

Our well-being, prosperity, quality of life and future survival is dependent on a healthy resilient natural environment and stable climate. Significant steps were taken during 19/20 to meet this wellbeing objective:

-The Council's first Section 6 Monitoring Report was submitted to Welsh Government outlining what it has done to comply with its Biodiversity (Section 6) Duty and an Action Plan drafted. A new Corporate Biodiversity Working Group as well as a Scrutiny Panel have been established to oversee delivery of identified actions over the next 3 years. The Group also considers the issue of climate change and the Council's response to Climate Emergency.

-A Policy Development Committee (PDC) has been designated the Equalities and Future Generations Future Generations PDC charged with a specific remit to cover the response to Climate Change emergency. Work has begun reviewing relevant Council policies and looking at how they align with tackling climate change or where gaps may exist.

-A draft Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy has been consulted on which sets out a vision for the central area of Swansea to be much greener, creating green spaces which deliver resilience, prosperity, health and well-being, and will include a target for increasing tree canopy coverage within the public realm. A County-wide GI strategy is also being prepared

-Tree planting targets have been exceeded helped by the £12 million Kingsway development which has resulted in over 200 new trees being planted, and a new City Centre park is in the process of being created.

-A Corporate Tree Policy has been drafted with consultation to follow current consultation on Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) relating to Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows as well SPG relating to Biodiversity. An Ash dieback management strategy has been implemented and an Ash Dieback Action Plan is in place with around 3,000 Ash trees surveyed on public land, many of which show varying signs of dieback.

-High level mapping of biodiversity and GI has been undertaken to identify areas of poorest environmental quality and identify and prioritise areas for GI enhancement over the next 3 years. Work has also begun on a biodiversity review of all Council assets. Clauses are now routinely inserted into new service level agreements, contracts, licences, etc. relating to land use and land management to prevent loss of biodiversity. A service level agreement has been renewed with the local biodiversity records centre to ensure effective management of land/buildings

-Local communities have become routinely involved and supported in participating in initiatives that maintain and enhance tree cover and improve ecological connectivity. Work has included planting over 4000 whips ( not included in planting targets) abutting Mynydd Newydd Playing Fields and tree planting with volunteers at Ravenhill Park and Singleton Park. A local not for profit tree nursery has been supported where volunteers help nurture indigenous trees. This is one of several not for profit organisations the Council works in partnership with. The planting of trees has also been supported through partnership working with a variety of community groups

-Collaborative working with services areas across the Council has improved ecological connectivity through developing verge habitats, wildlife corridors and habitats to encourage pollinators. Significant funding is available from a variety of sources for tree planting, identifying sufficient suitable sites on publicly owned land and procuring appropriate species types is proving more problematic.

-A Climate Change Charter has been drafted setting out headline commitments which the Council seeks to adopt and which it encourages all organisations within the area to commit to. Launch of this Charter has been delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Swansea Environment Forum has accepted the Council's invitation to assist in developing a Climate Action Plan particularly in relation to supporting and facilitating wider stakeholder engagement.

- The Council has built up the biggest public sector-operated electric vehicle fleet in Wales, which has been hailed a 'beacon of excellence' by Green Fleet Cymru. This will help cut our carbon footprint, save money and reduce air pollution. An infrastructure of Electric Charging Points is being developed which will be installed in 12 car parks across Swansea. The electricity supply will be 100% sustainably sourced.

-Agile working has reduced unnecessary travel and plans are underway to vacate the Civic Centre and establish a Central Public Sector hub. This process was accelerated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council has been leading the implementation of the One Public Estate programme within Swansea and the South West Wales region. As a result, significant interest from public sector bodies has been established on the proposal to share office accommodation and associated services within a Central Public Sector Hub. The development is a key component of Swansea Central - Phase 2.

-All the Council's energy is procured from 100% renewable energy sources. Community owned renewable energy schemes are supported, with the Swansea Community Energy and Enterprise Scheme Solar PV project delivering clean energy for 11 local schools and a care home during 2019 generating 356,000 kWh.

Additional Solar PV installations at the Guildhall and four schools generated 89,000kwh.

-The Council remains committed to the building of the world's first purpose built tidal energy lagoon. Through the Swansea Bay City Deal Region a Tidal Lagoon Task Force their concept plans have been developed for a large floating development of commercial and residential accommodation.

