



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Performance Panel - Natural Environment

At: Remotely via Microsoft Teams

On: Wednesday, 19 May 2021

Time: 10.00 am

Convenor: Councillor Peter K Jones

Membership:

Councillors: E W Fitzgerald, S J Gallagher, M H Jones, I E Mann, H M Morris, C Richards, B J Rowlands, M Sherwood, W G Thomas and L J Tyler-Lloyd

Agenda

Page No.

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests

3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and agree as an accurate record.

1 - 4

5 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.

6 Climate Emergency Declaration - Council Action Plan Progress

Presentation including Climate Change Action Plan: consultation feedback

5 - 42

Invited to attend:

Cllr Andrea Lewis - Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy and Service Transformation

Cllr Louise Gibbard - Cabinet Member for Supporting Communities

Martin Nicholls – Director of Place

Rachel Lewis – Directorate Project Manager

Suzy Richards – Sustainable Policy Officer

7	Letters	43 - 47
8	Work Plan	48 - 49

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 29 June 2021 at 10.00 am

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Wednesday, 12 May 2021

Contact: Scrutiny Officer - 01792 636292

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

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

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Monday, 22 March 2021 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor P K Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
E W Fitzgerald
I E Mann
M Sherwood

Councillor(s)
S J Gallagher
H M Morris
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)
M H Jones
C Richards
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Officer(s)

Emily-Jayne Davies
Deb Hill
Paul Meller

Scrutiny Officer
Nature Conservation Team Leader
Natural Environment Section Manager

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): B J Rowlands

31 Confirmation of Convener

AGREED that Councillor Peter Jones be re-appointed as convener of the Panel for the 2020/21 municipal year.

32 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

33 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.

34 Minutes of previous meeting(s)

The minutes of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting, held on 1 September 2020, were agreed as an accurate record.

35 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

There was some discussion by Panel Members about opportunities to raise awareness of the work of the Panel with the public and stakeholders, including local environmental organisations, which would hopefully lead to improved engagement with the Panel.

36 Nature Conservation Project Update

The Panel held a discussion on the work of the Council's Nature Conservation Team.

The Panel welcomed the information update with a Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Action Log provided showing current and planned work. The report focused on the actions under the Corporate Plan Natural Resources and Biodiversity Objective and work arising out of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations. It was noted that this long-term project work did not cover all activities, and was in addition to the delivery of daily statutory duties.

The Panel considered the main project activity, delivery timescales and progress, as shown in the Action Log.

Discussion focused on:

- Monitoring of the Corporate Plan Objective for Natural Resources and Biodiversity.
- Preparation of the Next Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Duty Action Plan. The last Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Monitoring Report would be re-circulated to Panel Members. Panel Members were keen to see greater promotion of the work the Council is doing in delivering the Duty.
- The role and work of the Climate Change Programme Board – the Panel was interested in learning more about this.
- Swansea Central Area Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- The development of a Council Tree Policy - Members were interested in progress and highlighted the importance of public consultation and engagement to inform the policy, querying how wide the consultation will be and for how long. There was discussion on the issue of tree felling and the number of mature trees being cleared across Swansea, including communication with local residents to ensure awareness.
- Ash Dieback – officers are finalising some guidance on this in relation to biodiversity, to ensure biodiversity is taken into account when dealing with this issue – to be circulated when finalised
- Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance – this was adopted by Planning Committee in February and would be circulated to the Panel for information.
- Plan to appoint a new Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer and new Planning Ecologist.
- Development / delivery of Biodiversity training – to be actioned by newly appointed officer.

- Support to Local Nature Partnership (LNP) meetings – funding secured through Welsh Government for biodiversity posts across Wales, making a huge difference to work being covered.
- Grant funding from both Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government for delivery of programmes.
- New tree initiatives - this is a corporate performance indicator, contributing to national forest targets. Officers have produced a guidance note on planting trees (Right Tree in the Right Place) – copy to be shared with Panel Members.
- Wildflower meadow planting initiatives and management - Officers have identified strategic pollinator corridors to target for new planting. Grants from Welsh Government have enabled purchase of 'cut and collect' machinery to support the ecological management of wildflower meadows / verges
- Efforts to reduce mowing / spraying in parks and verges. Members raised concerns about continued use of glyphosate, which will be a topic for future discussion. The Panel would be following up to see what changes have been made to support biodiversity.
- Supporting community biodiversity projects – impact of Covid has been remarkable on appreciation of green areas discovered during lockdown. Volume of requests for information/help has increased dramatically this year.
- Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure auditing and mapping work.
- School biodiversity awareness activities – a recommendation originating from the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry.

The Panel took the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of the Nature Conservation Team, covering a broad range of issues, particularly during the last year of lockdown. The Panel considered the information provided, asked questions, and gave views on the activities discussed and progress. The Chair thanked all for their input.

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

37 Draft Work Plan 2021/22

The Panel considered the focus of future meetings and priorities, and agreed the draft work plan presented by the Convener. He added that the work plan will remain flexible and subject to ongoing review by the Panel to ensure focus on the right topics.

The next Panel meeting would be taking place on 19 May, moved from April, to discuss progress on action on Climate Change including feedback following a public consultation exercise by the Council.

38 Climate Change Action Plan Consultation

The Convener referred to the Council's current public consultation on Climate Change and encouraged Panel Members to respond to the Climate Survey which was ending on 28 March.

The meeting ended at 11.40 am

Agenda Item 6



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

Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel 19 May 2021

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To present Swansea Council progress on action on climate change including feedback following a public consultation by the Council.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This presentation includes a summary of Swansea Council action on climate change. This covers work towards a Net Zero Swansea Council 2030 (including draft performance indicators) and a Net Zero Swansea 2050. The report also details headline results from the recent Swansea Council Climate Change Survey.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Give their views to inform the development of the future work programme.
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Andrea Lewis, Deputy Leader, Homes, Energy, Service transformation Cllr Louise Gibbard, Supporting Communities
Lead Officer(s)	Martin Nicholls, Director of Place
Report Author	Martin Nicholls martin.nicholls@swansea.gov.uk Rachel Lewis Rachel.lewis@swansea.gov.uk

Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net A Net Zero Swansea

Panel Craffu Perfformiad – Yr Amgylchedd
Naturiol

Scrutiny Performance Panel Natural Environment
19 May 2021















Cerrig milltir hyd yma o ran yr Hinsawdd

Climate Milestones to Date

- Mae Cyngor Abertawe'n ymrwymedig i weithredu o ran Newid yn yr Hinsawdd.
- Cyhoeddwyd Argyfwng Hinsawdd ym mis Mehefin 2019
- Adroddwyd am Adolygiad Polisi Datganiad Argyfwng Hinsawdd a Chamau Gweithredu Arfaethedig yn y cyngor ym mis Rhagfyr 2020













- Swansea Council is and has long been committed to taking action on Climate Change.
- A Climate Emergency was declared in June 2019
- Climate Emergency Declaration Policy Review and Proposed Action reported at Council in December 2020

Cyngor Abertawe Di-garbon Net erbyn 2030 Y daith hyd yn hyn

 <p>Lleihau allyriadau Ymrwymiad Lleihau Carbon 2010 o 55% yn 2019/2020</p>	<p>Ymrwymiad y Gronfa Bensiwn i leihau buddsoddiadau mewn tanwydd ffosil o 50%</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">dros 4 blynedd</p>	 <p>Gosod 12 o bwyntiau gwefru cerbydau trydan mewn meysydd parcio'r cyngor sy'n gwasanaethu 32 o leoedd parcio</p>	<p>Mae ein trydan i gyd yn dod o ffynonellau ynni adnewyddadwy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">100%</p> 
<p>Mae ein hysgolion a chymunedau'n elwa o baneli ynni solar cymunedol 580kw</p> 	<p>Caiff ein tai cyngor newydd eu hadeiladu mewn ffordd hynod ynni effeithlon yn unol â "Safon Abertawe" gyda storffeydd batri solar a phympiau gwres ffynhonnell aer.</p> 	 <p>Mae ein rhwydwaith beicio wedi tyfu 25% dros 3 blynedd</p>	<p>Mae ein cerbydlu'n cynnwys 40 o faniau trydan a char trydan!</p> 
<p>Eco-Sgolion Ymunwr cynnar</p> 	<p>Mae Abertawe wedi llwyddo i gyrraedd targed o fodloni lefelau ailgylchu o 64%erbyn 19/20</p> 	<p>21,053 o oleuadau stryd wedi'u huwchraddio i oleuadau LED allyriadau isel</p> 	<p>Ynys Ynni'r Ddraig a Morlyn Llanw Bae Abertawe yn cael eu hyrwyddo</p> 

A Net Zero Swansea Council by 2030

The journey so far

 <p>A 55% reduction on 2010 Carbon Reduction Commitment emissions in 2019/2020</p>	<p>A Pension Fund commitment to reduce fossil fuel investments by 50%</p>  <p>over 4 years</p>	 <p>12 Council car parks electric vehicle charge points installed serving 32 recharging bays</p>	<p>All our electricity is from 100% renewable energy sources</p> 
<p>580kw of community solar energy panels benefit our schools and communities</p> 	<p>New Council houses are super-energy-efficient built to a "Swansea Standard" with solar battery storage and air source heat pumps</p> 	 <p>Our cycle network has grown 25% over 3 years</p>	<p>Our fleet runs 40 Electric Vans and an electric car!</p> 
<p>Eco-Schools early joiners</p> 	<p>64% recycling levels by 19/20 target achieved by Swansea</p> 	<p>21,053 street lights upgraded to low emission LEDs</p> 	<p>Dragon Energy Island & Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon championed</p> 

Amcanion



Cyngor Abertawe Di-garbon net

Erbyn 2030, bydd
Cyngor Abertawe yn
gyngor di-garbon net o
ran ei allyriadau
cwmpas.

Objectives



A Net Zero Swansea Council

By 2030 Swansea
Council will achieve
Net Zero carbon for its
own “in scope”
emissions.

