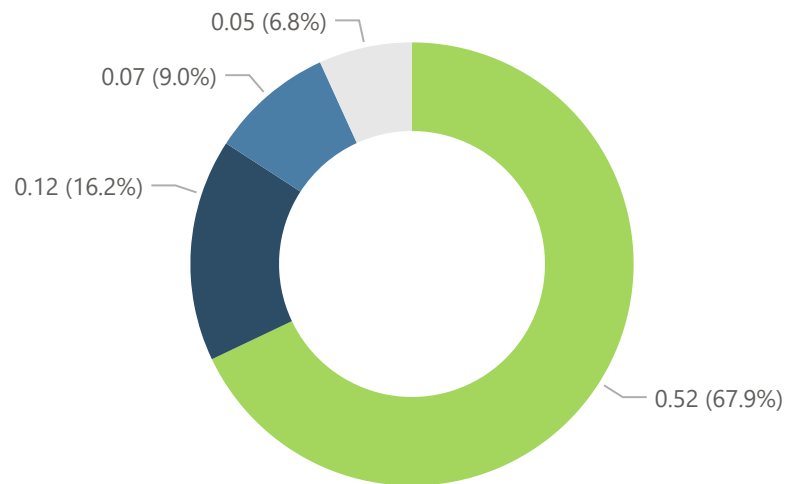
Waste emissions

Waste related emissions totalled 0.76 ktCO₂e in 2023. This represents a -95.2 % change from the previous reporting year. There are two charts on this page:

- **Below** - This shows the treatment type of all the waste generated by Swansea Council. The data labels provide the emissions associated with each type of treatment in ktCO₂e and the proportion of the total waste emissions (%).
- **Right** - This shows the annual change of emissions arising from treatment of waste and the breakdown by waste category (municipal, project, organisational) represented by the different coloured areas of the stack. The data labels present the total waste emissions for each year at the top of each stack.

Page 35

- Recycling
- Combustion
- Anaerobic digestion
- Composting

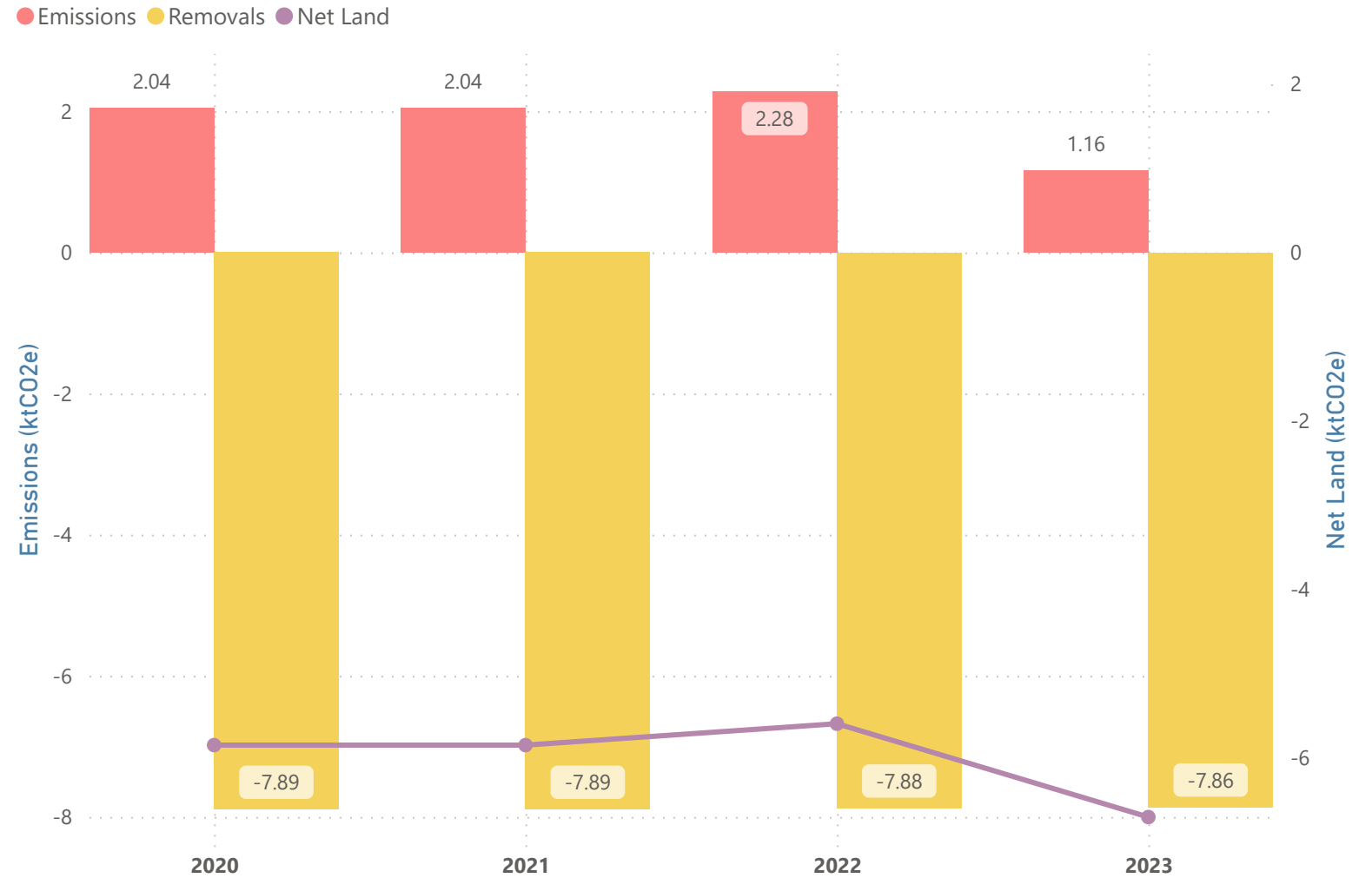


Land emissions

This page summarises emissions associated with land use change. Within this category, emissions are treated as generated (Emissions) or Removals. This is dependent on the land use change data that was submitted. These emissions have not been reported in the organisation or Public Sector totals unless specified. This is to avoid total values being skewed by organisations with significant land holdings, and the nature of the methods used.

Land related emissions totalled -6.70 ktCO₂e for Swansea Council in 2023.

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Renewables

Beyond emissions reporting, the purchase and generation of renewable energy has been captured (both heat and electricity). Shown here are only the energy values (kWh), no emissions values are shown. Emissions for electricity are currently calculated using a grid average factor regardless of the purchasing mechanism.

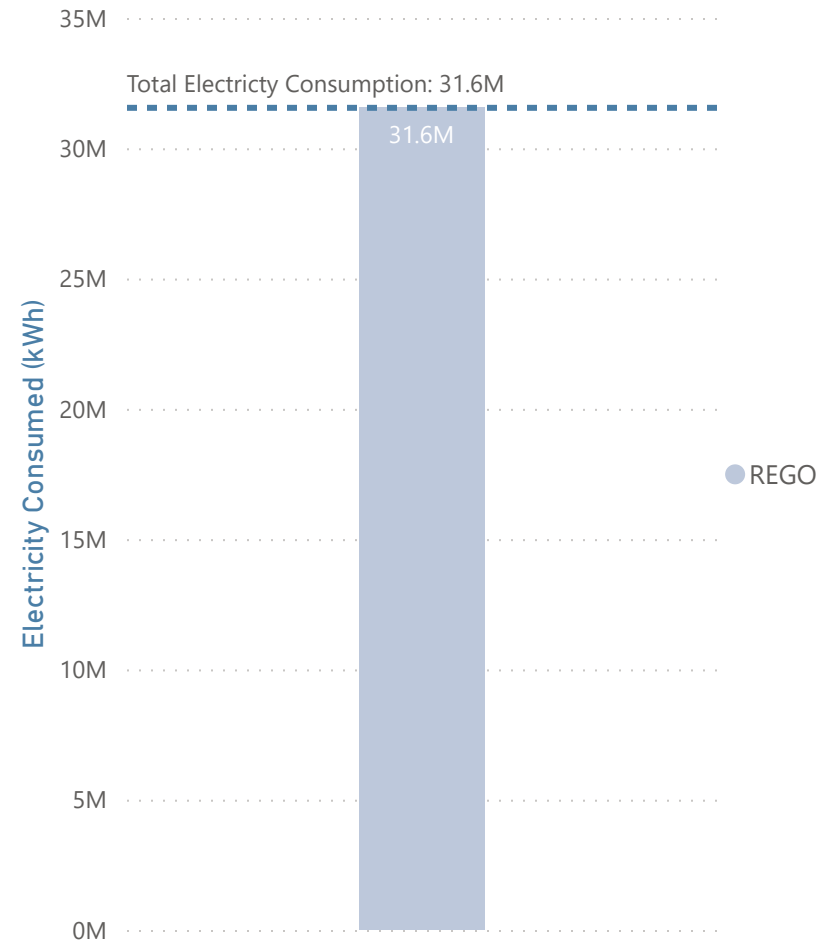
This page shows two charts:

Left - shows the proportion of renewable energy purchased by Swansea Council in 2023 broken down by purchasing mechanism as bars, a dashed line shows the total electricity consumed.

