



City and County of Swansea

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

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, 19 May 2021 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor P K Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
E W Fitzgerald
M Sherwood

Councillor(s)
L J Tyler-Lloyd
C Richards

Councillor(s)
M H Jones
B J Rowlands

Other Attendees

Louise Gibbard
Andrea Lewis

Cabinet Member - Supporting Communities
Cabinet Member - Climate Change & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader)

Officer(s)

Emily-Jayne Davies
Rachel Lewis
Martin Nicholls
Suzy Richards
Deborah Hill

Scrutiny Officer
Project Manager
Director of Place
Sustainable Policy Officer
Nature Conservation Team Leader

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): S J Gallagher, I E Mann, H M Morris and W G Thomas

39 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Cllr M. Sherwood declared an interest as an employee of Gower Power Co-Op C.I.C

40 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared

41 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The minutes of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting, held on 22 March 2021, were agreed as an accurate record.

42 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

43 Climate Emergency Declaration - Council Action Plan Progress

The Panel held a discussion on Council progress surrounding the Climate Emergency Declaration. The Panel also heard from the Director of Place regarding the recent public consultation feedback about the Climate Change action plan. Cllr Andrea Lewis and Cllr Louise Gibbard also contributed to discussions and answered questions. It was noted that the Council had received circa 1000 submissions in relation to the public consultation and the Panel expressed their gratitude to all officers involved in the design and implementation of the survey.

Discussions focussed on:

- The ongoing and embedded work already being done by the Council, ahead of the Climate Emergency Declaration in June 2019.
- Progress and actions being implemented towards achieving a 'net zero Council' by 2030, covering points such as electric vehicle fleet, pension fund commitments, street lighting and solar panels.
- Interlinked policies surrounding the Corporate Plan, Sustainable development and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales).
- Draft performance indicators outlined a forecast of year on year reductions.
- Collaborative working and joint commitments, leading by example and challenging others to join.
- By 2050, Swansea as a whole City and County aims to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions.
- Survey results: A diverse and exceptionally high response rate.
- Covid Gaps – more targeted engagement with children, young people, business and face-to-face offline opportunities are planned. Members discussed the ongoing need for better engagement with children and young people, and how the Council can better engage with these groups.

The Panel also took the opportunity to ask about the availability of electric car charging points and developments in this area. Cllr Lewis explained that new points are being installed across the city, which aim to give better access to charging points.

The Panel considered the information provided, asked questions, and gave views on the way forward. The Panel commented on the impressive and informative work presented at the meeting. The Chair thanked all for their input and efforts surrounding this ongoing and cross cutting area of work.

AGREED that the Panel write to the Cabinet Members with its views and recommendations.

44 Letters

The Panel received the correspondence sent by the Panel following the meeting of the Panel held on 22 March 2021.

45 Work Plan

The meeting ended at 11.50 am

Chair