

Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the **Council of the City and County of Swansea** to be held in the Remotely via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 3 December 2020 at 5.00 pm.

Watch Online: <https://bit.ly/36P8P86>

The following business is proposed to be transacted:

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**
www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests
3. **Minutes.** 1 - 10
To approve & sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.
4. **Written Responses to Questions asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council.** 11 - 12
5. **Announcements of the Presiding Member.**
6. **Announcements of the Leader of the Council.**
7. **Public Questions.**
Questions must be submitted in writing, no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10 minute period.
8. **Council Tax Base Calculation 2021/2022.** 13 - 17
9. **Pension Fund Update on Climate Change.** 18 - 32
10. **Climate Emergency Declaration Policy Review and Proposed Action Plan.** 33 - 58
11. **Appointment of an Additional Lay Member to the Audit Committee.** 59 - 61
12. **Permanent Appointment to the Role of the Statutory Education Director.** 62 - 64
13. **Consultation Response – Corporate Joint Committees.** 65 - 79

14. Amendments to the Constitution.	80 - 84
15. Amendments to the Constitution.	85 - 86
16. Councillors' Questions.	87 - 96
17. Notice of Motion - Basic Income.	97

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

You are welcome to speak Welsh in the meeting.

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, 28 January 2021 at 5.00 pm



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Guildhall,
Swansea.

Tuesday, 24 November 2020

To: All Members of the Council

Agenda Item 3.



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the Council

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, 4 November 2020 at 5.00 pm

Present: Councillor D W W Thomas (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
P M Black
J E Burtonshaw
M C Child
J P Curtice
N J Davies
A M Day
P Downing
C R Doyle
M Durke
C R Evans
V M Evans
W Evans
E W Fitzgerald
R Francis-Davies
S J Gallagher
L S Gibbard
F M Gordon
K M Griffiths
D W Helliwell
T J Hennegan
C A Holley
P R Hood-Williams

Councillor(s)

B Hopkins
D H Hopkins
L James
O G James
Y V Jardine
J W Jones
L R Jones
M H Jones
P K Jones
S M Jones
E J King
E T Kirchner
A S Lewis
M B Lewis
R D Lewis
W G Lewis
C E Lloyd
P Lloyd
I E Mann
P M Matthews
P N May
H M Morris
D Phillips

Councillor(s)

C L Philpott
S Pritchard
A Pugh
J A Raynor
C Richards
K M Roberts
B J Rowlands
M Sherwood
P B Smith
R V Smith
A H Stevens
R C Stewart
D G Sullivan
M Sykes
G J Tanner
M Thomas
W G Thomas
L J Tyler-Lloyd
G D Walker
L V Walton
T M White

Officer(s)

Huw Evans	Head of Democratic Services
Tracey Meredith	Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer
Phil Roberts	Chief Executive
Ben Smith	Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M A Langstone and L G Thomas

12. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

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

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

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

- 1) Councillors C Anderson, P M Black, J E Burtonshaw, M C Child, J P Curtice, N J Davies, A M Day, P Downing, C R Doyle, M Durke, C R Evans, V M Evans, W Evans, E W Fitzgerald, R Francis-Davies, S J Gallagher, L S Gibbard, F M Gordon, K M Griffiths, D W Helliwell, T J Hennegan, C A Holley, P R Hood-Williams, B Hopkins, D H Hopkins, O G James, L James, Y V Jardine, J W Jones, L R Jones, M H Jones, P K Jones, S M Jones, E J King, E T Kirchner, A S Lewis, M B Lewis, R D Lewis, W G Lewis, C E Lloyd, P Lloyd, I E Mann, P M Matthews, P N May, H M Morris, D Phillips, C L Philpott, S Pritchard, A Pugh, J A Raynor, C Richards, K M Roberts, B J Rowlands, M Sherwood, P B Smith, R V Smith, A H Stevens, R C Stewart, D G Sullivan, M Sykes, G J Tanner, D W W Thomas, M Thomas, W G Thomas, L Tyler-Lloyd, G D Walker, L V Walton, & T M White declared a Personal Interest in Minute 21 "Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report 2021-2022 - Consultation".

13. Minutes.

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

- 1) Annual Meeting of Council held on 1 October 2020.

14. Announcements of the Presiding Member.

1) Condolences

a) Spencer Davis

The Presiding Member referred with sadness to the recent death of Spencer Davis. He was the founding member of the Spencer Davis Group, the band that enjoyed success in the 1960s with hits including Keep on Running and Somebody Help Me. Spencer Davis was born in Swansea and attended Dynevor Grammar School.

b) Donald Thomas, Father of Karen Thomas (Democratic Services)

The Presiding Member referred with sadness to the recent death of Donald Thomas. Donald was father to Karen Thomas, AKA Zippy within the Democratic Services Team. Donald was also a former employee of the Council.

All present sat quietly as a mark as sympathy and respect.

2) Queen's Birthday Honours

The Presiding Member congratulated the Citizens of Swansea who received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

a) Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

- i) Alun Wyn Jones. Services to Rugby Union Football in Wales.
- ii) Professor Paul Meredith. Sr. Cymru Professor in Sustained Advance Materials, Swansea University. Services to semi-conductor research and innovation.

c) Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

- i) Glenys Irene Cour. Services to Visual Arts in Wales.
- ii) Ellen Kerry Davis. Services to Holocaust Education.
- iii) David James Adams Hughes. Services to NHS and bereaved during Covid-19.
- iv) Colin Raymond Jones. National Coach, Welsh Amateur Boxing Association. Services to Boxing in Wales.
- v) Mark Thomas McKenna. Co-founder and Director of Down to Earth Project and Down to Earth Construction. Services to Young People and the Environment.
- vi) Fiona Edwina Morgan. Disability Employment Adviser, Department for Work and Pensions. Services to Mental Health.
- vii) Jean Saunders. Senior Nurse, Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Swansea Bay University Health Board. Services to Nursing.
- viii) Carolyn Joy Smith. Road Safety and Business Performance Manager, Neath Port Talbot. Services to Road Safety.

c) British Empire Medal (BEM)

- i) Margaret Ann Baker. Clinical Nurse, Specialist Secondary Breast Oncology, Swansea Bay University Health Board. Services to Patients with Secondary Cancer in Bridgend.
- ii) Dr. Mahaboob Basha. External Relations and Engagement Manager. Energy Safety Research Institute, Swansea University. Services to the Community in Sketty during Covid-19.
- iii) Rita Chohan. Services to NHS during Covid-19.

- iv) Stephen Robert Davies. Services to People with Disabilities.
- v) Mayameen Meftahi. Services to Victims of Child Sexual Abuse in Wales.
- vi) Christopher David Singletary. Services to Veterans, their Families and Armed Forces.
- vii) Geraint Andrew Thomas. Services to Samaritans, Mountain Rescue and Disadvantaged People on South West Wales.
- viii) Nigel Williams. Services to Local Government in Swansea during Covid-19. Swansea Council.

3) Lord Mayor – Sponsored Walk for the Memory Choir

The Presiding Member stated that the Memory Choir is one of the Lord Mayor's Charities this year. It provides music and singing to people living with dementia, and is hugely enjoyed by them and their carers. It has continued operating throughout the pandemic by moving on-line and adapting a bit.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Mark Child is aiming to raise money for Memory Choir by doing a sponsored walk from Rhossili to Mumbles, about 20 miles, on Friday 13 November 2020. He would really welcome your support. You can sponsor the Lord Mayor on the GoFundMe website <https://www.gofundme.com/f/walk-for-musical-memories-dementia-choir>

4) Alun Wyn Jones (OBE) – World's Most Capped Rugby Player

The Presiding Member congratulate Alun Wyn Jones on becoming the World's Most Capped Rugby Player. He earned his 149th Cap against Scotland on 30 October 2020. He has 140 Caps for Wales and 9 Caps for the British and Irish Lions.

5) Friends of Mayhill Washing Lake & Community Food Garden

The Presiding Member announced that Keep Wales Tidy has unveiled this year's Green Flag Award winners with the Friends of Mayhill Washing Lake & Community Food Garden having been named as one of the Country's best green spaces. The Green Flag is the international mark of a quality park or green space.

Friends of Mayhill Washing Lake & Community Food Garden has achieved the prestigious Green Flag Community Award in recognition of its dedicated volunteer involvement, high environmental standards and commitment to delivering great quality green space.

The group is responsible for two projects, taking care of a pleasant picnic area, and continuing to develop a food garden.

6) Council's Dylan Thomas Service Wins UK Award

The Presiding Member announced that a project run by the Dylan Thomas Service has won a UK national award. The Literature and Trauma initiative won a prize in the Museums Association's Museums Change Lives awards. The creative writing scheme was named the best small museum project that delivers social impact.

Literature and Trauma's workshops allow attendees to feel part of the wider community, to access cultural venues and to orientate themselves in a new city. The workshops have become a focal point and safe space for a committed and gifted group from this often neglected community.

7) Corrections / Amendments to the Council Summons

The Presiding Member outlined an addition to the Council Summons.

a) Item 13 "Membership of Committees".

Scrutiny Programme Committee

Remove Councillor E T Kirchner.

Add Council J E Burtonshaw.

15. Announcements of the Leader of the Council.

1) Covid-19 Update

The Leader of the Council provided an update on the Covid-19 pandemic. He thanked the majority those that followed the Welsh Government rules and expressed concern at those that didn't.

2) Grant Payments made by the Finance Team to Swansea Businesses

The Leader of the Council congratulated the Chief Finance Officer, Ben Smith and his Officers for their excellent work in distributing the Welsh Government Grants to Swansea Businesses.

3) Remembrance Day Events

The Leader of the Council outlined the Council's Remembrance Day Events and encouraged all to follow the Covid-19 guidance.

4) Gap funding Support for All Weather Facility at Pontarddulais and Further Play Facilities across Swansea

The Leader of the Council stated that due to the hard work of Councillor Phil Downing, and the use of Community Grants by Councillors Phil Downing and

Kevin Griffiths, Pontarddulais would soon have an All Weather Sports Facility. He also outlined further play facilities across Swansea.

5) Welcome Welsh Government commitment to Free School Meal Support

The Leader of the Council welcomed the Welsh Government commitment to Free School Meal Support up to and including Easter 2021.

6) Amendments to Cabinet Portfolios

The Leader of the Council stated that he had made the following amendments to the Cabinet Portfolios. He asked the Head of Democratic Services to circulate a complete version following the meeting. The changes take effect immediately.

Delivery & Operations (Joint-Deputy Leader of the Council)

Add

Cemeteries, Crematoriums, Births, Deaths & Marriages
Statutory Nuisance Matters (inc. Noise, Pests, Overgrown Gardens)

Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader of the Council)

Add

Emergency Planning

Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

Add

Air Quality and Pollution Incidents

Homes, Energy & Service Transformation (Joint Deputy Leader of the Council)

Delete

Public Service Board (PSB) Partnership Member - Leader's Representative

Add

Public Service Board (PSB) - Leader's Representative

16. Public Questions.

No questions were received.

17. HMO Licensing Policy 2020.

The Cabinet Member for Delivery and Operations submitted a report which sought approval of the proposed new HMO Licensing Policy, which included the Mandatory HMO Licensing Scheme for the whole of Swansea and a new Additional HMO Licensing Scheme for Castle, Uplands and St Thomas Electoral Wards.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Policy be approved for publication.

18. Proposal to Pass A New Resolution Not to Issue Casino Licences and Proposed Amendments to The Council's Gambling Policy.

The Cabinet Member for Delivery and Operations submitted a report which sought:

- i) Consideration of the outcome of the consultation in respect of a proposal to pass a new resolution not to issue casino premises licences; and proposed amendments to the City and County of Swansea's Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy).
- ii) To make a decision regarding passing a new resolution not to issue casino premises licences.

Resolved that:

- 1) The outcome of the consultation in respect of a proposal to pass a new resolution not to issue casino premises licences and proposed amendments to the City and County of Swansea's Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy) be considered and noted.
- 2) The matters identified in Paragraph 4 of the report and agrees to pass a new resolution not to issue casino premises licences be taken into account and noted.
- 3) The proposed amendments to the Gambling Policy be approved for publication and 6 December 2020 be specified as the date on which the resolution takes effect.

19. Review of Revenue Reserves.

The Section 151 Officer submitted a report which undertook a mid-year review of the Revenue Reserves position and sought agreement for any suggested reclassification of reserves based on current requirements.

Resolved that:

- 1) The recommendations made at Sections 3.11 and 3.12 of the report be approved.

20. Mid-term Budget Statement 2020/21. (Verbal)

The Section 151 Officer provided a verbal update on the Mid-term Budget Statement 2020-2021.

Resolved that:

- 1) The update be noted.

21. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report 2021-2022 – Consultation.

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report informing Council of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Draft Annual Report 2021-2022 and outlined the determinations proposed by the IRPW. The report also contained the recommended draft response of the Democratic Services Committee of 14 October 2020 to the consultation.

Resolved that:

- 1) The comments and observations as set out in Appendix A of the report be adopted as the Authority's formal response to the IRPW.

22. Amendments to the Council Constitution.

The Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services jointly submitted an information report setting out the amendments made by the Monitoring Officer to the Council Constitution following management and staffing changes in relation to the Resources Directorate structure.

23. Membership of Committees.

The Delivery & Operations Cabinet Member submitted a report which sought Council approval to the nominations / amendments to the membership of Council Bodies. He stated that there was an addition to the printed report.

Resolved that the membership of the Council Bodies listed below be amended as follows:

- 1) **Chief Executives Appraisal & Remuneration Committee**
Remove Councillor C E Lloyd.
Add Councillor D H Hopkins.
- 2) **Scrutiny Programme Committee**
Remove Councillor E T Kirchner.
Add Councillor J E Burtonshaw.

24. Councillors' Questions.

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

Five (5) Part A 'Supplementary Questions' were submitted. The relevant Cabinet Member(s) responded by way of written answers contained in the Council Summons.

Those supplementary question(s) required a written response are listed below:

Question 1

i) Councillor A Day asked a question:

“Can Councillors be provided with a list of the 40,000 gullies in Swansea together with a schedule of their frequency of cleaning?”

ii) Councillor P N May asked a question:

“Can Councillors be provided with a list of the 40,000 gullies in Swansea, outlining their location and means of identifying each one, thus making it easier for a Councillor to report which gully requires cleaning?”

The Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management Cabinet Member stated that written responses would be provided.

2) Part B ‘Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions’

Seven (7) Part B ‘Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions’ were submitted.

25. Notice of Motion - Pension Credit Take-Up Campaign.

Notice of Motion from Councillors A Pugh, M Sherwood, L S Gibbard, R C Stewart, A Lewis, D H Hopkins, J P Curtice, D W W Thomas, S Pritchard, M B Lewis, W G Lewis, L V Walton, M C Child & R Francis-Davies

Proposed by Councillor A Pugh and Seconded by Councillor M Sherwood.

“Tackling Poverty is a corporate priority for Swansea Council, so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.

*The Council’s Vision for Swansea states: “The Council aspires to ... achieve a Swansea in which residents **Maximise their Income** and get the most out of the money that they have”.*

We note that:

- 1. The under-claiming of welfare benefits and tax credits keeps vast amounts of money locked out of local people’s pockets and our local economy. The charity EntitledTo reported in February this year that an estimated total of £16bn is unclaimed in the UK every year. (www.entitledto.co.uk).*
- 2. The most highly under-claimed benefit is Council Tax support, with over 2.7m people UK-wide choosing not to claim, or not knowing they can. As a council we are already working hard to promote this support.*

3. *The next most highly under-claimed benefit is Pension Credit, with 2 in 5 eligible people not claiming it, missing out on an average of over £2,000 per year per household.*
4. *The number of pensioners in poverty is increasing across the UK (The Joseph Rowntree Foundation Annual Report 2019/20).*
5. *The lack of income arising from the under-claiming of Pension Credit means older people sacrifice healthy food, heat and opportunities to connect with friends and family. Pension Credit under-claiming is often identified when an older person qualifies for intensive personal support, having been entitled for many years.*
6. *Since August 1st, over-75s now face an annual charge of £157 for a TV licence, unless they receive pension credit.*
7. *The ongoing Coronavirus crisis is creating financial stress for households of all kinds, and ensuring that older people are receiving all the income they can is an important strategy for supporting all of our resident community.*

Therefore this Council agrees to:

1. *Commit to working with our key partners to increase take-up of Pension Credit in Swansea, these are Citizens Advice, Carer Centres and Care and Repair.*
2. *Consider developing resources to raise the level of Pension Credit Take-Up through a campaign with our key partners over a 6-9 month period.*
3. *Encourage action across all Council services to support a Pension Credit Take-Up Campaign and raise awareness amongst those who would benefit from it. This could include the use of direct mail to identifiable cohorts e.g. through Revenues and Benefits; this may be repeated throughout the campaign. We will engage wider Council services through the Swansea Council Poverty Forum to maximise the impact of the campaign. Also Marketing and Communications including posters, leaflets, bridge banners and digital marketing communications to reach a wide audience."*

Resolved that the Notice of Motion outlined above be adopted.

The meeting ended at 7.07 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 4.



Report of the Chief Legal Officer

Council – 3 December 2020

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

The report provides an update on the responses to Questions asked during the Meeting of Council held on 4 November 2020.

For Information

1. Introduction

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

2. Responses

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

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A (Questions & Responses)

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council
4 November 2020**

<p>1</p>	<p>Councillor A M Day</p> <p>In relation to Minute 24 ‘Councillors Questions’ Question 1</p> <p>Can Councillors be provided with a list of the 40,000 gullies in Swansea together with a schedule of their frequency of cleaning.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>It is not currently possible to produce a meaning full list of individual gullies however they are available to view via The Councils Geodiscoverer mapping system via the intranet.</p> <p>Currently cleaning frequencies are not listed however the inventory is gradually being updated and the service hopes to eventually show cleaning frequency for each asset on the mapping system.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Councillor P N May</p> <p>In relation to Minute 24 ‘Councillors Questions’ Question 1</p> <p>Can Councillors be provided with a list of the 40,000 gullies in Swansea, outlining their location and means of identifying each one, thus making it easier for a Councillor to report which gully requires cleaning.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>It is not currently possible to produce a meaning full list of individual gullies however they are available to view via The Councils Geodiscoverer mapping system via the Intranet.</p> <p>The gullies do not yet have an individual numbering system, the best method for identification is by road position for example High Street o/s no 13. This tends to be how Councillors, the public and the Service currently identify gulleys.</p> <p>It is intended to number the gulleys and to make this information available via the mapping system.</p>

Agenda Item 8.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy

Council – 3 December 2020

Council Tax Base Calculation 2021/22

Purpose: This report details the calculation of the Council Tax Base for the City and County of Swansea, its Community Councils and the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority for 2021/22. The Council is required to determine the Council Tax Bases for 2021/22 by 31 December 2020.

Policy Framework: None

Consultation: Legal and Finance.