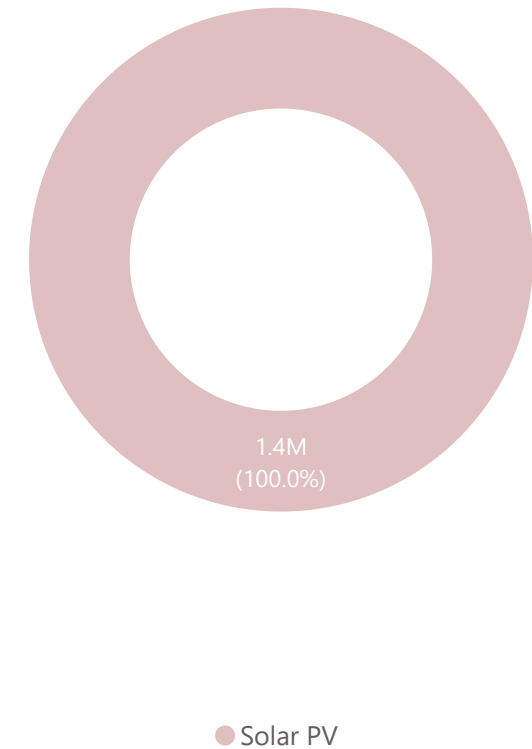
Right - shows the proportion of renewable energy generated by Swansea Council in 2023 broken down by technology.

The treatment of renewable energy is currently undergoing a review to understand how reporting can better align procurement and generation with evolving best practice.

Consumption (kWh)



Generation (kWh)





Gwasanaeth Ynni Energy Service

The Welsh Government Energy Service (“**WGES**”) is funded by the Welsh Government with the aim of developing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that contribute to public sector decarbonisation and national energy targets. The WGES is delivered by the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust and Local Partnerships (the “**Delivery Partners**”). This report (the “**Report**”) has been produced by the Delivery Partners and, whilst the views expressed in it are given in good faith based on information available at the date of this Report:- (i) these views do not necessarily reflect the views of the Welsh Government, which accepts no liability for any statement or opinion expressed in the Report; (ii) the Report is intended to provide general guidance only, rather than financial, legal or technical advice for the purposes of any particular project or other matter, and no-one in receipt of the Report should place any reliance on it in substitution for obtaining their own advice from an appropriate third party advisor; and (iii) any person in receipt of this Report should therefore obtain their own financial, legal, technical and/or other relevant professional advice insofar as they require specific guidance on what action (if any) to take, or refrain from taking, in respect of any project, initiative, proposal, involvement with any partnership or other matter to which information contained in the Report may be relevant; and (iv) the Delivery Partners accept no liability in respect of the Report, or for any statement in the Report and/or any error or omission relating to the Report.

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LinkedIn	Welsh Government Energy Service

Final Internal Audit Briefing Note

Head of Property Services

Net Zero 2030

1. Background

- 1.1 An internal audit review of the governance arrangements in place for the Council's objective of becoming a "Net Zero" Council by 2030 has been undertaken.
- 1.2 It was established that a climate change emergency was declared by Swansea Council in June 2019, and to demonstrate the Council's commitment to a Net Zero Swansea, a Swansea Council Charter on Climate Change was approved at Council on 3 December 2020.
- 1.3 The Charter sets out the Council's commitment to work towards becoming a Net Zero organisation by:
 - Committing to work towards a Net Zero carbon as an organisation by 2030.
 - Taking actions to meet the challenge of a climate emergency.
 - Working collaboratively with partners to develop a strategy.
 - Involving stakeholders including children and young people in a trust building dialogue.
- 1.4 The Council aims to lead by example and challenge citizens, businesses and partner organisations to make their own commitments in the form of a wider Swansea Charter on Climate Change.

2. Governance Arrangements

- 2.1 We were informed that the Council's internal governance structure involves comprehensive monitoring processes, and it was evident that much has already been achieved including:
 - The Council making nature recovery a Wellbeing objective in its Corporate Plan for 2020-2022.
 - Supporting the delivery of the 'Working with Nature' objective in the Swansea Public Services Board Well-being Plan.
 - The creation of a Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board and a Climate Change and Nature Recovery Steering Group.
 - Two training modules on the topic of Climate Change & Nature Recovery have been created for Council staff to complete on the Fusion database.
 - A Strategy, Action Plan and targets were approved by Cabinet in December 2022.
 - Reductions in emissions are being achieved and reported annually to Welsh Government.

- 2.2 It was clear that whilst the Council is making progress to becoming Net Zero by 2030, the ambition is extremely challenging.
- 2.3 There is no specific budget allocated to this ambition in the Medium-Term Financial Plan and efforts have been made to secure alternative funding.
- 2.4 While progress has been made, officers within the Place Directorate have identified a significant risk. The ambition of being a Net Zero council by 2030 is unlikely to be achieved as there are concerns over funding available, skills within the workforce, the supply chain for the products required, and a lack of true 'buy in' to the agenda in some parts of the Council.
- 2.5 As a result, Net Zero 2030 has been recorded as a Risk in Corporate Risk Register, with a Red/Amber/Green status of Red and it was confirmed that the Risk is being updated on a monthly basis as required.
- 2.6 A report was presented to CMT/Cabinet Awayday on 25 January 2024 outlining the progress made to date in reducing the Council's emissions and the challenges that remain. Updates are also being provided to the Transformation Delivery Board as Net Zero 2030 is one of the 12 programmes included in the Council's Transformation Programme Plan.
- 2.7 A Service Transformation Committee reviews the Council's policy commitments regarding Climate Change and Nature Recovery. A report on the progress made towards Net Zero by 2050 was reviewed by the Committee in December 2023 but the work programme for 2023/24 did not review Swansea Council becoming a Net Zero council by 2030.
- 2.8 Progress in achieving Net Zero 2030 has been reported to Cabinet annually since 2020. It was noted though that an update report prepared for Corporate Briefing in March 2024 has not yet been presented.
- 2.9 An update on Swansea Council Net Zero 2030 was provided to the Climate Change Scrutiny Performance Panel in May 2023 and a further review is due in May/June 2024.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 From the audit review carried out, it was found that the Council's progress in achieving its objective of being Net Zero by 2030 was being monitored at or by the following forums:
- Climate Change Steering Group
 - Climate Change & Nature Recovery Programme Board
 - Transformation Delivery Board
 - Scrutiny Performance Panel
 - CMT/Cabinet Awayday.

- 3.2 As a result, it has been deemed that adequate governance arrangements are in place. However, it is recommended that the latest progress report prepared in March 2024 is presented to Corporate Briefing and Cabinet at the earliest opportunity and that in accordance with the previous year's 2020-22 that progress reports are presented to Corporate Briefing/Cabinet following the annual Carbon emissions reporting to Welsh Government.
- 3.3 This audit was conducted in conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.



Report of the Director of Place

Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee –
11 December 2023

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

Purpose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For information, to update on progress and set out a delivery plan for net zero 2050.2. To present Swansea Council activity on the 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' Engagement Plan
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan – delivering on nature recovery and climate change wellbeing objective. To sit alongside the Climate Change and Nature Strategy 2022-2030.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Report Author:	Jane Richmond
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Kieran O'Carroll
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 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 is the strategy and plan to deliver net zero for its own operations by 2030.
- 1.2 Swansea Council is 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 recognises that it cannot accomplish net zero for Swansea as a county on its own and that it

needs to work in partnership with others to enable the best possible outcomes.

- 1.3 It is anticipated that Swansea Council will be required by Welsh Government to report on the progress it is making towards NZ 2050 in future in a similar way to the reporting it does for NZ 2030. There are nine key headings under the current Carbon Budget 2 for 2050:
- Electricity and Heat Generation
 - Transport
 - Residential Buildings
 - Industry and Business
 - Agriculture
 - Waste and Circular Economy
 - Education and Engagement
 - Enriching our Natural Resources
 - Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

It is the activity for the wider Swansea city and county net zero 2050 and creating the carbon literate workforce that will be required to enable delivery across all sectors of Swansea Council work, that's covered in this report.

- 1.4 The following plan recognises the need for a climate literate and engaged workforce to help deliver the 2030 and 2050 targets and sets out the partnerships and the projects that are anticipated to be the main vehicles by which the Net Zero 2050 (NZ 2050) agenda across Swansea will be delivered.

2. Swansea Council Activity for Net Zero 2050. Appendix A - Climate Change Delivery Plan Update 2022-23

- 2.1 Swansea Council is already working collaboratively on the NZ 2050 agenda through regional and local projects on energy, including solar farms, the tidal lagoon project and the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

Work on local food security for the future has also started with three Environmental Partner Framework (EPF) projects commissioned in 2022/23 to determine the state of play with agriculture within Swansea, look at the local food partnerships that exists and their particular focus, as well as research in the supply chains of some of the larger suppliers to Swansea such as Castell Howell and how they are preparing for some of the impacts of climate change. This work is on-going.

The council has also majority funded an Energy Awareness Hub to advise the people of Swansea on energy bill payments in light of the continued energy crisis and related fuel poverty experienced by many. It also provides advice on the reduction of energy consumption through behaviour change and invest to save opportunities for homeowners. Swansea Council has recently been successful in being awarded Shared prosperity funding to enable the continuation of this service until March

2025. Work is also continuing on improvements to social housing stock and corporate buildings to reduce energy consumption and decarbonise. This includes upgrading insulation and boilers, installation of renewable technologies and building new homes to The Swansea Standard as well as enabling Housing Assistance Payments (HAPS) for the neediest across the rented sector.