Cyngor Abertawe Di-garbon Net 2030

Net Zero Swansea Council 2030

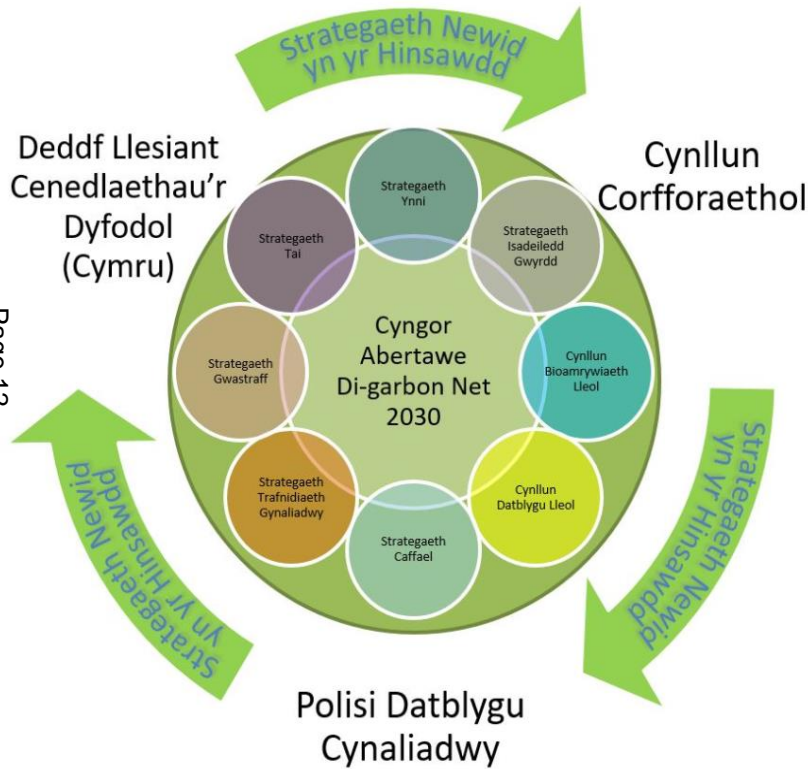
- Ymagwedd integredig cyngor cyfan
- Camau gweithredu cadarn sy'n targedu allyriadau cwmpas

- A whole Council integrated approach
- Robust actions targeting in scope emissions
- Key actions driven by core policy areas

Cyngor Abertawe Di-garbon Net 2030

Net Zero Swansea Council 2030

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Dangosyddion Perfformiad Drafft

Draft Performance Indicators

Ynni	LLEIHAD Adeiladau'r cyngor	Lleihad o 3% bl. ar ôl bl.
Cludiant a Phrifyrdd Cynaliadwy	LLEIHAD Cyflymu'r strategaeth cerbydlu gwyrdd	Gostyngiad o 5% bl. ar ôl bl.
Cludiant a Phrifyrdd Cynaliadwy	LLEIHAD Lleihad yn allyriadau'r cerbydlu llwyd	Gostyngiad o 5% bl. ar ôl bl.
Cludiant a Phrifyrdd Cynaliadwy	LLEIHAD Goleuadau stryd	Arbediad o 2% bl. ar ôl bl.
Ynni	CYNHYRCHU Byddai creu ffermydd solar a phrosiectau ynni adnewyddadwy eraill yn helpu i wrthbwysu allyriadau carbon.	cyfanswm yr ynni a gynhyrchwyd o baneli PV solar adnewyddadwy 2020-21 – caiff ei amcangyfrif o'r fanyleb dechnegol ar gyfer cynhyrchiant 2021-22.

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Energy	REDUCTION Council Buildings	3% reduction yr on yr
Sustainable Transport & Highways	REDUCTION Accelerate the green fleet strategy	5% reduction yr on yr
Sustainable Transport & Highways	REDUCTION A reduction in grey fleet emissions	5% reduction yr on yr
Sustainable Transport & Highways	REDUCTION Street Lighting	2% saving yr on yr
Energy	GENERATION The creation of solar farms and other renewable projects would help offset carbon emissions.	2020-21 total generation from renewable solar PV – will be estimated from technical spec for 2021-22 generation.

Siarter ar Weithredu o ran yr Hinsawdd Cyngor Abertawe Swansea Council Charter on Climate Action

- Targed Di-garbon Net 2030
- Ymrwymo i weithio ac ymgysylltu ar y cyd
- Arwain trwy esiampl ac yn herio eraill i ymuno â ni wrth ymrwymo

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- Net Zero 2030 Target
- Commits to collaborative working and engagement
- Leads by example and challenges others to join us in making commitment

Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net

A Net Zero Swansea

- Mae Cyngor Abertawe yn gweithredu ond er mwyn gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn mae angen i bawb yn Abertawe chwarae eu rhan.

- Swansea Council is taking action but to make a real difference we need everyone in Swansea to play their part.

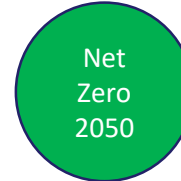
Amcanion

Objectives



Abertawe Di-garbon net

Erbyn 2050, bydd Abertawe fel Dinas a Sir gyfan yn cyflawni allyriadau di-garbon net.



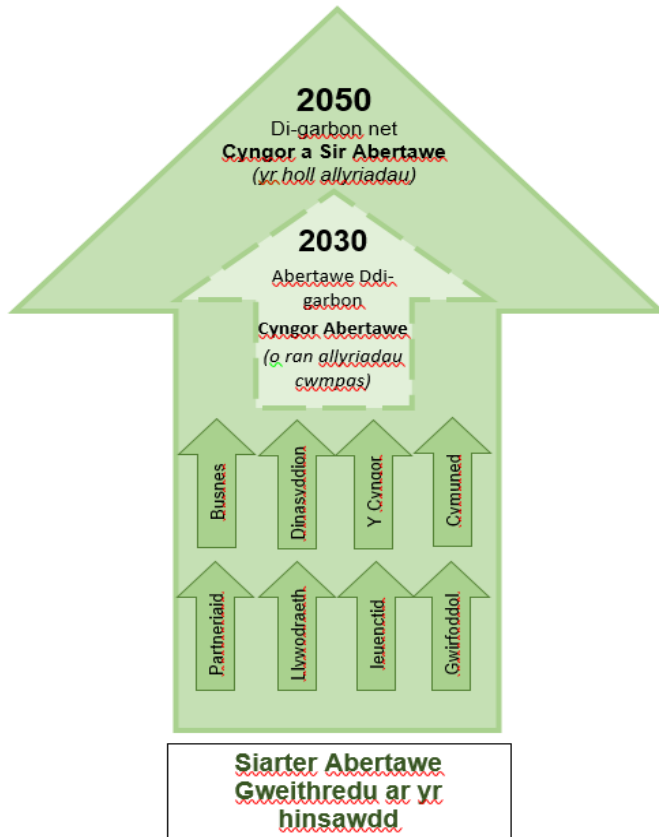
A Net Zero Swansea

By 2050, Swansea as a whole City and County will achieve Net Zero carbon emissions.

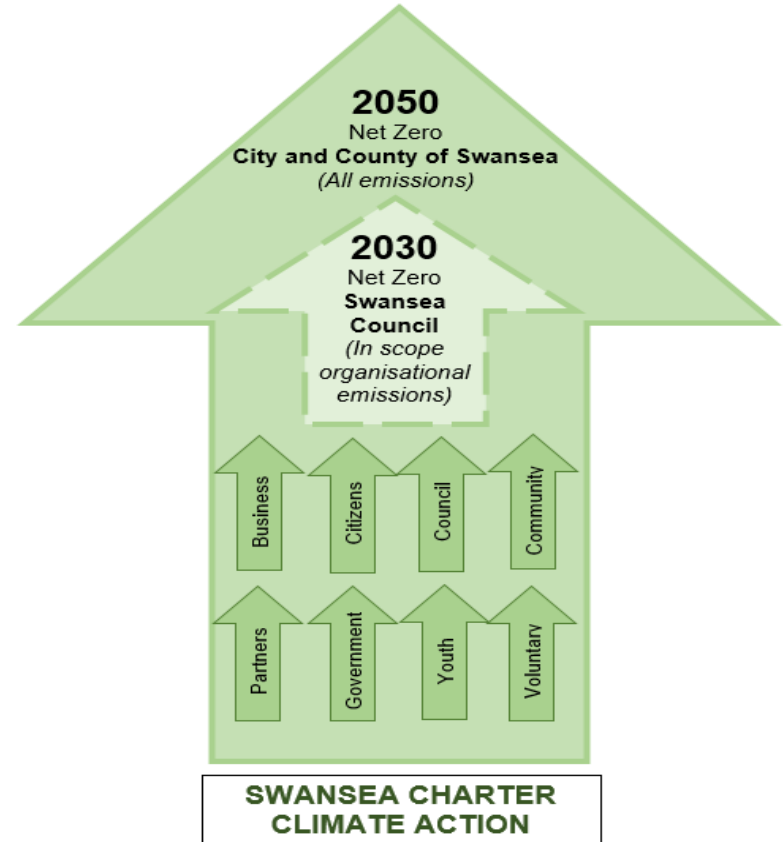
Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net

A Net Zero Swansea

ABERTAWE DDI-GARBON NET
2050



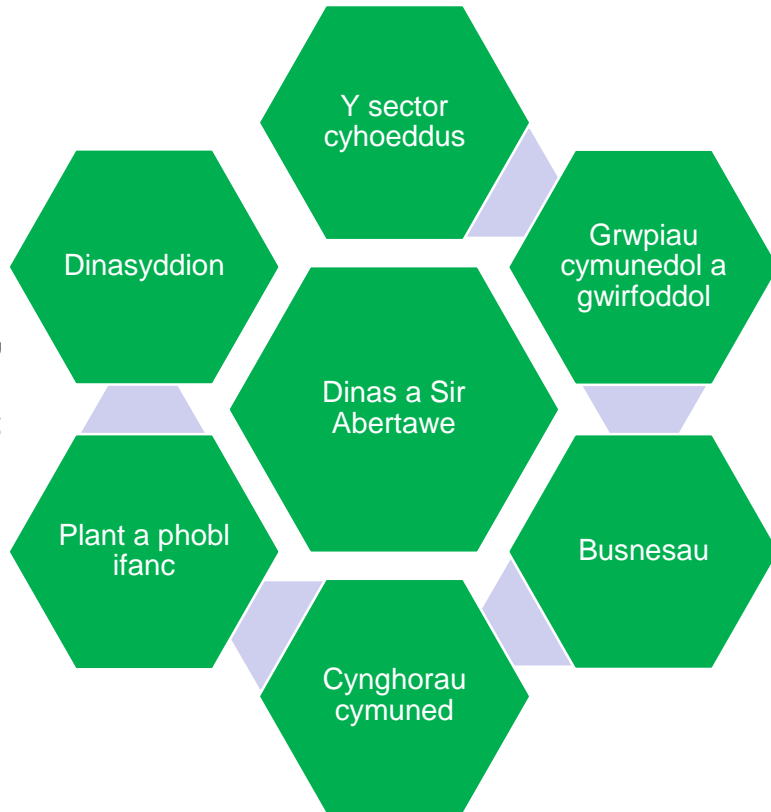
A NET ZERO SWANSEA



Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net 2050

Net Zero Swansea 2050

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Addewid ar gyfer Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net

A Pledge for a Net Zero Swansea

- Cyfle i ymrwymo'n gyhoeddus i weledigaeth a rennir, ond mewn ffyrdd unigol.
- Potensial i alinio gweithgarwch amrywiol sefydliad partner o gwmpas nod cyffredin.
- Cynnwys dinasyddion, plant a phobl ifanc, busnes a'r trydydd sector.

- Opportunity to publically commit to a shared vision, but in individual ways.
- Potential to align partner organisation's diverse activity around a common aim.
- Engage citizens, children & young people, business and third sector.

