



## City and County of Swansea

### Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## Scrutiny Performance Panel - Climate Change and Nature

**At:** Remotely via Microsoft Teams

**On:** Tuesday, 2 May 2023

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Convenor:** Councillor Hannah Lawson

**Membership:**

Councillors: C M J Evans, E W Fitzgerald, J A Hale, O G James, M H Jones, S E Keeton, M W Locke, B J Rowlands and W G Thomas

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### Agenda

### Page No.

**1 Apologies for Absence**

**2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

[www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests)

**3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**

**4 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and agree as an accurate record.

**1 - 5**

**5 Public Question Time**

Questions must be submitted in writing, no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10-minute period.

**6 Climate Change Update**

Further discussion on 'Green Vehicle Adoption' to be included under this item – continuing from 10 January meeting.

**6 - 43**

*Invited to attend:*

*Andrea Lewis – Cabinet Member for Service Transformation*

*Mark Wade – Director of Place*

*Geoff Bacon – Head of Property Services*

*Rachel Lewis – Directorate Project Manager*

*Mark Barrow – Fleet Manager Highways and Transportation*

**7 Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments 44 - 94**

*Invited to attend:*

*Andrea Lewis – Cabinet Member for Service Transformation*

*David Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Corporate Service and Performance*

*Andrew Stevens – Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure*

*Cyril Anderson – Cabinet Member for Community*

*Mark Wade – Director of Place*

*Rachel Lewis – Directorate Project Manager*

**8 Panel Review of the Year 2022-23 95 - 96**

**Next Meeting: 4 July 2023**



**Huw Evans**

**Head of Democratic Services**

**Tuesday, 25 April 2023**

**Contact: Liz Jordan 01792 637314**

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# Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel - Climate Change and Nature**

**Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS**

**Teams**

**Wednesday, 8 March 2023 at 10.00 am**

**Present:** Councillor H Lawson (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

C M J Evans  
W G Thomas  
S E Keeton

**Councillor(s)**

E W Fitzgerald  
O G James  
M W Locke

**Councillor(s)**

J A Hale  
M H Jones  
B J Rowlands

**Other Attendees**

David Hopkins  
Paul Lewis

Cabinet Member for Corporate Service and Performance  
Professor Emeritus, Swansea University Medical School

**Officer(s)**

Stuart Davies  
Liz Jordan  
Paul Meller  
Carol Morgan  
Tom Price  
Mike Sweeney  
Mark Wade

Head of Highways & Transportation  
Scrutiny Officer  
Natural Environment Section Manager  
Head of Housing & Public Health  
Team Leader - Pollution Control  
Team Leader, Highways and Transportation  
Director of Place

**Apologies for Absence**

Other Attendee(s): Cllr A H Stevens

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**1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Chris Evans declared a personal interest in item 7.

**2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**

No declarations were received.

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

Panel agreed the minutes of the meeting on 10 January 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting.

**4 Public Question Time**

No questions were received.

## 5 Nature Conservation - Project Updates

Paul Meller, Natural Environment Section Manager updated the Panel and confirmed that all recommendations from the scrutiny inquiry in 2019 are now complete or part of other projects.

Discussion Points:

- Panel queried if three granted funded temporary posts are still running. Heard only received grant funding for one year. Not being continued after June 2023 as no alternative funding has been found.
- Panel requested confirmation of where in Swansea poly tunnel for community growing has been installed. [Officers confirmed following the meeting that it is within the grounds of Friends of the Young Disabled building, Gordon Moor Centre at Cwmbwrla.]
- Report mentions developing maps and pack for 'Wild about your ward' project and so far schemes are being prepared for Townhill and Morriston. Heard this work is linked to grant funding and there will be no resources to continue after June.
- Panel asked what the priorities are between now and June in terms of work being carried out with remaining time and capacity for this particular grant. Officers advised the remaining time will be spent on some ongoing projects in Townhill and Morriston.
- Panel mentioned that Environment Centre is struggling for resource to continue and really needs support.
- Panel asked for confirmation that environmental links have been made within all school governing bodies to receive support for biodiversity activities and initiatives. Heard have good contacts with some schools but not all schools. Officers agreed to provide generic nature conservation link which schools/governors can use to get involved.

Actions:

- Link to be provided for schools/governors to get support for school biodiversity activities and initiatives.

## 6 Air Quality Management

Tom Price, Team Leader Pollution Control attended to brief the Panel. Paul Lewis, Professor Emeritus at Swansea University Medical School was also present.

Discussion Points:

- Delay in submission of Annual Progress Report to Welsh Government. Will shortly be submitting Report for last three years and will then circulate to the Panel. Draft conclusions reached suggest the Council is currently compliant.
- Panel queried if any legislation is being brought in in Wales regarding wood burning stoves. Informed in Wales it is part of the Clean Air Bill the WG is

working on. Professor Lewis presented a Cross Party Group for Clean Air Act to Assembly Members recently and will share this presentation with the Panel.

- Panel queried if garden bonfires will be included in the Clean Air Act and was informed existing powers are in place under statutory nuisance provisions in the Environmental Protection Act. Outdoor burning is also being considered for the Clear Air Act in terms of increased regulation. Fireworks will not be included in the Clean Air Bill consultation but there has been separate consultation regarding fireworks and this will be circulated to the Panel.
- Panel concerned about air quality around schools and asked if every school in the County has been checked to ensure they are safe. Informed the Council monitors air quality at some schools and is currently compliant across Swansea.
- Panel heard schools are a focus for WG. Exposure outside schools is a problem and more evidence is needed for Wales in terms of exposure levels and the health impacts on children.
- Panel informed Routes to School works with schools providing ideas to stop parents bringing children to school. Routes children take to get to school also needs to be considered. There is potential for future application to a WG support grant to produce a product for safe routes to school.
- Panel queried how sensitive monitoring of particulate matter is currently and how a school like Oystermouth, which is mostly concrete, can be 'greened up'. Informed intervention currently underway at the school will test boundary and in the yard particulate matter concentration and install a trial green screen along railing area. It is becoming much easier to monitor PM2.5 on lower cost sensors so can have wide distribution of monitors.
- Panel discussed view that 20mph speed limit will increase potential for pollution, same as speed humps and vehicles waiting to turn right at lights. Informed studies on whether speed humps increased or reduced pollution were unclear and there is little evidence on effect on air quality of 20mph speed limits but the little evidence there is suggests driving at 20mph generally leads to improvement in terms of PM2.5. Key thing is to get less breaking and tyre wear at 20mph.
- Panel queried if main cause of idling of vehicles outside schools is parents dropping off children and if it would be worth getting information out to schools to try and educate parents on not doing this. Heard there is legislation for statutory idling offences, and it is written into bus contracts for school transport provision. However, idling outside schools is not just caused by parents.

Actions:

- Annual Progress Report to be circulated to Panel once submitted to Welsh Government.
- Professor Lewis presentation to be circulated to the Panel for information.
- WG consultation on fireworks to be circulated to the Panel.

## **7 Local Flood Risk Management - Annual Update**

Mike Sweeney, Team Leader Highways and Transportation updated the Panel on this issue including roles and duties of the Council in this area.

Discussion Points:

- Council currently needs to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and combine this with a Flood Risk Management Plan.
- Panel requested an update on progress with business cases for Welsh Government grant supported schemes awarded to flood affected areas. Informed taking longer to complete than anticipated. Once complete they will be compared against other schemes in Wales to decide which ones will be taken forward based on factors against risk to property.
- Panel queried if Swansea is more at risk of flooding than other parts of Wales and heard flood risk is a challenge for all local authorities across Wales and need to plan ahead to mitigate against the effects of climate change.
- Panel asked about the Blackpill scheme and if Dwr Cymru's objection to the plan had been rectified. Informed discussions are taking place. Panel also queried if any work was scheduled to keep the outflows clear at Blackpill as there was an issue with sand blocking them. Heard the Department is aware the outflow tends to block with sand, they have cleared it in the past and will do so again if it needs doing.
- Panel mentioned new houses being built in Penllergaer area and queried if there will be regular checks in future on the issue of further surface water being discharged into a system which has had significant challenges already. Informed that when the Council assesses planning applications on larger scale developments it uses a national standard so they do not impose flood risk to existing infrastructure. They confirmed they will continue to monitor the Penllergaer situation going forward.
- Panel queried what plans are in place to improve older infrastructure given current challenges. Informed asset data is collected which the Department thinks is important to flood risk, checking on its condition, and if have a flood event, to try and understand the cause of it, and, if it is down to capacity of the system, they take further steps to find a solution.
- Panel asked about effect of gardens being paved over or tarmacked, astro turf and resin drives on run off and if there are any plans to bring in legislation to make people require planning to do it. Heard there is currently no legislation to support intervention. On new developments trying to get most of water to go to ground if possible. If not, look at attenuation and storing water on developments, so there are ways to reduce run off for new applications but not older developments.
- Panel feels it would be useful to know what attenuation ponds are and have some understanding of SUDS and its impact on new developments. Discussed a training package currently being put in place on SUDS which it would be useful for Panel Members to attend. Further discussion on this to take place outside of meeting.

Actions:

- Information on SUDS training to be provided to Panel Members.