A project to assist Landlords regarding the new Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) regulations that were planned to be coming into force in 2025 has also been underway. This legislation has recently been put on hold by the present UK Government but the decision to continue with the project has been made and will now extend to tenants and homeowners. Officers working with Rent Smart Wales and Letting Agents are working with council officers designing an online tool to help landlords with advice on what they can do to improve their EPC rating on a property and what financial help they may be able to apply for. This will then be modified for tenants and homeowners.

- 2.2 Other regional and local projects on transport are also being undertaken with the development planning for a Swansea Metro system, the development of a Regional Transport Plan and more active travel routes across the county. Related to this is air pollution. Air Quality Monitoring is done continuously across 5 sites around Swansea. Air quality can be in part attributed to transport routes and it is hoped that with a metro, as well as park and ride and a reliable and affordable public transport system and active travel routes, the emissions from cars will be reduced. The new Corporate Sustainable Transport Strategy came before this Committee in October 2023. This is set to come back to this Committee in January 2024 and then on to Cabinet for approval.
- 2.3 Activity related to creating a vibrant circular economy in Swansea has continued with Swansea Council supporting the Green Recovery Conference for local businesses in 2022 and again sponsoring the regional Green Economy Conference in 2023. Businesses have also received training on how to decarbonise their activities through the UK Government Community Renewal Fund with the writing and delivery of workshops called Towards Carbon Zero. These courses continue to be delivered and advice and small grants given out through the Shared Prosperity Fund. A framework was also developed through the Environmental Partners to give structure and recognition to the efforts of businesses in Swansea in decarbonising and funding is being sought to enable this to be delivered and made available across the county.

It is recognised that to have a successful circular economy, the workforce has to have the skills to deliver. Officers have been working with partners, including Gower College Swansea to make training opportunities available to apprentices and tradespeople to be skilled in new technologies, such as the installation and maintenance of renewable technologies and assist local suppliers in being able to bid for work with the Council.

The Procurement Team have also introduced social values into the procurement process and work continues with local business through avenues such as the Swansea Food Partnership to create local markets for local produce.

The Waste Team continue to build on past successes with recycling rates and by starting “Tip Treasures” for household items that can be reused rather than recycled. The team also found funding for items to be made available on loan through a “Library of Things” and have passed the running of this on to a local B-Corp operating out of the city centre. Work has been carried out on making improvements to the receptacles households are supplied with for doorstep recycling. Improvements are planned with new bags and boxes for paper, card, tins and glass.

- 2.4 The Nature Recovery agenda is continuing with a recent report to Welsh Government on Biodiversity Section 6. The Local Nature Partnership, of which Swansea Council is a key member, have just drafted the Local Area Nature Recovery Action Plan.

A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Swansea city has been produced and another for the county is being drafted. Training opportunities have also been made available on how to install and maintain green walls and roofs. Some of the bus shelters around Swansea now have green roofs and it is considered to be an important tool in combatting the effects of climate change, enabling good heat regulation within buildings, and in increasing the biodiversity of areas in which they are installed.

The Local Development Plan is currently under review, and this will play an important part in shaping the wider Swansea community and the infrastructure requirements. This will feed into the planned Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Swansea, being commissioned by The Climate Change and Nature Action Signatories Group.

- 2.5 The key platforms Swansea Council will use to deliver on the NZ 2050 agenda across the wider Swansea community will be the Climate Change and Nature Action Signatories Group (Signatories Group), the Environmental Partner Framework (EPF) and The Local Nature Partnership (LNP).

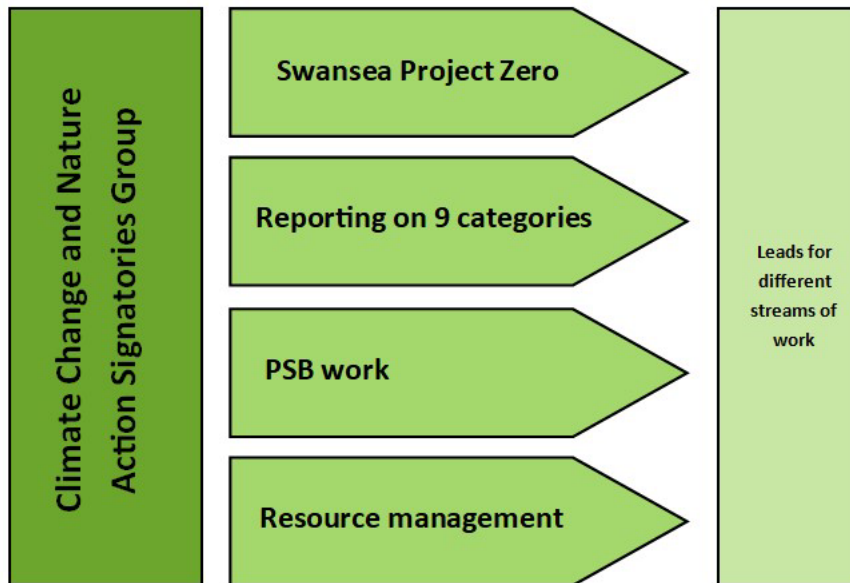


Fig.1. The Signatories Streams of Work at present.

- 2.6 The Signatories Group has recently taken on the work of the Public Services Board (PSB) Step 3 of the Swansea Well-being Plan *Working towards Swansea's net zero target and nature recovery, Climate Change and Nature Recovery*. There are two workstreams within the Well-being Plan for Climate Change and Nature Recovery. The first is to map the activity of different organisations (inc. the Signatories themselves) across Swansea so that a greater understanding of how and by what means each organisation is tackling climate and nature, be then able to identify gaps in provision and opportunities to learn and collaborate. The second is to produce a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Swansea.
- 2.6.1 The Signatories have started work on the above and have started compiling the information required for the mapping exercise and have recently won Shared Prosperity Funding to commission an independent Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Report for Swansea. A working group has been set up and is focusing on the scope for the project and getting this onto Sell 2 Wales by the end of November 2023. It is hoped that a contractor will be commissioned and ready to start by the end of January 2024 and a Strategy produced by December 2024 after workshops with stakeholders and fact-finding exercises have taken place.
- 2.7 A recent branding exercise undertaken with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) students and the Signatories Group means that all work Swansea Council and its partners engage in on this agenda will be under the banner of **Swansea Project Zero**.
- 2.8 The Environmental Partners Framework (EPF) is designed to commission projects for delivery in the community by key partners with the experience and knowledge to do so. The framework allows Swansea

Council to enable direct delivery without having to procure for each individual project. In 2022-23 8 successful projects were commissioned and delivered by the Partners. The majority of the projects were information gathering so that future engagement is well informed and targeted, especially to help reach those that do not normally engage with the Council or on the subject of climate change and nature. 2023-24 has already seen a couple of projects and others are in the pipeline. After the first-year lessons have been learned and the types of projects and how they are commissioned has evolved to try and ensure innovation and ensure the projects have a legacy and can be shown to contribute to either a behaviour change, nature positive or emissions reduction initiative. Another key priority for the EPF is to deliver projects that will have a positive impact on hard-to-reach communities. One project in 2023/24 is to plan a series of events for September 2024 within such communities and ensure a lasting legacy for a more resilient community.

3. Internal Delivery Plan for 2030 and 2050

- 3.1 To enable the best possible outcomes for Swansea Council in reaching NZ 2030 the communication across different service areas needs to improve to ensure sharing and celebration of progress, and an integration and rationalisation of resources. This is detailed in **Appendix B**, the Climate Change Communications Plan for 2023-27.
- 3.2 The use of the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board is essential for this. Different reporting methods have been tried as has different formats to meetings. Presently the use of “Highlight Reports” on a quarterly basis with meeting agendas concentrating on these at appropriate times is being instigated. There is a clear need for named officers to fill in these reports and to present at meetings to enable this avenue of communication to be successful.
- 3.3 Better communication and integration can also be achieved by the Communications Group with a clearer purpose and direction. This can be accomplished in the first instance by tasking the group with sharing and dissemination of information within the group and service areas as well as tasking them with assisting in the successful use of climate change related hashtags in social media posts and promotion of the e-learning for climate change and nature recovery.
- 3.4 Clearer webpages for the 2030 and 2050 agendas are being developed and this will continue. The need for relevant and up to date news items and offers could be integrated further with the use of the aforementioned hashtags as this will enable a more joined up approach. The Group has decided the work on a ‘Calendar of Actions and Inspiration’ for staff. This will either be a regular part of StaffNews or Martin’s Blog, but it is hoped that it will be part of a ‘pop up’ on screen when staff members login for work, very similar to the “Welsh word of the day” in previous years. This will use national and international events such as Earth Day to keep the

agenda in the minds of staff but will also give suggestions of actions to take to reduce carbon emissions and promote nature recovery. This will also be used to promote good news stories where staff have taken the initiative and made a difference.

