



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

Y Cabinet

Lleoliad: Cyfarfod Aml-Leoliad - Siambr y Cyngor, Neuadd y Ddinas / MS Teams

Dyddiad: Dydd Iau, 16 Rhagfyr 2021

Amser: 10.00 am

Cadeirydd: Cynghorydd Rob Stewart

Aelodaeth:

Cynghorwyr: M C Child, R Francis-Davies, D H Hopkins, E J King, A S Lewis, A Pugh, R V Smith, A H Stevens a/ac M Thomas

Hefyd gwahoddwyd: L S Gibbard

Gwyllo ar-lein: <https://bit.ly/3l1hfRM>

Gweddarlledu: Gellir ffilmio'r cyfarfod hwn i'w ddarlledu'n fyw neu'n ddiweddarach drwy wefan y cyngor. Drwy gymryd rhan, rydych yn cytuno i gael eich ffilmio ac i'r delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion gweddarlledu a/neu hyfforddiant o bosib.

Mae croeso i chi siarad Cymraeg yn y cyfarfod.

Dywedwch wrthym erbyn canol dydd, ddeuddydd cyn y cyfarfod.

Agenda

Rhif y Dudalen.

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

2. Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.

www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau

3. Cofnodion.

Cymeradwyo a llofnodi cofnodion y cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol fel cofnod cywir.

1 - 7

4. Cyhoeddiadau Arweinydd y Cyngor.

5. Cwestiynau gan y cyhoedd.

Mae'n rhaid i gwestiynau gael eu cyflwyno'n ysgrifenedig, erbyn ganol dydd fan bellaf ar y diwrnod gwaith cyn y cyfarfod. Rhaid bod y cwestiynau'n ymwneud ag eitemau ar yr agenda. Ymdrinnir â chwestiynau o fewn cyfnod o 10 munud.

6.	Hawl i holi cynghorwyr.	
7.	Penodiadau Llywodraethwyr yr Awdurdod Lleol.	8 - 12
8.	Adroddiad Monitro Perfformiad ar gyfer Chwarter 2 2021/22.	13 - 71
9.	Monitro Refeniw a'r Gyllideb Gyfalaf - Chwarter 2il 2021/22.	72 - 91
10.	Cynllun Rheoli AoHNE Gwyr 2021/22 - cynnig cyllid CNC.	92 - 123
11.	Diweddariad ar Gyd-bwyllgorau Corfforaethol Rhanbarthol De-orllewin Cymru.	124 - 135
12.	Adfywio Sgwâr y Castell FPR7.	136 - 204
13.	Gwahardd y cyhoedd: -	205 - 208
14.	Adfywio Sgwâr y Castell FPR7.	209 - 221
15.	Adborth ar Graffu Cyn Penderfynu - Caffael ac ailddatblygu prydles FPR7 - 279 Stryd Rhydychen/25-27 Princess Way. (Llafar)	
16.	Caffael ac ailddatblygu prydles FPR7 - 279 Stryd Rhydychen/25-27 Princess Way.*	222 - 283

** Gweithdrefn Galw i Mewn - Testun Craffu cyn Penderfynu: Mae'r penderfyniad hwn yn rhydd o Weithdrefn Galw i Mewn yr awdurdod gan fod "y penderfyniad wedi bod yn destun Craffu Cyn Penderfynu ac ni fu unrhyw newid pwysig i wybodaeth/dystiolaeth berthnasol".*

Cyfarfod Nesaf: Dydd Iau, 20 Ionawr 2022 ar 10.00 am



Huw Evans
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democraidd
Dydd Mawrth, 7 Rhagfyr 2021

Cyswllt: Gwasanaethau Democraidd - Ffon: (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 3.



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Cabinet**

Council Chamber - Guildhall, Swansea

Thursday, 18 November 2021 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor R C Stewart (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M C Child
D H Hopkins
A H Stevens

Councillor(s)

R Francis-Davies
A S Lewis
M Thomas

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
R V Smith

Officer(s)

Huw Evans
Tracey Meredith
Phil Roberts
Ben Smith

Head of Democratic Services
Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer
Chief Executive
Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer

Also present

Councillor(s): C A Holley, A Pugh, L J Tyler-Lloyd, W Thomas

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): E J King

64. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

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

- 1) Councillors A Pugh and Mark Thomas declared a Personal Interest in Minute 72 "Local Authority Governor Appointments".
- 2) Councillors R Francis-Davies and D H Hopkins declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 72 "Local Authority Governor Appointments" and withdrew from the meeting prior to its consideration.
- 3) Councillor R V Smith declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 72 "Local Authority Governor Appointments" and stated that he had dispensation from the Standards Committee to Stay, Speak but Not Vote on matters relating to the Appointment of Local Authority Governors.
- 4) Councillors M C Child, R Francis-Davies, A S Lewis and R C Stewart declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 73 "Proposed Lease to Mumbles Community Council under the Community Asset Transfer Policy" and withdrew from the meeting prior to its consideration.

- 5) Councillor Mark Thomas declared a Personal Interest in Minute 79 "Pre Decision Scrutiny Feedback – Update Management Report on Swansea Airport" and Minute 80 "Update Management Report on Swansea Airport".
- 6) Councillor A H Stevens declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 79 "Pre Decision Scrutiny Feedback – Update Management Report on Swansea Airport" and Minute 80 "Update Management Report on Swansea Airport" and withdrew from the meeting prior to its consideration.

65. Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting(s) listed below be approved and signed as a correct record:

- 1) Cabinet held on 21 October 2021.

66. Announcements of the Leader of the Council.

a) Skate Park. Declaration of Interest

The Leader of the Council stated that following advice from the Monitoring Officer he would not be participating in the forthcoming item relating to the Mumbles Skate Park.

67. Public Question Time.

Jason Williams asked a question in relation to Minute 73 "Proposed Lease to Mumbles Community Council under the Community Asset Transfer Policy".

Councillor D H Hopkins responded.

68. Councillors' Question Time.

Councillors L R Tyler-Lloyd and Will Thomas asked a question in relation to Minute 73 "Proposed Lease to Mumbles Community Council under the Community Asset Transfer Policy".

Councillor D H Hopkins responded.

69. Climate Change – Progress Update.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation submitted a report that provided an update on progress following the "Climate Emergency Declaration – Policy Review and Proposed Action" Report to Cabinet in November 2020.

Resolved that:

- 1) The proposal to expand work to include both Climate Change and Nature and subsequent changes to governance be approved.
- 2) The 2021-2030 Climate Change & Nature Strategy (Appendix 2 of the report) be approved and authority be delegated to the Deputy Leader of Council (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Service Transformation) along with the Director of Place to make further changes.
- 3) The Supporting further work required in developing the longer term Strategy and striving towards net zero carbon by 2050 for Swansea be approved.
- 4) The continuation of the emission reporting via the Council developed methodology of calculating carbon emission with the associated implications set out in the report be approved.

70. Swansea Public Toilet Strategy: Progress Report.

The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management submitted a report that sought approval for the Swansea Public Toilet Strategy and the progress on the action plan.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Swansea Public Toilet Strategy be approved.
- 2) The progress to date be noted and the future actions for delivery be approved and the Director of Place and Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management be delegated authority to amend or change the delivery plan.

71. Approval of the Legal Agreement for the New Regional Education Partnership.

The Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills submitted a report that sought approval for the legal agreement to establish a new regional education partnership.

Resolved that:

- 1) The draft legal agreement (attached at Appendix A of the report) to establish a Joint Committee for a new regional education partnership known as Partneriaeth to support the delivery of school improvement be approved.
- 2) The appointment of the Leader of the Council as a member of the Joint Committee be approved.
- 3) Those functions necessary to support the delivery of school improvement within the Council's area and the region, acknowledging and accepting that the Council and the other Local Authorities in the region, will each retain statutory responsibility for school performance, together with the responsibility

for the exercise of statutory powers, of intervention and organisation of schools in their respective areas be delegated to the Joint Committee.

- 4) The creation of a Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group on the basis of the terms of reference set out in the legal agreement as amended from time to time be approved.
- 5) Authority be delegated to the Director of Education in consultation with the Chief Legal Officer and the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills to make any further necessary amendments to the legal agreement and authorises the Chief Legal Officer to enter into the agreement on behalf of the Council together with any ancillary legal documentation necessary to facilitate the creation and operation of the new partnership.
- 6) The provision of services by the Partneriaeth to Councils who are not parties to the legal agreement be approved, namely Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council in accordance with the clause 14 of the legal agreement with authority delegated to the Partneriaeth Joint Committee to agree the terms upon which such services are to be provided.

72. Local Authority Governor Appointments.

The Local Authority Governor Appointment Group submitted a report that sought approval of the nominations submitted to fill Local Authority Governor vacancies in School Governing Bodies.

Resolved that:

- 1) The following nominations recommended by the Director of Education in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning & Skills be approved:

1.	Blaenymaes Primary School	Cllr Hazel Morris Cllr June Burtonshaw
2.	Clydach Primary School	Mair Lewis
3.	Gendros Primary School	Morrison Frew
4.	Grange Primary School	Christine May
5.	Hafod Primary School	Kirsty Rees
6.	Knelston Primary School	Kathryn David
7.	Parkland Primary School	Dr Mohsen Elbeltagi
8.	Penclawdd Primary School	Sarah Hopkins
9.	Pentrechwyth Primary School	Mandy Evans
10.	Plasmarl Primary School	Kirsty Rees
11.	Talycopa Primary School	Rebecca O'Brien
12.	YGG Llwynderw	Emma Beynon
13.	YGG Lonlas	Parch Eirian Wyn

73. Proposed Lease to Mumbles Community Council under the Community Asset Transfer Policy.

The Cabinet Member for Delivery & Operations submitted a report that sought approval to negotiate and agree Heads of Terms and enter into a lease with Mumbles Community Council for land at Llwynderw for the purpose of constructing and managing a new skate park on the site.

Resolved that:

- 1) The outcome responses from the consultation process under the public open spaces legislation that was undertaken in respect of the land identified in Appendix A of the report (site plan) be noted. A full copy of the responses received, and each of those that Object, Support or provide a Neutral comment has been provided as Appendix F of the report, with a high level summary provided within the body of the report.
- 2) The proposed disposal of the land to Mumbles Community Council at a level of undervalue being acceptable to Cabinet and based on advice of the Head of Property Services be approved. Authority be delegated to the Head of Property Services to negotiate and settle the terms of the proposed lease of the land identified in Appendix A of the report (Site Plan) and authority be delegated to the Chief Legal Officer to finalise the legal documentation.
- 3) Improvements be made to the site in line with the associated planning permission reference 2019/2345/FUL granted on 13 February 2020 for a replacement Skate Park at West Cross Skate Park, Mumbles Road, Blackpill, Swansea.

74. Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme 2021/22 – Transfer of Budget.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Service Transformation submitted a report that provided details of the Disabled Facilities & Improvement Grant Programme in 2021-22 and sought approval to vire budget from Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) to the Council's Capital General Fund and Minor Adaptations Grant and from Valleys Taskforce Grant budget into Western Valleys Grant budget. To comply with Financial Procedure Rule 7 "Capital Programming and Appraisals", to commit and authorise schemes as per the Capital Programme.

Resolved that:

- 1) The transfer of £1,210,000 from the Disabled Facilities Grant budget to the Council's Capital General Fund be approved.
- 2) The transfer of £307,000 from the Disabled Facilities Grant to the Minor Adaptations Grant budget be approved.
- 3) The transfer of £105,000 from the Valleys Taskforce Empty Property budget to the Western Valleys Taskforce Empty Property budget be approved.

75. Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Letter 2020/21.

The Cabinet Member for Business Improvement & Performance submitted an information report that presented the annual report of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW).

76. Financial Procedure Rule 7 – Road Safety Grant 2021/22.

The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management submitted a report that sought to confirm the Road Safety grant allocation from Welsh Government and include the expenditure in the capital programme for 2021/22.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Road Safety grant allocation of £219,100 be confirmed and the expenditure be included in the capital programme for 2021/22.

77. Financial Procedure Rule 7 – Safe Routes in Communities Grant 2021/22.

The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management submitted a report that sought to confirm the Safe Routes in Communities grant allocation from Welsh Government and include the expenditure in the capital programme for 2021/22.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Safe Routes in Communities grant allocation of £283,200 be confirmed and the expenditure be included in the capital programme for 2021/22.

78. Exclusion of the Public.

Cabinet were requested to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the item(s) of business identified in the recommendations to the report(s) on the grounds that it / they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the exclusion paragraph of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 relevant to the items of business set out in the report(s).

Cabinet considered the Public Interest Test in deciding whether to exclude the public from the meeting for the item of business where the Public Interest Test was relevant as set out in the report.

Resolved that the public be excluded for the following item(s) of business.

(Closed Session)

79. Pre Decision Scrutiny Feedback - Update Management Report on Swansea Airport. (Verbal)

Councillor C A Holley provided the pre-decision feedback in relation to the Management Report on Swansea Airport.

80. Update Management Report on Swansea Airport.*

Call In Procedure - Subject to Pre-Decision Scrutiny: *This decision is exempt from the Authority's Call In Procedure as "the decision has been subject to Pre-Decision Scrutiny and there is no material change in relevant information / evidence".*

The Cabinet Member for Delivery & Operations submitted a report that provided an update on the current estate management activities at Swansea Airport.

Resolved that the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved.

81. Award of a Contract to Treat/Dispose Non-Recyclable Waste.

The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management submitted a report that sought approval to award a medium term contract for the treatment and disposal of non-recyclable (black bagged) waste.

Resolved that the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved.

The meeting ended at 11.21 am

Chair

Call In Procedure – Relevant Dates	
Minutes Published:	18 November 2021
Call In Period Expires (3 Clear Working Days after Publication):	23.59 on 23 November 2021
Decision Comes into force:	24 November 2021

Agenda Item 7.



Report of the Local Authority Governor Appointment Group

Cabinet – 16 December 2021

Local Authority Governor Appointments

Purpose:	To approve the nominations submitted to fill Local Authority Governor vacancies in School Governing Bodies
Policy Framework:	Local Authority (LA) Governor Appointments Procedure (Adopted by Council on 26 October 2017)
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The nominations recommended by the Director of Education in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills be approved.
Report Author:	Gemma Wynne
Finance Officer:	Peter Keys
Legal Officers:	Stephen Holland/Stephanie Williams
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1.0 The nominations referred for approval

1.1 The nominations are recommended for approval as follows:

1. Blaenymaes Primary School	Mr Don Paddinson
2. Cadle Primary School	Mr Nigel Richards Mr Mark Davies
3. St Illtyds RC Primary School	Mrs Judie Michael

4. Talcopa Primary School	Mr Lee Wheatley
5. Waunarlwydd Primary School	Mr Rory File
6. Gowerton School	Mr Tim Williams Miss Melissa Gammon

2.0 Financial Implications

2.1 There are no financial implications for the appointments; all costs will be met from existing budgets.

3.0 Legal Implications

3.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

4.0 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.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

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

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A - Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

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

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Achievement and Partnership

Directorate: Education

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Appointing Local Authority governors to schools in Swansea

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

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

- Q3** What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

This activity does not require consultation

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

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes No

-
- Q5** What is the potential risk of the initiative? (*Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...*)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

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

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

-
- Q7** What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

In order for schools to run effectively they need to have effective Governing Bodies.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

We have identified high impact on children and young people because it is in school environment and Governors are appointed to those school. Race, Religion and Welsh language have been also identified as high impact because we have some religious and welsh language schools. There is no need for mitigation as impacts that have been identified are not negative impacts The panel choose Governors ,no public consultation required. In order for schools to run effectively they need to have effective Governing Bodies, this appointment supports this..

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

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Gemma Wynne
Job title: Governor Support Officer
Date: 25/10/21
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Kate Phillips
Position: Head of Achievement and Partnership
Date: 25/10/21

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

Agenda Item 8.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Business Improvement and Performance

Cabinet – 16 December 2021

Quarter 2 2021/22 Performance Monitoring Report

Purpose:	To report corporate performance for Quarter 2 2021/22.
Policy Framework:	<i>Delivering a Successful & Sustainable Swansea Corporate Plan 2020/22</i> <i>Achieving Better Together Programme.</i>
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Cabinet endorses the performance results for Quarter 2 2021/22 and approves their use to inform executive decisions on resource allocation and, where relevant, corrective actions to manage and improve performance and efficiency in delivering national and local priorities.
Report Author:	Richard Rowlands
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the performance results for the second quarter of 2021/22 delivering the Council's Well-being Objectives (priorities) described in the Corporate Plan 2020/22 *Delivering a Successful & Sustainable Swansea*.
- 1.2 The outturn presented in the performance tables (Appendix A) incorporates an overview of performance that needs to be considered alongside the current financial situation of the Council.
- 1.3 The financial resources required to achieve the specified performance levels in 2021/22 have been provided in the approved budget. As part of the work on *Achieving Better Together* there will be an increased focus on understanding the level of activity and outcomes that are achieved for

the budget allocated so that choices can be made about relative priorities.

2.0 Performance and Improvement: impact from COVID-19

2.1 The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has brought huge challenges and changes to the Council, its services and workforce. The Council has never undertaken such change in such a short timescale and in such challenging circumstances. A number of non-essential services were suspended in order to redeploy resources to areas where they were most needed.

2.2 This inevitably has had a significant impact on the usual areas of performance across the council and that is why targets for performance indicators have not been set for 2021/22. This should also be considered when comparing performance to previous years.

2.3 This has been an unprecedented time and the Council's response to the pandemic, whilst not necessarily reflected in the established performance indicators in this report, has been extraordinary.

2.4 In summary, since March 2020 the Council has transformed the way it works to manage the impact of the pandemic. Thousands of staff were successfully mobilised to work remotely and/or from home within a matter of weeks. This took a massive effort from our ICT team to provide the necessary changes enabling staff and councillors to have full network links at their preferred location.

2.5 Other changes include:

- Supporting the Welsh Government's Shielding Programme by setting a new call centre and providing daily support to thousands of vulnerable people.
- Focusing social services care on the most vulnerable, re-opening a care home and supporting the private care sector.
- Overseeing the planning and construction of the Bay Field Hospital on Fabian Way.
- Remodelling schools into care settings for key workers' children.
- Providing meals to care settings and delivering free school meals.
- Providing food banks across the city and county.
- Providing financial support in excess of £100 million to thousands of businesses.
- Setting up a Track, Trace and Protect function and providing community testing centres.
- Preparing for mass vaccination in our communities.

2.6 These results for Q2 2021/22 should therefore be considered within this wider context, the ongoing pandemic and achievements noted.

- 2.7 Performance is judged using the results measured by Corporate Plan performance indicators and is usually compared to agreed targets. For the sake of this report and given the issues set out above, targets for 2021/22 have not been set due to the ongoing impact from COVID-19 and the associated lockdowns and other preventative and reactive measures.
- 2.8 The impact on the performance indicators from COVID-19 can also be seen where this occurs by comparing the results of performance indicators against the results from the same period last year where comparison is possible.
- 2.9 The Q2 2021/22 outturn shows that **15 out of 26 (58%)** comparable Corporate Plan performance indicators showed improvement or stayed the same compared to Q2 2020/21.
- 2.10 The performance indicators are assessed each year to ensure that they remain appropriate; although the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown disrupted this process in 2020/21 and during 2021/22. The indicators and how the Council can better measure strategic directions and our priorities will be reviewed as soon as allowed by the progress of the pandemic.
- 2.11 The performance tables in Appendix A set out an overview of performance for each Corporate Plan priority provided by Directors and Heads of Service who are the responsible leads; these overviews set the performance data within their proper context and can be found in para 4.0.

3.0 Other considerations

- 3.1 When making comparisons to 2020/21, the following should be considered:
- 3.1.1 The nature and number of some performance indicators (PIs) may have changed between these two periods and therefore direct comparisons may not always be appropriate.
- 3.1.2 The results do not always account for changes in resources and workload during that period (although details can be seen in the numerator and denominator information and in the comments column of the data tables attached to this report).
- 3.1.3 There may be changes to the numerator and denominator information that may affect the trends by showing a decline while the volume of work has increased.
- 3.1.4 None of the corporate priorities can be seen in isolation from each other. Each priority both affects and is affected by the others. For example, Improving Education and Skills is both important to our efforts to tackle

poverty and improve the economy. For this reason, many of the performance indicators allocated to measuring one priority can also be used to show progress meeting other priorities.

4.0 Context: Overviews of Performance in 2021/22

4.0.1 The following overviews provided by responsible departments describe the context to the performance meeting the Council's key objectives as at Q2 2021/22.

4.1 Safeguarding people from harm

4.1.1 Notwithstanding that Wales reports Covid status as alert level zero, levels of community transmission have remained high throughout the quarter and continue to have a significant detrimental impact on the health and care system. This plays out both through different and more complex levels of demand and a very significant deficit in workforce capacity. This deficit in workforce capacity is a national issue and plays out across all cohorts of the health and social care workforce. In Swansea the most significant deficits are in frontline child protection social work capacity and the adult domiciliary care workforce.

4.1.2 The above factors will impact on performance across a range of indicators. However reporting of these impacts is further complicated by the implementation of a new national performance framework and local implementation of the All Wales integrated health and social care reporting system (WCCIS). Smooth implementation of the new system has proved difficult. Staff are taking longer than expected to become familiar with its use as limited office based working has meant that training and mentoring can only be done virtually and the usual peer to peer learning almost entirely absent. A recent national upgrade to the system has compounded these performance reporting issues tenfold with the system repeatedly having to be shut down as it was unable to cope with the number of users trying to input information. All of these issues are being worked through at both a national and local level but it does mean that the usual depth and breadth of reliable, automated performance information may not be available until the 4th quarter of this year or even beyond and therefore the accurate baselining of new performance indicators may not be fully complete until next year.

4.1.3 Despite the perfect storm of all the above coming together at the same time, the Council still needs to know at any given time whether it is delivering safe services and meeting its number one priority of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. To provide this reassurance a series of manual performance monitoring checks have been established within services.

4.1.4 Taking into account all the available information the position for children services is that despite significant workload pressures including caseloads that are between 30 and 50% higher than target, key

measures of visits taking place and assessments being undertaken are ensuring that children remain safe. The continued focus on ensuring that children are supported to remain safe and well at home (safe LAC reduction) is still achieving very positive outcomes. The high numbers of children being supported via early help hubs is encouraging.

- 4.1.5 In adult services, whilst there are significant backlogs in assessments and very limited capacity to provide domiciliary care, the safeguarding team have reviewed the circumstances of all those individuals on waiting lists to ensure that either alternative forms of support are in place or that a step up, temporary care placement is offered for individuals who may otherwise be unsafe. Full local area coordinator coverage across Swansea is helping to ensure that where opportunities to support individuals without recourse to formal care exist, these opportunities are being realised.
- 4.1.6 Across both services emergency, contingency plans are in train to ensure our most fundamental statutory requirements will be met over what we expect to be an extremely challenging winter and Christmas period. It may be that for the next two quarters, reporting may have to be further adjusted to simply report against the effectiveness of those emergency plans.

4.2 *Improving education & skills*

- 4.2.1 During the second quarter, Swansea schools have faced considerable disruption as a result of Covid, with nearly all control measures to keep learners safe required from 13 September 2021. The negative effect on school attendance, particularly in secondary schools remains significant. Despite the removal of the requirement for whole year groups to self-isolate, secondary schools have seen disrupted classes as a result of both staff and pupil illness. An unvaccinated school population has seen over 4000 learners isolating in the two school months within quarter two. Attendance in Swansea remains lower than usual because of Covid. Schools in challenging contexts appear to have lower attendance compared to schools in less deprived areas of Swansea. Similar rates of lower attendance have been seen in local authorities across Wales.
- 4.2.2 The numbers of learners being excluded is growing in comparison to pre-Covid rates and requires precise monitoring. Implementation of Swansea's positive behaviour policy in schools is progressing well. Close monitoring of secondary schools' plans to support learners at risk of disaffection indicates strong support to prevent exclusion rates being even higher.
- 4.2.3 Authority wide attainment measures at foundation phase, key stage 2 and key stage 3 are no longer collected by Welsh Government and in key stage 4 and A Level year groups the awarding of grades has been determined by schools themselves. National categorisation and Estyn inspections have been suspended as a result of Covid. School

monitoring supports schools' readiness for significant national changes to how the needs of learners are met.

- 4.2.4 Preparation for the new Curriculum for Wales (underpinned by a strong emphasis on well-being) is in place and remains a focus area for school monitoring visits. Learner wellbeing and school staff well-being are carefully considered as part of recovery planning. Plans for the implementation of the new additional learning needs legislative framework are developing well. Considerable workforce training has been undertaken in readiness for higher expectations on additional learning needs provision in schools. The new legislative framework for additional learning needs requires timely intervention and provision to meet the needs of learners in Swansea.
- 4.2.5 Improved performance in meeting desirable timescales indicates that the work to digitise and simplify processes is taking good effect. Greater access to Welsh medium schools is progressing well with two new buildings on track for imminent occupancy. The new ten year strategic plan for Welsh in Education is at a formal consultation stage. Improvements to the school estate as part of the 21 Century Schools programme continue to develop well despite challenges during the Covid pandemic.

4.3 *Transforming our economy and infrastructure*

- 4.3.1 As reported previously in quarter 1, the effects of Covid on the construction sector are now becoming increasingly clear. Skilled and unskilled labour shortages, together with supply issues for some construction materials are having an impact on programme and construction costs. Dialogue continues with our contractors and all available countermeasures are being explored to mitigate the impacts of these issues. However, despite this our major regeneration priorities have continued to make substantial progress on site during Quarter 2.
- 4.3.2 The Copr Bay works have continued to make significant visible progress with the arena, bridge, residential block, MSCP, and church hall all significantly advanced and nearing practical completion. The Shaping Swansea procurement has been concluded with the appointment of Urban Splash as the Council's private sector development partner for the delivery of the next phase of strategic sites. This marks an exciting new chapter in Swansea's regeneration journey, bringing new resources and development expertise to the City.
- 4.3.3 The Public Sector Hub project at the former BHS building has made significant progress. Grant funding for refurbishment works have been secured and a works contractor has been procured. The Kingsway Employment Hub building procurement for a contractor has completed to construct a major new high-tech office development that will provide space for 600 jobs in Swansea city centre. Set for completion in early 2023, the five-storey development will include 114,000 square feet of

commercial floorspace, providing flexible co-working and office opportunities for innovative tech, digital and creative businesses. The development will be carbon zero and worth £32.6 million a year to Swansea's economy. It will feature state-of-the-art digital connectivity, a roof terrace, greenery and balconies overlooking the city centre and Swansea Bay.

- 4.3.4 Wind Street works continue to make substantial progress on site and is set for completion in November, as does the Hafod Copperworks Powerhouse project with works completion targeted for May 2022. Procurement for a works contractor to deliver the Place Theatre refurbishment works has now been completed with works completion targeted for October 2022.
- 4.3.5 The delivery of actions within the Swansea Economic Recovery Action Plan is ongoing. The action plan, that was prepared in partnership with key stakeholders, and that is supported by deployment of the Council's economic recovery fund, includes a range of initiatives to stimulate economic activity and resilience within Swansea's local economy. The City Centre re-purposing study has been approved by Cabinet and initial projects are under consideration.
- 4.3.6 The Council has also been leading the production of the Regional Economic Delivery Plan in collaboration with other authorities in the region. This work is now advanced and will report to Council in January for adoption of the strategy and its accompanying action plan. The plan identifies transformational project investment in the region that will attract funds from the UK government's Shared Prosperity Funding programme that is envisaged in future years.
- 4.3.7 The WHQS Capital Programme for 2020/21 was affected by the Covid pandemic which curtailed the Council's ability to deliver planned works to occupied existing dwellings. This was recognised by Welsh Government and Swansea Council has been granted a further 12 months in which to deliver its WHQS Compliance Programme. The revised completion date is now 31st December 2021. The revised capital investment programme for 2021/22 has now been set at £46.875m, an element of £12m which is slippage from last year's Covid pandemic affected end of year financial outturn. The investment aims and objectives remain the same as proceeding years; to ensure homes are in a good state of repair, thermally efficient, safe and secure and meeting the needs of individuals.
- 4.3.8 Over the course of this financial year, the Council intends to deliver planned repairs and improvements to the following number of dwellings:
- 700 new kitchens and bathrooms.
 - 456 external fabric envelope upgrades, which includes reroofing and insulation, weatherboards and rainwater goods, insulated render and replacement high performance windows.
 - 661 chimney removals or rebuilds.

- 475 high performance combination boilers.
 - 3,700 garden upgrades to improve safety and security.
 - Fire safety improvement work to high and medium rise blocks of flats and sheltered housing complexes including installation of sprinkler systems.
 - Installation of 2,000 remotely monitored smoke alarm systems in sheltered housing complexes.
 - 537 electrical re-wires to ensure installations comply with the prevailing regulations.
 - New passenger lifts at Jeffreys Court flats.
- 4.3.9 A further element of work, to help meet future decarbonisation targets of social housing, has been integrated in this year's programme. Solar PV panels and battery storage to generate energy for the benefit of 137 households has been included as part of external envelope upgrades.
- 4.3.10 The above are just some of the headline work streams we intend to deliver as part of a much wider programme of repairs, maintenance and improvements which forms the WHQS Compliance Capital Programme. At the end of the financial year, the Council will have achieved WHQS compliance as is defined in statutory guidance. From April 2022, the WHQS will pass from a compliance target phase to a maintenance phase of the WHQS. We await the revised guidance documents from Welsh Government but anticipate the maintenance phase will introduce new statutory decarbonisation and fire safety elements in addition to other maintenance refinements.
- 4.3.11 The overall WHQS programme will continue to contribute significantly towards community benefits and employment opportunities. We will report at the end of the final quarter on the recruitment and training opportunities the programme provided during 2021/22.
- 4.3.12 The Council's More Homes Programme, focussed on providing new build Council housing, is looking to a 10 year delivery ambition of 1000 new affordable homes. Following the completion of 34 homes in 20/21, work is continuing on 25 homes on Hill View Crescent in Clase, which is due for completion in Spring 2022. This scheme has also been awarded £1.5m of Innovative Housing Funding, which will fund the renewable technologies to continue the Homes as Power Stations theme. This will also be the site of a new build Welsh medium primary school, and will provide an opportunity to regenerate the area.
- 4.3.13 As part of the WG Phase 2 planning for homelessness, the Council is also developing 8 one bedroom homes at a former Education site in Uplands. This will be handed over in Nov 2021. A further 20 x1 bedroom acquisitions are planned for 21/22. Work has also started at West Cross, to develop 6 bungalows, which has also been awarded IHP funding to include the additional renewable technologies.
- 4.3.14 A planning application has been submitted to convert a former social services property in Gorseinon into 2 x 3 bedroom homes. The former

Education site at Brondeg House has also been acquired to develop for affordable housing. Cabinet has also been asked to approve the appropriation of 3 sites from the General Fund to develop for affordable housing. The Council is also progressing the procurement of a development partner or partners to deliver mixed tenure housing on 2 Council owned sites in Penderry, whilst maximising the delivery of affordable housing to meet local need. The Council has also procured a multi-disciplinary team to deliver a masterplan for the regeneration of a large Housing owned site. This work is progressing however the timeframe has been extended as the planned resident consultation events, site visits and surveys were delayed due to Covid.

- 4.3.15 Quarter 2 covered a large proportion of the summer months with many of the City's attractions and facilities once again welcoming tourists and residents through their doors. Despite some ongoing restrictions during the early part of the quarter, the majority of services were able to re-open and able to capitalise on additional footfall in the City owing to staycations. In particular there was strong demand for all swimming activities across the city's leisure portfolio, consistent with the wider leisure restart across England and Wales and in some cases exceeding pre-covid income levels. However, more disappointingly fitness activity and membership are not rebuilding as quickly and is currently operating at around 75% income compared to pre-covid trading.
- 4.3.16 The response for outdoor activities soared during the summer months, with record participation numbers attending activities across the destination area, within parks and open spaces throughout the period. In order to meet the demands, the Council took a decision to extend lifeguarded beaches into September in partnership with the RNLI, as well as extending operating periods for the outdoor leisure attractions such as Blackpill Lido through to the last weekend of September. A decision which was welcomed by visitors and residents alike, who attended in significant numbers in good weather.
- 4.3.17 The Sport and Health Teams delivered a summer programme of 2021 that had added significance and importance as it was delivered during a period of the Covid pandemic whereby restrictions were easing and the public had both a huge appetite for participation in healthy activity alongside some trepidation that activities would be safe and appropriate in these unprecedented circumstances. For the first time, the school holiday programme was expanded to cover activities for 16-25 year olds and older adults as well as the provision of whole family participation activities which was piloted pre Covid via programmes such as Us Girls, Parklives and Streetgames. The team welcomed over 1400 users to over 150 sessions across 21 different venues, including leisure centres, parks, beaches, rivers and canals.
- 4.3.18 Funding sports clubs to use our facilities free of charge or apply for grants for operation of their own facilities has been welcomed and significant uptake on free permits has exceeded 1000 bookings, with an

in-kind value of over £40k. Meanwhile, Clubs that Self Manage their own facilities have benefited from grants of up to £1500, and the Council provided a total of £16k in the period to the end of September. The community development team continued to support the majority of community buildings and centres to reopen safely and successfully, whilst managing demands and expectations for some to be retained as vaccination/testing centres. Within the period, the team were also intrinsic to the facilitation of a community consultation within the Mayhill area, and were key in organising a series of sessions for the community to speak to the elected panel from which significant praise was given by all those involved.

- 4.3.19 The focus of the tourism & marketing report during this quarter was on our digital performance and how it has supported the sector during a period that saw a move to level zero on August 7th. Our marketing has been flexible to the changing circumstances and the 'Make Swansea Bay your Happy Place' visitor campaign has tapped into the public's post lockdown need for a 'feel-good' staycation and has resulted in excellent engagement across online platforms. In addition, our focus to reach families with pets, resulted in our 'Dog Friendly' pages receiving nearly 22,000 page views, up 65% on the same period last year.
- 4.3.20 The highlight of this period was achieving over 1M page views on the destination website visitswanseabay.com, which is a staggering 76% more than in the last 'normal' year (2019). A contributing factor in this was the Council's decision to continue to offer the basic entry level of marketing support for businesses at no cost, which saw the numbers of private sector partners rise from 122 to 189, with an additional 67 new or returning partners. This added to the product offer, improved the search engine optimisation and resulted in more organic traffic, with a big increase in the numbers of visitors from surrounding counties. Our event (Enjoy Swansea Bay) pages also saw 137,000 page views, which relates to the events we supported across the destination and this saw £27K worth of tickets sold during the period.
- 4.3.21 An outcome of our marketing strategy has resulted in positive news for the hotel sector, with hotel occupancy levels for Sept at 84% (+24% from 2020 and +3% from 2019). Hotel room occupancy statistics for July - Sept 2021 are very positive, with July occupancy levels returning to pre-Covid (2019) levels, September seeing an increase of 3.7% and August 2021 seeing an increase of 10% on 2019 figures. More stats like this for the sector will be reported, but it is a good sign that the tourism sector is showing signs of recovery and the investment the council is making is reaching the right target audiences.
- 4.3.22 We launched our Economic Recovery funded Tourism Investment Fund and the early expressions of interest have been positive in terms of the number, but also the schemes the businesses have in mind to continue to adapt and improve their own product offer. Whilst it may be too early to be overly optimistic, the early signs of recovery are positive for the

remainder this year, 2022 and beyond. A planned busy summer events programme for 2022 will also help to support recovery of and for the tourism sector.

- 4.3.23 Quarter 2 has seen the reopening of the outdoor events sector with Covid mitigation in place and significant challenges with resources - both human resources and infrastructure supply. Singleton Park once again played host to several major events including Catfish and the Bottlemen, Olly Murs and The Foals with just under 40,000 people able to enjoy live music outdoors once more. This has also helped support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector by filling bed spaces, pre and post event food and beverage as well as other sectors such as transport and hopefully generally more footfall in the city centre.
- 4.3.24 In trying to reintroduce events safely and restore community confidence, the Events Team focused its efforts on 5 new events during August and September and Parks Fest saw family fun-days, films and live music taking place in five of our community parks. Mid-September saw the first live running event in Wales when just over 3,000 runners took their places on Oystermouth Road, dressed in leggings and colourful tops, for the Council's 80s-themed 40th anniversary Swansea Bay 10k event.
- 4.3.25 Financial support allocated from the Council's ERF fund has meant that small scale parks lettings and hires have been free and will continue to be so until March 31st 2022. This has enabled a range of community and small scale business operators to have new and suitable outdoor space to continue their business activity through increasing capacity and supporting their recovery.
- 4.3.26 Work has progressed to map out and plan for the opening of the new events spaces in and around the Arena, with the former Cranes music store being repurposed as a centre for arts activity, using new technology and digital skills to support long term input to the area by local creatives and artist collectives. Through the Council's Economic Recovery Fund, we have also been able to offer small grants and support packages to local clubs, artists and organisations to begin to resume their activities, put on events and exhibitions at a time when confidence remained low and audiences restricted in numbers.
- 4.3.27 Work also continued to remodel and present shared spaces and uses in the Grand theatre in preparation for reopening, following Welsh Govt. announcements for further easing. The launch of 'The World Reimagined' - as mentioned in previous updates, has also picked up pace, with workshops and presentations with community groups taking place to recruit artists and community participation, and we celebrated a new Fusion production 'Sanctuary' at the Taliesin, with a film screening of the very real human stories of our communities seeking sanctuary these last ten years in the city.