## 8 Work Programme 2022-23

Panel considered the work programme and noted items for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.35 am

# Agenda Item 6



**Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation**  
**Climate Change Scrutiny Performance Panel – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**  
**Swansea Council – Net Zero 2030**

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide an update on Net Zero 2030 including Green Vehicle Adoption.
<b>Content</b>	This report includes a summary of the climate change activity on Swansea Council net zero 2030 ambitions since the January meeting. It also includes an update on Green Vehicle Adoption.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider progress from January 2023 on the Swansea Council net zero 2030 action plan monitoring and reporting.</li><li>• Consider progress to date on the adoption of green vehicles.</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Andrea Lewis, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Service Transformation
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Director of Place – Mark Wade and Head of Property Services – Geoff Bacon.
<b>Report Author</b>	Rachel Lewis – Place Directorate Project Manager and Mark Barrow – Fleet Manager
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer</b>	Rhian Millar



## 1. Background

- 1.1 Following the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Committee meeting in January 2023 and as noted in the Conveners letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to Cllr Lewis, the committee were 'very pleased to hear' that the Council has responded to all recommendations from the Wales Audit Office, and has a fully costed delivery plan for Net Zero by 2030.

### **Appendix 1**

- 1.2 The committee acknowledge the ongoing work on renewables and was provided with more information on how the Tidal Lagoon project was progressing.
- 1.3 The committee requested that the January update on the Adoption of Green Vehicles should be included in the May briefing note, as Cllr Andrea Lewis was not in attendance.

## 2. Net Zero 2030 Update

- 2.1 A new corporate wellbeing objective, focusing on Swansea Council NZ2030, Swansea NZ2050 and Nature Recovery ambitions has already been approved at 30<sup>th</sup> March Council, and is awaiting approval from PSB on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023. **Appendix 2**

- 2.2 The objective includes a commitment that by the end of 2023-24 we will have:

- Reported to Welsh Government on Swansea Council 2022-23 emissions.
- Progressed phase 2 of the public buildings retrofit programme.
- Delivered a second year of projects with our environmental partner.
- Agreed a development model and progressed with the Tir John solar farm development.
- Agree and announced progress on the Blue Eden project with our development partner.
- Built strong collaborative working relationships with climate charter signatories on the 2050 Swansea agenda.
- Begun to implement our ULEV Transition Strategy 2021-2030, with over 150 ULEV vehicles and fleet charge points.
- Continue with the LED street lighting installation programme.
- Agreed an updated tree planting and management strategy.
- Planted hundreds of new trees.
- Produced a series of Wild About your Ward Maps to support communities in identifying opportunities for enhancing local

greenspaces and wildlife sites and engaging them in volunteering activities.

- Drafted Management Plans for Council owned Local Nature Reserves.
- Targeted treatment and/or removal of Invasive Non-Native Species on nature sites.
- Produced a series of Climate Change and Nature Recovery e-training modules.
- Continued amenity grassland and road verge management trials to establish as species rich wildflower meadows.
- Prepared a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and a County Wide GI Strategy.

2.3 The team is also developing a suite of internal PI's which will be reported annually, examples include:

- Numbers of trees planted during the year across the council.
- The increase in number of council locations with renewable energy sources
- Number of Members and officers that have completed Climate Change and Nature Recovery Training
- Number of projects delivered through the Environmental Partners Framework to support ambition of Swansea Net Zero 2050.
- Percentage of the Council fleet which are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)

2.4 The reporting calendar from 2023 onwards will be:

- Emissions data collated and reported annually to Welsh Government the first week of every September.
- Internal PI data will be reported annually, timeline to be confirmed.
- The team will update progress on both emissions data and PI's to Cabinet at the end of each calendar year.
- The wellbeing objective key milestone delivery will be reported as part of the wider corporate plan performance monitoring cycles.
- Monitoring will also be done through the new Transformation Plan governance process, cycles yet to be decided.

2.5 It is proposed that from 2024 Climate Change progress will be reported annually in the month of June to the scrutiny committee in order to align with the annual monitoring cycles mentioned above.

### **3. Green Vehicle Adoption**

3.1 The report initially presented at 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Climate Change & Nature Scrutiny Committee is attached as **Appendix 3, 4 & 5**.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 3.1 **Net Zero 2030** - Swansea Council has robust governance and reporting processes in place to monitor delivery of the approved action plan.
- 3.2 **Green Fleet Adoption** - The Council's declared aim of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030 includes its vehicle fleet operations. The ULEV Transition Strategy has set out an initial pathway reflecting this commitment and is progressing.

The challenges of this wholesale change have been increased by recent global events and have made the timescales (2025 and 2030) difficult to achieve. The financial and operational impacts will be significant.

The Council is amongst the leading public sector fleets in this regard and the next two years will see continued progress, particularly in the light goods vehicle renewals and infrastructure.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications other than those detailed in the report.

#### **6. Finance Implications**

- 5.1 To remind scrutiny committee as per the previous January report, the full financial cost of achieving Net Zero can still only be considered an estimate at this stage and broad financial implications were noted in section 7 of the 15<sup>th</sup> December Cabinet report.
- 5.2 The report sets out initial estimates of the costs of legal duties upon the Council. It remains unclear whether any financial assistance will be forthcoming from Welsh or UK governments to meet all or any of the costs given this Council like all others faces a plethora of other legal obligations and a stark outlook in real terms for public finances for the foreseeable future of the decade.
- 5.3 No future budgets have been provided for any of these indicative future costs to date to be met by the Council. This reflects the explicit presumption that the Council will not be expected to fund costs out of core spending, but that alternative external sources of finance will be provided by national governments. However, consideration should be given to spend to save initiatives, for example future phases of the ReFit programme.
- 5.4 By way of potential context and scale only, if capital budgets were to be provided from now onwards over the forthcoming 7 years to 2030 it would be prudent to assume £25m per annum of additional capital obligations each year growing cumulatively to £175m This would be the

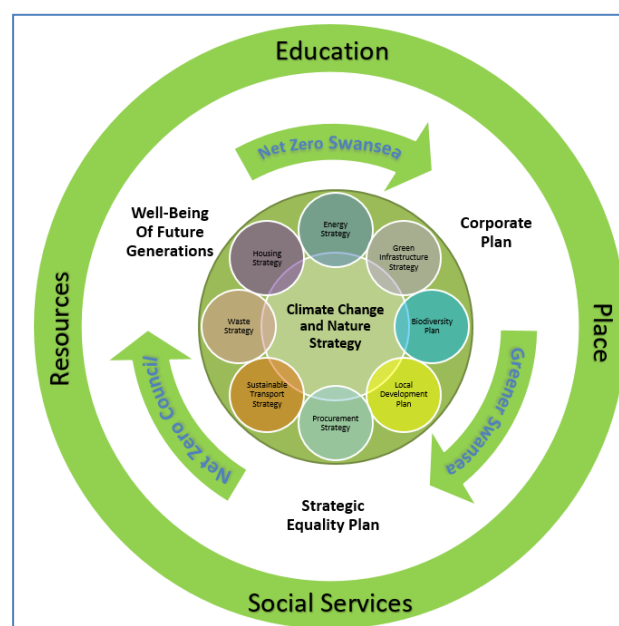
most prudent, assuming zero support from government. It is likely to overstate the cost and risk as neither UK nor Welsh government could reasonably expect individual councils to meet the costs in isolation.

- 5.5 If this Council were expected to have to fully fund itself then at current likely rates and MRP this would cost coming on £2m per annum rising cumulatively to £12m by 2030 in capital financing costs. This broad estimate is at today's prices and interest rate outlook and could vary significantly in practice.
- 5.6 Cabinet and Council will have to have due regard to this in all future budget setting and MTFP decision rounds. Its appetite for revenue versus capital spending decisions, the timing of those decisions and its prioritisation of competing legislative obligations will be an undiluted challenge as the Audit Wales report acknowledges. The longer uncertainty persists over funding support or lack of support and the longer Council does not explicitly provide for any future costs the bigger the risk of inevitable end loaded costs if no external support is obtained.
- 5.7 It is clear in any scenario residual carbon emissions will remain even after action and, subject to the views of WG in terms of their carbon emissions reporting guidance, there could be planned for costs of offsetting in either the revenue budgets from 2030 onwards (minimum £0.5m at current prices) or before that further capital (£27.5m at current prices)
- 5.8 At present the budget presumption is repeated that this Council is assuming that 100% of all costs are met externally as they materially transcend its ability to afford them itself."

## **7. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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’.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 This agenda does not present any negative impacts.
- 6.5 If we move in the right direction as a council aiming for net zero by 2030, we can lead by example bringing citizens along with us on the 2050 journey, then all benefits could and should be very positive, eg reduction in fuel poverty, local food supply, improved health and well-being, reduced fire and flooding to name but a few.
- 6.6 Internal governance and multidisciplinary involvement is strong and has recently be ratified by the awarding of the Bronze One Planet Standard. Between the programme board and the communication group, every single service area of the Council is involved.
- 6.7 To note the Well-being of Future Generations is a pivot part of our project governance structure.