- 3.5 In order to ensure the workforce is carbon literate and able to understand the way climate change and nature recovery affects Swansea as a place to live and work, now and in the future, two e-learning modules have been produced. It is planned that these will be the first in a suite of training that will enable staff to understand these issues and how they as council employees and citizens of Swansea can make a positive contribution to the net zero 2050 and nature recovery agendas. A KPI has been set to ensure as many staff as possible undertake the training. This will be monitored by the Strategic Climate Change Project Manager and reported on annually. By promoting the training through the Programme Board and Communications Group it is anticipated that there will be an increase in uptake. It has already been promoted through the Chief Executive's blog but a regular mention in StaffNet will also help, especially if this can be linked to incentives for staff. This will need further exploration to see if this can be achieved.
- 3.6 In addition to the training, a series of "Toolbox Talks" have been produced and others are planned. They can be accessed through the climate change pages on StaffNet and give practical advice on energy saving, wildlife gardening and water saving. Others are planned for the future to help continue the dialogue. These are produced in both English and Welsh and are designed to be short and to the point with practical steps that can make a difference.
- 3.7 Recently the Climate Change Project Manager and the Section 6 Biodiversity Officer have been running face-to-face sessions with different service areas. To date these have been delivered to the Local Area Coordinators and a section of Corporate Buildings Services. These sessions have received excellent feedback, and the intention is to continue to deliver these whenever requested.

4. External Delivery Plan for NZ 2050

- 4.1 The delivery of initiatives for NZ 2050 will mainly be through the Environmental Partner Framework (EPF) and the Climate Change and Nature Action Signatories Group as outlined in the Communications Plan 2023-27. The former is a 3-year framework that will come to an end in March 2025, when, a new framework is due to be procured and the latter will act as the strategic lead for Swansea in reaching net zero.
- 4.2 To deliver projects out in the community and to business the EPF was set up. During the first year of this new way of working 8 projects were delivered by the 3 partners. Much of the work was paving the way for delivery in the future and with the background intelligence gained from those 8 projects. In the second and third years of the framework the

emphasis will be on direct delivery to communities and businesses to help them become informed and resilient to the climate change already anticipated to happen, as well as decarbonise to help combat future climate change and help put nature into recovery. With the basic pot of money ring fenced by Swansea Council for the framework a minimum of 4 projects will be delivered in each of the remaining years of the agreement, with additional funding sought to enable others. Projects will be commissioned with a long-term view of sustainability or legacy passed to initial funding as with resources being tight and time to make the difference required for net zero, the move away from 'nice to do' is essential. This money and the way the framework has been set up is vital to enable projects to be delivered across Swansea and a new framework with ring fenced funding will be needed from March 2025 to assist Swansea in its journey to net zero and nature recovery.

- 4.3 An attractive and engaging website for external users is vital to be able to inform and update citizens and others as to what is happening within the council and around Swansea on climate change and nature recovery. Some changes have been made to the website with easy to follow 'tiles' to take a user on to find out more information. The work on the website is ongoing and further improvements need to be made to make it up to date and relevant. This can also be done by linking to other websites and the work being done by Welsh Government and the Signatories Group. The latter is to still commission a website, but this will be an important piece of work for the group to do.
- 4.4 The promotion of national and internal environment days will be a way of engaging different audiences. 4-6 principle days will be chosen from a yearly calendar to promote with any related local events promoted alongside or suggested actions to undertake to support the particular day principles e.g. if promoting Big Green Week a timetable of related local events could be posted or linked or if the promotion is for national beach clean day then there could be general encouragement to either engage with an organised event or go out and pick up litter as an individual or group and places to leave the bags for collection by council services.
- 4.5 The Climate Signatories Group will be the main vehicle for engagement on county wide climate change. As mentioned above, an engaging website will be essential to help get messages across. It would act as an online information hub, linking all activity relating to climate change and nature recovery in Swansea. This will also be a way of citizens and business engaging in a carbon monitoring tool. The statutory agencies that sit on the Signatories Group already have to report to Welsh Government and steps are being taken to link up what each member organisation is doing to decarbonise. The Welsh Government has recently launched Climate Action Wales, a website to inform citizens about climate change and actions they can take in their daily lives that can cut carbon. This does not currently have a carbon counter for community groups and SMEs to use, but this may develop over time. The Climate Action Wales website is linked from the Swansea Council

climate change web pages to highlight actions but if the Welsh Government does not plan to release a tool for communities and business to use, then this will be considered either through the Signatories Group or the framework as it would be an important piece of work, as being able to tangibly countdown to net zero with an eye-catching graphic will engage many more individuals, groups and businesses due to human innate competitiveness. Further conversations with Welsh Government about the Climate Action Wales will need to be had, to ascertain their future plans regarding this.

- 4.6 A project already undertaken with UWTSD to design the brand for the net zero campaign has resulted in the Swansea Project Zero brand and logo being designed. The launch of, and use of, the brand by the Signatories will help highlight the work being undertaken and create a critical mass of individuals, groups and businesses that are working towards net zero 2050, with a 'we are all working together' feel created by using the brand in specific ways. The promotion of the brand and how it will be used by the different members of the Signatories Group is still to be decided but all are in agreement that this will be the brand that will be used.



5. Delivery of NZ 2050 and Nature Recovery through PSB

- 5.1 The need for a coordinated approach is evident across Swansea. There are many groups and organisations working to try and make a difference but without coordination there is a risk of duplication which, considering tasks ahead and restricted resources this is something that should be avoided. The Signatories recently agreed to take on the work of the PSB to deliver on climate change and nature recovery. This in itself avoids duplication, as the Signatories have in effect become the working group for Step 3 of the Well-being Plan. The delivery plan for step 3 being aligned with the plans of the Signatories to map activity across Swansea and commission an Adaptation and Mitigation report for Swansea that

would then inform future engagement and assist members with planning both within their own organisations and across wider Swansea.

- 5.2 The Signatories Group was set up to be a delivery group on climate change and nature recovery but will also report on progress to PSB as per the requirement under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Further detail of this is contained within the Communications Plan (Appendix B).

6. Summary

- 6.1 The delivery plan for engagement for NZ 2050 is based on 3 main areas of work. This will 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 PSB.

- 6.2 The 3 areas of focus will 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.

7. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 7.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Equality Duty and the Socio-economic Duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, 2011 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.

- 7.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.
- 7.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 7.2 This report is for information only and therefore an IIA screening form is not required.
- 7.2.1 As individual projects come to fruition, individual IIA reports will be done.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

- Appendix A Climate Change Delivery Plan Update 2022-23
Appendix B Communications Plan for Climate Change 23-27

Appendix A: NZ2050 -Delivery Plan Update 2022-23 Swansea 2050

Electricity & Heat Generation	Transport	Residential Buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue supporting Blue Eden - Energy Hub and Tidal Lagoon - battery farm, floating solar, oceanic & climate change centre, floating homes. Develop Energy Parks e.g. Tir John Solar Farm Support delivery of Regional Energy Plan Support delivery of Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated and affordable public transport system Safe active travel networks across the county to recognise work and leisure hubs Work underway to develop a regional transport plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More EV charging points Residents aware of and able to access advice and funding for home improvements to cut carbon emissions More Homes built to Swansea Standard Decarbonisation of Housing Stock Continue to finance the Energy Awareness Hub through SPF Aim for 30% of (non –residential) Council buildings with wildlife features
Industry & Business	Agriculture	Waste & Circular Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towards Carbon Zero training developed and delivered to businesses to aid decarbonisation with partners. Grants for SMEs to aid decarb from SPF anchor project Complete in 2024: Kingsway 71/72 high tech, low carbon office space; regeneration of key heritage buildings. First UK Biophilic Living building incorporating community growing and green lab facilities. Swansea University partnership developing Natural Products BioHub. Sponsoring of Green Recovery Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More opportunity for healthy, local food production and sales 3 projects undertaken through EPF to look at which community groups are involved in promoting the food agenda, what is the current state of play regarding farming and one looking at what plans the big suppliers to Swansea have in place to cope with CC. Officer support for Bwyd Abertawe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve Welsh Government recycling targets Promote the waste hierarchy and prevent, reduce, or reuse materials wherever feasible Review the Waste Strategy to improve waste minimisation, reuse, recycling, and carbon footprint Continue to monitor technologies and engagement with partners to recycle a wider range of waste material types Support 3rd parties running Library of Things Compliance with the proposed Workplace recycling Regulations
Education and Engagement	Enriching our Natural Resources	LULUCF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting green skills and job creation through networks School on Energy Sparks and moved to Sigma to monitor energy consumption. Decarb Plan written for practical behaviour change to cut usage and emissions. Staff training – eLearning modules created for CC&NR with 122 staff completed module 1/2. Face to Face training delivered to 2 different service areas. Toolbox talks for staff and public on energy, helping wildlife and water written. Environmental Partner Framework (EPF) set up and delivering projects across Swansea in the community and with business. Engagement, Comms Plan developed Swansea Project Zero Continuing to support the Energy Awareness Hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Infrastructure policy for city centre delivered and one for county being developed Training on installation and maintenance developed and delivered with partners Tree Policy developed and awaiting approval ENRAW Grant final Quarter complete. Canopy Cover survey work undertaken. LNRAP – final draft out for consultation to LNP members, CC&NR steering group, Service Transformation Committee, including a workshop with members of STC committee Local Places for Nature (LPfN) grant - application submitted to WG (12th July) Section 6 Biodiversity Action Plan Swansea was part of the Global City Nature Challenge 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP in review Working on a mapping project with partners to map climate scenarios



