

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: **Strategic Planning and City Regeneration**

Directorate: **Place**

**Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP)**

**Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?**

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- X - Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation**
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

**(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:**

The Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) is a partnership plan produced by the Swansea Local Nature Partnership (LNP). Local Nature Recovery Action Plans (LNRAP) are non-statutory partnership plans produced by Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) in the relevant Local Authority or National Park in Wales. LNRAPs are aligned with and informed by Welsh national biodiversity policy which is currently the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales.

The NRAP for Wales as it currently stands sets out 6 objectives for nature recovery in Wales and is complemented by 5 themes of action aimed at addressing issues that are driving decline in biodiversity, and to support recovery (Table 1).

Table 1. NRAP for Wales objectives and themes of action.

Objectives	Themes of Action
1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	1. Maintaining and enhancing resilient ecological networks.
2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.	2. Increasing knowledge and knowledge transfer.
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	3. Realising new investment and funding.
4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.	4. Upskilling and capacity for delivery.
5. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.	5. Governance, mainstreaming and reporting our progress.

6. Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery.	
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Local NRAPs are one of the delivery mechanisms to meet the six objectives for nature recovery set out in the NRAP for Wales at a local level. Outside of policy drivers for LNRAPs there is also a real need for them as a tool in delivering nature recovery as we are in a nature emergency. The [Senedd](#) and [Swansea Council](#) declared nature emergencies in 2021, [species are declining in abundance and distribution](#), habitats and [protected sites are in poor condition](#) and overall ecosystem resilience is poor. There is therefore the urgent need for coordinated and cohesive action at all scales to achieve nature recovery.

The Swansea LNRAP identifies priorities for achieving nature recovery in Swansea as so-called action themes. These are guided at the top level by the six objectives and five themes of action in the NRAP for Wales, but they are underpinned by local knowledge and priorities, as well as the themes highlighted in the [South West Wales](#), and [Marine Area Statements](#) (Table 2).

Table 2. South West Wales and Marine Area Statement Themes

South West Wales Area Statement Themes	Marine Area Statement Themes
1. Reducing health inequalities.	1. Building resilience of marine ecosystems.
2. Ensuring sustainable land management.	2. Nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast.
3. Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity.	3. Making the most of marine planning.
4. Mitigating and adapting to a changing climate (cross-cutting theme).	

In the draft Swansea LNRAP there are 25 action themes. It is intended that the action themes be narrower in focus than the six objectives in the NRAP for Wales to effectively guide LNP partner actions, but also broad enough to act as an umbrella for partner actions, as the Swansea LNP is a diverse partnership. Table 3 below provides two examples to illustrate the linkages between Swansea LNRAP action themes and the 6 objectives.

Table 3. Relationship between NRAP for Wales objective and Swansea LNRAP action themes.

NRAP for Wales Objective	Swansea LNRAP Action Theme
Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	1.1. Provide accessible educational and awareness raising events in-person and/or online, especially focussing on expanding the reach of initiatives outside of people/groups already engaged in nature recovery and conservation.
Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.	3.3. Ensure that at least 30% of Swansea County is protected and effectively managed for nature by 2030, including marine*, terrestrial and freshwater** areas

\* Marine habitats between high and low mean water springs \*\*terrestrial and freshwater land/habitats down to high mean water springs within the county boundary.

The Swansea LNRAP can be divided into four broad sections, with the first focussing on introducing key concepts such as the importance of nature, ecosystem services, ecosystem resilience, and the relationship between these concepts. It also provides an overview of nature and ecosystem resilience in Swansea and the main barriers to nature recovery.

The second section focusses on the action themes. Firstly, identifying global, regional, and local influences and then introducing the action themes in six tables organised by the six objectives for nature recovery in the NRAP for Wales (table 1). For each action theme a brief case study of a project is provided, that gives a real-life example of how LNP members have, had, or are planning to undertake actions that align with the action theme.

The third section provides further detail on nature in Swansea. This is achieved through descriptions of Habitats of Principal Importance (Section 7) and other habitat groupings including woodland, wetland, open water, heath & grassland, coastal habits, the marine and urban environment. As well as pages that give examples of 11 species and 12 sites that are 'special' in Swansea, for example chough, horseshoe bats, Atlantic grey seals, Whiteford National Nature Reserve, Swansea Bay Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and Pluck Lake SINC. It is intended that an audit summary of Species of Principal Importance (Section 7) will also be included, but this is currently incomplete.

The fourth and final section focusses on awareness raising and provides suggestions for what members of the public rather than the LNP per say can do for nature recovery in Swansea. These are provided by the way of eight infographics. These are not fully comprehensive lists but rather some ideas to help lead people in the right direction. The ideas and suggestions were generated from other LNRAPS, input from Swansea LNP as well as existing biodiversity campaigns, and contain links to additional resources.

It is intended that the Swansea LNRAP be used to guide LNP partner actions towards nature recovery using the action themes. For example, within the council, a Section 6 Plan<sup>1</sup> is currently in draft that will set out actions the council will aim to take over the next three-year Section 6 reporting cycle. These actions will be directly guided by the LNRAP action themes, and so in this way the LNRAP priorities for nature recovery will be translated into the actions as a council and partner of the Swansea LNP.