Recommendation: The calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 be approved.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, the calculation by the City and County of Swansea Council for the year 2021/22 shall be:

For the whole area 94,051

For the area of Community Councils:

Bishopston	2,064
Clydach	2,676
Gorseinon	3,319
Gowerton	1,992
Grovesend & Waungron	420
Ilston	364
Killay	2,151
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton	536
Llangyfelach	971
Llanrhidian Higher	1,640
Llanrhidian Lower	338
Llwchwr	3,508
Mawr	768
Mumbles	10,349
Penllergaer	1,451
Pennard	1,518
Penrice	479
Pontarddulais	2,348
Pontlliw & Tircoed	1,039
Port Eynon	484

	Reynoldston	335
	Rhossili	208
	Three Crosses	713
	Upper Killay	583
	For the area of the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority	65,722
Report Author:	Julian Morgans	
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith	
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith	
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar	

1. Council Tax Base Calculation.

- 1.1 The City and County of Swansea Council is required to determine the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 based on its estimated position.
- 1.2 The Tax Base is used by the Council to calculate its Council Tax for 2021/22.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales will be informed of the Council's Tax Base in relation to their precepts and levies.
- 1.4 The Tax Base must be calculated as follows:
 - take the number of dwellings for each valuation band as at 31 October 2020
 - adjust for the estimated changes during the year, i.e. additions, reductions (including those for disabled adaptations), deletions and exemptions
 - reduce by the number of discounts allowed
 - adjust for any premiums charged.
 - convert each Band to a Band D equivalent by applying the relevant multiplier, e.g. for Band A multiply by 6 and divide by 9
 - sum the Band D equivalent for each band
 - multiply this by the estimated collection rate
 - add the Band D equivalent of exempt class O properties, i.e. dwellings owned by the Ministry of Defence

The following assumption has been made –

- the collection rate will be 97% (in light of the collection fund deficit in 2019-20 and the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, it is prudent to reduce the assumed collection rate, slightly).

- 1.5 The estimated 2021/22 Council Tax Base for the whole of the City and County of Swansea has been calculated as 94,051. The comparable figure for 2020/21 was 91,923. Percentage changes are shown in Appendix B.

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

2. Financial Implications.

2.1 The gross tax base, before applying the collection rate, has increased in part due to anticipated new properties and the decision taken by Council to stop the 50% discretionary relief previously given to empty properties, which will be reflected in the Revenue Support Grant the Council receives from Welsh Government. The gross tax base has further increased for 20/21 as a result of the introduction of Council Tax premiums for long term empty properties from 1st April 2021.

3. Legal Implications

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

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 There are no equality implications. The calculation is a statutory requirement using formulae set out in regulations for Council Tax setting purposes.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Council Tax Base 2021/22 – Calculation

Appendix B – Council Tax Base 2021/22 – Percentage changes

Council Tax Base 2021/22 - Calculation

Appendix A

Band	*A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Total
Estimated no of chargeable dwellings		16,245	26,966	23,233	15,713	12,070	7,830	3,749	1,144	517	107,467
Disabled Dwelling Adjustment		134	0	3	-25	-25	-62	-42	15	-38	
Sub Total (1)	40	16,379	26,966	23,236	15,688	12,045	7,768	3,707	1,159	479	107,467
Discounts Adjustment	-5	-2,478	-3,151	-2,277	-1,415	-907	-505	-205	-69	-21	-11,033
Premium Adjustment	0	446	608	592	411	417	270	166	55	27	2,992
Sub Total (2)	35	14,347	24,423	21,551	14,684	11,555	7,533	3,668	1,145	485	99,426
Ratio to Band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	21/9	
Band D Equivalent	20	9,565	18,996	19,156	14,684	14,122	10,881	6,114	2,290	1,132	96,959

Estimated Collection Rate%	97%
Sub Total	94,051
Class O - Band D Equivalent	0
Council Tax Base 2021/22	94,051

Appendix B - Council Tax Base 2021/22 – Percentage Changes

	2021/22	2020/21	No.	%
For the whole area	94,051	91,923	2,128	2.31
Bishopston	2,064	1,986	78	3.93
Clydach	2,676	2,661	15	0.56
Gorseinon	3,319	3,319	0	0.00
Gowerton	1,992	1,972	20	1.01
Grovesend & Waungron	420	426	-6	-1.41
Ilston	364	327	37	11.31
Killay	2,151	2,148	3	0.16
Llangennith, Llanmadoc and Cheriton	536	508	28	5.53
Llangyfelach	971	947	24	2.53
Llanrhidian Higher	1,640	1626	14	0.86
Llanrhidian Lower	338	341	-3	-0.88
Llychwr	3,508	3,446	62	1.80
Mawr	768	762	6	0.82
Mumbles	10,349	9822	527	5.37
Penllergaer	1,451	1,437	14	0.95
Pennard	1,518	1,482	36	2.40
Penrice	479	426	53	12.40
Pontarddulais	2,348	2,340	8	0.33
Pontlliw & Tircoed	1,039	1,039	0	0.00
Port Eynon	484	433	51	11.79
Reynoldston	335	300	35	11.62
Rhossili	208	190	18	9.29
Three Crosses	713	715	-2	-0.32
Upper Killay	583	589	-6	-1.02
Swansea Bay Port Health Authority	65,722	63,778	1,944	3.05

Agenda Item 9.



Report of the Chair of the Pension Fund Committee

Council - 3 December 2020

Pension Fund Update on Climate Change

Purpose:	This report provides an update to Council how the pension fund is progressing on its commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of its listed equity portfolio by 50% by 2022 and other initiatives to address climate change risk
Policy Framework:	City & County of Swansea Responsible Investment Policy
Consultation:	Finance, Access to Services and Legal
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Council approve and note the action and progress identified in 12 that the Pension Fund has made in meeting its commitment to reducing its carbon exposure in its listed equity investments by 50% by 2022.
Report Author:	Jeff Dong
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Deb Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

- 1.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is a defined benefit pension scheme for local government (and affiliated employers who provide appropriate services as defined by statute) workers in England and Wales. Benefits are guaranteed by Statute and determined by the member's career average salary for service since April 2014 or their final salary (for service before April 2014).
- 1.2 Employees make contributions on a sliding scale in accordance with their salary, and employers make pension contributions dictated by triennial actuarial

valuation. It has over 5.9m members through 15,700 employers and collective assets of approximately £300bn. It is administered via 87 separate schemes managed by the 87 Administering Authorities which are recognised within the Statutory Instrument.

- 1.3 There is a lot of misconception about the LGPS and its place amongst other public sector schemes. It is the only major public sector scheme which is a funded scheme, as opposed to the other public sector schemes like the Civil Service, NHS, Police etc. which are all unfunded, and pay as you go schemes. The LGPS provides pensions for workers like school break time assistants, care workers, refuse collectors, social workers, non-teaching staff in schools, road maintenance workers as well as managers, chief officers and elected members (only in Wales) in local government .
- 1.4 Over two thirds of the LGPS membership are women members, many of whom only work(ed) part-time. In Swansea, the average pension in payment is only approx. £5k a year.

2. The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund

- 2.1 Swansea Council is the Administering Authority for the City & County of Swansea Pension Scheme. The primary objective of the Administering Authority is to pay members' pensions as they fall due in the most cost effective manner.

The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund (31/3/20) has approx :

- 47,000 members
 - 21, 000 active members (still working and contributing to their pension)
 - 15,000 pensioners (members drawing their pension)
 - 11,000 deferred (members who have left employment yet to draw pension)
- 25 employers include the following larger employers:
 - Swansea Council
 - Neath Port Talbot Council
 - Gower College
 - University of Wales Trinity St. David
 - Neath Port Talbot College Group
 - Community Councils
- £2.2bn of assets

3. Governance

3.1 The Pension Fund Committee

The Council has delegated governance of the Pension Fund to the Pension Fund Committee, which is constituted under section 101 of the Local Government Act with associated decision making powers.

The Pension Fund Committee currently is comprised of :

- Cllr Clive Lloyd, Chairman
- Cllr Phil Downing, Deputy Chairman

- Cllr Jan Curtice
- Cllr Mike Lewis
- Cllr Will Thomas
- Cllr Gareth Sullivan
- Cllr Peter Rees co-opted member (Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council)
- Ian Guy, Unison, observer member acting as the Chairman of The Local Pension Board

3.2 Membership of the Pension Fund Committee is subject to a comprehensive programme of trustee training to achieve the statutory minimum level of skills and knowledge with which members can discharge their responsibilities

3.3 **The Local Pension Board**

Since 2015, The Pension Regulator requires the establishment of a Local Pension Board (equal numbers of scheme members' representatives and scheme employer representatives, whose role according to the statutory instrument is to 'assist' the Administrating Authority in its role as scheme manager, which in practice, is to provide an oversight and scrutiny role, ensuring the regulations and best practice are adhered to.

The Local Pension Board is comprised of :

- Ian Guy, Unison, Chairman
- Rosemary Broad, GMB Union (newly appointed Mar 2020)
- David White, Unison
- Cllr Alan Lockyer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- David Mackerras, Pelenna Community Council
- Cllr Peter Jones, Swansea Council (newly appointed Sep 2020)

3.4 Similarly, membership of The Local Pension Board is subject to a programme of skills and knowledge training to acquire the minimum threshold of competence required.

3.5 **National LGPS Scheme Advisory Board (SAB)**

Established in 2013, the national Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) was established to be proactive and reactive to proposals made by central government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, MHCLG) in relation to the LGPS and its regulations and to provide guidance and advocate on behalf of the scheme at government levels and with The Pension Regulator.

3.6 Cllr Clive Lloyd is the Welsh Local Government Association's (WLGA) representative on the SAB.

3.7 **Wales Pension Partnership (WPP)**

In 2015, the then Chancellor instructed all of the 87 LGPS Administrating Authorities in England & Wales , on a voluntarily basis to 'pool' the management of their assets into larger asset pools, with a view to improving the efficiency of the deployment of capital, maximising buying power and increasing economies of scale and therefore improving investment outcomes. The pools of assets

created from this process were: The Northern Pool, London CIV, Brunel, Central, Borders to Coast, Access, LPP and the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP)

3.8 The WPP is comprised of :

- The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund
- The Cardiff & Vale Pension Fund
- The Clwyd Pension Fund
- The Dyfed Pension Fund
- The Greater Gwent Pension Fund
- The Gwynedd Pension Fund
- The Powys Pension Fund
- The Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund

3.9 The WPP was constituted under the inter authority agreement (IAA) and its governance and decision making is delegated to the Joint Governance Committee (JGC) consisting of the 8 individual Pension Fund Chairmen. There is currently consideration for the co-option of a scheme member representative on to the JGC. The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund member of the JGC is Cllr Clive Lloyd.

4. Pension Fund Objectives & The Investment Strategy

4.1 The law commission outlined the responsibilities of a pension fund's investment strategy as:

“The primary aim of an investment strategy is to secure the best realistic return over the long term, given the need to control for risks”

The investment strategy of the City & County of Swansea is formulated to meet the liabilities of the pension fund in the most cost effective manner as possible for employers. The investment horizon for the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund is long, as the fund exists to meet the pensions of current pensioners but also members who have only just joined the scheme but shall only retire in 40 years' time. Therefore the asset mix needs to fulfil a variety of functions and includes growth assets such as global listed equities and private equity to meet future liabilities but also liability matching, income yielding assets like bonds, property and infrastructure to meet current and medium term liabilities, whilst also having defensive assets like equity protection and hedge funds to mitigate against market shocks.

4.2 In addition to the long term time horizon of its investment strategy is the fundamental principle of diversification within its investment portfolio and as such, the portfolio is varied by asset type, by geography and by fund manager with which to mitigate the various risks. It is designed to provide protection against systemic shocks and volatility in financial markets with the objective of making contributions stable and affordable for stakeholders in the scheme for the long term.

4.3 The current asset mix of the portfolio (30/6/20):

Asset	£'000
<u>Growth</u>	
Global equities	1,603,025
Private Equity	91,997
<u>Income yielding</u>	
Fixed income	299,195
Property	106,781
Private debt	25,620
Infrastructure	35,997
<u>Insurance</u>	
Hedge funds	54,180
Equity Protection	16,199
<u>Cash</u>	23,545
TOTAL	2,256,539

4.4 At 30/6/20, the fund was approximately 96% funded on actuarial basis. During 2019, the investment strategy was revised with a view to reducing the growth assets (global equities) and increasing yielding assets (property, infrastructure and private debt) by approximately 10% during 2020 in line with the changing profile of scheme membership with the aim of reducing the volatility within the portfolio and locking in some of the gains of the last 10 years. These commitments are being deployed during 2020. Ahead of that lead in time, the fund has implemented an equity protection programme.

4.5 As widely reported there was a lot of market volatility in March, April, May 2020 due to Covid 19 fears, with global markets off -20%, however the inclusion of the equity protection programme provided approximately £9m of capital preservation at that time.

5. Responsible Investment Policy - Environmental, Social Governance (ESG) Factors

5.1 *“Responsible investment is an approach to investment that explicitly acknowledges the relevance to the investor of environmental, social and governance factors, and of the long-term health and stability of the market as a whole. It recognises that the generation of long-term sustainable returns is dependent on stable, well-functioning and well governed social, environmental and economic systems.”*

United Nations Principles for Responsible Investing (UNPRI)

5.2 The latest guidance from MHCLG in 2017 is clear, although schemes should make the pursuit of a financial return their predominant concern, they may also take purely non-financial considerations into account provided that doing so would not involve significant risk of financial detriment to the scheme and where they

have good reason to think that scheme members would support their decision. It now encourages non-financial factors to be considered alongside financial priorities outlined in 4.1 with the law commission clarifying:

“The most important distinction is between the factors relevant to increasing returns or reducing risk (financial factors) and those which are not (non-financial factors) with a non-financial factor being motivated by other than financial concerns e.g. working conditions of employees”.

- 5.3 The Pension Fund Committee undertook an extensive education and training programme culminating in a workshop in Nov 2017 where it was the first LGPS in Wales to formulate its Responsible Investment Policy attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.4 The non-financial factors identified for consideration are largely categorised into 3 areas:

Environmental	Social	Governance
<p>Climate change</p> <p>Resource scarcity</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Pollution</p> <p>Energy efficiency</p> <p>Waste Management</p>	<p>Customer satisfaction</p> <p>Community Relations</p> <p>Working Conditions</p> <p>Diversity</p> <p>Health & safety</p> <p>Employee well being</p> <p>Data protection</p>	<p>Board structure</p> <p>Accounting & audit</p> <p>Directors’ remuneration</p> <p>Bribery & corruption</p> <p>Shareholders’ rights</p> <p>Transparency</p> <p>Political affiliations</p>

- 5.5 The Pension Fund Committee’s Responsible Investment Policy has outlined the Fund’s approach to responsible investment in two key areas:
 - 1 **Sustainable investment / ESG factors** – considering the financial impact of environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) factors on its investments.
 - 2 **Effective Stewardship** – acting as responsible and active investors, through considered voting of shares, and engaging with investee company management as part of the investment process.
- 5.6 The committee agrees with the importance of all ESG factors, however for the purposes of this report it can be seen in Appendix 1 that Climate change risk has been identified as a clear systemic risk. To address this risk within its policy:

‘The Committee has made a commitment to reduce the Fund’s listed equity portfolio’s carbon exposure, and as part of this, it has set a target of the Fund’s equities being 50% lower when compared to the global stock market by 2022 (MSCI AC World index, measured in terms of carbon emissions per £m invested)’.

- 5.7 Effective stewardship is the meaningful engagement with investee companies to affect positive change via shareholder activism and voting both as fund and collectively as the WPP and the LGPS as whole through the fund’s membership of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) and the PLSA (Pensions &

Lifetime Savings Association) . Examples of recent effective engagement has been the decision by Royal Dutch Shell to align the CEO's remuneration with reducing Co2 target emissions, having been requested to do so by a group of investors.

- 5.8 The Pension Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) and the PLSA (Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association) where ESG issues are raised on behalf of the LGPS as whole.

6. Climate Change Risk

- 6.1 The evidence is overwhelming that 'Business as Usual' does not seem consistent with a sustainable planet and so something has to change – perhaps nearly everything must change. Certainly, the way that long-term investment is thought about will need to recognise the impending realities of climate change and the investment risks and opportunities that it creates. Pension schemes should be at the vanguard of that thought, but they need the support of their service providers and an appropriate context set by legislators and regulators to assist.

- 6.2 This is reflected in the Paris Agreement, which has committed its signing nation states to:

“Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.”

- 6.3 Pension schemes have often seemed first in line for making finance flows consistent in this way, perhaps because of their high profile role at the top of the investment chain, which is seen as placing them in a position to use their influence to draw good practice on climate change up through that complex chain. Certainly, much policymaker attention has been on the pension industry, as has that of civil society players, noting the influence that individual savers may be able to wield at pension schemes, however as noted in 6.9 UK pension funds only account for 2.4% of shares. Trustees certainly have influence. Yet pension schemes cannot act alone if they are to deliver the change that is necessary. They need information on which to base their decisions. They need to be able to set clear expectations and hold service providers to account against them. They need relevant skills and expertise. And they need appropriate products and vehicles through which to invest in a carbon-constrained future.

- 6.4 Whilst the physical downsides of climate change already are being felt in many parts of the world (fires in California, Brazil and Australia; intense rainfall, flash flooding around the world and rising sea levels), the issue is still viewed as a medium to long term risk. Certainly unless Co2 emissions are restricted and perhaps reversed in the future, these physical impacts shall worsen.

- 6.5 The immediate and growing risks are financial: climate impacts have already caused physical damage to property and infrastructure, reducing property values, disrupting logistics and communications and infrastructure, creating additional insurance burdens. Further, the risks of the transition to a lower carbon economy

that the science urges on us will also have significant financial implications: some current assets will become obsolete, other investment opportunities will blossom. If these changes are planned for they will cause less financial disruption, but the longer change is resisted the more disorderly the shift may become. An investor conscious of fiduciary duty to beneficiaries will need to keep these risks in mind when investing, particularly when investing for the medium- to long-term.

- 6.6 Given that it is perceived to be a medium- to long-term risk, it is typical of the issues that pension scheme investors need to worry about. The risks will cause financial impacts over the life of pension scheme investments and yet they are not usually because pension fund time horizons are typically longer than those of other participants in the investment chain, the issues of climate change are more pertinent for schemes than for the range of investment intermediaries with which they tend to operate – though government action and regulatory change is bringing the impacts of climate change more into the immediate future. It may also mean that perhaps a disproportionate level of regulatory and political attention is focused on pension schemes in the expectation that their long-term focus and their influence on the investment chain can help align the system into a more long-term mind-set. Trustees are not always convinced that they can influence the entire investment chain in this way, not least because of the small percentage of asset owners that pension funds are. Further, the closure of DB (defined benefit) schemes and the maturity of many of the pension schemes that were formerly significant owners of UK equities has led to pension funds moving much of their investment portfolios into fixed income and real assets, so that pension funds (of which the LGPS is only a subset) as a whole now hold only 2.4% of UK shares.
- 6.7 The main aims of pension funds in relation to the challenge of a changing climate must be to manage and mitigate the financial implications of the physical impacts of change, and to position portfolios effectively for the transition to a less carbon-intensive economy. Investing in a climate-aware way means exactly this: positioning for the expected future and to limit damage in the short- and medium-term. Their role is not to change corporate behaviour or financial systems for their own sake, but in order to enable pension schemes to invest in ways that give the best chance of delivering on the pension promise to beneficiaries.
- 6.8 This was the conclusion of the Law Commission in its 2014 report on the Fiduciary Duties of Investment Intermediaries: that incorporating material ESG factors is in beneficiaries' best interests because it helps deliver stronger long-term returns, and limit downside risks. It is not an aim in itself, but a way of delivering effectively for beneficiaries. The Law Commission's thinking was reflected in 2018 changes to the Occupational Pension Scheme (Investment) Regulations, not because the Commission thought change was needed but rather because it was believed the reforms might deliver positive behavioural change.
- 6.9 Expecting UK pension funds on their own to deliver climate change-preparedness at UK-listed companies is not realistic. That is the case not least because the Office for National Statistics analysis of the ownership of the £1.88 trillion value of UK quoted companies reveals that pension funds own only 2.4% of all shares. This compares to 4% owned by insurance companies and 13.5% owned by

individuals – and nearly 55% ownership by foreign investors but LGPS can start to deploy their assets in a more climate aware way, which the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund have embraced.