Report of the Strategic Climate Change Project Manager

Appendix B - Communications Plan for Climate Change 2023-27

Purpose:	For information only. To outline the work that is proposed to improve communication across Swansea Council in light of the recent Climate Emergency UK scoreboard result.
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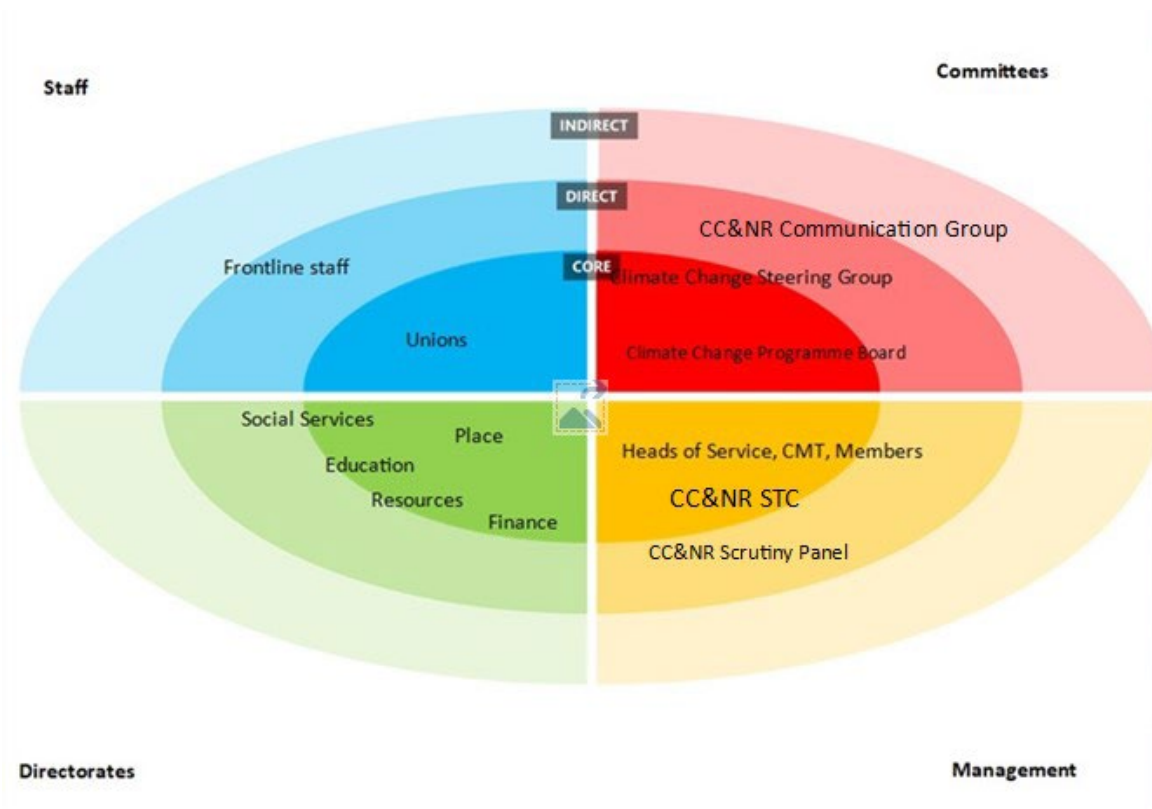
1. Introduction

- 1.1 In light of the recent opportunity to respond to the Climate Emergency UK (CEUK) scoreboard and the increasing number of FOI requests related to climate change it is evident that communications, both internally and externally could be better coordinated. This would not only potentially increase our scorecard for CEUK, but it would also increase the profile of the work being carried out by the Council for net zero 2030 and 2050.
- 1.2 There is plenty of good work being carried out by Swansea Council and its partners and this needs to be celebrated, as a way of recognising hard work that is being undertaken and to provide inspiration to others. Swansea Council's tag line for climate change is 'it's everyone's business' and it wants to lead by example in the county and across the region. To do this affectively, the work being carried out needs to be highlighted and brought to the attention of the wider Swansea community as well as to the wider staff community.
- 1.3 Communication has progressed since the writing of the Engagement Plan for Climate Change in May 2022. Internally, Swansea Council has now firmly established the Climate Change and Nature Recovery (CC&NR) Programme Board, with members from across the organisation regularly meeting and reporting on progress. The Governance structures are in place and annual emissions reporting to Welsh Government has gone through several cycles. Two modules for staff training have also been written and are live on the e-learning platform. Whilst this is not mandatory, all staff are encouraged to undertake it and it has been promoted through the CC&NR Programme Board, CC&NR Steering Group, CC&NR Communications Group and by the CEO in his weekly blog. This has also been shared with the other three authorities within the Southwest Wales Region. Three Toolbox Talks on Energy, Wildlife and Water have been created and have been shared on StaffNet for all staff to have access to, as well as shared on the Swansea Council webpages for Climate Change and Nature Recovery for the wider

community. There have also been several key updates to the webpages themselves with the easier to follow 'tiles' clearly dividing the information that will take you to related pages and linking to other internal and external webpages of relevance. The updating and improvements to the webpages is ongoing and the CEUK information will be very useful in enabling further development as the sorts of information looked for is now known.

- 1.4 In the Engagement Plan (2022) the external communication was to centre around The Climate Change and Nature Action Charter and Pledge and the branding of Swansea Project Zero. Since the writing of the plan the Charter Signatories Group has been set up and the branding project has been undertaken with UWTSD. A third-year student Agnes Olah won the competition, and the branding will be launched in autumn 2023. A new Engagement Plan has now been written to update on progress and inform of future work planned.
- 1.5 The use of the Environmental Partner Framework has enabled a number of projects to take place. In 2022-23 these were mainly fact-finding reports to inform future engagement. Schools have also had the benefit of membership to Energy Sparks to help them cut their energy bills and carbon. The Climate Change Project Manager has also undertaken a number of face-to-face training sessions with teachers and premises managers on the 'why' and 'how' to use the Energy Sparks system and has adapted an Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Plan (including how to carry out an energy audit). Work then began on the successor for Energy Sparks with the Energy Manager and his team developing the Sigma energy monitoring system. The move over from Energy Sparks to Sigma has begun and should be complete by the end of autumn term 2023. There is also an agreement to share educational resources from NPT who have been working with Cardiff University, as the English and Welsh versions of the adapted Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation Plan have been shared with the team in NPT to use with their schools.
- 1.6 The Climate Change and Nature Action Signatories Group was set up to be a strategic group for Swansea, to ensure a coordinated approach and enable the delivery of county wide projects related to climate change and nature recovery. This group originated from Swansea Council declaring a climate emergency in 2019 and a nature emergency in 2021 and inviting key partners and organisations across Swansea to sign a Charter declaring a commitment to work collaboratively and to have a shared vision for the future. This group accepted the proposal from the Public Services Board to align more closely with them and become the delivery partner for Step 3 of the Swansea Well-being Plan - *Working towards Swansea's net zero target and nature recovery, Climate Change and Nature Recovery*.

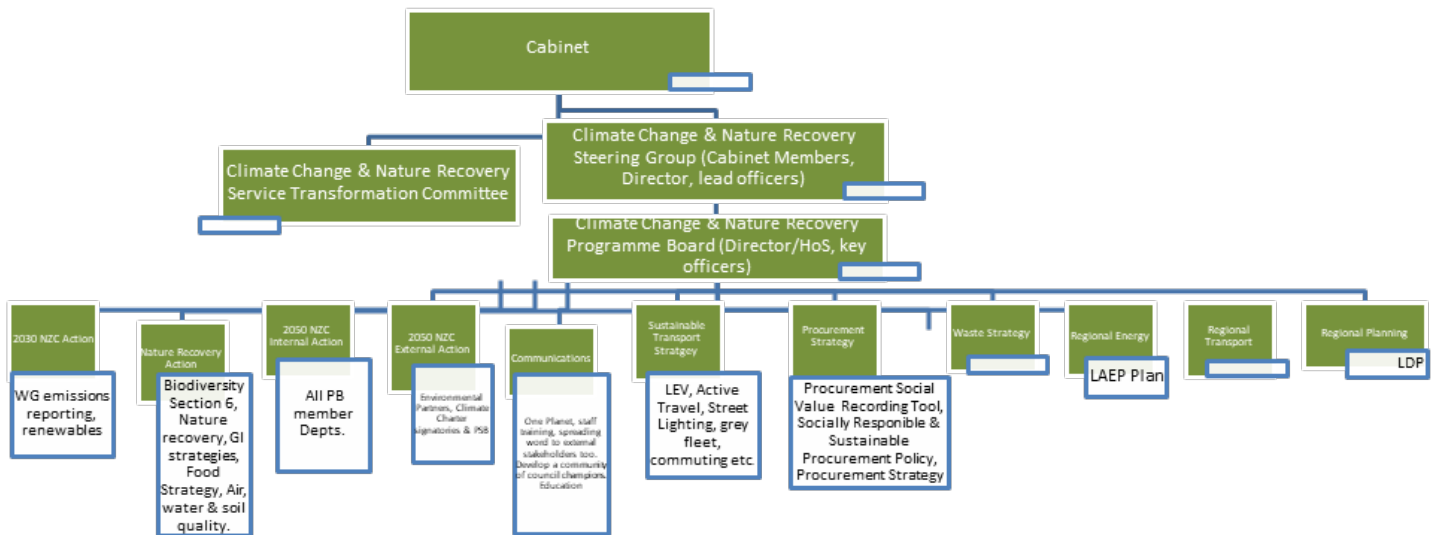
2. Further Development of Internal Communications.