Cynnwys

- Dechrau trafodaethau tymor hir dros ddegawdau
- Sefydlu gweledigaeth a rennir ac ymagwedd strategol i ymdrechu i gyflawni Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net 2050
- Grymuso a galluogi camau gweithredu
- Ymagwedd Tîm Abertawe

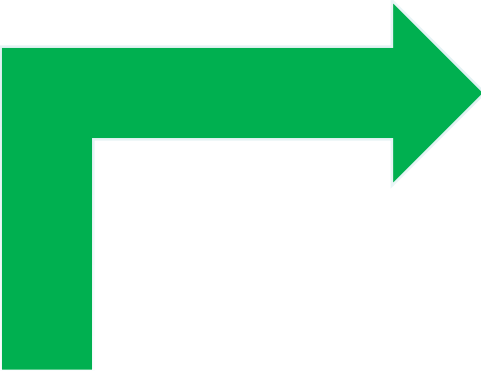
Engagement

- Start of a long term dialogue over decades
- Will establish shared vision and strategic approach to strive toward Net Zero 2050
- Will empower and enable action
- Team Swansea approach

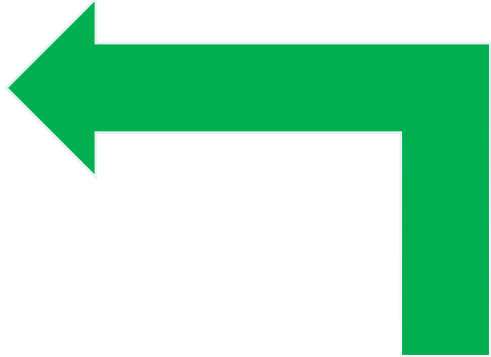
Arolwg Hinsawdd Cyngor Abertawe

Swansea Council Climate Survey

- **967** o ymatebion i'r arolwg
- **396** o ymatebion i bleidlais Twitter
- **6** ymateb ar y cyd
- **967** survey responses
- **396** Twitter poll responses
- **6** Collective Responses
- 15 Chwe i 29 Mawrth 2021
- **Bylchau Covid** - bwriedir ymgysylltu wyneb yn wyneb ac all-lein yn fwy gyda phlant, pobl ifanc a busnesau.
- Covid Gaps – more targeted engagement with children, young people, business and face to face offline planned.
- Defnyddiwyd ein rhwydweithiau a'n perthnasoedd ymddiriedaeth presennol i gefnogi strategaeth dosbarthu'r arolwg.
- Survey distribution strategy piggybacked on our networks and existing trust relationships.



Cyfradd
ymateb
arbennig o
uchel ac
amrywiol



A diverse and
exceptionally
high
response
rate

Cysylltiadau
personol,
rhwydweithiau
grŵp,
cylchlythyrau,
e-byst a
chyfryngau
cymdeithasol
gan ddefnyddio
perthnasoedd
sy'n bodoli

Unigolion
Individuals

Cynrychiolwyr etholedig
Elected representatives

Grwpiau cymunedol a gwirfoddol
Community and voluntary groups

Partneriaid y sector preifat a chyhoeddus a'r trydydd
Private, public and third sector partners

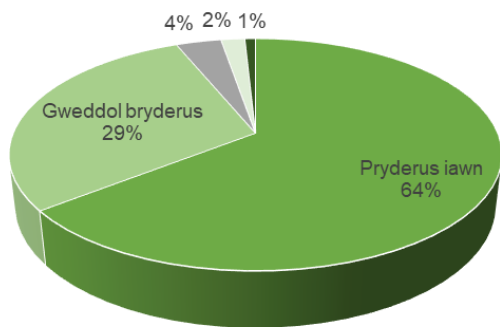
Holl wasanaethau Cyngor Abertawe
All Swansea Council Services

Personal
contacts,
group
networks,
newsletters
emails and
social media
using existing
relationships

Agweddau at newid yn yr hinsawdd

Attitudes to climate change

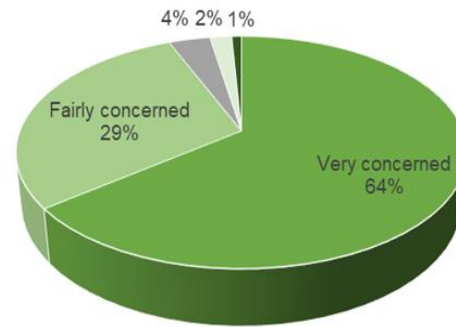
Sut ydych chi'n teimlo am newid yn yr hinsawdd?



■ Pryderus iawn
 ■ Gweddol bryderus
 ■ Gweddol ddidaro
■ Yn ddidaro iawn
 ■ Ddim yn gwybod

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How do you feel about climate change?



■ Very concerned
 ■ Fairly concerned
 ■ Fairly unconcerned
■ Very unconcerned
 ■ Don't know

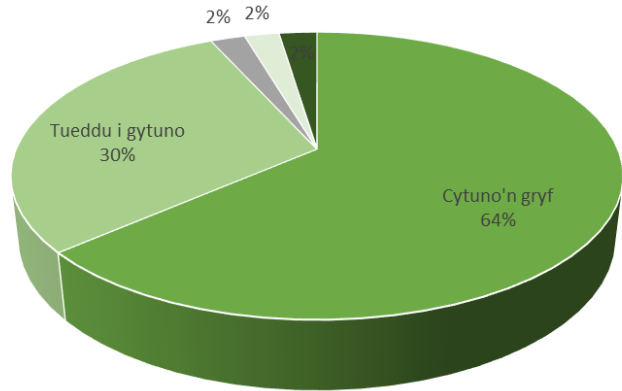
- Canran hynod gadarnhaol o 93% yn pryderu.

- An overwhelmingly positive 93% feel concerned.

Awydd am newid

Appetite for change

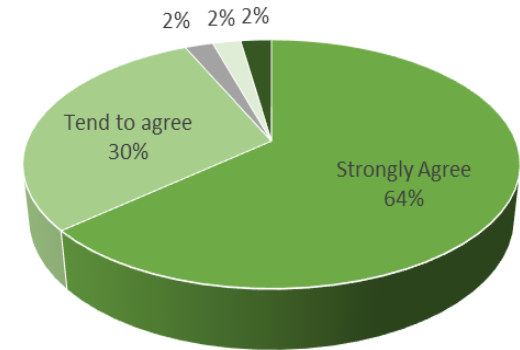
I ba raddau ydych chi'n cytuno neu'n anghytuno eith bod yn barod i wneud newidiadau tauag at Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net erbyn 2050?



■ Cytuno'n gryf ■ Tueddu i gytuno ■ Tueddu i anghytuno
 ■ Anghytuno'n gryf ■ Ddim yn gwybod

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To what extent do you agree or disagree you are prepared to make changes towards a Net Zero Swansea?



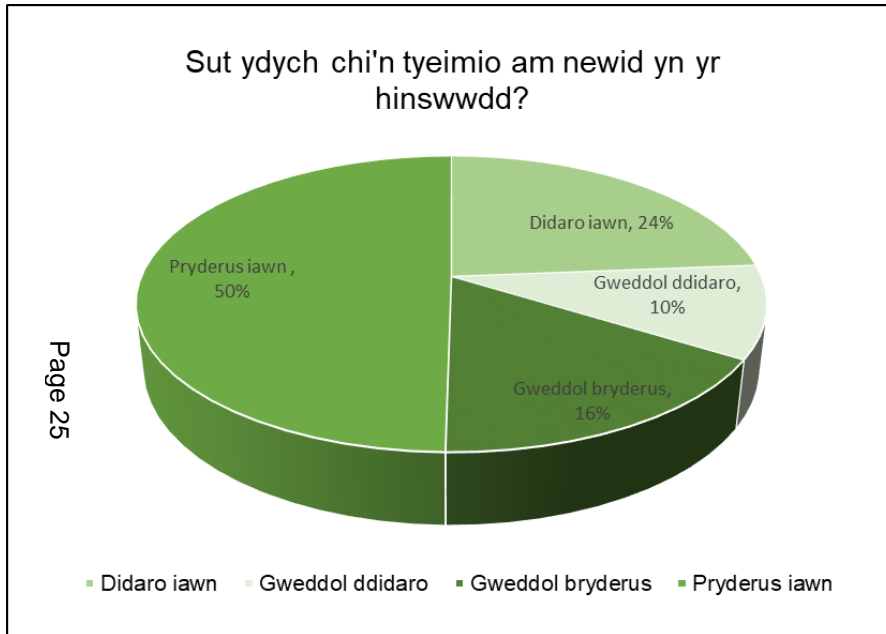
■ Strongly Agree ■ Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know

- Cytunodd 94% eu bod yn barod i wneud newidiadau

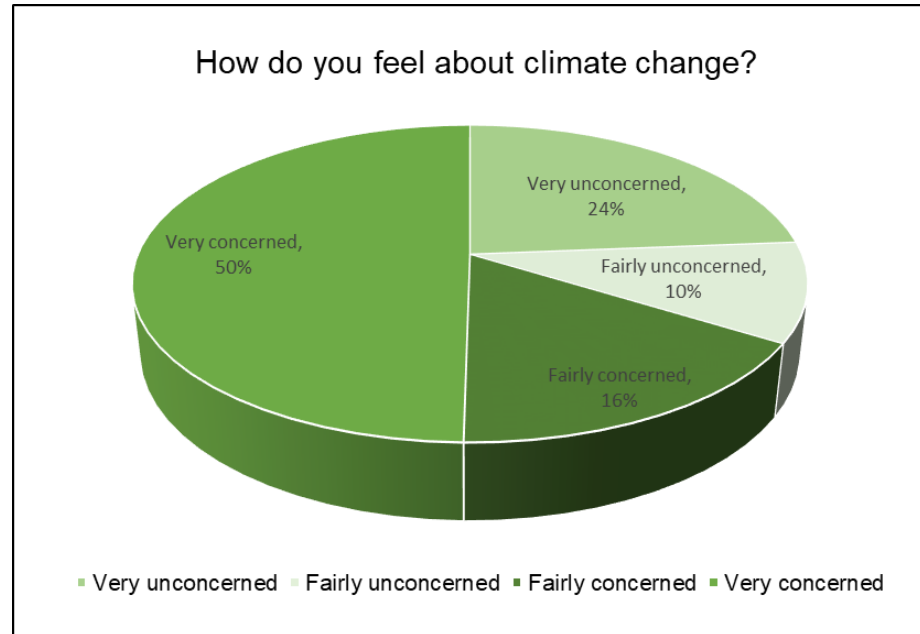
- 94% agreed they are prepared to make changes

Arolwg barn Twitter - Agweddau at newid yn yr hinsawdd

Twitter poll – Attitudes to climate change



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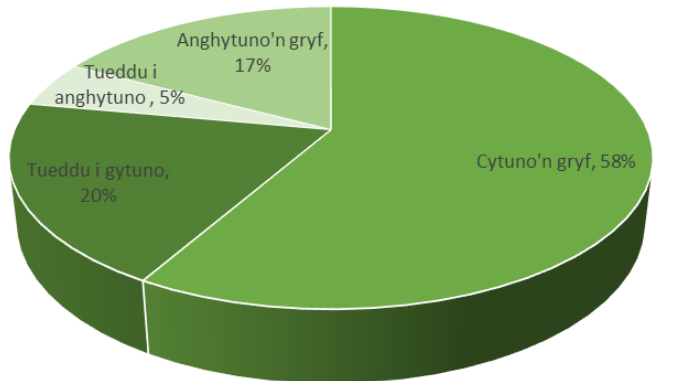
- 3 Mawrth 2021
- 196 o ymatebwyr
- 78% yn cytuno
- 16% yn is ar Twitter

- 3 March 2021
- 396 respondents
- 66% concern
- 27% lower on Twitter

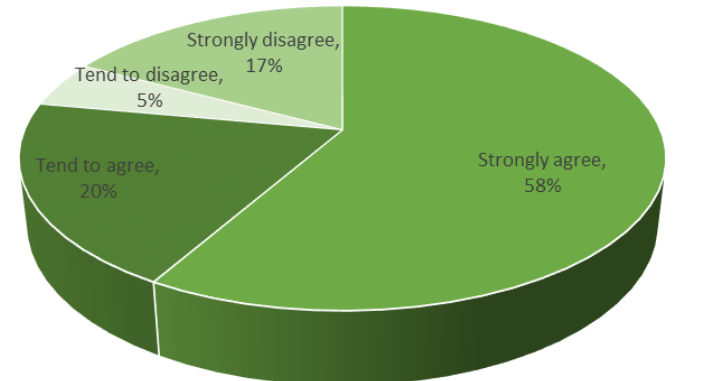
Arolwg barn Twitter - awydd am newid

Twitter Poll- Appetite for change

I ba raddau udych chi'n cytuno neu'n anghytuno eich bod yn barod i wneud newidiadau taug at Abertawe Ddi-garbon Net erbyn 2050?



