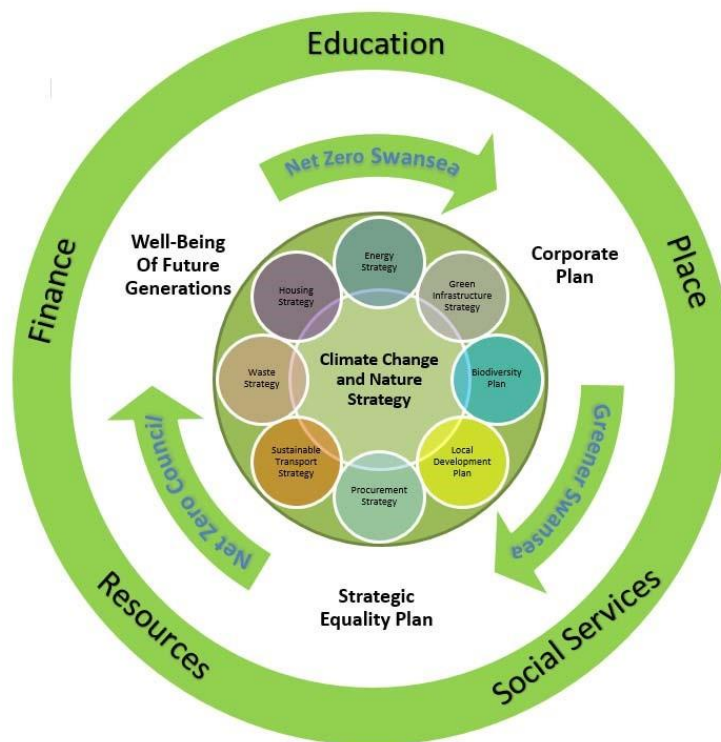


## Delivering on **Nature Recovery and Climate Change**

### Why this priority is a well-being objective.

- Following Welsh Government declarations for Wales, the Council has declared both a Climate Emergency in June 2019 and a Nature Emergency in November 2021.
- Using the Welsh Government Route map to net zero, Swansea Council will align with its principles, knowing what needs to be done now, by 2022-26 Low Carbon becoming the norm and by 2030 where choosing carbon zero is routine.
- Sound governance has been established within the council to act on such challenges and all activity will be driven within the parameters of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, the Environment Act (Wales) 2016, the Strategic Equality Plan and the Corporate Plan and the Swansea (PSB) Well Being Plan.



- To ensure that in addition to achieving net zero 2030 for Swansea Council, we will work with partners, organisations, schools, businesses to support Swansea as a whole county and citizens in its efforts to become net zero by 2050, aligning with the Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget (2) 2022/2025. Establishing both Climate and Nature Charters and a Pledge Wall to encourage active participation and help build a healthier, more prosperous and biodiverse/ ecologically resilient Swansea.

- Swansea is one of the most ecologically rich and diverse counties in the UK. Its unique variety of habitats and species and wonderful range of parks, greenspaces, nature reserves, beaches and landscapes needs to be maintained, enhanced and sustainably managed for the benefit of everyone now and into the future.
- Our natural environment and biodiversity is under threat and in decline due to unsustainable human activities. Habitats and species are being lost at an alarming and unsustainable rate. We need to raise awareness of the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change at the local level and provide information, advice, and practical support and incentives to encourage others to take action and collaborate to deliver positive solutions to these challenges.
- We want everyone to have access to, understand, appreciate and benefit from Swansea's outstanding natural environment and to play their part in looking after and enhancing it, resulting in a healthier, greener and more prosperous Swansea.
- Our future survival and quality of life is dependent on healthy resilient natural environment, the multiple benefits it provides to society and on reducing our carbon emissions to net zero.
- We have a moral responsibility to look after biodiversity for its own intrinsic value.

**The longer-term challenges this well-being objective will help address.**

- A public sector target of 2030, ahead of the Welsh Government's target of 2050 for the whole of Wales, will give us our best chance of keeping global warming below 1.5°C. This is the tipping point at which the climate impacts we're already experiencing will go from bad to potentially catastrophic. We'll see natural systems cross danger points, triggering lasting changes such as extreme storms, heatwaves, mass loss of natural habitats and species.
- We are at a critical point in time for nature recovery and without urgent transformative change, many of our species and habitats will continue to decline or become extinct.
- Halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity through reducing harm and unsustainable use and moving to a situation where we are working with nature to maintain healthy resilient ecosystems that will continue to provide long-term quality of life (or ecosystem services) benefits upon which we all depend.
- Tackling climate change, which is one of the greatest challenges facing us all and we need to reduce our carbon footprint and to mitigate for and adapt to the likely risks and impacts.
- Creating high quality environmentally and low carbon responsible and sustainable green jobs that make the most of our unique natural resources e.g. through environmental tourism, sustainable land and coastal management, local

food production, sustainable waste management, energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon capture. As such we will explore and support projects such as on and off shore renewables which align to these ambitions

- Reducing inequalities in health and well-being by maintaining and enhancing a high quality and accessible natural environment plus ensuring fair access to low carbon energy, homes, travel options, sustainably sourced food and greener job opportunities.
- Sustainably managing and enhancing the quality of our natural resources including air, water, soils and biodiversity will help increase Swansea's ecological resilience and the well-being of its inhabitants.