2.1 Further improvements to internal communications for climate change are required to ensure the joined-up approach that will be required if staff are to embrace the work being undertaken by the Council itself to reach the net zero 2030 target and support the drive to net zero 2050. Much of the energy and waste reduction required is through behaviour change. In a recent report done by Sia Partners for Swansea Council, on the potential to decarbonise some of the buildings within the public estate, shows that behaviour change can contribute between 12 -15 % of the overall energy reduction. Better internal communications will ensure there are fewer or no missed opportunities evident in the past and highlighted whilst responding through the right to reply with CEUK as staff will be more aware of the links their work has to the climate change agenda. The Nature Conservation Team will be producing their own Nature Recovery Action Plan 2023-30 with the Local Nature partnership and their own Communications Plan.

2.2 The Programme Board and the Governance structure have evolved over the last 18 months. The recording of progress that different service areas was required to do was stopped in early 2022 as there was little engagement but due to feedback from some officers and the growing need to find information relating to climate change for internal reporting and for FOI requests, a new way of recording progress has been introduced in June 2023. These are highlight reports and will have assigned responsible officers from each section who will be required to fill these in every quarter. It is anticipated that these highlight reports will form part of the agenda of meetings so that progress can be shared. The Governance of programme Board has also recently changed.

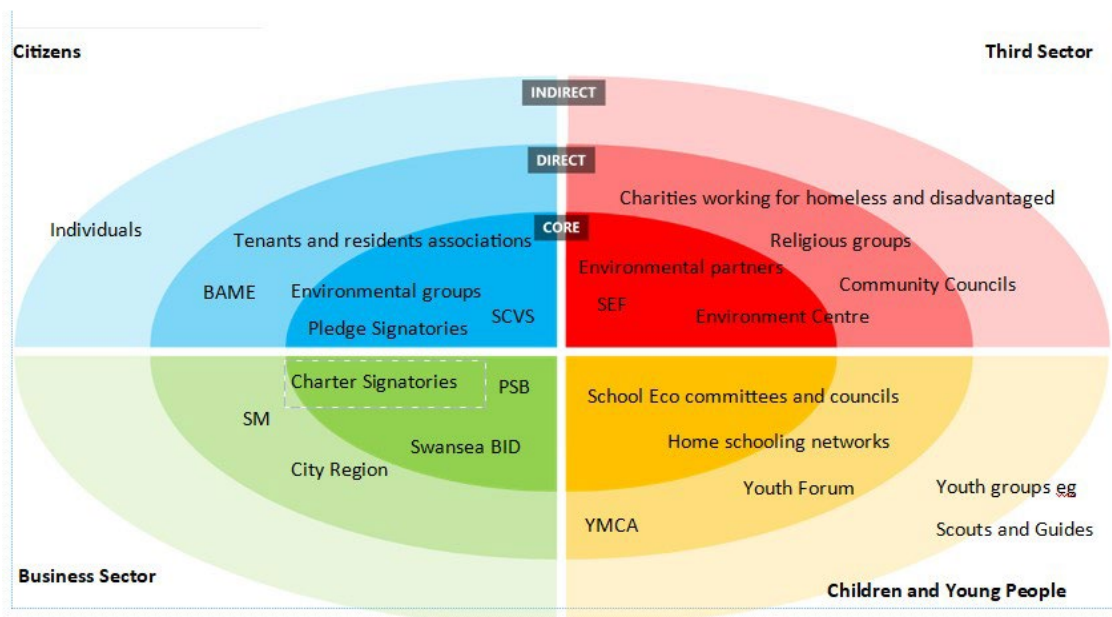
The Steering Group remains the same which gives consistency, but the Corporate Development Committee has been replaced with the new Service Transformation Committee. Clear Governance is essential and enables good communication with those that influence and form policy. The members of the Programme Board have been changing too. The membership now includes officer representation from Transport/Fleet and Human Resources. The latter has direct links to the Unions and workforce.



Climate Change & Nature Recovery Governance Structure June 2023

- 2.3 An internal Climate Change and Nature Recovery Communications Group was set up with officers from across the council. In a meeting in July 2023 there was an ‘ask’ to officers to think about what initiatives they may be able to undertake in their particular service areas to raise the profile of climate change amongst staff and for officers to each take on the promotion of the staff training on the e-learning platform in their service areas, which will in turn help meet the corporate KPI targets.
- 2.4 More actively involving the officers who are part of the Communications Group will be essential for success. There needs to be coordination across the different service areas and a way of highlighting work being undertaken related to climate change and nature recovery. To this end the Strategic Climate Change Project Manager will coordinate a project with members of the Communications Group to highlight actions that staff can take for climate and nature and celebrate the good work already happening across the council. This could take the form of a regular piece in StaffNews or as a pop up on screen when staff log in, similar to the ‘Welsh Word of the Day’ done previously. It is also important to note that there is no intention to burden workloads so this will have to be a light touch approach, but this does not mean that it can’t be effective. The group has agreed to meet quarterly to maintain momentum.

3. Further Development of External Communication



3.1 At the beginning of 2022 a project with third year Graphic Design students, from UWTSD, to design a logo for Swansea Project Zero was launched. As per the Engagement Plan, the need to create a Swansea brand that would, over time become synonymous with the collective journey to net zero 2050. The brand will represent the partnership between the institutions, organisations, businesses and people of Swansea. It will become the logo for the Climate Change and Nature Action Charter Signatories Group (Signatories Group) and be used to launch projects across the county. The project was successful, and a winning design was chosen. The launch of the logo took place at the Green Economy Conference in November 2023. The delay in this happening has been due to a number of small changes that were required with the design and to coincide with the Signatories Group becoming the lead for the work of the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Step within the local Well-being Plan from the Public Service Board (PSB).



**PROJECT
ZERO
SWANSEA**
**PROSIECT
SERO
ABERTAW**

NET ZERO SWANSEA

'Working together for a better future'

ABERTAW DI-GARBN NET

'Gweithio Gyda'n Gilydd ar gyfer Dyfodol Gwell'

- 3.2 Whilst undertaking the response for the right to reply for the CEUK scorecards it became evident that with a more joined up approach and higher profile will avoid the missed opportunities in social media posts in the future. The use of hashtags as well as the Swansea Project Zero branding would raise the profile of climate change and enable connections to news items, policies, plans and actions to be made. The list of proposed hashtags for climate change is in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Swansea Council also needs to celebrate its achievements more as it was the first authority in Wales to obtain a Bronze Accreditation for the One Planet Standard in November 2022. It was able to do this by demonstrating the commitment of senior members of staff and Councillors as well as through the engagement and planning. This needs to be celebrated further than the original press release and the 'badge' used on the website. The accreditation itself last for two years and it is unlikely at this stage that Swansea Council will renew due to the cost but there is no reason why we can't promote this more than we are at present. A review of the website pages for climate change and nature recovery will be done and the press release incorporated into a 'tile' about the award.
- 3.4 A list of monthly national and international event days that highlight climate change has been drawn up and these have been shared with the Communications and Marketing Team and the Website Team. The full list is in

Appendix 2 with the highlighted days being recommended as days to promote across Swansea via social media. These will be shared in Programme Board, Steering Group and with the Communications and Marketing Team and well as Members. The intention will be to use the hashtags wherever possible in any social media postings and would demonstrate the connectivity of the council itself. One or two of the event days may be worth considering as annual events in Swansea with activities going on. These would need careful consideration as this could mean an ongoing financial and staff resource commitment.

- 3.4 The Environmental Partner Framework enables Swansea Council to deliver projects in the community. 2022-23 saw projects being undertaken by all Partners they were fact finding and will enable a more targeted and innovative approach to engagement with the people, communities and businesses of Swansea. Swansea Council also supports the Energy Awareness Hub in the city centre. This is enabled through Shared Prosperity Funding that the council manages, and the Environment Centre delivers. It is important when undertaking projects through the framework that the Swansea Council logo and the Swansea Project Zero logo is included in all promotional materials and verbally during presentations. If partners ensure they do this, then those they engage with will be aware of the sponsorship by Swansea Council and it will help raise the profile of Swansea Project Zero.
- 3.5 The Signatories Group has taken on CC&NR element of the well-being delivery plan of the Swansea PSB, as well as continuing with work already agreed. The formulation of a Strategic Plan will be a priority. This will enable the Signatories to deliver the plans they have as well as the PSB work and ensure a fully joined up approach. The full Strategic Plan is planned for 2024 as the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan will form part of it and this is not due for completion until autumn 2024. All work carried out by the Signatories Group will include the Swansea Project Zero branding.
- 3.6 It is essential that good networking occurs to promote the work of Swansea Council on climate change and the work of the Signatories Group. Key events, such as the Green Economy Conference should be attended by staff and opportunities to promote the branding and work should be taken to raise the profile of everything that is happening across Swansea in relation to climate change and climate change resilience.
- 3.7 It is important that any printed or social media coverage planned for any event or social media is in line with Swansea Council Welsh Language Policy, so it will need to be translated into Welsh beforehand so that promotion can be done simultaneously, and timelines designed into projects and coverage.

