

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY INQUIRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Staff Name:	Geoff Bacon
Position:	Interim Head of Corporate Property Services
Service Area:	Corporate Property Services
Directorate:	Place Directorate

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

x

NO

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

Property services covers three distinct operational areas; Commercial Estate Management, Strategic Asset Management and Facilities Management. With regards specifically to land management and land disposal, it is only when it comes to disposal of land that the service would have greater consideration of bio-diversity and environmental issues.

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.

As we do not hold or have responsibility for management of land, day to day, there is limited consideration of bio-diversity when making decisions. When it comes to disposal of land, Council officers would follow the normal statutory processes but more specifically, would consult with planning colleagues over any environmental or bio-diversity issues that may have an impact on potential development.

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?

The core function of the property team is to maximise efficient and effective use of council assets, due to the considerable financial and resource constraint, any different ways of working would have an effect on core business. Furthermore, it is often that the promotion or enhancement of the natural environment is in direct conflict to the requirement to maximise any financial return which is critical to the subsidising of core council services.

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

- Limited resource
- Policy conflict

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

Please return completed questionnaire to Bethan Hopkins, Scrutiny Officer by Friday 6th July 2018 bethan.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk 01792 636292

THANK YOU

*If you would like further information regarding the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty please contact: Deborah Hill, Team Leader/Arweinydd Tîm
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