- The Council is a founder member of Low Carbon Swansea Bay (LCSB) -a network of public, private and voluntary organisations in South West Wales working to reduce our carbon footprint by sharing knowledge, ideas, networks and training opportunities. The Council actively participate in the Swansea Bay Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Group, support a Clean Air Roadshow and have engaged local businesses and partners by hosting the first Green Fleet Wales event in Swansea. Working towards decarbonisation will help provide long term sustainable solutions, particularly pertinent during the Covid-19 pandemic recovery. And the aim is to develop a set of net zero commitments/pledges in 2021.

-Interpretation boards have been installed to help visitors appreciate environmental and cultural features at both community green spaces and key visitor attractions. An Environmental Events programme is published annually which provides details of hundreds of free or low cost local environmental events. Awareness raising talks and training workshops have taken place across Swansea, including guided tours of specialist parks and Nature Reserves and in support of volunteering days. These events were well attended during 19/20 but will be impacted going forward in the short term due to the Covid -19 pandemic

-The 'Our Nature our Future' project has helped to embed the value of outdoor learning and supported 20 local primary schools to make better use of their school grounds for biodiversity. This has been complemented by the 'Giving Nature a Home' project working in collaboration with the RSPB which has helped children to access and learn about their local natural environment. Nature is widely acknowledged to have helped many people cope and build resilience during the coronavirus crisis as families reconnected with local green spaces as part of their daily exercise.

-Training for school children has also been delivered at the Council's Bishops Wood Local Nature Reserve, Caswell, and the international Eco Schools programmes has been supported which encourages schools to promote recycling and reduce energy and water consumption and encouraged Foundation Phase pupils to learn outdoors. There will be limited opportunities for future events until social distancing restrictions are lifted

-Means of access to green space has been mapped, including access points and opportunities for improvements identified. The aim is to ensure that at least 75% of the local population live within 300m (5 minutes' walk) of their nearest area of natural greenspace. Work has started on a Green Fairness Policy. Green Fairness is about ensuring high quality GI and natural greenspace is available in deprived neighbourhoods to help improve resilience to climate change and reduce health inequalities.

-The annual programme of wildflower planting and management saw over 31,000 square metres of wild flowers sown at almost 180 sites across the city including roundabouts, roadside verges and parks. The unplanned recent reduction in cutting of verges has accelerated the strategy of reducing mowing. The unintentional results in appropriate locations has resulted in a visible increase in nature. Work will continue to identify those locations in Council ownership which can be given over to wildflower planting, however the extent of planting will be reduced in 20/21 due the delay start to the programme

-Eighteen locations have been awarded prestigious Green Flag or Green Flag Community Award status. Among the 2019 winners are six Swansea Council parks including Clyne Gardens, Victoria Park, Brynmill Park, Cwmdonkin Park, Parc Llewelyn and the Botanical & Ornamental Gardens at Singleton.

-Greater community ownership of parks, nature reserves and wildlife sites and working with 'Friends of' organisations is helping to ensure long-term sustainability of parks and public spaces. There are more than 30 active 'Friends of' Parks/Open Spaces groups with several undertaking leases and considering a Community Asset Transfer.

-Friends of groups have been able to access grants which the Council cannot - achieving in excess of £300k to support general building refurbishment as well as investment in new playground equipment, MUGAs, planting of new trees and shrubs, etc. A memorandum of understanding has been produced in partnership with the groups which will assist with future funding applications. Several roles across Council services and partner organisations now include volunteer coordination to encourage and provide volunteering opportunities for adults and children to help with practical conservation/maintenance tasks within their neighbourhoods. However organisational resources are still needed for the majority of our environmental assets and service areas have continued to maintain nature reserves and rights of way throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

-The mapping of Invasive Non Native Species has been completed for the whole of the County and long term site treatment is being rolled -out. A Japanese Knotweed advice leaflet has been produced and further guidance is provided on the Council's website.

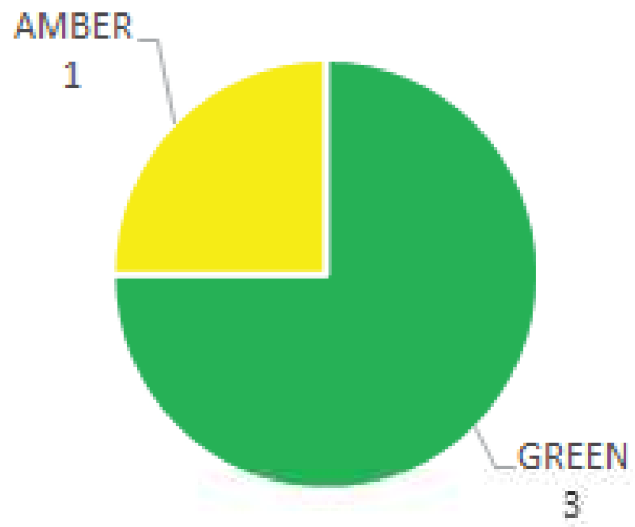
-A new key performance indicator has been developed based on the Bathing Water Quality for Swansea Bay linked to the prediction model and public message display. Results were fractionally below target but this has been linked to issues with external data feeds.

