



Report of the Director of Place

Climate Change Corporate Delivery Committee – 15 June 2022

‘Delivering on Nature Recovery & Climate Change’ Status Report

Purpose:	To update the committee on progress with regard to the proposed new corporate well-being objective – ‘Delivering on Nature Recovery & Climate Change’ which is due to be considered by Council on 7 th July 2022.
Policy Framework:	Climate Change & Nature Recovery Strategy
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that:- 1) Subject to the approval by Council of the proposed new corporate well-being objective “Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change”, the Committee notes the direction of travel regarding the delivery of the new objective and recommends the development of a forward plan of activity for 2022-23 to align with the delivery of the proposed new corporate well-being objective.
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1. Background

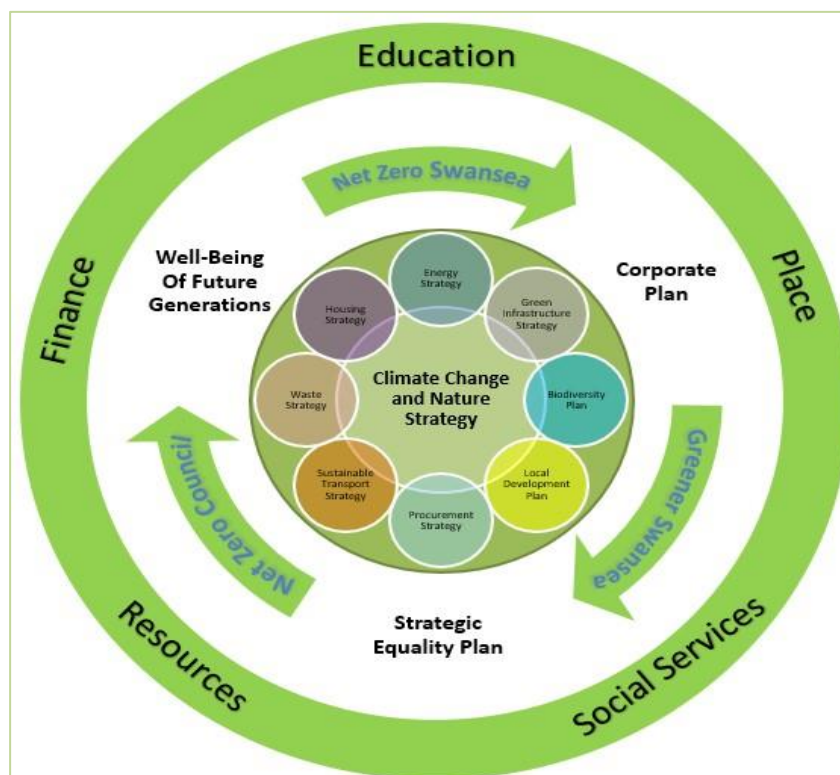
- 1.1 The Climate Change and Nature Recovery agenda is evolving rapidly and over the last 18 months two reports have been approved by Cabinet and Council (Nov 2020 & Nov 2021).
- 1.2 A report was also presented to the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee in March 2022 providing a status update, whilst also proposing projects for a forward plan.

1.3 The proposed new 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' corporate well-being objective is due for approval at July 7th 2022 Council meeting. Please refer to **Appendix A** which provides a suite of evidence to back up how the teams will meet the proposed objective and how it links to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2. Climate Change & Nature Recovery Governance

2.1 Governance has advanced and continues to adapt to ensure we keep a clear focus on:

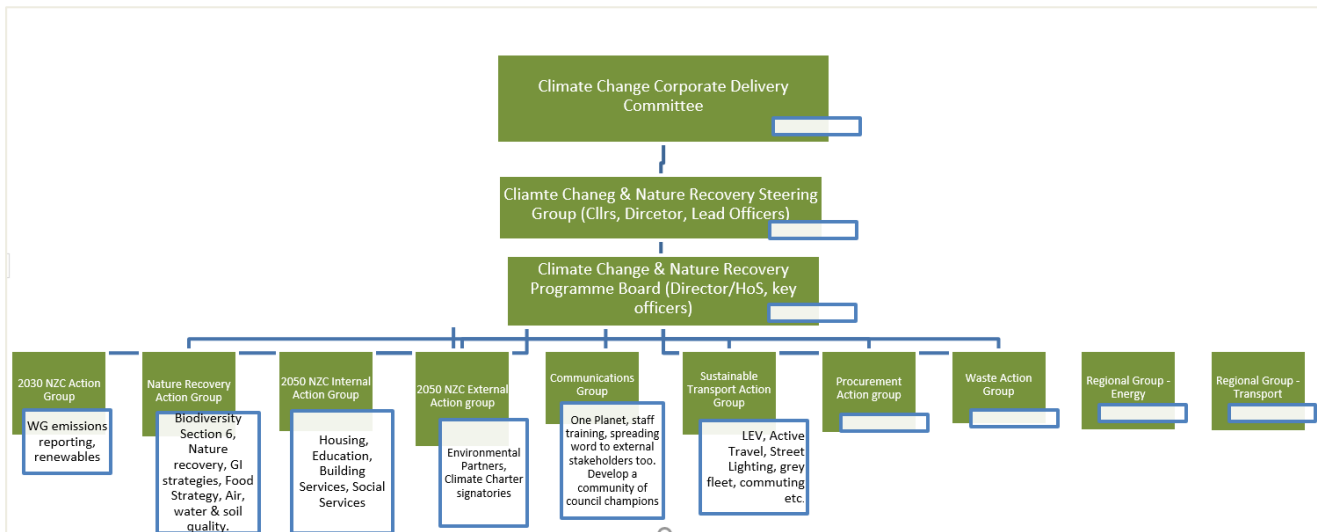
- Swansea Council Achieving net zero carbon by 2030
- Swansea achieving net zero carbon by 2050
- Delivering on Nature Recovery