- 6.8 Risks are medium – We have the plan, but financially we will need to continue to lobby WG to ensure funding is available to make such changes – e.g. decarbonisation of homes and public buildings, transportation, active travel.
- 6.9 A brilliant and exciting opportunity to maximise the wellbeing of future generations and equality plan principles to make for a Greener Council by 2030 and a Greener Swansea by 2050.
- 6.10 The IIA screening form is included as **Appendix 6**

**Background papers:** *None*

**Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 Costed delivery Plan – Swansea Council Net Zero 2030  
Appendix 2 – Corporate Wellbeing Objective – Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change  
Appendix 3 – Green Fleet Adoption report (January 2023)  
Appendix 4 – ULEV Transition Strategy  
Appendix 5 – IIA - Green Fleet Adoption  
Appendix 6 – IIA - Net Zero 2030

# App 1 - Swansea Council Net Zero 2030 Ambition

## Swansea Council Net Zero – 30 Actions by 2030

Buildings & Energy	Fleet & Mobile Equipment	Land Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decarbonise our public estate by reviewing our asset management strategy.</li> <li>Reduce the energy consumed across the council's buildings and estate.</li> <li>Encourage employee behaviour change through training and process improvement</li> <li><b>Decarbonise street lighting with more LED's</b></li> <li>Ensure all new buildings are constructed to the highest possible sustainability standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transition the Council's fleet to zero emission equivalents in accordance with the Welsh Government's expectation of light commercial vehicles by 2025 and other vehicles by 2030</b></li> <li>Establish a fleet vehicle charge point infrastructure that supports this transition</li> <li>Optimise fleet vehicle use and efficiency</li> <li>Establish integrated data systems for GHG measurement</li> <li>Revise and approve the appropriate supporting policies, procedures and working practices</li> <li>Decarbonise Grey Fleet travel</li> <li>Decarbonise mobile plant equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LDP policy reviewed to protect land soils and habitats rich in carbon</li> <li>Increase terrestrial Central Area GI to 26%</li> <li>Tree planting areas mapped county wide <b>1000s new trees planted</b></li> <li>30% of protected sites (local nature reserves, etc.) in positive management for biodiversity</li> </ul>
Waste	New Ways of Working	Supply Chain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage circular economy values within Swansea Council – to minimise and prevent - reduce, reuse, recycle,</li> <li>Reduce operational single use plastics wherever possible</li> <li>Reduce operational waste e.g. food, paper</li> <li>Encourage operational recycle and repair.</li> <li>Reduce Construction Waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop emissions data monitoring processes</li> <li>Reduce commuting miles</li> <li>Deliver agile working policy</li> <li>Develop staff active travel plan</li> <li>Implement Healthy Travel Charter in Swansea Council</li> <li>Develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commit to Net Carbon Zero in our supply chain by 2050</li> <li>Through forward planning and innovation develop new specifications for our contracts that deliver Net Carbon Zero</li> <li>Map and monitor our progress, with appropriate prioritisation and target setting</li> </ul>

### Scope 1 & 2

Category	Current t CO2e (21-22)	Spend already allocated	Projected t CO2 based on spend already allocated	Investment option A	Projected t CO2e Based on <b>Inv A</b> – Future Funding Ops	Investment Option B	Projected t CO2e Based on <b>Inv B</b> – further funds required.	Balance of t CO2e	Cost
Buildings & Energy	21,031	£1.3m retrofit, £26,400 ERF (Energy Sparks)	379 103 (1% of bills)	£7m retrofit (Salix Finance/WG Funding Programme) – 8 years payback on investment	4,438	£93m investment on building decarbonisation programmes	12,889	3,222	£101.5m million investment excluding cost of offsetting
Street Lighting	2,041	£1m approved	159	£800,000 required to complete.	118			1,764	£1.8million
Fleet & Mobile Equipment	6,100	£484,000 assigned to EV £300,000 grant for charging points. £40,000 plus annual fee for data base mgt – internal budget		£7m to 2027 only for light commercial vehicles. EV fleet charging points - £700,000 - £1m.		150 HGVs x price differential of £200k each +£30m  Further 200 light commercial @ +£8m  450 mixed coming around again @ before 2030 @ +£10m	Average of 760 t reduction per year	0	+£55m to 2030
Grey Fleet	285	£1.5m social care.					Average of 36 t reduction per year	0	£1.5m
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,457</b>								<b>£159.8m</b>
Land Use	-5,594							-5,000	£27.5m
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,863</b>								<b>£187.3m</b>

## 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 are:**

#### **Net Zero Swansea Council by 2030**

- Achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, following the approved Swansea Council Net Zero 2030 Delivery Plan.
- Reduce the council's impact on the environment, monitoring via the Welsh Government reporting process on the 6 organisational categories.

Buildings and Energy	Fleet and Other Mobile Equipment	Land Use (Offsetting)
Waste – Operational	New Ways of Working	Supply Chain

- Replace for street lighting with LED.
- Develop a new County-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees.
- Continue to review the council transport fleet to maximise opportunities for use of a green fleet in line with its green fleet strategy.

### **Net Zero Swansea by 2050**

- Collectively support the wider Swansea ambition, working alongside Climate Charter signatories, PSB, citizens, schools, businesses, community groups and environmental partners to help deliver the Welsh Government ambition of Net Zero Wales by 2050.

<b>Electricity and Heat Generation</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Residential Buildings</b>
<b>Industry and Business</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Waste and Circular Economy</b>
<b>Education and Engagement</b>	<b>Enriching our Natural Resources</b>	<b>LULUCF</b>

- Develop a Swansea Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.
- Support delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project.
- Progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site.
- Aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements.
- Support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.
- Progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub.
- Work towards announcing new Active Travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity.

### **Nature Recovery**

- Develop and monitor the delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity 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.

- Contribute to the review, delivery and monitoring of the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and a County Wide Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Work to improve the ecosystem resilience of Council owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and greenspaces.
- Improve awareness and understanding of climate change and our natural environment through provision of information, training and events.
- Continue to deliver a programme of wildflower planting and management and take actions that help to control invasive non-native species.
- Engage with local communities to encourage volunteering and to support them taking action to enhance and maintain their local greenspaces and wildlife sites.
- Take action to maintain and improve the quality of our air, water and soils.

#### **By the end of 2023-24 we will have:**

- Reported to Welsh Government on Swansea Council 2022-23 emissions.
- Progressed phase 2 of the public buildings retrofit programme.
- Delivered a second year of projects with our environmental partner.
- Agreed a development model and progressed with the Tir John solar farm development.
- Agree and announced progress on the Blue Eden project with our development partner.
- Built strong collaborative working relationships with climate charter signatories on the 2050 Swansea agenda.
- Begun to implement our ULEV Transition Strategy 2021-2030, with over 150 ULEV vehicles and fleet charge points.
- Continue with the LED street lighting installation programme.
- Agreed an updated tree planting and management strategy.
- Planted hundreds of new trees.
- Produced a series of Wild About your Ward Maps to support communities in identifying opportunities for enhancing local greenspaces and wildlife sites and engaging them in volunteering activities.
- Drafted Management Plans for Council owned Local Nature Reserves.
- Targeted treatment and/or removal of Invasive Non-Native Species on nature sites.
- Produced a series of Climate Change and Nature Recovery e-training modules.
- Continued amenity grassland and road verge management trials to establish as species rich wildflower meadows.
- Prepared a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and a County Wide GI Strategy.

#### **How we will measure progress\***

\*Provisional pending review and data development.

- Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy
- Emission reductions to be monitored annually via the Welsh Government reporting process.
- Monitor progress against 30 actions by 2030 for Swansea Council delivery plan on an annual basis.
- Report regularly on collaboration successes with Climate Charter signatories, PSB, citizens, schools, businesses, community groups and environmental partners.
- Delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Plan, alongside a Nature Recovery Action Plan in collaboration with the Swansea Nature Partnership and adoption of a Countywide Green Infrastructure Strategy Continue to monitor air, water and soil quality.

**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
Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Direct

**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 Climate Charter signatories, PSB, citizens, schools, businesses, community groups and environmental partners 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.

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

Early Years	People live well and age well	Working with Nature	Strong communities
Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct





## Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

### Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### Transitioning to a ‘Green’ Vehicle Fleet

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide a briefing requested by the Board about the strategy to transition the corporate fleet to ultra low emission vehicles
<b>Content</b>	This report provides a summary of the current fleet profile, the Ultra Low Emission Strategy 2021-2030, progress to date, the timescales and the challenges
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Provide their views on the approaches being adopted and the challenges faced
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Andrea Lewis (Deputy Leader)
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Stuart Davies (Head of Service Highways and Transportation)
<b>Report Author</b>	Mark Barrow (07796 275093) / mark.barrow@swansea.gov.uk
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Deb Smith
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Paul Roach
<b>Access to Services Officer</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in June 2019 and a subsequent target of becoming a **net zero organisation by 2030**, committing to actively reduce the impact of its activities on the environment in line with its sustainable delivery and wellbeing objectives.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government set out its expectations with regard to public sector fleets in its 2019 strategy ‘Prosperity for All : A Low Carbon Wales’, outlining its ambitions for all new cars and light goods vehicles to be ultra-low emission by 2025 and all heavy goods vehicles by 2030

- 1.3 The Council's 'Green Fleet' Policy was adopted in 2018 with an aim to ensure that the acquisition, use and management of the corporate vehicle fleet consistently and continuously seeks to contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan commitments with regard to the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- 1.4 The Policy targets incremental annual improvements in terms of carbon reduction, fuel used, as well as the rate of adoption of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs). The increased urgency of the climate crisis and the 2030 deadlines required a strategy to ensure the transition adopted a more focussed approach.
- 1.5 The current fleet size is approximately 945 road registered vehicles (including school minibuses). It is a large and complex public sector fleet including 160 heavy goods vehicles and 640 light goods vehicles
- 1.6 The fleet is 92% diesel powered and accounts for 21% of the annual corporate carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, approximately 6100 tonnes.