- 6.10 The world is in a transition phase as we all, as a society, amend our behaviours to transition to a low carbon economy. Aspiration to achieve a totally carbon neutral state are unachievable or not economic at this point in time, however great strides are being made to make that leap in the medium term and the pension fund investment strategy is at the forefront utilising what is currently available and economically viable in investment portfolios at this time, however it continues to evaluate and consider new developments as they become available.

7. Carbon Footprinting

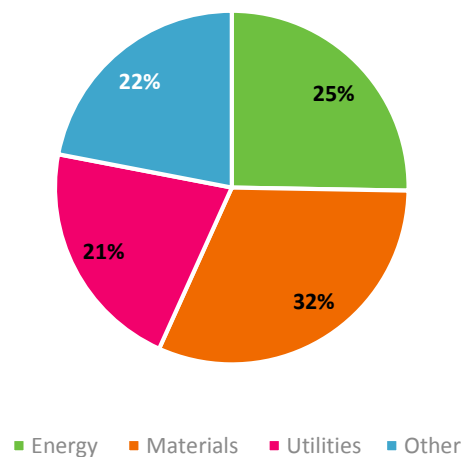
- 7.1 The pension fund committee has been subject to vigorous lobbying from various interest groups (Friends of the Earth and Extinction Rebellion) in respect of its 'fossil fuel' company investments (energy sector) with a view to wholesale divestment from these industries. This narrow approach ignores the fact that **all** companies have a 'carbon footprint' and the committee believes a more holistic approach to reducing the impact of carbon emissions is required to address climate change risk.
- 7.2 What do we mean by 'carbon footprint' ? and how do we measure it in respect of the listed equities the pension fund invests in:

The key carbon metrics assessed for this purpose are:

- **Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions** from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.
- **Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions** from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.
- **Carbon emissions** - the carbon emission (tonnes of CO₂) per £million invested. *Sum of ((£investment in issuer/issuers' market cap) * issuer's emissions) – results shown as per £m invested.*
- **Carbon intensity** – a measure of a portfolio's carbon efficiency, defined as the total carbon emissions of the portfolio as a proportion of underlying company sales. This is a useful metric in allowing the comparison of emissions across companies of different sizes and industries. *Sum of issuers' carbon emissions / Sum of issuers' £m sales.*
- **Weighted average carbon intensity** – the sum product of the constituent weights and carbon intensity. *Sum of portfolio weights * carbon intensity*

7.3 It can be seen that the energy sector accounts for only 25% of carbon emissions within the index. A more efficient and less volatile approach to reducing carbon exposure within the portfolio would be a more holistic approach by reducing the carbon exposure throughout the whole portfolio and achieving a far more efficient implementation of the goal to reduce carbon exposure target of 50% reduction in overall carbon emissions, than purely excluding fossil fuel companies.

fig 1. Contribution to Carbon emissions



8. Reducing the Fund’s Carbon Exposure

8.1 Late in 2017, the pension fund was amongst the first in the country to measure and assess the level of carbon exposure in its listed equity portfolios, which identified that the investment portfolio at that time was approximately **9% below** the average.

8.2 In line with the WPP ‘pooling’ timetable in paragraph 3.7, the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund was required to transition its £0.9bn actively managed global equity assets to the WPP Global Opportunities fund managed by Russell Investments in Jan 2019. At that time, our WPP partner funds did not have a Responsible Investing policy nor a view on reducing carbon exposure within the portfolio. When the equity portfolio was re-measured in 2019, the carbon exposure was in fact **15% more** than average.

8.3 At the same time the fund determined to appraise the option of switching the benchmark of the £0.5bn Blackrock managed passive index tracking fund from a market cap weighted benchmark to a newly launched low carbon index. The tracking methodologies had developed sufficiently so that there was negligible tracking error from the original index, whilst delivering a portfolio with **42% less** carbon footprint than the index.

8.4 Following Swansea’s decision to switch its passive assets to the passive low carbon index, a number of other LGPS and institutional funds invested alongside it as a seed investor . Similarly in its role in WPP, it shared its positive experiences of low carbon investing with its fellow WPP funds and subsequently Gwynedd,

Torfaen and Cardiff have made the switch into the same fund, with others about to consider the same.

8.5



8.6 Later, in that year, at the Local Authority Pension Fund (LAPF) Awards, the work of the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund in this field was recognised by winning the Award for 'Best Approach to Sustainable Investing.'

8.7 As identified in 8.2, the WPP active global equities does not have a low carbon target, however WPP have since adopted a Responsible Investment Policy and constituent funds are currently appraising the reconfiguration of the portfolio to incorporate lower carbon targets. The progress of the same, however is not consistent with the timescales that the City & County of Swansea Pension Fund Committee has committed to.

8.8 To address the carbon overweight position on the WPP portfolio on an interim basis until the WPP can implement its low carbon proposals, the Deputy S151 Officer and Russell Investments have devised a programme of innovative 'Total Return Swaps' which effectively remove the carbon intensive stocks from the portfolio in a cost effective manner which was further refined by Hymans Robertson before implementation by Russell investments which effectively reduces the carbon footprint of the WPP portfolio **by 47%**.

8.9 **Therefore at October 2020, at total listed equity level when the portfolio was re-measured, following the above changes, on a weighted average basis, the total carbon footprint, has been reduced by 47%, with the fund well on its way to its target of 50% reduction by 2022.**

8.10

Date of carbon measurement analysis				
Manager	Mandate	Carbon emissions (tonnes of CO ₂) per £m invested (% of MSCI ACWI – target is 50%)		
Date of carbon analysis		2017	2019	Oct 2020
Russell	Wales Pension Partnership ('WPP') Global Opportunities Equity mandate	N/A	(130%)	(53%)
Blackrock	World Low Carbon	(100%)	(58%)	(58%)
Aberdeen Standard Investments ('ASI')	Frontier Markets (to be redeemed in 2021)	(51%)	(51%)	(51%)
Schroders	UK Equity	(72%)	N/A	N/A
JP Morgan	Global Dynamic	(90%)	N/A	N/A
Swansea Total Listed Equity Portfolio % carbon footprint		(91%)	(111%)	(53%)
<i>MSCI ACWI</i>		<i>(100%)</i>	<i>(100%)</i>	<i>(100%)</i>

It is noted that the quality and completeness of carbon reporting by companies has improved over the years and that it continues to evolve.

9. Other Climate Change Risk Investments

9.1 Alongside its listed equity investments identified in 4.3, the pension fund also invests in a range of private market real asset investments. In January 2020, the fund committed £30m to the Blackrock Global Renewable Power Fund III which invests in global solar and wind farm projects, (a third iteration of the fund).

9.2 Wind and solar power currently account for 6% of global electricity generation, according to the IEA(International Energy Agency) up from 0.2% in 2000. Some countries, such as Germany and Spain, are at shares of more than 20%. In the U.S., California can source close to 30% of its power from non-hydro renewable sources, while states such as Iowa and Kansas can exceed that proportion, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. As with many

technologies, greater scale brings lower prices, driven here by improved wind turbines and more efficient solar panels, among other factors. Over the last ten years the global average levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) declined an estimated 83% for solar photovoltaic (PV) and 52% for onshore wind, according to BNEF (Bloomberg New Energy Finance). In many locations it is becoming cheaper to build new renewables than to continue operating old nuclear and coal plants with high marginal costs. By 2030, it is projected that new-build renewables will be less expensive than existing fossil fuel plants in most countries, if the reference case in McKinsey's *2019 Global Energy Perspective* comes to pass.

- 9.3 It is these metrics which make renewables an attractive investment to provide yield for pension funds with their sustainable long term contractual income streams which match well with the long term liabilities of the pension fund, whilst also having a material positive impact on its climate risk goals.
- 9.4 The fund has also committed capital to 2 Community /Affordable Housing Funds with Man Group and Bank of Montreal (BMO) which look to provide quality private rented accommodation/shared ownership housing in the UK at below the prevailing market rent in the area using the recognised Rowntree methodology for determining local affordability. This is not social housing but affordable housing for people/families who cannot afford market rents and do not qualify for social housing i.e. the 'squeezed middle'. The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund would be investing alongside a number of other institutional investors, therefore diversifying the investment risk. Being a 'seed' investor has enabled Swansea to request that the funds appraise opportunities to deploy capital in the Swansea area. Both MAN Group and BMO are currently undertaking due diligence on sites in the Swansea area, one of which is at late stage due diligence and aims to be a carbon neutral housing development.

10. Next Steps

- 10.1 We continue to work with index providers to refine the constituents of the low carbon passive index and are in discussions with BlackRock to reduce carbon exposure further.
- 10.2 Work with WPP to implement the low carbon global equities fund.
- 10.3 Influence constituent authorities to shape WPP's existing and future portfolios in line with the principles of responsible investing.
- 10.4 Review climate risk in the remainder of the investment portfolio.
- 10.5 Review current listed equities carbon reduction targets.
- 10.6 Consider if there is scope to broaden this review further, to include other ESG related aspects, human rights, labour rights, governance, etc. This would work in a similar way to the process followed in the analysis for this paper, i.e. the Fund's underlying holdings compared to a broader universe using a provider's underlying scoring.

Where possible this assessment could also be broadened out to the Fund's other asset classes, i.e. not just equities.

11. Other News

- 11.1 The Pension Fund Committee has implemented a programme to reduce the fund's equity exposure by approximately 10% with a switch into yielding real assets (residential housing, Infrastructure, private debt, PE). Whilst this programme is implemented which takes a degree of lead in time for private assets, the fund has implemented an innovative equity protection programme, which synthetically reduced the equity exposure by the commensurate %.
- 11.2 At the height of the Covid pandemic in March 2020, global equity markets were – 20%. The implementation of the equity protection programme at this time resulted in a +£9m position for the fund.
- 11.3 The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund has been shortlisted for 2 LAPF (Local Authority Pension Funds (LAPF) awards in respect of the this work :
- Best Investment Strategy 2020
 - Best Innovation 2020

12. Summary

- 12.1 The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund adopts its Responsible Investment and Climate Risk Policy.
- 12.2 The fund measures its carbon exposure in its listed equity investments (9% below average).
- 12.3 The fund commits to reducing its exposure in its listed equity investments by 50% by 2022.
- 12.4 The fund transitions £0.5bn of its index tracking global equities into a low carbon tracking fund (42% below average) .
- 12.5 The fund win the LAPF Award for 'Best Sustainable Investment Strategy 2019'.
- 12.6 In line with the pooling agenda, the fund is required to transition its £0.9bn of active global equities into the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP) Equity fund.
- 12.7 In October 2020, The fund implements its TRS (Total Return Swap) programme to remove carbon intensive stocks from its portfolio (47% less than average).
- 12.8 The fund commits £30m of capital to a Global Renewable Power Fund investing into solar and wind power.
- 12.9 The fund uses its role in WPP to inform and influence positive change in respect of climate change risk with its fellow Welsh LGPS.

13. Financial Implications

13.1 The financial implications of the investment decisions in 8.3 are negligible versus the market cap weighted index, with the anticipated tracking error of +/- 0.01%. The incurred fees of the total return swap programme in 8.8 is £80k.

14. Legal Implications

14.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report

15. Equality Impact Implications

15.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 10.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy and Service Transformation

Council – 3 December 2020

Climate Emergency Declaration Policy Review and Proposed Action

Purpose:	The report presents a policy review and proposed action following the Notice of Motion on Climate Change Emergency presented to Council on 27 th June 2019.
Report Author:	Martin Nicholls
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Following the Notice of Motion on Climate Change Emergency presented to Council on 27th June 2019, the Authority was committed to:

1. *Call upon the UK and Welsh governments to provide us with the necessary powers and resources to ensure Swansea becomes carbon neutral by 2030.*
2. *Publicise climate emergency and promote a greater awareness of the truth of climate change amongst the local population.*
3. *Work with relevant experts in research and development to:*
 - a. *Review our current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change.*
 - b. *Identify any further policy changes or actions which we could undertake, within the scope of our powers and resources, to meet the challenge of climate emergency.*

c. *Seek the help of local partners such as Swansea University and other research bodies to, within one year, produce a report to share with the community, explaining work already underway and achievements already made, as well as targets for the future.*

4. *Update on further work undertaken by the Council in this area on an annual basis through the Council Annual Review of Performance Report section on corporate objective - Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity. (See Appendix 1 – Notice of Motion)*

1.2 Initial progress over the first few months following the Notice of Motion was positive although it is safe to say that since the start of the Covid pandemic this progress stalled but actions have continued wherever it has been possible.

1.3 This report sets out the progress made and recommendations to take the work programme forward in a timely manner. In reviewing progress to date it seems logical to split the activity into two distinct work streams as outlined below.

1.4 As a result of work to date it is recommended that the commitment to addressing climate change is broken down into two clearly defined work streams.

Work stream 1. Swansea Council striving for net zero carbon by 2030 on its own in scope emissions.

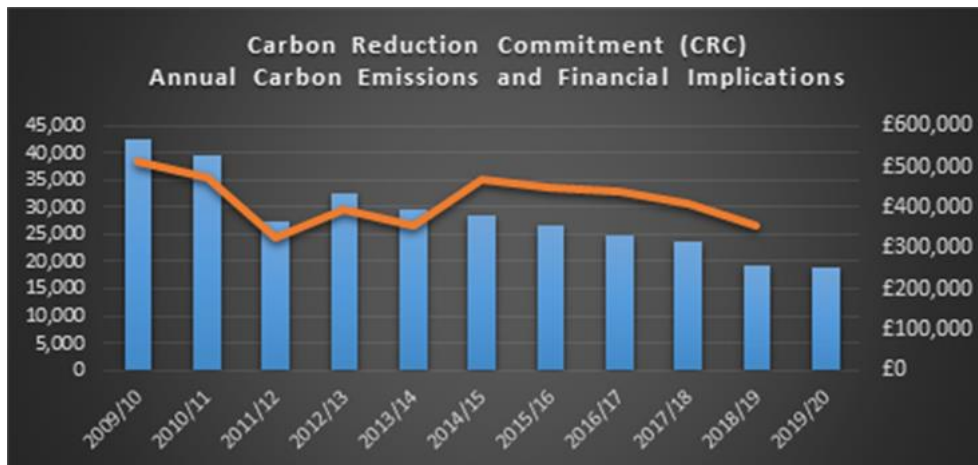
Work stream 2. How the City and County of Swansea, its major employers, its citizens and businesses can achieve net zero carbon by 2050.

Since the notice of motion work has continued on both these work streams although greater progress has been made on the “internal” emissions due to the challenges and logistics of public and stakeholder engagement over the last few months. However this does allow the Council to set the standard and lead by example and not ask others to do something that it isn’t already undertaking. Further detailed work with partners, major employers and Public Service Board will follow the approval of this report by Cabinet.

2.0 Progress to Date - Reducing our impact on Climate Change since 2010.

2.1 It is worth stating that the Council has always taken climate change and the reduction of emission seriously and acted accordingly. There is no better way to display that than to refer to the fact that since 2009/10 (baseline year – 42,532 t/CO₂), the Council has been a participant under the mandatory UK-wide Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy

Efficiency Scheme. This Scheme was abolished following the 2018/19 compliance year, however the CRC cost will not disappear as the Climate Change Levy will be raised to compensate. Welsh Government is to consult on options for a successor to the CRC Scheme (Policy 19, 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales'). 2019/20 carbon emissions was 18,757 t/CO₂, a carbon reduction of 23,775 t/CO₂ against the baseline year (reduction of 55.9%). This is a considerable achievement but further reduction become increasing difficult to achieve.



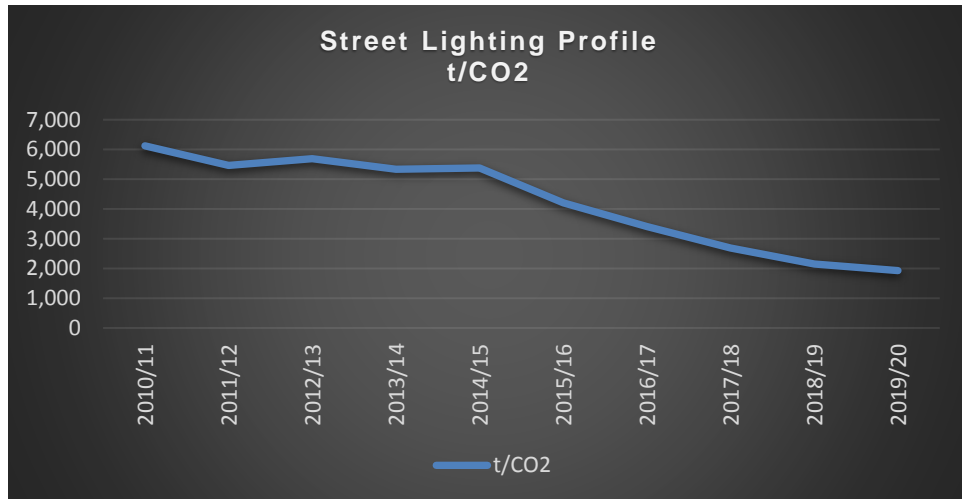
Work has continued on a range of key strands with some examples as follows:

- 2.1.1 The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund is one of the first Pension Fund's in the UK to adopt an Environmental, Social & Governance policy which commits the pension fund to reduce its already low exposure to carbon based fossil fuel investments by up to 50% over the next 4 years. In doing so, it accepts that investing in new green energy, infrastructure and socially responsible investments offers the best sustainable financial return for members of the pension fund over the long term. Progress is reported on an annual basis and a further report will be presented to Council on the 3rd December.
- 2.1.2 The Council has made representation to Welsh Government on various themes including decarbonisation of housing stock, the delivery of Dragon Energy Island renewables project, the use of green energy provision of electric vehicle charge points and in doing so has set out its ambitions for net carbon zero. In addition it has also written to UK government where these powers or possible funding reside nationally such as Dragon Energy Island.
- 2.1.3 The Council continues to deliver insulation and energy efficiency measures to benefit council housing tenants.
- 2.1.4 Promoting Welsh & UK Government campaigns and programmes to increase energy efficiency amongst private tenants and home owners, reducing fuel poverty and reducing emissions.