2.2 The majority of strategies under this new well-being objective have been approved or are imminent with both the Street Lighting and Sustainable Transport Strategies due for approval in coming months.

3. Internal Reporting

3.1 Focus must now turn to delivery with an expectation that each priority area develops a sound action plan that can be reported on annually. Proposed delivery groups as seen below are to be discussed and agreed at Programme Board and Steering Group.



4. External Reporting

4.1 Emissions

To date Swansea has submitted two years of data – 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to Welsh Government. We are currently awaiting an amended template for 2021-2022 which is due for submission 9th September 2022. There will be new additions e.g. commuting emissions.

Once the data has been collated for 2021-22, it is proposed that the team take a report to Cabinet and Council later this year outlining options to ensure delivery of the net zero council target for 2030 and respective funds required to achieve the target.

4.2 Nature Recovery - Biodiversity Plan/Section 6/Nature Recovery Action Plan

As required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Biodiversity Duty, in December 2019 the Council submitted its first monitoring report outlining actions it had taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. This is currently being reviewed in line with the Welsh Government's 3-year reporting cycle.

In collaboration with members of the Local Nature Partnership, we are also currently reviewing and updating the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to produce a Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea. To support working with partners to develop and implement opportunities to enhance biodiversity a number of new posts have been created within the Council's Nature Conservation Team during 21/22, including a Local Nature Partnership Officer, a Biodiversity (Section 6) Officer, a Woodland Officer and a Planning Ecologist. Additionally two temporary grant funded Community Greenspace Officers have also been appointed to begin the

process of mapping green infrastructure assets to improve recreational access with associated health and wellbeing benefits.

5. Emerging Projects

5.1 With exception of the Lagoon, which is being managed as a separate project, all commitments are covered in the proposed action delivery groups and programme board governance.

- A commitment to Net Zero By 2030
- First phase of Blue Eden Lagoon
- A solar farm at Tir John
- More EV charging points and LED street lighting
- We will plant 1000's of new trees
- New green infrastructure in our communities
- More 'green' council

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

6.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

6.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

6.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

6.2 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required. This report covers an overarching strategy, each action as and when pursued will be screened independently. The IIA screening form is attached as **Appendix B**.

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed** - If we move in the right direction and bring citizens along with us then all benefits could and should be very positive, eg reduction in fuel poverty, local food supply, improved health and well-being, reduced fire, flooding to name but a few.
- **Summary of involvement** - The initial survey provided very positive feedback, we will be continuing with more general engagement but will also looking to use partners to reach out to specific communities, schools, businesses etc.
- **WFG considerations**- To note the Well-being of Future Generations is a pivotal part of our project governance structure.
- **Any risks identified** - Risks are medium - financially we will need to continue to lobby WG to ensure funding is available to make such changes – eg decarbonisation of homes, transportation, active travel.
- **Cumulative impact** - A brilliant and exciting opportunity to maximise the wellbeing of future generations and equality plan principles to make for a better Swansea by 2050.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, it is clear to reach both the 2030 and 2050 targets, significant investment is required and any such decisions would be subject to separate cabinet reports at the time fully outlining the financial implications with the council continuing to lobby both Welsh and UK Governments to provide appropriate funding

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report Nov 2020

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s69045/09%20-%20Climate%20Emergency%20report.pdf?LLL=0>

Cabinet Report Nov 2021

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s78736/07%201%20of%204%20-%20Climate%20Change.pdf?LLL=0>

E, E&I Report March 2022

Appendices:

- Appendix A Delivering on the proposed new Nature Recovery & Climate Change Well-being Objective Evidence.
- Appendix B IIA