

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY INQUIRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Staff Name:	Tom Price
Position:	Team Leader. Pollution Control Division
Service Area:	Housing and Public Protection
Directorate:	Place

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

✓

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

<p>Pollution Control Housing & Public Health Housing Management (Landlord Services, Business Planning and Renewals/Adaptations) Food Safety Health and Safety Trading Standards Licensing Division Burials, Cremations, Registrars Building Control</p>
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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.

Primarily within the Pollution Control Division. The team deals proactively and reactively with the Air, Land and Water media.

The team's ongoing work within the field of Air Quality requires the monitoring and assessment of ambient air quality in-line with the Air Quality Objectives set out by the EU, UK Government and devolved administrations. Whilst it is not the team's role to provide comment upon pollutant concentration in the ecosystem they are responsible for carrying out the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties, as required by the Environment Act 1995. Part of the LAQM function requires the assessment of ambient air quality and the development of an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to work towards compliance and further reduce exposure. Examples include the current AQAP in development looking at the potential to introduce 'Living Fences' i.e. hedges alongside specific road 'hot spots' to provide screening for the residential premises.

The Pollution Control Team carries out seawater sampling to enable assessment against bathing water standards. Previous sampling works involved within the Interreg Study led to the collection of samples and data from discharge events in tributaries to Swansea Bay. This collaborative work enabled the data to be fed back to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) to be considered within their infrastructure upgrade works for pumping stations and combined sewer overflows (CSO's).

As statutory consultees in the Planning Process the Pollution Control team also comment upon applications on 'Brownfield Sites' with a view to ensuring that the relevant pathways to receptors are not created as a result of the development.

The Housing service is required to consider biodiversity when developing new Council housing via Planning conditions for example.

- 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?**

- 1. Partake collaborative work with the relevant teams looking at green infrastructure improvements and ways to enable development of mutually beneficial schemes**
- 2. Support any applications for Electric Vehicles.**
- 3. Could look at Emission constraints on vehicles however this would need to be consulted with the trade and could affect**
- 4. Housing's commitment to the Welsh Housing quality Standard means there will be enhancements to green/open space via environmental works programme over the next few years. We are intending to join this up with other Council services to ensure a cross dept approach**

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

1. Financial requirements for potential green infrastructure schemes (outside of the HRA funded WHQS Programme) would need to be met; budgets are restricted at present so would most likely need to be sourced.
2. Applications would need to be made by the trade. Cost is quite prohibitive at the moment for purpose built taxis and the infrastructure is not in place in Swansea.
3. Some Authorities have imposed caps on the emission rate on vehicles, this would need to be researched, consulted upon prior to the introduction, if agreed by Members.

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

An open dialogue between colleagues would enable up to date discussion of ideas, workstreams of interest that would be mutually beneficial.

An overview awareness of potential crossovers of workstreams.

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
(01792) 635777 Mob 07967 138 016*