4 Actions

- 4.1 The following actions have been approved by CC&NR Programme Board and Steering Group:

Internal:

- The Strategic Climate Change Project Manager to email all Programme Board members and ask for a named responsible officer to fill in the highlight reports for each of the areas of work identified.
- The Strategic Climate Change Project Manager to send emails with the call for agenda items before each Programme Board meeting to ensure the responsible officers fill in the highlight report prior to the meeting. Highlight reports would become a regular agenda item every quarter to discuss and celebrate progress and raise any issues.
- Hashtags to be accepted and highlighted to Programme Board and others to be used in social media posts to ensure a more joined up approach.
- Face to Face support training for staff on Toolbox Talks and Climate Change engagement.
- Targeted e-learning encouragement through liaising with service area leads and targeting existing inhouse training sessions across the council.
- The recognition of environmental days to be used to maintain momentum with social media posts in relation to climate change and to demonstrate a broad approach to the agenda.
- Continued development of the website to keep news and information up to date for both staff and the public.
- Undertake a second Citizen Survey in autumn 2023 to update the public on progress towards net zero and further the dialogue.
- Work with Sue Woodward and the Economic Regeneration Team on opportunities to help businesses decarbonise.
- To share successes and challenges against the corporate plan well-being objectives via annual reports to cabinet and scrutiny, comms with public, and reporting on new KPI's.
- Reporting on Lagoon progress as per our policy commitment
- Continuing to build strong regional communication pathways on all CC activities.
- Promotion of the One Planet Bronze Award to staff to demonstrate that Swansea Council is 'on the right track' with its work on climate change and nature recovery by ensuring the staff net pages have this represented.

External

- Promotion of the Swansea Project Zero brand and or Swansea Council across social media, at events and through project work undertaken through the Environmental Partner Framework.
- Climate Signatories to develop a strategic plan for Swansea and the journey to net zero 2050 and undertake PSB work to contract an Adaptation and Mitigation Plan that will help inform the strategy.
- Seek additional funding opportunities to enable more projects to be delivered including the further development and delivery of a framework to aid businesses and the setting up of Climate Assemblies.
- Produce an online resource for landlords and private homeowners on why and how to best retrofit homes for a higher EPC rating and make available on Swansea Council website and Rent Smart Wales website.

- Use of hashtags and environmental events throughout the calendar to promote the issues around climate change and empower communities and businesses to take action.
- Promotion of the One Planet Bronze Award externally via the website to demonstrate that Swansea Council is 'on the right track' with its work on climate change and nature recovery.
- Utilise 3 databases of contacts to directly promote activity and for survey responses.
- Environmental Partner Framework for project delivery across Swansea
- Collaboration with Tackling Poverty Service Area and The Environment Centre to deliver the Energy Awareness Hub service.

Appendix 1: The Climate Change Communications Delivery Plan June 2023

Number	Action	Date to be completed by	Who is responsible	Comments	Progress
Internal Swansea Council 2030 and 2050					
1.	Highlight Reports for Programme Board Members	End of May 2023	Jane Richmond	Creation of highlight report templates in Teams>Files for quarterly reporting. All Programme Board colleagues to assign responsible officer to fill them in quarterly.	Raised at May PB meeting. JR to send reminder email to all members.
2.	Hashtags to be used in social media posts	End of July 2023	Jane Richmond, Programme Board, Steering Group, Transformation Committee, Communication Team	Combination of the below to be used on all related posts eg. Climate change, nature recovery, green infrastructure, renewable energy, active travel, public transport, alternative fuels energy efficiency in all corporate, social housing and school buildings, the work of the Climate Signatories Group #climatechange, #netzero, #netzero2030, #netzero2050, #itseveryonesbusiness #swanseaprojectzero #climateaction #energy #energyefficiency #renewables #sustainabletransport #activetravel	Hashtags taken to Comms Group, sent to Comms team

				*Note any social media will need to be translated into Welsh before posts can be made in either Language and that time for translation needs to be factored in.	
3.	Communications Group	July 2023	Jane Richmond	Ask the group to consider actions related to combating climate change that they can take in their own service areas and draw up a plan of action.	
4.	Promotion of the e-learning modules and Toolbox talks	Ongoing	Jane Richmond	Promotion through Programme Board, Members, Unions, Martin's blog, StaffNet, Climate Change Comms Group.	
5.	Face to Face toolbox talks and how to engage others on climate change	Ongoing	Jane Richmond	Series of face-to-face sessions to highlight the toolbox talks and how they can engage and empower others on climate change and reaching net zero	
6.	Website development for internal and external users	Ongoing	Jane Richmond	Ensure the information for both staff and public is relevant and up to date. Promotion of the One Planet Standard.	Refresher training for some aspects of website work required
7.	Regional Comms	Ongoing		Maintain and enhance communications across the region and throughout Wales by taking an active part in Regional energy planning and training, identifying opportunities for further collaboration as they arise.	
8.	Annual Reporting		Jane Richmond		To share successes and challenges against the corporate plan well-

					being objectives via annual reports to cabinet and scrutiny, comms with public, and reporting on new KPI's. Reporting on Lagoon progress as per our policy commitment	
External – the wider Swansea Community and 2050						
Page 65	1. .	The Promotion of the Swansea Project Zero branding across the county by Signatory members	Ongoing from July 2023	Jane Richmond	Promotion of the branding with a social media post about the launch with the Signatories. The logo to be used on all climate change related activity done by the Signatories as a group and by the individual members.	
	2. .	The signatories to take on the CC&NR Step for the PSB	Ongoing from 2023 -2028	Jane Richmond	This will include the Adaptation and mitigation Report for Climate Change and other works as set out in the PSB plan	
	3.	Business decarbonisation	Ongoing	Jane Richmond Working with SW and Regen Team plus Afallan	Opportunities for a business framework are being explored again and sponsorship of GEC will enable workshop to fine tune a framework.	Green Economy Conference to be used as vehicle to explore framework further and to find out what else businesses need.

	4.	Citizen Survey	November 2023	Jane Richmond	The production of a new citizen survey and loaded to website with help of Rhian Miller	Work on the first section to be completed – what you said and we’ve done from last survey. Q’s for second section started. Top and tail done.
	5.	Promotion of environmental days to keep the climate change agenda in the public consciousness	ongoing	Jane Richmond	Social media promotion of events and potential EPF run events throughout the year	List of events to be agreed at SG and CG
	6.	Deliver projects across Swansea through the EPF	ongoing	Jane Richmond		3 year framework
Page 66	7.	Continued collaboration on Energy Awareness Hub	ongoing	Jane Richmond Lee Cambule Anthony Richards EC		SPF funding until March 2025

Appendix 2. Environmental Event Days for promotion on social media and Website.

Date	Event	Social Media or Event	Social Media or Event Responsibility
22 nd March	World Water Day	Social Media	JR and Comms Team
22 nd April	Earth Day	Social Media	JR and Comms Team
10-19 th June	Great Big Green Week	Event to be run by EP	JR and EP
July	Plastic free July	Event to be run by EP	JR, Waste and Comms Team
September	??	Event to be run by EP	JR and Comms Team

Proposed Hashtags for use by Comms Team and Officers

#climatechange,
#netzero,
#netzero2030,
#netzero2050,
#itseveryonesbusiness
#swanseaprojectzero
#climateaction
#energy
#energyefficiency
#renewables
#sustainabletransport
#activetravel

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service and Performance

Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14th May 2024

Nature and Biodiversity Update

For Information

Purpose	To present the latest progress report on meeting the Council's Biodiversity duty and measure the success of Nature Recovery work against Corporate Objectives and Policy Commitments
Content	The report concludes that Scrutiny of the Council's Nature Conservation Team has been a success and all measures to monitor Nature Recovery work within the County are now in place
Councillors are being asked to	Endorse the conclusion of the report
Lead Councillor(s)	David Hopkins
Lead Officer(s)	Mark Wade – Director /Phil Holmes – Head of Service
Report Author	Paul Meller paul.meller@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer	Jonathan Wills
Finance Officer	Peter Keys
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 Following a comprehensive Scrutiny Inquiry through 2018 and approval of recommendations arising in July 2019 there have been eight subsequent progress reports to Scrutiny on Nature Recovery and Biodiversity (25.09.19, 31.3.20, 1.09.20, 14.12.20, 22.3.21, 15.3.22, 13.9.22, 8.3.23). The last report concluded that all the Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations in relation to Nature Recovery had been satisfied and there was no longer a need to report back to this Panel.

1.2 Nature Recovery work delivered by the Council's Nature Conservation Team is now very much ongoing business as usual, with the primary focus being meeting Corporate Objectives and Policy Commitments. The work is overseen by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery (CC&NR) Programme Board and Steering Group (set up following Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations in order to monitor Nature Recovery work), as well as the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee which has overseen the production and adoption via Cabinet and Council respectively of two key Nature Recovery documents over this past year, namely the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) and the Council's Section 6 Action Plan.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

2.1 The nature recovery objectives for Swansea set out in the recently adopted LNRAP are to be independently monitored annually by the Swansea Nature Partnership. The objectives in the Section 6 Plan which are derived from the LNRAP are monitored by Welsh Government to whom there is a requirement to report progress against objectives every three years. The most recent report was submitted to Welsh Government in Jan 2024. Both the CC&NR Programme Board and Steering Group also monitor progress on a regular basis.

