

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY INQUIRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Staff Name:	CHRIS WILLIAMS
Position:	HEAD – COMMERCIAL SERVICES
Service Area:	COMMERCIAL SERVICES
Directorate:	RESOURCES

1. Prior to receiving this questionnaire, did you know that the City and County of Swansea has a Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty?

Please tick

YES
NO

x

2. Briefly describe below the main local authority functions undertaken in your service area.

Support for other Council Services relating to income development opportunities and also support for the purchase of goods and services (procurement).
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3. During your day to day work, do you currently consider biodiversity when making decisions? If YES please describe what you currently do to maintain and enhance the Natural Environment and Biodiversity.

Sustainable procurement principles as set out within the Wales Procurement Policy Statement underpin the Council's procurement practice. Procurement officers work informally with services at the earliest stages of the procurement process so specifications can be developed by managers that consider value for money on a whole life basis (costs relating to maintenance, disposal and consumables are taken into account).

Supplier Suitability Questionnaires also include a section on sustainability focusing on environmental issues and but also address equalities safeguarding in addition to more traditional technical and economic criteria.

Beyond Bricks and Mortar is an award winning initiative which secures social benefits from construction and regeneration activity across sectors in the City & County of Swansea for the lasting benefits of the community. Community benefit clauses offer a new approach to public procurement and can be defined as requirements made of a development or contract that would not normally have them as a defined or measured outcome. Clauses can be included to influence the following areas:

- Targeted training and recruitment, e.g. long term unemployed
- Supply chain initiatives, committing to local sourcing
- Community consultation (considerate contractors)
- Contributions to education
- Promotion of social enterprises
- Environmental benefits during works and at completion

Our Community Benefit Policy was updated in 2016 broadened this approach to enable all council procurement projects, activities and contracts to be considered for community benefits. By introducing community benefit clauses such as targeted recruitment and training into contracts our aim is to ensure that members of our community, especially young people and those who have been out of the job market for some time are given opportunities of meaningful training and employment. This maximises opportunities to achieve added value and maximise contribution to the well-being goals as a result of public sector spending in Swansea.

Swansea council actively supports local supplier development and understands the added value generated by procuring locally. For major projects, a supplier awareness session is run for local businesses with further support on E-tendering provided by Business Wales. The Transformation & Future Council PDDC has developed an action plan to implement sustainable procurement principles that allow local suppliers to bid for Council contracts. This action plan was reviewed in line with the five ways of working. Moving forward, this process will be further improved by trialling the adaption of the Future Generations Framework for Service Design.

Steps have also been taken towards promoting a circular economy approach with the refurbishment of a new agile working environment achieved by repurposing and re-using existing materials and equipment rather than buying new off catalogue. This approach which developed new ways of working with social enterprise was enabled by learning from, working with and building on the experience of other public bodies particularly Public Health Wales.

4. Do you have any ideas about how your department could do more/work differently to contribute to the maintenance, enhancement and promotion of the natural environment and biodiversity in Swansea Council?

No

5. Please list below any constraints that may prevent the delivery of the above actions.

N/A

6. What help and support would enable you overcome these constraints? If you have any other comments, please list them here.

N/A

Please return completed questionnaire to Bethan Hopkins, Scrutiny Officer by 28 August
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