



Report of the Director of Place

Climate Change Corporate Delivery Committee – 20 February 2023

Sustainable Food

Purpose:	To seek views and ideas from the committee on proposed approaches to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developing a Swansea Council Sustainable Food Policy.2. Supporting the wider Swansea County with regard to Sustainable Food.
Policy Framework:	Climate Change & Nature Recovery Strategy
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that the CDC accepts the proposed approaches to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developing a Swansea Council Sustainable Food Policy.2. Supporting the wider Swansea County with regard to Sustainable Food.
Report Author:	Rachel Lewis
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Background

As part of Swansea Council's ambition to achieve net zero by 2030 and in order to align with the Net Zero Wales agenda by 2050, this report aims to demonstrate an ambition to promote a healthy and sustainable food system at an organisational level and county wide, both with the intention to improve people's lives and reduce our impact on the planet through food.

Welsh Government has recently consulted on a Food (Wales) Bill (Closed 27.1.23). The stated purpose of the Bill is to establish a more sustainable food system in Wales. **Appendix 1.**

The Bill includes provision for:

- establishing ‘Food Goals’ to help deliver the Bills main policy objective;
- requiring public bodies to take reasonable steps to advance the food goals;
- establishing a Welsh Food Commission with the objective of promoting and facilitating the advancement and achievement of the food goals by public bodies;
- requiring Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a national food strategy; and
- requiring public bodies (other than the Welsh Ministers) to make and publish a local food plan

Food Goals Extracted from DRAFT BILL

1. *Duty on public bodies to advance food goals.*

Public bodies must take reasonable steps to advance the primary food goal and the secondary food goals.

2. *Primary food goal*

The primary food goal is the provision of affordable, healthy, and economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable food for the people of Wales.

3. *Secondary food goals*

<i>Economic well-being</i>	<i>Creating new economic opportunities through promotion of locally produced food. Promoting sustainable economic, social and community development. Encouraging better links between food producers, processors and consumers.</i>
<i>Health and social</i>	<i>Reducing malnutrition, food poverty and food insecurity. Reducing obesity. Encouraging equitable distribution of healthy and sustainable food within communities. Promoting the social well-being benefits of food, for example through community growing and allotments. Promoting the importance of consuming healthy food for improving physical and mental health and well-being.</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Increasing the quality and accessibility of educational provision on food-related issues. Developing food skills to ensure better, healthier diets and well-being.</i>

<i>Environment</i>	<i>Lessening environmental impacts of food production, processing and consumption. Enhancing and regenerating the natural environment through food production. Restoring and maintaining biodiversity and habitats through food production. Promoting a food system that mitigates and adapts to climate change, and minimises Wales' global environmental footprint.</i>
<i>Food waste</i>	<i>Reducing food waste across the food system, including by food producers, processors and consumers.</i>

National food strategy: The Bill requires the Welsh Ministers to publish a national food strategy setting out the overall strategy and individual policies that they intend to pursue in order to advance the primary and secondary food goals, and achieve the food targets. Specified 'public bodies' would then be required to have regard to the national food strategy in exercising any functions related to the primary food goal, the secondary food goals, and the food targets.

Local food plans: If approved the Bill requires public bodies (other than the Welsh Ministers) to publish a local food plan setting out the policies that they intend to pursue in order to contribute to the advancement of the primary food goal and the secondary food goals, and the achievement of the food targets.

2. Swansea Council - Sustainable Food Policy

- 2.1 Recently key officers across the council (Procurement, Education, Social Services, Economic Development, Climate Change and Nature) have collaborated to discuss what the new internal policy could include, basing conversations around the anticipated food goals.
- 2.2 The proposition is that the new policy should align with the anticipated Food (Wales) Bill primary and secondary food goals with the addition of some further detail as suggested by key officers and drafted for discussion in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3 On agreement of the key themes, a draft policy will be developed and circulated, with the intention to present to Cabinet in line with the approval of the Food (Wales) Bill.

3. Swansea - Sustainable Food

There is considerable activity and great working happening across the county already on this agenda. Bywd Abertawe in particular are driving a large campaign backed by recent Welsh Government funding. It is anticipated that they will lead on the Swansea wide agenda.

We have however recently engaged one of our environmental partners to provide a county wide position statement. **Appendix 3.**

The report provides an overview of sustainable food and agriculture and a snapshot of food-related activity in Swansea. It is not exhaustive and in no way claims to include every initiative and opportunity, which are continually developing and emerging across all sectors.

Swansea Council will continue to work with our environmental partners to explore actions that can be taken in support of this cross cutting agenda. These will focus on how Swansea Council can help and further support the good work already being undertaken across the county.

4. Summary

By developing both an internal Swansea Council Sustainable Food Policy and supporting the wider community using the new Food (Wales) Bill goals as foundations, it will ensure all parties have consistent and ambitious messages on this fast moving agenda.

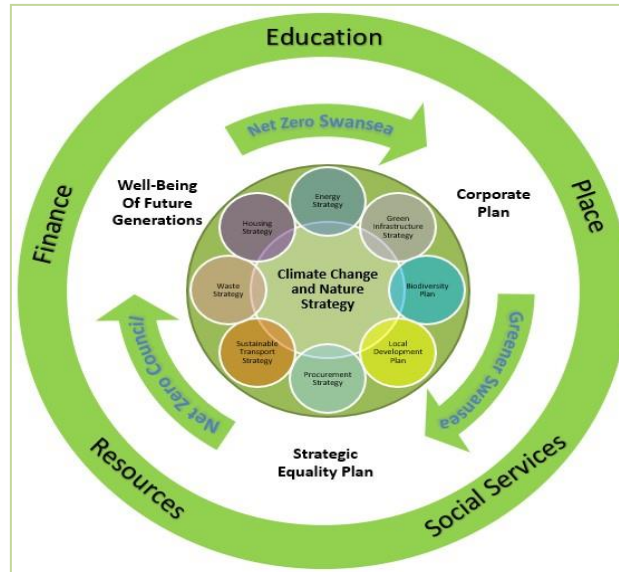
The Food (Wales) Bill is currently at stage one of a four stage process, so developing our own Swansea Council Policy with the CDC in readiness for its anticipated approval, will be advantageous.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

5.1 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.
- 5.1.1 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'.
- 5.1.2 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.
- 5.2 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required. This report covers the development of an overarching strategy, each action as and when pursued will be screened independently. The IIA screening form is attached as **Appendix 4**.
- 5.3 Please see screening summary below:
- **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. Not only developing Swansea Councils ambition on sustainable food, but working with citizens/groups etc. to explore safe, healthy, nutritious and sustainable food supply across the county, improved health, well-being and education.
 - **Summary of involvement** - The initial internal officer collaboration has been positive. The environmental partners report also reflects the enthusiasm of parties county wide, eager to move this agenda forward,
 - **WFG considerations** - To note the Well-being of Future Generations is a pivot part of our project governance structure.



- **Any risks identified** - Risks are medium, with a medium to long term time scale. More sustainable food is likely to cost more, there may also be challenges with local supply chain capacity v demand. Education/Behaviour change will also be a challenge.
- **Cumulative impact** – A brilliant and exciting opportunity to maximise the wellbeing of future generation and equality plan principles to make for a better Swansea by 2050.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 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.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Food (Wales) Bill.

Appendix 2 - Swansea Council - Sustainable Food Strategy – Key Headlines.

Appendix 3 –Swansea - Sustainable Food Activity – Position Statement.

Appendix 4 – IIA Screening Form.