



## Report of the Interim Director of Corporate Services

### Organisational Transformation Corporate Delivery Committee – 20 April 2023

## Human Rights City Action Plan Development

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report provides information on work to date regarding the Human Rights City initiative and asks for the Corporate Delivery Committee to have input on the creation of Swansea Council's Human Rights City Action Plan
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The Corporate Delivery Committee undertake an engagement session with regards to Swansea's Human Rights City priorities 2) The Corporate Delivery Committee to support action plan development after engagement event has taken place
<b>Report Author:</b>	Adele Dunstan
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Swansea Council along with our PSB partners formally declared Human Rights City status after 18 months of action. We currently have a Human Rights City steering group chaired by Cllr Louise Gibbard with representatives from different service areas in Swansea Council, South Wales Police, Probation Service, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Swansea University, Swansea Bay University Health Board, University of Wales Trinity St David, Natural Resource Wales and 2 members of Swansea's Co-production Network. To date this group has supported and implemented the strategic planning of becoming a Human Rights City.
- 1.2 In October 2021 the Human Rights City Steering group launch a survey. This survey was to capture Swansea's residents and visitors baseline

knowledge of Human Rights within national and international legislation, as well as what they thought should be the focus when Swansea is a Human Rights City. These are;

Swansea's Human Rights City priorities;

1. Tackling poverty
2. Vulnerable children and families
3. Tackling discrimination
4. Domestic violence and abuse
5. Human Rights awareness

For full Consultation and Engagement report see Appendix A

- 1.3 Once the above priorities were established, worked commenced to establish what policies, programmes and events happened under each of these priorities across Swansea Council and our PSB partner organisations.
- 1.4 The Human Rights City steering group immediately started work on the 'Human Rights awareness priority. The 'Rights in your Pocket guide' was produced and launched. [Human rights guide - Swansea](#) – also available in Welsh and an easy read format. Working with Swansea University we developed and launched a guide for organisations, detailing what a Human rights-based approach is, how to embed one with Swansea based case studies – [A Human Rights Approach - Swansea](#)
- 1.5 Swansea Council also funded training with the British Institute of Human Rights. To date over 60 senior managers and policy officers and Councillors in Swansea Council and our PSB partner organisations have taken part with a further training session scheduled 26<sup>th</sup> April.

## **2. Action Plan Engagement Event**

- 2.1 On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (date tbc) we will be holding an engagement event. The purpose of this event will be to aid us as a Council and our PSB partners to form our own 5-year Human Rights City action plans. It is essential for all the Human Rights City steering group members to create their action plans in a co-productive way. We will invite all the community groups, organisations, the PSB forum network who were consulted previously, along with other interested parties.
- 2.2 Following the presentation on the guide for organisations, we will hold a workshop to establish what are the main issues and areas for action under our 5 Human Rights City priorities and who should be responsible in fulfilling these actions. With this information gathered by both presentation and workshops, each steering group member organisation can form their own action plan.

### **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 Once the engagement event has taken place, we would seek input from the Corporate Delivery Committee on the emerging issues and relating actions under each Human Rights City priority within the developing Human Rights City action plan for Swansea Council.

### **4. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.1.1 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'.
- 4.1.2 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.
- 4.1.3 An IIA screening has been undertaken (Appendix B). The screening shows that this is an update report providing information on work to date regarding the Human Rights City initiative. Each PSB partner will be developing their own action plans. These plans and actions within will be subject to the IIA process. The plans will be focussing on our joint human rights priorities and will have a positive impact on communities in Swansea.

**5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A Engagement and Survey report  
Appendix B IIA Screening Form