To what extent do you agree or disagree you are prepared to make changes towards a Net Zero Swansea by 2050?



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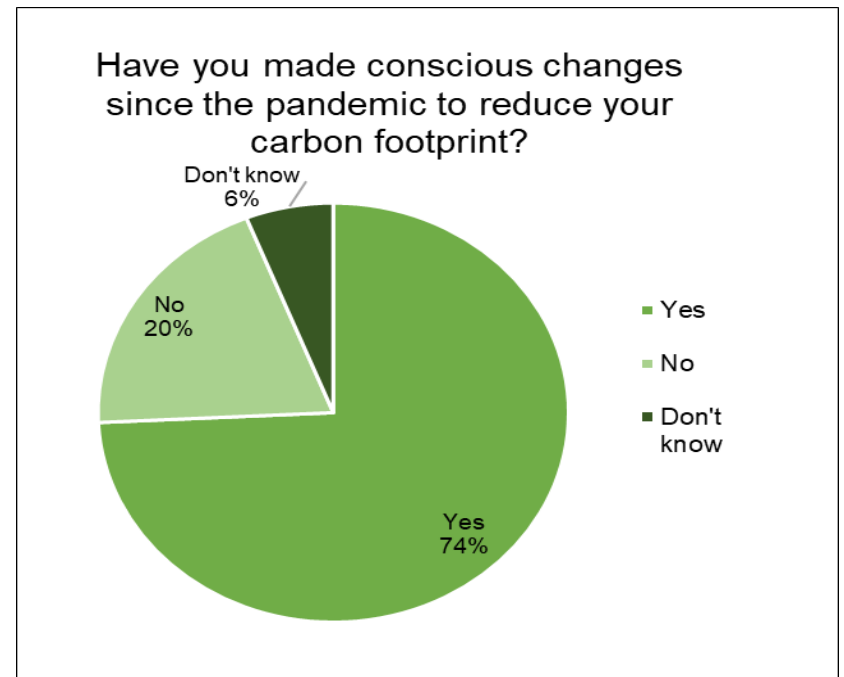
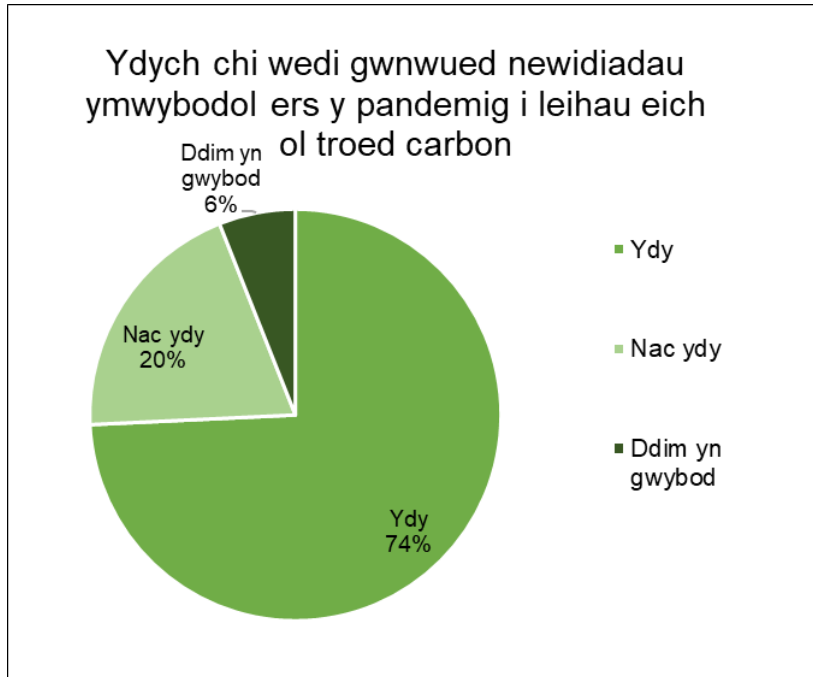
- 3 Mawrth 2021
- 196 o ymatebwyr
- 78% yn cytuno
- 16% yn is ar Twitter

- 3 Mar 2021
- 196 respondents
- 78% agreement
- 16% lower on Twitter

Effaith y Cyfyngiadau Symud

The impact of Lockdown

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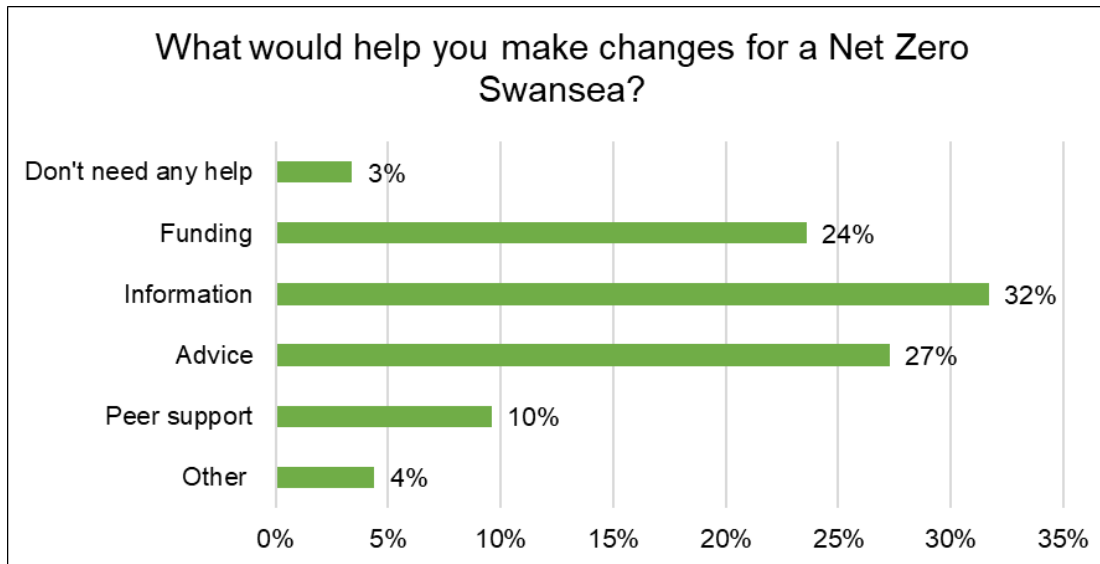
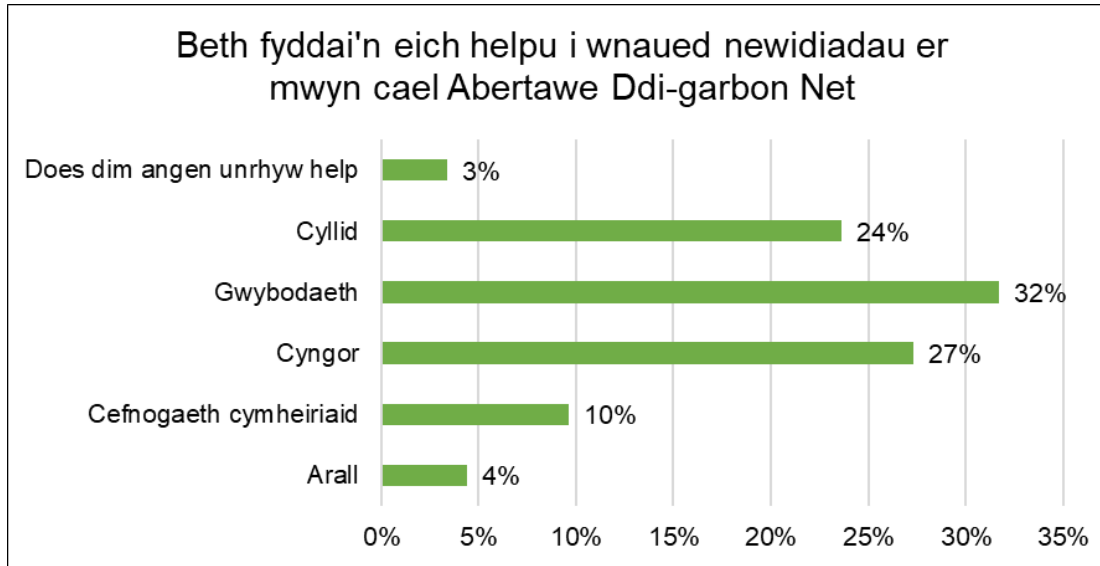


- Llauer o newidiadau'n ymddangos yn rhai tymor hir e.e. gwerthu car, dewis gweithio gartref