4.4 *Tackling Poverty*

- 4.4.1 The corporate plan sets out the Council's commitment to Tackle Poverty to ensure that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential. To meet this commitment the corporate Tackling Poverty Strategy ensures that Tackling Poverty is everybody's business.
- 4.4.2 *Continued impact of Covid-19 - Tackling Poverty.* The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on those already experiencing poverty and is driving those that were at risk of poverty, into poverty. The Universal Credit temporary uplift of £20 per week introduced at the start of the pandemic came to an end at the start of October 2021 and the furlough scheme finished at the end of September. Changes to the taper rate for the 40% UC claimants who work will be introduced in December 2021, meaning workers take home 8p more per extra pound earned after their work allowance. For some, this will make up for the loss of the £20 a week uplift, although most UC claimants are not working so will not benefit from this change.
- 4.4.3 The Bevan Foundation report on '*Debt in the Pandemic*' (Sept 21) highlighted that 10% of all households have fallen behind on a bill between January and May 21 and over the same period 17% of all households borrowed money. The majority of the population will borrow money at some point, but being in problem debt including struggling to make payments, having high credit compared to income, negatively affects people's lives.
- 4.4.4 Arrears are concentrated in lower-income households: those with an income of less than £40,000 were significantly more likely to be in arrears in May 2021 than higher income households. Renters have been significantly more likely to fall into debt during the pandemic than owner occupiers. Disabled people have been twice as likely to be in arrears over the course of the pandemic as non-disabled people.
- 4.4.5 'A snapshot of poverty in spring 2021' Wales published in June 2021 found that:
- Incomes are still falling for some: more than one in five households with a net income of less than £20,000 have seen their income drop since January 2021.
 - Living costs have increased: 43% of households are spending more on heating, electricity and/or water, 38% of households are spending more on food, and 20% of households are spending more on internet costs. Social renters and households with children appear to be disproportionately affected.
- 4.4.6 *Employability Support.* The number of people gaining employment through Employability support, supports the well-being objective steps; ensuring that young people are able to access employment, education and training after reaching 16 and individuals are supported to overcome

their barriers to employment through coordinated person centre employability support. More people have secured employment again this quarter compared to last quarter and this time last year. This has been through the employability support programmes; Swansea Working, Communities for Work, Communities for Work Plus, Workways STU and Workways Plus. There has been an increase in vacancies and employment across many sectors. There has been an increase in the number of people gaining employment through Employability Support in the second quarter of 2021/22 (135) compared to Quarter 2 2020/21 (46) and the pre-pandemic figures in Quarter 2 in 2019/20 (81).

- 4.4.7 *Welfare Benefit Entitlements.* The step to help address the impacts of Welfare reform, including supporting people to claim the full benefits they are entitled to so that they are able to maximise their income is reported through the amount of welfare benefits raised through securing rights and entitlements by the Welfare Rights team. The amount of benefits secured during Quarter 2 is £245274.99 a 16% increase on Quarter 1, but a significant decrease on the same period last year. The requests for appeal representation continues to be lower, one reasons is due to the automatic extension of awards of disability benefits and lifting of reviews for sickness benefits due to the pandemic, reducing the need for challenge. This is expected to pick up again once the DWP start undertaking re-assessments. The reduction is also attributed to welfare reform reducing financial increases of additional benefits. The team have had an 87% success rate with appeals during 2021/22 (13/15) and responded to 374 benefit enquiries.
- 4.4.8 *Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit.* The performance indicator of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) average time for processing new claims and processing notification of change in circumstances has decreased compared to last quarter with an average increase of 3 days. The dips in benefits and CTR processing times are a direct consequence of significantly increased numbers of benefits claims and changes in circumstances to process falling on the same fixed size workforce. This is a direct local consequence of the challenging economic environment the poorest in society face nationally and whilst disappointing was alas fully anticipated.
- 4.4.9 The time taken to process notifications of change in circumstances resulting in multiple changes to CTR has improved since this time last year and an improvement on last quarter. With Housing Benefit new claims and changes of circumstance there has been increase in the time taken are as expected recognising the impact of Covid, more customers on Universal Credit and the same team processing Isolation Payments.
- 4.4.10 *Housing.* The Council, along with partners in the housing sector and support charities continued response to addressing homelessness and many people have been supported to find a place to live and many moving on from emergency temporary accommodation into longer-term homes. This time last year there were less family homelessness

presentations due to the suspension of evictions and a hold on move-on from Home Office accommodation. The average number of days homeless families with children spent in Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation increased in quarter two to 5 days from 3.8 days last quarter and increased from 2 days this quarter last year. This was as a result of two families in B&B, one for one night and the second family's stay was nine nights due to the availability of suitable family accommodation.

4.4.11 *Skills and Qualifications.* The number of accredited qualifications achieved by adults with local Authority support has increased in the last quarter (178) compared to the same period last year (71), this has been a slight decrease from last quarter (182) although this is due the summer period with increased non-attendance during August which will be addressed in future training calendars. There has been an increase in face to face training provision with infection control measures and online training has continued where possible. Non-accredited training continues with 1552 enrolments onto Lifelong Learning courses during 2021/22, this includes 262 enrolments on digital literacy courses. The non-accredited courses provide a pathway for learners to progress onto further learning and accredited courses. Partnership working between Swansea Working, Lifelong Learning, Employability Programmes and partners has continued offer participants accredited training and qualifications to meet employment opportunities.

4.4.12 *Partnership Working.* The Swansea Council Poverty Forum, Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum and Financial Inclusion Steering Group continue to meet, facilitating networking, sharing of good practice, information, trends, changes to services and new opportunities, encouraging partnership working and collaboration. During this quarter seven Men's Shed projects have been awarded grants, 38 projects have been funded to address Food Poverty have been supported, 13 community projects have been funded to support Period Dignity.

4.5 *Transformation & future Council development*

4.5.1 The Council continues to make progress on the steps within the Transformation & Future Council well-being objective including:

- Delivering the new transformation and recovery programme: Achieving Better Together. The programme has presented an update to Scrutiny. In addition, assurance has been provided through an internal audit.
- The Workforce Strategy continues, incorporating results from the staff survey and feedback from Directors and Heads of Service. Focus groups with a cross section of employees will be undertaken during the next quarter.
- The Integrated Impact Assessment process is now embedded into Council processes and decision-making.

- A new Digital Strategy has been developed and will be presented to Cabinet before the end March 2022. This delivers on the step so that citizens can access more Council services and information on-line. Progress on this is demonstrated through the performance indicator Cust 2a. Cust 2b has declined only because of the unusual spike in online form requests during the same period last year due to the pandemic and restrictions.
- The Council has a detailed action plan to respond to the new Local Government Act. Work on the new Corporate Joint Committees and further emphasis on regional working continues to be a focus.
- Work on strengthening and promoting the Welsh Language continues with a recent celebration of Shwmae Day.
- Performance on staff sickness has been generally improving over the past year and further resources have been allocated to continue to manage this effectively.

4.6 *Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity*

- 4.6.1 To assist the Council meet its Biodiversity duties a full time Planning Ecologist and part time Section 6 officer have recently been appointed - a recommendation of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry. The Section 6 officer will work corporately across the Council and has begun to meet with service leads to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for 2021/23. Other temporary full/part-time posts have been created through grant funding to assist with nature recovery, including a Local Nature Partnership Officer, Communities and Nature Project Officer (x2) and a Volunteer Coordinator - appointment to these roles is anticipated next quarter.
- 4.6.2 Supplementary Planning Guidance has been finalised for Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands, whilst a Fairness in Green Health Policy and a Council Tree Strategy are in the process of being finalised- the latter is due to be reported to Cabinet later this year. Initial meetings have also been held to engage key stakeholders in agreeing the framework, content and timescale for preparing a County Wide Green Infrastructure Strategy and a management strategy for Clyne Valley Country Park. A pilot initiative has been undertaken to map ecosystem resilience in the Gorseinon/Penllergaer area and an overall assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience has been undertaken across the County as part of the PSB Well-being Assessment. County wide ecosystem resilience mapping and mapping of potential locations for tree planting is due to commence next quarter following receipt of grant funding.
- 4.6.3 Grant funding to assist with improved management of Council owned grassland areas and Local Nature Reserves, as well as parks and verges for wildflower planting, has resulted in the purchase of specialist cut and

collect machinery. Additional grant funding has been obtained for a Nature Network Project to enhance and improve ecological connectivity within wildlife corridors and to create a new native woodland site in Penllergaer Valley Woods. Invasive Non-Native Species have been cleared from Ilston Valley and over 2ha mapped for clearance in Clyne Valley.

- 4.6.4 Covid has restricted natural environment awareness/training opportunities, with only a limited number of school field trips/events to Bishops Wood and Seashore Safaris able to be held this summer.
- 4.6.5 A Charter for Climate Change and Nature Action has been prepared and the Council continues to participate in and support the Low Carbon Swansea Initiative including rolling out a carbon retrofit programme and advancing Solar PV proposals on Council owned buildings and land. The Council is also finalising a first submission of benchmark emissions data to Welsh Government which will help inform Swansea's goal of reducing its carbon footprint going forward. Work in progress includes a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy.
- 4.6.6 The percentage of municipal waste collected and prepared for reuse and/or recycled was 64.57% (data relates to Q1). While the quarterly recycling rate is below the figure achieved prior to Covid (2019/20) it is still above the statutory recycling target (64%) and is broadly similar to the figure achieved in 2020/21 (64.7%).

5.0 Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 5.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic,

social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

5.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5.2 The report itself has no direct impact on the relevant groups considered within the IIA; however the performance indicators in this report are part of the way in which the Council measures and reports progress meeting its Well-being Objectives as described in the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 In the current and anticipated financial environment further discussion and consideration will be required around priorities and target setting for performance improvement as part of *Achieving Better Together*.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

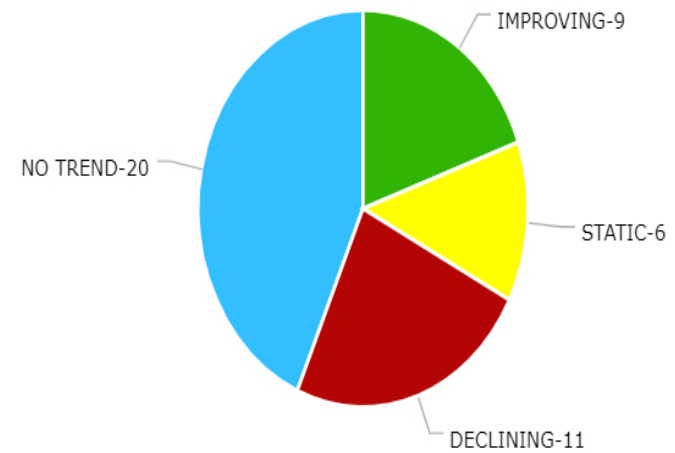
Appendices:

Appendix A Q2 2021/22 Performance Monitoring Report

Corporate Performance Management Report Q2 2021/2022

Performance compared to same Period of previous year

2021/2022 Quarter 2



Performance compared to the same period of the previous year:

- IMPROVING** Better performance
- STATIC** Same performance
- DECLINING** Worse performance
- NO TREND** New indicator - No historical comparison

Notwithstanding that Wales reports Covid status as alert level zero, levels of community transmission have remained high throughout the quarter and continue to have a significant detrimental impact on the health and care system. This plays out both through different and more complex levels of demand and a very significant deficit in workforce capacity. This deficit in workforce capacity is a national issue and plays out across all cohorts of the health and social care workforce. In Swansea the most significant deficits are in frontline child protection social work capacity and the adult domiciliary care workforce.

The above factors will impact on performance across a range of indicators.

However reporting of these impacts is further complicated by the implementation of a new national performance framework and local implementation of the All Wales integrated health and social care reporting system (WCCIS). Smooth implementation of the new system has proved difficult. Staff are taking longer than expected to become familiar with its use as limited office based working has meant that training and mentoring can only be done virtually and the usual peer to peer learning almost entirely absent. A recent national upgrade to the system has compounded these performance reporting issues tenfold with the system repeatedly having to be shutdown as it was unable to cope with the number of users trying to input information. All of these issues are being worked through at both a national and local level but it does mean that the usual depth and breadth of reliable, automated performance information may not be available until the 4th quarter of this year or even beyond and therefore the accurate baselining of new performance indicators may not be fully complete until next year.

Despite the perfect storm of all the above coming together at the same time, the Council still needs to know at any given time whether it is delivering safe services and meeting its number one priority of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. To provide this reassurance a series of manual performance monitoring checks have been established within services.

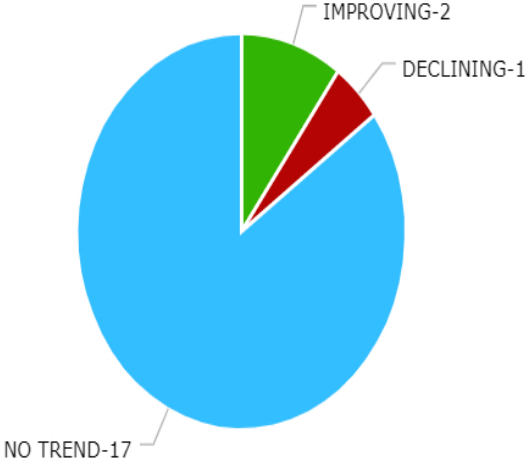
Taking into account all the available information the position for children services is that despite significant workload pressures including caseloads that are between 30 and 50% higher than target, key measures of visits taking place and assessments being undertaken are ensuring that children remain safe. The continued focus on ensuring that children are supported to remain safe and well at home (safe LAC reduction) is still achieving very positive outcomes. The high numbers of children being supported via early help hubs is encouraging.

In adult services, whilst there are significant backlogs in assessments and very limited capacity to provide domiciliary care, the safeguarding team have reviewed the circumstances of all those individuals on waiting lists to ensure that either alternative forms of support are in place or that a step up, temporary care placement is offered for individuals who may otherwise be unsafe. Full local area coordinator coverage across Swansea is helping to ensure that where opportunities to support individuals without recourse to formal care exist, these opportunities are being realised.

Across both services emergency, contingency plans are in train to ensure our most fundamental statutory requirements will be met over what we expect to be an extremely challenging Winter and Christmas period. It may be that for the next two quarters, reporting may have to be further adjusted to simply report against the effectiveness of those emergency plans.

Performance compared to same Period of previous year



2021/2022 Quarter 2



Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
AD011a ↑ The total number of packages of reablement completed during the year which: a) Reduced the need for support NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Baseline figure.
	Result			10	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			10	
	Den				
AD011b ↓ The total number of packages of reablement completed during the year which: b) Maintained the need for support NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Baseline, currently 30%.
	Result			61	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			61	
	Den				

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
AD011c ↑ The total number of packages of reablement completed during the year which: c) Mitigated the need for support NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Currently 49%, baseline figure. Need to benchmark nationally. This is strong performance in challenging times.
	Result			100	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			100	
	Den				
AD011d ↓ The total number of packages of reablement completed during the year which: d) Neither reduced, maintained nor mitigated the need for support NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Baseline figure.
	Result			33.	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			33	
	Den				

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
AD017 ↑ The number of Care and Support plans that were due to be reviewed during the year that were completed within statutory timescales NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Low confidence in data and therefore this is currently being worked through
	Result			No Data	
	Target				
	Trend				
	Num				
	Den				
AD024 ↑ The total number of enquiries completed within 7 working days from the receipt of the reported alleged abuse. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				85% completed within 7 days this quarter, aiming for 90%.
	Result			277	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			277	
	Den				

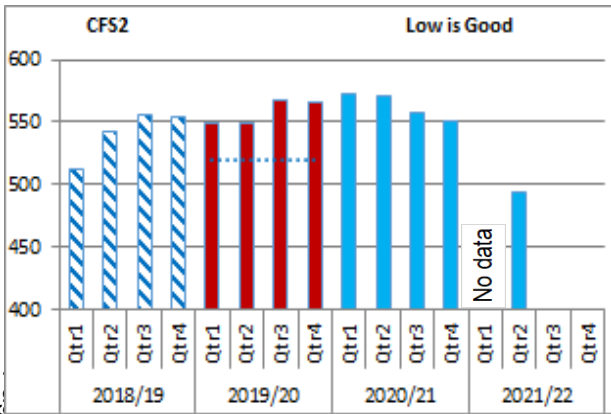
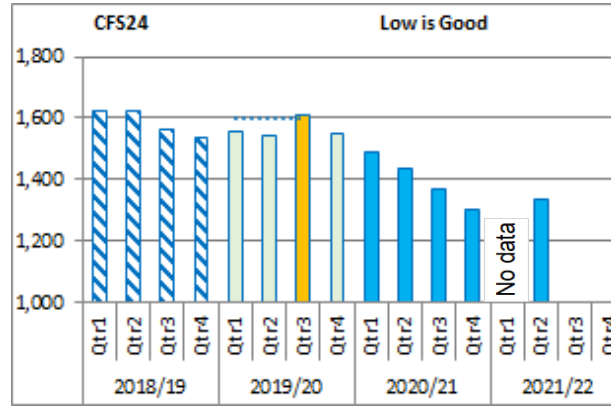
Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
CA005a  The number of carers assessments completed for adults during the year where: a) Needs could be met with a carer's support plan or care and support plan NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Baseline figure.
	Result			48	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			48	
	Den				
CA005b  The number of carers assessments completed for adults during the year where: b) Needs were able to be met by any other means. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Baseline figure.
	Result			43	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			43	
	Den				

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
CA005c ↑ The number of carers assessments completed for adults during the year where: c) There were no eligible needs to meet..	RAG				Baseline figure.
	Result			5	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			5	
	Den				
	NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting				
FS11a ↓ The number of children Being Placed on the Local Authority's Child Protection Register (CPR) within the Period.	RAG				We have been able to see throughout our monthly reporting a decrease in the number of children on the child protection register. Weekly multi agency review of new cases proceeding to child protection have identified positive family work in the Integrated Safeguarding Hub with multi agency agreement of threshold.
	Result			49	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			49	
	Den				
	NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting				

Safeguarding 17-22



Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022																																		
<p>CFS19a ↑</p> <p>The percentage of visits to children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) which were not overdue.</p> <p>CFS19a High is Good</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate data from CFS19a chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year/Quarter</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr1</td><td>50%</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr2</td><td>70%</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr3</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr4</td><td>95%</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr1</td><td>95%</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr2</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr3</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20 Qtr4</td><td>95%</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21 Qtr1</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21 Qtr2</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21 Qtr3</td><td>95%</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21 Qtr4</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22 Qtr1</td><td>No data</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22 Qtr2</td><td>72.73%</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22 Qtr3</td><td>No data</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22 Qtr4</td><td>No data</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year/Quarter	Percentage	2019/20 Qtr1	50%	2019/20 Qtr2	70%	2019/20 Qtr3	90%	2019/20 Qtr4	95%	2019/20 Qtr1	95%	2019/20 Qtr2	90%	2019/20 Qtr3	85%	2019/20 Qtr4	95%	2020/21 Qtr1	90%	2020/21 Qtr2	90%	2020/21 Qtr3	95%	2020/21 Qtr4	85%	2021/22 Qtr1	No data	2021/22 Qtr2	72.73%	2021/22 Qtr3	No data	2021/22 Qtr4	No data	RAG	GREEN			<p>As we adapt to a new computer system we have had to support staff with adding their visits to the system and have confirmed verbally if visits have taken place. As a result more visits have been undertaken than has been reflected in the data.</p>
	Year/Quarter	Percentage																																					
	2019/20 Qtr1	50%																																					
	2019/20 Qtr2	70%																																					
	2019/20 Qtr3	90%																																					
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2019/20 Qtr4	95%																																						
2020/21 Qtr1	90%																																						
2020/21 Qtr2	90%																																						
2020/21 Qtr3	95%																																						
2020/21 Qtr4	85%																																						
2021/22 Qtr1	No data																																						
2021/22 Qtr2	72.73%																																						
2021/22 Qtr3	No data																																						
2021/22 Qtr4	No data																																						
Result	90.42%	93.03%	72.73%																																				
Target	90.00%																																						
Trend	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	DECLINING																																				
Num	236	227	152																																				
Den	261	244	209																																				
<p>CFS19b ↑</p> <p>The Number of visits to children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) which were not overdue.</p> <p>NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting</p>	RAG				<p>As we adapt to a new computer system we have had to support staff with adding their visits to the system and have confirmed verbally if visits have taken place. As a result more visits have been undertaken than has been reflected in the data</p>																																		
	Result			152																																			
	Target																																						
	Trend			No Data																																			
	Num			152																																			
	Den																																						

Safeguarding 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
<p>CFS2 (CH039) ↴</p> <p>The number of Looked After Children (LAC) at end of the period.</p> 	RAG	RED			Over the last 12 months we have seen a decrease in the number of children Looked After. There has been an increase in children made subject of a Special Guardianship order and a Safe Lac Reduction Strategy continues to be implemented.
Result	549	571	494		
Target	520				
Trend	DECLINING	DECLINING	IMPROVING		
Num	549	571	494		
Den					
<p>CFS24 ↴</p> <p>The number of Children / Young People Supported by Child and Family Services at the end of the period</p> 	RAG	GREEN			Although there has been an increase in the number of children supported there has been a reduction in the number of Child Protection Cases and Looked After children.
Result	1540	1436	1333		
Target	1600				
Trend	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	IMPROVING		
Num	1540	1436	1333		
Den					

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
CFS25 ↓ The number of Children / Young People supported by the Early Help Hubs at the end of the period NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				This is a new measure. As we continue to review this area each quarter we will develop a better understanding of the progress made.
	Result			771	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			771	
	Den				
CFS26 ↓ The Number of contacts to the Child & Family IAA (Information, Advice and Assistance) Hub that are subsequently passed on to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				This is a new measure with the introduction of the Integrated Safeguarding Hub into the Integrated Information Advice and Assistance service. Continued review of this measure will support us to understand performance.
	Result			98	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			98	
	Den				

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
CFS2b ↑ The number of children ceasing to be looked after (LAC) within the Period. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				We have continued to see children ending their LAC episode each month with positive outcomes including returning home and being made subject to Special Guardianship Order. This has supported the delivery of our Safe LAC reduction strategy
	Result			47	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			47	
	Den				
CH015 ↑ The total number of children with a care and support plan at the end of the period. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				
	Result			394	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			394	
	Den				

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
CH026  The number of children on the Local Authority's Child Protection Register (CPR) at end of the period. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				We have been able to see throughout our monthly reporting a decrease in the number of children on the child protection register. Swansea is now more in line with an anticipated rate per 10,000 of its child population
	Result			199	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			199	
	Den				
CH036  The number of children being removed from the Local Authority's Child Protection Register (CPR) within the Period. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				Positively we are seeing a higher number of children coming off the child protection register than going on. We continue to review any children that may come off the register prematurely in the weekly multi agency review meeting.
	Result			107	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			107	
	Den				

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
CH037b ↴ The number of children becoming Looked After (LAC) within the Period. NO GRAPH DISPLAYED First Year of Reporting	RAG				
	Result			26	
	Target				
	Trend			No Data	
	Num			26	
	Den				

During the second quarter, Swansea schools have faced considerable disruption as a result of Covid, with nearly all control measures to keep learners safe required from 13 September 2021. The negative effect on school attendance, particularly in secondary schools remains significant. Despite the removal of the requirement for whole year groups to self-isolate, secondary schools have seen disrupted classes as a result of both staff and pupil illness. An unvaccinated school population has seen over 4000 learners isolating in the two school months within quarter two.

Attendance in Swansea remains lower than usual because of Covid. Schools in challenging contexts appear to have lower attendance compared to schools in less deprived areas of Swansea. Similar rates of lower attendance have been seen in local authorities across Wales. The numbers of learners being excluded is growing in comparison to pre-Covid rates and requires precise monitoring. Implementation of Swansea's positive behaviour policy in schools is progressing well. Close monitoring of secondary schools' plans to support learners at risk of disaffection indicates strong support to prevent exclusion rates being even higher.

Authority wide attainment measures at foundation phase, key stage 2 and key stage 3 are no longer collected by Welsh Government and in key stage 4 and A Level year groups the awarding of grades has been determined by schools themselves. National categorisation and Estyn inspections have been suspended as a result of Covid. School monitoring supports schools' readiness for significant national changes to how the needs of learners are met.

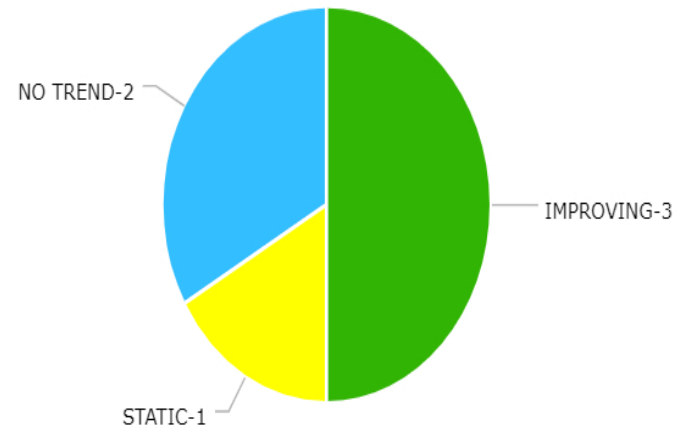
Preparation for the new Curriculum for Wales (underpinned by a strong emphasis on well-being) is in place and remains a focus area for school monitoring visits. Learner wellbeing and school staff well-being are carefully considered as part of recovery planning. Plans for the implementation of the new additional learning needs legislative framework are developing well. Considerable workforce training has been undertaken in readiness for higher expectations on additional learning needs provision in schools.

The new legislative framework for additional learning needs requires timely intervention and provision to meet the needs of learners in Swansea. Improved performance in meeting desirable timescales indicates that the work to digitise and simplify processes is taking good effect.

Greater access to Welsh medium schools is progressing well with two new buildings on track for imminent occupancy. The new ten year strategic plan for Welsh in Education is at a formal consultation stage. Improvements to the school estate as part of the 21 Century Schools programme continue to develop well despite challenges during the Covid pandemic.

Performance compared to same Period of previous year

2021/2022 Quarter 2



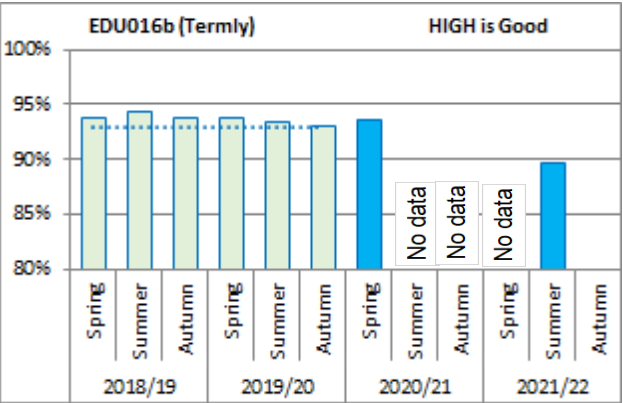
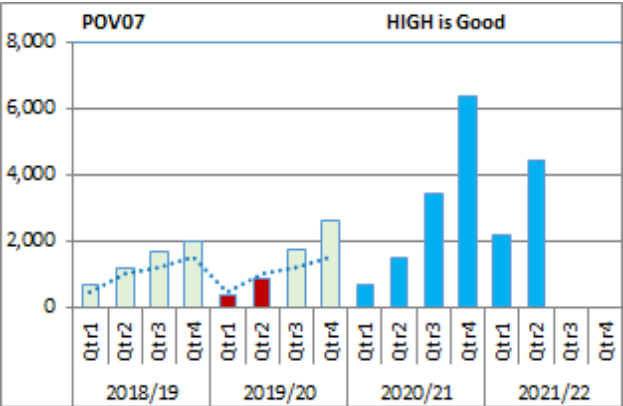
Education & Skills 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022																									
BBMA4 ↑ The number of apprenticeships or trainee starts in the Council	RAG	GREEN																												
	Result	14	18	18																										
	Target	14																												
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	STATIC																										
	Num	14	18	18																										
	Den																													
<p>BBMA4 HIGH is Good</p> <table border="1"> <caption>BBMA4 Quarterly Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Qtr1</th> <th>Qtr2</th> <th>Qtr3</th> <th>Qtr4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>2</td> <td>17</td> <td>21</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>2</td> <td>18</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	2018/19	2	17	21	36	2019/20	14	15	16	17	2020/21	17	18	18	38	2021/22	2	18	0	0					
Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4																										
2018/19	2	17	21	36																										
2019/20	14	15	16	17																										
2020/21	17	18	18	38																										
2021/22	2	18	0	0																										
EDU015a ↑ The percentage of final statements of Special Education Need (SEN) issued within 26 weeks including exceptions	RAG	RED																												
	Result	1.90%	0%	67.57%																										
	Target	10.00%																												
	Trend	No Data	DECLINING	IMPROVING																										
	Num	1	0	25																										
	Den	52	57	37																										
<p>EDU015a HIGH is Good</p> <table border="1"> <caption>EDU015a Quarterly Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Qtr1</th> <th>Qtr2</th> <th>Qtr3</th> <th>Qtr4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>8%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>8%</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>60%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	2019/20	8%	2%	8%	5%	2020/21	0%	0%	0%	10%	2021/22	60%	67%	0%	0%										
Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4																										
2019/20	8%	2%	8%	5%																										
2020/21	0%	0%	0%	10%																										
2021/22	60%	67%	0%	0%																										

Education & Skills 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
<p>EDU015b ↑</p> <p>The percentage of final statements of Special Education Need (SEN) issued within 26 weeks excluding exceptions</p>	RAG	RED			<p>There were fewer statements excluding exceptions issued during quarter 2. This was due to summer holidays ie staff taking their leave (they are encouraged to take leave when schools are not in session) when comparing to quarter 1.</p>
Result	5.00%	0%	69.40%		
Target	20.00%				
Trend	No Data	DECLINING	IMPROVING		
Num	1	0	25		
Den	20	13	36		
<p>EDU016a (PAM007) ↑</p> <p>Percentage of pupil attendance in primary schools</p>	RAG	AMBER			<p>Attendance across Swansea primary schools within this reporting period reflects lower than expected rates of attendance in comparison to pre-pandemic reporting periods. Given that schools are operating in the current pandemic, with ongoing disruption, it is worth noting that attendance levels have been positively impacted by the removal of the requirement for under 18 year olds to isolate.</p>
Result	93.64%		93.28%		
Target	94.00%				
Trend	DECLINING	No Data	No Data		
Num	1618646		1765348		
Den	1728527		1892575		

Education & Skills 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
EDU016b (PAM008)	RAG	GREEN			Attendance across Swansea secondary schools within this reporting period reflects lower than expected rates of attendance in comparison to pre-pandemic reporting periods. The secondary sector has been impacted negatively during this period because of the particularly high incidence of Covid in the 10-19 year old population. As a result, attendance in secondary schools is well below expectation.
Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools	Result	93.44%		89.60%	
	Target	93.00%			
	Trend	DECLINING	No Data	No Data	
	Num	443660		734402	
	Den	474832		819622	
POV07	RAG	RED			Continued regeneration / developments around Swansea which has offered many training and job opportunities.
The number of training and employment person weeks created by BBM for unemployed and economically inactive.	Result	863	1492	4410.	
	Target	1000			
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	
	Num	863	1492	4410	
	Den				

As reported previously in quarter 1, the effects of Covid on the construction sector are now becoming increasingly clear. Skilled and unskilled labour shortages, together with supply issues for some construction materials are having an impact on programme and construction costs. Dialogue continues with our contractors and all available countermeasures are being explored to mitigate the impacts of these issues. However, despite this our major regeneration priorities have continued to make substantial progress on site during quarter 2. The Copr Bay works have continued to make significant visible progress with the arena, bridge, residential block, MSCP, and church hall all significantly advanced and nearing practical completion. The Shaping Swansea procurement has been concluded with the appointment of Urban Splash as the Council's private sector development partner for the delivery of the next phase of strategic sites. This marks an exciting new chapter in Swansea's regeneration journey, bringing new resources and development expertise to the City.

The Public Sector Hub project at the former BHS building has made significant progress. Grant funding for refurbishment works have been secured and a works contractor has been procured. The Kingsway Employment Hub building procurement for a contractor has completed to construct a major new high-tech office development that will provide space for 600 jobs in Swansea city centre. Set for completion in early 2023, the five-storey development will include 114,000 square feet of commercial floorspace, providing flexible co-working and office opportunities for innovative tech, digital and creative businesses. The development will be carbon zero and worth £32.6 million a year to Swansea's economy. It will feature state-of-the-art digital connectivity, a roof terrace, greenery and balconies overlooking the city centre and Swansea Bay. Wind Street works continue to make substantial progress on site and is set for completion in November. As does the Hafod Copperworks Powerhouse project with works completion targeted for May 2022. Procurement for a works contractor to deliver the Place Theatre refurbishment works has now been completed with works completion targeted for October 2022.

The delivery of actions within the Swansea Economic Recovery Action Plan is ongoing. The action plan, that was prepared in partnership with key stakeholders, and that is supported by deployment of the Council's economic recovery fund, includes a range of initiatives to stimulate economic activity and resilience within Swansea's local economy. The City Centre re-purposing study has been approved by Cabinet and initial projects are under consideration. The Council has also been leading the production of the Regional Economic Delivery Plan in collaboration with other authorities in the region. This work is now advanced and will report to Council in January for adoption of the strategy and its accompanying action plan. The plan identifies transformational project investment in the region that will attract funds from the UK government's Shared Prosperity Funding programme that is envisaged in future years.

The WHQS Capital Programme for 2020/21 was affected by the Covid pandemic which curtailed the Council's ability to deliver planned works to occupied existing dwellings. This was recognised by Welsh Government and Swansea Council has been granted a further 12 months in which to deliver its WHQS Compliance Programme. The revised completion date is now 31st December 2021. The revised capital investment programme for 2021/22 has now been set at £46.875m, an element of £12m which is slippage from last year's Covid pandemic affected end of year financial outturn. The investment aims and objectives remain the same as proceeding years; to ensure homes are in a good state of repair, thermally efficient, safe and secure and meeting the needs of individuals. Over the course of this financial year, the Council intends to deliver planned repairs and improvements to the following number of dwellings:

- 700 new kitchens and bathrooms.
- 456 external fabric envelope upgrades, which includes reroofing and insulation, weatherboards and rainwater goods, insulated render and replacement high performance windows.
- 661 chimney removals or rebuilds
- 475 high performance combination boilers.
- 3,700 garden upgrades to improve safety and security
- Fire safety improvement work to high and medium rise blocks of flats and sheltered housing complexes including installation of sprinkler systems.
- Installation of 2,000 remotely monitored smoke alarm systems in sheltered housing complexes.
- 537 electrical re-wires to ensure installations comply with the prevailing regulations.

- New passenger lifts at Jeffreys Court flats

A further element of work, to help meet future decarbonisation targets of social housing, has been integrated in this year's programme. Solar PV panels and battery storage to generate energy for the benefit of 137 households has been included as part of external envelope upgrades. The above are just some of the headline work streams we intend to deliver as part of a much wider programme of repairs, maintenance and improvements which forms the WHQS Compliance Capital Programme. At the end of the financial year, the Council will have achieved WHQS compliance as is defined in statutory guidance. From April 2022, the WHQS will pass from a compliance target phase to a maintenance phase of the WHQS. We await the revised guidance documents from Welsh Government but anticipate the maintenance phase will introduce new statutory decarbonisation and fire safety elements in addition to other maintenance refinements. The overall WHQS programme will continue to contribute significantly towards community benefits and employment opportunities. We will report at the end of the final quarter on the recruitment and training opportunities the programme provided during 2021/22.

The Council's More Homes Programme, focussed on providing new build Council housing, is looking to a 10 year delivery ambition of 1000 new affordable homes. Following the completion of 34 homes in 20/21, Work is continuing on 25 homes on Hill View Crescent in Clase, which is due for completion in Spring 2022. This scheme has also been awarded £1.5m of Innovative Housing Funding, which will fund the renewable technologies to continue the Homes as Power Stations theme. This will also be the site of a new build Welsh medium primary school, and will provide an opportunity to regenerate the area.

As part of the WG Phase 2 planning for homelessness, the Council is also developing 8 one bedroom homes at a former Education site in Uplands. This will be handed over in Nov 2021. A further 20 x1 bedroom acquisitions are planned for 21/22. Work has also started at West Cross, to develop 6 bungalows, which has also been awarded IHP funding to include the additional renewable technologies.

A planning application has been submitted to convert a former social services property in Gorseinon into 2 x 3 bedroom homes. The former Education site at Brondeg House has also been acquired to develop for affordable housing. Cabinet has also been asked to approve the appropriation of 3 sites from the General Fund to develop for affordable housing.

The Council is also progressing the procurement of a development partner or partners to deliver mixed tenure housing on 2 Council owned sites in Penderry, whilst maximising the delivery of affordable housing to meet local need. The Council has also procured a multi-disciplinary team to deliver a masterplan for the regeneration of a large Housing owned site. This work is progressing however the timeframe has been extended as the planned resident consultation events, site visits and surveys were delayed due to Covid.

Quarter 2 covered a large proportion of the summer months with many of the City's attractions and facilities once again welcoming tourists and residents through their doors. Despite some ongoing restrictions during the early part of the quarter, the majority of services were able to re-open and able to capitalise on additional footfall in the City owing to staycations. In particular there was strong demand for all swimming activities across the city's leisure portfolio, consistent with the wider leisure restart across England and Wales and in some cases exceeding pre-covid income levels. However, more disappointingly fitness activity and membership are not rebuilding as quickly and is currently operating at around 75% income compared to pre-covid trading.

