



Report of the Convener

Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14 December 2020

Work Plan 2020/21

Purpose	To identify and agree a work plan for the Panel that will support ongoing monitoring of Council activities and performance in relation to the natural environment, and assessment of progress regarding the Council's commitments, work and implementation of agreed plans.
Content:	A proposed draft Work Plan is provided.
Councillors are being asked to	Discuss and agree its work plan for 2020/21.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Panel should identify and agree a work plan at the start of each municipal year that supports its role as a Performance Panel and will represent effective scrutiny.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee has agreed to increase the frequency of the Natural Environment Performance Panel from quarterly to meeting every two months. This is a reflection of the growing seriousness of issues around biodiversity and climate change and their importance, as well as recognition of the Council's corporate well-being objective on maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity.
- 1.3 Additional Panel time should enable better monitoring of Council performance against objectives, targets and action plans, and the role it is playing, as well as examination of specific natural environmental issues.
- 1.4 A draft work plan has been prepared taking into account previously identified priorities, key issues, and consultation with Panel Members.

- 1.5 The Panel is asked to consider the **attached** draft work plan for agreement, so that future Panel meetings can be planned and prepared for.
- 1.6. Subject to agreement of the attached work plan, arrangements will be made for the Panel to meet in February 2021 (date to be confirmed) to consider the management of green space / weed & verge management. This can include discussion on use of glyphosate, wildflower planting programme, and green infrastructure.
- 1.7 Panel meetings will typically require the involvement of relevant Cabinet Members and key officers in presenting information, answering questions and discussion. The Panel may wish to involve others, e.g. external contributors, as and when considered necessary and appropriate. Any such external engagement should have a clear rationale and benefit to the work of the Panel.
- 1.8 Following each meeting, and on behalf of the Panel, the Convener can write to relevant Cabinet Member(s) reflecting on key findings, raising issues of concern, comments and recommendations for response as appropriate following discussion. This will facilitate the ongoing performance conversation with Cabinet Members.
- 1.9 The Convener of the Panel is also a co-opted member of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and will report, at least annually, to the Committee on progress providing headlines on Panel activities, achievements, and impact.
- 1.10 Any agreed plans would need to be flexible. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic calls for scrutiny to be proportionate and responsive to organisational pressures that may affect resources to support activities.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None