- 2.1.5 Progressing work towards a world-leading Tidal Lagoon, supporting community owned renewable energy schemes, like SCEES, to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and community buildings.
- 2.1.6 Working with others nationally to urge Welsh Government to develop electric car charging infrastructure.
- 2.1.7 Being leaders of good practice in Wales through having Sustainable Development policies and approaches pre-dating the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.
- 2.1.8 Building the first council housing in a generation here in Swansea to Passivhaus standard, and begun building new council housing to a super-energy-efficient “Swansea Standard” that will enable all components to be procured locally and reducing emissions using solar battery storage and air source heat pumps.
- 2.1.9 Using innovation in construction for flagship projects such as Pentrehafod School, showcasing waste minimisation and sustainability.
- 2.1.10 Winning investment for innovative green technology, such as “Homes as Power Stations”, as part of the City Region Deal.
- 2.1.11 Securing funding for a vast increase in Active Travel (walking and cycling) routes throughout the county and supported Swansea University’s community cycle scheme.
- 2.1.12 Implementing agile working so that the workforce may reduce unnecessary travel.
- 2.1.13 Developing local procurement practices to reduce carbon footprint.
- 2.1.14 In Education, Swansea is an early joiner of the international EcoSchools programmes which encourages schools to promote recycling and reduce energy and water consumption.
- 2.1.15 Encouragement of Foundation Phase pupils to learn outdoors ensuring a respect for nature, biodiversity and eco-systems.
- 2.1.16 At KS4, developing partnerships with Universities to establish STEM workshops including the impact of climate change.
- 2.1.17 Recently incorporating care for the natural environment into the corporate plan as a new priority, recognising the hugely important contribution made by the extensive work of our Nature Conservation Team.
- 2.1.18 Working with Swansea Public Services Board to improve local services. The four statutory members of the Board are Swansea Bay University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, the Fire and Rescue Service

and the council who will continue to work collectively to improve local social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. For this part the focus will be on a Greener Wales.

- 2.1.19 Street lighting have upgraded 21,053 street lights to LED, along with the installation of City Touch, Central Management System commissioned to control the street light output around Swansea ring road (financial and carbon savings) has reduced street lighting carbon emissions since 2010/11 by 4,194 t/CO2.



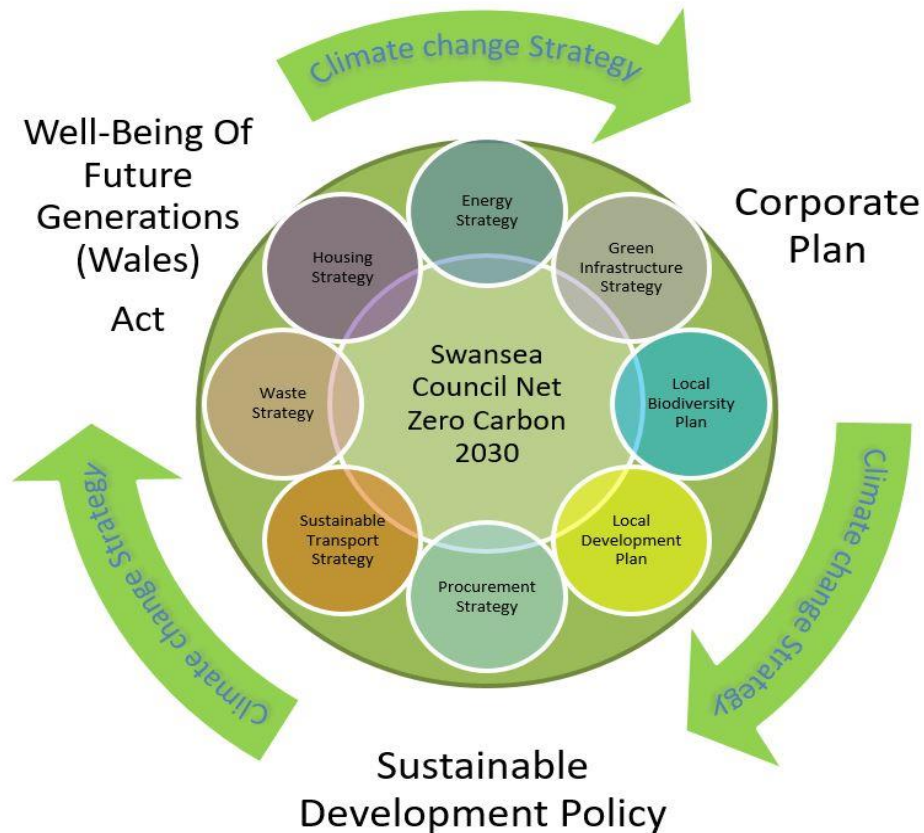
- 2.1.20 12 Council car parks have had electric vehicle charge points installed. A total of 16 dual-headed charge points have been installed, serving 32 recharging bays. With the exception of the two Park & Ride sites, the charge points provide 22kW 'fast' charging capabilities. The Park & Ride sites feature 7-22kW charge points (load balancing depending on how many vehicles are plugged-in at the same time). All charge points provide 100% renewable electricity to users. Users can access the charge points through an App or by calling a 24/7 customer service line (bi-lingual).

- 2.1.21 Active Travel. The total network has increased in length by 25% in the past three years, with over £12million of investment made in active travel infrastructure. Of the 72,000 households in Swansea, 60% now live within 500m of a dedicated off-road cycle route.

3.0 Policy Review

- 3.1 To enable the Council to continue to make progress one of the key actions from the NoM was to review the current policy framework and how this could contribute to the achieve achievement of net zero carbon and climate emergency response.

3.1.1 Therefore it has been necessary to review over 100 Council policies that contribute to this agenda and try and distil these down to 8 key themes as outlines in the pictogram below.



3.1.2 In grouping the key policies into a framework it appears that the Council has many of the underlying strands already in place and it also helps to identify where any “gaps” are.

3.1.3 The graphic also hopefully shows that these policies overlap to firstly feed into the core short term target of net zero carbon for the council emissions by 2030 and the longer term goal of achieving a similar aim for the whole of the city by 2050. These policies are then intrinsically wrapped up in the overarching requirements of the Corporate Plan, Sustainable Development Policy and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

3.1.4 The report also clearly incorporates the requirements and aspirations of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 although we understand Welsh Government are undertaking a review to further improve the net zero targets by 2050. Any strategy and future action plan will incorporate any new requirements arising of the legislative changes.

3.2 To demonstrate how these policies contribute to both ambitions detailed below is a short overview of the current position with each of these policies and examples of progress made.

3.2.1 **Work Stream 1 – Swansea Council Net Zero Carbon by 2030**

i. Energy Strategy

Swansea Council recognise and understand the importance of effective energy and carbon management and the implications and risks of climate change, rising energy costs and the preservation of finite energy sources. The preservation of our natural environment on a regional and national level and safeguarding of the wellbeing of our communities for current and future generations is a vital aim of the Authority.

It is within this context that the Energy and Carbon Management Strategic Plan was developed. The Energy and Carbon Management Plan provides a co-ordinated approach which will identify and analyse energy and carbon emissions from the delivery of the Authority's operational service deliveries and will:

- Provide an overarching programme that will align and integrate all legislations and policies that relate to energy, carbon management and climate change
- Clearly define Swansea Council's strategic ambition and intent for addressing energy and carbon management
- Quantify the Authority's baseline carbon emissions from its service property activities.
- Identify and evaluate energy saving projects towards reducing energy costs.
- Adaptable to the new Welsh Government Net Zero Carbon Reporting requirements.
- Adapt a low carbon / renewable technology way of working, reducing the dependency on conventional energy supplies.

ii. Green Infrastructure Strategy

This strategy considers how green infrastructure can be increased in area and quality in the central area of Swansea in order to make it better adapted to climate change and better for people and wildlife. Green infrastructure is a term used to describe all the greenspace, soil, vegetation and water (ranging from parks to roof gardens) that provide the ecosystem services that make our cities liveable.

This strategy sets out a vision for the central area in Swansea to be much greener, creating green spaces and using a combination of street-level features like street trees and rain gardens as well as vegetation on buildings, including green roofs and green walls. The intention is to

double the amount of green infrastructure (with the exception of open water) within 10 years.

The focus will be to create a green infrastructure network, centred on a Green Artery that will connect Swansea Station in the north, with the beach and marina in the south and the wider area, via existing, improved greenspaces including churchyards and Castle Square. Green infrastructure will be planned and designed to be multi-functional and will involve a partnership approach, using innovative solutions, including Supplementary Planning Guidance for green infrastructure and a Green Space Factor tool (GSF). Swansea Council is committed to using the GSF tool, designed for the Swansea Central Area, as a measure for the quantity and functionality of green space in development.

iii. Local Biodiversity Plan

Promoting Swansea's Natural Environment is a strategy and action plan for the protection, management, enhancement and promotion of Swansea's outstanding natural environment and biodiversity. It outlines a number of strategic actions required for the conservation of the wider biodiversity resource together with a set of detailed actions for the protection of priority habitats and species.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBAP) has three key parts:

Part 1 Strategy This part provides a background to the biodiversity action planning process, identifies key issues affecting biodiversity in Swansea and priorities for future work. It proposes a number of broad actions to meet these priorities, and outlines procedures for measuring progress.

Part 2 Audit This part provides an overview of Swansea's biodiversity resource and contains information on protected habitats and species present in the County, together with draft proposals for the identification of a network of non-statutory Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation or candidate SINC.s.

Part 3 Habitat and species action plans This part provides detailed action plans for priority habitats and species which occur in the County in accordance with UK and Welsh Assembly Government Guidance. At the time of printing 23 Habitat Action Plans (HAP.s) and 98 Species Action Plans (SAP's) have been included. There are plans to add additional HAP's and SAP's in due course.

iv. Local Development Plan

The 2010-2025 Plan provides a clear planning framework to address key issues facing the County, providing certainty and the basis for efficient planning decisions. Its policies and proposals will enable the delivery of sustainable development, and ensure that social, economic,

environmental and cultural well-being goals are all suitably balanced in the decision making process so that the right development occurs in the right place.

The Plan is underpinned by an extensive and up to date evidence base which, in combination with extensive public and stakeholder engagement undertaken during Plan preparation, has been used to identify the key opportunities, land use requirements, and issues for the County over the Plan period.

v. Procurement Strategy

Swansea Council procurement is underpinned by maximising the economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits that may be obtained from buying power. Best value can be viewed as the optimum combination of whole-life costs in terms of not only generating savings and good quality outcomes for the organisation, but also benefit to society and the economy.

Procurement activity strives to deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act through a holistic approach to procurement processes and including where relevant specific provisions within the procurement documents. There is commitment to strive to ensure that carbon reduction ambitions that underpin the sustainable development principle are integrated within procurement practice as appropriate.

vi. Sustainable Transport Strategy (working Title)

A great deal of positive work has been carried out in this area to date but the recommendation is that the various aspects are integrated into a single sustainable travel and transport strategy. This would include how the council deals with its Council fleet, the grey fleet (personal mileage by employees), its emissions from street lighting, the continued promotion of active travel and the development of a local and regional sustainable public transport system.

Some specifics include:

- Continuation of planning for, and improving the active travel network. Refresh of the current Active Travel maps and consult on potential new routes for development, though a new Active Travel Network Map in 2021.
- Increase levels of active travel through promotion, engagement and encouragement of active travel with the general public, businesses, communities and educational establishments, through a behaviour change campaign, Swansea Bayways.
- Further roll out of EV charging infrastructure.
- Continue to deliver a 5 % year on year reduction in council fleet emission via its green fleet strategy.

- Seek to embed the reductions in grey fleet mileage which achieved 50% and 1 million miles less in 2020/21 to date.

South West Wales Metro

- Continue the development of business cases for investment in active travel, bus and rail projects across the region.
- Investigate low-emission public transport alternatives through work with partners, such as Transport for Wales and First Cymru to establish how vehicle emissions could be reduced in the future.

vii. Waste Strategy

The Council's existing strategy was aligned to Welsh Government's recycling targets which aimed to achieve 64% recycling levels by 19/20 and this was achieved by Swansea. This target increases to 70% by 24/25 and the council is reviewing its option to achieve these increased levels.

In the meantime as part of the overall Climate change plan it will develop a new Waste Strategy which it will seek to align with the overarching Welsh Government plans over the coming 12 to 18 months.

viii. Housing Strategy (Decarbonisation)

Following the publication of the report, Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World (BHBWBW), Welsh Government set up a working group made up of the Welsh School of Architecture (WSA) and selected social landlords to further develop decarbonisation targets and prepare guidance for social landlords on decarbonising their housing stock.

Officers from the Housing Service have participated in the development of the study document and so are included in regular update meetings with Welsh Government's Decarbonisation Team and academics from WSA on latest developments.

Welsh Government has taken a view that a retrofit decarbonisation programme can be delivered as an extension to the existing Welsh Housing Quality Programme due for completion at the end of 2020. The revised WHQS programme that will commence in April 2021 will set a target achieving EPC A/SAP 92 to 231,000 socially owned properties by 2030, which represents almost 17% of the entire housing stock in Wales.

The next stage for Swansea will be to develop a long term Decarbonisation Strategy alongside the excellent work that is already being undertaken. Examples include:

New Homes 'Swansea Standard' are currently being developed as HAPS at Parc y Helyg, Birchgrove, Colliers Ways, Penplas development 1 and 2 and Hillview Crescent, Clase. The properties will not have a traditional gas supply, but will generate, store and then release their own electricity.

Homes as Power Stations (HAPS): The Council has retrofitted and transformed into HAPS 6 bungalows at Ffordd Ellen, Craig Cefn Parc which include external wall insulation, Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHP), Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery unit (MVHRs), PV solar roofs and Tesla battery storage.

3.2.2 Work Stream 2 – County wide Net Zero Carbon by 2050

In addition to the 2030 actions required to reduce direct emissions the second work stream requires the Council to engage the wider Swansea community, which will be supported by the development of a full **Climate Change Strategy which should be developed over the next 12 months**. This will be underpinned by the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals and ways of working, the Corporate Plan Priorities and the Sustainable Development Policy actions.

- i. **The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015** This legislation places a duty on the Council to carry out sustainable development improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. It sets out the sustainable development principle's five ways of working and seven national well-being goals.
- ii. **Sustainable Development Policy-** This sets out how the Council can ensure it meets present needs while ensuring future generations can meet their needs too. It guides services and decision makers in applying the five ways of working and maximising their contribution to Swansea's well-being.
- iii. **Corporate Plan-** This details how the Council will improve well-being in practice. It lays out priorities for action in six well-being objectives and the steps to achieve them in line with the sustainable development principle.

All activities will align to create a long term Climate Change Strategy and demonstrate the commitment asked of the Notice of Motion.

Future governance will need to take account of Regional, Welsh, National and European directive alongside the additional policies and strategies sitting at Council level that will support delivery.

This approach not only aligns with the council's pledged to "Act in Response to the Climate Emergency" within its Corporate Plan 2020-23, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030, but also the study of a range of other Policy forums including the APSE research entitled "*So You've Declared a Climate Emergency, What Next?*" a summary of which is shown in Appendix 2.

3.2.3 Climate Change Charter

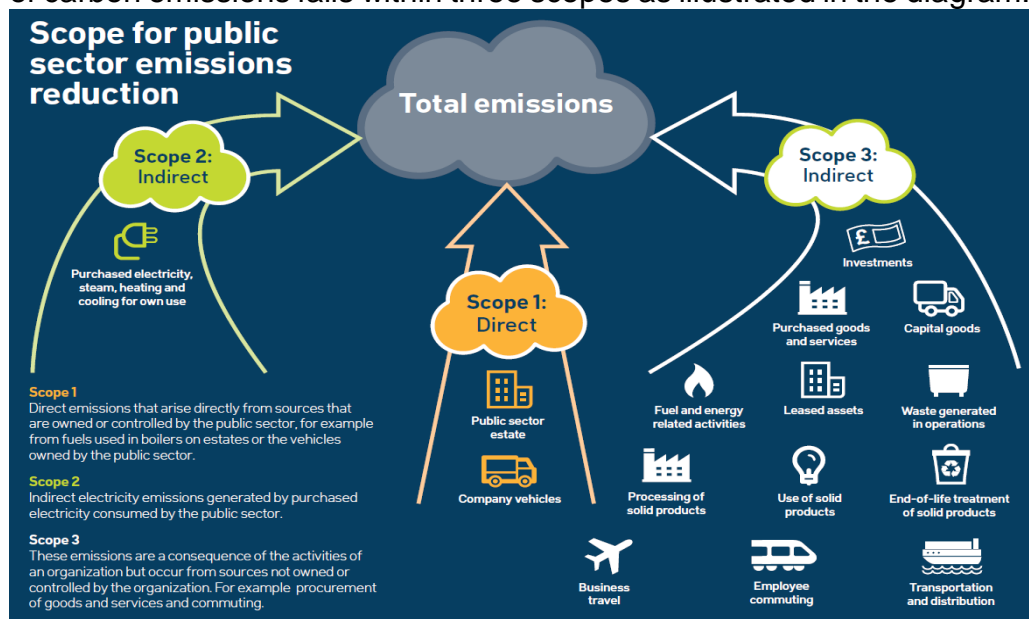
There will be a continued commitment to engage with local people, groups and businesses and help them be smarter and better prepared for the impacts of climate change. This will be enhanced by the introduction of the Climate Change Charter. (See Appendix 2)

Swansea Council recognises that it must lead by example and use its 'Sphere of Influence' to reach out to as many citizens and businesses as possible. The intention is to endorse the strategy and charter through the approval of this report for signature by the Leader supported by Cabinet Members and to report to full council for wider visibility and to invite group leaders to sign up to the Charter and this will then be used as one of the mechanisms to seek wider buy in across the whole city and county for businesses and public sector partners alike.

4.0 Achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030

Whilst the above gives a clear policy framework to assist the council in moving towards net carbon neutral, the authority will need to confirm the detailed actions and the key areas that the Council will require to commit to deliver directly include aligning departments with a carbon reporting requirement into its governance, infrastructure, strategies and policies.

It is proposed that the Energy Strategy Action Plan aligns its carbon emissions reporting with the widely used international reporting tool, the Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Protocol which categories Greenhouse gas emissions into three Scopes as illustrated in the diagram below. The delayed publication of the Welsh Government Carbon emissions reporting requirements is anticipated to follow this approach. Reporting of carbon emissions falls within three scopes as illustrated in the diagram.



