

Draft Sustainable Development Policy

This policy aims to set out why sustainable development is central to everything that we do at Swansea Council, how the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) provides a legislative context for our actions at a local level and what the Council, its elected members, its services and officers can do to embed and deepen this ongoing change.

1. Background

1.1 Swansea Council has long been a leader in sustainable development publishing our first sustainable development policy in 2006. This current revised policy applies the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 (WFG Act) and aims to guide services in embedding the change necessary for the future.

2. Our Vision

2.1 Swansea Council understands that 'business as usual' isn't enough to deliver the Swansea we want in these challenging times. Sustainable development is a way of thinking and working that looks at the bigger picture balancing wider costs and benefits, both now and in the future.

2.2 Sustainable development is about getting the best out of all our resources today, while making sure we have plenty of resources for tomorrow. We have to look again and see the full potential of our city and countryside. Then, use this knowledge to come up with new ways to tackle old problems.

2.3 By working with local people so they can help themselves, we can help build stronger communities. By looking after our surroundings, we grow healthier and by finding new ways to make money and reduce waste, we become wealthier.

3. Key Principles

3.1 Swansea Council has a well-being duty for all its services to carry out sustainable development.

3.2 Sustainable Development is defined in law as.

” the process of **improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales**, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals’

WFG Act, Part 2 Improving well-being’ section 2 sustainable development

3.3 The Sustainable Development Principle means we must

Act in a way that **‘ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’**.

WFG Act, Improved well-being, section 5, the sustainable development principle, paragraph (1)

3.4 The Five Ways of Working set out how we apply the sustainable development principle in practice. Services need to demonstrate that they apply each of these approaches in designing, planning and delivering services.

The Five Ways of Working	Description	What this means for services
Long Term	The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs	Consider future trends including global heating and biodiversity loss, impacts on future generations, impacts on the next generation (25 to 30 years) and look at least ten years ahead
Prevention	How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives	Take intervention action earlier rather than at crisis or trigger points. Consider the cost of no action and potential costs avoided. Look for ways to value benefits of addressing root causes rather than symptoms.

Integration	Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.	Consider the objectives of other services, corporate well-being objectives and local well-being objectives set out in Policies and Strategies and Plans. The objectives of other public bodies and our partners in the third sector. Impact on each of the national well-being goals
Collaboration	Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives	Work closely with other services as One Council and work together with colleagues from across the public sector as well as with the third and private sectors.
Involvement	The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves	Engage with citizens, communities and staff at the earliest appropriate stages and throughout processes. Use corporate policies and mechanisms to engage, consult, co-design or coproduce as appropriate

3.5 The National Well-being goals

The seven well-being goals set out the future that we are working towards. Services must maximise their contribution to each of the goals if Swansea Council is to improve Swansea's well-being. It is important we consider full description of each goals rather than just the headline title.

Goal	Description of the Goal	What this means for Services <i>(Based on Future Generations Commissioners Journey Checkers)</i>
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair and local procurement to promote inclusive growth. • Drive practices which allow people to secure decent work. • Support inclusive local economies and the foundational economy. • Reduce carbon emissions and use low carbon energy, support community energy and a low carbon society. • Develop a skilled population, fit for future technological change.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (including climate change).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage land to create healthy functioning ecosystems, to maintain soil and biodiversity. • Support social resilience and community well-being via natural green space. • Increase awareness and knowledge of a biodiverse natural environment • Protect water and air quality making the environment healthier for wildlife and people. • Use resources efficiently.
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to act with compassion and facilitate understanding of mental

	<p>and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the benefits of physical activity for everyone. • Enable places to support the health and wellbeing of people and communities. • Support people to understand behaviours and choices that benefit future health.
<p>A more equal Wales</p>	<p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equal access to decent jobs and fair work recognising everyone’s value. • Enable people to develop the skills, education and knowledge to be fulfilled. • Give people equal opportunities to participate in decision making. • Understand the causes and symptoms of health inequalities, including Adverse Childhood Experiences and Violence against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<p>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create conditions where people and communities can be active and do the things that matter to them. • Support communities to be well connected and safe • Support vibrant foundational economies.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value the role and potential of community anchor organisations in building cohesive communities
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	<p>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop skills, increase opportunities and respect our status as a bilingual nation. • Support people to engage with culture in their daily working and recreational lives. • Use cultural and linguistic interventions to address wider societal issues. • Use culture and the Welsh language as a driver for economic and environmental change. • Enable our citizens to access and engage with their own and other cultures.
<p>A globally responsible Wales</p>	<p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable. • Support sustainable behaviour and making connections. • Ensure Swansea is welcoming, safe and fair to all. • Ensure we use the earth's resources efficiently and contribute to global well-being. • Make the right financial decisions now, to enable future generations to thrive.

The Council and every service and officer must work towards all of the goals. The goals are equally important and should each be considered for all decision making even if the contribution is limited. This ensures every action creates maximum value and impact.

Making sure we maximise our contribution to the well-being goals indirectly ensures we play our part in improving global well-being. The well-being goals map directly against the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

4. Embedding Sustainable Development

4.1 Our Well-being Objectives

In order to carry out sustainable development, the Council sets Well-being Objectives in our Corporate (Well-being) Plan. Services plan how they contribute to the steps that make up each well-being objective while maximising contribution to the well-being goals.

All decision making must consider its contribution to the Council's well-being objectives both individually and taken together.

4.2 Areas for Change

Seven areas have been identified in statutory guidance where the change needs to happen. These corporate functions support services to apply the five ways of working, contribute to the well-being goals and deliver the well-being objectives.

The areas for change are:

- Corporate Planning
- Financial planning
- Workforce planning (people)
- Procurement
- Assets
- Risk management
- Performance management

4.3 Delivery, Governance and Accountability

The Policy will be delivered by the whole Council through corporate policies and strategies and frontline delivery.

This work by Council services will be supported by a corporate Sustainable Development Action Plan to embed sustainable development in the behaviours, culture and processes of the local authority. This includes streamlining processes wherever possible and supporting services to ensure the WFG Act is implicit in everything they do rather than a bolted on additional process.