



Report of the Interim Director of Place

Climate Change Corporate Delivery Committee – 17 October 2022

‘Delivering on Nature Recovery & Climate Change’ Status Report

Purpose:	To further update the Committee on progress with regard to the proposed new corporate well-being objective – ‘Delivering on Nature Recovery & Climate Change’ which was agreed by Council on 7 th July 2022. This report which focuses on Nature Recovery, follows on from the report and presentation to the first meeting of this Committee on the 20 th July 2022 which updated on Climate Change.
Policy Framework:	Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 -Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change – Swansea Corporate Plan 2022/23 Swansea Public Service Board Local Well Being Plan, 2019 - Working with Nature Objective
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Committee agrees the proposed forward plan of activity for Nature Recovery in 2022-23 to align with the steps identified for delivery of the new Corporate Well Being Objective “Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change”.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Climate Change and Nature Recovery agenda has evolved rapidly over the last 18 months with both a Climate and a Nature Emergency having been declared by Swansea Council in June 2019 and November 2021 respectively, and a new Corporate Well-being Objective 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' approved by Council on 7th July 2022.
- 1.2 This report provides the Climate Change Corporate Delivery Committee (CDC) with an overview of the work currently underway to deliver on Nature Recovery in line with the Corporate Well-Being Objective. It follows on from a report to the first meeting of the CDC in July 2022 which focussed more on Climate Change. It provides information on three emerging Strategies and Action Plans: A Swansea Nature Partnership Local Nature Recovery Action Plan, a Council Biodiversity Duty (Section 6) Plan and a Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- 1.3 The purpose of each of these Strategies is to gain support for, and commitment to, delivering co-ordinated actions to improve the quality and resilience of the natural environment through increasing Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure and the many beneficial ecosystem services they provide. They will help to deliver the Council's duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, as well as the Council's Corporate Plan and other key policy commitments. All three of these Strategies are at relatively early stages of preparation and initial engagement with key stakeholders has only just begun.
- 1.4 Once agreed these Strategies will provide the shared ambition, priorities, delivery framework and reporting mechanisms to ensure effective and collaborative delivery of actions that will make a positive contribution to Nature Recovery and Green Infrastructure, as well as contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This report outlines the process of preparing the three Strategies. Listening to and acting on stakeholder and community groups ideas will help shape these Strategies and involving partners will be paramount to success.

2.0 Swansea Nature Recovery Plans and Strategies /Policy Framework

Swansea's Nature Recovery Policy Framework is set out in a suite of 3 emerging interrelated strategic plans, namely:

2.1 Local Nature Recovery Action Plan

The Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) is a non-statutory partnership plan which is being produced by the Swansea Nature Partnership, of which the City & Council of Swansea is a host and lead partner. It will update and replace the existing Local Biodiversity Action Plan published in 2005. The Plan will contribute towards the six national objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales. A first draft of some of the main sections of the plan was sent out to the Partnership for

review in July 2022 (**Appendix B** provides further context). Workshops with interested partners are planned to be held in September /October 2022 to enable partners to contribute to the detail of the Plan and highlight the role they can play in delivering actions. Key partners such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have already been engaged. This work is being led by the Council's recently appointed Local Nature Partnership Co-ordinator. The LNRAP will always remain a live document (as the intention is to publish it as a website). The aim is for a final version to be ready within the next 6-12 months.

2.2 Biodiversity/Section 6 Plan

As required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Biodiversity Duty, in December 2019 the Council published and submitted to Welsh Government its first Section 6 Monitoring Report outlining actions it had taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems over the past 3 years (2016-2019). The next monitoring report (covering the period from Jan 2020 – Dec 22) is currently being prepared and will be submitted to Welsh Government in January 2023.

Looking forward, a Section 6 Action Plan is being prepared outlining actions that the Council will undertake to benefit nature recovery over the next 3 years. The Section 6 Biodiversity Action Plan provides the Council's contribution to the overarching Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and will follow a similar format responding to the six key objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales. A questionnaire has been sent to all Council Heads of Service to gather information for both the Monitoring Report and the Action Plan. A series of awareness raising presentations and workshops are also being planned. This work is being led by the Council's Section 6 Officer.

2.3 Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy

Following the adoption of the City Centre Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy in Feb 2021 and the subsequent development of an Action Plan (copy attached at **Appendix C** for information), a Countywide GI Strategy is now under preparation. This non-statutory strategy seeks to inform decisions on GI and increase resilience to climate change as well as contributing to nature recovery.

Initial face to face engagement workshops were held in Feb 2020 but further consultation was interrupted by Covid. The engagement process is due to recommence with a series of workshops with key stakeholder groups and face to face conversations with members of the community planned for the Autumn. This work is being led by the Nature Conservation Team and is a joint project with Natural Resources Wales. A draft version of the strategy is due for consultation by end of March 2023

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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'.
- 3.3. 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. An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required. This report relates only to the process of preparing the three strategies. The IIA screening form is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 The purpose of each of these three Strategic Plans is to gain support for and commitment to delivering co-ordinated actions that improve the quality and resilience of the local environment through increasing Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure and the many beneficial Ecosystem Services they provide. This report relates only to the process of preparing the three Strategies. Therefore, the overall impact of this report is considered positive but relatively low.
- 3.5 Once developed and agreed these strategies will provide the shared ambition, priorities, governance and monitoring framework to ensure the effective and collaborative delivery of actions that make a positive contribution to Nature Recovery. It is anticipated that the draft Strategies once prepared will be subject to a further IIA screening as part of their signing off process.

- 3.6 Initial consultation feedback has been very positive. Plans for continuing with more general engagement include a series of awareness raising presentations and workshops with key internal and external stakeholder groups during the Autumn, together with targeted community engagement at a local (ward) level.
- 3.7 The proposed Strategies and Plans are 100% in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act (in particular the Resilient Wales Goal), as well as the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Swansea Well-being Plan, the Council Corporate Plan and Natural Resources Wales' Area Statement for South and West Wales. There are no identified risks in preparing these Strategies and Plans. Risk would arise from not preparing them.
- 3.8 These are essential Strategies and Plans required to meet the Council's legislative, corporate and partnership responsibilities to ensure Nature Recovery and respond to the declared Nature Emergency. There are no significant risks associated with this project, the project has been scored as 'low risk' and the outcomes are all deemed positive, therefore a full IIA is not deemed necessary

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications other than those set out in the body of this report.

Background Papers:

[Climate change and nature recovery - Swansea](#)

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Nature Recovery Action Plan \(biodiversitywales.org.uk\)](#)

[Local Nature Partnerships Cymru - Home \(lnp.cymru\)](#)

[11 - Section 6 Biodiversity Monitoring Report Dec 2019.pdf \(swansea.gov.uk\)](#)

[Climate action - Green infrastructure strategy - Swansea](#)

Appendices:

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| Appendix A | IIA |
| Appendix B | LNRAP Framework |
| Appendix C | City Centre GI Action Plan |