The Council has already adopted proactive programmes to reduce its

carbon emissions over a number of years. Some of these were outlined in the opening section of the report but in addition the following action linked to the above scope are highlighted:

4.1 Scope 1 (Direct Emissions)

- Refit Low Carbon Programme - Swansea Council is participating in the Welsh Government supported Re:fit Low Carbon Programme in order to implement energy efficiency saving opportunities in non-domestic buildings. A £1.3 million interest free loan has been secured from Welsh Government Wales Funding Programme (Salix) to deliver a Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project comprising over 18 buildings which is projected to save an estimated 400 tCO₂e every year. Quantifying the energy savings delivered by the Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) will be validated using the Measurement and Verification (M&V) process.
- Carbon Reduction Retrofit: Potential to develop long-term retrofit Phase 2 and Phase 3 projects (such as decarbonisation of the heat network).
- Swansea Council have been working in collaboration with EGNI Co-op, and have recently (Sept 20) installed 220kW of rooftop Solar PV on three comprehensive schools Pentrehafod, Gowerton and Pontardulais.
- Solar Farm Projects - Collaborating with Welsh Government Energy Services on model size scenarios and financial appraisal assumptions towards the development of a 3MW Ground Mounted Solar PV farm. The projected finance model is currently being evaluated, it is predicted over the asset lifespan (35 years; assuming no downtime) that 101,302,731 kWh of renewable energy will be generated or 3,189,600 kWh/year (projected as the electricity generated by a PV module decreases over time), equating to 688 t/CO₂ year. This represents 3.6% renewable generation against 2019/20 carbon emissions of 18,757 t/CO₂.
- Supporting community owned renewable energy schemes to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and communities, such as Swansea Community Energy Enterprise Scheme (SCEES) who have installed 360kW Solar PV and more recently EGNI Co-op with 220kW Solar PV, with additional scope to progress with further installations.
- Continuing to seek opportunities to add to our corporate fleet of Electric Vehicles, currently with Electric Vans (40); Electric car (1).
- Between the reporting periods 2017/18 and 2018/19 a percentage reduction of 4.88% in diesel purchased was achieved through the

adoption of new electric vehicles and the renewal cycle of fuel efficient vehicles.

- Progressing work towards a world-leading Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon, estimated electricity generation of 504,854 MWh, equating to carbon emission savings of 94,913 mT CO₂e.

4.2 Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions)

- Swansea Council procures its energy using Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreements, via the National Procurement Service (NPS), for the vast majority of supplies. All electricity procured via the NPS framework is from 100% renewable energy sources; 41% sourced from Wales (Apr 20 – Mar 21); Gas – Total Gas and Power (TGP) procured as new gas supplier (Apr 21 – Mar 22); Green Gas tariffs - dependent on viability and cost impact; pricing option available with TGP later in the year.

4.3 Scope 3 (Indirect Emissions)

- This covers carbon emissions not controlled or owned by the authority and only has powers of influence/ support / engagement to seek the necessary changes and needs to be divided into two elements:
 - a. The authority's own work and the wider economy, for example engaging with procurement covering environmental impacts as part of contract of services; housing (i.e. sustainability); collaborating with Welsh Government / working with other public sector organisations (Swansea University / Health Service).
 - b. The second element of this strategy is to work with everyone else to achieve a significant Swansea change area wide, for example engaging with Low Carbon Swansea Bay & Swansea Environmental Forum / private sector.

The Council is already highly visible with regards to activity but further work to develop a full Climate Change Strategy must continue to increase momentum if the council is to be seen as the lead influencer within the area, aiming for net zero carbon by 2050 across the county. (Work stream 2).

5.0 What does net zero carbon look like?

- 5.1 As stated above the council appears to have a strong Policy framework and commitment to achieve its net zero carbon target on its own operations by 2030 and has the ability to significantly influence the future direction of the city and region.

- 5.2 However in this instance commitment isn't enough and it needs a clear and published plan and actions to allow it to reach these goals.
- 5.3 As stated above there is a lack of clear Welsh Government Guidance as to what constitutes net zero carbon on emissions so the council has determined the most appropriate measure is to capture those contained in scope 1 (direct emissions) and some of those contained within scope 2 (grey fleet) due to the direct link with its business.
- 5.4 As such the Council is developing its own measurement methodology as a "carbon calculator tool" to capture the key activities, target & reductions and the actions required to achieve these. This is a very high level summary and the details for each of these are contained within the individual strategies listed above. For example cabinet on the 19th November are due to consider an updated energy strategy which contains a detailed action plan.
- 5.5 The carbon calculator is a "live document that can be updated year on year and used to monitor progress and assist in its reporting on progress whilst also allowing targets to be flexed over the next 10 years to reflect the changing landscape.

6.0 How can Net Zero Carbon be achieved by 2030?

- 6.1 Previous section of this report have outlined the significant progress made over the last 10 years.
- 6.2 However to essentially get to net zero by 2030 the council needs to reduce or offset its current total emissions which equate to 27,500TCo2 for 19/20.
- 6.3 **The following outlined the TOP TEN actions aimed at achieving this.**

6.3.1 Reducing Current Emissions:

1. Accelerate the green fleet strategy – The Council through its green fleet strategy has made a commitment to reduce fleet emissions by 5% each year. Which would result in a 50% reduction to 2030, a saving of 2,350 t/CO2.
2. A reduction in grey fleet emissions by 50% would save 300 t/CO2 by reducing staff travel, developing an improved pool car/ car club scheme, and linking staff travel to wider public transport plans.
3. Council Buildings – The Energy Strategy and Carbon Management Action Plan, due to be approved by Cabinet on the 19th November 2020, proposes detailed initiatives to support the net zero carbon journey e.g. increase the pace and scale of the Re:Fit Cymru programme, with the provision of available resource and finance.
4. A commitment to construct and Build new schools and future civic buildings to net carbon zero. The combined effect of items 3 and 4

equates to a 20% reduction in emissions equivalent to 20% or 4000T Co2.

5. Street Lighting savings could be made delivered by the introduction of new technology, possibly by 20% over the next 10 years- 440 t/CO2.

6.3.2 Offsetting:

A range of offsetting measures are also being progressed and considered.

These proposals will need to be worked up in detail over the coming months but the key themes are as follows:

1. The Council is pursuing an Energy aggregation model for PV and battery storage installed on its housing stock which can result in cheaper energy bill for its tenants whilst also being counted towards its offsetting target.
2. The creation of solar farms and other renewable projects would help offset carbon emissions. One scheme has already been confirmed which will generate an offsetting of circa 960TCo2 per annum and further schemes will be investigated.
3. The intention of increasing tree cover and other measures as part of its biodiversity plan.
4. Continue to progress the delivery of Dragon Energy Island which would deliver one of the largest integrated green energy projects in the world and **potentially generating carbon emission savings of 94,913 mT CO2e per annum.**
5. Welsh Government have yet to confirm how the purchase of green energy is treated but Swansea Council current purchases all its electricity is 100% renewable sources and it is intended that this is counted towards its overall emission target. In addition it is progressing the procurement of 100% “green gas” which would further positively impact on its overall emissions.

- 6.3.3 These top actions - 5 in terms of reductions and 5 in relation to offsetting are forecast to achieve a net carbon zero position by 2030. This will be backed up by a full communication and engagement plan aimed at maximising the buy in from all sources which will assist to moving towards the 2050 target for the whole of the City.

7.0 The Impact and conclusions

- 7.1 The mission across the eight priority areas will be long-term in scope and ambition, considering the drivers of change, the opportunities, the risks and resources required to deliver. The journey will take time and will be

challenging. The proposal to align Council carbon emission related strategies, policies and governance structures, is believed to be the best approach to ensuring Swansea Council achieves net carbon zero by 2030. Once the method of recording emissions guidance has been released by Welsh Government then the new action plan can be implemented.



7.2 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the following commitments which are condensed into the two recommendations on the front cover of this report.

1. The programme of activity be divided into two work streams:
 - i. Swansea Council strives for net zero carbon by 2030 through the development and delivery of robust targets and action plans, pending Welsh Government guidance.
 - ii. The Council develops an overarching Climate Change Strategy, striving towards net zero carbon by 2050 for the whole county – citizens, businesses etc.
2. An eight pronged approach forms the basis of robust Climate Change governance for the first work stream going forward with the establishment of an overarching Working Group.
3. The WG/UK Gov. suggest **“Lobbying” to Welsh and UK Government** The NoM outline includes a requirement to Call upon the UK and Welsh governments to provide us with the necessary powers and resources to ensure Swansea becomes carbon neutral by 2030. In response the Council has written to WG ministers on the overarching agenda but also on individual strands contained within the strategy through consultation responses and specific projects.

In addition the Council has written to UK Government ministers where the strategy overlaps their powers and this includes lobbying for the delivery of the Dragon Energy Island renewals projects. Once the overarching strategy and charter have been approved further written approaches will take place linked with the agreed action plans.

4. A Sustainable Transport Strategy is developed, having identified the need to collate activity into one document – current projects already include Green Fleet Strategy, Business Travel Review and LED Lighting Replacement Programme.
5. The Carbon Calculator tool is used to determine project priority, and investment focus, whilst always considering impact on council policy. Note some policies may need to be rewritten in order to align with the net zero carbon challenge. The top 10 actions summarised in this report will be embedded in the future reporting mechanism.
6. An all-encompassing Climate Change Strategy and respective engagement and communication plans are developed and there is continued commitment to involve local people and businesses and help them be smarter and better prepared for the impacts of climate change. This will be enhanced by the introduction of the Climate Change Charter and will be governed via the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Development Policy.

8.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

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

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

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

8.2 An EIA screening form (See Appendix 3) has been completed with the outcome that a full EIA report will not be required at this point. This is an overarching plan that when approved will be broken down into many projects. At this point EIA's will be undertaken for each of these individually.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. Any decision to commit the council to additional expenditure as part of this strategy will be subject to the relevant due consideration in line with the Council constitution and financial procedure rules.

10. Legal Implications

10.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

FOR INFORMATION

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Notion of Motion

Appendix 2 – Citizens Charter

Appendix 3 - EIA



Council – 27 June 2019

Notice of Motion from Councillors P K Jones, M Sherwood, R C Stewart, C A Holley, L R Jones, P N May, C E Lloyd, M C Child, R Francis-Davies, D H Hopkins, E J King, A S Lewis, S Pritchard, A Pugh, J A Raynor, A H Stevens and M Thomas,

Notice of Motion on Climate Emergency

This Council notes the recent conclusion of an interim report from scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that every effort must be made to prevent the continuing average global temperature rise exceeding 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. However, such an increase could, with present government policies, be reached as early as 2030, with further increases in the decades thereafter. Such a scale of temperature rise threatens both human civilisation and all other life forms on the planet, with drastic disruption of agriculture, and the loss of terrestrial and marine wildlife habitats. We recognise that throughout the world, already, species of plants and animals are becoming extinct in record numbers; coral reefs, which are fundamental to marine life are dying; small island nations and coastal cities are threatened by sea level rise from the melting of polar ice sheets; the human death toll from adverse weather events – such as excess cold, excess heat, hurricane, flood – is increasing.

We note the activism of young people throughout the world, expressing their feeling of disempowerment in this situation and asking the decision-makers of today to take urgent action to protect their futures.

We acknowledge that globally, the actions required to address climate change effectively rest with national governments and require international collaboration, but there is still important work that local councils can do.

We recognise the recent history of this council in aiming to do its utmost to reduce carbon emissions, enhance biodiversity, and secure a prosperous, low-carbon economy for our region. We are proud of the actions taken by Swansea Council to date which include:

- The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund is one of the first Pension Fund's in the UK to adopt an Environmental, Social & Governance policy which commits the pension fund to reduce its already low exposure to carbon based fossil fuel investments by up to 50% over the next 4 years. In doing so, it accepts that investing in new green energy, infrastructure and socially responsible investments offers the best sustainable financial return for members of the pension fund over the long term. Progress is reported on an annual basis.
- Changing 21,053 street lights to LED, reducing CO2 year on year by 2,198,608.49kg.

- Delivering an annual Clean Air Roadshow to stimulate public uptake in electric vehicles and promote improving air quality.
- Delivering insulation and energy efficiency measures to benefit tenants of our council housing.
- Promoting Welsh & UK Government campaigns and programmes to increase energy efficiency amongst private tenants and home owners, reducing fuel poverty and reducing emissions.
- Campaigning for the electrification of the railway line from Swansea to London.
- Progressing work towards a world-leading Tidal Lagoon, supporting community-owned renewable energy schemes, like SCEES, to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and community buildings.
- Working with others nationally to urge Welsh Government to develop electric car charging infrastructure.
- Being leaders of good practice in Wales through having Sustainable Development policies and approaches pre-dating the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.
- Recently incorporating care for the natural environment into our corporate plan as a new priority, recognizing the hugely important contribution made by the extensive work of our Nature Conservation Team.
- Building the first council housing in a generation here in Swansea to Passivhaus standard, and begun building new council housing to a super-energy-efficient “Swansea Standard” that will enable all components to be procured locally and reducing emissions using solar battery storage and air source heat pumps.
- Using innovation in construction for flagship projects such as Pentrehafod School, showcasing waste minimization and sustainability.
- Winning investment for innovative green technology, such as “Homes as Power Stations”, as part of the City Region Deal.
- Continuing to seek opportunities to add to our corporate fleet of Electric Vehicles, which is already the largest in Wales.
- Continuing to deliver on our Carbon Reduction strategy: 42% reduction in emissions since our baseline year.
- Securing funding for a vast increase in Active Travel (walking and cycling) routes throughout the county and supported Swansea University’s community cycle scheme.
- Becoming an Anti-Fracking Local Authority in 2016, having passed a motion to “oppose any unconventional gas development (fracking)” which also committed us to working towards being a fossil fuel free local authority by 2025.
- Implementing agile working so that our workforce may reduce unnecessary travel.
- Developing local procurement practices to reduce our carbon footprint.
- In Education, we are early joiners of the international EcoSchools programmes which encourages schools to promote recycling and reduce energy and water consumption.
- Encourage our Foundation Phase learning pupils to learn outdoors ensuring a respect for nature, biodiversity and eco-systems.
- At KS4, developing partnerships with our Universities to establish STEM workshops including the impact of climate change.

We recognise the importance of working closely with researchers in order to have the latest knowledge and the clearest understanding about what we can do to respond to the urgent need to address climate change.

This Council therefore declares climate emergency, and calls upon the government of the United Kingdom to do the same. We commit to:

1. Call upon the UK and Welsh governments to provide us with the necessary powers and resources to ensure Swansea becomes carbon neutral by 2030.
2. Publicise climate emergency and promote a greater awareness of the truth of climate change amongst the local population.
3. Work with relevant experts in research and development to:
 - a. Review our current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change.
 - b. Identify any further policy changes or actions which we could undertake, within the scope of our powers and resources, to meet the challenge of climate emergency.
 - c. Seek the help of local partners such as Swansea University and other research bodies to, within one year, produce a report to share with the community, explaining work already underway and achievements already made, as well as targets for the future.
4. Update on further work undertaken by the Council in this area on an annual basis through the Council Annual Review of Performance Report section on corporate objective - *Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity.*



We, the Signatories to Swansea Council Charter on Climate Action, affirm our commitment on behalf of our company/organisation to work towards becoming net carbon neutral by 2030 and in doing so commit to the following:

WHAT WE AIM TO DO

- Within 1 year of signing, review our organisations current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change and Identify any further policy changes or actions which we could undertake, within the scope of our powers and resources, to meet the challenge of climate emergency.
- Fully align our actions with our wellbeing and biodiversity obligations to ensure our actions and commitments meet the requirements of our future generations and the need to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity.
- Provide constructive challenge and proposals to Welsh and UK Governments and seek the relevant powers and resources to deliver against our action plan and Commitments
- Facilitate and partner with experts, businesses, investors, environmental advocates and other stakeholders to develop and implement a decarbonisation strategy for the region, including by developing a work programme, tools and resources necessary to achieve the agreed emission reduction targets;
- Maximise the use of renewals, and the reduction of energy use and loss both within our own energy consumption and in relation to utilising our assets for renewable energy generation
- Review our procurement methodologies and criteria to align with our emerging principle of what constitutes “value for money” to ensure appropriate inclusion of climate change and biodiversity is an appropriate part of any award criteria

HOW WE AIM TO DO IT

- Working collaboratively with others through seeking the help of local partners including public, private and voluntary sectors to, produce our own response to share with the community, explaining work already underway and achievements already made, as well as targets for the future.

MONITORING PROGRESS & KEEPING ALL PARTIES INFORMED

- Utilise our formal reporting mechanisms to place in the public domain how we are performing against our committed actions
- Fully engage with children and young people in line with the core principles of the UNCRC
- Quantify, track and publicly report our carbon emissions, consistent with standards and best practices of measurement and transparency

GETTING MESSAGE ACROSS

- Above all communicate a shared vision and understanding through the development of a common strategy and messaging, including by championing climate action within our sectors through an enhanced and trust-building dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

Signed by Organisational Champion..... Date.....

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix 3

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Access to Services team (see guidance for details).

Section 1	
Which service area and directorate are you from?	
Service Area:	Property Services
Directorate:	Place

Q1(a) WHAT ARE YOU SCREENING FOR RELEVANCE?

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**(b) Please name and describe here:
Climate Emergency Declaration Policy Review and Proposed Action**

The programme of **activity** be divided into two work streams:

- i. Swansea Council strives for net zero carbon by 2030 through the development and delivery of robust targets and action plans, pending Welsh Government guidance.
- ii. The Council develops an overarching Climate Change Strategy, striving towards net zero carbon by 2050 for the whole county – citizens, businesses etc.

The mission across the eight priority areas will be long-term in scope and ambition, considering the drivers of change, the opportunities, the risks and resources required to deliver. The journey will take time and will be challenging. The proposal to align Council carbon emission related strategies, policies and governance structures, is believed to be the best approach to ensuring Swansea Council achieves net carbon zero by 2030. Once the method of recording emissions guidance has been released by Welsh Government then the new action plan can be implemented.

Q2(a) WHAT DOES Q1a RELATE TO?

Direct front line service delivery	Indirect front line service delivery	Indirect back room service delivery
<input type="checkbox"/> (H)	x <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	<input type="checkbox"/> (L)

(b) DO YOUR CUSTOMERS/CLIENTS ACCESS THIS...?

Because they need to	Because they want to	Because it is automatically provided to everyone in Swansea	On an internal basis i.e. Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> (H)	<input type="checkbox"/> (M)	x <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	<input type="checkbox"/> (L)

Q3 WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE FOLLOWING...

	High Impact (H)	Medium Impact (M)	Low Impact (L)	Don't know (H)
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix 3

Gypsies & travellers		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Religion or (non-)belief	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	→	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 WHAT ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION / CO-PRODUCTIVE APPROACHES WILL YOU UNDERTAKE?

Please provide details below – either of your planned activities or your reasons for not undertaking engagement

Council working with many groups, Swansea Environment Centre, Extinction Rebellion, University, Welsh Government Energy Services

Q5(a) HOW VISIBLE IS THIS INITIATIVE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC?

High visibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low visibility <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
--	---	--

(b) WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL RISK TO THE COUNCIL'S REPUTATION? (Consider the following impacts – legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (H)	Medium risk <input type="checkbox"/> (M)	Low risk <input type="checkbox"/> (L)
--	---	--

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

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Yes in a positive way – with the reduction of carbon emissions and a better Swansea council- net zero carbon by 2030

Q7 HOW DID YOU SCORE? Please tick the relevant box

- MOSTLY H and/or M → HIGH PRIORITY →** EIA to be completed
Please go to Section 2
- MOSTLY L → LOW PRIORITY / NOT RELEVANT →** Do not complete EIA
Please go to Q8 followed by Section 2

Q8 If you determine that this initiative is not relevant for an EIA report, you must provide a full explanation here. Please ensure that you cover all of the relevant protected groups.

This is an overarching plan that when approved will be broken down into many projects. At this point EIA's will be undertaken for each of these individually. As such no full EIA is required at this time

Section 2

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email – no electronic signatures or paper copies are needed.