The response for outdoor activities soared during the summer months, with record participation numbers attending activities across the destination area, within parks and open spaces throughout the period. In order to meet the demands, the Council took a decision to extend lifeguarded beaches into September in partnership with the RNLI, as well as extending operating periods for the outdoor leisure attractions such as Blackpill Lido through to the last weekend of September. A decision which was welcomed by visitors and residents alike, who attended in significant numbers in good weather.

The Sport and Health Teams delivered a summer programme of 2021 that had added significance and importance as it was delivered during a period of the Covid pandemic whereby restrictions were easing and the public had both a huge appetite for participation in healthy activity alongside some trepidation that activities would be safe and appropriate in these unprecedented circumstances. For the first time, the school holiday programme was expanded to cover activities for 16-25

year olds and older adults as well as the provision of whole family participation activities which was piloted pre Covid via programmes such as Us Girls, Parklives and Streetgames. The team welcomed over 1400 users to over 150 sessions across 21 different venues, including leisure centres, parks, beaches, rivers and canals.

Funding sports clubs to use our facilities free of charge or apply for grants for operation of their own facilities has been welcomed and significant uptake on free permits has exceeded 1000 bookings, with an in-kind value of over £40k. Meanwhile, Clubs that Self Manage their own facilities have benefited from grants of up to £1500, and the Council provided a total of £16k in the period to the end of September. The community development team continued to support the majority of community buildings and centres to reopen safely and successfully, whilst managing demands and expectations for some to be retained as vaccination/testing centres. Within the period, the team were also intrinsic to the facilitation of a community consultation within the Mayhill area, and were key in organising a series of sessions for the community to speak to the elected panel from which significant praise was given by all those involved.

The focus of the tourism & marketing report during this quarter was on our digital performance and how it has supported the sector during a period that saw a move to level zero on August 7th. Our marketing has been flexible to the changing circumstances and the 'Make Swansea Bay your Happy Place' visitor campaign has tapped into the public's post lockdown need for a 'feelgood' staycation and has resulted in excellent engagement across online platforms. In addition, our focus to reach families with pets, resulted in our 'Dog Friendly' pages receiving nearly 22,000 page views, up 65% on the same period last year.

The highlight of this period was achieving over 1M page views on the destination website visitswanseabay.com, which is a staggering 76% more than in the last 'normal' year (2019). A contributing factor in this was the Council's decision to continue to offer the basic entry level of marketing support for businesses at no cost, which saw the numbers of private sector partners rise from 122 to 189, with an additional 67 new or returning partners. This added to the product offer, improved the search engine optimisation and resulted in more organic traffic, with a big increase in the numbers of visitors from surrounding counties.

Our event (Enjoy Swansea Bay) pages also saw 137,000 page views, which relates to the events we supported across the destination and this saw £27K worth of tickets sold during the period. An outcome of our marketing strategy has resulted in positive news for the hotel sector, with hotel occupancy levels for Sept at 84% (+24% from 2020 and +3% from 2019).

Hotel room occupancy statistics for July - Sept 2021 are very positive, with July occupancy levels returning to pre covid (2019) levels, September seeing an increase of 3.7% and August 2021 seeing an increase of 10% on 2019 figures. More stats like this for the sector will be reported, but it is a good sign that the tourism sector is showing signs of recovery and the investment the council is making is reaching the right target audiences.

We launched our Economic Recovery funded Tourism Investment Fund and the early expressions of interest have been positive in terms of the number, but also the schemes the businesses have in mind to continue to adapt and improve their own product offer. Whilst it may be too early to be overly optimistic, the early signs of recovery are positive for the remainder this year, 2022 and beyond. A planned busy summer events programme for 2022 will also help to support recovery of and for the tourism sector.

Quarter 2 has seen the reopening of the outdoor events sector with Covid mitigation in place and significant challenges with resources - both human resources and infrastructure supply. Singleton Park once again played host to several major events including Catfish And The Bottlemen, Olly Murs and The Foals with just under 40,000 people able to enjoy live music outdoors once more. This has also helped support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector by filling bed spaces, pre and post event food and beverage as well as other sectors such as transport and hopefully generally more footfall in the city centre.

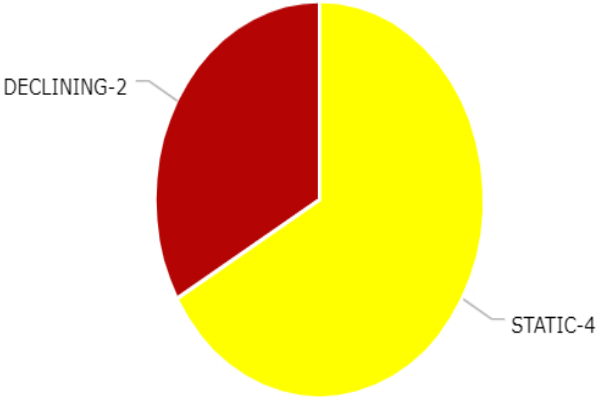
In trying to reintroduce events safely and restore community confidence, the Events Team focused its efforts on 5 new events during August and September and Parks Fest saw family fun-days, films and live music taking place in five of our community parks. Mid-September saw the first live running event in Wales when just over 3,000 runners took their places on Oystermouth Road, dressed in leggings and colourful tops, for the Council's 80s-themed 40th anniversary Swansea Bay 10k event.

Financial support allocated from the Council's ERF fund has meant that small scale parks lettings and hires have been free and will continue to be so until March 31st 2022. This has enabled a range of community and small scale business operators to have new and suitable outdoor space to continue their business activity through increasing capacity and supporting their recovery.

Work has progressed to map out and plan for the opening of the new events spaces in and around the Arena, with the former Cranes music store being repurposed as a centre for arts activity, using new technology and digital skills to support long term input to the area by local creatives and artist collectives. Through the Council's Economic Recovery Fund, we have also been able to offer small grants and support packages to local clubs, artists and organisations to begin to resume their activities, put on events and exhibitions at a time when confidence remained low and audiences restricted in numbers. Work also continued to remodel and present shared spaces and uses in the Grand theatre in preparation for reopening, following Welsh Govt. announcements for further easing. The launch of 'The World Reimagined' - as mentioned in previous updates, has also picked up pace, with workshops and presentations with community groups taking place to recruit artists and community participation, and we celebrated a new Fusion production 'Sanctuary' at the Taliesin, with a film screening of the very real human stories of our communities seeking sanctuary these last ten years in the city.

Performance compared to same Period of previous year

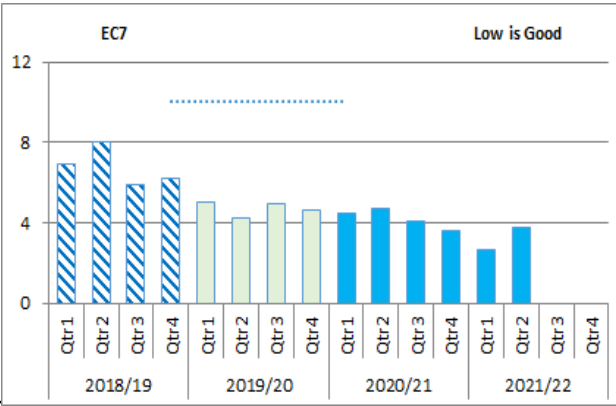
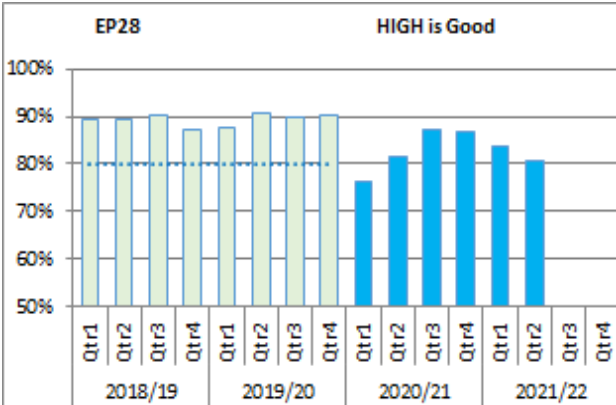
2021/2022 Quarter 2



Economy & Infrastructure 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
BBMA1 The number of projects with social benefit clauses and Beyond Bricks & Mortar in their contracts	RAG	GREEN			
	Result	12	12	12	
	Target	12			
	Trend	STATIC	STATIC	STATIC	
	Num	12	12	12	
	Den				
EC2 The Percentage of all major applications with an economic imperative that are approved	RAG	RED			
	Result	66.67%	100.00%	100.00%	
	Target	90.00%			
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	STATIC	
	Num	6	7	6	
	Den	9	7	6	

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
<p>EC5 </p> <p>Amount of commercial floorspace (measured by sq m) created within the TRI (Targeted Regeneration Investment) Programme target areas to accommodate job creation</p>	RAG	GREEN			There are 3 key properties of scale nearing completion and we anticipate being able to report on these at the following quarterly return.
Result	825	0	0		
Target	825				
Trend	IMPROVING	DECLINING	STATIC		
Num	825	0	0		
Den					
<p>EC6 </p> <p>Number of new housing units created in TRI target areas as a result of Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme funding.</p>	RAG	GREEN			43 units are currently under development within the City Centre and Morriston and we anticipate being able to report on completion for the following quarterly return.
Result	8	0	0		
Target	8				
Trend	IMPROVING	DECLINING	STATIC		
Num	8	0	0		
Den					

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
EC7 ↓ Average Turnaround Time for Land Charge Searches completed in the period	RAG	GREEN			This slight drop in turnaround time is due to staff involvement in the transfer of some Land Charges data to the Land Registry. However, it is still well within the 10 days target.
	Result	4.19	3.60	3.73	
	Target	10.00			
	Trend	No Data	IMPROVING	DECLINING	
	Num	4.19	3.60	3.73	
	Den				
					
EP28 ↑ The percentage of all planning applications determined within 8 weeks.	RAG	GREEN			This year has seen a significant increase in the number of planning applications received which combined with staff vacancies has meant an inevitable drop in performance.
	Result	90.46%	81.51%	80.81%	
	Target	80.00%			
	Trend	IMPROVING	DECLINING	DECLINING	
	Num	474	357	480	
	Den	524	438	594	
					

The corporate plan sets out the council's commitment to Tackle Poverty to ensure that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential. To meet this commitment the corporate Tackling Poverty Strategy ensures that Tackling Poverty is everybody's business.

Continued impact of Covid-19 - Tackling Poverty

The economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on those already experiencing poverty and is driving those that were at risk of poverty, into poverty.

The Universal Credit temporary uplift of £20 per week introduced at the start of the pandemic came to an end at the start of October 2021 and the furlough scheme finished at the end of September. Changes to the taper rate for the 40% UC claimants who work will be introduced in December 2021, meaning workers take home 8p more per extra pound earned after their work allowance. For some, this will make up for the loss of the £20 a week uplift, although most UC claimants are not working so will not benefit from this change.

The Bevan Foundation report on '**Debt in the Pandemic**' (Sept 21) highlighted that 10% of all households have fallen behind on a bill between January and May 21 and over the same period 17% of all households borrowed money. The majority of the population will borrow money at some point, but being in problem debt including struggling to make payments, having high credit compared to income, negatively affects people's lives.

- Arrears are concentrated in lower-income households: those with an income of less than £40,000 were significantly more likely to be in arrears in May 2021 than higher income households.
- Renters have been significantly more likely to fall into debt during the pandemic than owner occupiers.
- Disabled people have been twice as likely to be in arrears over the course of the pandemic as non-disabled people.

'A snapshot of poverty in spring 2021' Wales published in June 2021 found that:

- **Incomes are still falling for some** - more than one in five households with a net income of less than £20,000 have seen their income drop since January 2021.
- **Living costs have increased:** 43% of households are spending more on heating, electricity and/or water, 38% of households are spending more on food, 20% of households are spending more on internet costs. Social renters and households with children appear to be disproportionately affected.

Employability Support

The number of people gaining employment through Employability support, supports the well-being objective steps; ensuring that young people are able to access employment, education and training after reaching 16 and, individuals are supported to overcome their barriers to employment through coordinated person centre employability support. More people have secured employment again this quarter compared to last quarter and this time last year. This has been through the employability support programmes; Swansea Working, Communities for Work, Communities for Work Plus, Workways STU and Workways Plus. There has been an increase in vacancies and employment across many sectors. There has been an increase in the number of people gaining employment through Employability Support in the second quarter of 2021/22 (135) compared to quarter 2 20/21 (46) and the pre-pandemic figures in quarter

Welfare Benefit Entitlements

The step to help address the impacts of Welfare reform, including supporting people to claim the full benefits they are entitled to so that they are able to maximise their income is reported through the amount of welfare benefits raised through securing rights and entitlements by the Welfare Rights team. The amount of benefits secured during quarter 2 is £245274.99 a 16% increase on quarter 1, but a significant decrease on the same period last year. The requests for appeal representation continues to be lower, one reasons is due to the automatic extension of awards of disability benefits and lifting of reviews for sickness benefits due to the pandemic, reducing the need for challenge. This is expected to pick up again once the DWP start undertaking reassessments. The reduction is also attributed to welfare reform reducing financial increases of additional benefits. The team have had an 87% success rate with appeals during 2021/22 (13/15) and responded to 374 benefit enquiries.

Council Tax Reduction and Housing Benefit

The performance indicator of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) average time for processing new claims and processing notification of change in circumstances has decreased compared to last quarter with an average increase of 3 days. The dips in benefits and CTR processing times are a direct consequence of significantly increased numbers of benefits claims and changes in circumstances to process falling on the same fixed size workforce. This is a direct local consequence of the challenging economic environment the poorest in society face nationally and whilst disappointing was alas fully anticipated. The time taken to process notifications of change in circumstances resulting in multiple changes to CTR has improved since this time last year and an improvement on last quarter.

With Housing Benefit new claims and changes of circumstance there has been increase in the time taken are as expected recognising the impact of Covid, more customers on UC and the same team processing Isolation Payments.

Housing

The Council, along with partners in the housing sector and support charities continued response to addressing homelessness and many people have been supported to find a place to live and many moving on from emergency temporary accommodation into longer-term homes. This time last year there were less family homelessness presentations due to the suspension of evictions and a hold on move-on from Home Office accommodation. The average number of days homeless families with children spent in Bed and Breakfast accommodation increased in quarter two to 5 days from 3.8 days last quarter and increased from 2 days this quarter last year. This was as a result of two families in B&B, one for one night and the second family's stay was nine nights due to the availability of suitable family accommodation.

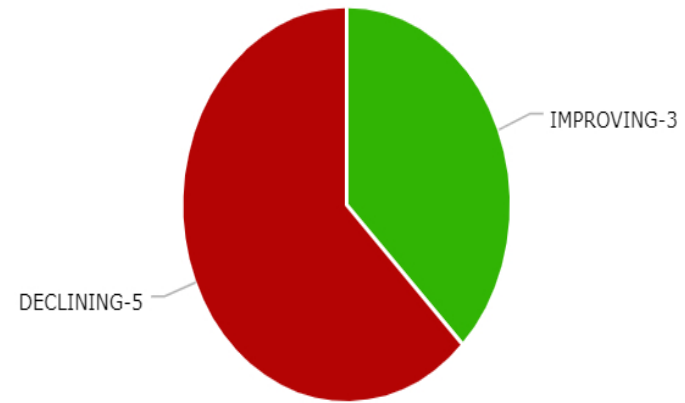
Skills and Qualifications

The number of accredited qualifications achieved by adults with local Authority support has increased in the last quarter (178) compared to the same period last year (71), this has been a slight decrease from last quarter (182) although this is due the summer period with increased non-attendance during August which will be addressed in future training calendars. There has been an increase in face to face training provision with infection control measures and online training has continued where possible. Non-accredited training continues with 1552 enrolments onto Lifelong Learning courses during 2021/22, this includes 262 enrolments on digital literacy courses. The non-accredited courses provide a pathway for learners to progress onto further learning and accredited courses. Partnership working between Swansea Working, Lifelong Learning, Employability Programmes and partners has continued offer participants accredited training and qualifications to meet employment opportunities.

Partnership Working

The Swansea Council Poverty Forum, Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum and Financial Inclusion Steering Group continue to meet, facilitating networking, sharing of good practice, information, trends, changes to services and new opportunities, encouraging partnership working and collaboration. During this quarter seven Men's Shed projects have been awarded grants, 38 projects have been funded to address Food Poverty have been supported, 13 community projects have been funded to support Period Dignity.

Performance compared to same Period of previous
year
2021/2022 Quarter 2



Tackling Poverty 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
HBCT01a ↓ Housing Benefit Speed of Processing: Average time for processing new claims.	RAG	RED			Increases in processing times are as expected recognising the impact of Covid 19, more customers on UC and resources being redirected from processing to isolation payments.
	Result	19.49	18.60	26.00	
	Target	16.00			
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	DECLINING	
	Num	9746	10693	11952	
	Den	500	575	459	
HBCT01b ↓ Housing Benefit Speed of Processing: Average time for processing notifications of change in circumstances.	RAG	AMBER			A small increase of less than one day in average processing times are as expected recognising the impact of Covid 19, more customers on UC and resources being redirected from processing to isolation payments.
	Result	7.18	3.21	5.10	
	Target	7.00			
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	DECLINING	
	Num	49057	16214	21816	
	Den	6828	3931	4284	

Tackling Poverty 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
HBCT02a ↴ Council Tax Reduction Speed of Processing: Average time for processing new claims.	RAG	RED			Increased caseload, the impact of potential slower response times when homeworking (IT connectivity), the impact of higher UC claim numbers resulting in multiple changes to CTR, our resources being diverted to administering isolation payments for welsh gov have resulted in longer processing times for new claims.
	Result	26.50	24.18	27.40	
	Target	18.00			
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	DECLINING	
	Num	43843	46477	51579	
	Den	1656	1922	1880	
<p>HBCT02a LOW is Good</p>	RAG	GREEN			Trend improving
HBCT02b ↴ Council Tax Reduction Speed of Processing: Average time for processing notifications of change in circumstances.	Result	5.60	4.81	3.90	
	Target	7.00			
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	
	Num	78724	62798	60724	
	Den	14162	13049	15723	
<p>HBCT02b LOW is Good</p>					

Tackling Poverty 17-22

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
<p>POV05 ↑</p> <p>The amount of welfare benefits raised through securing rights and entitlements by the Welfare Rights Team (£)</p> <p>POV05 HIGH is Good</p>	RAG	GREEN			<p>There has been a drop in the number of support workers requesting appeal representation for their clients. This is likely to be due to the automatic extension of awards of disability benefits and the lifting of reviews for sickness benefits due to the pandemic, so clients are not subject to their benefits being stopped which requires challenging. Assessments for sickness benefits were also suspended except for those that clearly met the criteria.</p>
Result	446469.10	438951.00	245274.99		
Target	175000.00				
Trend	IMPROVING	DECLINING	DECLINING		
Num	446469.10	438951.45	245274.99		
Den					
<p>POV06 ↓</p> <p>The average number of days all homeless families with children spent in Bed and Breakfast accommodation</p> <p>POV06 LOW is Good</p>	RAG	GREEN			<p>We had two families in B&B, one for only one night, the second family was for 9 nights whilst we were waiting for suitable family accommodation to become available.</p>
Result	2.00	2.00	5.00		
Target	5.00				
Trend	DECLINING	STATIC	DECLINING		
Num	6	6	10		
Den	3	3	2		

Tackling Poverty 17-22

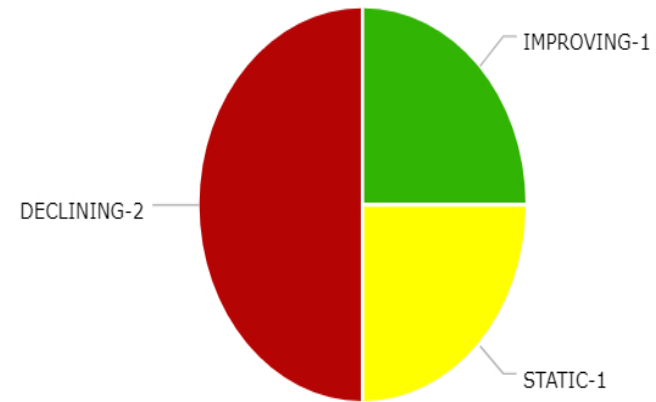
Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022																									
POV10 ↑ Number of people gaining employment through Employability Support	RAG	RED			Another quarter of assisting over 100 people into employment despite the challenges of limited face to face work. The employer engagement team are actively sourcing several vacancies per month and assisted the process of supporting them into employment. This was a slight improvement on quarter 1.																									
	Result	81	46	135																										
	Target	125																												
	Trend	DECLINING	DECLINING	IMPROVING																										
	Num	81	46	135																										
	Den																													
<p>POV10 High is Good</p> <table border="1"> <caption>POV10 Quarterly Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Qtr1</th> <th>Qtr2</th> <th>Qtr3</th> <th>Qtr4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>125</td> <td>90</td> <td>90</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>70</td> <td>80</td> <td>110</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>85</td> <td>45</td> <td>100</td> <td>225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>135</td> <td>135</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	2018/19	125	90	90	90	2019/20	70	80	110	85	2020/21	85	45	100	225	2021/22	135	135			RAG	GREEN			An improvement on this time last year as we are now able to offer more training with infection control measures. The quarter was affected by a lot of non attendance in of August and we will use this data for decision making on future training calendar.
Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4																										
2018/19	125	90	90	90																										
2019/20	70	80	110	85																										
2020/21	85	45	100	225																										
2021/22	135	135																												
POV11 ↑ Number of accredited qualifications achieved by adults with local Authority support	Result	354	71	178																										
	Target	250																												
	Trend	IMPROVING	DECLINING	IMPROVING																										
	Num	354	71	178																										
	Den																													
<p>POV11 HIGH is Good</p> <table border="1"> <caption>POV11 Quarterly Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Qtr1</th> <th>Qtr2</th> <th>Qtr3</th> <th>Qtr4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>120</td> <td>180</td> <td>100</td> <td>250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>90</td> <td>350</td> <td>330</td> <td>180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>80</td> <td>70</td> <td>160</td> <td>140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>180</td> <td>180</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	2018/19	120	180	100	250	2019/20	90	350	330	180	2020/21	80	70	160	140	2021/22	180	180							
Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4																										
2018/19	120	180	100	250																										
2019/20	90	350	330	180																										
2020/21	80	70	160	140																										
2021/22	180	180																												

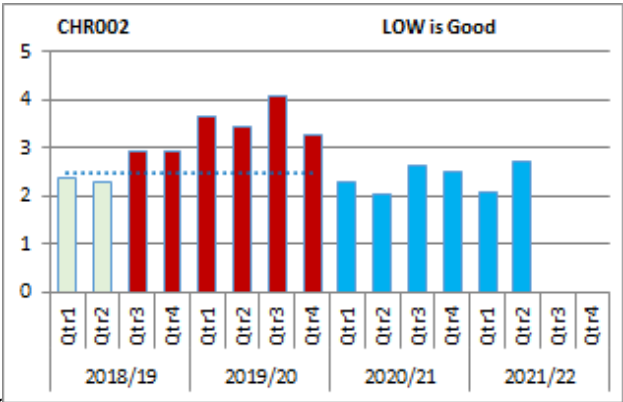
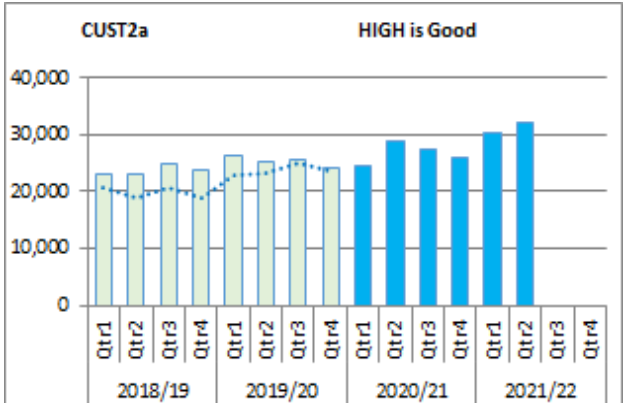
The Council continues to make progress on the steps within the Transformation & Future Council well-being objective including:

1. Delivering the new transformation and recovery programme: Achieving Better Together. The programme has presented an update to Scrutiny. In addition, assurance has been provided through an internal audit.
2. The Workforce Strategy continues, incorporating results from the staff survey and feedback from Directors and Heads of Service. Focus groups with a cross section of employees will be undertaken during the next quarter.
3. The Integrated Impact Assessment process is now embedded into Council processes and decision-making.
4. A new Digital Strategy has been developed and will be presented to Cabinet before the end March 2022. This delivers on the step so that citizens can access more Council services and information on-line. Progress on this is demonstrated through the performance indicator Cust 2a. Cust 2b has declined only because of the unusual spike in online form requests during the same period last year due to the pandemic and restrictions.
5. The Council has a detailed action plan to respond to the new Local Government Act. Work on the new Corporate Joint Committees and further emphasis on regional working continues to be a focus.
6. Work on strengthening and promoting the Welsh Language continues with a recent celebration of Shwmae Day.
7. Performance on staff sickness has been generally improving over the past year and further resources have been allocated to continue to manage this effectively.

Performance compared to same Period of previous year

2021/2022 Quarter 2



Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
CHR002 (PAM001) ⬇ The number of working days/shifts per full time equivalent lost due to sickness absence	RAG	RED			Note from Corporate Performance Team - Data quality under review. There has been an increase in sickness as recorded, primarily due to Covid. Three Management of Attendance Officers have recently been appointed to support Directorates. This may also have led to an increase in sickness being recorded as part of Policy governance.
	Result	3.43	2.04	2.71	
	Target	2.50			
	Trend	DECLINING	IMPROVING	DECLINING	
	Num	30427.50	16118.96	25109.62	
	Den	8874.26	8872.99	9272.42	
					
CUST2a ⬆ Number of online payments received via City and County of Swansea websites	RAG	GREEN			
	Result	25121	28677	32167	
	Target	23040			
	Trend	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	
	Num	25121	28677	32167	
	Den				
					

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
<p>CUST2b ↑</p> <p>Number of forms completed online for fully automated processes.</p>	RAG	GREEN			<p>The number of online requests for services such as new recycling bag requests and bulk waste is much reduced from Q2 in 2020 when we were locked down. Requests are also slightly down from Q1 this year as council locations reopened fully and numbers of online bag requests dropped</p>
	Result	9465	17373	11609	
	Target	5250			
	Trend	IMPROVING	IMPROVING	DECLINING	
	Num	9465	17373	11609	
	Den				
<p>PROC12 ↓</p> <p>Number of data breaches which has resulted in an enforcement or monetary penalty notice being issued by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO)</p> <p>NO GRAPH DISPLAYED ALL RESULTS ARE ZERO</p>	RAG	GREEN			
	Result	0	0	0	
	Target	0			
	Trend	STATIC	STATIC	STATIC	
	Num	0	0	0	
	Den				

To assist the Council meet its Biodiversity duties a full time Planning Ecologist and part time Section 6 officer have recently been appointed - a recommendation of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry. The Section 6 officer will work corporately across the Council and has begun to meet with service leads to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for 2021-23. Other temporary full/part-time posts have been created through grant funding to assist with nature recovery, including a Local Nature Partnership Officer, Communities and Nature Project Officer (x2) and a Volunteer Coordinator - appointment to these roles is anticipated next quarter.

Supplementary Planning Guidance has been finalised for Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands, whilst a Fairness in Green Health Policy and a Council Tree Strategy are in the process of being finalised- the latter is due to be reported to Cabinet later this year. Initial meetings have also been held to engage key stakeholders in agreeing the framework, content and timescale for preparing a County Wide Green Infrastructure Strategy and a management strategy for Clyne Valley Country Park. A pilot initiative has been undertaken to map ecosystem resilience in the Gorseinon/Penllergaer area and an overall assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience has been undertaken across the County as part of the PSB Well-being Assessment. County wide ecosystem resilience mapping and mapping of potential locations for tree planting is due to commence next quarter following receipt of grant funding.

Grant funding to assist with improved management of Council owned grassland areas and Local Nature Reserves, as well as parks and verges for wildflower planting, has resulted in the purchase of specialist cut and collect machinery. Additional grant funding has been obtained for a Nature Network Project to enhance and improve ecological connectivity within wildlife corridors and to create a new native woodland site in Penllergaer Valley Woods. Invasive Non-Native Species have been cleared from Ilston Valley and over 2ha mapped for clearance in Clyne Valley.

Covid has restricted natural environment awareness/training opportunities, with only a limited number of school field trips/events to Bishops Wood and Seashore Safaris able to be held this summer.

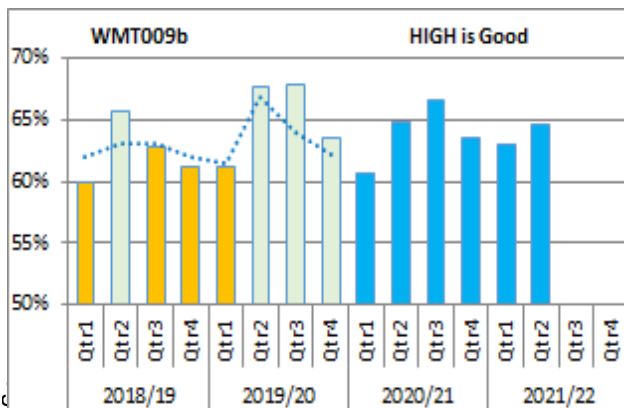
A Charter for Climate Change and Nature Action has been prepared and the Council continues to participate in and support the Low Carbon Swansea Initiative- including rolling out a carbon retrofit programme and advancing Solar PV proposals on Council owned buildings and land. The Council is also finalising a first submission of benchmark emissions data to Welsh Government which will help inform Swansea's goal of reducing its carbon footprint going forward. Work in progress includes a Climate Change and Nature Emergency Strategy.

The percentage of municipal waste collected and prepared for reuse and/or recycled was 64.57% (data relates to Q1). While the quarterly recycling rate is below the figure achieved prior to Covid (2019/20) it is still above the statutory recycling target (64%) and is broadly similar to the figure achieved in 2020/21 (64.7%).

Performance compared to same Period of previous
year

No chart shown - only one performance
indicator in priority (declining)

Performance Indicator	KEY	2019/2020 Quarter 2	2020/2021 Quarter 2	2021/2022 Quarter 2	Comment-2021/2022
<p>WMT009b (PAM030) ↑</p> <p>The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way</p>	RAG	GREEN			Data relates to Q1 2021/22. While the quarterly recycling rate is below the figure achieved prior to Covid (2019/20) it is still above the statutory recycling target and is broadly similar to the figure achieved in 2020/21.
	Result	67.62%	64.70%	64.57%	
	Target	66.50%			
	Trend	IMPROVING	DECLINING	DECLINING	
	Num	19211.02	16447.61	18984.79	
	Den	28409.69	25422.30	29402.28	



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Agenda Item 9.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy

Cabinet – 16 December 2021

Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2nd Quarter 2021/22

Purpose:	To report on financial monitoring of the 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets, including the delivery of budget savings.
Policy Framework:	Budget 2021/22. Transformation and Future Council (Sustainable Swansea –fit for the future)
Consultation:	Cabinet Members, Corporate Management Team, Legal and Access to Services.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Notes the comments and variations, including the material uncertainties, set out in the report and the actions in hand to seek to address these. 2) Approves the virements set out in paragraph 2.7 and the use of the Contingency fund as set out in 3.2 subject to any further advice for the S.151 officer during the year. 3) Reinforces the need for all Directors to continue to minimise service overspending in year, recognising that the budget overall is currently balanced only by relying heavily on future likely (but far from assured) reimbursement from Welsh Government, centrally held contingency budgets and reserves, but equally recognising that the overspending is almost exclusively due to ongoing , broadly anticipated Covid pressures. 4) Considers the options in paragraph 4.1 in relation to potential underspend for the year with final actions to be confirmed at the third quarter report in February 2022.
Report Author:	Ben Smith
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1 This report details forecast variations from the agreed budget for 2021/22.
- 1.2 In respect of Revenue Budgets, this report provides a consolidated forecast, which combines:
- projected variations in relation to budget savings agreed by Council in March 2021
 - Variations arising from other service pressures not directly linked to specific savings plans (e.g. increased service demand, price and pay inflation, increased, but most often unfunded, regulatory obligations and burdens from both UK and Welsh governments)
- 1.3 The report includes comments from Directors in relation to the variations highlighted and the action that is in hand or proposed as appropriate.

2. Revenue Outturn Forecast Based on 2nd Quarter position

- 2.1 Appendix 'A' to this report details the approved Revenue Budget for 2021/22 and the forecast variation at this time.
- 2.2 Other than projected variations on Directorate expenditure, it is still too early to confidently forecast final variations that may arise on some significant Corporate items, including the level of Council Tax collection (which posted a deficit in 2020-21 of £2.4m and 2019-20 of £0.7m). However, given the ongoing impact of COVID and based on the 2020-21 final position on collection an optimistic forecast is that there will be a shortfall in the region of £2.0m in 2021-22. This may be subject to some form of grant underpin support in due course from the Welsh Government, but is far from assured.
- 2.3 The overall Directorate position is summarised below:-

DIRECTORATE

	FORECAST VARIATION 2021/22 £000	COVID VARIATION 2021/22 £000	OTHER VARIATION 2021/22 £000
RESOURCES	5,005	6,430	-1,425
PEOPLE - SOCIAL SERVICES	8,316	9,126	-810
PEOPLE – EDUCATION	4,040	3,426	614
PLACE	-1,434	-177	-1,257
<i>NET DIRECTORATE EXPENDITURE</i>	15,927	18,805	-2,878

- 2.4 Directors' comments on the above variations are shown at Appendix B.
- 2.5 Within the *Recovery Plan Service Transformation* Programme, work continues to develop service delivery plans linked to savings targets and prioritisation of services. This includes the cross cutting nature of new reviews as well as the completion of current in-flight reviews.
- 2.6 The table above shows an estimated overspend for the year of £15.9million. Bar some "Business as usual" fluctuations, this amount is in effect entirely because of the COVID 19 pandemic and relevant increases in expenditure and reductions in income as a result. This figure does not include the Business Support Grants costs and Retail/Hospitality/Rates reductions resulting from Welsh Government decisions and which are anticipated to be funded in their entirety. Any funding from WG as a result of grant claims actually received at this stage has been included in the figures above. Section 2.7 below shows the level of "service" expenditure that has been deemed as eligible and paid by WG to date.
- 2.7 Currently, monthly claims against additional COVID expenditure (April to September) and first and second quarter claim for loss of income as a result of COVID in relation to the services have been submitted to WG. The summary of claims submitted to date and claims WG have agreed to date are set out below:

Summary of claims submitted and approvals received to date in 2021/22

	Claim £000's	Paid £000's	
Hardship : April to September	10,732	8,624	WG reviewing various elements of claims primarily Adult Social Care and Free School meals
Loss of Income 1st & 2 nd Quarter	4,615	4,160	2 nd Qtr Submitted to WG mid-October. Response awaited.

To ensure as accurate forecast position as possible these grants have been allocated to services as they are received and the impact included within the relevant service forecasts in section 2.3 and in APPENDIX A.

Welsh Government have amended the eligibility criteria for 2021-22 to reflect the relevant easing of restrictions during the financial year and have further amended the eligibility criteria for the second half of the year claims. As such, the monthly claims are amended to include only those elements of expenditure deemed eligible based on the most recent Welsh Government guidance.

Grant claims to Welsh Government in relation to TTP and the Welsh Vaccination Certificate Service (WVCS) are ongoing and are anticipated to cover all additional costs arising. The remaining additional cost forecast (after grants received) are included under Resources and currently amount to £7.1m in 2021/22. It remains unclear how much will be truly additional cost and therefore claimable. An

assumption regarding 100% funding of this figure is included in the table below and in APPENDIX A.

In addition to the additional service costs (and grants) in relation to COVID the authority has once again continued to act as an “Agent” on behalf of the Welsh Government in relation to various elements of the Business Grant Support national scheme. All of these costs are anticipated to be funded 100% by the Welsh Government and as such costs incurred and grants received will be reported later in the year once the most recent announcements/schemes have been implemented.

2.8 Corporate Management Team has re-enforced the current arrangements for budget monitoring in particular:

- focus on a range of corrective actions;
- targeted immediate spend reduction and deferral action;
- spending control on all vacancies and contracts;
- a continued reminder that **no Responsible Officer is authorised to overspend their budget in line with Financial Procedure Rules;**
- and consequently that Directors must work closely with Cabinet Members and the Corporate Management Team to contain, reduce, defer and delay spending as far as possible, having due regard, to existing agreed budget and political priorities to nonetheless seek to limit service overspending
- but recognising that the overall spend pressures are near wholly Covid related and that reserves were bolstered to temporarily assist with pressures.

2.9 Offsetting opportunities do exist to temporarily ameliorate the currently identified service demand and price pressures as follows.

- £1m was set aside in the budget for the potential costs relating to the impact of the Apprenticeship Levy. The final costs relating to this levy will only be known once final employee related costs are calculated at the year-end. Should the full allocation not be required then any saving will be proposed to be used to mitigate service pressures at year end.
- £3.25m was set aside to meet any specific and significant inflationary increases arising in year. Given the overall financial projection at this stage, it is proposed by the S151 officer that this be released as a compensating corporate saving.
- Use of the Contingency Fund as detailed below.