Please note that the Swansea LNRAP does not commit any one LNP partner to any specific actions. It is therefore the responsibility of individual LNP partners to identify where and how they can contribute to actions towards the Swansea LNRAP action themes.

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**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

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<sup>1</sup> The Section 6 Plan is linked to the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Swansea Council is subject to under the [Environment \(Wales\) 2015 Act](#). That is we must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of our functions, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

The Swansea LNRAP has been created with:

- Engagement and feedback from Swansea LNP members, including:
  - written feedback on the initial draft framework - 17 responses from at least seven different organisations<sup>2</sup>.
  - two group workshops - attended by 24 LNP members from 15 organisations.
  - Several one-to-one follow up discussions and informal feedback from presentations at quarterly meetings.
  - Written feedback from the second draft review – 13 responses from at least 11 different organisations.
- Key global, national, and regional legislation, policies, and plans have been taken into account, as well as relevant public consultations<sup>3</sup>.
- Regard to relevant evidence reports.
- Consideration of data regarding nature in Swansea, including habitats, species, and ecosystem resilience.
- Consultation with the Climate & Nature STC Committee including an informal workshop.

Table 4 below details the timeline of development for the Swansea LNRAP thus far.

Table 4. LNRAP development timeline.

April – June 2022	Initial framework written from review of other LNRAPs, relevant evidence reports, and advice from LNP Cymru mentors.
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<sup>2</sup> Some feedback was given anonymously therefore it is not possible to know the exact number of organisations.  
<sup>3</sup> LNP partners shared the Swansea specific results from Natur am Byth! Swansea Bay, Coasts, Commons and Communities -2022 & NRW Natur am Ni – 2022 consultations. These were reviewed to inform the Swansea LNRAP.

July – September 2022	Initial framework sent for review to Swansea LNP (18 <sup>th</sup> July), deadline 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2022.
September – October 2022	Written feedback collated and summarised. Responses to feedback written and issued to LNP (26 <sup>th</sup> September 2022).
	Two workshops held with LNP members to discuss themes arising from written feedback on first draft, 30 <sup>th</sup> September, and 28 <sup>th</sup> October.
November 2022 – June 2023	Feedback from first review and workshops incorporated into the redraft, as well as relevant local community consultations, plus follow up discussions with relevant LNP members.
June – July 2023	Second draft report sent out to LNP partners (6 <sup>th</sup> June) for comments, deadline 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023.
July – August 2023	Second draft presented and shared with Climate & Nature recovery STC on 17 <sup>th</sup> July and members were asked to provide feedback. Deadline 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2023. Informal workshop held with STC members on 31 <sup>st</sup> July.

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
Yes
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
Yes
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
Yes
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
Yes

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

	High risk	Medium risk	Low risk
Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes If yes, please provide details below

Yes, the Swansea LNRAP will impact all Council Services directly and indirectly in a positive manner. The Swansea LNRAP will provide the overarching framework to inform and direct the emerging Councils Section S6 Plan which will set out actions the council will undertake in their Section 6 Biodiversity Duty. The Swansea LNRAP will also provide background information to inform officers and members of the need for nature recovery in Swansea and how the council can contribute to the 30 by 30 nature recovery target.

**Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

The cumulative impact on people and communities will be low but positive. The Swansea LNRAP will help to coordinate and direct nature recovery action across Swansea which will hopefully benefit all in Swansea long term. Nature is clearly associated with improved health and wellbeing by providing access to biodiverse greenspace to exercise, socialise and play and enjoy nature. Exposure to nature facilitates social interaction and is calming and inspiring, lowering stress and improving mental health and cognitive development. So, the Swansea LNRAP will provide health and well-being benefits long term to local communities as well as benefiting nature. Alongside the environmental and health benefits of nature there are numerous well documented economic benefits.

The Swansea LNRAP will also benefit people and communities in Swansea by providing a resource for ideas and awareness raising for what members of the public can do for nature recovery in Swansea. These are provided by way of eight infographics which also contain links to further resources and ideas.

### **Outcome of Screening**

**Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The impacts are considered low and positive due to the nature of the plan which is designed to aid nature recovery in Swansea, thereby improving environmental, social, and economic wellbeing. As such no mitigation is required.

The Swansea LNRAP has been created with extensive involvement and input from the Swansea Local Nature Partnership. As well as with regard to relevant national, and subnational policies and legislation, evidence reports and community consultations. The plan has also been reviewed by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee, with feedback provided.

The plan will contribute to Swansea Council's Corporate Objective for Climate Change and Nature Recovery, and will assist the Council in its Well-being Duty, especially with regard to the 'Resilient Wales Goal', under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Swansea LNRAP will also inform Swansea Council's emerging Section 6 Plan therefore aiding the Council in its Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

There are no significant risks associated with the plan, and the cumulative impacts are deemed low but positive. As such a full IIA strategy is not deemed necessary.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Christina Derrick/Deb Hill
<b>Job title:</b> Nature Conservation Team Leader
<b>Date:</b> 03/08/2023
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Phil Holmes
<b>Position:</b> Head of Strategic Planning and City Regeneration
<b>Date:</b> 3rd August 2023

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)