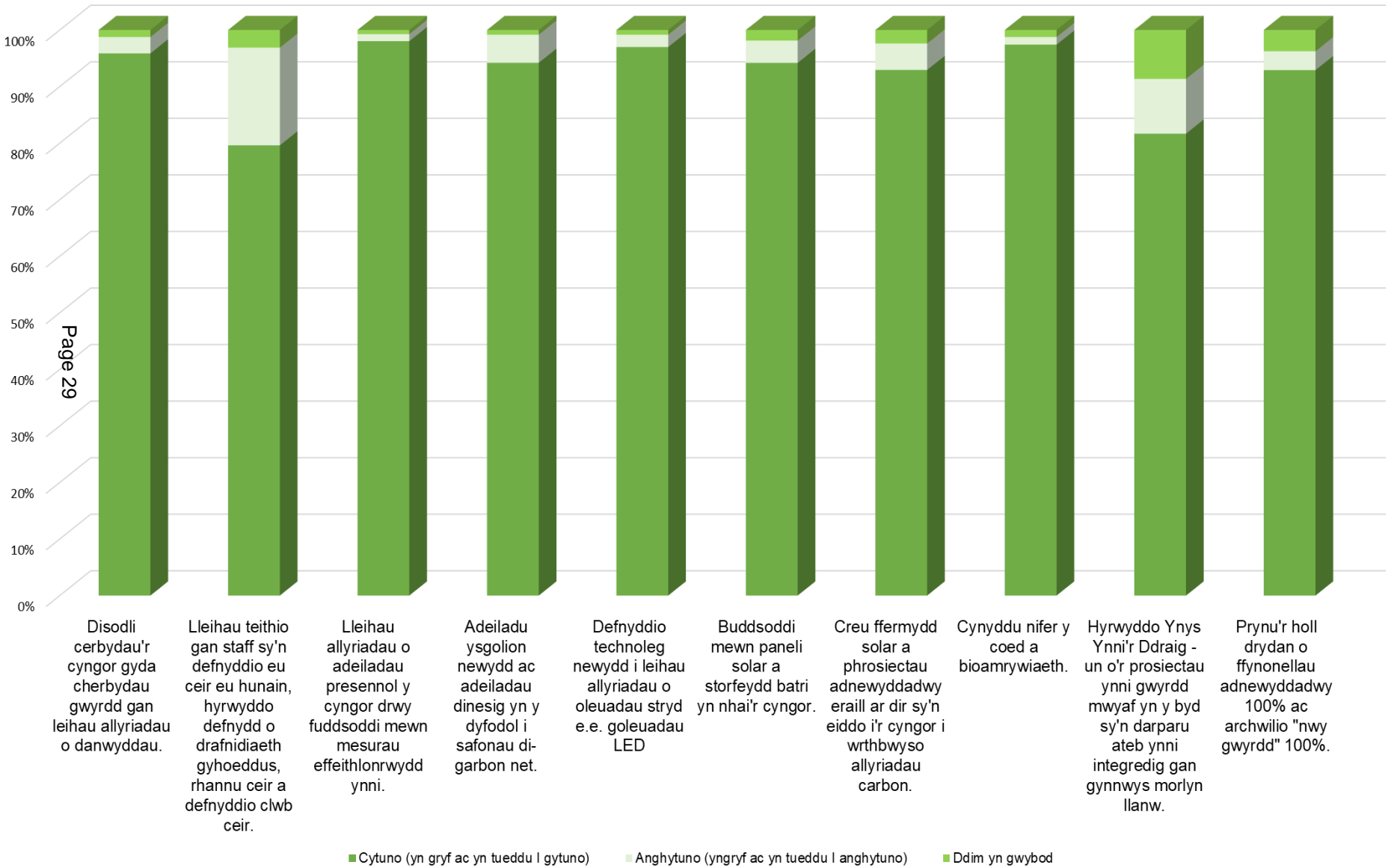
- Many changes seem long term e.g. selling a car, choosing WFH.

Help a chefnogaeth

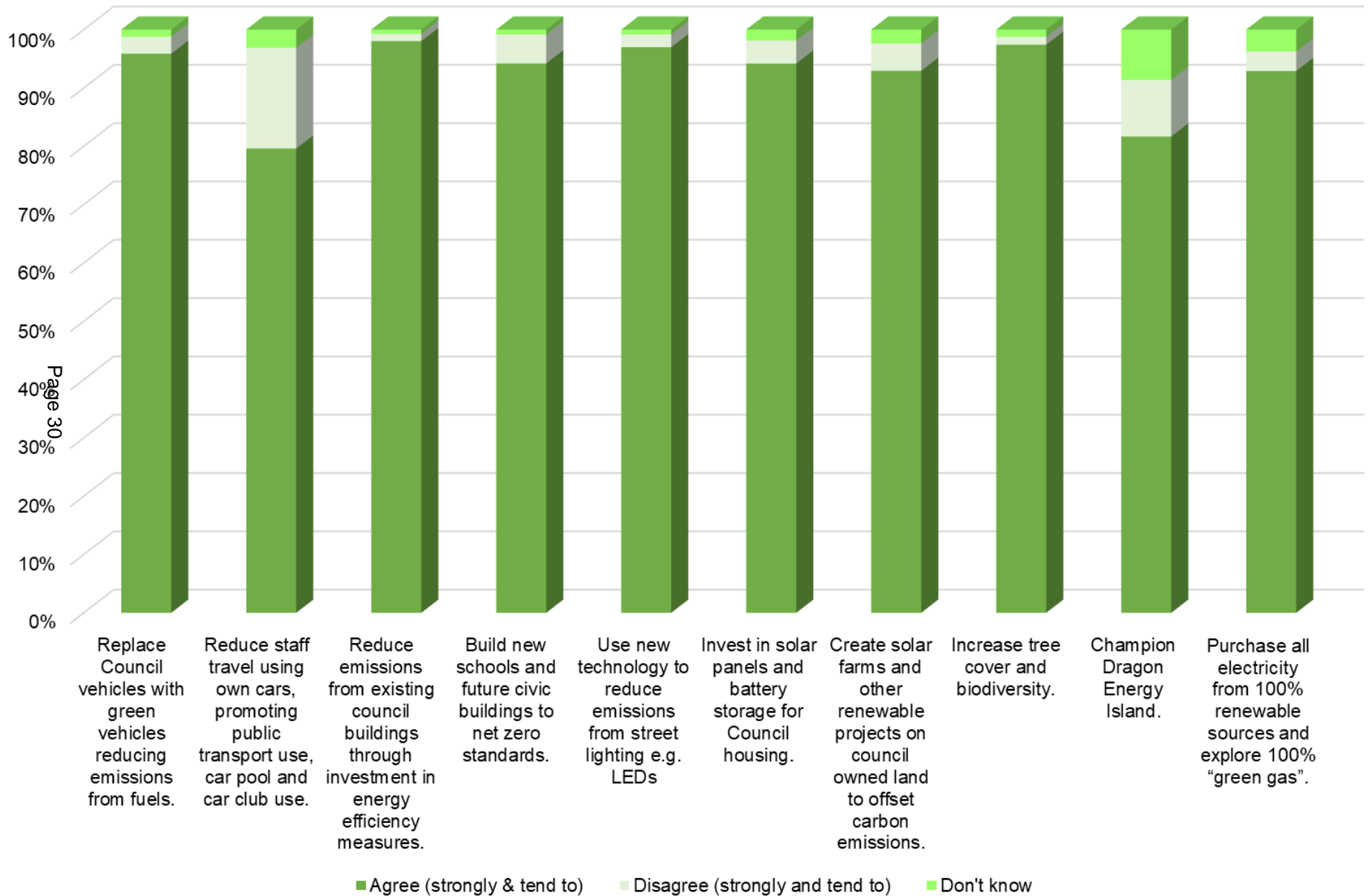
Help and support



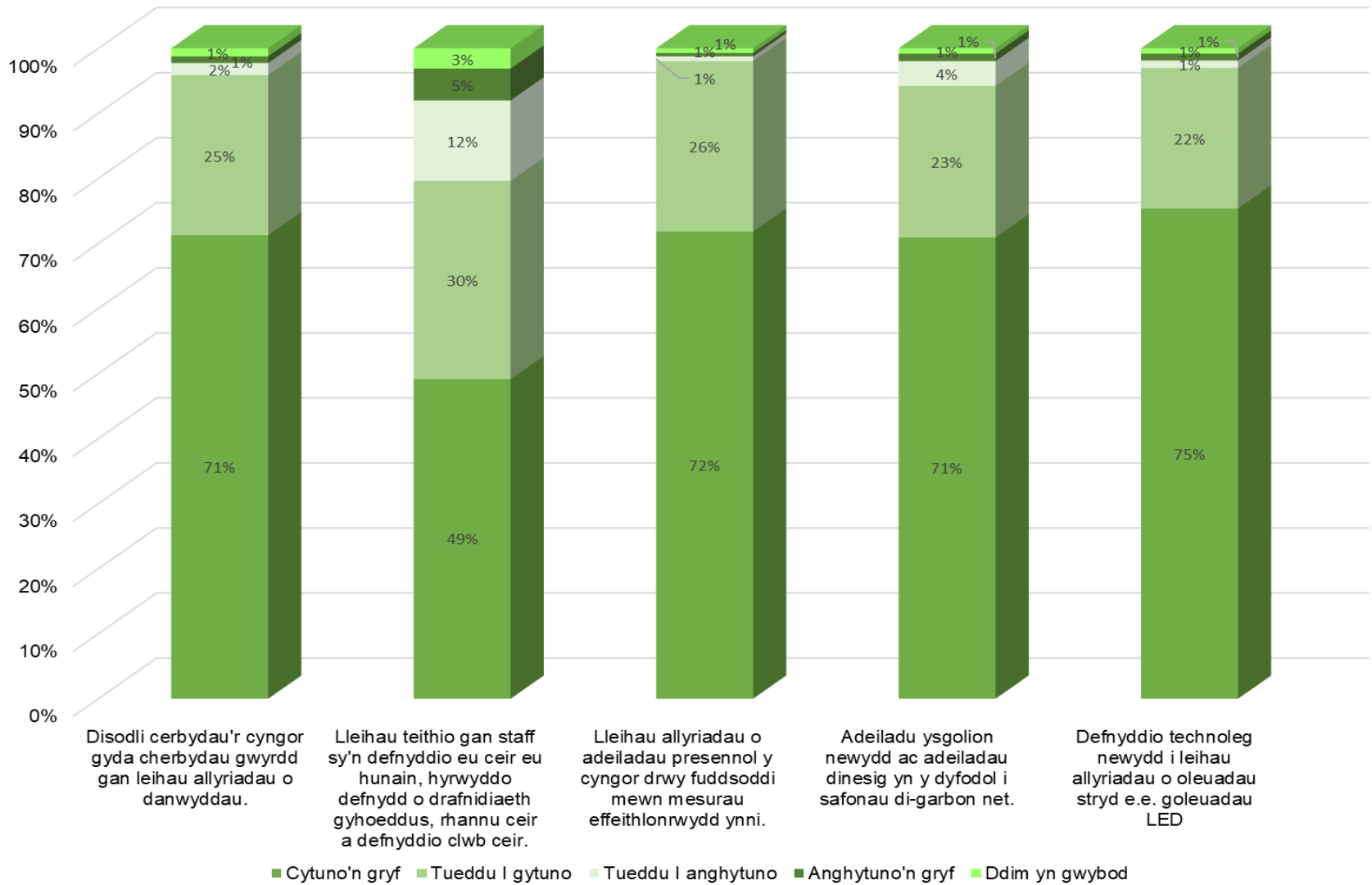
Faint o ymatebwyr yn fras oeddyn cytuno neu'n anghytuno y bydd y camau gweithredu allweddol hyn yn cfrannu at Gyngor Abertwae yn dod yn Ddi-garbon Net erbyn 2030?