Screening completed by:	
Name:	Rachel Lewis
Job title:	Project Manager
Date:	2.11.20
Approval by Head of Service:	
Name:	Martin Nicholls
Position:	Director of Place
Date:	2.11.20

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

Agenda Item 11.



Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 3 December 2020

Appointment of an Additional Lay Member to the Audit Committee

Purpose:	To consider the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to appoint an additional Lay Member to the Audit Committee.
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, Appointments Committee.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Council: 1) Appoints Julie Davies as a Lay Member of the Audit Committee commencing 4 December 2020. 2) Their term of office shall end on 3 December 2025.
Report Author:	Simon Cockings
Finance Officers:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires that each Council shall appoint an Audit Committee in line with the recommendation made by CIPFA in 2005.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government has provided statutory guidance covering the functions and membership of the Audit Committee. A copy of the guidance was provided to Council on 10 September 2020.

- 1.3 The City and County of Swansea has had an Audit Committee for a number of years and the Measure requires that a lay member is appointed to the Audit Committee. Up to a third of the Committee's membership can be comprised of lay members but there must be at least one lay member.
- 1.4 The Audit Committee currently has one Lay Member, who is also the Chair of the Committee. Following the completion of a benchmarking exercise comparing the number of Lay Members appointed to other Local Authority Audit Committees across Wales, the proposal has been put forward to appoint one additional Lay Member to the City and County of Swansea's Audit Committee. Members should also be made aware of the fact that adding an additional lay member will help ensure the committee is better equipped to meet possible proposed legislative changes to the Committee structure that are currently out for consultation.
- 1.5 Audit Committee Members were first asked to consider this proposal in December 2019. Members discussed the proposals and agreed to revisit the issue at a later date. Audit Committee considered this again at the meeting held in June 2020 and Members agreed to seek Council approval for the appointment of an additional Lay Member. Council approved the recruitment of an additional Lay Member on the 10 September 2020.
- 1.6 An advert was placed in the South Wales Evening Post and the Western Mail on 17 September 2020.

2. Appointments Committee

- 2.1 Six application forms were returned by the closing date.
- 2.2 The Appointments Committee met on the 5 November 2020 to consider the applications and agreed that four applicants should be invited for interview.
- 2.3 The Appointments Committee of 17 November 2020 interviewed the applicants. The Committee recommend that Julie Davies be appointed by Council as an additional Lay Member of the Audit Committee.

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

3.2 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report beyond those set out in the original report on agreeing to create the additional lay member post.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The relevant legislative provisions are set out in the report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: None.

Agenda Item 12.



Report of the Chief Executive

Council – 3 December 2020

Permanent Appointment to the Role of the Statutory Education Director

Purpose:	To update Council on arrangements around the Director of Education post
Policy Framework:	Council Constitution, Chief Officer Appointments Procedure, Section 4.9 Pay Policy
Consultation:	Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Council; 1) Notes the approval of the Ill Health Retirement of Mr Nick Williams. 2) Notes the commencement of the process to recruit a Statutory Director of Education and; Agrees to extend the appointment of Helen Morgan-Rees as interim Statutory Director of Education until such time as the post has been filled on a permanent basis.
Report Author:	Tracey Meredith
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Stephanie Williams
Access to Services Officer:	N/A

1. Ill Health Retirement

- 1.1 The post of “Chief Education Officer” is a designated Statutory post under s532 of the Education Act 1996. This imposes a duty on the Council to appoint an Officer as its Chief Education Officer. The Director of Education holds this statutory function.
- 1.2 Nick Williams the current Statutory Education Director, has been on long-term sickness leave with interim arrangements established to cover this statutory role.

- 1.3 The Council has now received medical confirmation that Mr Williams is “unlikely to be capable of undertaking gainful employment before normal pension age” and is therefore eligible for Ill Health Retirement.
- 1.4 In accordance with Council policies and procedures, this has been approved by the Chief Finance Officer. This is on the understanding that as a medically certificated ill health retirement it is not affected by the now legislated £95k public sector exit cap. There is current substantial uncertainty due to a conflict in various regulations around the LGPS scheme and HM Treasury Directions which are likely to take some time to resolve nationally.
- 1.5 In accordance with the Council’s Pay Policy regarding Payments on Termination;

“5.6.2 Any other payments falling outside the provisions or the relevant periods of contractual notice shall be subject to a formal decision made by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council or relevant Elected Members, Committee or Panel of Elected Members with delegated authority to approve such payments.”

On ill-health retirement, there will be additional pension costs and pay in lieu of contractual notice but no other payments that fall outside these provisions.

2. Appointment to the Statutory Post of Director of Education

- 2.1 Section 532 of the Education Act 1996 specifies that there is a duty on a Local Authority to appoint a fit person to be the Chief Education Officer of the authority. This duty in Swansea is held by the Director of Education. This is a Statutory post whose responsibilities are outlined in Article 12.2 and 12.11 of the Council’s Constitution. Article 12.3.1 specifies that Council will designate the post.
- 2.2 The Council’s Chief Officer Appointments Procedure requires that recruitment into this role on a permanent basis is carried out as detailed in Section 4.9 of the Council’s Constitution; JNC Officer Appointment Procedure Rules (Rules of Procedure).

3. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 3.1 There are no equality or engagement implications associated with this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 One off payments in relation to the Ill Health Retirement will be made in line with Council policy.
- 4.2 The permanent statutory post is already fully budgeted for.

4.3 There will be additional one off costs for the advertisement and recruitment and these will be accommodated from contingency fund when they fall due

5. Legal Implications

5.1 Legal implications have been identified throughout this report.

5.2 The Chief Officer Appointments Procedure Rules are intended to comply with Regulation 3, Schedule 1 Part 1 and Regulation 5 (1) (b), Schedule 3, part 2 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006 as amended by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (“the Regulations”).

5.3 Ill health retirement falls outside the scope of the ‘Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2020’ relating to “£95k exit cap payments”

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: None.

Agenda Item 13.



Report of the Leader of the Council

Council – 3 December 2020

Consultation Response – Corporate Joint Committees

Purpose:	To submit the Council's response to the Welsh Government consultation on Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) as provided by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan 2020-22
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The consultation response on behalf of Swansea Council is submitted to Welsh Government
Report Author:	Adam Hill
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are a new statutory mechanism for regional collaboration by local government as provided for in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.
- 1.2 CJCs are intended to provide a more consistent approach by local government for strategic regional governance, planning and service delivery.
- 1.3 CJCs are proposed to be a vehicle for consistent regional collaboration between principal councils.

- 1.4 The provisions also enable the constituent principal councils to invite participation by partners from other sectors in the work of CJsCs through a process of co-opted membership.
- 1.3 CJsCs will be separate corporate bodies which can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions.

2. Establishment of CJsCs

2.1 Part 5 of the Bill provides for the establishment, through regulations, of CJsCs by two routes:

- at the instigation of two or more principal councils. Two or more principal councils can request that the Welsh Ministers make regulations establishing a CJC for their areas in relation to any of the functions they exercise. The Bill sets out how this to be done and any conditions necessary;
- at the instigation of Welsh Ministers. The Welsh Ministers can establish a CJC to exercise functions without a request from principal councils, but only in relation to certain functions or functional areas which are specified on the face of the Bill.

2.2 This consultation is in relation to the establishment of CJsCs through the second route, that is, at the instigation of Welsh Ministers, in relation to the functions set out in Section 6. The consultation seeks views on the draft regulations – hereafter referred to as the Establishment Regulations.

2.3 The Minister for Housing and Local Government has confirmed her intention to bring forward regulations to establish the first CJsCs – that is one for each of four regions by April 2021.

3. Consultation

3.1 This consultation is seeking the Council's views on the draft Establishment Regulations which will create four regional CJsCs across Wales to exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning; they will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being of their areas.

3.2 Once established, and where the constituent principal councils wishes them to, these CJsCs would be able to exercise other functions in the future.

3.3 It is important to note for the purpose of this consultation that while there are four separate sets of Establishment Regulations, one for each CJC, the content of each separate set of regulations are substantially the same and Welsh Government are therefore consulting on those regulations as one.

3.4 Alongside the Establishment Regulations for each CJC there will be a set of regulations ('Regulations of General Application') that will apply generally to all the CJsCs, setting out the detail of their governance and administrative arrangements and the legislative framework within which they will operate; these are not subject to this consultation but are referred to in order to put the Establishment Regulations within context.

3.5 The full consultation document is attached as a background document. The Council's response is attached at Appendix A.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

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

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

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 There are no direct Equality implications with this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: Welsh Government Consultation document - Regulations to establish Corporate Joint Committees (CJsCs).

Appendices:

Appendix A Consultation Response

Consultation Response Form

Your name: Adam Hill

Organisation (if applicable): Swansea Council

email / telephone number: 01792 637521

Your address: Civic Centre, Oystermouth Rd, Swansea

Summary of consultation questions

Consultation Question One:

- a) *What are your views on CJsCs being subject to broadly the same powers and duties as principal councils?***

It makes sense to require CJsCs to operate in broadly the same way as principal councils rather than creating differences processes and procedures.

CJC's would need to ensure they have sufficient structures and governance in place as they would be corporate bodies and open to litigation in their own right, so when establishing CJC's this needs to be considered.

- b) *Do you agree that CJsCs should have broadly the same governance and administrative framework as a principal council provided that this is proportionate? Please give your reasons.***

In principle, yes - this would appear to be appropriate provided it is indeed proportionate and does not develop into a separate administrative 'monster' over time. CJsCs will need to be properly resourced and each CJC will need individual Monitoring Officer / S 151 Officer and Admin staff for each CJC., which needs to be recognised and supported financially by Welsh Government.

CJC's will also allow for pooling of resources or sharing of specific skills and expertise and could help address some capacity issues.

- c) *Do you agree that members of CJsCs should have appropriate discretion on the detail of constitutional and operational arrangements? Please give your reasons.***

Yes – discretion would seem to be appropriate and should encourage ownership of the member organisations as well as offering flexibility to meet local needs and factors. Other parts of the new legislation being considered around standard Constitution for all authorities would suggested that there is a need for some sort of format for constitutional arrangements.

Consultation Question Two:

These CJC areas have been agreed by local government Leaders as the most appropriate to reflect the functions being given to CJsCs by these Establishment Regulations. Do you have any comments or observations on these CJC areas in relation to these functions or the future development of CJsCs?

It would make sense for these areas to reflect city deal footprints and the proposed areas would appear appropriate.

Consultation Question Three:

- a) Do you agree with the approach to the development of the regulations for CJsCs as outlined in this consultation? Please give your reasons.**

Broadly yes

- b) We have indicated throughout this document what may be included in the Regulations of General Application, subject to the outcome of this consultation. Whilst the Regulations of General Application are not the subject of this consultation, in order to inform their development we would welcome your views on anything else which should be covered?**

Nothing to add at this stage

Consultation Question Four:

- a) Do you agree with the proposed approach to membership of CJsCs including co-opting of additional members? Please give your reasons.**

Seems reasonable as an approach – whatever co-opted members the clear lead must remain with the principal councils. Consideration needs to be given around whether co-optees have voting rights – see Q5 c)

- b) What are your views on the role proposed for National Park Authorities on CJsCs, as described above?**

It makes sense for them to be represented and able to contribute and influence the regional strategies – but disproportionate influence by NPA should be guarded against.

Consultation Question Five:

- a) What are your views on the proposed approach of ‘one member one vote’ and the flexibility for CJsCs to adopt alternative voting procedures?**

This would seem to be appropriate, i.e. ‘one member, one vote’, co-optees voting on subs.

b) What are your views on the proposed quorum for CJsCs?

It is appropriate to set a fairly high level to ensure widest possible sign up to plans and decisions, bearing in mind that a lack of availability can lead to a lack of decision making and therefore lack of progress.

c) What are your views on the proposed approach to voting rights for co-opted members to a CJC?

Appears reasonable but would need to be balanced in terms of swing of power between committee members and co-optees. There needs to be a limited number of co-optees as a proportion of the total and consideration needs to be given as to whether or not co-optees are included in quorum. There must be representation from each council to be quorate and, most importantly, only those elected should have a vote.

Consultation Question Six:

What are your views on CJsCs being able to co-opt other members and/or appoint people to sit on sub-committees?

It will be necessary to co-opt other members and each CJC should have flexibility in respect of the extent to which this happens. Experienced and subject matter experts would assist the CJC's but there needs to be governance around appointments/removal/conflict etc.

Consultation Question Seven:

a) Do you agree that the approach to co-option of members would enable wider engagement of stakeholders in the work of a CJC?

Yes – it should enable wider engagement of stakeholders. Considerations should also be given to wider engagement and not rely on simply appointing co-optees.

b) What might be needed to support CJC members in the involvement and engagement of appropriate stakeholders in their work?

It is likely that similar support would be required as is currently made available to members in the principal councils but the support surely needs to be met from the resources and capacity already available across the councils. It simply cannot become an additional tier of bureaucracy with increasing resources to support governance and process whilst front line provision for the public across Council's continues to be cut !

This is equally the case for the areas of scrutiny and performance review which, whilst important, should not become an industry in themselves.

Consultation Question Eight:

- a) Do you agree that members and staff of a CJC should be subject to a Code of Conduct and that the code should be similar to that of Principal Councils? Please give your reasons.**

Yes – it makes sense to have consistency of expectations. It is essential that both members and officers understand their roles and responsibilities to ensure good decision making and avoid conflicts of interests. Bringing the CJC's within the ethical framework for local government would make sense. The body will also need to be accountable to the public and transparent in terms of operation e.g. Finance.

- b) What are your views on the adoption of a Code of Conduct for co-opted members?**

This would be appropriate and necessary.

- c) Should all co-opted members be covered by a code i.e. those with and without voting rights?**

Yes – this would again be appropriate. It is a privilege for someone to be able to be involved and with this privilege comes responsibility and an expectation that they will act appropriately at all times and declare any personal interest or conflict in the decision making process.

Consultation Question Nine

- a) What are your views on the proposed approach for determining the budget requirements of a CJC?**

Correct approach for CJC to determine its own budget requirement and determine how funded by partners longer term. The proposed approach seems to pretty much set up the CJC's as further precepting authorities, although the involvement of each principal council leader should ensure that the power is subject to sufficient challenge. CJC's are intended to provide more coherence and less complexity and so reduce duplication of effort and resources and streamline existing collaborative arrangements. Where is the funding going to come from? External funding to that existing funding given to Councils should be identified and they must not become simply another call on scarce Council funding, effectively top-slicing the already constrained overall resources to support front line local government services. Welsh Government should give funding to support and deliver the functions.

- b) What are your views on the timescales proposed (including for the first year) for determining budget requirements payable by the constituent principal councils?**

Somewhat challenging to say the least in the very short term as the budgets for 2021-22 will have already been set by councils by 11 March 2021 with no scale or context as to what the CJC is likely to set as a budget in its first year. Our operating premise is that the first year budget will be light touch, part year and thus small in scale, and grow in future years as functions transfer and the CJC “grows”.

Longer term the preferred option is a budget requirement notified no later than 31 January each year to enable participant Councils to take budgets to their own Cabinet and Council in February ideally, rather than otherwise forcing them to have to effectively be in March right up against the statutory deadline.

Consultation Question Ten

- a) Do you agree that CJsCs should be subject to the same requirements as principal councils in terms of accounting practices? Please give your reasons.**

Yes as we anticipate the CJsCs growing in scale to be fairly substantial entities over time. In that case proportionate requirements to maintain transparency, scrutiny and democracy is key. Lesser accounting requirements could only be acceptable if scale was expected to remain relatively small resulting in otherwise disproportionate burden to a smaller body.

- b) Do you agree that the detail of how a CJC is to manage its accounting practices should be included in the Regulations of General Application? If not what more would be needed in the Establishment Regulations?**

Yes. Sufficient staffing has to be made available; there is likely to be significant governance/admin work to undertake.

Consultation Question Eleven:

What are your views on the proposed approach to staffing and workforce matters?

This appears to be appropriate and consistency with existing principal councils is important.

Consultation Question Twelve:

What are your views in relation to CJsCs being required to have or have access to statutory “executive officers”?

It is clearly important that CJsCs have access to the advice of key statutory officers but the risk must be avoided of establishing a further and overly-bureaucratic additional tier of organisation and significant additional costs. Statutory executive officers will already be playing a significant role within their individual authority and it is questioned as to whether these officers could provide the specific function.

Consultation Question Thirteen:

Do you have any other views on provision for staffing or workforce matters within the establishment regulations?

Not at this stage – although this is most important as if not thought through will result in understaffed and overworked officers giving rise to legal challenge.

Consultation Question Fourteen:

a) Is it clear what functions the CJsCs will exercise as a result of these establishment regulations? If not, why?

It seems clear with regard to the three functions / areas to be initially exercised by the CJsCs, specifically strategic land use planning, strategic transport planning and promoting economic wellbeing. Any subsequent extension into other areas must be supported by the principal councils and not simply imposed by WG through regulations.

There needs to be decision which services are best done nationally, regionally, and locally, and clarify these from the start. This should be discussed by all parties and set out from the start and agreement reached.

On the face of it the functions will be to prepare appropriate strategic plans which, however valuable, must beg the question as to what the CJC will actually deliver, if anything? What will the bureaucratic structure of the CJsCs deliver that adds value to what could be achieved simply through enhanced collaboration between the relevant organisations? Indeed, it could be argued that the greatest benefits would be realised by further encouraging a facilitating the development of existing regional / collaborative arrangements without the necessity for establishing CJsCs in their own right. This might be seen as allowing a focus on deliverables and outcomes rather than structural matters.

There needs to be assurance that the functions are not duplicated and that it is more efficient and effective in how it is delivered and that there is one delivery mechanism rather than multiple authorities / bodies doing different things. It needs to be demonstrated for it to work that it is a more efficient way of doing things than being delivered by the local authorities.

b) Do the establishment regulations need to say more on concurrence, if so what else is needed, or should that be left to local determination?

The arrangements should work most effectively where they can reflect local circumstances and needs and as such details should be left to local determination as far as possible. However, clear guidance from WG is required and must be timely – indeed it is surely required prior to any final

arrangements being agreed and implemented. The timescale for providing such guidance must be set out clearly and adhered to by WG.

It needs to be clear regarding the implications of the CJsCs and any resulting wider strategic plans on existing local strategic plans. The risk must be avoided of the determination of broader strategic plans by the CJsCs effectively becoming a 'brake' to progress in delivering existing approved local strategic plans (such as Local Development Plans).

There is also a risk of further raising expectations and aspirations through any broader regional strategic plans with little or no ability or indeed responsibility to actually deliver on it. Where does the responsibility lie for delivery ?

c) *In your view are there any functions which might be appropriate to add to these CJsCs in the future? If yes, what?*

The potential areas for further transfer of functions to CJsCs must surely be clearer from the outset and these will potentially influence the resources required to establish the CJsCs from the outset.

Improving education appears to be implied or indeed expected as a further function to be transferred to due course. If this is the case it must beg the question as to why we are currently working towards a new model for regional improvement and a new footprint to replace ERW from April 2021. To subsequently transfer or incorporate this into the new CJC surely risks duplicating the effort involved in setting up these arrangements, not to mention the potential less than efficient use of the limited resources available.