## **2. 'Greening' the Fleet**

- 2.1 The Council has been transitioning to 'Green' vehicles since 2010 and currently has 72 full battery electric and 8 'hybrid' battery already in use. This includes an electric refuse collection vehicle and two electric compact road sweepers.
- 2.2 There are a further 35 battery electric vans and cars on order, due early 2023, that would result in the Council having 10% of its fleet as 'green' vehicles.
- 2.3 Forty charge points have been installed across 12 Council sites to support this, with a further 50 currently being installed.
- 2.4 A total of £1 million of Welsh Government grants has been secured so far to support the transition on vehicles and infrastructure
- 2.5 Training has also been provided for 16 fitters at the Central Transport Unit to enable them to work on electric vehicles and to ensure service support is resilient for this new technology.
- 2.6 The Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Transition Strategy 2021-2030 (Appendix A) was adopted following a review by the Welsh Government Energy Service.
- 2.7 This strategy set out key objectives and aims to drive the transition. These include,
  - 2.7.1 Transition the whole vehicle fleet to zero emission by 2030



- 2.7.2 Adopt a “diesel by exception” approach when procuring
- 2.7.3 Establish supporting infrastructures
- 2.7.4 Optimise vehicle use and efficiencies
- 2.7.5 Decarbonise business travel
- 2.7.6 Aim to reduce fleet emission by over 90% by 2030
- 2.7.7 Establish integrated data systems for Greenhouse Gas measurement
- 2.8 The strategy includes 20 key actions including adopting a corporate transformational programme approach, establishing action plans, considering all viable green alternatives, realigning vehicle renewal programmes, understanding the cost implications and environmental benefits.
- 2.9 The scale of the transition challenge is considerable given the size and complexity of the fleet. It constitutes a significant corporate change within relatively short timescales and affects everyone who uses, or is served by, fleet vehicles.
- 2.10 It is anticipated that over 900 vehicles will be renewed up to 2030, as well as the need to establish ‘refuelling’ infrastructure such as charge points and alternative fuel dispensers.
- 2.11 The current supply chain disruption, at a time of increasing demand for ULEVs, has temporarily inhibited the Council’s progress in terms of the transition due to volatile pricing and delivery lead times of up to 12 months.
- 2.12 The Council also has to consider the implications of procuring vehicles now for its future operating models, when no viable ‘Green’ equivalents are available.
- 2.13 Technologies are emerging and maturing beyond the electric car sector, but may not be in place by the time certain vehicles are due for renewal, making the ‘diesel by exception’ approach more difficult to adopt initially.
- 2.14 Infrastructure investment is required to support the transition against a backdrop of rationalised Council sites and electricity grid capacity constriction. Over 200 vans currently are taken home by employees, adding to the challenge of determining the refuelling approach for these vehicles.

- 2.15 The role of renewables and sustainable alternative fuels such as hydrogen, is also currently being explored for interim and longer term solutions.
- 2.16 There are significant financial impacts for the Council in terms of vehicle renewal and infrastructure investment, both in terms of revenue and capital expenditure.
- 2.17 A provisional estimate of an additional £55 million may be required for vehicle renewals up to 2030. This has been estimated using current vehicle prices and the differential between battery electric (where known) and diesel equivalents but this is acknowledged as indicative at best, due to the difficulties in forecasting prices and future requirements.
- 2.18 Infrastructure is estimated as requiring an additional £700,000 with the implementation of renewables considered key to future energy cost avoidance and security.

### **3. Summary**

- 3.1 The Council's declared aim of becoming a net zero organisation by 2030 includes its vehicle fleet operations. The ULEV Transition Strategy has set out an initial pathway reflecting this commitment and is progressing.
- 3.2 The challenges of this wholesale change have been increased by recent global events and have made the timescales (2025 and 2030) difficult to achieve. The financial and operational impacts will be significant.
- 3.3 The Council is amongst the leading public sector fleets in this regard and the next two years will see continued progress, particularly in the light goods vehicle renewals and infrastructure.

### **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications arising from the content of this report.

### **5. Finance Implications**

- 5.1 The financial implications of an estimated additional £55 million, as set out above, are indicative due to the difficulties in forecasting price and future demand up to 2030.

### **6. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 6.1 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.

6.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 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'.

6.3 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.

6.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required:

- The reasons for this outcome were that the implementation of the strategy will see medium local impacts as the Council operates approximately 900 vehicles within its boundaries, although the net effect will also contribute to broader 'global' environmental aims.
- It is largely driven by the need to respond to legislative changes, as well as climate emergency declarations.
- It is a low risk initiative, although it does attract additional costs. The overall cumulative effect is positive for all sectors of the community.

**Background papers:** 'Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form'

**Appendices:**

**Appendix A – Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transition Strategy 2021 – 2030.**

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

### ULTRA LOW/ZERO EMISSION FLEET VEHICLE TRANSITION 2021-2030

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in June 2019 and a subsequent target of becoming a **net zero organisation by 2030**, committing to actively reduce the impact of its activities on the environment in line with its sustainable delivery and wellbeing objectives.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government set out its expectations with regards to public sector fleets in its 2019 strategy 'Prosperity for All : A Low Carbon Wales', outlining its ambitions for all new cars and light goods vehicles to be ultra-low emission by 2025 and all heavy goods vehicles by 2030.
- 1.3 The Council's Green Fleet Policy was adopted in 2018 with an aim to ensure that the acquisition, use and management of the City and County of Swansea's corporate vehicle fleet consistently and continuously seeks to contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan commitments with regard to the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

#### 2. Vision

- 2.1 The Green Fleet Policy's principal aim is to continuously reduce the environmental impact of the Council's fleet operations in terms of air quality and to strive towards achieving **the Council's vision of an optimised, sustainable decarbonised vehicle fleet by 2030**.
- 2.2 The current Policy targets of incremental annual 5% improvements will not meet the 2030 deadline and are being reviewed, but the expectation is that the targets will need to at least double.
- 2.3 This Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Transition Plan seeks to set out the strategic delivery programme to achieve these aims.

#### 3. Context and Scope

- 3.1 The Council currently operates fleet of @ 850 vehicles, ranging from pool cars to specialist heavy commercials, that cover approximately 5.7 million miles per annum with the majority of the journeys being undertaken in and around urban areas.
- 3.2 The fleet is mainly diesel powered using @ 1.71 million litres of fossil fuel and its operation is estimated to equate to 3750 tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum.
- 3.3 The fleet already has 42 battery electric vans and 6 hybrid vehicles, with a further 40 full electric also on order. There are 40 fleet vehicle charge points established across 12 sites, with an intention to establish a further 60 before the end of 2021/22.
- 3.4 The fleet is holistically supported by the Central Transport Unit (CTU), providing a one stop shop for all fleet requirements. The vehicles are predominantly on 5 year

renewal cycles, with a mixture of funding options used to acquire, although there are a proportion older than 5 years. Vehicle fuel is managed by CTU across 5 sites and recharged directly to the user sections.

- 3.5 The Council's 'Grey fleet', whereby staff use private vehicles for Council business, undertook 1.61 million miles of business travel during 2019/20, resulting in 429 tonnes of CO2 per annum.
- 3.6 The Council commissioned a Business Travel Review in November 2018, with recommendations arising around establishing a Business Travel Policy and Hierarchy. The CV19 pandemic, the resulting changes to new ways of working and revised accommodation strategies has altered the landscape in this regard.
- 3.7 The Welsh Government Energy Services (WGES) undertook a review of the Council's corporate and grey fleet in 2021, with the aim of supporting and advising on the transition to ultra-low and zero emission vehicles over the next @ 10 years.
- 3.8 The review concluded that a full transition to electric fleet vehicles would result in a 90% reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) and a 70% reduction in energy costs, saving @ £1.15m per annum.
- 3.9 The Council established an emissions baseline in October 2021 in relation to its transport, energy and land use, in accordance with the Welsh Government's Net Zero Carbon Status 2030 Route Map guidance. The Fleet element of this equated to 24% of the overall for 2020/21.
- 3.10 The overall aim of this transition is therefore is to deliver **the following key objectives** to meet the Council's vision
- Transition the Council's fleet to zero emission equivalents in support of the organisational Net Zero commitment by 2030
  - Transition the Council's fleet to zero emission equivalents in accordance with the Welsh Government's expectation of light commercial vehicles by 2025 and other vehicles by 2030
  - Establish a fleet vehicle charge point infrastructure that supports this transition
  - Optimise fleet vehicle use and efficiency
  - Decarbonise grey fleet travel
  - Establish integrated data systems for GHG measurement
  - Revise and approve the appropriate supporting policies, procedures and working practices
- 3.11 The transition plan has identified the following **20 actions as the principal areas** that need to be addressed, each of which are considered in greater detail below.

***#1 Establish as corporate transformation programme***

***#2 Establish multi-disciplinary transition team and resource***

***#3 Establish transition action plan***

***#4 Realign vehicle renewal programme***

***#5 Continue the decarbonising of the existing (diesel) fleet***

***#6 Consolidate and integrate fleet data systems***

***#7 Introduce fleet performance monitoring***

***#8 Determine the EV charging infrastructure demand***

***#9 Consider alternative (non EV) option infrastructure requirements***

***#10 Understand the cost implications in terms of additional expenditure and opportunities for savings and income generation***

***#11 Pursue additional funding streams***

***#12 Establish the strategy and funding implications as a corporate risk***

***#13 Align cyclical procurement planning with fleet renewal programme***

***#14 Apply a 'diesel by exception' principle***

***#15 Adopt a whole life costing principle for fleet renewals***

***#16 Implement a stakeholder engagement and communications plan***

***#17 Assess impact on CTU operations and reskill vehicle maintenance staff***

***#18 Invest in specialised workshop equipment***

***#19 Co-opt Business Travel Review workstream into programme***

***#20 Establish Programme Risk Register***

#### **4. A Corporate Transformational Approach**

- 4.1 The key enabler for this plan is establishing it as a **corporate transformation programme (#1)**, with appropriate governance and resources, to monitor and ensure it delivers the expected outcomes. As a highly significant change in terms of vehicle provision and use, its environmental, financial and operational impacts will cut across the whole of the organisation.
- 4.2 The programme would subsequently require **the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team (#2)** capable of coordinating and driving the transition action plan.
- 4.3 It is proposed that this team is championed by a Cabinet member, and comprises senior management as well as subject matter experts that should include Fleet, Facilities, Energy, Property Services/Electrical, HR, Finance and Procurement. Additional (internal and external) expertise and stakeholders should be brought on board as and when required.