3. Contingency Fund Provision for 2021/22

3.1 The contingency fund budgeted contribution was set at £3.621m contribution for 2021/22 as set out in the budget report approved by Council in March 2021. As a result of the favourable outturn position, this was added to on a one off basis, to bring the total available in 2021/22 to £13.621m. This is an increased figure to the previous year reflecting additional mitigation against any repeated overspending as a result of COVID, one off costs or business as usual.

3.2 The current potential calls on the contingency fund for 2021/22 are:

Contingency Fund 2021/22	Prediction
	2021/22 (£m)
Budgeted contribution for year.	3.621
Increase from 2020/21 carry forward	10.000
Pay award 21/22 for Teachers excess cost: £0.475m potentially passported but not received as confirmed grant from Welsh Government	-0.475
Design Print	-0.250
Welsh Translation costs for social media	-0.035
Medical Surgeries	-0.120
TU facility – saving reversal	-0.069
Backfill for Learning & Development support	-0.070
Additional support Strategic Delivery Unit	-0.157
Cabinet and members support	-0.095
Performance Management System replacement	-0.037
Litigation Costs	-0.050
Armed Forces veteran fund	-0.025
Mayhill Community day	-0.005
Used to reduce service overspending	-12.233
Balance 31st March 2022	0.000

The above table lists current potential calls on the budgeted contingency fund. All bar the impact of the pay award over and above budgeted for in 2021-22 are anticipated to be one off costs. The final amounts will be dependent on a number of factors during the year including speed of implementation, actual costs/commitments incurred and final Directorate outturn position. Spend approvals will be deliberately limited to seek to maximise underspend here as part of mitigating budget savings action.

The Quarter 1 report indicated that the S151 Officer was anticipating utilising the Contingency Fund to fund the additional pay award (now offered as full and final at 1.75%) for 2021-22 over and above the 1% budgeted for in the base budget. Following updated inflationary forecasts for the sector and the wider UK economy for both the current and following financial year (higher, more persistent inflation before potentially then dropping back) the S151 officer advises that central contingencies for higher costs must now be retained and not passported to services. The sole exception being the still anticipated one off Welsh Government grant for part compensating the higher than expected teachers pay award for 2021-22.

As at 1st April 2021 some £3m remained within the Restructure Reserve to contribute toward ER/VR or other cost risks that may arise in 2021-22. The S151 officer remains satisfied that this is sufficient for 2021-22 and that there should be

no call on contingency this year to fund such costs. The final costs of ER/VR will only be known towards the end of the year once all management actions re savings proposals etc are implemented. At this stage it is assumed that all ER/VR costs will be able to be contained within the sum left in the Restructure Reserve.

Based on current forecast the S151 officer proposes to utilise the current year forecast underspend on the Contingency Fund of up to £12.233m to provide additional mitigation against the anticipated unfunded elements of cost/loss of income as a result of COVID19.

However, the S151 officer proposes to reserve his final position on the recommended levels of use of the restructure reserve and contingency fund until the absolute success or otherwise of reducing the forecast overspend is known at year-end.

3.3 The current indication is that, for 2021-22, there needs to be continued targeted mitigating action and delivery of savings proposals to help reduce the overall service overspends. It looks inevitable as this early stage that substantial draws from contingency and earmarked reserves will be needed to achieve a fully balanced budget for the year but this was somewhat anticipated and led to the material bolstering of earmarked reserves at outturn. Any inroads to net spending will reduce the necessary draw from reserves and increase the amount of reserves available to carry into 2022-23.

3.4 The action being taken includes working through existing plans on an accelerated delivery basis:

- Management and Business Support Review: ongoing review of the management structure across the Council and future requirements given the Council's priorities, future challenges and the changing nature of the role of managers
- Managing the Pay Bill: review of options to contain or reduce employee costs across the Council as part of our overall future workforce strategy (subject to trade union consultation at the appropriate time)
- Commercialism through third party Procurement Savings and Income Generation: review of further options to increase income from fees and charges, trading etc, in addition to the targets already set.
- Progressing implementation of residual phases Commissioning Reviews and Cross Cutting Themes.
- Further implementation of the Social Services Saving Plan through which we have identified mechanisms for bringing down overall costs.
- On the basis that these are existing agreed actions fully set out in the agreed budget set by Council in March, whilst wholly recognising the ability to progress any of the above have been seriously impacted by Covid 19.
- Continuing the extant spending restrictions which have been agreed as necessary by Corporate Management Team.
- Directors detailed action plans as summarised in their Appendix B commentary.
- The Deputy Chief Executive leading the Recovery Plan implementation as agreed by Cabinet to agree alternative mitigating actions and future steps, taking into account post Covid 19 and Brexit.

3.5 It should be noted that at this time, although the Council continues to pursue a number of VAT related claims, some are more advanced than others, there is NO certainty of windfalls from VAT refunds or any other external source being received in the current year.

4. Revenue Budget Summary

4.1 The position reported above reflects the best known current position and shows a net £15.9m of shortfall in service revenue budgets, almost entirely in relation to anticipated costs/loss of income as a result of COVID19 which when combined with a forecast £2.0m shortfall in Council Tax collection leads to a total shortfall of £17.9m. To date the amount actually approved by WG in relation to COVID related additional costs/loss of income is set out as per 2.7 above. It is assumed that all the TTP costs will also be recovered and for 2021/22 some additional grant is shown below in the overall summary table of £7.1m. It is also possible that Council tax losses, or part of them at least, will be met by future WG grant support, but this is yet to be assured. In addition as identified above further mitigation is anticipated from the Apprenticeship/Inflation provision of £3.25m and Contingency fund of £12.2m. Taking account all of these mitigations and including the shortfall in Council Tax collection this results in a net forecast underspend for the council of some £4.7m. although shown as an effective underspend it is more accurately a lower than expected draw from one off contingency sums and members will have the opportunity to consider in due course how to respond to that indicative figure.

Options include

- Reducing the draw on contingency and conserving more for future years
- Allocating the sum to other reserves, including for example the Recovery Fund
- Adopting a “wait and see” strategy given the uncertainties over funding and reimbursement of Covid costs for the rest of the year (Welsh Government support) and spending for the rest of the year (e.g. current year national pay award not settled).

The position is likely to be firmed up significantly by the third quarter monitoring report as many of those ongoing uncertainties will be removed.

Summary

	£'m
Service Forecast overspend	15.9
Council Tax shortfall	2.0
Less Mitigating	
Assumed TTP/WVCS costs recovered	-7.1
Apprenticeship/Inflation	-3.3
Contingency Fund not utilised	-12.2
Net underspend forecast	-4.7

NB Further claims for re-imbursement of both expenditure and loss of income will be submitted to Welsh Government in accordance with their relevant announcements and terms and conditions. The Welsh Government is continuing to review eligibility and its own available resources in relation to both additional costs and Loss of Income claims across Wales. Any decision re the nature of and subsequent success or otherwise of any further claims to Welsh Government is unknown at that this stage.

- a. Currently, all revenue grant income from WG in relation to COVID claims for the services, including schools, has been allocated “back” to departments.
- b. Corporate Management Team have reinforced the expectation that both service and overall net expenditure **must** be, as far as practicable, contained within the relevant limits of the current year budget as set by Council, and certainly within any agreed level of tolerance set by Cabinet on the advice of the s151 Officer, recognising the extreme nature of the covid 19 impact.
- c. As previously mentioned, an early forecast as to the potential outturn on corporate items such as Council Tax collection is estimated to result in a shortfall in collection of £2m.
- d. Included in the projected budget for 2021/22 for other corporate items are capital finance charges. At this early stage an underspend variance of £5m is forecast, any underspending or overspending will be transferred at year end to or from the capital equalisation reserve, a strategy previously agreed by Council. This will be reviewed and updated during the year as various capital schemes/programmes progress. Borrowing activity throughout 2021/22 to lock in sub 2% long term rates means the overall borrowing envelope debt is now fully externalised which will feed through into significantly higher base capital financing costs in 2022/23. Ongoing underspends in this line should no longer be presumed for future years.
- e. There continue to be risks around general inflationary pay and price pressures this year, including increases to the National Living Wage which will significantly impact contractors to the Council in some service areas. It will also put further pressure on the lower end of the current local government pay spine in future years. There is, as yet, no resolution to the national local government pay award offer (1% budgeted) although the latest full and final offer is in the region of 1.75%. The above budgeted pay offer for teachers, also of 1.75%, is currently wholly unfunded by WG. There is indication that the excess above 1% will be funded one off, but we await formal confirmation of the grant. Whilst all are entirely welcomed from a policy perspective, the Council simply cannot afford to fund them in isolation. Unless additional support is forthcoming from UK and Welsh Governments, savings will have to be made elsewhere to meet such pressures.
- f. Detailed monitoring of budgets will continue and will be reported to the monthly Departmental Performance and Financial Management meetings.
- g. It remains imperative that sustainable, but sensitive in the ongoing unusual circumstances of Covid 19, base budget savings are found to replace in year one off actions to stabilise the 2021-22 budget ahead of the finalisation of the 2022-23 budget round.

4.2 Additional total costs in the delivery and implementation of the Oracle Fusion ICT project estimated arising directly as a result of delays related to the pandemic will need to be funded over 2021-22 and 2022-23. The Section 151 officer proposes to meet these costs from the Capital Equalisation Reserve in both years. A separate update report will be required to Cabinet on the overall progress and revised costs in due course.

5. Capital Budget

5.1 Expenditure to 30th September 2021 is £69.301 million, summarised as follows:

Directorate	Budget 2021/22	Actual to 30/09/21	% spend
	£'000	£'000	
Resources	5,275	1,219	23.1%
Education	22,476	10,113	45.0%
Social Services	750	303	40.4%
Place (General Fund)	124,399	37,880	30.5%
Place (HRA)	60,009	19,786	33.0%
Total	212,909	69,301	32.5%

Expenditure on major capital schemes is detailed in Appendix C.

It should be noted that the actual spend to 30 September may only have 4 or 5 months costs relating to external invoices. The impact of COVID continues to have an impact on the timing and potential slippage of the original capital programme. Schemes will continue to be reprofiled during the year as the impacts of timing / slippage become known. In addition, the effect of substantial price inflation on supplies and materials for schemes is adversely impacting across the capital programme. This is under constant review with scheme cost re-engineering, however any material cost increases on individual schemes shall need to be agreed through FPR7 procedures.

This will have an impact on the revenue Capital Financing Charges in 2021/22 and future years.

6. Housing Revenue Account

6.1 The economic impact of the Covid pandemic on rent collection rates is being closely monitored. During the first half of the year, collection rates have not been significantly affected however; it is difficult to forecast the longer-term impact and it is too early in the year to forecast the full impact on rent arrears and the budgeted Bad Debt Provision. Revenue repairs expenditure has increased as a result of the back log of repairs from 2020/21 caused by the pandemic and an overspend of £0.75m in 21/22 is forecast. Spend in this area will continue to be closely

monitored. In addition, an increase in the number of disrepair insurance claims has led to a forecast overspend of £150k. This is offset by a forecast underspend on employees costs of £150k as a result of higher than expected vacancies.

7. Legal Issues

7.1 There are no legal issues contained within this report.

8. Integrated Assessment Implications

8.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the 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.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English. Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

8.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

8.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

8.4 The Revenue budget of the Council was approved following the application of the corporate Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process throughout the Budget setting process (now replaced by IIA's). It is essential where service levels are affected by changes to the Revenue Budgets (including savings options) that the IIA process (alongside consultation and engagement as appropriate) is applied to ensure due regard is paid to the potential equality impacts of any proposals prior to decision making.

Background Papers: - None

Appendices:

Appendix A - Revenue Budget forecast 2021/22

Appendix B - Directors comments on variances and action plans

Appendix C - Expenditure on major Capital Schemes

REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTION QUARTER 2 2021/22

<u>DIRECTORATE</u>	BUDGET 2021/22 £000	PROJECTED 2021/22 £000	VARIATION 2021/22 £000
RESOURCES	55,554	60,559	5,005
PEOPLE - SOCIAL SERVICES	129,562	137,878	8,316
PEOPLE – EDUCATION	188,790	192,830	4,040
PLACE	69,448	68,014	-1,434
<i>NET DIRECTORATE EXPENDITURE</i>	443,354	459,281	15,927
SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR APPRENTICESHIP LEVY/INFLATION	4,250	1,000	-3,250
CONTINGENCY FUND	12,708	475	-12,233
<i>Assumed additional TTP grant to cover costs</i>	0	-7,130	-7,130
<i>OTHER ITEMS</i>			
LEVIES			
SWANSEA BAY PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY	88	88	0
CONTRIBUTIONS			
MID & WEST WALES COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY	14,120	14,120	0
<i>CAPITAL FINANCING CHARGES</i>			
PRINCIPAL REPAYMENTS	16,368	13,868	-2,500
NET INTEREST CHARGES	20,010	17,510	-2,500
<i>NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE</i>	510,898	499,212	-11,686
<i>MOVEMENT IN RESERVES</i>			
GENERAL RESERVES	0	0	0
EARMARKED RESERVES	-22,455	-12,769	9,686
<i>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT</i>	488,443	486,443	-2,000
DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF	418	418	0
<i>TOTAL CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA REQUIREMENT</i>	488,861	486,861	-2,000
COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRECEPTS	1,641	1,641	0
<i>TOTAL REQUIREMENT</i>	490,502	488,502	-2,000
<i>FINANCING OF TOTAL REQUIREMENT</i>			
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT	269,725	269,725	0
NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES	82,917	82,917	0
COUNCIL TAX - CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA	136,219	134,219	2,000
COUNCIL TAX - COMMUNITY COUNCILS	1,641	1,641	0
<i>TOTAL FINANCING</i>	490,502	488,502	2,000

Director's comments on budget variances

Director of Resources

The budget position in the first quarter shows the resources directorate underspending in a number of areas. This is mainly due to employee recruitment which has been delayed due to COVID. A recruitment programme is underway. The TTP and WVCS programmes will both recover all costs.

Variance (under -)/over spend	£000	Explanation and Action
COVID-19 Variation:		
Test Trace & Protect Programme (TTP)/Wales Vaccination Certificate Service(WVCS)	7,130	Additional £14m funding has been awarded to the Region of which £7m is the forecast cost for Swansea Council. This forecast is based on the latest position which includes the extension to the WVCS service. The expenditure is expected to be fully recoverable from Welsh Government Grant.
Design Print	250	Loss of trading income which relates mainly to internal recharges to Council departments.
Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)	-950	The base budget reflects an increase of £2,346k for the year. This has resulted in an underspend based on the caseloads as at the 1st Quarter, however, this may change by the 2 nd Quarter as furlough is about to unwind which may lead to more demand and hence additional costs. There is no guarantee that it is going to be the same position at year end but it does seem to be favourable at the moment.
Net COVID-19 variation	6,430	
Other Variations:		
Net variations	-1,425	Net Employee, Supplies & Services underspends across the Directorate.
Total Other Variations	-1,425	
Total Forecast Variation	5,005	

Director of Social Services

Variance	£000s	Explanation and Action
Covid 19 Variation		
Projected Hardship Costs	8,145	This is the current estimated additional cost of actions taken in accordance with Welsh Government guidance around the Hardship Fund. This spend supports the commissioned sector and ensures we are best placed to support the national response to Covid-19. This also takes into consideration the tapering arrangements as specified by WG Such actions include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing capacity within the domiciliary care market • participating in a Welsh Government scheme to provide financial support to our private residential providers • providing support to supported living providers • providing additional respite capacity
Projected Income Loss	1,683	This loss of income relates to income that would have been received from citizens and partners were it not for the pandemic. It covers day services, respite services and the Gower Activity Centres.
Hardship Funding Received to date	-702	Two tranches of funding has been received and allocated to the Directorate
Other		
Internal Staffing and Services	-1,585	Several grants have been received that are able to support the overall financial position. Work to ensure services are designed in a way that enables the Council to access all funding sources continues.
Independent Child and Family Placements and support for care leavers	-525	During the second quarter, we have been successful in safely reducing the cost of a number of our most expensive placements. This budget remains volatile and is subject to enhanced monitoring
Western Bay Adoptions	-200	The costs of the regional adoption service is split between partners depending on the proportion of children

		placed by each. This underspend is based on the latest projections which have seen an increase in the number of children placed by partners.
Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	1,500	The cumulative business as usual underspends above have given the directorate headroom to make a significant contribution to the future cost of vehicle replacement within Social Services Transport. This investment will protect revenue budgets from the need to fund such replacements into the medium term.
Overall Variation	8,316	

Director's Comments

The Council's response to Covid-19 continues to dominate the operational and financial outlook for the Directorate. To ensure we are able to recover all eligible costs through Welsh Government grant, our processes and the support we provide to the commissioned sector is aligned with Welsh Government guidance and has been updated to take into account tapering of support

Activity levels in several of the services we commission continue to be lower than they were before the Pandemic. In producing these forecasts, we have made assumptions around service activity increasing during the second half of the year. We will continually monitor these assumptions and will revise our financial forecasts when the data support this. Within Child and Family Services, we have seen a reduction in the number and cost of some of our most expensive placements. Whilst this represents a relatively small number of children, the cost of the placements means that it has a significant effect on our financial forecasts.

With a forecast underspend at year end, we have made an unbudgeted contribution to the Council's vehicle replacement programme. This decision will ensure the Directorate does not have to make annual contributions to the programme throughout the medium term.

Director of Education

Variance	£000	Explanation and Action
Covid 19 Variations		
Additional direct cost of maintaining provision of lunches / food bags / BACS payments for FSM eligible pupils	2,567	Reflects significant additional food costs, considerably greater coverage of eligible families (with transitional protection), and additional provision over holidays – including Y11 & Y13 costs for Summer Term Finishing
Additional cost of PPE in excess of funding provided	180	Forecasted for 21/22 based on previous year expenditure.

by WG		
Additional staffing costs over normal contracted hours (catering, cleaning and school support teams)	550	Continuing additional staffing costs of enhanced cleaning. Daytime cleaning regime continues to be required and will continue until WG grant ceases to support this.
Additional hours for teaching assistants outside of term	497	Claims from schools for those staff being paid for additional non-contracted hours
Additional transport, PPE, and utility costs.	94	Claims from Schools for continue for Covid related expenditure
Additional Transport Costs arising from taking pupils home to self-isolate	29	Additional costs associated with additional journeys home for children with an identified positive case in their year group - Summer Term 21
Additional costs of licences to support Chromebooks and continuity of learning for pupils	24	Additional cost over and above core broadband and other IT infrastructure costs and available base budget after MTFP savings
Loss of paid School Meal Income	547	Based on 21/22 Q1 (£326K) & Q2 (£61K) Claims - claims will continue until take up of paid meals can return to pre-Covid levels. Forecast £70K per Qtr for rest of 21/22.
Loss of other income such as from school clerking services and penalty notices	12	On the basis of comparison with previous year - Was reimbursed by WG at £6K/quarter last year.
Loss of income to schools for example from school lettings and breakfast and other clubs	389	Reflects detailed analysis of income lost across our maintained schools.
Paid to Date	-1463	Hardship Claims up to August 2021 & Q1 Loss of Income – Reimbursement Received from WG
Total Covid 19 variations	3426	
Non Covid Variations		
Continuing additional costs of FSM transitional protection	335	Considerable increase in those entitled to FSM with lockdown and transitional protection will maintain these numbers without any certainty of additional core funding from WG
Loss of additional paid meal income from previously proposed MTFP increased prices (April 20 and Sept 20)	0	£125k loss of income from political decision to remove increase from April and further £80k part year impact as prices frozen in September. Pressure met by Recovery Fund in current year.
Home to School Transport -	280	MTFP reflects robust management action

further underlying cost pressures and undeliverable savings target relating to creation of additional walking routes, allocated from Place Directorate		to mitigate scale of demand and cost pressures but underlying pressures continue to grow. The overall shortfall in delivery of the MTFP savings targets transferred to Education would be greater again at £280,000 for 2021-22 and at least £186,550 for 2022-23 and £143,300 thereafter until the third walking route is delivered.
Home to School Transport - Additional cost pressures of additional transport requirements for Education from September 2021.	107	Additional costs for Ysgol Penybryn anticipated from September but savings from Clase bus being taken off. Additional bus needed for Y G Gwyr from September to deal with increased pupil numbers. Additional costs for YGG Tirdeunaw from September anticipated.
Implications of school decisions on SLA buy back on services	25	Reflects existing pressures on areas such as Music Service, as far as possible mitigate by robust management action
One-off additional contribution to Regional Improvement Partnership	28	PYE of ERW additional charge at £28K. Ongoing work with new partnership.
Union Duties – Reflects current expenditure	73	Called on claims against this budget continue to increase. Confirmed Adherence to Policy.
Historical change of use of the caretaker house to school use - at Pontarddulais Comprehensive	6	Overlap period where both council tax & rates have been charged. No option but to pick up on a one-off basis from Directorate budget. Unfair for the school to be charged twice.
Difference in Teacher's Pay Award. 0.75 of a 1.75% increase is unfunded.	0	Welsh Government national grant to fund the additional percentage element of teachers pay award (£333K) in 21/22. However, full year impact would be £571K if this is not met going forward.
Other continuing pressures (Primarily Historic Pension Costs, Maternity etc)	300	Will continue to mitigate as far as possible and contain such costs
One-off managed savings with delay to full implementation of new EOTAS model	-300	Further managed savings can be delivered whilst the new EOTAS model cannot be fully implemented
One-off managed savings identified in year in addition to those already reflected in MTFP	-240	Challenging to identify significant further savings in addition to MTFP requirements
Net non-Covid 19 projected overspend	614	Continuing robust management action will seek to identify further savings in addition to MTFP requirements but the

		remaining projected overspend reflects the scale of externally driven and uncontrollable cost pressures
TOTAL PROJECTED PRESSURES	4,040	Reflects impact of decisions preventing the delivery of current year MTFP savings assumptions and unrecovered additional Covid-19 costs

The Council response to Covid-19 continues to dominate the financial outlook for the year. The Council's response is in line with Welsh Government Guidance and has required significant resource directed at Education.

Forecasts for Covid related expenditure and income loss are subject to the progression of the pandemic through the remainder of the financial year and further guidance around the use of the Hardship Fund. It is hoped that most costs considered Covid related will be recovered from available WG grant funding but there is clearly a risk that some costs may not be fully reclaimable.

The non-Covid 19 projected overspend is more than accounted for by the impact of WG or local decision which has increased the uncontrollable and statutory cost pressures, prevented the delivery of significant elements of current year MTFP savings assumptions, and incurred unrecoverable additional Covid-19 costs.

There are other areas of identified demand and cost pressures, in spite of the continuing delivery of the Education strategy, but these are anticipated to be largely offset by further one-off managed savings in addition to those already reflected in the MTFP. However, the underlying base budget shortfall facing the Education portfolio budget, potentially at almost £614k, is clearly of concern even though it directly reflects the full year impact of national or local decisions.

Director of Place

The directorate is currently projecting a £1.4m underspend which is testament to all of the hard work and rigour applied by the service areas. However, it is a difficult year to project out turn in details as a result of a number of factors namely

- The ongoing dependency of Welsh Government who continue to provide funding for Covid expenditure and loss of income and the assumption is that this will continue for the full year ahead.
- The continued pressure on income via a range of sources including fees, charges, car parking, volatile recyclates and residual waste cost and the gradual return to normal of events and venues
- The continued uncertainty of inflationary increases on materials and contractor resources
- Continued asset related income and uncertainty resulting from pressures on businesses and dependency on economic recovery
- An assumption that there would be no further Covid restrictions later in the year further impacting on income

As such the directorate is projecting a £1.4m underspend but even with the above challenges it is expected that it will at least break even at year end.

Appendix C

Capital expenditure on major schemes to 30 September 2021 (where spend greater than £250k)	£000's
Education	
Bishopston Comprehensive School refurbishment	2,081
YG Gwyr extension	1,146
YGG Tan y Lan new build	2,235
YGG Tirdeunaw new build	3,745
Improvement Works at Arfryn	319
People	
ICF Vehicles	287
Resources	
Agile and Mobile IT equipment	662
Place	
City Deal Development Phase 1 (Arena schemes)	20,445
Hafod Copper Powerhouse scheme	1,770
Wind Street improvements	1,224
City Centre acquisition	1,955
Corporate Building Services (including schools)	3,750
Capital Community Play Schemes	539
Highways carriageway resurfacing including invest to save	2,567
Highways Footways	487
Highways Graig Rd Emergency Repairs	423
Highways Sketty/Mayals Network	408
Highways Drainage works	368
Fabian Way	1,464
Disability Facilities Grants	1,361
Mini Adaptation Grants	297
HRA	
HRA capital programme (More Homes schemes)	4,680

Wind and Weatherproofing	2,455
Flat Roof & Window Replacement	321
Fire Safety	670
Electrical Rewiring	550
External Facilities	2,932
Adaptations	853
Bolier and heating upgrades	682
HRA Kitchens & Bathrooms	5,837

Total scheme value where spend greater than £250k 66,513

Agenda Item 10.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Delivery & Operations

Cabinet – 16 December 2021

Gower AONB Management Plan 2021/22 - Offer of NRW Funding

Purpose:	This report seeks retrospective approval to accept an offer of funding from Natural Resources Wales (NRW), to support the implementation of the Gower AONB Management Plan.
Policy Framework:	The statutory Gower AONB Management Plan (2017-22) sets out how Swansea Council will deliver its duty to protect Gower, and to promote access and recreation. NRW shares these duties, and has offered grant funding of £108,250 to support the delivery of the management plan (2021/22).
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Notes the short timescales for submission of bids as outlined in paragraph 2 and authorises the acceptance of the offer of funding (totalling £108,250) from NRW, to enable the Gower ANOB Management Plan to be delivered.
Report Author:	Mike Scott
Finance Officer:	Adele Harris
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background

- 1.1 Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was the first such area to be designated, in 1956, under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. The purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

- 1.2 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Swansea Council share statutory duties to protect Gower, and to promote access and recreation. This grant funding aims to support the implementation of the Gower AONB Management Plan, which underpins these duties.
- 1.3 NRW provides annual funding specifically for AONBs in Wales, but due to internal issues, the offer of funding has been delayed this year.

2. Funding Offered

- 2.1 NRW have indicated in their allocation letter that a total of £108,250 is available for Gower AONB for the period 2021/22, comprising two separate funding components:
 - £68,250 revenue grant funding at 75%
 - £40,000 capital grant funding at 100%
- 2.2 The allocation letter set a deadline of less than 10 days in which to submit a detailed bid for this funding.
- 2.3 A bid for the funding was submitted, supported by a proposed project outline.

3. Outline of Proposed Projects

- 3.1 The bid sets out a multi-disciplinary programme of projects to conserve and enhance the outstanding landscape of Gower – protecting its landscape, encouraging an understanding and appreciation of its special qualities, and improving access:
 - Monitoring & Planning for Natural Beauty
 - Managing for Nature
 - Enjoying & Celebrating an Outstanding Landscape
 - Accessing a Special Place
 - Enhancing features on Protected sites
- 3.2 The funding, and work, will be split between the AONB, Rights of Way, Nature Conservation and Strategic Planning Teams. This will support existing posts, and enable additional work to be carried out to support the objectives of these teams.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.4 The outcome of the screening exercise suggests that the application/acceptance of the offer of funding will not have an adverse effect on the people or communities of Swansea, and that it is likely that the application/acceptance will have a low positive impact on them.

The funding will support the delivery of the AONB Management Plan, which includes proposals to increase the provision of access facilities, visitor information and raising awareness of environmental issues, and the special qualities of Gower. This is available to all, free of charge, and is intended to be as inclusive and open as practically possible.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations has been a core part of the practices of the Teams involved for several years, with our activity and ways of working structured around its themes.

There are risks if the funding is not accepted – to staffing, to the provision of services and facilities, and to the reputation of Swansea Council. For example, the funding underpins the annual Blue Flag awards, which are used in the Councils tourism promotion material.

The cumulative impact of the application/acceptance of the offer of NRW funding is seen as positive – for the work and reputation of the Council, and for the people of Swansea.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Management Plan will enable Swansea Council to discharge its statutory duty in relation to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty; it will also facilitate the delivery of national policy at a local level, and ensure the delivery of the statutory AONB Management Plan.
- 5.2 The terms and conditions of the offer of grant funding are likely to be binding. The Council will need to ensure that it complies with the same. The Council will also need to comply with its Contract Procedure Rules and any relevant procurement legislation when utilising the funding to procure any goods or services.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 This funding will enable the AONB, RoW, Nature Conservation and Strategic Planning Teams to carry out their work relating to Gower, and to fulfil the Council's duties towards the AONB, in fulfilment of the AONB Management Plan.
- 6.2 The funding requires minimal match funding (£22,750), which will be a mix of revenue budget and staff costs – this can be easily met from existing budgets.
- 6.3 As the funding has been provided on an annual basis for about 30 years, the established work programmes of the teams would be significantly curtailed without this funding.
- 6.4 The Capital Finance Team have indicated that the elements within the capital funding component are individually below the CCS capitalisation threshold and are more of a revenue nature; therefore can be treated as such.
- 6.5 The acceptance of the offer of funding would not increase the existing or future financial liabilities of Swansea Council.

Background papers: None

Appendices:

- Appendix A - NRW Offer Letter
- Appendix B - Application for NRW Funding 2021/22
- Appendix C - IAA Screening Report
- Appendix D - NGA1



Our ref: SAF/G/006 04

Date: 17th August 2021

Gower AONB,
 Planning and City Regeneration,
 Directorate of Place,
 Civic Centre,
 Oystermouth Road,
 Swansea,
 SA1 3SN

Dear Chris Lindley

Allocation of Grant funding: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) National Grant Partnership Programme

NRW has statutory duties to conserve and enhance natural beauty and to promote access and recreation. We recognise the opportunities that AONBs provide in supporting the delivery of these duties and shared outcomes identified in AONB management plans or relevant Area Statements.

NRW have used a strategic allocated funding mechanism to define outcomes that align with a specific formula, to allow identification of allocation amounts and partners.

The total budget available for allocation to all identified partners for 2021/2022 is £525,000. This is made up of;

- £325,000 NRW Grant funding which represents 75% of your total project costs (£433,333), partners will be required to provide the remaining 25% match funding (£108,333).
- £200,000 Welsh Government Capital Funding. This represents 100% of your total project costs and does not require any match funding.

Based on our evaluation, NRW would like to offer Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty £108,250 (One Hundred and Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds).

Gower AONB will receive £68,250 (Sixty Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds) from NRW Grant funding and will be required to contribute a minimum 25% match funding. The three national objectives that this grant aims to fund are,

- Objective 1 - Nature recovery and building ecosystems resilience
- Objective 2 - Climate change adaptation, mitigation and decarbonisation
- Objective 3 - Cultural services for health and well-being to support a Green Recovery

Outcomes to deliver these objectives should cover;

- Conservation and enhancement of natural beauty including landscape quality, character and distinctiveness.

- Access, recreation and sustainable tourism.
- Biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem resilience.
- Land, water and woodland / forest management.
- Developing sustainable agricultural practice.
- Coastal and marine issues.
- Climate change adaptation, mitigation and carbon management.
- Health, well-being and community cohesion.
- Supporting language, culture and the historic environment.

Gower AONB will receive **£40,000 (Forty Thousand Pounds)** made up of Welsh Government Capital Funding. The outcomes we would consider for this funding are;

- enhance features on Protected sites

and/or
- support and complement the work of Gylfeinir Cymru and the Curlew Life project. Delivery in place should primarily focus on creating nature networks close to or next to protected curlew sites many of which are adjacent to protected sites. The projects must be in North and Mid Wales

Please note that this letter is not an offer of funding or a funding agreement and you should not rely on it as such. In order for us to be able to offer any financial support, you should not enter into any legally binding obligations in respect of the project until:

- you have made a formal proposal using Annex 1;
- we have completed our due diligence on your proposal; and
- you have received our formal offer of support. Any commitment ahead of a formal grant award letter will be at your own risk.

If you plan to undertake work before formal award, please contact us to discuss.

What you have to do next

1. You need to confirm whether you would or would not like to take advantage of this funding, and respond to;
grants.enquiries@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk. If you do not respond within 5 working days, we will presume that you do not wish to take advantage of this funding opportunity.
2. If you responded **yes** to point 1 then using annex 1 you need to set out your proposal for spending the allocated money, providing an indication of the costs,

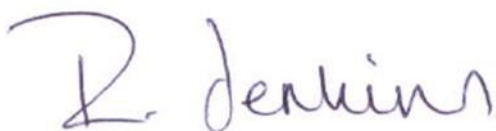
and risks to delivery over the year. **This proposal should clearly show which funding stream the work relates to and be submitted no later than Thursday 2nd September 2021.** In doing this, you need to ensure activities meet the funding rules as set out in Annex 1.

3. Annex 1 provides a checklist of the information you will need to submit to satisfy NRW's due diligence checks. We will use your submission to carry out a technical and financial assessment based on feasibility and value for money.

Please submit your proposal to; grants.enquiries@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully



Ruth Jenkins
Head of Natural Resource Management Policy



Project Reference: SAF/G/006-04

Gower AONB Team
 City & County of Swansea
 Civic Centre
 Oystermouth Road
 Swansea
 SA1 3SN

Date: 22 October 2021

Dear Mike Scott

**NATURAL RESOURCES WALES STRATEGIC ALLOCATION FUNDING
 PROJECT NAME: AONB National Grant Partnership Programme and Biodiversity
 Enhancement and Ecosystems Funding (BERF) 2021-22**

1. We are pleased to inform you that your proposal has been approved and funding of up to **£108,250** (Ninety one thousand pounds) ('the Funding) is awarded to you for the Project as defined in Schedule 2.
 2. The grant awarded is as follows: -

The Funding	£108,250
Total eligible expenditure	£130,000
Percentage of actual costs	75% and 100%
Project Start Date	22 October 2021
Project End Date	31 March 2022
Last Financial Claim Date	14 April 2022
- The Funding represents a maximum contribution against the eligible costs. The amount of Funding is the maximum payable regardless of any increase in the total eligible expenditure which results from changes to the Project: The Funding paid will be the amount of the award or the percentage of actual costs whichever is the lower.
3. The offer of grant is subject to acceptance by you of all the terms and conditions set out in this letter and accompanying Schedules. Specifically, grant is offered on condition that the Project delivers in accordance with the details described in your Project Proposal, and any Special Conditions (as applicable).
 4. The offer of grant is open for acceptance for twenty-eight (28) working days from the date of this award letter.
 5. Claims must be made in accordance with the details in Schedule 2 to 5 and otherwise any unclaimed part of the funding will cease to be available to you. .
 6. The grant is conditional upon no expenditure having been defrayed prior to the Project Start Date stated at Paragraph 2 unless specifically agreed and formally confirmed in writing by the grantor.

Statutory Authority and State Aid

7. The offer of grant is made by an official in Natural Resources Wales pursuant to the exercise by Natural Resources Wales of its powers under article 10B(6) of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012 and in accordance with Managing Our Money. The offer is made in accordance with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs agreement in September 2019 of the Natural Resources Wales 'Grant Funding Strategy: working together to manage natural resources sustainably.
8. You must comply with State Aid Rules. You are responsible for ensuring that the Project is delivered in line with the State Aid criteria upon which the Funding is awarded.
9. In addition, all state aid will be considered when considering any grant funding to organisations irrespective of their legal status.

<https://gov.wales/state-aid>

What you must use the Funding for

10. You must use the Funding solely for the Project set out in Schedule 2 (the "**Project**").
11. You must achieve the outputs and outcomes set out in Schedule 2 (the "**Outputs**").
12. Any change to the Project or Outputs will require our written consent which must be obtained from us in advance of implementing any change. Please note that we are not obliged to give our consent, but we will consider all reasonable written requests.
13. You must not use any part of the Funding for: (1) party political purposes; (2) the promotion of particular secular, religious or political views; (3) gambling; (4) pornography; (5) offering sexual services; (6) purchasing capital equipment (other than as specified in the Project); (7) your legal fees in relation to this letter; (8) Costs Incurred or costs incurred and defrayed by you in the delivery of the Project prior to the period referred to in the Conditions; (9) any kind of illegal activities; or (10) any kind of activity which in our opinion could bring us into disrepute.

Funding Standard Conditions

14. We will not pay any of the Funding to you until you have provided us with the following information and documentation:
 - this letter signed by persons with the authority to sign.
 - if applicable, evidence of any secured funding and confirmation that it can be used for the Project Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are grant aiding;
 - progress reports as agreed in Schedule 2;
 - where you are required to provide information and documentation to us as evidence that you have satisfied a pre-condition, or in support of a claim, the information and documentation must be in all respects acceptable to us. We reserve the right to reject any information and documentation which is for any reason not acceptable to us.
 - Must comply with the latest Government Covid 19 advice, e.g. social distancing.

- Must report any early warning signs if project delivery, becomes problematic for any reason including a further wave of Covid-19 or Brexit together with any risk mitigation measure you have put in place.
- Overheads will be allowed at 15% of staff costs without any back-up evidence. If it is considered by the recipient of the grant that another methodology should be used then this will be considered by NRW but only when evidenced by analysis of the grant recipient's accounts and/or the accounts of companies who have received allocation of funds by the recipient of the grant.
- The activity must take place in Wales
- Report following completion of project to be completed, as noted in outputs

Special Pre-conditions

- No equipment/asset/improvement works acquired with this funding must be disposed of, transferred or dissipated within 3 years of the project end date without prior written consent of NRW. At the end of the project period a request will be made to provide a report confirming the project work and outcomes as detailed in this award letter are still in use at the project sites and an evaluation report on the project.