-Environmental enhancement schemes have been prepared and are in the process of being implemented for Council housing estates as part of the Welsh Housing

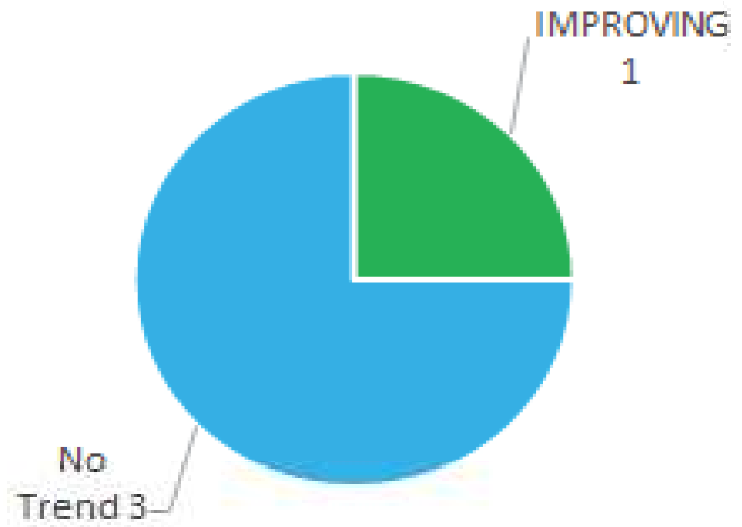
Quality Scheme with hundreds of new trees planted or scheduled to be planted over the next 2 years. Replanting has been required in parts of Penlan due to vandalism



-The Council exceeded its waste reuse and recycling target of 64%, achieving a result of 64.7% which was an increase of 2.43% from last year.

5  
Performance against Target  
2019/2020



Performance compared to same Period of previous  
year  
2019/2020



Performance Indicator	KEY	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	Comment-2019/2020
NAT001  Numbers of trees planted by Parks during the year	RAG			GREEN	
	Result			414	
	Target			283	
NO GRAPH DISPLAYED FIRST YEAR OF FULL REPORTING	Trend			No Data	
	Num			414	
	Den				
NAT002  Area of Wildflowers sown during the year (sq.m.)	RAG			GREEN	It should be noted that the area of wildflowers sown for 2020/21 will be significantly reduced due to a delay in starting works due to Covid-19
	Result			31041	
	Target			31000	
NO GRAPH DISPLAYED FIRST YEAR OF FULL REPORTING	Trend			No Data	
	Num			31041	
	Den				

Performance Indicator	KEY	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	Comment-2019/2020																									
NAT003 <span style="color: red;">↑</span> Percentage of Bathing Water Quality Predictions displayed on public electronic sign.  NO GRAPH DISPLAYED FIRST YEAR OF FULL REPORTING	RAG			AMBER	First year for the PI. Some issues with external data feeds leading to more than forecasted 'No Prediction Available' messages.																									
	Result			89.7%																										
	Target			90.00%																										
	Trend			No Data																										
	Num			1497																										
	Den			1668																										
WMT009b (PAM030) <span style="color: red;">↑</span> The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way	RAG	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN	<p><b>WMT009b HIGH is Good</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>WMT009b Performance Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Qtr1</th> <th>Qtr2</th> <th>Qtr3</th> <th>Qtr4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>59%</td> <td>65%</td> <td>63%</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>63%</td> <td>64%</td> <td>64%</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>60%</td> <td>65%</td> <td>63%</td> <td>61%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>61%</td> <td>67%</td> <td>68%</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	2016/17	59%	65%	63%	62%	2017/18	63%	64%	64%	63%	2018/19	60%	65%	63%	61%	2019/20	61%	67%	68%	63%
	Year	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3		Qtr4																								
	2016/17	59%	65%	63%		62%																								
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	2019/20	61%	67%	68%		63%																								
Result	64.01%	62.54%	64.97%																											
Target	60.00%	62.50%	64.00%																											
Trend	IMPROVING	DECLINING	IMPROVING																											
Num	71123.12	68965.80	71110.61																											
Den	111103.85	110267.00	109447.63																											