- 4.4 Additional resource will be necessary to support key stakeholders throughout the transition, as well as manage data demands and integration. A new Fleet/ULEV Performance role, as recommended by the WGES review, will be vital in ensuring the transition and funding will be required to establish the new post.
- 4.5 **A transition action plan will be established (#3)** to track and manage delivery of clear and measurable key outcomes. This action plan will be monitored by the team and reviewed annually, focussing on the following 10 principle areas
- Fleet Renewals programme
  - Fleet Utilisation
  - Fleet Data and Performance
  - Vehicle Charging and Other Infrastructure
  - Funding
  - Procurement
  - Stakeholders
  - Vehicle Maintenance
  - Grey fleet
  - Risk and Dependencies
- 4.5 Appropriate reporting mechanisms, milestones and performance targets will be incorporated into the action plan to reflect the Council's expectations, including
- Programme milestone progress
  - Total Annual Fleet size
  - ULEVs adopted
  - Total Annual Mileage
  - Fossil fuel reductions/energy savings
  - Carbon reductions
  - Costs
  - Infrastructure volumes
- 4.6 It is acknowledged that the transition programme is anticipated as initially lasting until 2030, during which the plan will be reviewed as the respective technologies and circumstances change

## 5. **Fleet Renewals and Utilisation**

- 5.1 The current fleet renewal programme (attached) has been broken down into the respective financial years, providing an indication of timelines and volumes for fleet changes and the subsequent infrastructure requirements, as well as determining the attendant funding, procurement, stakeholder engagement and risk implications.
- 5.2 The Council's Green Fleet Policy states that the Council will, wherever viable, recommend the greenest vehicle renewal option available. Key considerations in determining this include
- Vehicle specification, design and payload
  - Fuel type options and efficiency
  - Greenhouse gas emissions
  - Cost

- 5.3 The transition plan will include the **realignment of the renewal programme (#4)**, ensuring that the appropriate vehicle types for the task are available when due for renewal, reinforcing the viability of the programme, principally by considering
- current market maturity
  - available funding streams
  - market developments to include all viable options
  - potential supply constrictions due to global market
  - embed quick wins ahead of 2025/2030 expectations
  - impact of fleet utilisation reviews (see below)
  - infrastructure implications and timelines
  - Complementary and transitional options, including
    - Hydrogen fuel cells
    - Alternative fuels (HVO, CNG etc)
    - Hybrid technologies
- 5.4 Light commercial vehicles will be prioritised in the lead up to 2025, although deferment of renewal will be considered if no viable options are available or if the infrastructure cannot be adopted in readiness.
- 5.5 Concurrent and similar considerations will be applied for heavier vehicles with a view to earliest possible viable transition to secure even greater CO2 reductions prior to 2030, whilst planning to avoid potential ‘end of decade’ supply congestion.
- 5.6 Alongside the renewal programme, the plan includes the aim of **continuing the decarbonising of the existing (diesel) fleet (#5)**. This will seek to address fleet vehicle use and demand, by cyclically
- undertaking annual fleet utilisation reviews
  - challenging the viability of low mileage vehicles
  - recommending downsizing of vehicles with ‘what you carry’ audit outcomes
  - switching to adhoc hire in lieu of fleet where utilisation is low (schools)
  - reviewing business cases for home to work use
  - exploring vehicle optimisation opportunities
  - fuel use monitoring
  - driver behaviour monitoring and training interventions
  - addressing demand management, signposting active travel, potential modal shift, different ways of working etc

## 6. **Data and Performance**

- 6.1 The WGES reviews identified integration weaknesses on corporate data relating to fleet, inhibiting the understanding of performance and establishing baselines for future improvements. The previously recognised need for accurate and integrated data systems, principally for fleet management, fuel management and telematics, has been increasingly highlighted by the demands of carbon reporting in particular.
- 6.2 The current reliance on manual interventions to produce basic outputs from a variety of data sources, is no longer sustainable for such a large fleet and the transition plan will seek to address by **consolidating fleet data systems (#6)**



- integrating the fleet, fuel and telematics systems
- addressing source data issues
- implementing telematics across the remainder of the fleet
- adopting CANBUS based telematics to provide greater detail

6.3 In conjunction with improving the data, the plan will seek to **introduce fleet performance monitoring (#7)** across key aspects of vehicle operations, to support and reflect decarbonising by,

- Establishing a new role within CTU to assist with fleet performance and ULEV transition. Embedding the role within CTU will ensure context and a holistic understanding is applied to the performance monitoring.
- Monitor and report on key KPIs and targets including
  - CO2
  - Energy / fuel consumption
  - Mileage
  - Fleet utilisation
  - Detailed analysis of telematics data
  - Transition progress and milestones

6.4 The respective sites' energy consumption will continue to be monitored by Corporate Property Services.

## **7. Vehicle Charging and Other Infrastructure**

7.1 The Council currently has 40 charge points at 12 sites, all introduced to support electric cars and small vans. The charge points are basic, unmetered, 3.8 kW, reflecting an approach to 'slow' charge overnight at the vehicles' base locations, but with the step change expected within this plan, there is a clear need to adopt a more strategically aligned, upgraded and comprehensive approach to implementing the infrastructure.

7.2 The projected long term requirement for charge points if the Council transitioned 100% to electric vehicles is expected to cost a minimum of £750,000 (WGES).

7.3 The 2021/22 plan is to install up to 60 charge points across 5 sites to cater for the new electric vehicles currently on order. The principal approach will be charging vehicles overnight with the adoption of 7.4kW charge points, as well as 50kW for heavier vehicles, the individual site systems future proofed using smart management system design to balance capacity and demand.

7.4 Preliminary infrastructure works are also being considered for a new site to accommodate the redeployment of Waste vehicles in particular.

7.5 The 2021/22 Welsh Government Electric Vehicle Charge point Infrastructure grant of £300,000 will be used to fund these specific projects,

7.6 Aligning the longer term infrastructure needs to the fleet renewals programme will provide an indication of when each 'phase' would be required. Focussed analysis on vehicle use data will **determine the EV charging infrastructure demand (#8)**. The transition plan will

- determine what types, how many and where
- consider impact of any depot rationalisation plans
- consider charge at home opportunities for home to work use
- engage with local distribution network operator (DNO)
- establish site electrical capacities and headroom
- design the most appropriate and cost effective system to maximise capacity, including smart charger management control systems
- consider any potential network upgrade costs
- consider other on site generation/private wire solutions (including own renewables)
- establish overall indicative costs
- consider interoperability and sharing opportunities with other stakeholders
- establish an initial implementation plan for annual review by the programme
- consider 3<sup>rd</sup> party hubs to supplement in-house infrastructure

7.7 The Council however recognises that battery electric is not expected to be the only alternative vehicle drivetrain or fuel option available. The shorter term choices of hybrid powered vehicles or alternative fuels, such as hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) for example, will be continually appraised, as well as the longer term complimentary potential of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

7.8 These **alternative options (non EV) have their own infrastructure implications (#9)** and the transition plan will take these into account as part of the overall vehicle renewal considerations.

## 8. **Funding**

8.1 Finance will be represented as part of the programme transition team

8.2 The extent of the funding gap for both the acquisition of the ultra-low/zero emission vehicles and their supporting infrastructure is relatively unknown at the outset of this.

8.3 It is estimated that there will be fuel cost savings of £1.17 million per annum accruing from the transition (WGES, compared to 2019/20 expenditure of £1.85m), as well as vehicle maintenance cost reductions. The savings depend on the changes being implemented as outlined in the strategy and it is proposed that these savings are 'ring fenced' as contributions to the programme but the investment required will still remain relatively substantial.

8.4 The programme will continually monitor, project and report on **cost implications (#10)** to inform on the potential gaps as the transition progresses. Again, this may be aligned with the need to extend renewal cycles on vehicles as mitigation.

8.5 **Additional funding streams will be pursued (#11)** including Office for Zero Emission Vehicles' grants for workplace charging, income generation opportunities and cost reduction measures. The Welsh Government EVCI grant of £300,000 will support the 2020/21 immediate infrastructure needs, however additional funding will be required from Welsh Government to ensure the Council can deliver the whole of the transition strategy.

8.6 Funding will subsequently be **raised as a corporate risk (#12)** to allow the corporate finance teams to consider the required short and medium term financial planning implications.

## **9. Procurement**

9.1 Procurement will be represented as part of the programme transition team

9.2 The approach to procuring both the vehicles and infrastructure will be undertaken in consultation with corporate procurement teams and the key stakeholders.

9.3 **Cyclical procurement planning will align with the fleet renewal programme (#13)**, commencing at least 12 months in advance of the required dates for both the vehicles as well as the infrastructure, to reflect the potential supply chain constrictions and ensure available procurement resources. The Council will utilise existing or new national frameworks, as well as exploring potential collaborative tendering opportunities.