How to claim the Funding

15. The Funding will usually be paid to you in arrears based on costs Incurred and defrayed by you in the delivery of the Project as detailed in the Payment Profile; unless the need for upfront payment has been demonstrated.
16. You must claim the Funding in accordance with the dates set out in the Payment Profile. In the event of you failing to submit a claim form on time and showing progress made against outputs payments of grant may be suspended until these are submitted.
17. We reserve the right to withdraw any part of the Funding that does not comply with the claim profile noted in Schedule 2. We may also reduce the final payment of grant if the total amount defrayed by you on the Project is less than the estimated total and/or if there is a change in the funding profile of the Project.
18. Without prejudice to any other provision of this letter or its Schedules, the grantor may withhold any or all the grant payments and/or require all or part of the grant to be repaid if it considers that you have not complied with:
 - any of the terms and conditions in this offer letter or Schedules to this letter;
 - any European Community obligation which applies to you or the Project;
19. If you have failed to take enough measures to investigate and resolve any reported irregularity. Any over-payment of the grant must be repaid to the grantor on demand by us, or if you become aware that the grant has been over-paid, whichever first occurs.
20. You must submit your claims for payment of Funding to the Grants team to:
grants.enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
21. You must use our current Claim Form and our current Transaction List and attach the following information and documentation to each claim

Proof of expenditure through exchequer reports

Timesheets to support volunteer hours

We will aim to pay all valid claims as soon as possible and typically within (30 days, subject to receipt, validation and acceptance of all supporting delivery and financial evidence as specified in the Grant Award or requested by NRW, but accept no liability in respect of loss attributable to any delay in the payment of claims or to any suspension, reduction or cancellation of the grant.

Your General Obligations to us

You must:

22. Safeguard the Funding against fraud generally and fraud on the part of your Personnel and notify us immediately if you have reason to suspect that any fraud within your organisation whether it relates to the Funding has occurred or is occurring or is likely to occur. You must also participate in such fraud prevention initiatives as we may require from time to time.
23. Comply with all applicable domestic, EU or international laws or regulations or official directives;
24. Put in place and maintain appropriate systems to undertake due diligence before utilising any part of the Funding to procure any goods or services from third parties;
25. Co-operate fully with NRW or a consultant appointed by NRW to monitor your use of the Funding and your compliance with these Conditions;
26. Inform us immediately if any of the declarations made in Conditions 29 to 34 is incorrect in any respect or, if repeated at any time with reference to the facts and circumstances then existing, would be incorrect.

Declarations

You declare that:

27. You have the power to enter and to perform the obligations set out in these Conditions and you have taken all necessary action to authorise the entry into and performance of the obligations under these Conditions;
28. No litigation or arbitration is current or pending or, so far as you are aware, threatened, which have or could have an adverse effect on your ability to perform and comply with any of these Conditions;
29. The information contained in your Proposal is complete, true and accurate;
30. You have disclosed to us all material facts or circumstances which need to be disclosed to enable us to obtain a true and correct view of your business and affairs (both current and prospective) or which ought to be provided to any person who is considering providing funding to you;

33. You have discussed and agreed the Outputs with us, and you are confident that they are realistic and achievable;
34. The information contained in the Assurance Statement is complete, true and accurate.

MONITORING AND AUDIT

Monitoring

35. The output(s) against which progress on the Project will be monitored are set out in the Project Proposal Outputs and Payment Profile in Schedule 2. We expect that you provide the grantor with a report on the progress against the outputs for your Project at each payment stage alongside your claim for payment of grant. However, you must comply with the deadlines that we set for any requests for information in whatever form concerning the progress of the Project.
36. To meet with NRW and such other representatives as we may from time to time reasonably require.
37. Information collected through official visits to include in some instances audited accounts will also be used to verify the progress of the Project. Where a negative trend or discrepancy develops for a Project, the grantor will investigate the reason behind this and if appropriate, act. In the worse scenario, action may include the suspension of grant payments and/or the recovery of grant.

Audit Requirements

38. Maintain clear accounting records identifying all income and expenditure in relation to the Project;
39. Without charge, permit any officer or officers of NRW, Wales Audit Office or European Commission at any reasonable time and on reasonable notice being given to you to visit your premises and/or to inspect any of your activities and/or to examine and take copies of your books of account and such other documents or records howsoever stored as in such officer's reasonable view may relate in any way to your use of the Funding. This undertaking is without prejudice and subject to any other statutory rights and powers exercisable by NRW, Wales Audit Office or the European Commission or any officer, servant or agent of any of the above;
40. Under paragraph 17 of Schedule 8 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 the Auditor General for Wales has extensive rights of access to documents and information relating to monies provided by NRW. He and his officials have the power to require relevant persons who control or hold documents to give any assistance, information and explanation that they may require; and to require those persons to attend before them for such a purpose. The Auditor General and his staff may exercise this right at all reasonable times.

DOCUMENTATION

41. You must keep full records in a form agreed with us, of all the activities that generate eligible costs to provide the audit trails specified by the EC. You must retain these documents for at least ten years after the Project end date as stated in this grant approval

letter.

42. If you intend to claim grant on eligible expenditure made by others acting on your behalf, you must ensure that you have a legally binding agreement with them which specifies what information is to be provided and when. You must ensure that those acting for you have original documentary evidence to support all the payments they make for you and for which you wish to claim grant.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR): PRIVACY NOTICE

43. The information provided in any proposal is subject to the Privacy Notice at <https://naturalresources.wales/footer-links/website-privacy-statement/?lang=en>
44. The Privacy Notice explains the NRW processing and use of your personal data and your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018.
45. The personal data provided will be held on a database and will be processed by NRW for the purposes of progressing proposals. The information provided may be shared with UK Government Departments, Welsh Government or agencies within Wales for the purposes of audit, research, meeting statutory obligations and, where appropriate, for the prevention and detection of fraud. Personal data will not, without consent, be made public in any way that identifies individuals. Certain data will be passed to the European Commission in compliance with EC Regulations.
46. Data may also be passed to NRW support contractors for the purpose of resolving system problems. These contractors will not be permitted to make any other use of this data. .
47. If any person on whom data is held wishes to request details of their personal data being held on NRW central database they may contact NRW Data Protection Officer – email: dataprotection@cyfoethenaturiolcymru.gov.uk
48. Nothing in this award letter shall override the provisions of the GDPR 2018.

CHANGES TO THE PROJECT

49. Any change to the Project must be sent to the NRW Grants Team at grant.enquiries@cyfoeth and agreed by the grantor in writing. If you notify us that your Project has changed in any way, we will write to you to tell you how we will treat the changes.
50. Changes include any alteration to the nature of the Project such as significant changes over the lifetime of the Project to the individual categories of expenditure or quantifiable outputs set out in the Project Proposal; any change to the Project's use, its financing or ownership and/or any change to the Project completion timetable.
51. Failure to notify the grantor may result in the termination of grant and you may be required to repay part or the whole of any grant paid. No grant will be paid in respect of any changes to the Project until those changes have been approved by the grantor.
52. Whilst you may request Project variations after approval, you should not assume they will be approved, particularly when the request is to move allocated grant funding into future financial years. Any unclaimed grant from a particular financial year in your agreed Output and Payment Profile is unlikely to be carried over into later financial years. This is due to the current commitment level and allocations of the existing NRW budget.

53. The Parties' respective obligations under this Agreement will be suspended during the occurrence of any national emergency, war, industrial action, pandemic, epidemic and the consequences thereof, prohibitive government regulation or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of the Parties (which shall not include the act or omission of a third party who is the agent or contractor of the Party seeking to rely on this provision), which renders the performance of the Agreement impossible ("Force Majeure Event").

54. The applicant is required to notify the grantor at the earliest opportunity if the Project undergoes a substantial modification within 5 years of the Project End Date that:

- a) affects its nature or implementation conditions or gives undue advantage to a company or public body;
- b) results either from a change ownership of an item of infrastructure or the cessation or relocation of a productive activity.

AMENDMENTS TO THIS LETTER AND SCHEDULES

55. No amendment or variation to the terms and conditions of the offer of grant as set out in this letter or its Schedules will be effective unless confirmed in writing by the grantor.

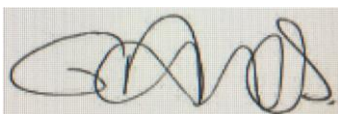
56. The grantor reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions of the offer of grant as set out in this letter or its Schedules by giving written notice to you.

HOW TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER OF GRANT

57. For this award letter NRW is using an electronic signature system called DocuSign which allows for documents to be signed using legally binding e-signatures. You will receive an email from DocuSign asking you to follow a link to access the award letter. NRW is providing this service to you free of charge and you will not be required to sign up to or download any software to use this system.

58. We must receive your signed letter within 28 days of the date of this letter, or this award of Funding will automatically be withdrawn. Please ensure you complete the two acceptance signatures on page 9 and the Assurance Statement in Schedule 4 on page 14.

Yours faithfully



Grace Acres

Team Leader

Grants Monitoring and Assessment

SCHEDULE 1 – Interpretation of Conditions

SCHEDULE 2 - The Project and Outputs and Payment Profile

SCHEDULE 3 - Notification of Events

SCHEDULE 4 - Assurance Statement Counter Fraud and Governance

SCHEDULE 5 - Other Information and General Conditions

ACCEPTANCE – TWO AUTHORISED SIGNATORIES ARE REQUIRED

Natural Resources Wales Strategic Allocated Funding

Applicant: City & County of Swansea

Date of Award Letter: 22 October 2021

Project Title: PROJECT NAME: AONB National Grant Partnership Programme and Biodiversity Enhancement and Ecosystems Funding (BERF) 2021-22

Project Reference: SAF/G/006-04

I/We accept the offer of grant under the above-named Scheme being delivered under the Natural Resources Wales – **Strategic Allocated Funding** on behalf of the applicant subject to the terms and conditions set out in your letter above and the attached Schedules, all of which I have read, fully understand and accept. I/We confirm that we have the authority to sign this acceptance.

Name (block capitals): Ben Smith

Signed:

DocuSigned by:
Ben Smith
91692D52A73D4B0...

Position: Chief Finance Officer

Organisation: City and County of Swansea

E-mail Address: Ben.Smith@swansea.gov.uk

Date: 08 November 2021 | 10:11 AM GMT

Name (block capitals): Jeffrey Dong

Signed:

DocuSigned by:
Jeffrey Dong
E6B7C4BDE15B424...

Position: Deputy S 151 Officer

Organisation: Swansea Council

E-Mail Address: Jeffrey.Dong@swansea.gov.uk

Date: 08 November 2021 | 3:18 AM PST

SCHEDULE 1

INTERPRETING THE CONDITIONS

'you or 'yours' is the name, registered address and company registration no of the grant recipient and charity registration no if applicable. This may be the name of a company / partnership / sole trader/charity/not-for-profit

'us' or 'we' is Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Conditions: Is the terms and conditions set out in this letter, the Terms and Conditions of the Funding attached to this letter and Schedules

Costs Defrayed: is the cost which are discharged by payment

Costs Incurred: is the cost of goods and services you have received regardless of whether you paid for them by the date of the claim

Outputs: is to the outputs and outcomes set out in the Outputs and Payment Profile in Schedule 2

Notification Event: Is any of the events listed in Schedule 3

Parties: NRW and signatory of the award letter

Personnel is you your management/employees and suppliers or any other person appointed .or engaged by you in relation to the Project

Proposal/Project Proposal: is your proposal

Schedule: is the Schedule attached to this letter

Special Conditions: specific to the project

State Aid Rules: Is to the rules set out in Articles 107 to 109 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (or in those Articles that may succeed Articles 107 to 109), secondary legislation such as frameworks, guidelines and block exemptions produced by the European Commission derived from Articles 107 to 109, case law of the European Courts and decisions of the European Commission regarding the application of Articles 107 to 109; and **any reference to any legislation** whether domestic, EU or international law will include all amendments to and substitutions and re-enactments of that legislation in force from time to time.

SCHEDULE 2**THE PROJECT**

The Purpose of the funding is to carry out work on the AONB, including BERF.

Eligible expenditure on the Project the Funding is to help support

Category of Expenditure	Estimated Programme Expenditure (£) excluding VAT
Staff Costs <i>(including employers NIC and pension)</i>	£25,000
Consultants	£6,000
Contractors	£30,000
Materials	£26,250
Over-heads	£3,750
Totals	£91,000

OUTPUTS AND PAYMENT PROFILE

You must achieve the Outputs set out below in the Payment Profile. Our written consent will be required in advance of implementing any changes to the Outputs and/or Payment Profile.

AONB/NRW Partnership grant

Amount of Instalment	Outputs	Evidence	Claim Date
£68,250	A programme of monitoring change within Gower, and developing Planning Policy to guide that change. Providing advice and support to ensure that Gowers special qualities are conserved and enhanced	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	31 st March 2022
	A programme of habitat management, focused on preserving biodiversity and distinctive landscapes on Gower	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	
	A programme of education, events and resources introducing residents and visitors to the special landscape of Gower. Practical projects to protect and enhance Gowers cultural and historical inheritance.	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	
	A programme of access improvements to help residents and visitors to visit, walk and ride amongst Gower's outstanding landscape. Supporting sustainable and responsible tourism.	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	
<p>Annual Reports will include: Summary of projects and description of delivery and impact e.g. numbers attending training, numbers engaged in school visits etc.</p> <p>Evidence will support the report includes any available photographs, statistics, press coverage and infographics to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of delivery.</p>			

BERF Funding

Amount of Instalment	Outputs	Evidence	Claim Date
£40,000	A programme of removing holm oak from Bishopswood (Gower Ash Woodlands SAC, also SSSI & LNR).	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	31st March 2022
	Bishopswood (Gower Ash Woodlands SAC, also SSSI & LNR) has good bat populations - including Lesser Horseshoe bats (EPS). A larger cave entrance needs to be grilled, to prevent disturbance to a bat roost/hibernaculum.	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	
	Pwlldu (Limestone Coast of S&W Wales SAC, SSSI & LNR) includes coastal grasslands. Clearing gorse scrub and facilitating grazing will protect and expand these areas	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	
	Fairwood Common (Gower Commons SAC and SSSI) – scrub clearance and increased grazing	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	
	To support enhanced future management of European Protected Sites, a cut-and-collect mower will be purchased to enable better management of grasslands and greenspace, supporting better biodiverse habitats	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	
	To support enhanced future management of European Protected Sites, a cut-and-collect mower will be purchased to enable better management of grasslands and greenspace, supporting better biodiverse habitats	Final report detailing work undertaken evidencing outputs as detailed in your application Exchequer report providing evidence of expenditure	

The Funding will usually be paid to you in arrears based on costs incurred or defrayed by you in the delivery of the project.

You must claim the Funding promptly, no later than 28 days after the claim dates set out in the Payment Profile. We reserve the right to withdraw any part of the Funding that you do not claim promptly.

You must submit your claims for Payment of the Funding to NRW at grants.enquiries@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk using our current claim form, together with such documents, information and reports, which we may reasonably require to evidence that you have achieved the outputs set out in the Payment Profile, including:

- Completed, signed and dated claim form

- Progress report
- Invoice and Bank statement showing the transaction

SCHEDULE 3**NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS**

- (a) You must notify us immediately if a Notification Event has occurred or is likely to occur, but we also reserve the right to notify you where we believe a Notification Event has occurred or is likely to occur.
- (b) We will either (i) notify you that we consider that the Notification Event is not capable of remedy or (ii) if we consider that the Notification Event is capable of being remedied seek to discuss the Notification Event with you with a view to agreeing a course of action to be taken to address the Notification Event.
- (c) We will be entitled to take any of the actions listed in section (d) below if:
- (i) despite our reasonable efforts we have been unable to discuss the Notification Event with you; or
 - (ii) we notify you that the Notification Event is not capable of remedy; or
 - (iii) a course of action to address the Notification Event is not agreed with you; or
 - (iv) a course of action to address the Notification Event is agreed with you but you fail to follow it, or any Conditions attached to it are not met (including without limitation the timescale for such course of action); or
 - (v) the course of action fails to remedy the Notification Event to our satisfaction.
- (d) If any of the circumstances set out in section (c) above occurs, we may, by notice to you:
- (i) withdraw the award of Funding; and/or
 - (ii) require you to repay all or part of the Funding immediately; and/or
 - (iii) suspend or cease all further payment of Funding; and/or
 - (iv) make all further payments of Funding subject to such Conditions as we may specify; and/or
 - (v) deduct all amounts owed to us under these Conditions from any other funding that we have awarded or may award to you; and/or
 - (vi) exercise any other rights against you which we may have in respect of the Funding.
- (e) All repayments of Funding must be made to us within 28 days of the date of our demand. If applicable, you must pay interest on any overdue repayments (on a compound basis) in accordance with the State Aid Rules.

The Notification Events referred to above are listed below:

1. repayment of any part of the Funding is required under European Law (whether under State Aid Rules or otherwise);
2. you fail to comply with any of the Conditions;
3. the Funding, in full or in part, is not being used for the Project;
4. you fail to achieve any or all the Outputs;
5. there is unsatisfactory progress towards completing the Project, including meeting the Outputs;
6. you fail to provide information about the Project requested by us, the European Commission or the European Court of Auditors, or any of their auditors, agents or representatives;
7. we have reason to believe that you and/or any of your Personnel are involved in fraudulent activity or have been involved in fraudulent activity [whilst the Project is/was being carried out];
8. we have made an overpayment of Funding to you;
9. any declaration made in paragraphs 29 to 34 is incorrect in any respect or, if repeated at any time with reference to the facts and circumstances then existing, would be incorrect;
10. any petition is presented, or resolution passed, or other action taken for your bankruptcy or winding-up or a petition is presented for an administration order against you;
11. a receiver or an administrative receiver is appointed in respect of you or in respect of all or any part of your assets;
12. a moratorium in respect of all or any of your debts or a composition or an agreement with your creditors is agreed, applied for, ordered or declared;
13. you are unable, or admit in writing your inability, to pay your debts as they fall due;
14. any distress, execution, attachment or other process affects any of your assets;
15. a statutory demand is issued against you;
16. you cease, or threaten to cease, to carry on all or a substantial part of your business;
17. there is a change in your constitution, status, control or ownership and/or your external auditors resign;
18. there is a change in your shareholders, directors, trustees or partners;
19. any event occurs or circumstance arise which in our opinion gives reasonable grounds for believing that you may not, or may be unable, to perform or comply with any of your obligations under these Conditions.

SCHEDULE 4**ASSURANCE STATEMENT: COUNTER FRAUD AND GOVERNANCE**

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has a duty to protect public funds, ensuring they are handled with probity and in the public interest. It is important that people in Wales can have confidence in NRW and the organisations it funds. NRW officials require assurance that reasonable and adequate governance and counter fraud procedures exist in the organisations funded by NRW.

Are you in receipt of any other funding from any other organisation to support the Project? If so, please provide details including amounts of other funding, posts funded and source of funding. This includes applications that are pending.	<p>Yes No No</p> <p>Further details can be provided in the table below</p>
Please name the personnel within your organisation who has/have specific responsibility for financial management in respect of the Project.	<p>Name: Mike Scott</p> <p>Position: AONB officer</p>
Who is responsible for the supervision of the personnel named above?	<p>Name: Chris Lindley</p> <p>Position: AONB Team Leader</p>
<p>You declare that your employees, officials, directors, trustees and board members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where applicable, fully understand their duties and responsibilities under the relevant legislation relating to companies and charities; • have enough knowledge about governance issues to carry out their roles in a manner which is fully compliant with the relevant legislation; • properly scrutinise and oversee the work of those with primary responsibility for your financial management. 	
<p>You declare that your organisation, Directors or Partner or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control have not been convicted of any of the following offences in the last 5 years:</p> <p>(a) conspiracy;</p> <p>(b) corruption;</p> <p>(c) bribery (common law offence);</p> <p>(d) bribery within the meaning of section 1, 2 or 6 of the Bribery Act 2010, or section 113 of the Representation of the People Act 1983;</p> <p>(e) fraud, including - i. cheating the Revenue; ii. conspiracy to defraud; iii. fraud or theft; iv. fraudulent trading; v. defrauding the Customs/HMRC; vi. an offence in connection with taxation in the European Union; vii. destroying, defacing or concealing of documents; viii. fraud within the meaning of section 2, 3 or 4 of the Fraud Act 2006; or ix. the possession of articles for use in frauds, or the making, adapting, supplying or offering to supply articles for use in;</p> <p>(f) any offence under sections 44 to 46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007</p> <p>(g) money laundering;</p> <p>(h) an offence in connection with the proceeds of criminal conduct;</p> <p>(i) any other offence within the meaning of Article 57(1) of the Public Contracts Directive.</p>	

Please provide details of **any other** funding, both capital and revenue, (including other NRW or Welsh Government funding streams) from any organisation to support the Project as detailed in Schedule 2. You must include details of capital items, posts funded, amounts of other funding and source of funding. This includes applications that are pending.

Type of Funding and Purpose	Amount of funding received (including pending applications) £	% of post cost/capital item	Source of funding
<i>e.g. 3 full time development officer posts</i>	<i>£150,000</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>Big Lottery</i>
<i>e.g. Purchase of capital equipment</i>	<i>£30,000</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>Barclays Bank</i>

SCHEDULE 5**OTHER INFORMATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS****Third party obligations**

- (a) Nothing in the Conditions imposes any liability on us in respect of any liability incurred by you to any third party (including, without limit, employees and contractors).
- (b) You must indemnify us against any liabilities, claims, proceedings, demands, losses, costs and expenses suffered or incurred by us directly or indirectly arising as a result of or in connection with any failure by you to perform fully or in part any obligation you may have to a third party.

Intellectual property rights and publicity

- (a) Nothing in these Conditions transfers to us any rights in any intellectual property created by you as a result of the Project.
- (b) You must acknowledge our support in relation to the Project. Such acknowledgement(s) must be in a form approved by us and must comply with the NRW branding guidelines.
- (c) You agree that from the date of this letter until 5 years from the date of the final payment of Funding we may include details about your organisation and business, the Funding and the Project in NRW promotional materials and you further agree to cooperate with our reasonable requests to achieve the production of such materials.

Information

- (a) You acknowledge that we are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOIA"), the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the "EIR") and the Data Protection Act 2018 (the "DPA").
- (b) You acknowledge that we are responsible for determining in our absolute discretion whether:
 - (i) to disclose any information which we have obtained under or in connection with the Funding to the extent that we are required to disclose such information to a person making a disclosure request under the FOIA or the EIR; and/or
 - (ii) any information is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA or the EIR.
- (c) You acknowledge that we may share any data you provide to us with fraud prevention agencies and third parties for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud. Any personal data we collect will be managed in accordance with our Privacy Notice

Buying goods and services

If you decide to buy any goods and/or services to deliver the Purposes, they must be purchased in a competitive and sustainable way to demonstrate that you have achieved best value in the use of public funds.

Giving Notice

- (a) Where notice is required to be given under these Conditions it must be in writing (this does not include email but may include a letter attached to an email) and must prominently display the following heading:

“Notice in relation to the [description and reference]”.

- (b) The address and contact details for the purposes of serving notice under these Conditions are as follows

You: The Project Manager at your address

Us: NRW at grants.enquiries@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk or NRW at Maes y Ffynnon, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW

- (c) A notice will be deemed to have been properly given as follows: -

By email attachment: upon transmission or the next working day if after 4pm or on a weekend or public holiday.

Prepaid first-class post: on the second working day after the date of posting.

By hand: upon delivery to the address or the next working day if after 4pm or on a weekend or public holiday.

Equal Opportunities

You must apply a policy of equal opportunities as employers, as users of volunteers, and as providers of services, regardless of race, gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, religion and belief, age or any disability.

Welsh Language

Where the Purposes include or relate to the provision of services in Wales, they must be provided in such a way as to not treat the Welsh language less favourably than English, in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

The Environment Act (Wales) includes a requirement for NRW to embed the principles of sustainable management of natural resources throughout the way we work. NRW Grant recipients must also apply these principles throughout their grant funded work to maximise our contribution to the well-being goals and pursue sustainable management of natural resources.

General

- (a) If at any time any of these Conditions is deemed to be or becomes invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect under any law, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions will not in any way be affected or impaired.
- (b) No failure or delay on our part to exercise any power, right or remedy under these Conditions will operate as a waiver of any such power, right or remedy or preclude its further exercise or the exercise of any other power, right or remedy. The powers, rights or remedies hereby provided are cumulative and not exclusive of any powers, rights or remedies provided by law.
- (c) Any amendment or variation to these Conditions must be in writing and signed by us and you in the same manner as this letter.
- (d) You may not assign or otherwise dispose of in any way your rights, benefits, obligations or duties under these Conditions.
- (e) Conditions in items 23 to 28, items 35 to 40, Schedule 5 Intellectual Property Rights and Publicity, Schedule 5 Information, Schedule 5 General and other Conditions which by implication need to continue in force beyond the final payment of Funding will so continue in full force and effect.
- (f) The award of the Funding is to you alone and no one else is entitled to make any claim in respect of the Funding or seek to rely on or enforce any of these Conditions.
- (g) These Conditions are to be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Wales and England as applied in Wales and the parties hereto submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Wales and England.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix C

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

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Planning & City Regeneration

Directorate: Place

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) National Grant Partnership Programme

The Council has been offered £108,259 in grant funding from Natural Resources Wales. This NRW grant funding aims to support the implementation of the Gower AONB Management Plan, which underpins Swansea Councils statutory duties. The work will be split between AONB, Rights of Way, Nature Conservation and Strategic Planning Teams.

I am seeking retrospective authority to apply for the funding.

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

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix C

Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

As this is an offer of funding, there has been no external consultation, however, close working between the 4 Teams involved has meant that a costed project was submitted in response to the bid. This consists of a number of separate projects, managed by the Teams – they will be consulting and engaging with groups and communities as appropriate, as the projects are delivered. (Most of the work of these Teams is carried out through partnership delivery anyway.) At this stage, it is not possible nor appropriate to carry out engagements or consultations.

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

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes No

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

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

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

If this offer of funding is not accepted, there will be impacts on the work of CCS around the AONB. This will include loss of Blue Flag status for Gower beaches, impact on local tourism, impact on environmental status of Gower, and reputational impact due to failure of statutory duties to protect AONB.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix C

Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

This is an annual offer of funding from Natural Resources Wales, and does not directly involve engagement or consultation – it does support the implementation of the Gower AONB Management Plan, which has been formally adopted by CCS.

The work of the AONB Team to protect Gower includes some awareness raising and engagement – this is not targeted at specific groups, but is open to all. The approaches, techniques and scale will vary between projects, but will always be guided by best practice, and always seeks to widen inclusion and foster wider community engagement.

The other Teams (Nature Conservation, Countryside Access and Strategic Planning Teams) have a similar mix of statutory and engagement/consultation roles, and operate through established partnerships and policies, which seek to widen inclusion and foster wider community engagement.

The funding will support the delivery of Public Service Boards (PSB) Well-being Objectives, and fundamentally supports the wellbeing of future generations..

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The outcome of the screening exercise suggests that the application/acceptance of the offer of funding will not have an adverse effect on the people or communities of Swansea, and that it is likely that the application/acceptance will have a low positive impact on them.

The funding will support the delivery of the AONB Management Plan, which includes proposals to increase the provision of access facilities, visitor information and raising awareness of environmental issues, and the special qualities of Gower. This is available to all, free of charge, and is intended to be as inclusive and open as practically possible.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations has been a core part of the practices of the Teams involved for several years, with our activity and ways of working structured around its themes.

There are risks if the funding is not accepted – to staffing, to the provision of services and facilities, and to the reputation of Swansea Council. For example, the funding underpins the annual Blue Flag awards, which are used in the Councils tourism promotion material.

The cumulative impact of the application/acceptance of the offer of NRW funding is seen as positive – for the work and reputation of the Council, and for the people of Swansea.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix C

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

Screening completed by:
Name: Mike Scott
Job title: Gower AONB Officer
Date: 20 th October 2021
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Phillip Holmes
Position: Head of Planning and City Regeneration
Date: 22 nd October 2021

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

The City & County of Swansea

NGA1 (v15) Notification / Approval for grant applications

THE NGA1 APPLIES EQUALLY TO HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS

1. This is to request approval from the Chief Finance Officer:S151 Officer to apply for the following grant

Awarding Body	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Scheme name and purpose	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) National Grant Partnership Programme NRW and Swansea Council share statutory duties to conserve and enhance natural beauty, and to promote access and recreation. This grant funding aims to support the implementation of the Gower AONB Management Plan, which underpins these duties. The work will be split between AONB, Rights of Way, Nature Conservation and Strategic Planning Teams.
Amount of grant £	NRW has indicated funding of £108,250 is available, composed of two separate funding components: 1. £68,250 revenue grant funding at 75% 2. £40,000 capital grant funding at 100%
Period grant is being sought	The grant offer covers the period April 2021 to March 2022.

Ward Member notification -

When the grant award is £10,000 or over, please attach a copy of the email to the relevant ward members notifying them of the scheme. Where the ward has not been determined notify the Cabinet Member instead.

Cabinet Approval -

Cabinet approval is required when the grant award is £75,000 or over or is part of a larger scheme where total grants are over £75,000. Please complete the points below.

Has Cabinet approved the submission to the funder – NO	The deadlines for the submission did not allow time for Cabinet to approve the bid. A retrospective NGA process was agreed.
Confirm the grant application conforms to the following Council Policy and Priority – https://www.swansea.gov.uk/staffnet/corporatepriorities	Yes
Confirm the relevant Cabinet Member has signed the application on page 3 OR provided an email showing their approval of both the application and the NGA1.	Yes – e-mail

2. Is CCS acting as a Grant Recipient Body (see AI16 for definition of a GRB) for an external organisation: **No**
3. The nominated officer confirms that this grant **will** require current or future financial contribution from the Council.
4. The nominated officer confirms that this grant **does not** require a continuation of funding by the Council after the grant period has expired.
5. Does the scheme involve building, improving or buying a property? **No**
6. Have all IT and Legal issues been identified and reported to/discussed with the relevant IT and Legal officers. **Yes**
7. Is any match funding required - **Yes**
8. Is the match funding in place –**Yes**
9. Please complete the following financial information:

	Current year £	Year 2 £	Year 3 £	Year 4 £	Year 5 £	Total £	Ongoing £
Total project cost:	£131,000						
Capital	£40,000						
Revenue	£91,000						
Grant applied for:	£108,250						
Capital	40,000						
Revenue	£68,250						
Deficit	£22,750						

10. How will the deficit be funded?

Existing Revenue budget Code:
 01/250/25001 (AONB),
 01/250/25004 (NCT),
 01/251/25005 (RoW),
 01/251/25035 (Planning Policy)


11. Will any savings occur as a result of implementing the project?

No - However, it will enable additional work to be undertaken which will support the wider work of the Teams involved.

12. Will any further costs be incurred in addition to those relating directly to the project? **No**

13. If there are No additional costs, please explain the reasons why e.g. no future staff costs, one-off event, no asset to maintain etc. **The grant offered will support existing Teams and planned work, and will not result in additional liabilities or assets.**

14 Authorisation

Signature approvals	Approval	Signature/email	Date
Cabinet Member (for schemes £75,000 or over)	I approve this application; where appropriate I have consulted and have the approval of the relevant Ward Member(s).	Cllr David Hopkins Email approval	07/10/2021
Nominated Officer (Mike Scott)	I confirm this application conforms to all internal procedures including current spending restrictions.	Mike Scott	05/10/2021
Responsible Officer - Head of Service / Director	I confirm this application conforms to all internal procedures including current spending restrictions.	Phil Holmes Email approval	05/10/2021
Accountant (name)	I have examined the financial implications of this scheme and am satisfied that adequate resources exist within current budgets to meet funding/ongoing contributions.	Adele Harris	07/10/2021
Section 151 Officer or nominated deputy	Approved / Disapproved		08/10/2021

14. ATTACH BID / GRANT APPLICATION FORM WITH THIS FORM

Agenda Item 11.



Report of the Leader

Cabinet – 16 December 2021

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committees Update

Purpose:	To update members on the implementation of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee pursuant to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and to seek approval from members where applicable for the City and County of Swansea Council's ("the Council") involvement.
Policy Framework:	The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021.
Consultation:	Legal, Finance & Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet: 1) Note the current work streams associated with the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and the work currently being undertaken by officers to facilitate such work; 2) Note the allocation of operational responsibilities and the proposals set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report; 3) Note how it is proposed that the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and the various subcommittees are proposed to be established; 4) Note the proposals for the elected members so referenced at paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of this report to sit on the said Corporate Joint Committee and sub-committees. 5) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to agree any documents necessary to implement the requirements of this report.
Report Author:	Phil Roberts
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the LGE Act”) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). The LGE Act provides for the establishment of CJCs through Regulations (CJC Establishment Regulations).
- 1.2 The CJC will 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. In contrast to other joint committee arrangements, CJCs are separate corporate bodies which can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions. The South West Wales CJC will comprise Carmarthenshire County Council, the City and County of Swansea Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Constituent Councils”). In respect of some functions, both Pembrokeshire National Park and Brecon Beacons National Park will also be members (as set out below).
- 1.3 On the 20th May 2021, a report was presented to Cabinet providing an update to members on the implementation of CJCs, where it was agreed that:
 - (a) *delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader) to agree an application for grant funding to be made to Welsh Government for funding to establish the South West Wales CJC and to accept any grant offer that maybe made by Welsh Government (whether made to this Council or to a participating authority in the South West Wales CJC);*
 - (b) *delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to enter into dialogue with authorities who will comprise the South West Wales CJC to develop proposals for establishing the South West Wales CJC; and*
 - (c) *a report be brought back to members once dialogue has been completed for the South West Wales CJC*
- 1.4 Since the Cabinet meeting officers have been liaising with our neighbouring authorities and have convened a group comprising Chief Executives, Directors of Environment, Finance Directors (S151 Officers) and Monitoring Officers that meets on a fortnightly basis to progress these discussions. Each of these groups have also established working groups in order to progress various matters.
- 1.5 As a result of these discussions, officers are now in a position to present a report to members to highlight ways in which the CJC may be constituted in order to meet legislative requirements. Members will note that the CJC has already been established by legislation. The purpose of this report is to set out the current proposed arrangements.

2. Remit of the CJC

- 2.1 The CJC has prescribed functions related to the preparation of the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan and the exercise of Economic Wellbeing powers. These are set out specifically as follows:
- (a) Economic well-being (section 76 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)
 - (b) Transport policies (section 108(1)(a) and (2A)(a) of Part 2 of the Transport Act 2000)
 - (c) Strategic development plan (Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004)
- 2.2 It should be noted that the underlying policy intent in the development of the legislation which underpins the CJC is that a CJC should be treated as a member of the 'local government family' and, where appropriate, should largely be subject to the same powers and duties as local authorities in the way that they operate. Work continues to co-develop the legislative framework including through the recent consultation on the draft Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2021. CJCs, as public bodies undertaking public functions, are subject to the necessary public body duties that already exist in legislation. This includes the Sustainable Development and Well-being Duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ("the WFG Act") and the duty to prepare and publish a strategy for contributing to the eradication of child poverty in Wales under the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 ("the 2010 Measure").

3. CJC Operational Responsibilities

- 3.1 CJCs will also be required to appoint a number of statutory "executive officers" similar to the roles within principal councils (e.g. Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer). The intention is for CJCs to be able to directly employ, commission services or have relevant staff loaned from a constituent council to fulfil these roles as the CJC may determine. It is also intended that all executive roles within a CJC will be afforded the same statutory protection and indemnity as statutory officers within principal councils. The provisions in law relating to staffing which apply to principal councils will also apply to CJCs. These include TUPE and staff transfers and Trade Union relations. The CJC Establishment regulations require the CJC to have standing orders relating to employment (e.g. procedures to be determined by the CJC relating to the appointment/dismissal of officers and disciplinary action). Staff employed by the CJC are to be appointed on the same or similar terms and conditions (including remuneration) as officers appointed to one of the constituent councils undertaking substantially similar or the same responsibilities.

- 3.2 In light of the CJC's duty to appoint a number of statutory officers and to perform certain functions set out in regulations, as advised by Chief Executives, Leaders are minded to apportion responsibilities initially on the basis set out below:

Function of the CJC	Constituent Authority
Chief Executive	TBC
S151 (Chief Finance Officer)	Carmarthenshire
Monitoring Officer	Neath Port Talbot
Democratic Services function	Neath Port Talbot
Scrutiny Services function	Neath Port Talbot
Governance and Audit function	Pembrokeshire
Human Resources function	Neath Port Talbot
ICT and Data Protection function	Neath Port Talbot
Communications function	Swansea

- 3.3 An agreement will be entered into between the CJC and the authorities for the Constituent Council staff to be made available to the CJC and they will be acting as if CJC staff when carrying out functions for the CJC. The members of staff that are affected will be consulted to seek their agreement to the additional obligations.
- 3.4 Where a conflict of interest arises from any matter being dealt with by the CJC and the Council, the Monitoring Officer will be required to advise the CJC with the Deputy Monitoring Officer advising the Council.
- 3.5 The staff made available to the CJC will be provided at cost, as more particularly described in the Financial Impacts below.
- 3.6 The support services provided will be on an ad-hoc basis as and when support is required, and will be carried out by staff within their normal contracted hours, and Chief Executives of respective authorities will keep such matters under review to address workload pressures. There will need to be consideration as to whether additional remuneration is appropriate. In some instances there will be a need to increase capacity to cater for the additional workload.
- 3.7 The decision regarding appointment of the above staff to the positions within the CJC will be for the CJC to make. Members are asked therefore to note the specific roles for officers. Separate reports will be brought to members in due course to consider any officer indemnities that will be required in this regard.

