**Cyngor Abertawe
Swansea Council**

Cabinet Office
The Guildhall,
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Councillor Mary Jones
Chair,
Scrutiny Programme Committee

SENT BY EMAIL

Please ask for:	Councillor Rob Stewart
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Our Ref:	RS/JW
Your Ref:	
Date:	3 February 2020

Dear Councillor Jones

Thank you for your letter dated 27 January 2020 following my attendance at the Scrutiny Programme Committee on the 13 January.

Following your request for further comments, I would like to respond as follows.

Brexit – ensure that councillors are informed of developments with regard to the Shared Prosperity Fund and of any opportunities to comment on proposals

Once the information is available I will ensure the details are circulated.

National Park City status – please confirm what process is being followed by the Council

The draft Swansea Central Area Green Infrastructure Strategy - Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife, which is in the process of being reviewed following a period of public consultation, includes a proposed strategic objective for Swansea to attain wildlife and wellbeing friendly city status. Suggested examples of how this could be achieved is through becoming a Biophilic City, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a Woodland City, or a National Park City.

Becoming a National Park City therefore remains an aspiration at this time - just one of a number of options to consider going forward. Whichever option is ultimately pursued it will not be as simple as just making a declaration – it needs to be backed up by environmental enhancements delivered on the ground, more joined up ways of working between sectors and, most importantly, the support of the public. Examples of the sort of changes needed are set out in the above mentioned draft strategy, including:

- Increasing terrestrial green infrastructure (GI)
- Increasing tree canopy cover by planting species which provide the most effective mix of multiple benefits
- Developer buy-in to the installation of green roofs/walls as an integral part of new development

To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above.
I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod.

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- Developing more resilient ecosystems within communities
- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Identifying community green infrastructure 'champions'
- A commitment to the ongoing maintenance of the urban GI network

Once the draft strategy is adopted the next stage will be to agree an action plan to deliver the strategic objectives and this will include identifying the wildlife and well-being status Swansea could most realistically achieve. However it is important to note that if National Park City status does become the preferred option it is not something that can be 'achieved' by the Council alone.   It is a grass roots movement and will require collaborative work with community groups and other partners. Anyone could become involved and the Council would not necessarily be expected to take the lead.

Indeed there is no formal process for creating a National Park City. It took 5 years of campaigning by those involved in the London movement before it was declared the first National Park City. Interest is now growing in other cities and to improve understanding of what is required a universal charter for National Park Cities is in the process of being developed which anyone can support https://npc-universal-charter.netlify.com/   The charter seeks to set out a vision, definition, goals, values and characteristics of what will be needed to become a National Park City.

Clearly there is still some way to go before there is an agreed understanding of National Park Cities. However the environmental enhancement work we are currently undertaking and scheduled to undertake both within the City Centre and rest of the County are all aimed at making Swansea a greener and increasingly biodiverse city and will support whatever wildlife and wellbeing status is eventually opted for.

Hafod Morfa Copperworks – please share the new masterplan when available.

The masterplan will be shared when available.

Yours sincerely

**Y CYNGHORYDD/COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART
ARWEINYDD/LEADER**

Cyngor **Abertawe**
Swansea Council