9.4 **A 'diesel by exception' principle will apply to fleet renewals (#14)**, with only a business case, signed off by the relevant Head of Service, deferring the transition to other drivetrains where a current viable option is not available at the time of scheduled vehicle change. Cost will not be a reasonable justification and should not form part of the service decision, as this will be corporately determined.

9.5 Procurement evaluations will **adopt a whole life costing principle (#15)** that includes carbon accounting to assist with determining option viability to understand the longer term 'payback' benefits of ULEVs from a 'Price' perspective. Existing 'Green Fleet' benefits evaluations will continue to be adopted and refined as part of the 'Quality' criteria.

9.6 Infrastructure will be procured either by utilising the in-house electrical engineering section, externally sourced expertise or a combination of both, depending on the respective installation phase scope, intricacies and deadlines.

9.7 As with all Council Procurement, the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requirements will be embedded in the processes.

## **10. Stakeholders**

10.1 Human Resources and Organisational Development will be represented as part of the programme transition team.

10.2 The Council will seek to engage with all relevant stakeholders throughout the transition programme. The transition team, when established, will be responsible for the **stakeholder engagement and communications plan (#16)** to identify who, how and when.

10.3 The principal internal stakeholders will include

- Members
- Senior management
- Staff (drivers, service managers)

- Central Transport Unit (maintenance staff)
- Trade unions
- Schools

10.4 The principal external stakeholders will include

- Welsh Government
- District Network Operator (DNO)
- Suppliers
- Regional public sector organisations
- Other public sector organisations
- Best practice forums/networks (public and private)

10.5 Interoperability and accessibility will be key design features of the charging infrastructure, and engagement with stakeholders will assist in shaping the specification

10.6 Change management processes will be continuously adopted to engage with those staff who may be affected to support the transition, alongside the provision of demonstration vehicles to address any initial concerns, vehicle induction, maintenance upskilling and eco-driving training. Particular attention will be paid to the current home to work vehicle use scheme.

## **11. Service, Maintain and Repair**

11.1 The wholesale change of the fleet from diesel powered to alternatives will impact on the Central Transport Unit's maintenance team.

11.2 The transition plan will address the **upskilling of technicians to Institute of Motor Industry (IMI) standards of competency (#17)** to allow them to safely and effectively work on the respective vehicles.

11.3 Discussions with Further Education establishments and potential funders including Trade Unions and Welsh Government have begun as part of the first phase of the plan as the fleet already includes some ULEVs.

11.4 **Specialised workshop equipment and personal protective clothing will also require investment (#18)** and is expected to be met by existing revenue budgets.

11.5 The expected outcome of the training and re-equipping will ensure a skilled and resilient support service for the fleet in terms of service, maintenance and repair, as well as providing potential income streams from third party work, as the expected fleet maintenance demands reduce and a broader adoption of ULEVs occurs in the region.

## **12. Grey Fleet**

12.1 Grey fleet travel, whereby staff use private vehicles for Council business, equated to 1.61 million miles and 429 tonnes of CO2 in 2019/20. Whereas this represented a 36% reduction in comparison to 2017/18, it still equates to a significant 9% of the Council's road transport total emissions.

- 12.2 The 2018 Business Travel Review and the recent WGES Grey Fleet Review identified a number of key recommendations to decarbonise the grey fleet and these are currently being progressed as a complimentary workstream.
- 12.3 This **workstream will now be included within the transition programme (#19)**, its principal approaches focussing on,
- Improve business mileage claim data systems
  - Monitor and understand new evolving pattern of grey fleet travel
  - Continue development of the Business Travel Policy and Hierarchy to include the new ways of working and accommodation strategies (for subsequent appropriate adoption opportunity), as well as,
    - Consider requiring grey fleet vehicles to be below 100g/km from 2025
    - Consider requiring grey fleet vehicles to be zero emission from 2030
    - Promote salary sacrifice scheme to assist transition
    - Move more employees, particularly those with higher mileage, and critical service provider staff, who currently use grey fleet to fleet ULEV vehicles
    - Consider car club adoption
  - Implement zero emission pool car fleet to cater for demand
- 12.4 The aim of these combined actions is to reduce overall business travel by 35%, whilst also reducing costs by @ £250,000 and 261 tonnes of CO2 per annum (pre CV19).

### **13. Risk and Dependencies**

- 13.1 A corporate transformational programme of this size will inevitably face risks and dependencies. The programme team will **establish a risk register (#20)** to monitor and mitigate for these.
- 13.2 Whereas risks and dependencies will arise throughout the course of the transition, the following areas will form the core of the risk register,
- Resources
  - Financial impacts and funding gaps (cf corporate risk)
  - Schools funding implications
  - Grid upgrade and Network capacity issues
  - Power outage implications and Business Continuity implications
  - Fossil fuel stock implications
  - Impact on daily operations for vehicle users and attendant charging behaviours
  - Home to work vehicle use impacts, barriers, revenues and inequities
  - Depot parking space to accommodate
  - Key site relocation plans (Civics, Pipehouse Wharf and Home Farm)
  - Specialist supply chain constriction and potential dependencies
  - Vehicle and EVCI lead times
  - Technological change and risk of obsolescence
  - ‘Sideways’ move to grey fleet in lieu of fleet
  - Vehicle maintenance skills and impacts

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

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

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Highways and Transportation

Directorate: PI6ace

### 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
- 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
- Other

**(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here: The transitioning of the corporate vehicle fleet of approximately 900 to ultra low emission vehicles in accordance with 2021-2030 approved strategy.**

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

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Human Rights



**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**

No engagement undertaken as the transition strategy is driven by the Welsh Government's and the Council's Net Zero Declarations. The impact of the changes to the vehicle types is also driven by UK Government legislative changes in terms of banning new diesel and petrol engine vehicles starting in 2030.

**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  No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
 Yes  No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
 Yes  No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
 Yes  No

**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

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

Yes       No      **If yes, please provide details below**

It is likely that there will be increased vehicle related costs for the services, as well as the need to amend working practices to accommodate for the range impacts of electric vehicles

**Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?**

Yes       No      **If yes, please provide details below**

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

**Q8 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?**

This will benefit all sectors of the community in terms of contributing to a significant reduction in vehicle emissions from the Council's vehicle fleet operations, leading to improved local air quality with subsequent health benefits

## Outcome of Screening

**Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:**

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

The implementation of the strategy will see medium local impacts as the Council operates approximately 900 vehicles within its boundaries, although the net effect will also contribute to broader 'global' environmental aims. It is largely driven by the need to respond to legislative changes, as well as climate emergency declarations. It is a low risk initiative, although it does attract additional costs. The overall cumulative effect is positive for all sectors of the community.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the **'Integrated Assessment Implications'** section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

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: Mark Barrow</b>
<b>Job title: Fleet Manager</b>
<b>Date: 16/12/2022</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b>
<b>Position:</b>
<b>Date:</b>

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



# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

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

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Property Services

Directorate: Place

### 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
- 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:

#### Swansea Council Net Zero by 2030

1.1 Welsh Government have set guidelines for public bodies to lead by example and aim collectively for net zero by 2030. The report provides an overview of what categories are required for reporting and respective emissions data. It also provides a plan of 30 proposed actions requiring delivery by 2030. A more detailed costed delivery plan, is also included providing more information on each activity. The report also briefly reflects on the wider Swansea collective ambition to be net zero by 2050 and the Nature Recovery agenda. Both will require separate reports in 2023.

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

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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.**

As a council, strong governance has been established from Cabinet, CDC, steering group with cabinet members and a programme board of multi-disciplined officers have been working on the agenda, along with a communications team. SME's in all related service areas have been engaged in the WG reporting and have helped develop the information presented to WG and in this report. This integrated and collaborative approach has worked particularly well. Prior to approval of the report, the team has consulted with leadership, CMT and Cabinet.

**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                       No
  
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
 Yes                       No
  
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
 Yes                       No
  
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
 Yes                       No

**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

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

Yes

No

**If yes, please provide details below**

All key policies drivers that influence our emissions and nature recovery are now working as an established programme board, part of the governance structure is to ensure priority is given

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

to meeting targets. The aim is that the actions become part of business as usual, with the majority already underway.

---

**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.)*

Swansea Council recognises that it must lead by example on the net zero agenda. If the council is seen to be achieving the targets then the wider Swansea audience will follow. There is a strong political drive from Welsh Government, linked in to the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and all public bodies across Wales are walking the same path.

In the context of this report, which focuses on the councils internal ambition to be net zero by 2030, then in the first instance Swansea Council will follow the principles of the Welsh Government public body reporting on six organisational categories:

- Buildings & Energy
- Fleet and Mobile Equipment
- Land Use
- Waste
- New Ways of Working
- Supply Chain

**Examples:**

- Actions could result in healthier travel routes to work e.g. less vehicle emissions and the encouragement of walking, cycling, and use of public transport.
- Greening our council fleet will mean less county wide air pollution.
- Hybrid working where appropriate will reduce emissions and support a better work life balance.
- The planting of more trees and plants will improve air quality and carbon absorptions.
- New technologies such as solar panelling and air source heat pumps will generate greener jobs in new technologies.
- Working with local suppliers to reduce carbon footprint miles will also support the local economy as well as reduce emissions.

A key principle in all net zero route maps from welsh government support a fair transition, which Swansea Council fully embraces.

