



Report of the Convener

Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14 December 2020

Monitoring Delivery of Corporate Priority – Maintaining & Enhancing Swansea’s Natural Resources & Biodiversity

Purpose	The Panel has planned a discussion on the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Priority and Well-being Objective in relation to Maintaining & Enhancing Swansea’s Natural Resources & Biodiversity.
Content	Lead Cabinet Members and Officers will be present to report to the Panel about the objective, key actions, measures of success, and progress. Extract from the following are provided to support discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council’s Annual Review of Performance which reports on the Council’s corporate priorities.• Council’s Annual Performance Monitoring Report which contains an overview of performance, and current performance measures.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the information provided, ask questions and give views
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Peter Jones (convener)
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel is relatively new and continues to develop its role, and has to date been discussing specific issues of concern relevant to this area of scrutiny.
- 1.2 As a Performance Panel, it is important for the Panel to establish a regular dialogue with Cabinet Members and officers about the Council’s overall progress in delivering the corporate priority on maintaining and enhancing Swansea’s natural resources & biodiversity, and accounting for performance against targets and other measures identified.

- 1.3 The work plan of the Panel should include such regular performance monitoring in order to provide challenge around corporate activities, achievements and their impact, as well as having space to look at particular issues either arising from this work or important to the natural environment.

2. Performance Monitoring

- 2.1 The Panel will need to consider how best it can monitor performance, looking at the various sources of available data and information that would be relevant to the Panel's remit, and would effectively provide a good picture of how the Council is performing.
- 2.2 The Council publishes an Annual Review of Performance and the report for 2019/20 was published in October 2020. It contains a section on each corporate objective. An extract from this report is **appended**, covering the parts relevant to 'maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources & biodiversity' for discussion.
- 2.3 The Council also publishes quarterly and annual performance monitoring reports. The Council's Annual Performance Monitoring Report, presented to Cabinet in September 2020, shows the performance indicators that measure progress in meeting corporate objectives. The report contains an overview of performance in relation to maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural environment & biodiversity, and current performance measures. This is also **appended**. There may be additional information and data, that could benefit the Panel and support / enrich discussion.
- 2.4 The Panel is keen to hear about the role played by the Corporate Biodiversity Working Group (now known as the Corporate Biodiversity and Climate Change Working Group) in helping to deliver actions and embed biodiversity duties across the Council. The Panel is also keen to hear about the work of the Nature Conservation Team, is supporting and delivering council objectives.

3. Cabinet Responsibility and Accountability

- 3.1 Although maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources & biodiversity, and issues relating to the natural environment are cross-cutting, a number of cabinet members have a lead role, including:
 - Councillor Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy & Service Transformation (Deputy Leader) – Lead on Climate Change Emergency
 - Councillor David Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader) – Lead on Environmental Health, Planning Policy, Public Protection, and Sustainable Development (including biodiversity)

- Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management – Lead on Air Quality & Pollution Incidents, Coastal Defence, Grass Cutting Services, Marina, Foreshore & Beach Maintenance, Parks Maintenance
- Councillor Robert Francis-Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism – Lead on Parks Development

3.2 Lead Director / Heads of Service:

- Martin Nicholls – Director of Place
- Stuart Davies – Head of Highways & Transportation
- Phil Holmes – Head of Planning & City Regeneration
- Chris Howell – Head of Waste, Cleansing & Parks.
- Mark Wade – Head of Housing & Public Health

4. Regular Monitoring

- 4.1 The Panel will establish a pattern of regular monitoring. It is suggested that a progress report every six months on the delivery of this corporate objective will be an effective way forward.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Extract from Annual Review of Performance 2019/20, published by Swansea Council

Appendix 2 – Extract from Cabinet Report 17 September 2020: Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2019/20