Consultation Question Fifteen:

Do you think the regulations should provide for anything to be a decision reserved to the CJC rather than delegated to a sub-committee? If so what?

It would be appropriate for the Establishment Regulations to prevent the delegation of such matters as those referred to in the consultation document, specifically the agreement of budgets; the adoption or approval of plans or strategies (including the Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan); and consideration of any reports required by statute.

Consultation Question Sixteen:

What are your views on the approach to transfer of the exercise of functions to these CJsCs?

On the face of it the local transport planning responsibility would transfer at some point to a regional transport plan through the CJC (but with a period of transition inevitably). The wider strategic planning function of the CJC would be developed as an overarching plan whilst retaining local development plans (would local development plans be expected to change to reflect the regional plan or the regional plan expected to be consistent with existing approved local development plans?). It

is unclear how the economic wellbeing function would be developed and take on board / reflect existing City Deals and this surely needs to be clarified from the outset.

Consultation Question Seventeen:

What are your views on CJsCs being subject to wider public body duties as described above?

Whilst it makes sense that CJsCs should be subject to the same duties as principal councils this itself raises once again the need for clear and consistent guidance and approaches to embed these principles. From the experience to date of principal councils we would specifically raise the following points as examples:

1. The contradictory nature of a number of the ways of working and national well-being goals which in practice can **allow an individual or an organisation to ‘cherry pick’ one in isolation** and challenge the actions or a proposal from the Council even though the action would be supportive of the goals as a whole and on balance. **It should be made clear that any proposal should be judged on the basis of the goals as a whole on balance and there should be no implied expectation that every goal can be positively addressed in each case.**
2. The Wellbeing of Future Generations, like other legislation, has been used as **a tool to slow or halt progress an projects, for a reason entirely disconnected with the purpose of the legislation**, which can be very expensive to the public purse. So, the Act can and has been used simply to provide a further obstacle to the delivery of a proposal which would have clear benefits for the community as a whole but happens to be opposed by a small number of determined individuals or groups. **Can simple measures be put in place to try and mitigate the risks around this?** The nature of many changes in education are inherently long term and whilst they are consistent with the 5 ways of working in this long term goal any change will inevitably create short term impacts which are likely to be opposed. To follow the Act requires the courage to look to the long term and not just short term expediency.
3. The need for **clearer guidance on how Councils and CJsCs should be demonstrating that their actions are consistent with the Act.** We have had totally contrasting advice to date ranging from ‘keep it as simply as possible as the more detail is provided the more the actions can be challenged and unpicked and gaps identified’, to ‘each goal and way of working needs to be demonstrated in detail with full notes and minutes and timelines to evidence that the Council has acted within the Act’. Consequently, Councils have very different approaches to this. It doesn’t help that the Welsh Government throw the term around in other legislative documents as a bland statement. For example in the School Organisation Code we “must make reference to the WFGA...” yet there is nothing more on any particular areas we need to cover in our consultation documents – are we expected to cover it all, and if we do is this meant to be a matrix or an overarching statement?
4. **There needs to be acceptance that the Act is most effectively acted upon by a Council when the 5 ways of working and goals are embedded within the day to day working of officers** rather than being considered as a ‘stand-alone’

'task' to be undertaken in isolation. However, this itself presents difficulties in demonstrating adherence to the Act in terms of responding to specific challenges through evidencing of specific actions etc. The nature of our Band B programme and school reorganisation proposals and the five case business model requires long term planning and prevention etc. but this is because it is the appropriate way to deliver education locally not simply because it adheres to the WCFG Act. So, perhaps it is **about managing expectations**, we can't do it all, although we can do our best to work towards all of the goals and some we will achieve better than others.

5. **There needs to be far more realism and joined up thinking across WG departments and national policy** – the Act itself contradicts other requirements from the WG so there is a need for clear direction on what we must be doing. For example, currently we have a national direction to reduce the number of surplus places across our schools but also an expectation that we will keep small rural schools open; we have a drive towards active travel initiatives and encouraging pupils to walk to school and to reduce costs of home to school transport but then we have national announcements that further raise parental expectations as to what they can expect re transport support and when a walking route might be considered 'safe', when Councils seek to invest in more 'available' walking routes.

6. It should be recognised that the act in itself has created a lot more work for already stretched officers (such as consultation processes) which has created delays and also has a cost implication – for example NPT's judicial review. The risk is that it will create similar challenges for CJs if lessons are not learned and WG action taken.

In summary **there should be an over-arching national tool available that covers WFGA, Equalities, Welsh Language Standard and others - so that we can have consistency**. As mentioned already, 22 different interpretations by each Council lead to doing things 22 different ways.

Consultation Question Eighteen:

a) The Welsh Government is keen to continue working closely with local government and others on the establishment and implementation of CJs. Do you have any views on how best we can achieve this?

Mutual Respect and Transparency is essential as a foundation. Realistic expectations are also important as to what can be delivered and how soon.

b) In your view, what core requirements / components need to be in place to ensure a CJC is operational, and exercising its functions effectively?

Clarity regarding role / functions and guidance available from WG from outset.

c) In particular, what do you think needs to be in place prior to a CJC meeting for the first time, on the day of its first meeting and thereafter?

There needs to be WG support for set up costs that are bound to be incurred at the outset before an appropriate on-going budget can be developed and approved by principal councils.

Consultation Question Nineteen:

- a) Do you think it would be helpful for the Welsh Government to provide guidance on the establishment and operation of CJsCs?**

Yes this would be helpful and particularly on the areas referenced in the consultation document

- b) Are there any particular areas which should be covered by the guidance?**

WG guidance needs to be pro-active and not simply respond to issues as they are identified and clarification sought.

Particularly important areas would include the purpose of CJsCs and clear success measures by which they can be evaluated. If we are not all clear from the outset regarding the robust business case supporting the implementation of CJsCs and the benefits and deliverables anticipated then it will not be possible to adequately evaluate the extent to which these benefits have been realised. Authorities are routinely expected to identify and quantify benefits and demonstrate how these will be realised, and indeed that they have been realised, as part of robust business cases and the implementation of CJsCs should be no different.

Governance matters must be covered.

Consultation Question Twenty:

- a) How can the Welsh Government best support principal councils to establish CJsCs?**

Ensuring clarity of purpose and adequate resourcing of CJsCs and indeed local government as a whole in future local government funding settlements. The financial / cost implications of national policy must be fully reflected in national settlements and unrealistic assumptions regarding 'cost neutrality' avoided. Any additional resourcing required to establish CJsCs will inevitably take resources from areas of front line provision for the public including statutory and regulatory areas.

- b) Are there areas the Welsh Government should prioritise for support?**

The absolute key priority has to be the adequacy of core Council funding to deliver the vital existing statutory and regulatory functions as well as additional areas of responsibility and requirements such as CJsCs.

- c) Is there anything that CJsCs should/should not be doing that these Establishment Regulations do not currently provide for?**

They should not raise unrealistic expectations which are unlikely to be deliverability within the financial constraints facing the public sector as a whole and local government in particular.

Consultation Question Twenty One:

- a) ***Do you agree with our approach to, and assessment of, the likely impacts of the regulations? Please explain your response.***

The Regulatory Impact Assessment is unconvincing and might be perceived as simply delivering a pre-determined conclusion and inevitable outcome of a pre-directed 'brief' for the task.

- b) ***Do you have any additional/alternative data to help inform the final assessment of costs and benefits contained within the Regulatory Impact Assessment? If yes, please provide details.***

This is clearly a complex matter to evaluate in a robust manner but the conclusion that the establishment of CJsCs with statutory executive officers and other staffing appointments and overheads associated with Audit, performance review, scrutiny functions etc. is expected to result in a financial saving would appear to lack credibility.

Welsh Language Questions

Consultation Question Twenty Two:

- a) **We would like to know your views on the effects that establishment of CJsCs would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.**

This is very difficult to assess – on the face of it the effects should be broadly neutral with the existing legislative requirements and expectations already in place and to be consistently applied in the operations of CJsCs.

- b) **What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?**

As per response to Q22a, above.

Consultation Question Twenty Three:

Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy for the establishment of CJsCs could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Clear WG guidance and an over-arching national tool needs to be available that covers WFGA, Equalities, Welsh Language Standard and others - so that we can have consistency, as explained in detail in response to Question 17 above.

Consultation Question Twenty Four:

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Broad observations:

- CJs could be a mechanism to support regional working and collaboration which could reduce the complexity for authorities involved in delivering different kinds of regional working arrangements.
 - Could free up Local Authority resources to focus on critical service areas not forming part of the CJC, which might have previously suffered from not being high enough on the political agenda.
 - Austerity has had a detrimental impact on public service resources, including the resources of local authorities. CJs will enable the pooling of scarce capacity, expertise and skills which some authorities have lost and there is competition for within a single coherent structure.
 - Consideration should be given to having a dedicated scrutiny officer for each Committee funded by and with staff paid for by Welsh Government. All elected members should have access regardless of whether or not they are part of the executive of any of the council/national parks or other bodies who might be added at any time.
-

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

Agenda Item 14.



Joint Report of the Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer & Head of Democratic Services

Council – 3 December 2020

Amendments to the Council Constitution

Purpose:	To make amendments in order to simplify and improve the Council's Constitution.
Policy Framework:	Council Constitution.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Economy & Infrastructure PDC be renamed as the Economy, Environment & Infrastructure PDC. 2) The Equalities & Future Generations PDC be renamed as the Recovery & Future Generations PDC. 3) The Terms of Reference of the Recovery & Future Generations PDC be as outlined in Appendix A "Policy Development Committees (PDCs) Terms of Reference – Tracked Changes". 4) Any consequential Constitutional amendments be made.
Report Author:	Huw Evans
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In compliance with the Local Government Act 2000, the City and County of Swansea has adopted a Council Constitution. It is necessary to review the Constitution occasionally to ensure good governance arrangements.

2. Delegated Minor Corrections to the Council Constitution

2.1 There are no delegated minor corrections to the Council Constitution.

3. Amendments to the Council Constitution

3.1 The amendments are within the following area of the Council Constitution:

a) Part 3 “Responsibility for Functions” – Terms of Reference;

4. Part 3 “Responsibility for Functions” – Change of Two PDC Names

Economy & Infrastructure PDC

4.1 It is proposed that the Economy & Infrastructure PDC be renamed as the Economy, Environment & Infrastructure PDC, so that it is better aligned with the Cabinet Portfolio.

4.2 The Terms of Reference will not require amendment.

4.3 The Membership of the Committee shall remain unchanged unless amended by the Political Groups at Council.

4.4 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee shall remain unchanged.

Equalities & Future Generations PDC

4.5 It is proposed that the Equalities & Future Generations PDC be renamed as the Recovery & Future Generations PDC, so that it is better aligned with the Cabinet Portfolio.

4.6 The Specific Terms of Reference of the Equalities & Future Generations PDC be deleted from the Council Constitution, with the Equalities Responsibility sitting with Cabinet.

4.7 The Terms of Reference of the Recovery & Future Generations PDC be as outlined in **Appendix A** “Policy Development Committees (PDCs) Terms of Reference – Tracked Changes”.

4.8 The Membership of the Committee shall remain unchanged unless amended by the Political Groups at Council.

4.9 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee shall remain unchanged.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7. Equality and Engagement Implications

7.1 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix A Policy Development Committees (PDCs) Terms of Reference – Tracked Changes

Policy Development Committees (PDCs) Terms of Reference – Tracked Changes

There are 5 Committees:

- Economy, Environment & Infrastructure;
- Education & Skills;
- People
- Poverty Reduction;
- Recovery & Future Generations.

Purpose:

The PDCs are committees of Council with the purpose of development of the Council's Corporate Policies for consideration and adoption by Cabinet and / or Council as appropriate.

a) Membership & Frequency of Meetings:

- i) Non-Executive Members are eligible to be members of the PDCs;
- ii) Executive (Cabinet) Members are **not** eligible to be members of the PDC's;
- iii) Frequency of meetings is a matter for the Chair depending on workload; however, it is anticipated that formal Committee meetings shall be held monthly or as dictated by the work plan. In addition to formal Committee meetings, Informal Working Groups may be undertaken, if the work plan dictates;
- iv) Chairs of the PDCs will meet to co-ordinate agendas and work plans to ensure consistency and that there is no duplication in work.

b) Role and Framework:

The role of the PDC is to:

- i) Have a work plan shared with the relevant Cabinet Member;
- ii) Focus on policy development & delivery by in depth analysis of policy issues and consider future policy development with reference to the Corporate Plan;
- iii) Make a report and/or recommendation to the Cabinet Member / Cabinet / Council in connection with work undertaken;
- iv) Consider mechanisms to encourage and enhance public participation in development of policy and policy options;
- v) Work with Senior Officers in a Team Swansea approach to deliver key corporate priorities; and
- vi) Consider and where appropriate to invite relevant organisations / individuals to contribute to policy development discussions.

c) **Relationship with Scrutiny:**

- i) The role of the PDC is distinct from the Council's scrutiny function of holding to account, questioning and challenging proposed decisions, monitoring the performance of services, and tackling issues of concern through inquiries or one-off meetings (which may relate to a broad range of policy / service areas).
- ii) PDCs may refer any issues arising out of their role to the Scrutiny Programme Committee for further consideration / investigation and vice-versa.
- iii) The PDC Chair will also consider whether any matter under consideration should be referred to the Scrutiny Programme Committee.
- iv) PDCs and the Scrutiny Programme Committee should ensure awareness of each other's work programmes and consider whether there is any issue of duplication. The Scrutiny Programme Committee should consider relevant advice but has autonomy on decisions about the scrutiny work programme.

d) **Support:**

- i) The Democratic Services Team shall provide the relevant support to the Policy Development Committees.
- ii) The Director, Head of Service, or nominated relevant Officer will provide work plan support and research and produce reports as appropriate.

v)

Agenda Item 15.



Joint Report of the Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer & Head of Democratic Services

Council – 3 December 2020

Amendments to the Council Constitution

Purpose:	To note the Monitoring Officer amendments to the Council Constitution following management and staffing changes to the Social Services Directorate.
Policy Framework:	Council Constitution.
Consultation:	Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Social Services, Access to Services, Finance and Legal
Report Author:	Huw Evans
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In compliance with the Local Government Act 2000, the City and County of Swansea has adopted a Council Constitution. From time to time it is necessary to review the Council Constitution in line with legislative requirements and to ensure good governance arrangements.

2. Delegated Minor Corrections to the Council Constitution

- 2.1 Article 15 “Review and Revision of the Constitution” allows the Monitoring Officer to make changes / updates to the Council Constitution in relation to:
- Legislation;
 - Changes to the Officer structure or changes of responsibility within the Officer Structure;
 - The need to correct any administrative or typing errors.

- 2.2 Changes to the Council Constitution which fall under the sub paragraphs above may be made solely by the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.3 The Monitoring Officer has amended Article 12 “Officers” in order to reflect changes that have been made to the Officer structure within the Social Services Directorate.

3. Part 2 “Articles of the Constitution” - “Article 12 “Officers”

- 3.1 In light of changes to Part 7 “Management Structure” of the Council Constitution, there was a requirement to amend Article 12 - Officers in the Constitution which sets out the various functions and areas of responsibility of Chief Officers.
- 3.2 The relevant extracts of Article 12 is shown below. The Monitoring Officer has amended this by making some deletions and additions. The deletions are shown as ~~strikethrough~~ and the additions in red:

“3 *Council Designated Posts*
The Council will designate the following posts as shown:

Post	Designation
<i>Director of Social Services</i>	<p><i>Director of Social Services. Section 6 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 states that “A Local Authority in Wales shall appoint an Officer, to be known as the Director of Social Services, for the purposes of their social services functions.</i></p> <p><i>Director of Social Services. Part 8 s 144 Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 states that “a local authority must appoint an officer, to be known as its director of social services, for the purposes of its social services functions.</i></p>

“10 *Functions of the Director of Social Services*

- a) ***Designation as Director of Social Services***
~~*The Chief Social Services Officer is to be the officer known as the Director of Social Services for the purposes of the Authority’s statutory social services functions. S/he will be required to provide clear professional leadership across Social Services and will have overall responsibility for Social Services workforce planning, training and professional development.”*~~

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 16.



Council – 3 December 2020

Councillors' Questions

Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p>Councillors Wendy Fitzgerald, Mary Jones & Chris Holley.</p> <p>The Leader has stated that he is putting in place a recovery plan – post Covid – that will lay the foundations for the future transformation of the Council. Included as part of this plan are some fresh approaches to education such as Blended Learning.</p> <p>Could the Leader/Cabinet Member explain how they see Blended Learning making a difference to children's education, what challenges does Blended learning present for teaching staff and how are these challenges being met.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement Learning and Skills.</p> <p>During the course of the pandemic, the education system has had to adapt and innovate in many areas and no more so than in the area of blended or remote learning.</p> <p>However, a few aspects are important to note.</p> <p>Firstly, children have missed face-to-face teaching. Therefore, blended learning is not something that is going to replace the main bedrock of children's educational experiences.</p> <p>Secondly, blended learning is not a new <i>pedagogy</i>. The underpinning pedagogical approaches remain the same, but blended learning is a different method of <i>delivering</i> teaching and learning.</p> <p>This is an important point. High-quality learning, regardless of the means of delivery, consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building on prior knowledge, skills and experiences• Providing clear instructions and explanations• Modelling approaches and scaffolding work• Choosing activities and resources that develop continuity and progression in learning, and provide appropriate practise and challenge• Providing opportunities for assessment and feedback to strengthen learning <p>Swansea's blended learning strategy is built on these pedagogical foundations.</p> <p>The difference that blended learning can make to children's education is that it has upskilled teachers to enable them to create additional resources and ways to</p>
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support learning. For example, recorded lessons and related resources can be accessed remotely after lessons have been delivered. These can be made available to help pupils revisit and refresh previously taught work, or to support pupils who have missed lessons. In addition, schools have developed online assessment techniques that can quickly provide efficient feedback to teachers and children. Live sessions have proved effective in engaging and supporting children's wellbeing, particularly some of our most vulnerable. Live sessions and a range of home-support resources have been used to engage parents and to support them with helping their children to learn at home. Further areas that we can look to develop include, collaborative blended learning between schools, including the post-16 sector.

The main challenges faced have centred on the upskilling staff and pupils to use digital platforms and software efficiently and effectively. Also, the associated workload around creating and designing resources is significant. It is also clear that a blended learning approach still includes paper based learning and pupils often express their preference to working through additional work packs.

Schools and teachers have responded to these challenges incredibly well. Using guidance provided by the Education Directorate, leaders have adopted strong, evidenced-based approaches to their planning. Many have used the Education Endowment Fund's (EEF) tiered approach as a framework for their work along with our blended learning guidance. The EEF's first tier is to ensure high-quality teaching for all. To do this, professional learning for teachers and other practitioners has focussed on the science of learning through high-quality instruction, scaffolding, metacognitive strategies, high-quality assessment, flexible grouping and digital skills development.

Officers have supported schools where needed, and our secondary and primary networks have been used well to share best practice and to create professional dialogue.