2.2 Additionally, Nature Recovery Objectives are set out in the Corporate Plan and in Council Policy Commitments. Performance against these objectives and achievements are monitored on a quarterly and annual basis through the Council's inPhase monitoring system and also reported on via Annual Performance reviews of the Corporate Plan. This ongoing RAG monitoring of identified Nature Recovery actions enables any issues to be picked up at an early stage. The latest update completed in April 2024 confirmed all actions were green.

2.3 Specific task and finish objectives such as preparation of specific plans and strategies relating to Nature Recovery are also identified in the Natural Environment Section's Action Plan and the Planning and City Regeneration Service Plan with progress monitored on a monthly basis.

2.4 There are therefore currently seven mechanisms in place besides Scrutiny to monitor progress of achievement of Nature Recovery Objectives. This more than adequately addresses any concerns of the original Scrutiny Inquiry that there was insufficient oversight. Updates on /approval of Nature Recovery matters are also now being provided to CC&NR Service Transformation Committee. The Nature Conservation Team responsible for Nature Recovery and Biodiversity matters is performing to its maximum capacity with the resources it has available, and all supporting policies and plans are in place to ensure that Council meets its Biodiversity Duty.

- 2.5 As the work of the Nature Conservation Team is orientated toward meeting Corporate Objectives and Policy Commitments, updates against those Objectives and Commitments are already reported via other workstreams but are duplicated for ease of reference as Appendix 1. Given that the Council is so heavily dependent on grant funding to deliver its Nature Recovery duties it is important that any revisions to Corporate Objectives and Policy Commitments are consistent with Welsh Government's broader conservation goals aimed at preserving and enhancing Wales' natural environment including the conservation and enhancement of the landscape of the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 2.6 The current focus is on 30 x 30 targets, i.e. the commitment to protect 30% of land and sea within the County for nature conservation by 2030. This aligns with global efforts to address biodiversity loss, protect ecosystem services and contribute to the overall health and resilience of the natural environment of the area. Protecting significant proportions of land and sea can safeguard habitats, conserve nature species and promote sustainable land and marine management practices.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The detailed scrutiny of the Nature Conservation Team over the past six years has achieved what it originally set out to do. Key objectives for meeting the Council's biodiversity duties are now firmly embedded in Council policy and there is joined up partnership working in place with other environmental organisations working throughout the County, whilst common goals for taking action to achieve Nature Recovery are all in place.
- 3.2 This is a significant Scrutiny success and officers are grateful to the Panel and its predecessor Committees in helping to achieve this outcome. If any issues requiring scrutiny do arise in future the monitoring provisions in place will ensure these are identified at an early stage and reported back as appropriate.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5. Finance Implications

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

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 6.1 This report is for information only and an IIA is not therefore required.

Background Papers:

Local Nature Recovery Plan 2023 [Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan - Swansea](#)

Section 6 Plan 2024 [Report - Corporate Template \(swansea.gov.uk\)](#)

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Corporate Plan Steps and Success Measures, Policy Commitments Progress Update

Appendix 1

Corporate Plan Steps

Objective Step	Progress	RAG
Develop a new County-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees	Tree Opportunity Map prepared Dec 23. Step completed	Green
Aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements	Ongoing project work across County. New Green Infrastructure (GI) improvements underway in Sandfields, High St, Townhill	Green
Develop and monitor the delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Plan and the Resilient Wales goal through annual business planning and reporting mechanisms to 2028. Report to Welsh Government every three years in line with our Biodiversity Duty	Last report to Welsh Govt Jan24. Section 6 Plan approved by Council March 24	Green
Contribute to the review, delivery and monitoring of the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) and a County wide GI Strategy	Swansea LNRAP adopted Nov 23 will be monitored end of year annually. Step completed. Preparation of County wide GI strategy on hold until late 24 pending completion of the Local Development Plan Review GI Assessment	Green
Work to improve the ecosystem resilience of Council owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and greenspaces	Ongoing project work across the County. Habitat management undertaken at Several Council owned SSSIs, LNRs and SINCs	
Continue to deliver a programme of wildflower planting and management and take actions that help to control invasive non-native species	Ongoing project work across the County. Wildflower meadows managed and invasive species controlled at several sites	
Engage with local communities to encourage volunteering and to support them taking action to enhance and maintain their local greenspaces	Ongoing project work across the County. A wide range of local community biodiversity/GI projects and volunteer events can activities undertaken	

Corporate Plan Success Measures

Success Measure	Progress	RAG
Agreed an updated tree planting and management strategy	Tree Opportunity Map prepared Dec 23. – to be considered as part of Council's Tree Management Strategy review and County wide GI Strategy	Green

Plant hundreds of new trees	346 trees planted April 23- March 24 (target 300)	Green
Produced a series of Wild About your Ward maps to support communities in identifying opportunities for enhancing local greenspaces and wildlife sites and engaging them in volunteering activities	Ward maps prepared. Action completed	Green
Drafted Management Plans for Council owned Local Nature Reserves	Management Plans prepared for all 6 Council owned sites. Action completed	Green
Targeted treatment and/or removal of Invasive Non-Native Species on nature sites	Ongoing project work across the Council's LNRs with 3-5 year treatment programmes, including at Mumbles Hill, Dunvant Brickworks, Pwll Ddu and in Clyne Valley Country Park	Green
Continued amenity grassland and road verge management trials to establish as species rich wildflower meadows	Ongoing project work across the County establishing, managing and monitoring wildflower meadows	Green
Prepared a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and County wide GI Strategy	Swansea LNRAP adopted Nov 23. Action completed. Preparation of County wide GI strategy on hold until late 24 pending completion of the Local Development Plan Review GI Assessment	Green

Policy Commitments

Commitment	Progress	RAG
We will develop a new city-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees in communities	<p>Four tree reports have been prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing tree canopy cover analysis - Swansea Habitat Carbon - Tree and Woodland Planting Opportunity - Tree Canopy Growth projections Swansea Central Area <p>The existing canopy cover and opportunity mapping reports are supported by an interactive mapping database. The intention is for these reports to be used by a number of services across the Council to take a strategic approach to tree planting.</p> <p>Commitment achieved</p>	Green
We aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements	A significant number of green space improvements have been undertaken across the County following on from Wild about your Ward mapping, working in partnership with community groups	Green

	<p>and organisations, Friends of groups, Community Centres and Schools. Tree planting has been undertaken across many sites and nature trails installed. Hundreds of individuals and stakeholders have attended training and awareness raising events as well as engaging in project delivery. Training seminars have been held focusing on GI and biodiversity. Environmental improvements have been carried out on Council owned SSSIs, LNRs and SINC, with feasibility studies and survey reports undertaken and management plans prepared.</p> <p>Ongoing commitment</p>	
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15.4.24

Agenda Item 8



Report of the Convener

Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14 May 2024

Panel Review of the Year 2023-24

Purpose:	As the municipal year ends, it is good practice to reflect on the Panel's work, experience, and effectiveness.
Content:	A summary of the year's activities is provided.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflect on the year's work; and• Share ideas to improve the effectiveness of Scrutiny.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Sara Keeton, Convener of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Liz Jordan, Scrutiny Officer E-mail: liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 As this is the final meeting of this municipal year, the Panel is invited to reflect on the year's scrutiny work, experience and effectiveness. Any ideas that will improve the effectiveness of the scrutiny of Climate Change and Nature, and scrutiny generally, are welcome.
- 1.2 To aid Panel Members, a summary of the year's work has been included at 3.0.
- 1.3 Some of the questions the Panel may want to consider:
 - **Have things worked well?**
 - **What, if anything, could be done better?**
 - **Has the Panel's work focused on the right things?**
 - **What have we learnt that will help us to improve and develop future scrutiny?**

2. Panel Overview

- 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. The Panel monitors delivery of the Council's work, commitments and implementation of agreed plans, and assesses progress.

- 2.2 Possible lines of enquiry - To regularly review performance including asking questions about performance and improvement, focusing on outcomes, provision and leadership. To look at relevant data, commissioning reviews and anything that impacts on Climate Change and Nature in Swansea.
- 2.3 The Panel has a membership of 9 councillors. Overall Councillor attendance at the Panel for the year has been 73% to end of April 2024.
- 2.4 In accordance with the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme, the Panel has met every two months. During the 2023-24 municipal year, 6 meetings have been held. Meeting discussions have regularly been reported on by the local press, indicating the Panel has been focussed on issues of public interest.
- 2.5 The Panel has written to relevant Cabinet Members, to convey its views including suggested action, arising from meeting discussions. Letters, and responses where requested, were reported back to the Panel for comments and discussion as necessary.

3. Climate Change and Nature Work Programme 2023-24

Date	Items Discussed
4 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Convener • Draft Work Plan 2023-24
3 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality, Management and Pollution Control • Planning Enforcement: Nature and Biodiversity (Discussion on how to encourage people to look at biodiversity within planning applications, for example, checklist/toolkit on biodiversity)
28 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Tourism briefing
30 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Electric Vehicle Charging Provision
19 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Flood Risk Management – Annual Update (including discussion on Drainage Systems/Services) • Air Quality Management
14 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Update (including achievement against corporate priorities/objectives/policy commitments) • Nature and Biodiversity Update (including achievement against corporate priorities/objectives/policy commitments) • Panel Review of the Year

4. Future Scrutiny Work Programme

- 4.1 The future work programme for 2024-25 will be discussed and agreed at the first Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting in the new municipal year (16 July 2024).