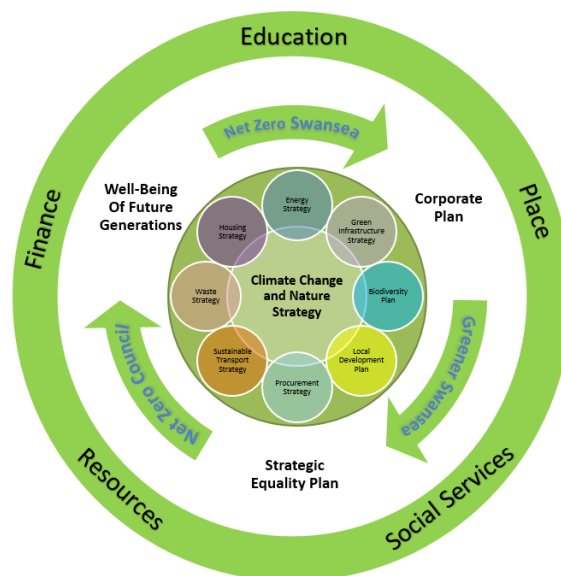
# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

## Outcome of Screening

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

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)** – If we move in the right direction as a council aiming for net zero by 2030, we can lead by example bringing citizens along with us on the 2050 journey, then all benefits could and should be very positive, eg reduction in fuel poverty, local food supply, improved health and well-being, reduced fire, flooding to name but a few.
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)** Internal governance and multidisciplinary involvement is strong and has recently be ratified by the awarding of the Bronze One Planet Standard. Between the programme board and the communication group, every single service area of the council is involved.
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**

To note the Well-being of Future Generations is a pivot part of our project governance structure.



- **Any risks identified (Q5)** – Risks are medium – We have the plan, but financially we will need to continue to lobby WG to ensure funding is available to make such changes – eg decarbonisation of homes and public buildings, transportation, active travel.
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)** – A brilliant and exciting opportunity to maximise the wellbeing of future generation and equality plan principles to make for a Greener Council by 2030 and a Greener Swansea by 2050.

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

Full IIA to be completed

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

x  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: Rachel Lewis</b>
<b>Job title: Directorate Project Manager</b>
<b>Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 22</b>

<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Mark Wade</b>
<b>Position: Interim Director of Place</b>
<b>Date: 12<sup>th</sup> November 22</b>

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

# Agenda Item 7



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Transformation

### Climate Change Scrutiny Performance Panel – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

#### Swansea Council Delivering on Nature Recovery & Climate Change – Achievements against Corporate Priority Objectives and Policy Commitments

<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To provide an update on achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments in relation to Nature Recovery and Climate Change</li></ul>
<b>Content</b>	This report includes a summary of achievements on <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Corporate Plan Priority Objectives</li><li>Policy Commitments</li></ul>
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consider progress on Corporate Plan Priority Objectives</li><li>Consider progress on Policy Commitments</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Andrea Lewis, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Service Transformation,  Councillor David Hopkins, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance.  (Councillor Andrew Stevens, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure and Councillor Anderson, Cabinet Member for Community)
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Director of Place – Mark Wade
<b>Report Author</b>	Rachel Lewis – Place Directorate Project Manager
<b>Legal Officer</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer</b>	Rhian Millar

## 1. Background

1.1 During the 2022-23 reporting cycle, this briefing note summarises delivery outcomes in regard to:

- The Corporate Priority Well-being Objective - Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change. **Appendix 1 page 29**
- The 2022-23 Policy Commitments.

1.2 Progress can be seen on all activity which is to be commended in light of the limited resource specifically dedicated to this agenda.

## 2. Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change Corporate Priority Well-being Objective.

2.1 A new corporate wellbeing objective, focuses on Swansea Council NZ2030, Swansea NZ2050 and Nature Recovery ambitions. The Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change objective aims to maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change. The objective included the following activity for 22-23:

2.2 **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.

- *Swansea Council's second Section 6 Biodiversity Report (2020-22) was approved by Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and submitted to Welsh Government. Third Action Plan currently being prepared*
- *Nature Recovery Action Plan being prepared in conjunction with Swansea Nature Partnership. Initial framework agreed, detailed draft plan now being developed. County wide Green Infrastructure Strategy – a joint project with Natural Resources Wales delayed until 23/24*

2.3 **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.

- *Climate Change & Nature Recovery Strategy approved at Dec 22 Cabinet.*
- *30 actions by 2030 Action plan approved at December 22 Cabinet.*
- *More detailed delivery plan now being developed.*
- *5 new PI's created to monitor progress in all areas from 23-24 onwards.*

### Swansea Council Net Zero – 30 Actions by 2030

Buildings & Energy	Fleet & Mobile Equipment	Land Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decarbonise our public estate by reviewing our asset management strategy.</li> <li>• Reduce the energy consumed across the council's buildings and estate.</li> <li>• Encourage employee behaviour change through training and process improvement</li> <li>• <b>Decarbonise street lighting with more LED's</b></li> <li>• Ensure all new buildings are constructed to the highest possible sustainability standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transition the Council's fleet to zero emission equivalents in accordance with the Welsh Government's expectation of light commercial vehicles by 2025 and other vehicles by 2030</b></li> <li>• Establish a fleet vehicle charge point infrastructure that supports this transition</li> <li>• Optimise fleet vehicle use and efficiency</li> <li>• Establish integrated data systems for GHG measurement</li> <li>• Revise and approve the appropriate supporting policies, procedures and working practices</li> <li>• Decarbonise Grey Fleet travel</li> <li>• Decarbonise mobile plant equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDP policy reviewed to protect land soils and habitats rich in carbon</li> <li>• Increase terrestrial Central Area GI to 26%</li> <li>• Tree planting areas mapped county wide <b>1000s new trees planted</b></li> <li>• 30% of protected sites (local nature reserves, etc.) in positive management for biodiversity</li> </ul>
Waste	New Ways of Working	Supply Chain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage circular economy values within Swansea Council – to minimise and prevent - reduce, reuse, recycle,</li> <li>• Reduce operational single use plastics wherever possible</li> <li>• Reduce operational waste e.g. food, paper</li> <li>• Encourage operational recycle and repair.</li> <li>• Reduce Construction Waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop emissions data monitoring processes</li> <li>• Reduce commuting miles</li> <li>• Deliver agile working policy</li> <li>• Develop staff active travel plan</li> <li>• Implement Healthy Travel Charter in Swansea Council</li> <li>• Develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to Net Carbon Zero in our supply chain by 2050</li> <li>• Through forward planning and innovation develop new specifications for our contracts that deliver Net Carbon Zero</li> <li>• Map and monitor our progress, with appropriate prioritisation and target setting</li> </ul>

**2.4 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.

- *Buildings and Energy & Fleet actions are now included in the 30 actions by 2030 Action Plan approved at Cabinet December 22 as per above diagram.*

**2.5 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.

- *Development of a Socially Responsible and Sustainability in Procurement Policy – this will be developed in line with/to support new procurement legislation that is being developed for*



*implementation in late 2023/early 2024 (namely updated UK Public Contract Regulations and a new Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill (Wales)).*

- *Commencement of a Social Value pilot programme and development of a Social Value Recording Tool designed to facilitate and enhance focus on social value in contracts and provide a format for capturing and recording good practice and to deliver commitments made in the Council's Net Carbon Zero plan.*
- *There are three pilot projects currently testing the social value tool, namely – the Parks Service framework for playground equipment; Corporate Building Services' project for Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg, Bryn Tawe - a school refurb and new build project, and Social Services housing support programme / framework renewal.*

**2.6 Sustainable Transport Strategy** - Embed and deliver a sustainable transport strategy and encompassed action plans on active travel, green fleet, grey fleet and street lighting.

- *A draft strategy structure has been developed and reviewed with the Climate Change and Nature Recovery CDC (workshop) in Dec 22. Work is ongoing to develop a draft strategy and action plan, which once agreed and finalised, will be brought forward for approval by both Cabinet and CDC.*

**2.7 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

- *Please see details in section 3.9 below.*

**2.8 21st 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.

- *The development of a brand new Special School, together with the major reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Bryntawe Welsh Medium School are currently at an early stage of design and will seek to address the Net Zero new schools objective, by utilising materials, heating and ventilation processes and practices.*

2.9 **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.

- *Within the tender documentation the encouragement to utilise new energy efficient materials and utilise a local workforce and suppliers are encouraged.*
- *Where possible we have increased insulation levels in re-roofing schemes and small scale refurbishments and extensions*

2.10 **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.

- *Modelling work is being undertaken with WG consultants to inform options for the Waste Strategy 2025 onward. The modelling will conclude in May 2023 with a draft strategy report prepared for approval later in 2023.*

2.11 **Air, water and soil quality** - Take action to maintain and improve the quality of our air, water and soils.