### **The steps we will take to meet this well-being objective.**

- **Biodiversity** - Develop, adopt and implement a Corporate Biodiversity (Section 6) Action Plan in line with Welsh Government's 3-year reporting cycle alongside the preparation and delivery of a Nature Recovery Action Plan in collaboration with The Swansea Nature Partnership and the preparation of a County wide Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- **Climate Change and Nature Strategy** - Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and Action Plan, working with and encouraging partners, organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to support nature recovery and reduce their carbon footprint, signing up to the Climate and Nature Charter /Pledge.
- **Energy Action Plan** - Deliver the energy action plan, working towards creating a low carbon economy, which promotes renewable energy and takes actions to reduce the carbon footprint for Swansea Council and Swansea in line with Welsh government reporting guidelines.
- **Procurement and social value** - Review the Councils' Procurement approach to embed its social value within its ward criteria maximising the local spend within the locality and region and reducing the carbon footprint of its commissioned activities.
- **Sustainable Transport Strategy** - Embed and deliver a sustainable transport strategy and encompassed action plans on active travel, green fleet, grey fleet and street lighting.
- **Energy efficient Council homes** - Continue to develop the Councils Energy efficient new builds More Council Homes programme to net zero standards and subject to funding begin to roll out the decarbonisation of its existing housing stock in line with emerging Welsh Government Guidance.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Net Zero** - We will commence and ensure that the design and development of all new 21st Century schools to be Net Zero Carbon targets from January 2022. This will include new builds and major refurbishments.

- **Net Zero buildings and materials** - We will seek to maximise opportunities to lower carbon input into maintenance and renovation work in existing public buildings and work towards utilising net zero materials by 2030.
- **Waste reduction strategy** - Deliver a waste reduction strategy, including minimise our use of non-recyclable products and materials, recycle more waste and promote a circular economy.
- **Air, water and soil quality** - Take action to maintain and improve the quality of our air, water and soils.

**The contribution this well-being objective makes to the national goals.**

A prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of more cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A healthier Wales	A globally responsible Wales
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**How we will maximise our contribution to the national goals through the way in which we work.**

- *Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse* – By halting the decline of biodiversity and maintaining and enhancing a resilient natural environment, we will maintain vital ecosystem services (e.g. flood alleviation, air and water quality, carbon storage and pollination) and help to maintain people’s health, well-being and quality of life. By helping people to understand the causes of problems and how by working together, we can prevent problems occurring. By delivering net zero targets we can help avoid global warming and subsequent consequences. Adaptation activity will help us prepare for change already identified as unavoidable.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – We want to reverse the loss of biodiversity, promote healthy resilient ecosystems, and strengthen green infrastructure to adapt to and mitigate for the impacts of climate change, and ensure that our natural environment and the benefits and services it provides are protected for the benefit of future generations. We want to achieve net zero carbon.
- *Working in partnership with others* – We will continue to support and collaborate with others to co-ordinate the planning and delivery of actions and maximise use of resources.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – By raising awareness of biodiversity and climate change and ensuring that it is taken into account at the

early decision-making /design stages of plans and projects, the potential for conflict will be reduced.

- *Involving people* – We will build capacity and achieve more by involving and supporting the local community to participate in identifying and delivering initiatives that maintain and enhance the natural environment and reduce our carbon footprint . More people will be enabled to access and enjoy their natural environment and contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

**How we will measure progress<sup>1</sup>.**

- Monitor the delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Plan the Nature Recovery Action Plan and the Resilient Wales goal through annual business planning and reporting mechanisms up to 2027. We will report to Welsh Government every 3 years in line with our Biodiversity Duty.
- Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and monitor the delivery of respective Action Plans up to 2027.
- Continue to monitor air and water quality.
- Monitor the delivery the energy action plan targets proposed to 2027.
- Set out new measures for monitoring the impact of our Procurement of goods and services in line with eth emerging Welsh Government carbon measurement toolkit.
- Embed and deliver a sustainable transport strategy to 2027.
- Continue to report the number of new homes constructed to net carbon zero standards and set out new measures of recording the decarbonisation of our existing stock in line with emerging Welsh Government guidance.
- Report on the delivery of a waste reduction strategy.

**The contribution this well-being objective makes to the Public Service Board Well-being Objectives.**

Children have a the best start in life to be the best they can be	People live well and age well	Working with Nature	Strong communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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<sup>1</sup> Provisional pending review and data development.