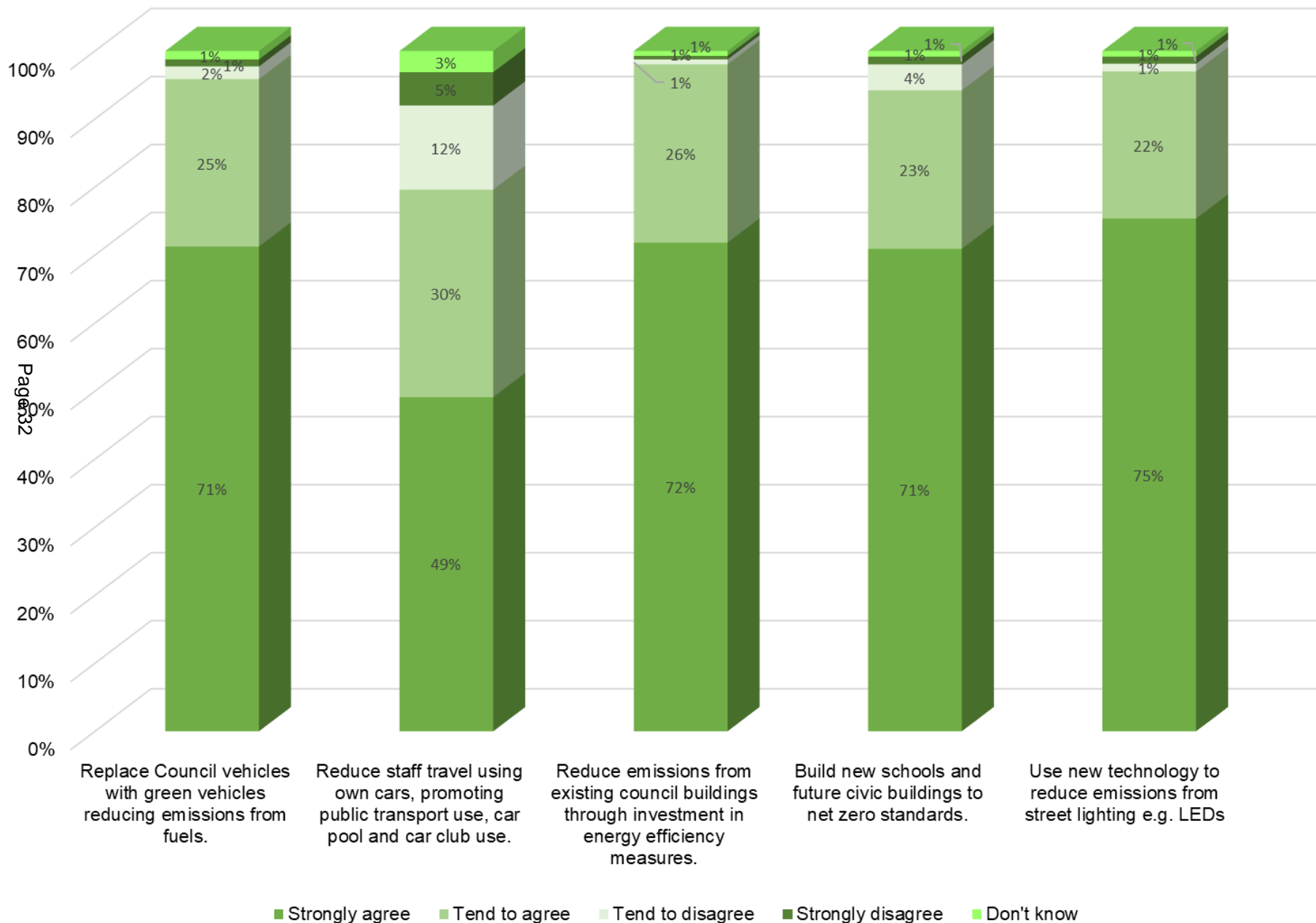
The extent to which respondents broadly agreed or disagreed these key actions will contribute to Swansea Council becoming Net Zero carbon by 2030?



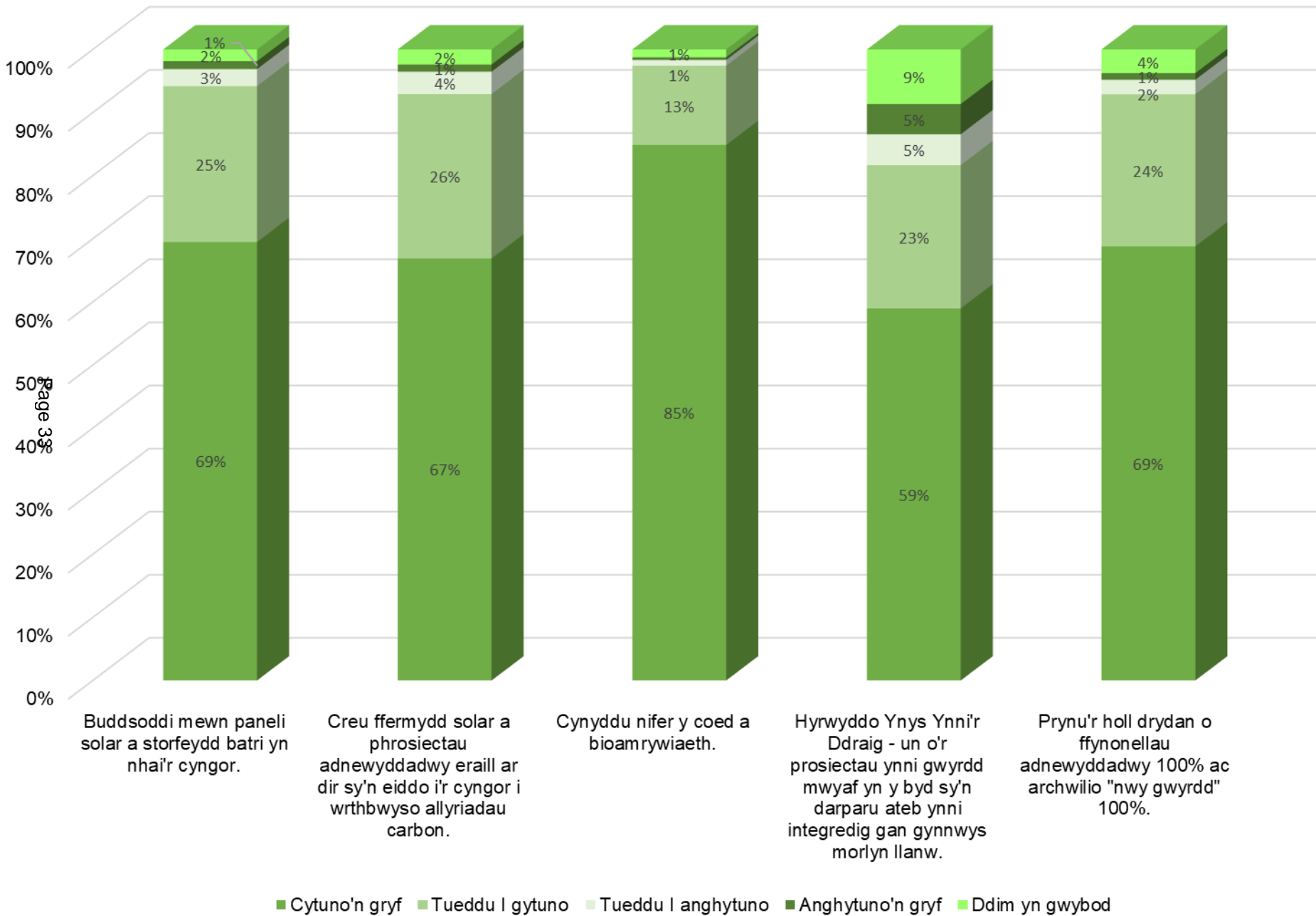
I ba raddau rydych chi'n cytuno neu'n anghytuno y bydd y camau gweithredu allweddol hyn yn cyfrannau ay Gyngor Abertawe'n dod yn Ddi-garbon Net erbyn 2030?



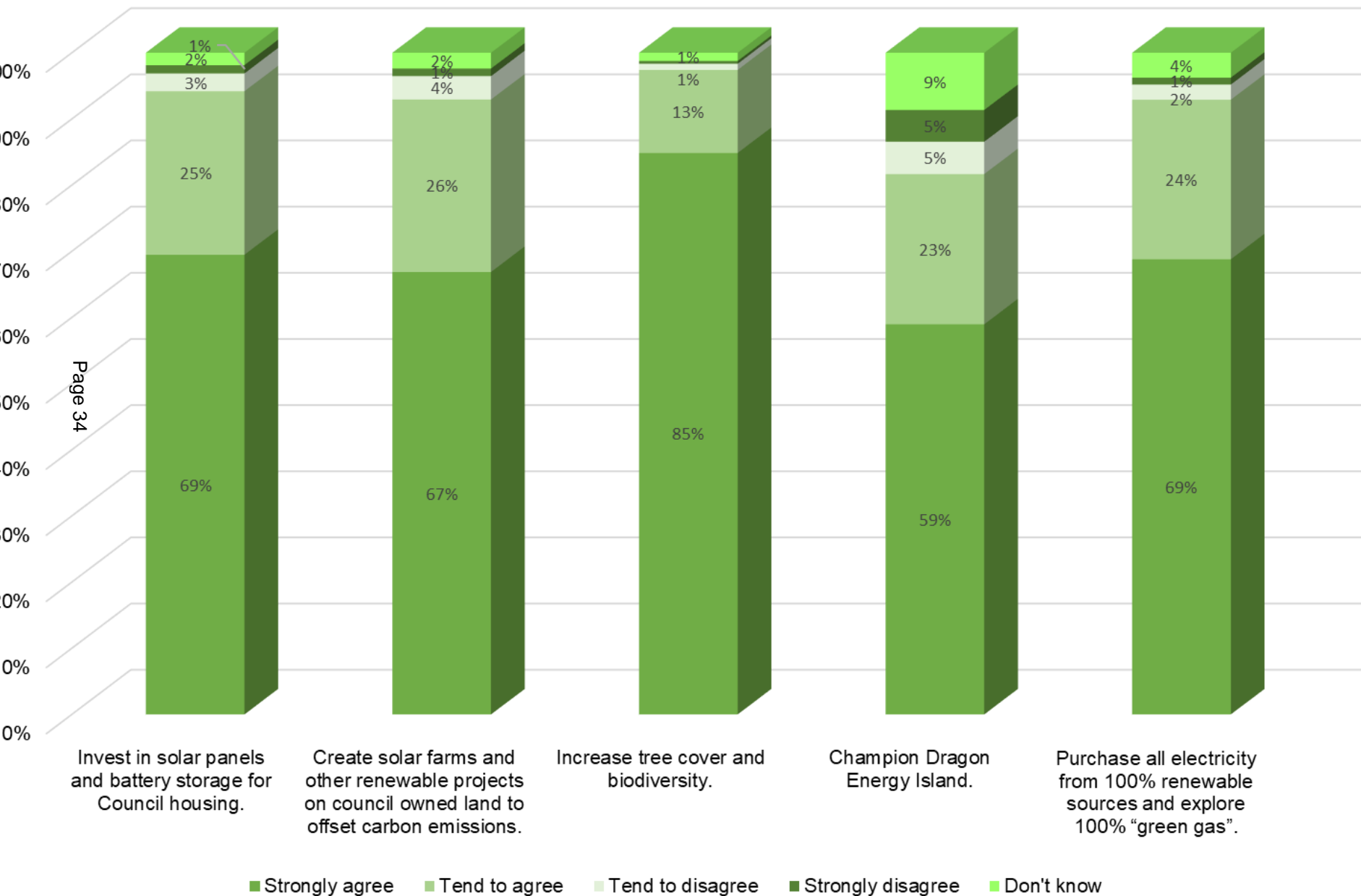
To what extent do you agree or disagree these key actions will contribute to Swansea Council becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030?