4. The Governance of the CJC

- 4.1 In order to meet its legislative obligations identified above, the CJC will have decision making processes. These are prescribed in the legislation.

- 4.2 The members of the CJC are:
- (a) the executive leaders of
 - a. The City and County of Swansea
 - b. Carmarthenshire County Council
 - c. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
 - d. Pembrokeshire County Council
 - (b) A member of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority , and
 - (c) A member of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
- 4.3 The CJC members are entitled to vote in relation to any matter to be decided by the CJC, except that the Brecon Beacons National Park and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (together the “NPAs”) members may only vote where the matter to be decided is about strategic planning functions, unless the council members of the CJC choose, with the agreement of both the NPAs, to extend the NPA membership of the CJC to include other functions. At this stage, Leaders do not propose that voting rights be extended to the NPA’s in respect of other areas.
- 4.4 In order to implement the legislative requirements, it will be proposed that the CJC will have four sub committees, with the chair of each sub-committee being drawn from the Constituent Councils and shared between the four authorities. It is currently proposed that the following sub-committees be established, although the decisions as to establishing a sub-committee and membership is for the CJC itself to take:

Sub Committee	Lead Chief Executive	Political Lead
Regional Transport Planning	Swansea	Neath Port Talbot
Economic Well Being – regional economic development	Carmarthenshire	Swansea
Strategic Development Planning	Pembrokeshire	Carmarthen
Economic Well Being- regional energy strategy	Neath Port Talbot	Pembrokeshire

- 4.5 It is proposed that the representatives appointed to each Sub Committee shall be comprised of the Cabinet members of the four Constituent Councils in whose portfolio the work sits. The Sub-Committee then being chaired by the Leader and supported by a chief executive from the authorities mentioned above.
- 4.6 It is also proposed that a Programme Board be established (a decision ultimately for the CJC), made up of officers to support the Chief Executive and members of the CJC. This Programme Board will be the means by which collaboration across the Constituent authorities will take place, informing and supporting the Chief Executive and the CJC and implementing the resultant decisions. It will be chaired by the Chief Executive and will as a minimum comprise Regional Directors of

Environment and Regeneration and shall have responsibility for the strategic coordination and direction, authorisation and approval of programmes, projects and initiatives, high level budget management and progress review. Various sub groups of officers will then be established to deliver the operational requirements, with groups set up in respect of Transport, Planning/land use, Economic Wellbeing and Energy.

- 4.7 It should be noted that no member of a CJC shall be entitled to any additional remuneration as a result of membership of the CJC but any expenses incurred in attendance or participation shall be met by Constituent Councils or other authorities of which they are a member.

5. Co-Option

- 5.1 The CJC Establishment Regulations provide for the appointment by CJC members of other persons as members of a sub-committee of the CJC and to participate in other activities of the CJC. The reasons as to why a CJC may co-opt a particular participant are broad and include considerations such as to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the CJC, to enable local input or to provide for local representation and/or to provide specialist expertise on specific issues.
- 5.2 Guidance from Welsh Government states that co-optees may be drawn from a variety of different backgrounds and sectors based on the relevant skills and experience required, for example Further and Higher Education Institutions, Third sector representatives, Business or Sector specific organisations or private individuals with expertise that may be useful to the CJC, for example to give evidence or provide advice. It is expected that CJCs would work under the same social partnership approach that exists between trade unions and principal councils. CJCs should consider how they involve trade unions in their work and in the decisions they make. This involvement may be through formal co-option of trade unions or co-option of a trade union representative on to the CJC and / or one or more of its sub-committees (if it elects to have sub-committees) or through less formal arrangements.
- 5.3 Early discussions have already taken place within the constituent councils with regard to the involvement of other potential co-opted members within the CJC, including representatives from the Health Boards, Higher Education colleagues and representatives of the private sector. It is considered desirable to reflect the principles underpinning what is working well within the City Deal into the CJC arrangements. For members to be aware, a co-opted member is someone who has been appointed to the CJC or its sub-committee and may or may not have voting rights. However, there is also the possibility for advisers, which have no formal status but are merely there to provide advice to the members of the CJC. For example, Health Board Partners will be co-optees with an advisory role.

- 5.4 The Joint Working Agreement for the Swansea Bay City Deal required the establishment of an Economic Strategy Board (ESB), membership of which had to be agreed by both the UK and Welsh Governments. The Terms of Reference for the ESB state that ‘members shall be appointed through an open recruitment and nomination process’. It is considered that the complexity involved in integrating the City Deal and Corporate Joint Committee requirements immediately represents unacceptable risks that the City Deal Programme would be disrupted – just at a point where most of the workstreams have received governmental approval and are moving into delivery. The City Deal and CJC governance structures are very different and it is considered that alignment is an appropriate approach in the first instance. In terms of the arrangements for private sector input to the CJC, it is proposed to invite those participating in the City Deal ESB to form the core of the private sector advisory board for the CJC. However, the membership will need to be expanded to ensure that it is reflective of the considerably broader scope of work associated with the CJC. It is not thought appropriate to involve the private sector advisory board in the development of the strategic development plan because of conflict of interest considerations. The intention is that this board will support the CJC in an advisory capacity only, to support the growth aspirations of the region and to ensure we remain competitive and have access to all available sources of funding.
- 5.5 Private sector representatives would not sit within the sub committees established but will instead advise the Programme Board. As stated above, private sector representatives may either be co-opted to the CJC or alternatively to act as independent advisors to the CJC. Previous discussions have concluded that private sector involvement should be in an advisory capacity. Whilst the officer groups will remain distinct from the private sector representatives, there remains a need to ensure that private sector representatives cover all topic areas covered by the CJC.

6. Governance and Audit Functions

- 6.1 The CJC is required to establish a sub-committee to be known as the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee.
- 6.2 The terms of reference of the sub-committee are stated in the CJC Establishment Regulations as:
- (a) review and scrutinise the CJC’s financial affairs;
 - (b) make reports and recommendations in relation to the CJC’s financial affairs;
 - (c) review and assess the risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements of the CJC;
 - (d) make reports and recommendations to the CJC on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements;
 - (e) oversee the CJC’s internal and external audit arrangements;
 - (f) review any financial statements prepared by the CJC;
 - (g) exercise such other functions as the CJC may specify.

- 6.3 The CJC Establishment Regulations state that membership of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee is at least one lay member and at least 2/3rds membership from the Constituent Councils. However this will be subject to change under the LGE Act next year. The Governance and Audit Sub-Committee may not exercise its functions if the membership of the sub-committee contravenes the membership as set out above and therefore the lay member(s) will need to be in place in order to meet as a sub-committee. The draft Guidance provides that it is anticipated that the sub-committee will be required to meet once in every calendar year as a minimum.
- 6.4 The chair of the governance and audit sub-committee must be a lay member.
- 6.5 Accordingly, it is proposed that a Governance and Audit Sub-Committee is established by the CJC comprising of Lay Member(s) to be drawn from constituent Councils Governance and Audit Committees (or externally advertised if this is not possible) and members from each Constituent Council. This will ensure that the Governance and Audit Committee complies with proposed changes to the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 to have at least one third lay members. The appointment(s) will be made by the CJC.
- 6.6 A report will be presented to Full Council seeking authority to nominate the Swansea Council Representative(s) to the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee in due course.

7. Standards/Ethical Framework

- 7.1 It will be important that members and co-opted members within a CJC are subject to the same standards of conduct as members of constituent councils. On application of the ethical framework a CJC will be able to adopt its own code of conduct for members. Until this point its members (including co-opted participants from constituent councils) will be subject to the relevant code of conduct of their local authorities. During this time members and co-opted participants from local authorities will be required to register any personal interests they have in the business of the CJC in their relevant principal council's register of interests by providing written notification to their council's Monitoring Officer.
- 7.2 Work is ongoing to finalise the arrangements in terms of constituting a Standards regime for the CJC.

8. Scrutiny

- 8.1 Working with its Constituent Councils the CJC will be required to put in place appropriate overview and scrutiny arrangements. Draft Welsh Government Guidance states that it is expected that the scrutiny arrangements will be proportionate to the scale of the functions the CJC

undertakes.

- 8.2 Scrutiny will be an important part of the democratic accountability of the CJC. It will be important for CJCs to consult on and agree the arrangements with their constituent councils. Welsh Government are currently consulting on requiring a CJC to make arrangements for one or more of its constituent councils to scrutinize the work of the CJC as part of the consultation on the CJC (General)(Wales) Regulations 2022.
- 8.3 In considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, Constituent Councils and CJCs should give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils. The clear aim and ambition however must be to create, facilitate and encourage a clear democratic link back to the constituent councils.
- 8.4 CJC members and staff will have a duty to provide information to the scrutiny committee; attend committee meetings if requested to do so; and consider or respond to any report or recommendations made by a committee within the agreed arrangements and which relate to the CJC.
- 8.5 Accordingly it is proposed that a CJC Scrutiny Committee comprising three elected members from each Constituent Council be established to fulfil the Overview and Scrutiny Functions associated with CJCs. A future report will be taken to Full Council to nominate the Swansea elected members to the CJC Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 8.6 It will be important that there is no overlap in scrutiny but ultimately members of Swansea Council Scrutiny will still be able to scrutinise the impact of the CJC on the Swansea locality.

9. Constitution

- 9.1 The CJC is required to meet by the end of January 2022 in order to establish its budget for the 2022/2023 financial year.
- 9.2 At this first meeting, the Constitution for the CJC will require approval, which in essence sets out the overarching structure of the CJC and its various sub-committees so that key decisions can be made.
- 9.3 The purpose of the Constitution is to:
 - (a) enable the CJC to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations, including its constituent councils and public bodies;
 - (b) support the active involvement of citizens in the process of CJC decision-making;
 - (c) provide a framework for good governance;

- (d) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- (e) create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;
- (f) ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- (g) ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions; and
- (h) provide a means of improving the delivery of service to the community.

9.4 A draft constitution for the CJC is currently being worked on by legal officers.

10. Integrated Assessment Implications

10.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate** unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

10.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

10.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

10.1.3 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required as the setting up of the CJC is underpinned by legislation and that this report is to establish governance arrangements in accordance with legislation.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 Regulations do not prescribe any formula basis for funding of CJCs. It will be for each CJC to decide how the budget requirement will be met by the constituent principal councils (and the National Park Authority in the case of the strategic planning functions). In the absence of unanimous agreement on the amount payable, the regulations provide for the amounts payable by the Constituent Councils and National Park member(s) to be directed by Welsh Ministers.

11.2 CJCs will be the accountable body for the funding provided by constituent councils and/or directly received from any other funding streams. CJCs will also be able to pay towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred in relation to carrying out their functions as they may determine, and to charge fees relating their specified functions. The Establishment Regulations also enable CJCs to provide assistance by way of grant or contributions to support functions exercisable by them. The funding from constituent principal councils will be held and managed by CJCs and it is expected that they will be required to manage the funds under the same financial management arrangements as local government bodies in Wales.

11.3 The CJC has an unlimited levy power meaning the financial contributions from respective Councils must be set by 14th February 2022. However, practically this contribution should be set no later than 31st January 2022, with an indicative figure split being considered by the end of December 2021.

11.4 Future costs including the formal levy from the CJC will be built into the budget setting round for 2022-2023.

12. Legal Implications

12.1 Part 5 of the LGE Act provides for the establishment, through regulations, of CJCs and compliance will be had with this and other legislative obligations in the establishment of CJCs. In particular the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations came into force on 1st April 2021 and set out an initial framework, to include for example, that the CJC should be established and the timeframes for the discharging of specific functions. However, a series of further Regulations are being drafted and consulted on by Welsh Government. The Welsh Government has concluded its consultation on the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2021 which are now in force. The Welsh Government is also currently consulting on draft statutory guidance. A third

stage of Regulations will put in place further legislation for the operation of the CJs and its functions, which Welsh Government are currently consulting on. A fourth stage will put in place any remaining provisions which a CJ might need.

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report – 20 May 2021 -

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s72815/13%20Joint%20working%20report.pdf?LLL=0>

Appendices:

None

Agenda Item 12.



Report of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration and Tourism

Cabinet – 16 December 2021

Castle Square Regeneration FPR7

Purpose:	In accordance with Financial Procedure Rule No.7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) - to commit and authorise the addition of the Castle Square scheme to the Capital Programme, and report back on public and stakeholder consultation.
Policy Framework:	Swansea Local Development Plan (2019), Swansea Central Area Regeneration Framework (2016), Regenerating Our City for Well Being and Wildlife (2021) Corporate Priority Creating a Vibrant and Viable City and Economy Council Constitution – Financial Procedure Rules
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, Highways and Transportation, Culture and Tourism, City Centre Management, Planning.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Castle Square Regeneration scheme is added to the capital programme in line with Financial Procurement Rule 7 to progress to delivery during 2022/23. 2) Subject to formal confirmation of a grant offer, the council accepts the offer of grant funding and reduces the call against the capital contingency. 3) Revenue income from the scheme will be ring-fenced for ongoing maintenance and for a sinking fund for Castle Square.
Report Author:	Gail Evans
Finance Officers:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Castle Square is a key public space in the city centre at a strategic location to support the Kingsway, Oxford Street, Wind Street and the link to Copr Bay. It is currently tired, dated and dominated by hard landscaping with little green space and this report sets out a new scheme which looks to significantly increase green space, introduce new commercial units to add vibrancy and vitality into the heart of the city and contribute to its economic recovery.
- 1.2 Development managers Spider management along with a multi-disciplinary team of consultants were appointed by the Council in 2019 to deliver a regeneration programme for Castle Square. The first stage of an assessment of feasibility was completed in 2020 and in February 2021 Cabinet agreed the scheme principles and authorised budget to progress to the next stages of detailed design (RIBA stages 2/3), public consultation, and planning submission.
- 1.3 This report sets out the RIBA stage 2 estimated scheme cost, maintenance costs, potential grant support, anticipated programme and seeks a budget and authorisation to take the scheme forward to delivery. The report also summarises the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation exercise which has been undertaken, which has helped to further inform the development of more detailed designs for the scheme.

2.0 Background and design progress

- 2.1 The overall aim for the regeneration of Castle Square is to increase visitor dwell time in the City centre and create a step change in the quality of its public realm. A refreshed public space with an appropriate scale of commercial uses will create a new destination which will make it more active, distinctive and vibrant in line with other regeneration investment which is taking place in the City centre.
- 2.2 The lead consultants Spider management have engaged a range of specialist sub consultants including structural engineers, heritage and archaeological consultants, lighting and landscape consultants to further develop the detail of the scheme and to further validate cost allowances. Designs for the scheme have been refined in response to initial survey, utility searches and desk-based assessments. Feedback from public consultations and various stakeholder consultations have also been used to inform the design.
- 2.3 The scheme has been refined through stage 2 design development, but remains based on the overall assumption of retaining the stepped amphitheatre form of the Square, retaining trees, removing the existing the fountain, and introducing a range of key interventions as summarised briefly below and in images and plans contained in Appendix 1.

- **Enhanced Green Infrastructure-** A greener Castle Square will have multi-functional benefits for residents and contribute positively to creating an attractive destination space for visitors. A planting scheme has been developed which will incorporate new trees, green roofs, raingardens, and more accessible landscaped areas. The scheme will also achieve the green space factor tool score identified in the Council's adopted green infrastructure strategy (Regenerating Our City for Wildlife and Well-being, 2021).
- **Café restaurant pavilions-**Two new commercial units are incorporated in the scheme which can be subdivided, subject to demand, with one located in the steps area and one on the corner near 'Zara'. It is proposed that layered timber and pleated metal roof forms are used as the dominant architectural theme for the respective commercial units, which will also provide for green infrastructure. The roof lines have also now been extended laterally in lieu of having freestanding canopy structures.
- **Activating the Square-** The inclusion of a water jet feature at ground level will introduce a new visual focal point and play/activity feature in the Square replacing the existing fixed water feature. The revised off centre position in the current revised scheme provides greater accessibility, will allow scope for complementary pop up uses and a range of other events can still be accommodated to activate the space.
- **Placemaking and Identity-** A new high quality floor-scape upgrade is proposed which will help to create a distinctive sense of place and identity. The current costed scheme provides for a combination of sustainably re-using York stone material with new granite insets. The highly patterned approach presented is a departure from the Council's existing material palette and needs to be supported with a realistic maintenance regime. Other interventions included in the concept scheme include contemporary lighting and digital art features to further animate the space.
- **Integration and connecting public space-** In general the raised planter areas will need to be retained to avoid impacting on mature tree roots, though these areas will still be accessible. New planter edges will be installed at bench height and alongside suitable bollard structures which will provide suitable protection from vehicle intrusion into the Square. Subject to gaining support and potential financial contribution from adjacent commercial operators, the scheme also highlights scope for external seating and dining in purpose-built pocket park areas on Temple Street and Princess Way. Resurfacing of the Caer Street and Castle Bailey Street carriageway in buff asphalt is proposed to improve integration of these adjacent areas. The design team have also explored the potential of improved physical integration of the space on Caer Street through narrowing

the carriageway, allowing additional external seating opportunities along the commercial frontage.

3.0 Equality and Engagement Implications and outcomes

Integrated Impact Assessment Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals.' Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, careers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 3.3 In order to comply with the relevant equality regulations, an Integrated Impact Assessment report has been developed (Appendix 2). This shows that overall the redevelopment of Castle Square will have very positive impacts on protected characteristic groups and will have further positive economic/social impacts for Swansea as a new and exciting leisure destination for residents and visitors to the City.

Public and Stakeholder engagement

- 3.4 Whilst the pandemic presented a number of challenges to undertaking a traditional form of public engagement event, during February and March 2021 a range of media was employed to gather public views and inform the detailed design process through RIBA stage 2. This included press releases, notices on site, a video clip feature on the large on site TV screen, social media, web site links, email consultation with commercial traders with and through the BID group.

3.5 235 online feedback forms confirmed general support for the principles of the scheme, and the results of this are outlined briefly below:

- 95% agreed with proposals for more greenspace and there was support for a diverse range of types of landscaping (75%), with trees and shrub, wildflower (61%) and accessible lawned areas (56%).
- 69% agreed with the proposal for introducing small cafes or restaurant units set within an attractive new family friendly space with canopies.

Facebook pages also attracted 156 likes, LinkedIn 90 likes and Twitter 36 likes.

3.6 Consultation with key stakeholders and council officers have highlighted a number of matters which required further survey, investigation, re-evaluation and discussion with the consultancy team through the development of designs in stage 2. Key points raised by stakeholders, public and groups such as Design Commission for Wales, Cadw, Accessibility Groups and Wectu/Police/Resilience are set out in detail in the Integrated Impact Assessment. In response to the points raised, the architects have explored a range of design solutions for the buildings, public realm, landscaping and infrastructure needs of the scheme. Feedback received during the consultation has been and continues to be reviewed and addressed during design development of the scheme.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 **Current funding and programme** –An initial detailed work up cost was approved in February 2021, and this is currently supporting the development of the scheme through to RIBA stages 2 and 3 (including detailed design, surveys, consultation, tenant discussions and planning permission). Key milestones in the programme include planning permission during May/June 2022 and construction commencing in August 2022 with a view to the completion of the scheme in August 2023.

4.2 **Scheme Cost** – Stage 2 of this commission has enabled further validation of cost allowances for the whole scheme. This sum includes costs of demolition of the existing fountain, reconstruction and removal of perimeter walls, new paving, tree planting, landscaping, lighting, street furniture, a new TV screen, a new water jet feature and SuDS. The construction of two commercial units are also included in that estimate, along with consultancy fees, inflation allowances, cost contingency and additional integration works on Caer Street and Castle Bailey Street.

4.3 Project management provision is required from both the Property Development team and the Economic Development and External Funding team where both units will capitalise staff time based on completed timesheets recording officer time allocated to the project.

- 4.4 **Funding support-** Whilst the substantive capital costs relating to the scheme will have to be met by the Council, grant funding support has recently been provisionally approved for the scheme and the availability of this grant will reduce capital funding requirement for the scheme. However, at this stage, this grant is subject to final approval. Consequently, this report recommends that the Council accepts the offer of funding and reduces the call against the capital contingency. There may also be other public sector funding sources, that can further assist in supporting the delivery of the wider public realm and green infrastructure elements of the development.
- 4.5 **Revenue** - There are potential income streams from the scheme's proposed commercial units. Due to the size and location of the units, it is anticipated that they will attract significant market interest and revenue, most likely from local/regional operators. However, this is assuming that the market returns to a level of normality over the next 12 months. Further revenue contributions could come from staged events, markets and revenues from the TV screen.
- 4.6 **Management and Maintenance needs-** To retain the quality and character of this significant investment in the City's urban fabric and this high profile location, the scheme should have realistic and affordable resources to support future maintenance and management implications. Based on the current available specifications for this scheme, council highways, street cleansing and lighting teams have highlighted initial estimates for ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Square. This needs to be considered in the context of existing maintenance spend on the Square, and further evaluation needs to be undertaken as designs are developed. From these initial estimates, it is anticipated that there may be a shortfall between the annual rental income from the commercial units and the annual costs of future maintenance of the Square. Consequently, this report recommends that the revenue income from commercial uses and other activity in the Square will be ring-fenced to support its ongoing maintenance and that an appropriate sinking fund will need to be established. The Council will need to consider budget requirements and look at funding mechanisms to fully support future maintenance needs for Castle Square.

5.0 **Benefits and Risks of the scheme**

- 5.1 **Benefits summary:** The scheme has the following key benefits for the City Centre:
- The scheme complements and builds on the momentum established by other recent new investments in the City centre- Swansea Central/Copr Bay, Wind St. enhancement and Kingsway, collectively improving visitor and developer perception.
 - Introduces new life and vitality, uplifts environmental quality and creates flexible space for events and new commercial food and beverage outlets in an established focal area in the City centre.

- Supporting Covid recovery by providing enhanced flexible external space facilitating increased visitor dwell time and diversifying the City centre offer.
- The Council is the scheme developer, so control can be retained over the appropriate use of the public space and the letting strategy for the commercial units.
- The enhanced public space will complement the regeneration of adjacent buildings (including the Community Hub, other adjacent vacant units).
- The scheme contributes to enhanced City centre green infrastructure by forming part of the City's green artery linking greenspace across the City centre. Also additional green infrastructure (GI) contributes to improved resident and visitor well-being, mitigates climate change impacts and facilitates scope for sustainable urban drainage solutions.
- Enhances the setting of Swansea's Castle – the City's landmark heritage asset.

5.2 Risks and mitigation summary

- Detailed survey, design and stakeholder consultations through stage 2 of the commission have enabled scheme cost allowances to be validated. This is based on current levels of available information, a number of assumptions, exclusions and appropriate sums for contingency and inflation.
- Covid 19 has had an unprecedented impact on the food and beverage market, nationally and locally. Building on the successes of letting units at Copr Bay, the target market for the commercial units will be for local operators, who will be able to create a more distinctive offering, and who may be able to demonstrate a greater resilience and adaptive operating capacity in the recovery from Covid. The consultants have also undertaken a re-assessment of prevailing market conditions to ensure the commercial offer will still attract a suitable range of tenants. They have noted shifts in the market, including a rise in independent occupiers and the increased desire for external space and a 'healthy' customer environment. It is therefore anticipated that this distinctive destination opportunity in Swansea will generate significant market interest in due course.
- Future management and maintenance will be fundamental to retaining the quality and character of the space. Adequate budget and suitable materials supply contingency must be identified in due course.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 **Procedure-** As the land forms public open space, procedures to enable the partial disposal have been followed, whereby the Council advertised the disposal of the land in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks (August 2016). Full and proper consideration was also given to any objections, in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (Cabinet Report 16.03.17). Separate legal advice will be required regarding the future disposal of any land or property at Castle Square in

line with any proposals to develop commercial activity at the site through for example the granting of leases to occupiers to operate restaurants on the site.

- 6.2 The Council has a legal obligation under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and under its own constitution that it shall not dispose of land for a consideration less than best consideration that can be reasonably obtained. This is except where the disposal is for a short tenancy (less than 7 years) or the local authority has the consent of the Welsh Ministers. Under the Council's constitution the responsibility of determining in what manner the land will be disposed of in order to obtain best consideration lies with the Head of Property.
- 6.3 Under the General Disposal Consent (Wales) Order 2003 the Welsh Ministers have issued a general consent for disposals of land under Section 123 for less than best consideration. This allows a local authority to dispose of land for less than best consideration if it considers that the disposal will contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area and the extent of the undervalue is no more than £2m.
- 6.4 Before the land is considered for disposal that consideration be given as to any contractual obligations the Council may have in respect of the space and its facilities.
- 6.5 **Contractual arrangements-** Following a procurement process undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 a Development Manager was appointed, and a Development Management Agreement was signed and executed in November 2019. This Agreement covers all the conditions of contract for the Development Manager from feasibility through to design and build and progression through each stage of the Commission is dependent upon Council approval and available budget.
- 6.6 A deed of variation has been signed which confirms the terms for the appointment of specialist consultants during stages 2/3. Also, for further clarity this variation confirms that it will be the council who will be appointing the building contractor, rather than Spider management.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Extracts from Acme stage 2 presentation

Appendix 2 - Integrated Impact Assessment

APPENDIX 1 - Stage 2 Regeneration scheme development







Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Report

Appendix 2

This form should be completed when a screening form has indicated a full Integrated Impact Assessment is required and found to be relevant to Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Please refer to the 'IIA Report Form Guidance' while completing this form. If you need further support, please contact acesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Planning and City Regeneration

Directorate: Place

Q1(a) What are you assessing?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Boards which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Castle Square

Castle Square lies at the heart of Swansea's Central Area, and is an important stepping stone between Kingsway, High Street, the proposed Swansea Central development, and waterfront. It is also an important 'place' in the City overlooked by the landmark Castle. There is considered to be an important opportunity to enhance the Square, to give it new vibrancy and life, to raise its quality and to make it a contemporary new public space complementing other significant regeneration investments taking place in the City.

(c) It was initially screened for relevance on: 05/01/2021

(d) **Lead Officer**
Name: Chantel Ellis
Job title: Project EIA Coordinator
Date: 22/4/21

(e) **Approved by Head of Service**
Name: Phil Holmes
Job title: HoS
Date: 10/9/21

Section 1 - Aims

What are the aims of the initiative?

The overall aim is to increase visitor dwell time in the Square, create a destination suitable for a range of events, and to make it more active, distinctive and vibrant in line with other regeneration investment which is taking place in the City.

•There is an opportunity to introduce an element of commercial activity into the Square in the form of a restaurant unit with external seating. The type, quantum and location of uses should complement the Central Area and the new Swansea Central development, and must not compromise or hinder the functionality of Castle Square as the focal public space for the City capable of hosting public and creative events.

•Any new building and public realm enhancements must be of a high quality design, which are accessible and sustainable, and complements Swansea's Central Area, and its heritage. It should also include well designed linkages to the surrounding area, including in particular the Castle, and secure improvement of the connection and integration of St. Marys Square and Church areas, Wind Street, Oxford Street, Princess Way.

•The Castle Square space needs to work as a destination throughout the year, and be practical for events, appropriate temporary or pop up uses, commercial, seasonal, cultural opportunities and informal play and activity.

•The design of the scheme should adopt an overall principle of retaining and enhancing public access and contributing substantially to a "greener Central Area", with greening as a core linking principle (as set out in the SCARF document). Any proposal should not result in the net loss of useable public open space and avoid loss of trees.

Who has responsibility?

Rob Stewart – Leader
Robert Francis Davis – Councillor
Phil Roberts – Chief Executive
Martin Nicholls – Director
Phil Holmes – Head of Services

Huw Mowbray - Development and Physical Regeneration Manager
 Gail Evans – Project Manager
 Lisa Wells - City Centre Manager
 Regeneration Team
 Planning Team
 Finance Team
 Procurement Team
 Highways Team
 Legal Team
 Culture and Tourism Team

Who are the stakeholders?

All residents of and visitors to Swansea as well as local businesses and other organisations based in the area.

Section 2 - Information about Service Users (See guidance)

In order to complete this section you will need to look to data such as Census data, research and performance management information, surveys, future trends, service user data, socio-economic data from recent consultations, engagement and research

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|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Children/young people (0-18)..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sexual orientation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Older people (50+)..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Gender reassignment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other age group | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Welsh language..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Future generations (yet to be born)..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Poverty/social exclusion..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Carers (including young carers) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Race (including refugees) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Community cohesion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asylum seekers | <input type="checkbox"/> | Marriage & civil partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gypsies & Travellers..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pregnancy and maternity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Religion or (non-)belief..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Sex | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

Please provide details of the information you hold in relation to the groups above:

Characteristic:	Description	Swansea	Wales	Reference population	Source and date
Age	0 to 15 years	17.0%	17.9%	All people (Swansea: 246,500)	Mid-year population estimates 2018, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
	16 to 64	63.5%	61.3%		
	65 and over	19.5%	20.8%		
	85 and over	2.6%	2.6%		
Disability	With long-term health problem or disability	23.3%	22.7%	All people	2011 Census, ONS
	Equalities Act Core or Work-limiting disabled	26.2%	24.0%	Working age (16-64)	Annual Population Survey 2018-19, ONS
	<i>Registered disabled:</i> with Learning disability	0.5%	0.4%	All people	LA registers (March 2019), Welsh Government
	Physical/sensory disability	1.0%	1.7%		
	Disability benefit claimants	11.8%	11.2%	All people	DWP, August 2018 ³
Marital and civil partnership status	Single	36.7%	33.5%	People aged 16 & over	2011 Census, ONS
	Married	43.8%	46.6%		
	Same-sex civil partnership	0.2%	0.2%		
	Separated	2.3%	2.2%		
	Divorced	9.5%	9.7%		

	Widowed ⁴	7.7%	7.9%		
Pregnancy & maternity	Conception rate	67.2	71.8	R / 1,000	ONS conceptions and births including rates, 2018 ⁵
	Fertility rate (GFR)	50.8	56.3	fem 15-44	
	Crude birth rate	9.6	10.0	R / 1,000 p	
Race - population by ethnic group	White - British	91.5%	93.2%	All people	2011 Census, ONS
	White - Other	2.5%	2.4%		
	Mixed/multiple ethnic grp	0.9%	1.0%		
	Asian/Asian British	0.6%	0.6%		
	Black/Black British	0.7%	0.4%		
	Other ethnic group	0.7%	0.3%		
Religion	Christian	55.0%	57.6%	All people	2011 Census, ONS
	Non-Christian religion ⁶	3.6%	2.7%		
	No religion	34.0%	32.1%		
	Not stated	7.5%	7.6%		
Sex	Male	49.9%	49.3%	All people	Mid-year estimates 2018, ONS
	Female	50.1%	50.7%		

Welsh language

2011 Census Key Statistics: Table
 QS207WA: Welsh language skills (detailed)

All usual residents	W06000011: SWANSEA		WALES	
	Numbers	Percentage	Numbers	Percentage
All categories: Welsh language skills	239,023	100	3,063,456	100
No skills in Welsh	193,938	81.1	2,263,975	73.9
Can understand spoken Welsh only	12,906	5.4	162,859	5.3
Can speak Welsh: Total	26,532	11.1	568,500	18.6
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	4,839	2.0	85,605	2.8
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	2,703	1.1	45,767	1.5
Can speak, read and write Welsh	18,668	7.8	431,759	14.1
Can speak and other combinations of skills in Welsh	322	0.1	5,369	0.2
Can read but cannot speak or write Welsh	3,969	1.7	44,327	1.4
Can read and write but cannot speak Welsh	1,372	0.6	18,742	0.6
Can write but cannot speak or read Welsh	306	0.1	5,053	0.2

Age

Swansea has the second highest population of Wales' local authorities, the fifth highest population density, and a growing total population – averaging over 1,000 additional people per year during the last ten years.

In terms of age profile, Swansea currently has a higher proportion (than the Wales and UK average) of young people aged 16-24, in part reflecting the high number of resident students, but slightly lower proportions aged 0-15 and 45-74.

Over the last ten years, most of Swansea's population growth has been in the number of people aged 65 and over; a trend which the current official population projections suggest will continue in the next ten years.

However, revised local authority population projections (2018-based) are due to be published in early 2020, based on revised component data and assumptions, which may change the level of projected population change in Swansea and its impact on particular age groups.

Disability

Disability data is perhaps the most complex of the protected characteristics to analyse, with no single source providing a comprehensive overview in line with the Equality Act (EA) definition. However, there are a number of indicators available which can provide a measure of disability including administrative (benefits, LA registers) and survey sources (Census, APS).

The Census is probably the most relevant measure in terms of definition; although the usefulness of the source is compromised by the long gap between Censuses (the latest data is now nearly nine years old) and that it is based on self-assessment rather than any medical diagnoses.

On the survey-based measures, around a quarter of Swansea's population can be considered disabled; with inter-Censal (2001-2011) trends being relatively unchanged, but more of an increase recently (between 2014 and 2019) in the APS estimates.

For the administrative measures, numbers recorded (and percentages) are far lower; indicating that requests for assistance and the claiming of benefits is likely to be generally lower than need.

The trend in the last ten years is mixed, with an overall drop in registered physically/sensory

disabled people and DWP benefit claims (although rising in the latest year), but increases in people registered with learning disabilities (placed in the community) and people who are sight and hearing impaired.

Marriage and Civil Partnerships

In common with many urban areas and university cities, Swansea currently has a higher proportion of single adults (never married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership) than equivalent national averages.

Against the backdrop of a rising overall adult population, this picture and trend has been reinforced in recent years with a growth in adults who are not married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership (in simple terms the categories: never married, divorced and widowed) and a fall in the number of married adults.

In Swansea, the annual number of marriages (opposite and same-sex) has been steadily increasing in recent years, in part against national trends. There is also an increasing proportion of civil rather than religious ceremonies, as elsewhere.

The 2021 Census results will provide the next major benchmark of societal trends around marriage. In light of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, the response categories for the marital status question will be reviewed. In 2022 therefore, local data on same-sex marital status will be available for the first time.

In view of the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019, which will make couples of the opposite sex eligible to form civil partnership.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Recent conception rates, live birth rates and fertility rates in Swansea are below those for Wales and England & Wales, ultimately reflected in lower numbers of average children born to women in Swansea.

Over the last five years, numbers of conceptions and births have fallen slightly, both in Swansea and nationally.

In Swansea, fertility rates are above national averages for women aged under 20 and those over 35, but lower than average in the 20-34 age groups.

There are considerable variations in birth and fertility rates within Swansea, with lower rates in areas with an older age profile or higher proportions of students, and higher rates tending to be in the less affluent urban wards or near areas of recent housing expansion.

At a local level, it may be possible to estimate future area differences within Swansea by looking at planned new housing developments identified in the Local Development Plan monitoring process (new-build housing units, commitments and allocations).

Race

Whilst the Census is a key data source, its infrequent publication (every ten years) cannot fully capture the dynamics of local change in population characteristics related to race and ethnicity. In 2011, Swansea had a higher proportion of people in non-White and non White-British ethnic groups than Wales (although lower than the England & Wales average).

In Swansea (2011), there were between 1,500 and 2,000 residents (approximately) in each of the ethnic groups: Chinese, Bangladeshi, Other Asian, African, Arab and Indian. The number and percentage of people in Swansea in each of these groups has increased since the 2001 Census.

More recent research (ONS estimates, 2016) and survey/administrative statistics (APS and Schools Census, 2018/2019) suggest that the number and proportion of people from non-White ethnic groups has increased further since 2011

Religion or Belief

Whilst over half of Swansea's population identified as Christian (2011 Census), this proportion is lower than it is in Wales and England & Wales, and the number has decreased since 2001.

The number of people in Swansea affiliated with a minority religion increased between 2001 and 2011; the largest groups being Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu respectively. The number of people stating they had no religion also increased significantly between Censuses.

The next local data on population by religion will be provided by the 2021 Census results in 2022.

ONS are currently testing questions and response categories for the next Census.

Sex

In Swansea, male and female populations are currently in balance, with faster growth in the overall number of males than females in recent years.

Male: female ratios in Swansea change at different life stages, with more males than females in Swansea at ages 0-15 and 16-64, and the reverse at 65+ and (even more pronounced) at 85+

LGBT in Britain

Sexual orientation

Sixty one percent of respondents identified as gay or lesbian and a quarter (26%) identified as bisexual. A small number identified as pansexual (4%), asexual (2%) and queer (1%)².

These figures varied by age. For example, younger respondents were more likely to identify as bisexual, asexual, pansexual, queer or 'other' (39% of cisgender respondents under 35 compared to 14% of cisgender respondents over 35).³ This reflects work undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) that shows younger people are more likely to be bisexual than older people.⁴

Gender Identity

Thirteen percent of the respondents were transgender (or trans). Of the total sample, 6.9% of respondents were non-binary (i.e. they identified as having a gender that was neither exclusively that of a man nor a woman), 3.5% were trans women (i.e. they had transitioned from man to woman at some point in their life) and 2.9% were trans men (i.e. they had transitioned from woman to man).

