



Report of the Convener of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 February 2019

Final Scrutiny Inquiry Report: Natural Environment

Purpose:	To present the final report of the scrutiny inquiry into the natural environment.
Content:	The final report is attached which concludes the inquiry.
Councillors are being asked to:	Agree the report for submission to Cabinet.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Jones, Convener of the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Panel.
Lead Officer & Report Author:	Bethan Hopkins Tel: 01792 637732 E-mail: bethan.hopkins@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

1.1 The final report arising from the Scrutiny Panel's inquiry into the natural environment is presented to the Committee for agreement so that it can be submitted to Cabinet for decision. The attached report presents the conclusions and recommendations arising from the inquiry that sought to answer the following question:

'What should Swansea Council do to maintain and enhance its natural environment and biodiversity, and, in so doing, promote the resilience of eco-systems?'

1.2 The report is structured in the following way:

- Foreword: Why this Matters?
- Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations
- Why We Produced This Report
- Evidence
- General Comments

- Conclusions and Recommendations
- Recommendations - Short/Medium/Long Term
- Acknowledgements
- Further Scrutiny Needed
- About the Inquiry Panel

1.3 The Scrutiny Programme Committee are asked to agree the report for submission to Cabinet. In considering the report the Committee should satisfy themselves that:

- Sufficient evidence has been gathered in order to address the question that the inquiry aimed to answer
- The conclusions of the Panel are supported by the evidence gathered by the Panel
- The recommendations of the Panel follow from their conclusions and are reasonable, achievable and capable of being actioned and monitored

If the Committee have any issues with regard to the content of the report, these will need to be referred back to the Panel for further consideration prior to the report being re-presented to the Committee.

1.4 In considering the report, the Committee may wish to emphasise aspects of the Inquiry to Cabinet. Points of this type can be included on the covering report that goes to Cabinet and will be attributed to the Committee.

1.5 The Committee should also consider the issues arising from the Inquiry (section 7 of the inquiry report) which the Panel feel merit inclusion in future scrutiny work programmes.

2. Legal implications

2.1 There are no specific legal implications at this stage.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications to this report. Any potential implications will be outlined in the Cabinet response.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 Equality and engagement issues were formally considered at the scoping stage of this inquiry and borne in mind by the Panel throughout evidence gathering. The Cabinet Member will need to ensure that implications are considered via application of the corporate Equality Impact Assessment process when considering the response to the recommendations.

Background papers: None

Appendices: Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry Final Report