I ba raddau rydych chi'n cytuno neu'n anghytuno y bydd y camau gweithredu allweddol hyn yn cyfrannu at Gyngor Abertawe'n dod yn Ddi-garbon Net erbyn 2030?



To what extent to do you agree or disagree these key actions will contribute to Swansea Council becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030?



Camau gweithredu allweddol eraill

Other Key Actions

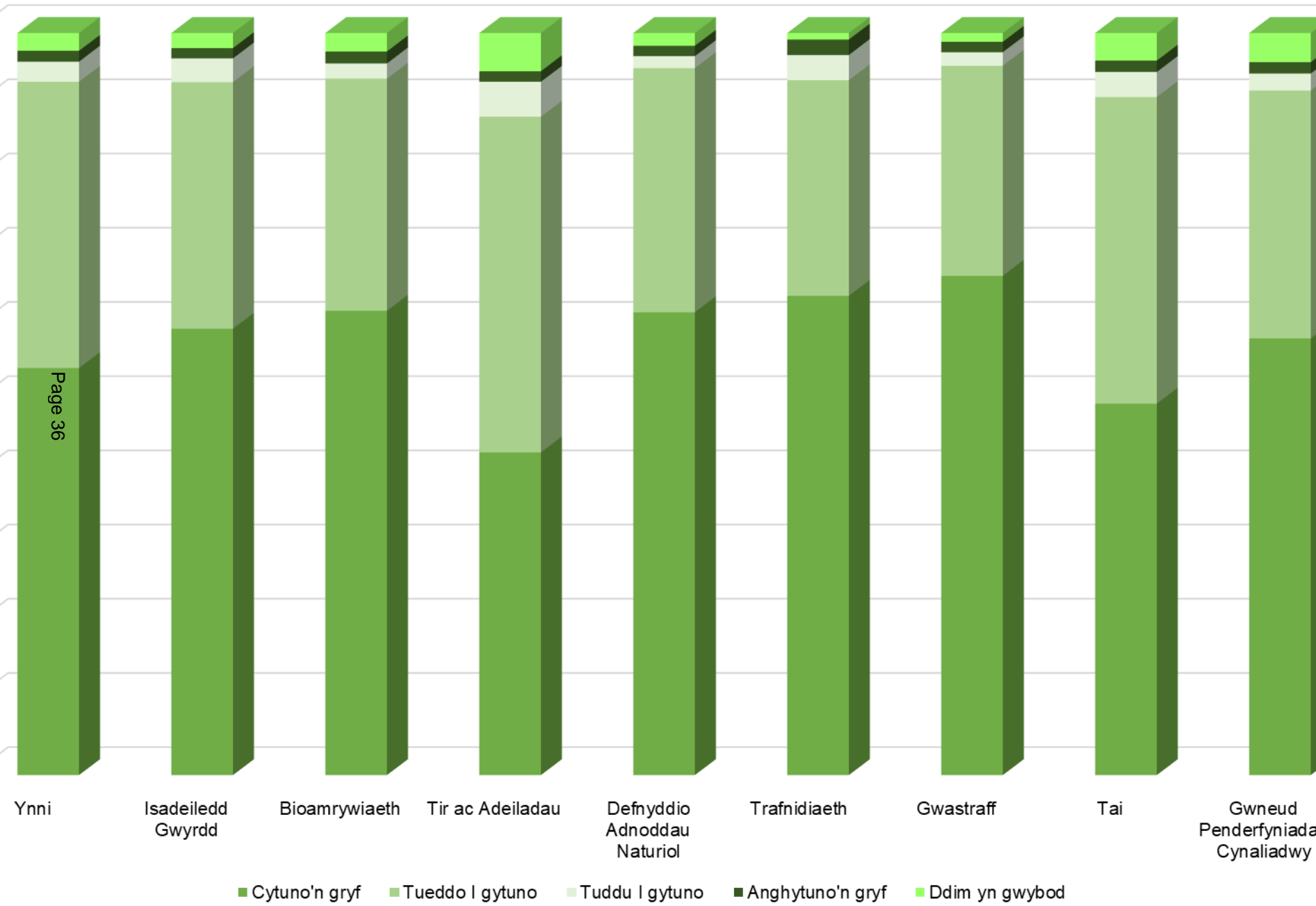
Blaenoriaethwyd y meysydd hyn hefyd gan ymatebwyr

- **Gweithio hyblyg** (trefniadau gweithio gartref a hybiau cymunedol)
- **Addysg** (hyfforddiant staff yn galluogi newid mewn ymddygiad)
- **Ynni amgen** (o'r ddaear, rhwydweithiau gwres, gwynt)
- **Caffael** (cig, cynnyrch llaeth, plastigion, lleol)
- **Rheoli dŵr** (llwyd a glas)

These areas were also prioritised by respondents

- **Agile Working** (working at home arrangements and community hubs)
- **Education** (staff training enabling behaviour change)
- **Alternative energy** (ground source, heat networks, wind)
- **Procurement** (meat dairy, plastics, local,
- **Water management** (grey and blue)

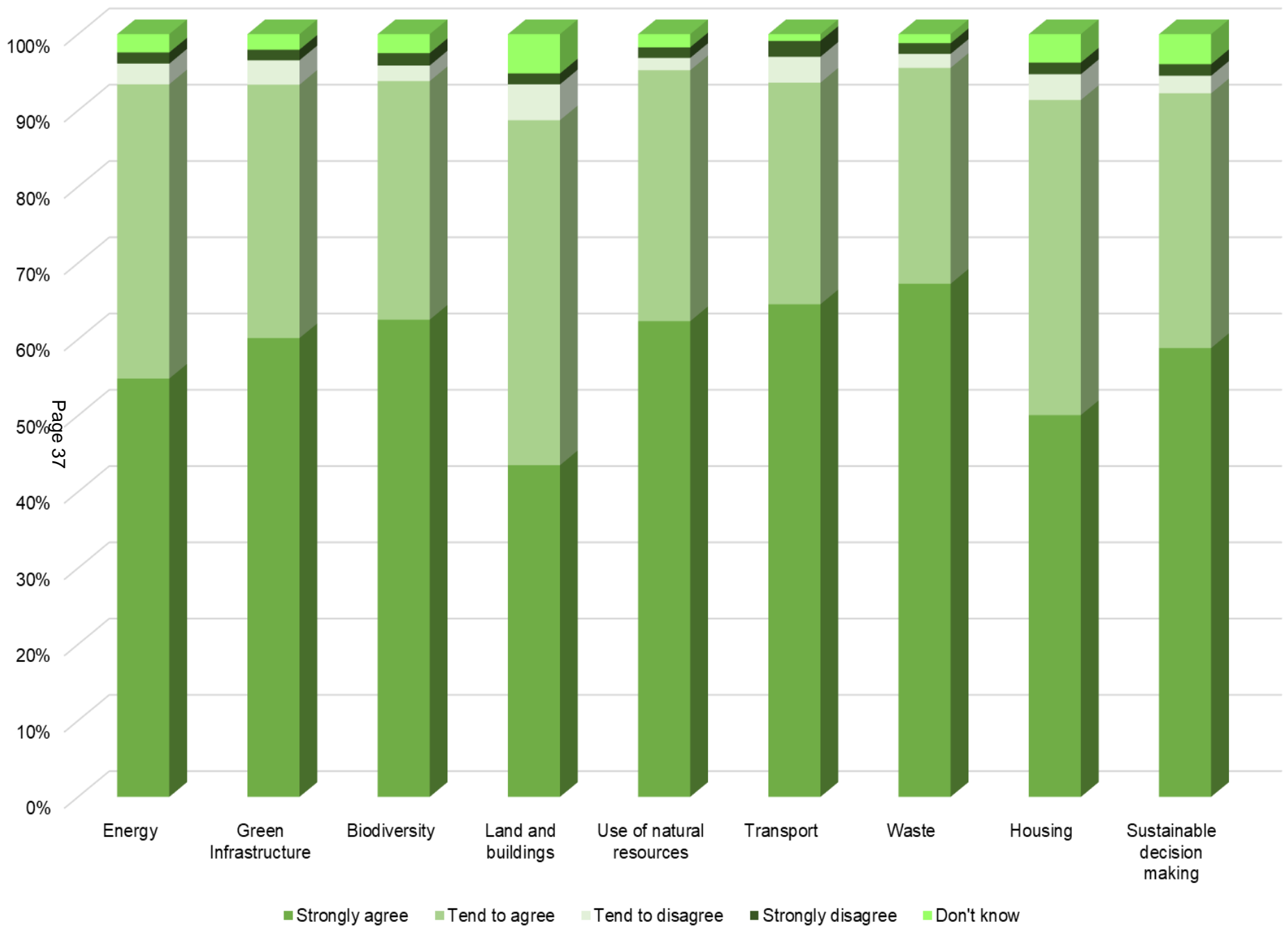
Ydych chi'n cytuno neu'n anghytuno bod y pynciau hyn yn themau allweddol wrth fynd i'r a newid yn yr hinsawdd yn Abertawe?



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■ Cytuno'n gryf ■ Tueddo l gytuno ■ Tuddu l gytuno ■ Anghytuno'n gryf ■ Ddim yn gwybod

Do you agree or disagree that these topics are key themes to tackle climate change in Swansea?



Common themes

- **Cyllid** (dadfuddsoddi drwy bensynau, benthyciadau, ehangu'r sylfaen cyflenwyr, cymhellion ar gyfer gweithgarwch gwyrdd, cyfalafau naturiol)
- **Anghydraddoldebau** (tloidi tanwydd, tloidi bwyd, anghydraddoldebau iechyd, mynediad anghyfartal at gefnogaeth)
- **Teithio llesol** (gan gynnwys cludiant cyhoeddus)
- **Aelwydydd** cefnogaeth ar gyfer effeithlonrwydd ynni
- **Finance** (divestment via pensions, loans, extended supplier base, incentives for green activity, natural capitals)
- **Inequalities** (fuel poverty, food poverty, health inequalities, unequal access to support)
- **Active travel** (inc. public transport)
- **Household** energy efficiency support

Themâu cyffredin eraill

Other common themes

- **Addysg** (o ysgolion i ddysgu gydol oes, hyfforddi staff a darparu gwybodaeth gyhoeddus gan alluogi newid mewn ymddygiad)
- **Gweithio hyblyg** - (o drefniadau gweithio gartref i hybiau cymunedol, buddsoddiad mewn TGCh a band eang)
- **Cyfleusterau ailgylchu** - mwy ac yn ehangach
- **Diogelu** manau gwyrdd
- **Education** (from schools to life long learning, staff training and the provision of public information enabling behaviour change)
- **Agile Working** – (from working at home arrangements to community hubs, investment in ICT and broadband)
- **Recycling facilities** – more and wider
- **Protection of green space**

Canfyddiadau Allweddol

Key Findings

Mae pobl Abertawe yn pryderu am newid yn yr hinsawdd ac yn cefnogi camau gweithredu allweddol arfaethedig y cyngor Y neges allweddol yw

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Ewch yn gyflymach, ewch yn bellach!