Younger trans respondents were more likely than older respondents to identify as non-binary. For example, 57% of trans respondents under 35 were non-binary compared with 36% of those aged 35 or over. Younger respondents were also more likely to be trans men (26% of trans respondents under 35 were trans men compared with 10% aged 35 or over) and less likely to be trans women (17% of trans respondents under 35 were trans women compared with 54% aged 35 or over). This age profile partly accords with the referral figures to the children and adolescent gender identity services where the majority of referrals in 2016-17 were for people assigned female at birth (1,400 of the 2,016 referrals – 69%).⁵

Other demographics

Respondents were younger, on average, than the general UK population. Over two thirds (69%) of respondents were aged between 16 and 34; this compares with just under a third (31%) for the UK population as a whole.⁶ This is consistent with findings by the ONS that younger people are more likely to identify as LGB. In 2016, the ONS estimated that 2% of the UK population, or just over 1 million people, identify as having a minority sexual orientation. The proportion was higher for younger people (e.g. 4.1% of 16-24 year olds) than older people (e.g. 2.9%

of 25 to 34 year olds and 0.7% of those aged 65 and over).⁷ These figures are about sexual orientation only, and not gender identity.

Respondents were most likely to be resident in London (19% of respondents), the South East (15%) or the North West (12%) of England. 8% of respondents were from Scotland, 4% were from Wales and 2% were from Northern Ireland. The geographical distribution broadly replicates estimates from the ONS of where LGB people live that show, for example, that London has the highest proportion of LGB people in the UK.⁸ The ONS figures also estimate that 9% of the LGB population live in Scotland, 4% live in Wales and 2% live in Northern Ireland.

Life in the UK

Life satisfaction

On average, respondents were less satisfied with their life nowadays than the general population, scoring it 6.5 out of 10, compared with 7.7 for the general UK population.⁹ Amongst cisgender respondents, gay/lesbian people had the highest scores (6.9) and pansexual or asexual people had the lowest scores (both 5.9). Trans people had low scores: trans men scored 5.1, trans women scored 5.5 and non-binary people scored 5.5.

Average life satisfaction (out of 10)

UK Population	7.7
Gay/Lesbian	6.9
Bisexual	6.3
Pansexual	5.9
Asexual	5.9
Trans woman	5.5
Non-binary	5.5
Trans man	5.1

Feeling comfortable

Over half of the respondents (56%) felt comfortable being LGBT in the UK, rating their comfort as a 4 or 5 out of 5. Amongst cisgender respondents, gay and lesbian people were the most comfortable (63% comfortable) and asexual people were the least (49% comfortable). As with life satisfaction, trans people generally felt less comfortable. 37% of trans women, 34% of trans men and 38% of non-binary people felt comfortable being LGBT in the UK. Only 5% of all trans respondents aged under 25 said they felt very comfortable (scoring 5 out of 5), rising to 15% of those aged 55-64 and 31% of those aged 65+.

Swansea Visitor data/Tourism 2018 (Increases)

Total economic impact of tourism £M	461.48
% change on 2018 (£'s 2019)	0.6%
Total visitor days (Millions)	8.37
% change on 2018	0.4%

Total visitor numbers (Millions)	4.74
% change on 2018	-0.7%
Number of FTE jobs supported by tourism spend	5,897
% change on 2018	2.5%

Any actions required, e.g. to fill information gaps (write below and add to action plan)?

None as yet.

Section 3 – Assessing the Impact (See guidance)

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics and statutory considerations:

General

A greener Castle Square will improve the amenity value for residents and contribute positively to creating an attractive destination space for visitors, connecting the city centre to the waterfront by reinforcing the City’s green artery.

For all protected characteristic groups the positive impacts would be:-

- Climatic improvements resulting from the increase in green spaces which will contribute to the improvement of the environment which we live in.
- Aid in the Covid recovery plan resulting from outdoor space in which people will be able to socialise at a safe distance and if necessary under cover which will have a positive impact on the mental wellbeing of the Castle Garden visitors.

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	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
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	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
Race	The social value of castle Square's public space lies in the contribution it makes to 'people's attachment to their locality and opportunities for mixing with others. Places can provide opportunities for social interaction, social mixing and social inclusion, and can facilitate the development of community and a space that can hold diverse events.	Positive	Ethnicity Nationality Gypsies / Travellers Language: interpreter provision Refugee / Asylum Seekers Migrants Awareness events United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD)
Page 158 Disability	<p>All disability groups will be affected - this project will have to look at all disability characteristics and eliminate as many obstacles as possible within the design phase i.e. ensuring external seating being adequately spaced to allow for ease of access.</p> <p>Further consultation will take place to engage with all disabilities groups.</p> <p>Materials/ Paving – Must be compliant with the Equalities Act and accessible to all. No tarmac.</p> <p>Recommend that Swansea Council should arrange for the surrounding businesses to have outside seating and canopies that complement the Square.</p>	Positive	Mobility / Dexterity Blind or Visually impaired Deaf or Hearing impaired Mental Health Learning Disabilities Dementia Neurological difference / Autism Access to buildings/ facilities Access to communication methods Dietary requirements Other Long Term Health Conditions United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
Carers	The redevelopment of Castle Square will enable this group another destination in Swansea City Centre that could provide many benefits to the people that they provide care for and will also be compliant with the Equalities Act. Activation of the space can be further achieved by providing suitable locations for complementary pop up uses, and other events and seasonal facilities could still be accommodated, albeit on a smaller scale.	Positive	Providing unpaid and informal care A child caring for a disabled parent An older person caring for a friend who has a mental health issue A young adult caring for a sibling with substance misuse difficulties An adult caring for an older relative who is elderly, frail or experiencing dementia
Sex		Neutral	Men / Women Gender Identity Childcare Gender Pay Gap Domestic abuse United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UNCEDAW)

	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
<p>Age</p>	<p><u>Children and young people</u></p> <p>Families – F & B outdoor eating experience will be an incentive to families in the daytime. Attracting more footfall to the area.</p> <p>The provision of Wi-Fi and pop-up power points will encourage events and activities which will be an attraction for young people. Increasing the level of day time and early evening activity and diversifying the demographic of visitors to the area, in particular families.</p> <p>The introduction of a new water jet feature at ground level will also play a significant role in introducing a visual focal point and flexible play in the centre of the Square.</p> <p>There will be other play opportunities using paving/design and not formal play equipment as this is not the place for this.</p> <p>50+ These categories will be able to enjoy the experience of Castle Square more as more formal public spaces will be provided at key locations the possibility of street furniture seats/benches for informal seating for users to rest is being explored, however this may be limited by the night-time economy and potential for anti-social behaviour outcomes.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Older People including citizens with dementia. Could the initiative contribute to the 'age friendly' agenda or improve the experience of getting older in Swansea</p> <p>Children, Young People</p> <p>Cross-generational working offers a wide variety of benefits</p> <p>Working Age People, Young Families</p> <p>Demographics</p> <p>NB: Where children / young people are affected complete the Childrens Rights Checklist</p> <p>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)</p> <p>Caring responsibilities</p>

	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
Future generations (yet to be born)	<p>This scheme will enhance the city centre for future generations and positively contribute to a better environment for the future generations.</p> <p>Any project which aims to improve the safety and environment of our local communities can only be positive for those who are yet to be born.</p>	Positive	We must ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
Religion & Belief		Neutral	Faith Communities Non Beliefs Dietary requirements Vegetarianism/Veganism Other philosophical beliefs Dress code/uniforms Religious festivals/activities, agile working
Sexual Orientation		Neutral	Gay Lesbian Bi-sexual Heterosexual Terminology Confidentiality about sexuality https://www.stonewall.org.uk/
Gender Reassignment		Neutral	A person who proposes to, starts or has changed their gender identity Transgender Appropriate language use, ie, appropriate pronouns
Marriage & Civil Partnership		Neutral	Marital status Civil Partnership status
Pregnancy & Maternity		Neutral	Pregnant mothers Those entitled to maternity and paternity leave Foster/Adoption Breastfeeding mothers

	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
<p>Welsh Language</p>	<p>All signage etc. will also be in Welsh. Other positive impacts will be opportunities for local Welsh businesses.</p> <p>Castle Square will have its Welsh name as visible as the English. Events/announcements will be on stage /video etc. The Welsh and English Language will be treated equally. This will be essential if the council are organising any events. If radio Wales /Swansea Sound are broadcasting from the Square then we will consider inviting Radio Cymru to do so sometimes too. WL language is an advantage. As an authority we are legally required to promote the Welsh Language and to increase the number of Welsh speakers in Swansea. Public spaces and events offer valuable opportunity to do this.</p> <p>The City and County of Swansea will need to abide with all the standards laid out in the authority's Compliance Notice (under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011). We have an obligation to promote the language and increase the number of Welsh speakers in the community. How we will do this will be in a later version of this report when we are in the design phase.</p> <p>All online and onsite information will be publicised bilingually and according to the required Welsh standards. This approach will also be applied in terms of PR, social media and communications activities.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Ensuring equal status of both Welsh and English languages. Availability of and access to services, activities and information. Rights of individuals to ask for WL services. Impact on Welsh speaking communities, including: Positive / negative effects on opportunities to use the WL. Possible changes to number/percentage of Welsh speakers Job opportunities / Staffing changes. Training needs and opportunities Availability of Welsh medium education</p>

	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
Socio Economic Considerations	<p>The project meets Council’s socio-economic duty by potential for job opportunities and training opportunities to contribute to reducing poverty/ socio economic disadvantage. As part of the scheme’s contract award this is agreed via the Council’s Beyond Brick And Mortar policy obligation.</p> <p>The scheme will have a positive impact on tackling poverty by providing more green space for people to gather and meet for free, as well as the potential for free events to be held in the area to attract people from all over and encourage them to enjoy the space, especially with the city centre being more accessible than some other areas for people from all over swansea.</p> <p>This scheme also has the benefit of providing space to maintain good Mental and Physical health which can have a positive effect on those experiencing poverty.</p>	Positive	<p>People living in less favourable social and economic circumstances than others in the same society. Disadvantage may be exacerbated by many factors of daily life, not just urban or rural boundaries. The impact on limited incomes are significant but also consideration needs to be given to service accessibility and barriers to participation.</p> <p>‘Intersectionality’ issues - where identity compounds socio-economic status, e.g., single parents (often women), disabled people, some BAME groups.</p>
Human Rights	<p>Green spaces like what are being provided in this scheme are vital to maintaining good mental and physical health. Access to the natural world should be a basic human right.</p>	Positive	<p>See Human Rights Articles.</p>
Intersectionality	<p>Groups i.e. race, class, and gender, time outdoors in local recreational spaces such as parks, can have positive outcomes for wellbeing and inclusion, with the potential to support respite and the beginnings of belonging.</p>	Positive	<p>The way in which power structures based on factors such as gender, race, sexuality, disability etc. interact with each other and create inequalities, discrimination and oppression. (the multiple layers of discrimination)</p>

	Potential Impacts	Positive / Negative/Neutral Impact/Needs further investigation	Prompts (not an exhaustive list) Consider:
Community Cohesion	The presence of urban green spaces can encourage positive social interactions that cultivate community social cohesion in ways that enhance health and well-being.	Positive	Think about relationship between people from different backgrounds, community tensions, community facilities http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/communitycohesion/?lang=en
Other (please state) COVID	Climatic improvements resulting from the increase in green spaces which will contribute to the improvement of the environment which we live in. Aid in the Covid recovery plan resulting from outdoor space in which people will be able to socialise at a safe distance and if necessary under cover which will have a positive impact on the mental wellbeing of the Castle Garden visitors.		Eg, Modern Slavery, Safeguarding, Other Covid effects, Ex-offenders, Veterans, Care Leavers, Substance Abuse, Homeless

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Human Rights Act 1998	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 2 Right to life • Article 3 Freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment • Article 4 Freedom from Slavery and forced labour • Article 5 Right to liberty and security • Article 6 Right to a fair trial • Article 7 No punishment without law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 8 Respect for private life, family, home and correspondence • Article 9 Freedom of thought, belief and religion • Article 10 Freedom of expression • Article 11 Freedom of Assembly and association • Article 12 Right to marry and start a family • Article 13 Right to access effective remedy if rights are violated • Article 14 Protection from discrimination

If you have identified any areas which need further investigation, these will need to be added to your action plan

Section 4 - Involvement

Please consider all of your involvement activities here, e.g. participation, consultation, engagement, co-productive approaches, etc.

What involvement has been undertaken to support your view? How did you ensure this was accessible to all?

Two Press Releases went out - One on the 10th Feb, a pre cabinet decision and a Facebook and Twitter on 17th Feb – details below:-

PRESS RELEASE

Castle Square: Public set to shape its green and welcoming future

A bright new future for a major Swansea focal point is set to move a big step closer next week (note: Feb 18).

Swansea Council's cabinet is to discuss a smart new concept for the city centre Castle Square – one that introduces more greenery, fun and reasons to visit.

The amount of space for people to gather, sit out and relax would remain the same. Green space would grow from today's 25% cover to more than 40%. Biodiversity would increase and most existing trees would remain, with new trees planted.

A dynamic new 21st Century concept, with a keen eye on the location's green past, the early design sees the existing water feature removed.

Playful new attractions would be introduced and new opportunities to eat and drink.

The plans would see:

- *Green space increased significantly – from 25% of the current area to more than 40%*
- *A greater number of trees – with most existing trees remaining*
- *Permanent food and drink units – with green roofs - for up to four businesses*
- *A fun water jets feature with mini-fountains rising from the paved area*
- *An upgraded paved area*
- *Improvements to make Caer Street and Castle Bailey Street more pedestrian-friendly*

If the cabinet likes the design concept it will instruct officers to ask the public, businesses and special interest groups for their views to help shape Castle Square's detailed design.

Before any final decision is taken, with the public's views on board, the cabinet must agree to fund the project and a full planning process must be followed, including further public consultation.

The vision, which takes into account public opinions expressed to the council over the past few years, has been drawn up by respected architects ACME.

A new-look Castle Square could open as early as late next year. Its new water feature would be at ground level with the square and could be turned off when not in use to accommodate events.

Council leader Rob Stewart said: “We want Castle Square to play a key role in the city’s £1bn regeneration programme that’s already making Swansea a place where people want to live, work, study and spend quality free time.

“We want to increase the time that visitors spend in Castle Square, make it suitable for a range of events and make it more active, distinctive and vibrant.

“It will be greener, more welcoming and much more family friendly – a Castle Gardens for the 21st Century.

“If cabinet approves the concept next week, I would urge everybody to make their views known in the subsequent few weeks.”

Robert Francis-Davies, the council's cabinet member for investment, regeneration and tourism, said: “Our new design concept shows that the future Castle Square would be accessible to all. It would remain a pivotal focal point for events and gatherings such as those held there before the pandemic.

“There are good examples in other towns and cities, where public squares with food, drink and fun are very successful indeed. They offer people what they want – a convivial atmosphere with modern comfort.

*“We think the Swansea public will enjoy the thought of relaxing in this space which will have playful features and a large amount of greenery.”
On Thursday, February 18, the cabinet will discuss the results of feasibility study that recommends the smart new Castle Square concept.*

Comments from public consultations on various city centre schemes over the past four years have guided the development of options for the site.

A fresh public engagement process – over around three weeks - would gather further public views to influence the detailed design.

The total cost if the scheme would be £6m-£9m. The work would be funded in a number of ways, including from the council budget. Revenue would include income from leases on the food and drink units. The big screen would remain.

Webpage FAQs

Q Why is this space – that should be green like it was in the past - being developed with cafes taking up public space?

A Our concepts show that there is no loss of public space, and greenspace will be accessible to the public. Also the food and drink units will actually become part of Castles Square’s greenery which will be much greater than at present – up from around 25% of the location to more than 40%. Each commercial unit would be south facing, have external seating and a green roof. Both would help improve the area’s biodiversity and add relaxing green space to the city centre – rather as we’ve done on the new-look Kingsway that has hundreds of trees and attractive large grassed areas. The commercial spaces would also mean revenue for the council which we can use to deliver public services, making up in some way for the hugely decreased funding we now get from central government. Your views towards the historic Swansea Castle will remain clear.

Q What if you couldn't let the commercial units? Wouldn't that be a killer for the square?

A We'd make the terms as attractive as we possibly could for local businesses to set up and thrive there; they'd be in a prime location with a high footfall and we'd do all we can to help create new jobs and opportunities for local people. We've already been encouraged by the demand from local occupiers for commercial units in the nearby Copr Bay Phase One scheme.

Q Why can't the square just go back to how it was years ago?

A Times change. As people's wishes evolve, so must our city centre. That's why we're building an arena, it's why we created and more pedestrian friendly Kingsway – and why we want to create a relaxing, comfortable and playful Castle Square that gives people reasons to visit it and reasons to linger. Also, the food and drink outlets will create jobs for local people in a pleasing environment. Of course, there'll be a lot more greenery than there is now – we'd retain as many existing trees as we can, plant new trees and bring a significant net gain in biodiversity and green space; there'll be more colour and character, including trees that offer shade, shelter and seasonal interest.

Q Won't it simply attract more anti-social behaviour?

A We don't think so. If people are using the space to eat, drink, relax and play then we think that anti-social behaviour would be less likely. There's also the prospect of a Public Spaces Protection Order that is being considered at the moment – this would target anti-social behaviour in Castle Square and other city centre areas. Our city centre rangers will continue to monitor the area.

Q How do you know this will work?

A There are good examples in other towns and cities, where public squares with food, drink and fun are very successful indeed. They offer people what they want – a convivial atmosphere with 21st Century comfort. We think the Swansea public will enjoy the thought of relaxing in this space that will have a large amount of greenery including trees – and new water features similar to a number already installed in other cities, including Bradford and Hull. In the meantime, our experienced professional team will continue to draw on experience from around the world.

Q How have we got to this stage? How do you know what people really want?

A A public open space disposal notice in 2017 attracted a significant number of comments on the future of the square, as did a public consultation on the green infrastructure strategy for the city centre. Comments from these consultations have been used to guide the development of options for the site. Cabinet are now being asked to approve a fresh public engagement process to gather your views that can be considered further in the detailed design process. There'll be further opportunities in the future to help shape our thinking, including at planning stage.

Q Who's come up with the design concept?

A Spider management were appointed in 2019, to work with a professional team that included ACME to undertake a feasibility study. ACME, are a well regarded architects firm with a strong track record in contemporary urban design.

Q Wouldn't the new water features just attract abuse?

A We'd hope not! They'd be there for all to enjoy and for children to get playful. The features would include water jets, which could be turned

on and off to allow the flexible use of the space. The council would look after them but it'd be up to all of us to respect any smart new environment – just like with The Kingsway's expansive pedestrian areas, Copr Bay and its new parkland, and Wind Street where work has just started on a better environment for pedestrians and hospitality businesses. The water feature jets will be level with the square and could be turned off when not in use to accommodate events.

Q When's all this likely to happen?

A If the cabinet give the go-ahead, there will then come our public engagement, detailed design, surveys, a request to cabinet for funding plus the planning process. Cabinet would have to approve the final design before construction. The scheme could be complete by the end of next year.

Q What's the point when the pandemic means that few people now go to the city centre?

A Swansea wants to lead the way out of the pandemic. The city centre is undergoing a £1bn transformation, making it a place where people want to live, work, study and spend quality free time. City centres have got to change due to the effects of online retail and the pandemic – and Swansea is already making significant changes. In future you'll see many more people living in the city centre, prompting new businesses to start up there. Copr Bay Phase One, with its arena and parkland, will be a catalyst to this regeneration, bringing top class entertainment and opportunities to relax with friends and family. The city's long-term recovery will be assisted by a new-look Castle Square; its design concept sees the locations being a large flexible space well suited to social distancing if that is needed after the pandemic.

Q It's OK having a nice new look – but how can you guarantee you'll look after it?

A The maintenance of paving, landscaping and commercial units is something we're determined to get right. A number of plans will be considered as part of the process of working towards a new Castle Square.

Q Will it continue to be called Castle Square – or could we get its old name back?

A As the look and feel of the location may change dramatically for the better we'd offer the public a number of options for possible names – including the name it has now, the name it had in the past and variations on those themes.

Q How can I make my views known to the council?

A Please email all your ideas and thoughts on the future of Castle Square to CastleSq@swansea.gov.uk.

Castle Square Regeneration: Feedback Form :Have Your Say

If you would like any more information about this consultation or would like this information in another format please advise us by:

e-mail: castlesquare@swansea.gov.uk

website: www.swansea.gov.uk/castlesquaredevelopment

The consultation on the initial concept plan will run until 5pm on the 13th March 2021, and will help to develop ideas for the detailed design of the scheme.

In summary, the regeneration of Castle Square will aim to provide :

- A new welcoming space with more useable green space and landscaping to bring in more character, colour and biodiversity.
- New small cafes or restaurant units set within an attractive new family friendly space, with canopies providing shade and shelter for people to sit outside and relax.
- The existing water fountain will be removed, and it will be replaced with a fun water jets feature with mini-fountains rising from the paved area.
- An upgraded paved area which will be accessible to all and pedestrian friendly. The amount of space for people to gather, sit out and relax would remain the same.

You can find more information on the initial concept plan and the public engagement process here:
www.swansea.gov.uk/castlesquaredevelopment

1. When in you are in the City centre, how often do you visit or spend time in/around Castle Square?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every day | <input type="checkbox"/> Few times a month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 2 days per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Less often |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - 5 days per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Never |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekends only | |

2. What was the main purpose of your visit last visit to Castle Square?

Shopping at nearby shops.....

Visiting Bars/pubs

To relax/sit down.....

Watching an event.....

Participating in an event or gathering.....

Watch the tv screen.....

Just passing through/part of journey.....

3. Do you agree with the proposal to add more greenspace to Castle Square?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. What sort of new greenspace would you like to see in the Square?

- More trees and shrubs.....
- More lawned areas.....
- More accessible space.....
- Formal planting.....
- Wildflower planting.....
- Other.....

5. Do you agree that café /restaurant uses in Castle Square with external seating and canopies would help to make the space attractive to visit and spend time?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. A new water feature is proposed for Castle Square, which can be switched on and off to allow use of the space for events. Do you agree that a new water feature in the Square is a positive addition?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Do you have any comments that you would like to make in relation to the initial regeneration proposals for Castle Square?

Further to consultation taken place in 2018 the design changed therefore further consultation was carried out with the following groups:-

Tree Forums 4th March

- Present:
- Swansea Council (SC
- Spider management (SM)

ACME (scheme architects)
Saville's (Planning consultants)
Swansea Tree Forum (STF)

Introductions and overview:

- STF introduced how they are the urban programme link for the Woodland Trust and campaigns to protect trees in Urban places.
- Swansea Tree Forum try to support local authorities to improve planting and protection and increase canopy cover across the city.
- SM explained that we are right at the start of this scheme and that we are in the middle of a public consultation exercise that started February 22nd.
- Castle Sq Website is live with all the relevant information of the proposed scheme and a public feedback form is on the webpage during this period of engagement.
- There are a number of individual calls in place (like this one) and Saville's are collating all the feedback – which will form part of the brief that informs the concept design.
- SC explained that this is not a final scheme but the concepts of a scheme that we have been working with Spider management and Acme design for over a year on.
- Within the parameters of the concept scheme, we were looking for Castle Sq to perform a number of functions, one of which is to retain as much public space as possible while enhancing the green infrastructure of the square.
- GI strategy was recently adopted for Swansea City centre, which reinforces the council's aim of getting more GI into the city centre.

Overview of the concept scheme:

- SM presented the concept design against what Castle Square currently looks like.
- Green space will be increased from 25% to 41% of the square.
- Proposed plan is to have two commercial units within the Square, one at the Princess Way entrance. This will result in the loss of two trees – one Cherry tree and one Birch.
- All other trees will be retained. A number of the trees are planted above the current ground level, in raised areas and the concept architects have designed around these trees by extending the planters and tapering them down to a new flush edge.
- Other design features:
 - o Extended planters, new flush edges
 - o Increased permeability
 - o Green roofs over commercial units
 - o Additional planter in SW corner
 - o Planting on steps – 6 new trees to provide shade.
 - o 3 large trees added opposite the Castle
 - o Potential of further tree planting within the Castle public realm and Wind Street planter, to help enclose Castle courtyard, and screen the BT tower.

BID 3rd March

Present:

Swansea Council (SC)

Spider management (SM)

BID: Russell Greenslade (RG)

Introduction and overview

- SC gave an overview of scheme's background and objectives.
- SM presented the main aspects of the scheme, particularly focusing on the plans for softening the boundaries of the Square, and integrating the surrounding businesses.

Green Infrastructure 9th March

Present:

Swansea Council (SC)

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Spider management (SM)

ACME (scheme architects) (SV)

Background to scheme:

- SC has been working with Spider management and Acme designers to develop a concept scheme for Castle Square.
- Castle Sq is an important 'place' in Swansea next to the historic Castle, and has a pivotal position, connecting High St and Wind St, as well as proximity to Swansea Castle.
- We are currently in the process of public engagement exercise, and are holding targeted meetings with various parties to collate feedback for the detailed design.
- Approximately 12 months ago, there was a different concept presented – one with a harder landscape design. Comments were taken on board around need for more greenery, better GI and SUDs strategy.
- A new design was commissioned, which has increased GI and SUDs. This has been approved as a concept by Cabinet.

Overview of the concept scheme:

- SV presented the concept design against what Castle Square currently looks like.
 - Revised brief requested a lot more green while maintaining the central space within the square.
 - Option below is what has been chosen - Green space will be increased from 25% to 41% of the square.
-
- Increase in Greenery will be through increasing the size of the existing planters and grading them towards the square which will also improve accessibility for these areas.
 - Introducing new planting around East side of the site facing and facing the Strand / Castle Lane the Castle.
 - Proposed plan is to have two commercial units within the Square. These will be part sub terranean set within the steps will have green roofs. Two trees will be removed (opposite Zara- one cherry/one birch) for one of the commercial units.
 - Introducing a raingarden as part of the SUDs strategy in South West corner.
 - The current raised beds are not accessible or inviting, this new scheme will allow significant more green space for people to use and enjoy.
-
- All other trees will be retained. A number of the trees are planted above the current ground level, in raised areas and the concept architects have designed around these trees by extending the planters and tapering them down to a new flush edge.
 - Potential of further tree planting within the Castle public realm and Wind Street planters, to help enclose Castle courtyard, and screen the BT tower. Also looking at planting trees on the steps.
 - Looked at various splits at what can be flushed access and what can be flowers/shrubs/ground cover. More work to be done to get to a detailed strategy and species for planting (pollinators, coastal theme species- as Caswell water sports scheme roof).
 - Swansea Tree Forum/Woodland Trust have offered to help with suggestions for species mix/local fauna that can be used.
 - Looking at carriageway enhancements at Castle Bailey Street and Caer St area to make the Castle feel more part of the Sq. Looking at raising level of the highway, make a more accessible space. Will also build on to the work that is being done in Wind Street.
 - Some interactive play, including water jets will be incorporated into the design.

Access Groups 15th March

Present:

Swansea Council (SC)

Access groups Local area co-ordinator (AG)

Disabilities Champion (DC)

Acme (AM)

Vision Impaired WG & Guide Dogs Cymru (VI/GD)
SightLife (SL)
Leonard Cheshire/ Co-production (LC)
Coastal Housing (CH)
Swansea Disability Forum (SDF)
Wind St residents (WR)

Background to scheme:

- Swansea Council has been working with Spider management and Acme designers over the past 12-18 months to develop a feasibility study and concept scheme for Castle Square.
- Castle Sq is an important 'place' in Swansea next to the historic Castle, and has a pivotal position, connecting High St and Wind St to the core retail area.
- We recognise that Castle Sq looks tired and dated and needs a refresh, to compliment the investment that is going on around other parts of the city centre. We are also looking to increase the vitality and activity in the space.
- We are currently in the process of public engagement exercise, and are holding targeted meetings with various parties to collate feedback for the detailed design.

Overview of the concept scheme (Mark Broome)

- Acme has been involved in Castle Sq since 2019, an initial feasibility study was presented to the Cabinet, from that further work was requested, and a final presentation (of the concept scheme) has now been completed.
- There is still a lot more design detail to go into the scheme and this will be done over the next 6 months to get to planning.
- Topography was considered early on as a key consideration on the site (show the levels of the site). There is a slope of approx. 7m from the highest point by the Castle down to the lowest point.
- Picture below shows the existing square and the concept design - Green space will be increased from 25% to 41% of the square.
- The existing water feature (fountain) will be removed which opens up the space in the centre of the Sq.
- Remove the lower tier of the steps, and have a longer staircase down. Create proper amphitheatre style seating and have two defined stair entries either side of the commercial unit in front of the Castle.
- Increase in Greenery will be through increasing the size of the existing green and planters and grading them towards the Square which will also improve accessibility for these areas.
- Introducing new planting around East side of the site facing and facing the Strand / Castle Lane the Castle.
- Proposed plan is to have two commercial units within the Square. These will be part subterranean set within the steps. These will have green roofs that will be accessible where possible, with appropriate safety barriers.
- Retaining as many trees as possible. A number of the trees are planted above the current ground level, in raised areas and we have designed around these trees by extending the planters and tapering them down to a new flush edge.
- Increasing the pedestrian permeability of the Square by opening up new access routes (by McDonalds) access from Oxford St and

enhancing connectivity with St Mary's and Caer St.

- Introducing a raingarden as part of the SUDs strategy in South West corner.
 - The current raised beds are not accessible or inviting, this new scheme will allow significant more green space for people to use and enjoy.
 - There is a plan to add water jets that can be turned on or off, to keep the space flexible for events.
 - Space will be flexible and can be used for a number of events such as temporary ice-rinks or markets. Pop-up units (Vans), such as coffee vans or takeaways could be used.
 - Canopies will provide shelter from light rain or sun and appropriate lighting will be installed to create atmosphere and ensure a safer environment.
 - Wayfinding markers will be used for people to navigate their way through the city centre.
 - There are no decisions yet made on materials for paving, possibly using local materials and tying into the identify of Swansea. Coloured asphalt may also be considered in and around the square.
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WECTU 19th March

Present:

Swansea Council (SC)
Corp Health, Safety & Wellbeing HS
Emergency Management (EM)
Spider Management (SM)
Acme (AM)
Savills (SV)
South Wales Police (SWP)
Counter Terrorism (CT)

Background to scheme:

- Swansea Council has been working with Spider management and Acme designers over the past 12-18 months to develop a concept scheme for Castle Square.
- Castle Sq is an important 'place' in Swansea next to the historic Castle, and has a pivotal position, connecting High St and Wind St. We are also looking to increase the vitality and activity in the space.
- We are currently in the process of public engagement exercise, and are holding targeted meetings with various parties to collate feedback for the detailed design.

Overview of the concept scheme (Mark Broome)

- Acme has been involved in Castle Sq since 2019, an initial feasibility study was presented to the Cabinet, from that further work was requested, and a final presentation (of the concept scheme) has now been completed.
- There is still a lot more design detail to go into the scheme and this will be done over the next 6 months to get to planning.
- Picture below shows the existing square and the concept design - Green space will be increased from 25% to 41% of the square.

- The existing water feature (fountain) will be removed which opens up the space in the centre of the Sq.
- Increase in Greenery will be through increasing the size of the existing green and planters and grading them towards the square which will also improve accessibility for these areas.
- Introducing new planting around East side of the site facing and facing the Strand / Castle Lane the Castle.
- Proposed plan is to have two commercial units within the Square. These will be part subterranean set within the steps. These will have green roofs that will be accessible where possible, with appropriate safety barriers.
- Retaining as many trees as possible. A number of the trees are planted above the current ground level, in raised areas and we have designed around these trees by extending the planters and tapering them down to a new flush edge.
- Creating a new access route (by McDonalds) and maintaining the access from Oxford St and down from St Mary's and Caer St.
- Introducing a raingarden as part of the SUDs strategy in South West corner.
- The current raised beds are not accessible or inviting, this new scheme will allow significant more green space for people to use and enjoy.
- There is a plan to add water jets that can be turned on or off, to keep the space flexible for events.
- The space will be flexible and can be used for a number of events such as temporary ice-rinks or markets. Pop-up units (Vans), such as coffee vans or takeaways could be used.
- Canopies will provide shelter from light rain or sun and appropriate lighting will be installed to create atmosphere and ensure a safer environment.
- Digital bamboo - Wayfinding markers to be used for people to navigate their way through the city centre.
- There are no decisions made on materials for paving, possibly using local materials and tying into the identify of Swansea. Asphalt can also be considered in and around the square.
- Lighting will be refreshed – larger lighting poles will be integrated into the square.
- Looking at ways we can look at the highways area to make it feel part of the square. Aware that there are details to consider, especially the taxi rank area.

After all engagement has been carried out:-

- Regular project communications at key milestones including via press, web, social media, e-mail distribution list to local community, business (via BID).

- Site notice boards.

What did your involvement activities tell you? What feedback have you received?

Collated likes on Social media:-

F/Book: 156 likes and 13 Loves (and one laughing emoji!)

Twitter 36 likes

Linked in 90 likes

Feedback from Tree Forums

- The landscape proposal sounds really good, good to see the innovation with retaining all the trees with the grading of the planters. No concerns from a green infrastructure POV. Castle Square is pretty barren, and the trees are the only thing creating any bio-diversity so it's heartening to see additional bio-diversity being added.
- We have expertise within the Swansea Tree Forum, up to 50 people attend meetings and within that we have specialist knowledge that can be of help and support to this scheme. Is there scope to engage a sub set of the Tree Forum who can attend as a small working group and bring them along on the journey. They can put their thoughts forward on species selection.
- Absolutely, it's a great idea, we are looking to bring in a landscape designer, so once they are brought on board we will look to introduce him/her to that working group (Swansea Tree Forum representatives) to benefit from the local knowledge and expertise that you have.

- You've outlined the two trees to be removed and it seems like a reasonable pragmatic solution to facilitate the bigger picture. I would like to make sure that the additional planting that is going to take place, does represent an increase in canopy cover and bio-diversity. The two trees that are being taken out may be small but they are mature. Getting the Tree Forum on board to advise on species and choices is important, to look into the future to ensure new species planted will improve bio-diversity.
- Yes, this is why we have come to talk to you at this reasonably early stage and we are looking to build on that. We will need to look at the condition of the trees in castle Sq too as part of the project, we will have an arboriculture survey done.
- If you'd like to pass on any recommendations for who we could talk to for the arboriculture survey, please pass them through to us.

Timelines

- Public engagement exercise is happening at the moment and feedback will be collated back to the designers.
 - Landscape architect will be engaged in approximately 8 weeks. Once appointed they will have a workshop with Acme to understand the scheme and then we will come back to you (Swansea Tree Forum)
-

Feedback from RG (BID)

- Outdoor adaption grants and investments by businesses in this could support the scheme.
- Businesses have been keen to use the area as an extension of their trading area previously.
- Public realm furniture could accommodate data sensors supporting data and insight needs.
- BID - We are experienced in communicating with our stakeholders using a mix of channels. I am than happy to do the same we have done for The Kingsway, Wind St, Copr etc for this project. Let me know timescales in this.

Next Steps:

- SC to send BID the email communication that gives details of the scheme and directs towards the website for more details/feedback form. RG to send this out to his business contacts in Swansea city centre and will feed back in with any comments that come back to him directly.(Update March 3rd – GE Action complete)
-

Feedback from GI

Questions and Feedback

- What are the multi-functionality benefits of the GI(in this concept scheme)?

We didn't want to remove green space/trees that were already there, and needed to balance between keeping the civic space useable. We don't have the details on how it will look and what will be used until landscape architect is in place.

- Will plant species be considered that help to tackle air pollution, and also how does surface water run-off into that area? How can we make the eco work as hard as possible?

Where we taper the flood water run off will be considered by the SUDS civil engineer (recommended by Fran). We also have a raingarden included in the scheme that dips to the lowest grade.

- Have you done any services survey yet? Welsh Water wont allow SUDS structures within their easements. How does it (SUDS scheme) link into the St Mary's city centre regeneration (Phase 2). How that all links is key to get the drainage to work.
- Haven't done detailed survey as yet.

There is a general awareness that it's important that the south west corner of the site connects in.

- Nice to see that green space has increased. We have 5 principles in the new GI strategy that looks at what does the greenery do. These principles need to be key for the landscape architect. Would also suggest that we chat to Welsh Water early re: SUDs. PG has sent link across.

- The Green Arteries link from the wildlife corridors (Tawe and Waterfront) and it's important that the choice of species link between the corridors.

Absolutely agree and we will set up a separate workshop to look at this and ensure the Woodland Trust and the local ecology experts are part of this.

- At the top of Castle Sq, is there scope to change the raised planters to raingarden?
SM: Yes this is something that we can look at with the landscape architect.

- We definitely welcome play within the Square and this was one of the pieces of feedback that the public would like to see within city centre

- Looking at examples of tree planting on steps, where do they get their water to drink?

AM: The soft landscape designer will be looking at that.

I believe they are SUDS trees they have water that runs through them. CM- The company 'Green Urban' have potential solutions.

It's important that they have multi-functionality, provide shade, bio-diversity and maybe SUDs. Also important that they are decent size trees from the start. Two small trees being removed for the scheme is fine, just make sure that trees being planted have a maturity so that they contribute to the bio-diversity and don't get snapped.

- Is there a possibility of coastal planting on the green roof?
 There is a scheme in Caswell that can be looked, however some of the coastal planting isn't compatible with the roof being accessible.
 Need to find a balance between the roof being accessible for people to sit and being green with planting.
 At the moment we are looking at some lawn space for people to sit, more detail will come out later in the design.
 Green roof could be used for performance/art.
 Lawn is difficult to maintain on a green roof.