In addition, staff in schools have also supported each other exceptionally well during this period. For example, teachers have shared good practice by running twilight sessions on live-lesson walkthroughs, pop-up workshops on Microsoft Quizzes and drop-in digital surgeries in the staff room. Again, our networks, including the virtual school website, have been powerful vehicles to share and develop good practice.

Importantly, schools have used staff, parent and pupil surveys well to design, improve and refine their provision. For example, pupil-survey information has indicated that staff were generally sending too much work home when pupils self-isolate. Following this feedback, teachers have responded by being more measured in what they send.

Overall, whilst challenging and certainly not perfect, blended learning has allowed teachers and pupils to develop strong strategies to support learning well. We look forward to developing this work further within the Policy Development Committee for Education.

2 Councillors Mary Jones, Mike Day & Wendy Fitzgerald.

Since our schools went back in September thanks to the efforts of staff and cooperation of pupils there appears to be very few cases of Covid-19 within the

	<p>school community. Will the Cabinet Member update Council with the number of pupils and staff that have been diagnosed with Covid-19 from September to date</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement Learning and Skills.</p> <p>Up until lunchtime on 12 November 2020 there had been 180 pupils and 102 school staff that had a positive test for Covid-19.</p> <p>We have developed a very cautious approach in listening to the advice of NHS Test Trace Protect (TTP) here in Swansea. As a result, schools in Swansea are not the source of Covid-19 transmission and children and young people are protected when in school.</p> <p>All children and young people are following the school rules and are careful about washing hands and wearing a face mask if they need to.</p> <p>However, schools and providers of education are being disrupted when a community transmitted case comes in from the outside. We continue to urge everyone to keep a close eye on symptoms and to follow the rules.</p>
3	<p>Councillors Mike White, Robert Smith, Sam Prichard, and Wendy Lewis</p> <p>This has been a difficult year with Covid-19 and the impact on all businesses. What effect has this had on delivering Swansea Council's Education capital projects, the new builds and modernisation programme and the classrooms for Reducing Infant class sizes.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement Learning and Skills.</p> <p>This indeed continues to be a difficult year with Covid-19 and it has presented additional challenges to the delivery of the scale of capital investment that we are delivering across schools within Swansea.</p> <p>Particular challenges relate to matters such as the capacity of contractors to maintain progress of schemes to timescales with the impact on the availability of staff, the impact on the procurement and supply chains involved for materials, and the limitations of meetings on site.</p> <p>However, we are determined to continue to deliver the investment required across our schools for the benefit of learners and mitigate as far as possible any impact on timescales and cost.</p> <p>Although working within heightened safety rules due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is pleasing to see contractors on all the sites are continuing to make very good progress.</p> <p>This was exemplified in September when Gorseinon Primary School opened to pupils as planned.</p> <p>Five major school investment projects are underway in Swansea, with more than £50m currently being spent on new buildings and improved facilities at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr, Bishopston Comprehensive School, the new Pupil Referral Unit in Cockett (known as Maes Derw) and new schools for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tan-y-lan and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tirdeunaw. This all part of a further £150m</p>

	<p>investment in schools in Swansea, jointly funded by the council and Welsh Government under the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme.</p> <p>We are also continuing to deliver investment opportunities through other initiatives such as Reducing Infant Class Sizes, with the project at Hendrefoilan Primary School on site and due for handover in December and the Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bryniago project due to start on site in January 2021. The annual capital maintenance programme is still progressing as planned.</p> <p>In Swansea we are seeing the biggest ever investment in school buildings and facilities which is resulting in old and outdated buildings being transformed and new schools replacing those that are no longer fit for purpose, as well as supporting local businesses and local jobs.</p>
4	<p>Councillors Cyril Anderson, June Burtonshaw, Gloria Tanner, and Mike Lewis.</p> <p>During the current pandemic the hospitality industry has been hit extremely hard. Can the Cabinet Member tell us what has the council provided, both financially and in other ways, to ensure that safe outside trading can be continued.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment Regeneration and Tourism.</p> <p>Support has been multi-faceted, with cross departmental collaboration seeking solutions and opportunities wherever possible, to assist the sector through the pandemic.</p> <p>Rent concessions have been offered, to support small businesses who have been prevented from trading. Temporary planning and licensing processes have also been created to permit outdoor trading, including the use of tables and chairs on land next to premises and the designation of new mobile trading sites. To help coordinate activities for the City Centre, a multi-agency group has been active from the beginning of July, Chaired by the City Centre Manager, supported by other services and the private sector, which has helped facilitate a range of practical measures. These include extending the closure of Wind Street to enable businesses there to use more outdoor space, the relaxation of the Pavement Café application process including the freezing of fees and the provision of grants to fund the purchase of outdoor equipment.</p> <p>Our Special Events team has applied its experience in reviewing safety and operational plans, identifying suppliers for items such as fencing, signage, waymarking and providing stewards and support for ‘reopening’ the City Centre and outdoor premises, stakeholder engagement, and the creation of ‘pop up’ offers. This, along with the provision of information, advice and guidance, signage and promotional material from Tourism and Marketing, has provided a much needed support network for the sector and enabled those businesses to retain a significant number of their employees and supply chains. Some examples of new initiatives that were enabled include the use of Southend Gardens, the successful Swansea Bay pop up in Singleton Park and use of Wind Street and pavements in the City Centre, providing residents with much valued opportunities to enjoy the city, responsibly.</p> <p>In support of those that operate and ‘enjoy responsibly’ (a key message in our covid campaigns, that has been widely distributed through marketing material across the city centre, prom, beaches, parks and districts, by Tourism team); additional Enforcement Officers and City Centre Rangers are also in the process of being</p>

	<p>appointed, who will be deployed alongside our existing staff teams to support the evening and night time economy. Their role will aid the sector's recover and engage the public to promote responsible behaviour and Covid safe activity.</p> <p>In addition to the relief and collateral offered to the sector, staff in Economic Development have coordinated the Premises Outdoor Adaptation Grant. This scheme was created rapidly, working with Welsh Government Regeneration to enable grants of up to £8k to be made available for businesses to create additional outdoor trading space, and help compensate for loss of internal trading area due to social distancing. 207 grants have been awarded with an approximate value of £1.2m. A high quality standard has been maintained to ensure longer term benefit of this investment.</p>
5	<p>Councillors Mike Day, Peter Black & Susan Jones.</p> <p>With reference to assessments for adaptations, the Cabinet member gave a response at last Council, which is appreciated. In the light of Covid-19, many people are choosing to stay at home rather than go into hospital but, needing adaptations to their living space to enable them to remain at home. Reference was made in the answer to the service is in the process of increasing resources to address the current backlog of assessments. Could the Cabinet member tell Council what actions are being taken to reduce the waiting time for adaptations, for example, have additional OTs been recruited. The current waiting time is 3 to 4 months. What is the target for waiting times. And when do you anticipate that those waiting times will be achieved.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy and Service Transformation</p> <p>In response to current demands for adaptations and in support of improving waiting times the Housing Renewals and Adaptations service has contracted an additional external part-time Occupational Therapist (OT) resource to carry out additional assessments. This is in addition to the 3 OTs employed directly by the service and will be used to provide additional capacity during periods of high demand.</p> <p>This arrangement has previously worked well and prior to the Covid lockdown resulted in the service reducing waiting times for an assessment to around 3-4 weeks for applicants who had made an enquiry for adaptations at the end of February 2020. We will review the effectiveness of the additional resource and consider increasing this should that be required.</p> <p>The Covid period did however impose unrepresented restrictions on the service and applicants who made an enquiry at the beginning of March 2020 were not able to be assessed by an OT until the end of May / beginning of June at the earliest. Due to Covid working restrictions in place OTs could only carry out telephone / video assessments of the clients at that time, these assessments were only suitable for some of the enquiries received, with others having to wait for restrictions to be lifted. As a result a backlog of assessments has arisen.</p> <p>OTs have now returned to carrying out assessments of clients within the home, but due to social distancing restrictions still being in place a dual assessment is undertaken with some details taken over the phone prior to the home visit assessment taking place. This together with other Covid restrictions such as need</p>

for PPE, is impacting on the numbers of assessments OTs are able to carry out compared to pre-covid service and productivity.
As a result of the reduced numbers of assessments being carried out by OTs due to Covid restrictions, the service has not been able to keep up with demand resulting in the backlog increasing. The additional OT resource will assist in keeping up with current demand but will not address the backlog of cases. To mitigate, the service is intending to further increase Occupational Therapist capacity short term. This is however subject to a procurement exercise and OT expertise is in acute short supply. The service is also competing with other South Wales Local Authorities in the same position of seeking additional OT resource to address covid related backlogs.

Given the ongoing operational difficulties the Covid restrictions have imposed on OT assessments, we cannot commit to a target for waiting times for a client to receive an assessment. This is however the service's top priority. Until the Covid pandemic has been resolved and restrictions cleared allowing the service to operate as normal, there will be some inevitable disruption to the service with clients having to wait longer at times.

For those clients in need of adaptations to allow them to remain at home and avoid hospital admission, many of those clients will already be known to Social Services when assessing care provision needs. The Social Services OT service have confirmed at present they are concentrating their resources on clients / carers who require adaptations to avoid any immediate risk of injury to avoid hospital admissions.

The Housing Renewals and Adaptations service also works in partnership with Western Bay Care and Repair to carry out urgent minor adaptations for clients to prevent hospital admissions and assist in hospital discharges.

6 Councillors Lynda James, Jeff Jones & Susan Jones.

Swansea Council has been trialling non- chemical methods of eradicating Japanese Knotweed. Have these trials been successful in removing the plant from the test site and if so what variety of insect was used.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

Since 2011, Defra in partnership with the Welsh Government and Natural England has been funding specialist scientists to investigate the scope for biological control of invasive, non-native aquatic and riverside weeds.

CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International) has been the lead organisation for the natural control trials of invasive species types Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam in Swansea, working with the Council's Environment Officer in the Nature Conservation Team

Japanese knotweed

In May 2011 the psyllid *Aphalara itadori* (a type of leaf hopper) was released by CABI at an undisclosed site in Swansea. This site was monitored for around 4 years. The psyllid was later introduced at a second site in the area and monitored over the period 2016-18. Swansea Council's involvement in this project ended in 2018.

Unfortunately the results were not successful as the psyllid did not establish. However CABI are now looking to identify a new strain of psyllid that is more suited to the UK climate.

Himalayan balsam

Trials of a 'rust' fungus released for the control of Himalayan balsam commenced at two sites in Swansea in 2015 and monitoring continued to 2018. Early signs are encouraging and research is on-going but not at either of the local sites.

Floating Pennywort

The Council's Environment Officer discovered this aquatic invasive species in 2008 on Council land at Garngoch pond /common. This was the first recorded find in Wales and was put on NRW's rapid response list and treated by them over a number of years. In 2019 the pond was declared all clear following the 5th consecutive year of absence.

7 **Councillors Beverley Hopkins, June Burtonshaw, Gloria Tanner, and Sam Prichard.**

Can the Cabinet Member tell us how we compare to other areas in our unemployment figures and what actions has Swansea Council taken to protect Businesses and Jobs during this Covid Pandemic.

Response of the Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities

Latest data from the Office for National Statistics shows that the claimant count unemployment rate in Swansea stood at 5.7% in October 2020 - there were 8,905 residents of working age who were claiming out of work benefits and seeking employment. The claimant count unemployment rate in Swansea was below both the Welsh (5.9%) and GB (6.3%) averages. When compared with the other local authorities in Wales, Swansea was ranked 13th out of 22, and had a lower unemployment rate than the other cities of Newport (7.6%), Cardiff (6.4%) and Wrexham (5.9%).

The October 15th 2020 Cabinet Report on 'Supporting Economic Recovery in Swansea' gives an overview of the actions being taken by the Council to support businesses and jobs during the covid-19 pandemic.

<http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s68193/12%201%20of%202%20Economic%20Recovery%20Report.pdf?LLL=0>

Actions have included:

- Administering Welsh Government grants to local businesses through schemes such as the covid-19 business rates grants, start up grants, cultural freelancer grants, firebreak/ local lockdown grants. Nearly £100m of grant support has been distributed to date:
 - £50.26 million pounds in grants paid out to 4,027 Swansea businesses in respect of the first round of Non-Domestic rates related grant (April to June 2020).
 - Almost £11m to 3,548 Swansea businesses in respect of the Firebreak Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) grants, most being in the bank accounts of the business 8 days after the scheme went live. Of the £30m of Firebreak grants that have been paid out to date across Wales, about a third of the total sum has been paid out to Swansea businesses. There

	<p>are different eligibility criteria for the two grant schemes which is why the numbers paid are different.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimated total amount to be awarded for 20/21 for the extended Retail Leisure and Hospitality Rates relief to eligible Swansea businesses is over £35m. • Businesses that are in difficulty have been encouraged to contact our Business Rates Team to discuss and remaining amounts outstanding. Where appropriate we have been able to reschedule payments over a longer period than normal, delay the start of payments and direct businesses to where further practical advice and support is available. • Launch of the Swansea Premises Adaptions Outdoor Trading Grant in July, using Welsh Government Transforming Towns Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) funding. Over 200 grant awards are being made to local businesses across the county. • The successful reopening of the city centre through partnership working between City Centre Management, Swansea BID, local traders and businesses. Data from Centre for Cities showed that Swansea was one of the most successful cities in the UK at attracting footfall back during the summer following the relaxing of covid-19 related restrictions. • Extended and adapted employability provision to continue supporting individuals throughout the pandemic, including short term unemployed. Over 300 people have been supported since the start of the lockdown in March, over 130 helped into employment and over 1,500 training weeks created through Beyond Bricks and Mortar. • The Council has also supported over 150 people to access sector specific training courses in line with labour market and client demand, including CSCS construction, Security and other training opportunities. • Employability Mentors and Advisors have linked with other internal and external services to help residents with a wide range of issues escalated by the pandemic including financial exclusion, access to welfare benefits and mental health support. • Three virtual Meet the Buyer events so that local contractors could take advantage of supply chain opportunities across a number of projects. The event on the 21st May was the first virtual Meet the Buyer event of its kind in Wales, setting the blueprint for other similar events across the country. • A Shop Local campaign is being launched this month to encourage people to support their local businesses and economy.
8	<p>Councillors Chris Holley, Gareth Sullivan & Kevin Griffiths.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member inform Council what is the timescale for the new link road for SA1 and will the Baldwins bridge be part of this project.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>The authority is seeking to progress the project in conjunction with Welsh Government, following their acknowledgement of the potential benefits of investing in infrastructure improvements along the Fabian Way corridor. Whilst the replacement of Baldwins Bridge itself is a key element of this programme, due to its condition and importance to the strategic network, a link road through to SA1 is also a key aspect. This aims to support the ongoing regeneration of the area and provide alternative and sustainable transport links through to SA1. Although no direct funding was allocated to the project by Welsh Government for the current</p>

	<p>year, they have provided an ongoing commitment to develop the project. Land acquisitions on a number of the key sites are well advanced and this will ultimately dictate the phased programme for delivering the infrastructure schemes. It is apparent that the link road element is likely to be delivered in advance of the bridge itself. We are currently working towards submitting a planning application for early 2021 with the aim of submitting a funding application to support the commencement of work works during that year. Although the decision to invest in the project is ultimately in the hands of Welsh Government, we are continuing to develop the project to enable delivery at the earliest opportunity.</p>
	<p>Part B – No Supplementaries</p>
9	<p>Councillors Lynda James, Peter Black & Chris Holley.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm if patient notes in nursing homes are audited to ensure accuracy and completeness as they are in the NHS.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Community Health Services</p> <p>I can confirm all patient records in Care Homes are audited. This is carried out by Swansea Bay University Health Board Nurse Assessors for nursing residents and Swansea Council Social Workers for residential residents. Care Plans and Risk Assessments are also updated monthly. Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Wales (RISCA) regulations make provision for a 3 monthly report with audit for Care Inspectorate Wales.</p>
10	<p>Councillors Mike Day, Jeff Jones & Kevin Griffiths.</p> <p>At the last Council, the Cabinet Member responded to the question on mechanical street sweeping. Can the Cabinet Member tell Council where the public can find out which areas have been swept and what the schedule is for sweeping in each ward.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>I can advise that there is no set sweeping schedule for each ward, and there are no publically accessible records of street sweeping.</p> <p>Generally, the core city centre shopping area is swept daily, other main shopping areas are swept three times a week, other areas swept a couple of times a year, with additional sweeping prioritised on a needs basis.</p> <p>There is also prioritisation given to areas of high leaf fall during the Autumn.</p> <p>Details of sweeping at a particular location can be provided on a request basis.</p>
11	<p>Councillors Chris Holley, Graham Thomas & Jeff Jones.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member inform Council as to whether the money needed to bring our Leisure Centres up to the required standard for transfer has now been completed.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism</p>

The Capital improvement works in partnership with Freedom Leisure were due to be completed within the first two years of contract start date, therefore by October 2020. Some delays have been unavoidable due to Covid-19 interrupting some work, but the majority of the planned work has been completed on time and within budget. The budget for the improvements was agreed at £5,161,923 (£5.16M), and at time of reporting is 94% committed.

In summary, works carried out across the portfolio at all facilities include:

- Reconfiguration of public access and spaces to improve customer journey
- Improve management of safeguarding at a number of school sites
- Improvement, and increase size and capacity of gyms and studio spaces
- Creating welcoming entrances and offering catering services as appropriate
- General uplift in look and feel of the facilities, including within changing areas both wet and dry side
- Backlogged maintenance of mechanical and electrical equipment
- Energy reduction schemes
- Environmental, roofing, drainage and roofing works, as required

A number of additional schemes have been developed using grants and other direct Freedom leisure funding to maximise the improvements, and were over and above what was committed to within the original proposal. Feedback from users and key stakeholders has been really positive and the facilities are looking superb as a result of the improvements and are being well maintained under the partnership.

Of the £5.1M, there is a remaining sum of £314,000 which Freedom has budgeted to finalise improvements across the portfolio which specifically relates to residual backlogged maintenance issues and some final improvements to visitor spaces in line with the wider offering.

This will be spent within the remaining part of 2020/21 and into the early part of 2021/22.



Council – 3 December 2020

Notice of Motion – Basic Income

Notice of Motion from Councillors Mary Sherwood, Rob Stewart, Andrea Lewis, David Hopkins, Jan Curtice, Mike Lewis, Mark Child, Des Thomas, Sam Pritchard, Wendy Lewis, Lesley Walton, Robert Francis-Davies, Louise Gibbard, Alyson Pugh & Ceri Evans

That this Council:

- a) believes that the current benefits system is failing citizens and is causing hardship to many communities in Swansea;
- b) notes the concept of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) where citizens are paid a non means tested sum from the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status;
- c) believes that testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, and loss of community through:
 - i) giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their job;
 - ii) valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
 - iii) removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality;
 - iv) giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society.
- d) notes the work of the UBI Lab network in developing proposals for pilots to test a UBI;
- e) believes that the success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them;
- f) believes that, given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Swansea is ideally placed to pilot a UBI;
- g) resolves to work with UBI Lab Swansea & Wales to prompt discussions within and beyond the city around a basic income;
- h) resolves to send a copy of this Motion to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in Parliament, the First Minister of Wales and to all Swansea MPs.