People in Swansea are concerned about climate change and support the Council's proposed key actions. The key message is

Go Faster, Go Further!

Camau Nesaf

Next Steps

- Gwaith cyfredol gyda phartneriaid tuag at 2050.
- Adborth o'r arolwg yn cael ei ddefnyddio i lywio dylunio a chyflwyno gwasanaethau.
- Ymagwedd 'Dywedoch chi, gwnaethon ni' yn cael ei defnyddio i wella cynlluniau.
- Cwestiynau Cyffredin
- Cyhoeddi Adroddiad Hinsawdd 2030 yn yr haf
- Ongoing work with partners towards 2050.
- Survey feedback being used to inform design and delivery of services.
- 'You said, we did' approach being applied to improve plans.
- FAQ
- Publication of 2030 Climate Report in Summer.

Diolch

www.abertawe.gov.uk/newidynyrhinsawdd

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Thank You

www.swansecouncil/climatechange

Agenda Item 7



To:
Councillor David Hopkins
Cabinet Member for Delivery and
Operations

Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:

Scrutiny

Direct Line:
Llinell Uniongyrochol:

01792 637257

e-Mail
e-Bost:

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

Date
Dyddiad:

26 April 2021

BY EMAIL

Summary: This is a letter from the Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Delivery and Operations, relating to discussion on the Council's Nature Conservation activities.

Dear Councillor Hopkins,

The Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel met on 22 March to discuss progress with the work and main project activity managed by the Nature Conservation Team. We are grateful to Paul Meller, Natural Environment Manager, and Deborah Hill, Nature Conservation Team Leader, who attended to present information about current and planned projects and respond to the Panel's questions.

The context for the discussion included the recent WWF 'Living Planet [report 2020](#)' and 'State of Nature 2019' partnership [report](#), detailing significant levels of wildlife species population declines since 1970. The principal drivers of such declines had included climate change, urbanisation, air and soil pollution, intensification of agriculture, and the use of plant and insect chemical pesticides. Moreover, according to the 'State of Nature' report the public sector spend on biodiversity had fallen by 42% of GDP since 2008/09.

We specifically considered a Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Action Log provided to the Panel to aid our awareness and understanding of the various activities, which related to actions under the Corporate Plan priority for Natural Resources and Biodiversity and work arising out of the Natural Environment

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations. It was noted that these activities / projects were in addition to day-to-day work such as advising on statutory duties and providing guidance on planning applications and other routine activities.

Main points from our discussion:

Climate Change Programme Board

We noted that the Action Log provided to the Panel was under the umbrella of a Climate Change Programme Board. It was explained to the Panel that this was an officer-led strategic Working Group, with representatives from across the Council, which meets on a bi-monthly basis to facilitate, co-ordinate, deliver and monitor the steps in the Corporate Plan Objective for Maintaining and Enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity, and the Council's Climate Action. We were interested in learning more about the role and work of the Climate Change Programme Board, for example interface with councillors and the Council's decision-making process. We will be focusing on Climate Change action at the Panel's next meeting on 19 May so could learn more then.

Corporate Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan

We noted that the Council's first 3 year Section 6 Duty monitoring report was submitted to Welsh Government in December 2019, and heard that preparation of the next Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Duty Action Plan is underway. Panel Members were keen to see greater promotion of the work the Council is doing in delivering this Duty, so would encourage you to look at ways to improve communications to raise awareness around this work.

Green Infrastructure

We heard that work on the Swansea Central Area Green Infrastructure Strategy is now complete, and was approved by Cabinet in February 2021. Officers explained that much research and consultation went into the preparation of the Strategy, which aims to embed biodiverse green infrastructure into new developments. We noted that work is planned on a county wide strategy with a target date of completion by March 2022.

Development of a Tree Policy

We were interested in progress being made with the development of a Council Tree Policy, something the Panel felt would also generate a lot of public interest. We heard that the aim was to fully update and formalise a tree policy to maintain and expand tree cover; raise awareness of the value of trees; ensure risks from trees are adequately managed; conserve trees of value and ensure that the Council meets its biodiversity duties in respect of trees. Officers explained that this would be a strategy about dealing with trees on council owned land, not privately owned land.

Officers explained that a draft is under preparation, and this work has been impacted upon by the publication of new national legislation, adoption of the Local Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). We understand that a draft will be considered by Policy Development Committee around May / June 2021, prior to wider consultation through 2021. The Panel stressed the importance of effective public consultation and engagement to inform the policy and queried how wide this consultation will be and for how long. We understood that the consultation process may take six to eight weeks, engaging with stakeholders and the public; after which the Policy would be finalised for adoption, although it was unclear where it may need to be reported to for approval.

We talked generally about the issue of tree felling and the number of mature trees being cleared across Swansea. We noted that records are kept of numbers of trees planted and those felled in totality, across all categories of reason (such as disease and development). Officers pointed out that trees / scrub sometimes need to be removed to maintain other priority habitats, such as grassland, heathlands and to control succession to woodland or to remove non-native species. Officers highlighted that at each stage of tree growth the ecosystem services provided by trees generally increase, for example, increased size and canopy cover absorbs more air pollution, produces more oxygen, absorbs more water and provides more shade as well as habitat and food for wildlife. Native trees have greater value for biodiversity.

Members raised some concern over what notice is given by other organisations when felling trees – an example was given of CADW removing trees at Loughor Castle. Officers explained that it would be usual for the Council to receive notification and it would of course be difficult to record total numbers of trees felled if other organisations do not provide notification. This led onto discussions over communications / notifications to residents and how better to raise awareness in general when trees are being felled, or planted. Officers explained that consultation with local communities is undertaken wherever possible. Panel members raised the point that councillors also have a role in explaining and sharing information with residents.

The Panel is planning to discuss the issue of Ash dieback around August 2021. It may be opportune to receive an update on progress with the development of the Tree Policy at the same meeting.

Appointment of New Posts

The Panel was pleased that progress has been made, with recruitment process underway for a new Section 6 Duty Biodiversity Officer and new Planning Ecologist. We hope that the search is successful. Scrutiny councillors, in the report of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry, highlighted the need for such posts.

It was also pleasing to hear that the boost in resources will help support the development and delivery of biodiversity training. Officers explained that biodiversity training has started already, in pilot form with existing staff, focusing on climate and nature recovery. Panel members were keen to benefit from applicable training when available.

Welsh Government Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Scheme Grant Funding (ENRaW)

The Panel heard that the Council was awaiting confirmation of ENRaW grant that will help deliver green infrastructure programmes and biodiversity enhancements. We were pleased to note that if approved it will also provide funding for: a part time Green Infrastructure Officer; a part time Coed Cymru Officer; a full time Communities and Nature Officer; and, a part time wildlife volunteer co-ordinator to develop and support opportunities for environmental volunteering. This increase in resources would be very welcome.

Wildflower Meadow Planting and Management Initiatives

We discussed wildflower planting and heard that officers have identified strategic pollinator corridors to target for new planting. Grants from Welsh Government have enabled the Nature Conservation Team and Parks to purchase 'cut and collect' machinery to support the ecological management of wildflower meadows / verges. We noted that an assessment of the verges in Swansea that can stop being mowed and sprayed is to be undertaken by Parks. Panel members raised concerns about continued use of glyphosate, which will be a topic for future Panel discussion. The Panel would be following up to see what changes have been made, in the Council's approach to cutting and spraying, to support biodiversity. We discussed issues around communication between the Council and residents, and the importance of letting the public know about deliberate no-mow areas to increase biodiversity and improving public understanding.

Promoting and Supporting Community Biodiversity Projects / Initiatives

We heard about the work in relation to supporting community biodiversity projects. Officers highlighted that the impact of lockdown, resulting from the pandemic, has been remarkable on general appreciation of green areas and open spaces. We heard that the volume of requests for information / help has increased dramatically this year. Whilst we heard that considerable support for, and collaboration with, community groups and other partners has been maintained and increased over the past year, it was clear that more resources are needed for this work, but officers were hopeful that ENRaW Scheme grant funding will provide additional capacity, enabling greater engagement with local communities to encourage volunteering and to support them taking action to enhance and maintain and enjoy their local greenspaces and wildlife sites.

School Biodiversity Awareness

We discussed the recommendation originating from the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry regarding school awareness activities. We note the commitment to deliver and provide support for school biodiversity awareness activities and practical initiatives and opportunities for schoolchildren to access and learn about their natural environment. The Panel recognised that work was dependent on grant funding for a project officer to take this forward. We re-stated the importance of school governing bodies identifying an environmental 'champion' that can support these aims.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised, but in this instance, a formal written response is not required.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of the Nature Conservation Team, covering a broad range of issues, particularly during the last year of lockdown. We greatly valued the input and engagement of the officers at this meeting, but look forward to discussion with yourself in due course at a future Panel meeting.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR PETER JONES

Convener, Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel

✉ cllr.peter.jones@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 8

Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel

Work Plan 2021-22

Meeting 1 22 nd March 2021 10.00-11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation of Convener• Nature Conservation – Project updates <i>Invited to attend:</i> Deborah Hill – Nature Conservation Team Leader Paul Meller – Natural Environment Section Manager Cllr David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Delivery and Operations• Agree Work Plan topics 2021-22• For information only - Climate Change Action Plan consultation (link to papers)
Meeting 2 Wednesday May 19 th 10.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Change Action Plan consultation feedback• Climate Emergency Declaration – Council Action Plan Progress <i>Invited to attend:</i> Cllr Andrea Lewis - Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy and Service Transformation Martin Nicholls – Director of Place Rachel Lewis – Directorate Project Manager Suzy Richards – Sustainable Policy Officer
Meeting 3 Tuesday 29 th June 2021 10.00 -12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air Quality Management <i>Invited to attend:</i> Cllr Mark Thomas – Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management Tom Price – Team Leader, Pollution Control Victoria Seller - Swansea University, Research Officer
Meeting 2 Tuesday 31 st August 2021 10.00 – 12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Flood Risk Management <i>TBC:</i> Stuart Davies – Head of Highways and Transportation Mike Sweeney – Team Leader, Highways and Transportation Cllr Mark Thomas – Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management• Ash Dieback update <i>TBC:</i> Martin Bignell – Team Leader Tree Services Chris Howell – Head of Waste, Parks and Cleansing Jeremy Davies – Group Leader Parks and Cleansing Cllr Mark Thomas – Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management

Meeting 3 Tuesday 12 th October 2021 10.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Pollution (including marine biodiversity) <i>TBC:</i> Judith Oakley – Ecologist Planner
Meeting 4 Wednesday 12 th January 10.00-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC Management of Green Space / Weed & Verge Management
Meeting 5 Tuesday 15 th March 1000-12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC

Future topics to schedule:

- Environmental Tourism
- Monitoring Delivery of Corporate Priority – Update: Maintaining & Enhancing Swansea’s Natural Resources & Biodiversity