 - Liked the view going into the Square from the raingarden. And seeing how the multi-layering of green is being designed. It's a more interesting space to look at.
 It's looking good, like the design. Will there be any water fountains for people in the Square? May be funding available for that.
 Could look at this, however Covid rules would not allow it at the moment.
 Really excited about the design – looking at the green roofs and seeing the different aspects. Re: open water – can we channel some water for wildlife (in a safe way)?

 We need to ensure that SUDS is designed correctly up front and it's worth speaking to Welsh Water early on to work on how best to implement the scheme.

 Ceri and Jeremy to be engaged on maintenance for the Sq.
-

Feedback from Access Groups

Questions and Feedback

- Concern that the appropriate trees are planted and not fruit trees which are hazardous when they lose their fruit. Can we look at the structure of where trees are planted for visually impaired people to navigate their way around, or a base around the trees.
 We'll take that point on board. We are looking at using Evergreen trees – at the moment in winter the space looks very bare. This also ties into the coastal square element that we are looking at.

- Re: the steps going down – have a concern around how you warn people of the steps. Will need to introduce a hand rail and also think about the colour of the steps so that they stand out in all weather. Tactile indication for those who can't see at all.
 With planters, if they are narrower at the base than they are at the top, a visually impaired person who uses a cane may not pick this up

until they've hit the top of the planter.

- The current space includes a lot of steps and in the new proposal we will clearly define what will be seating and what will be steps and we will be including tactile paving and handrails. We'll take all those points on board. Regarding planters –there are no stand alone planters, but larger areas of planters. Some will remain raised planters in order to keep the existing trees but we will think about the profile of them.

- Is there any consideration to the fact that Castle Gardens was designed as a memorial garden? Delighted to see it's being restored to a more green space but it would be appropriate to recognise that it's there as a memorial garden. That has been highlighted to us and to the leader of the council Cllr Rob Stewart. We will look into adding in a plaque or something that will be appropriate.

- If paving is uneven it is very difficult to negotiate. Re: steps, they are easy to see going up but difficult going down. Handrails need to be carefully designed and what happens when you get to the top needs consideration. Planters: small raised walls are difficult to see for those with peripheral vision issues, very easy to fall over low objects. Some of the Evergreen trees in the old Castle Gardens provided areas for unsociable behaviour. Re: walls, within the principle of the design we want to omit walls where we can. Some areas where we won't be able to completely in order to keep the existing trees.

Re: Evergreen trees, we are hoping that the activity that will be coming into the square will naturally discourage anti-social behaviour.

- The Older Person's Commissioner Office wrote a report called 'Leave no one behind'. Recommendations for local authorities :Link attached: https://www.olderpeoplewales.com/en/news/news/20-08-18/Leave_no-one_behind_Action_for_an_age-friendly_recovery.aspx

- As a wheelchair user, disappointed to see there are no ramp systems at the side of the steps. The gradient is an issue coming down the sides of the gardens. It's a difficult site in terms of gradient. There is a level access into the square from Oxford St and Caer St. To introduce a ramp that would work with the gradient would have to be around 100m long. We'll take a look at it, but the level difference is going to be difficult. We will look at the feasibility of it.

Hope you will have representation throughout the design process.

Wheelchair users want to sit among their friends. Can we incorporate wheelchair users into the seating system (because it is amphitheatre style) is important and we don't want to be segregated out.

AM: Yes we will look at the feasibility of that and take the point that we need to allow everyone access to seating.

- How will visually impaired people know where the water jets were and how to avoid them? Not against the idea, but just need an

indication of where they are.

They will be positioned so that the main pedestrian desire lines of the square wouldn't take you through the fountains. Sound is also an aspect with them too.

- Walls are helpful to us, but not small walls (below knee height) that can be tripped over. Absolutely, the walls that we are looking to retain, we are hoping to incorporate benches into them where possible.

- Regarding paving. Patterned paving can be difficult for visually impaired people. Reference to coloured Asphalt, I feel that it's very attractive feature and can be very helpful can be a simpler surface to follow.

Comment noted with thanks.

- An observation. This is one of the few places in the city centre for people to come and sit. Great to hear that there are a variety of seating being looked at. Many people didn't like to sit on steps that are also used to walk across.

Gail Evans: Agreed and thanks for comment.

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- Passing on a comment from Melanie from Shine charity. Wanted to pass on concerns about lack of disabled toilet facilities. Nearest disabled toilets in Swansea Market, so evening events they are closed.

There is no plan to add a changing places toilet within the square and the nearest is the Market and Quadrant. There is scope to improve signage in the City Centre.

- the paving, it needs to be without dips or bumps. As a wheelchair user with brittle bones, these can be dangerous. Understand that drainage needs to be considered.

The space in the centre will be as level as we can make it. We need to agree drainage strategy in the next stage.

Feedback WECTU 19th March

- It is welcome to see new design, currently there isn't anything nice about the square. Understand we need areas for people to sit and shelters for when it's raining, but be aware of rough sleepers who would use this area. If you have a covered area in the day, can they be covered at night? Single seating is better than benches. Rough sleeping throughout Swansea is an issue but understand that we need to cater for elderly and disabled and the wider public. With having café/restaurants open, we will have that degree of surveillance of the space rather than as it is at the moment, with not a lot of through traffic.

- You are creating a crowded place, there is legislation coming out soon in government for protection of crowded places. The design looks really exciting but no details on how you are going to protect people in a crowded place. Concerned about level kerbs, that allows vehicle access, bushes that allow things to be hidden. How can threats be evaluated, how quickly will we be able to see it and assess it etc?
- This is a feasibility study at this stage, there are lots of aspects that we don't yet have detail for, and this is partly what this consultation is about to ensure we are capturing what we need to for next step design.
Re: the Highway levelling (if it happens), there are all sorts of things we can consider such as bollards, planters, security railings etc.
- We need to do a full risk review of the square and the design to flush out what the designers need to address in the next stage. Plan is to complete this early in the next stage. We'll come back to this group with the proposed remedial actions that will need to go into the square. It's really useful to have your feedback now.
The new legislation coming in, can we use that as a basis for our risk assessment?
- The legislation is not written yet but a consultation paper has gone out, called PALS (Public Accessible Locations). Findings are coming out around who takes responsibility for grey spaces. Need to ensure there are clear lines of escape (in event of an attack), how to mitigate against different aspects of attack (example in Nice). Expectation after Manchester that all local authorities take these into consideration. Include spill out areas with this. This goes hand in hand with CCTV and clear lines of surveillance.
Have to consider line of sight when looking at trees and planting, needs to be designed in at the early stages.

- Legal duty is on its way. And Castle Sq will be a key site for this, this is the area that we direct protests to. Our preference is to use planters, street furniture and minimal rise and fall bollards to give pop up vehicles access to the square.
The central CCTV that is controlled by the control room in Townhill will cover the Square, this will help with issues such as suspicious packaging and things being left because we will have line of sight.
We will bring in Justin Evans (south wales police), and we'll link you up with the CCTV team too.
- Important point around Castle Sq and it's uses in the City Centre. If someone wants to have a protest, are they directed to Castle Sq?
- Yes first point of contact is the events team. We'll be brought in if there are concerns or multiple protests (and we have used Museum Green or Guildhall to separate groups). Generally there is an awareness to when a protest is planned. Process and communication for protests already in place.
- You will also need to bring in a police public order expert, you don't want to design a space that is difficult to police.

- What are the plans for the taxi rank? Is it going to be incorporated into the design?
- At the moment, no plan to move the taxi rank, we have had feedback around how hard this area is to manage. We understand barriers will need to remain there.
- There is a study going on called repurposing strategy and part of that is looking at vehicle movement, looking at dropping off points and taxi ranks. What is the view of keeping that location as a taxi rank?

- Possibility of Princess Way, or York Street, or the Strand. Could be an opportunity to design the taxi rank out to reduce the risk, and move the taxi rank somewhere close enough for people to get to.
- Maybe we can look at this in principle as part of the repurposing strategy.
- It would be better in terms of integrating Caer Street into the square as move as possible.
- The lower vehicle presence in that area, the better for us.

- Great that we are being consulted with and we need to work together to design a safe space and do all we can to mitigate terrorism attacks and anti-social behaviour.

Partnership and Involvement

- Under “Age” there is a big emphasis on informal play re water jets and concerns were raised previously that such an activity will naturally mean that children will play in the water but there are no plans for toilet/changing provision within this development. Concerns were raised that with water play and no opportunity for families to change small children, that other shops with toilet provision may have families using facilities and walking through wet in order to access them.
- Similarly older people raised that having coffee outlets would be welcomed but again no provision for toilets would put some people off as toilets close by are a key consideration when taking a trip into town and finding a place to stop for refreshments.
- Gail & I also spoke about potentially re-igniting the conversation around the incorporation of the “Dilly Dragon” footprints as a trail through this area. I wondered if there was any update?

The primary purpose of the water jets feature is to introduce life and vitality in the Square and something fun for people to watch. It is a feature used successfully in public spaces in many UK cities- Portsmouth, Bradford etc. Active engagement in getting very wet is really a personal choice and not something encouraged or facilitated in the scheme. If people want to do that then they need to come prepared, same as visiting the beach/waterfront- facilities aren’t provided for drying off. We are not currently planning toilet provision in the commercial units, and an operator is unlikely to want to provide or accommodate facilities for general use, but rather just limited provision for customer use only. I believe the community hub in the former BHS store will be including public toilet provision, and larger commercial units in the vicinity also have customer facilities.

Scope for using the Dilly dragon theme in the development has been briefly discussed with JRT and the consultants. However, there are so many other interesting themes that could be used as a learning focus in this space- the Castle, the Blitz, local cultural connections Dylan Thomas, biodiversity and climate change in the city centre . It has been difficult to engage with children/young people during Covid, but there will be further opportunities to more actively engage and practically involve children as the scheme progresses.

BID has sent out surveys to over 1,000 businesses – we are awaiting the results.

There has also been an onsite video showing on the big screen.

How have you changed your initiative as a result?

In response to engagement carried out the following changes were made to the design:-

Access groups – evaluation was carried out on potential ramps being included however it was decided that these would pose a detrimental impact on the design concept. The team therefore offered alternative routes for safe access and this was not considered to be any worse than currently on site. Adding to this the fountain has been relocated off-centre for ease of access.

Consultation with the tree forum highlighted the importance of retaining trees and green space/biodiversity/species in the scheme.

DCfW wanted to see the area better related to its surrounding and possibly additional areas to sit. The design now includes seating in planters and alterations have been made to the positioning of the crossings to align with Wind Street, Princess Way, The Boulevard and the 'Active Travel Route'.

Wectu/police – evaluation has taken place on the scope for integrating hostile vehicle measures such as PAS68 bollards, and avoiding areas or design formats that could present a security risk..

Additional GI has been introduced at the Members requests and to align with the current GI strategy. consultation has highlighted the need for an integrated approach between the landscape strategy and drainage strategy.

Further design work had been carried out on architectural appearance of the pavilions to respect CADWs comments on views of the Castle.

Taxi rank – strategic action was necessary to relocate so short and long term options are included.

Public art-consultations have highlighted the need to give advance consideration on relocating existing features.

Direct consultation with adjacent commercial occupiers will determine whether additional external dinging and spill out areas will be accommodated.

Consultation has highlighted the importance of future maintenance, for cleanliness and management for events

Any actions required (e.g. further engagement activities, mitigation to address any adverse impact, etc.)? (Add to action plan)

Section 5 – Duties (please see guidance)

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues. How will the initiative impact on the duties set out below? Think about what work you have already done to improve the outcomes.

Public Sector Duty – how will the initiative address the below?

Foster good relations between different groups	The increased out door social area – Event space will entice different groups/Communities to come together therefore fostering good relations.
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation	<p>Many people in Swansea may suffer participation poverty: not being included in activities (social, cultural, leisure etc.) or in decisions/discussions/actions affecting your life. Resulting in some cases people having lower aspirations, and ambitions.</p> <p>The proposal of increasing outdoor social space and holding outdoor events, activities etc. means that people that previously may not have been able to be included in events/activities now could be.</p>
Advance equality of opportunity between different groups	Many people in Swansea may suffer income poverty – with the proposal of increasing outdoor social space and holding outdoor events, activities etc. more people in Swansea will be able to attend these free events/activities etc.

Socio-economic Duty - Describe any issues identified as a result of the initiative for those people experiencing and living in poverty

a) Communities of place	As this re development is free to all to access and to attend future events held in the square this will assist in reducing status-based discrimination and reducing inequalities related to socio-economic disadvantage.
b) Communities of interest	As this re development is free to all to access and to attend future events held in the square this enables communities in poverty to access this social resource and gain more access to their socio-economic rights.

How does your proposal ensure that you are working in line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011)? (beyond providing services bilingually)

a) To ensure the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language	All online and onsite information will be publicised bilingually and according to the required Welsh standards. This approach will also be applied in terms of PR, social media and communications activities.
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b) That every opportunity is taken to promote the Welsh language	<p>All of the signposting approaching Swansea will be in Welsh and English.</p> <p>The Welsh Language Commissioner has a Welsh language promotion team which works closely with third sector businesses and organisations to increase their use of the Welsh language. The team can offer advice and support to assist in completing a Welsh language promotion plan, which is a way of planning their use of the Welsh language with an emphasis on trying to increase that use over time. The team also offers a proof-reading service which assists organisations in the private sector or the third sector in a practical way as they start to make use of the Welsh language.</p>
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c) Increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community	Castle Square may be able to promote welsh culture in holding events. There could possibly be the opportunity to work with the local Fforwm Iaith or Menter Iaith Abertawe.
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United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC): Many initiatives have an indirect impact on children and you need to consider whether the impact is positive or negative in relation to both children’s rights and their best interests

Will the initiative have any impact (direct or indirect) on children and young people (think about this age group holistically e.g. disabled children, those living in poverty or from BME communities)?

The UNCRC will be considered as part of the project’s decision making

The 4 principles that will be considered:-

1. Non-discrimination
2. Survival and development
3. Best interests
4. Participation

We are improving the City Centre and its offer for future generations whilst adhering to the Future Generations Well-Being Act/Objectives.

School surveys were disseminated through Hwb Mail to over 5,000 staff. We are awaiting the results.

All initiatives must be designed / planned in the best interests of children and young people.

Best interests of the child (Article 3): The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. This particularly applies to budget, policy and law makers.

Please explain how you meet this requirement:

In order to meet the above – we will be engaging schools in the near future.

Section 6 - Sustainable Development

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 places a well-being duty on Swansea Council to carry out sustainable development. This is in line with the Council’s Sustainable Development Policy and our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives. We must work in a way that improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

The sustainable development principle means we must act in a manner, which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We do this by applying the five ways of working.

6a) The Sustainable Development Principle’s Ways of Working

The Five Ways of Working	Examples or summary of how applied
<p>Long term - The importance of balancing short-term needs while safeguarding the ability to also meet long-term needs</p>	<p>This scheme will enhance the city centre for future generations and positively contribute to a better environment for the future generations.</p> <p>Any project which aims to improve the environment of our local communities can only be positive for those who are yet to be born.</p> <p>BREEAM AND CEEQUAL are being carried out on this scheme to ensure sustainability within the long term.</p>
<p>Prevention - Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>We are developing this scheme now in line with the ‘Reinvention of Wind Street’ project as the two are situated and relate to each other – carrying out this scheme later on would not be beneficial financially and could possibly increase the cost of this scheme. Adaptation and mitigation for climate change in proving a green artery through city and cooling, water absorbing infrastructure offsetting impacts of temperature change and extreme weather.</p>
<p>Integration -Considering impacts upon each of the well-being goals, well-being objectives, local well-being objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies</p>	<p>Please see the appended Sustainability Statement extracts (appendix 1) which shows that we are contractually obliged that the Corporate Plan Objectives and the Well Being and Future Generations Act are adhered to, that we have to consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals, that we are to apply each of the five ways of working and will have to do doing this without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>BREEAM AND CEEQUAL are being carried out on this scheme to ensure sustainability and align to the ‘Wellbeing and Future Generations Act.</p>

Collaboration - Acting together with other services or external organisation towards our well-being objectives	We have been working with Spider Management and Saville's in developing the scheme and design – we are also working alongside internal departments i.e. Planning, Legal, Procurement, Finance, Culture and Tourism, Highways, Green Infrastructure Team. Spider Management are also involved in working towards the BREEAM and CEEQUAL accreditation with the client.
Involvement - Involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals (everybody), and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area served	Extensive engagement has taken place regarding this scheme with all relevant groups – details in the earlier section.

6b) Contribution to Swansea Council's Well-being Objectives

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Our Corporate Plan's Well-being objectives	Are directly supported by this initiative	Are not directly impacted by this initiative	May be in conflict or adversely impacted by this initiative
Safeguarding People from harm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving Education and Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tackling Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transforming our economy and infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transformation and Future Council development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6c) Thinking about your answers above, does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?

Please consider the positives and negatives as a whole. This is an opportunity to analyse the global impact of the proposal where some objectives will be advanced whilst others may be impacted. Where there is a residual negative impact for one or more

objectives please show that we have considered mitigation to ensure that negative impacts are lessened. Please detail any conflicts gaps and mitigation measures.

Safeguarding people from harm

We have engaged with WECTU in 'designing out crime' and as a result of attracting more people to Castle Square and having an established commercial presence overlooking the Square it will in effect be self-policing.

Tackling Poverty/Social Inclusion

The project meets Council's socio-economic duty by potential for job opportunities and training opportunities to contribute to reducing poverty/ socio economic disadvantage. As part of the scheme's contract award this is agreed via the Council's Beyond Brick And Mortar policy obligation.

Human Rights - Green spaces like what are being provided in this scheme are vital to maintaining good mental and physical health. Access to the natural world should be a basic human right.

Intersectionality - groups i.e. race, class, and gender, time outdoors in local recreational spaces such as parks, can have positive outcomes for wellbeing and inclusion, with the potential to support respite and the beginnings of belonging.

Community Cohesion - The presence of urban green spaces can encourage positive social interactions that cultivate community social cohesion in ways that enhance health and well-being.

As this re development is free to all to access and to attend future events held in the square this will assist in reducing status-based discrimination and reducing inequalities related to socio-economic disadvantage.

As this re development is free to all to access and to attend future events held in the square this enables communities in poverty to access this social resource and gain more access to their socio-economic rights.

Transforming our economy and infrastructure

Increased visitors to the city centre results in increase for the surrounding businesses and therefore the economy – i.e. visitors may relax in Castle Square having attending an event in the Arena.

Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity

Enhancing the green spaces within the city centre therefore enhancing the environment.

Transformation and Future Council development

Along with the information provided above please see the appended Sustainability Statement extracts (appendix 1) which shows that we are contractually obliged that the Corporate Plan Objectives and the Well Being and Future Generations Act are adhered to, that we have to consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals, that we are to apply each of the five ways of working and will have to do this without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

6d) How is contribution to the National Well-being Goals maximised? Where can you add value? Consider the full goal description not just the title. Consider relevant [Journey Checkers](#). Complete the table below

Well-being Goal (click to view definition)	Primary Goals - tick if key	Any significant positive and/or negative impacts/contributions considered/mitigated
A Prosperous Wales : An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Fair and local procurement. + Supporting the local and foundational economy. + Carbon emissions/action addressing Climate Emergency. + Minimal resource use and waste (circular economy)
A Resilient Wales : A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Supporting social resilience and community well-being via natural green space. + Use of Green Infrastructure new increased greenery +Climate change adaptation loss of 2 trees mitigated by 9 new trees Increased biodiverse greenery creates functioning ecosystems that link to others in city centre +This project meets our duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems by increasing green space from 25 to 41% of square.
A Healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Green public space supports the health and well-being of people and communities. + Reduction? In noise, light, air pollutions

<p>A More Equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Ensuring equal access to decent jobs and fair work recognising everyone's value through BBM + Enabling people to develop the skills, education and knowledge to be fulfilled through BBM
<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Creating high quality accessible public space where people and communities can be active and do the things that matter to them. + Supporting communities to be well connected and safe via a central meeting place with good transport links and amenities
<p>A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Respecting our status as a bilingual nation. + Enabling our citizens to access and engage with their own and other cultures through events and public meeting space.
<p>A Globally Responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Ensuring supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable in line with our procurement policy. + How specifically?? + Ensuring Swansea is welcoming, safe and fair to all, the city centre is open to all to use + This investment now is a prudent financial decision which will enable future generations to thrive. + No evidence of carbon or ecological foot printing carried out??

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Section 7 - Cumulative Impact/Mitigation

What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the IIA and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making/have made.

For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

Overall the impacts on all groups is positive due to the nature of the scheme which will enhance everyone's social well-being and enjoyment of the city centre whilst also enhancing the city centre's environment and economy.

A greener Castle Square will improve the amenity value for residents and contribute positively to creating an attractive destination space for visitors, connecting the city centre to the waterfront by reinforcing the City's green artery.

For all protected characteristic groups the other positive impacts would be:-

- Climatic improvements resulting from the increase in green spaces which will contribute to the improvement of the environment which we live in.
- Aid in the Covid recovery plan resulting from outdoor space in which people will be able to socialise at a safe distance and if necessary under cover which will have a positive impact on the mental wellbeing of the Castle Garden visitors.

Any mitigation needed:

It is important that you record the mitigating actions you will take in developing your final initiative.

Record here what measures or changes you will introduce to the initiative in the final draft, which could:

- reduce or remove any unlawful or negative impact/ disadvantage
- improve equality of opportunity/introduce positive change
- support the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015
- reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage

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Unlawful or Negative Impact Identified	Mitigation / Positive Actions Taken in the initiative (add to action plan)
The F&B lease agreements will have to be robust in such areas as rubbish management/seating plans etc. for ease of access for wheelchairs users, visually impaired etc.	Future management measures of the Square Event management/how space is managed on events with regards to accessibility Further engagement with young people Ongoing post construction/BBM

Section 8 - Monitoring arrangements: The IIA process is an ongoing one that does not end when the initiative is agreed and implemented. Please outline the monitoring arrangements and/or any additional data collection that will help you monitor any equality impacts, risks, sustainability of your initiative once implemented:

Monitoring arrangements:

This report will be updated after every consultation carried out.

Actions (add to action plan):

Section 9 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-8, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to the guidance for further information on this section).

Outcome 1: Continue the initiative – no concern

Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative – low level of concern

Outcome 3: Justify the initiative – moderate level of concern

Outcome 4: Stop and refer the initiative – high level of concern.

For outcome 3, please provide the justification below:

For outcome 4, detail the next steps / areas of concern below and refer to your Head of Service / Director for further advice:

Section 10 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please follow this 3-step procedure:

1. Send this IIA report and action plan to the Access to Services Team for feedback and approval – accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk
2. Make any necessary amendments/additions.
3. Provide the final version of this report to the team for publication, including email approval of the IIA from your Head of Service. The IIA will be published on the Council's website - this is a legal requirement.

Action Plan: Please outline below any actions identified throughout the assessment or any additional data collection that will help you monitor your initiative once it is implemented:

Action	Dates	Timeframe	Lead responsibility	Progress	Add to Service Plan
Consultation with schools		Post Cabinet approval	Gail Evans		
Updates to this report after further consultation		Further consultation dates tbc	Chantel Ellis		
The F&B lease agreements		Tbc	Tbc		
Future management measures of the Square		Ongoing - post completion	Highways, Events, City Centre Management, CCTV?		
Event Management/how space is managed on events with regards to accessibility		Ongoing - post completion	Events Team		
BBM		Ongoing throughout construction	BBM/Contractors/Client		

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* Please remember to be 'SMART' when completing your action plan (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely).

Appendix 1

Extract from - SWANSEA COUNCIL

CITY CENTRE REGERNATION PROGRAMME SUSTAINAIBLITY STATEMENT

Introduction

This Sustainability Statement sets out the Council's expectations in achieving high standards of sustainable development and environmental performance which will seek to progress the economic, social, cultural and environmental goals as set out in the Swansea Central Regeneration Framework and in national and local legislation policies.

Swansea Council has recognised for many years that taking a sustainable development approach is central to ensuring Swansea is a great place to live now and in the future. Somewhere that is inclusive and safe and supports a prosperous and resilient economy, recognises and benefits fully from its exceptional environment and promotes good health.

Swansea Council has a well-being duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to improve social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being in Wales by taking action to ensure that both current and future generations meet their wellbeing needs (the 'sustainable development' principle).

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is designed to ensure Wales's long term well-being and to enable current and future generations to benefit from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities. Under the Act Swansea Council has an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty.

Design Principles:

- Deliver social benefits directly to the community in which the contractor will operate, e.g. volunteering days, landscaping and building services support to general communal areas, support for local youth groups and other community groups, providing community newsletters advising on impact of the works.
- Create distinctive, safe and vibrant spaces that encourage and promote social interaction and a range of cultural and recreational activities.
- Create safe and attractive environments with adequate lighting and good quality surfaces.
- Ensure that new residential developments are designed to be inclusive meeting the needs and providing the right services and facilities for the local community and the diversity of Swansea's wider population.
- Ensure the layout and design connect well with adjoining communities.
- Facilitate the participation of all sections of the community, to ensure the proposals strengthen and reinforce community aspirations and needs.

Page 198 New developments need to comply with current equal opportunity legalisation.

- Ensure that any consultation, questionnaires or other engagement activities are carried out over the term of the project meet the Welsh Language Standard, i.e. are providing bilingually.
- Ensure that any consultation, questionnaires and other engagement activities meet the needs of the cultural diversity of the communities involved.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

1. Safeguarding people from harm.
2. Improving Education & Skills.
3. Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure.
4. Tackling Poverty.
5. Managing and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity.
6. Transformation & Future Council development.

Swansea PSB Local Well-being Plan: 'Working Together to Build a Better Future'

Each PSB is required to carry out an Assessment of Well-being to understand current levels of well-being and to produce a Local Well-being Plan in order to improve well-being. In May 2018 Swansea's PSB published 'Working together to Build a Better Future' their first Local Well-being Plan. The Plan identifies four objectives for collective action underpinned by a cross cutting action:

1. **Early years:** to ensure that children have the best start in life to be the best they can be.
 2. **Live well, Age well:** to make Swansea a great place to live and age well.
 3. **Working with Nature:** to improve health, enhance biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.
 4. **Stronger Communities:** to build stronger communities with a sense of pride and belonging.
 5. **Cross Cutting Action:** to work towards integrated public services in Swansea by sharing resources, assets and expertise.
-

Dublin Declaration on Age-friendly Cities and Communities in Europe 2013

As Swansea is growing, the population is ageing. Soon, people aged 60 years and over will outnumber children for the first time in history. People are living longer lives, so as a city it is crucial the Council support active ageing and ensure age friendly environments are created that foster health and wellbeing, participation and are accessible, equitable, inclusive, safe and supportive (World Health Organisation, 2007).

Community Benefits Policy

The policy aims to address barriers to entering the labour market and create opportunities for all Swansea's citizens, thereby helping to lift individuals and households out of poverty. It meets the aspirations of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, impacting on four of the Council's five key priorities and delivering on the commitment in Swansea Council's procurement strategy.

The approach is delivering an impact on deprivation by addressing the need for more training, job placement and employment progression routes for the economically inactive and unemployed, leading to higher skilled, higher paid and sustainable jobs; encouraging more supply chain opportunities to be made available for SME's and local businesses; working with the wider community and schools.

Beyond Bricks and Mortar Team (BB&M)

BB&M dedicated team identifies the Community Benefit requirements of all Council projects and procurement as part of the Council's Sustainable Risk Assessment, setting appropriate targets. BB&M focus is on:

1. Targeted Recruitment & Training: setting specific targets for training and recruitment opportunities on projects to be filled by NEETs, the long term unemployed and economically inactive, enabling them to gain skills and experience with a view to creating sustainable jobs at contract end.
2. Supply chain initiatives: BB&M encourage all successful contractors working on Swansea Council's contracts to proactively encourage local sub-contractors and participate in Meet the Buyer events to ensure local businesses have an opportunity to tender. Developers can enable this by making explicit with their chosen contractor.
3. Welsh Government Community Benefit Tool: successful contractors must complete the Welsh Government Community Benefit tool in order to capture as much data as possible on the benefits achieved from the project.
4. Other community benefits such as working with the community, any relevant community specific projects, mentoring programmes and working with local schools and colleges on educational initiatives.

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A Prosperous Wales – An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionally (including action on climate change); and which develop a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

Design principles:

- Create high quality work and living spaces that retain talent and bring in new jobs, with a focus on retail, leisure, service and creative industries.
- Address climate change and contribute to the target 3% per annum CO₂ reduction through:
 - the design and layout and performance of buildings and by reducing the use of natural resources during construction and operation,
 - adopting good practise energy objectives including following the energy hierarchy, using passive measures like thermal mass, external shading / solar gain,
 - using renewable energy technologies where possible, i.e. PV, heat pump technology, solar hot water.

- Design out waste in line with the Waste Hierarchy:
 - set targets for waste reduction and recovery of individual waste streams,
 - minimum of 90% of all waste should be prepared for reuse, recycled or recovered,
 - 20% of the total value of materials to be derived from recycled, recovered or reused material,
 - monitor and measure and report waste through the construction phase using industry benchmarks / management tools.
-

A Resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environments with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

Design principles:

- Currently terrestrial green cover in the city centre is estimated to be around 13%. The aim is to increase this to create a nature-full or biophilic city with a resilient natural environment which is biodiverse and can adapt to climate change and align to economic, social and cultural considerations.
-

A Healthy Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit health are understood.

Design principles:

- Incorporate features which improve physical and mental well-being i.e. pedestrianised streets, cycle routes, access to recreational / green space.
- Carry out air quality and noise assessments to ensure people are not exposed to unacceptable levels of air or noise pollution.
- Encourage through the design the use of sustainable modes of transport:
 - the layout provides safe, direct and attractive routes for resident, pedestrians and cyclists which are permeable and legible, with clear landmarks which encourage orientation and ease of movement, linking with adjoining districts / communities.
 - Identify likely pedestrian 'desired' routes.
 - New cycle routes connect with existing cycle routes within the development site and across to adjacent districts and provide secure cycling parking facilities.

- Include electrical vehicle charging points as part of the car parking strategy to help reduce air pollution.
 - Ensure the design maximises use of natural lighting / provides good levels of solar exposure as well as shade form the sun.
 - Lighting of open spaces is designed to enhance the public realm, be energy efficient, provide lit routes whilst mitigating against negative impacts and preventing light pollution.
-

A More Equal Wales: A Society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstance (including their socio-economic background and circumstance).

Design principles:

Page 202 Access and inclusiveness to be at the heart of the design stage and comply with the requirements of the Equalities Act, e.g. visual impairment, language, learning disabilities and cultural and religious needs, and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

- Ensure a balance of different forms of housing including affordable housing in line with the Council's policy.
- Design public realm and recreational space to be multi-generational, i.e. accessible and welcoming to all ages and cultures.
- Play strategy to be designed to enable all ages and abilities to use the different facilities and provide informal play opportunities which are accessible to all.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: A society that promotes culture, heritage and the Welsh Language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.

Design Principles:

- Ensure the design fosters a sense of identity and local distinctiveness reflecting Swansea's natural, built heritage and diversity of language and culture in the past and present.
- Public art fosters a sense of identity and local distinctiveness i.e. past and present industry, the natural environment.
- Enhance the appearance of listed buildings and other landmarks of specific cultural and / or historical relevance to increase local heritage value.
- Design in the option to use public realm and greenspace to host a range of events and well as for recreational use.
- Include local / welsh / traditional materials in the design palette and use local skills and processes in their construction / application wherever possible to support local and traditional skills and industries.
- Ensure that any signage displayed during the construction process are bilingual with Welsh first, in line with the Welsh Language Standard.

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 Ensure that any signage in public buildings are bilingual with Welsh first, in line with the Welsh Language Standard

Planning Act (Wales) 2015

The Act states that development and the use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

A Globally Responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

Design Principle's:

- Developments are 'future proofed' using current future trends information. For example:
 - buildings and the public realm are designed for the long term, with flexible spaces which can be adapted for change of use.
 - provision is built into the design for future technologies as far possible, i.e. connection points for future district heating systems.
 - provision is made for the changes in Swansea's demographics including migration and ageing population.
 - Maximising innovation potential of local knowledge economy i.e. connections with the higher education establishments locally and globally.

Environment Act (Wales) 2016

The Act is designed to ensure Wales's long term well-being and to enable current and future generations to benefit from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities.

Swansea Council must also prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects:

- (a) the diversity between and within ecosystems;
- (b) the connections between and within ecosystems;
- (c) the scale of ecosystems;
- (d) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);
- (e) the adaptability of ecosystems.

Agenda Item 13.



Report of the Chief Legal Officer

Cabinet – 16 December 2021

Exclusion of the Public

Purpose:	To consider whether the Public should be excluded from the following items of business.	
Policy Framework:	None.	
Consultation:	Legal.	
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that:	
1)	The public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it / they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Paragraphs listed below of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 subject to the Public Interest Test (where appropriate) being applied.	
	Item No.	Relevant Paragraphs in Schedule 12A
	14-16	14
Report Author:	Democratic Services	
Finance Officer:	Not Applicable	
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith – Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, allows a Principal Council to pass a resolution excluding the public from a meeting during an item of business.
- 1.2 Such a resolution is dependant on whether it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Exclusion of the Public / Public Interest Test

- 2.1 In order to comply with the above mentioned legislation, Cabinet will be requested to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the

item(s) of business identified in the recommendation(s) to the report on the grounds that it / they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Exclusion Paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

- 2.2 Information which falls within paragraphs 12 to 15, 17 and 18 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended is exempt information if and so long as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- 2.3 The specific Exclusion Paragraphs and the Public Interest Tests to be applied are listed in **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 Where paragraph 16 of the Schedule 12A applies there is no public interest test. Councillors are able to consider whether they wish to waive their legal privilege in the information, however, given that this may place the Council in a position of risk, it is not something that should be done as a matter of routine.

3. Financial Implications

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

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The legislative provisions are set out in the report.
- 4.2 Councillors must consider with regard to each item of business set out in paragraph 2 of this report the following matters:
 - 4.2.1 Whether in relation to that item of business the information is capable of being exempt information, because it falls into one of the paragraphs set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and reproduced in Appendix A to this report.
 - 4.2.2 If the information does fall within one or more of paragraphs 12 to 15, 17 and 18 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the public interest test as set out in paragraph 2.2 of this report.
 - 4.2.3 If the information falls within paragraph 16 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in considering whether to exclude the public members are not required to apply the public interest test but must consider whether they wish to waive their privilege in relation to that item for any reason.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: Appendix A – Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

No.	Relevant Paragraphs in Schedule 12A
12	Information relating to a particular individual.
	<p>The Proper Officer (Monitoring Officer) has determined in preparing this report that paragraph 12 should apply. Their view on the public interest test was that to make this information public would disclose personal data relating to an individual in contravention of the principles of the Data Protection Act. Because of this and since there did not appear to be an overwhelming public interest in requiring the disclosure of personal data they felt that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.</p>
13	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
	<p>The Proper Officer (Monitoring Officer) has determined in preparing this report that paragraph 13 should apply. Their view on the public interest test was that the individual involved was entitled to privacy and that there was no overriding public interest which required the disclosure of the individual's identity. On that basis they felt that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.</p>
14	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
	<p>The Proper Officer (Monitoring Officer) has determined in preparing this report that paragraph 14 should apply. Their view on the public interest test was that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Whilst they were mindful of the need to ensure the transparency and accountability of public authority for decisions taken by them in relation to the spending of public money, the right of a third party to the privacy of their financial / business affairs outweighed the need for that information to be made public; or b) Disclosure of the information would give an unfair advantage to tenderers for commercial contracts. <p>This information is not affected by any other statutory provision which requires the information to be publicly registered.</p> <p>On that basis they felt that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.</p>

No.	Relevant Paragraphs in Schedule 12A
15	<p>Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.</p>
	<p>The Proper Officer (Monitoring Officer) has determined in preparing this report that paragraph 15 should apply. Their view on the public interest test was that whilst they are mindful of the need to ensure that transparency and accountability of public authority for decisions taken by them they were satisfied that in this case disclosure of the information would prejudice the discussion in relation to labour relations to the disadvantage of the authority and inhabitants of its area. On that basis they felt that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.</p>
16	<p>Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.</p>
	<p>No public interest test.</p>
17	<p>Information which reveals that the authority proposes:</p> <p>(a) To give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or</p> <p>(b) To make an order or direction under any enactment.</p>
	<p>The Proper Officer (Monitoring Officer) has determined in preparing this report that paragraph 17 should apply. Their view on the public interest test was that the authority's statutory powers could be rendered ineffective or less effective were there to be advanced knowledge of its intention/the proper exercise of the Council's statutory power could be prejudiced by the public discussion or speculation on the matter to the detriment of the authority and the inhabitants of its area. On that basis they felt that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.</p>
18	<p>Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</p>
	<p>The Proper Officer (Monitoring Officer) has determined in preparing this report that paragraph 18 should apply. Their view on the public interest test was that the authority's statutory powers could be rendered ineffective or less effective were there to be advanced knowledge of its intention/the proper exercise of the Council's statutory power could be prejudiced by public discussion or speculation on the matter to the detriment of the authority and the inhabitants of its area. On that basis they felt that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider this factor when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.</p>

Agenda Item 14.

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) 14 Atodlen 12A
o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972
fel y'i diwygiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at
Wybodaeth) (Amrywiad) (Cymru) 2007.

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 16.

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) 14 Atodlen 12A
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