- *There are a range of activities carried out by the Pollution Control & Private Sector Housing Division:*
- *The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) function, collecting and reporting upon pollutant concentrations recorded.*
- *Collaborative air quality research projects are currently ongoing, funded by Welsh Government grants with external partners, with the aim of testing potential interventions for their effectiveness in reducing exposure.*
- *To protect public health and avoid a detrimental effect on tourism, the Pollution Control team participated in a multi-agency, EU-funded project called 'Smart Coasts' which was a Wales/Ireland cross border programme. During the summer bathing water quality information for Swansea Bay is displayed on signs by the Slip. Results are updated hourly between 8am and 8pm. The water quality can change throughout the day depending on sunlight, wind direction, river flows and the tide.*
- *The aeration system, within the River Tawe, during the summer months, which assists mixing within the water column for dissolved oxygen and salinity concentrations.*
- *Officers carry out risk assessments and monitoring of private drinking water supplies (supply of water not from a water undertaker or licensed supplier) in line with The Private Water Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2017. There are approximately 125 known private water supplies in the council's area.*

- *Participate in the Drought Liaison Group meetings, chaired by Welsh Government, called last summer due to prolonged dry spells and the potential for impact upon insufficiency of water supplies.*
- *Through the Planning Application process, the team assess the requirement for conditions to be attached to approvals to ensure that land contamination is identified and remediated in order to minimise the risk to public health in accordance with the required guidelines.*
- *Investigations also take place if complaints are received about potential contamination to land via emergency incidents or accidents and deliberate releases.*

### **3. Policy Commitments**

#### **Climate Change & Nature Recovery**

- 3.1 Swansea Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- *Costed Action Plan approved at December 22 Cabinet.*
  - *PI's introduced for 23 onwards:*
    - *Number of trees planted during the year across the council.*
    - *The increase in number of council locations with renewable energy sources*
    - *Number of Members and officers that have completed Climate Change and Nature Recovery Training*
    - *Number of projects delivered through the Environmental Partners Framework to support ambition of Swansea Net Zero 2050.*
    - *Percentage of the Council fleet which are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs)*
- 3.2 We will support delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project.
- *CRF monies awarded to undertake feasibility studies on potential to deliver the wider tidal lagoon proposals.*
  - *Continued discussions with DST as likely developer to support input from Council as land owner and strategic partner.*
- 3.3 We aim to progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site.
- *Cabinet report to proceed approved.*
  - *Planning permission submitted, awaiting outcome.*

- 3.4 The Council will strive to install more electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the county, supporting a move to more EV ownership.
- *Further grant funding applications have been submitted to Welsh Government, seeking to increase the number of both 'fast' and 'rapid' publicly available EV charge points across Swansea. Providing additional charging capabilities in communities across the City and County, will ensure that additional supporting infrastructure is in place for those wishing to transition to an EV.*
- 3.5 We will install more LED street lighting.
- *We will change 2000 street lighting lanterns to LED which will save approximately, 446,240 kWh resulting in carbon savings of 86,294 kg per Kwh.*
- 3.6 We will develop a new city-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees in communities.
- *Initial tree assessment of Council owned land in all wards completed.*
  - *Countywide tree canopy coverage and opportunity mapping project commenced Feb 2023 and due to be completed by May 2023.*
  - *Tree management strategy to be updated to include planting sites.*
  - *Maximum tree planting resource capacity within the Council is currently approx. 300 standard and heavy standard trees per annum. Planting proposals also needs to factor in future maintenance costs.*
  - *Approx. 300 trees planted 22/23.*
- 3.7 We aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements.
- *'Wild about your Ward' greening improvements identified for 4 most deprived wards and rolled out- scheme ends June 2023.*
  - *Bid for further 3-year grant funding to roll out to all wards unsuccessful, however a 2 year grant funding offer from Welsh Government ( not yet confirmed) will enable the scheme to be rolled out for a further 2 years albeit with reduced staff capacity (loss of one of the 2 project officer posts delivering the work)*
  - *Placemaking Greening schemes undertaken in district and local centres.*
- 3.8 Swansea Council will continue to review the council transport fleet to maximise opportunities for use of a green fleet in line with its green fleet strategy.

- *The Council has been transitioning to 'Green' vehicles since 2010 and currently has 72 full battery electric and 8 'hybrid' battery already in use. This includes an electric refuse collection vehicle and two electric compact road sweepers.*
- *There are a further 35 battery electric vans and cars on order, due early 2023, that would result in the Council having 10% of its fleet as 'green' vehicles.*
- *Forty charge points have been installed across 12 Council sites to support this, with a further 50 currently being installed.*
- *A total of £1 million of Welsh Government grants has been secured so far to support the transition on vehicles and infrastructure*
- *Training has also been provided for 16 fitters at the Central Transport Unit to enable them to work on electric vehicles and to ensure service support is resilient for this new technology.*
- *The Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Transition Strategy 2021-2030 was adopted following a review by the Welsh Government Energy Service.*

## **Housing**

3.9 Swansea Council commit to providing more energy efficient homes and more affordable homes, alongside more investment in social housing.

- *The Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is a long term programme to improve the condition, thermal performance, security and affordability of social housing owned by the Council in Swansea. On completion of the original WHQS on 31st December 2021, the Council had invested more than £546m over 18 years to make its housing stock compliant with the Standard.*
- *From the beginning of this current financial year 2022/23, WHQS passed from a compliance target stage to a maintenance phase. The investment for this year's capital programme is revised to £38.8m with WHQS delivering £27.4m across the financial year and £11.4m completed for the More Homes new build and acquisition programme.*
- *The Housing Service has secured £2.6m of Welsh Government Optimised Retrofit Programme grant funding to support schemes contributing towards affordable warmth and carbon reduction targets. £770,000 of grant has also been secured from Welsh Government's Building Safety programme to support the installation of sprinklers at Griffith John Street.*
- *Welsh Government has consulted with social housing providers in Wales about a new standard they intend to introduce which is now planned for the latter part of 2023. The new Standard,*

*WHQS2023, will build on the achievements of the earlier standards with a major policy objective of making all social housing in Wales net zero carbon by the mid 2030's. Large scale investment programmes will be required to meet the future statutory duties that will also increase fire and safety standards and environmental improvements and water saving measures.*

- *The Council's More Homes Programme has set a ten-year delivery ambition of 1,000 new affordable homes to be directly delivered by the Council, along with a further 4,000 properties delivered by Registered Social Landlords (RSL) in Swansea.*
- *The Council has developed a high specification for the properties it is building - the "Swansea Standard". The aim is to deliver energy, efficient, environmentally conscious homes that exceed current regulatory performance standards to achieve net zero carbon buildings, providing a positive contribution towards the drive to eradicate fuel-poverty through the installation of renewable technology. The Swansea Standard will be reviewed in 2023/24 to ensure that it takes into account recent changes in Building Regulations and continues to provide the required performance uplift, in preparation for the next tranche of schemes currently in development.*
- *Overall, the More Homes programme has delivered the following to date:*
  - *Completed to date = 222*  
*(New build/conversion= 97 Acquisitions = 125)*
  - *Conversions under construction = 12 – completing in summer 2023**Plans are in development to deliver the following:*
  - *Pipeline to start in 4-year programme = 534*  
*(New build = 321 Acquisitions = 213)*
  - *Pipeline to start in 10-year programme = 263*
- *In addition to the Council's own building programme, we continue to work closely with RSL partners to ensure we maximise the delivery of affordable housing through the allocation of Welsh Government Social Housing Grant (SHG) through the Programme Development Plan, which is managed by the Council. Swansea's allocation of SHG from Welsh Government was £23.7m for 2022/23.*
- *Work also continues in conjunction with the Planning Department to maximise the number of planning applications approved by the Council that achieve the stated % threshold of mixed-use tenure affordable homes.*

## **100 Days Target: Transport and Energy**

3.10 The Council will announce progress on the Blue Eden project.

- *Formal report on council involvement in Lagoon project due Summer 23.*

3.11 Swansea Council will support and enable the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points and develop a wider EV charging strategy.

- *A grant application has been made to the Welsh Government to support the authority in installing additional publicly available EV charge points in 2023/24, and resource to develop an EV Charging Strategy for Swansea.*

3.12 We will continue to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with its agreed green fleet strategy.

- See section 3.8 above

3.13 We will progress discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling.

- *Forms part of Western Gateway discussions*

## **4. Legal implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report for information only.

## **5. Finance Implications**

5.1 To remind scrutiny committee as per the previous January report, the full financial cost of achieving Net Zero can still only be considered an estimate at this stage and broad financial implications were noted in section 7 of the 15<sup>th</sup> December Cabinet report.

5.2 The report sets out initial estimates of the costs of legal duties upon the Council. It remains unclear whether any financial assistance will be forthcoming from Welsh or UK governments to meet all or any of the costs given this Council like all others faces a plethora of other legal obligations and a stark outlook in real terms for public finances for the foreseeable future of the decade.

- 5.3 No future budgets have been provided for any of these indicative future costs to date to be met by the Council. This reflects the explicit presumption that the Council will not be expected to fund costs out of core spending, but that alternative external sources of finance will be provided by national governments. However, consideration should be given to spend to save initiatives, for example future phases of the ReFit programme.
- 5.4 By way of potential context and scale only, if capital budgets were to be provided from now onwards over the forthcoming 7 years to 2030 it would be prudent to assume £25m per annum of additional capital obligations each year growing cumulatively to £175m This would be the most prudent, assuming zero support from government. It is likely to overstate the cost and risk as neither UK nor Welsh government could reasonably expect individual councils to meet the costs in isolation.
- 5.5 If this Council were expected to have to fully fund itself then at current likely rates and MRP this would cost coming on £2m per annum rising cumulatively to £12m by 2030 in capital financing costs. This broad estimate is at today's prices and interest rate outlook and could vary significantly in practice.
- 5.6 Cabinet and Council will have to have due regard to this in all future budget setting and MTFP decision rounds. Its appetite for revenue versus capital spending decisions, the timing of those decisions and it's prioritisation of competing legislative obligations will be an undiluted challenge as the Audit Wales report acknowledges .The longer uncertainty persists over funding support or lack of support and the longer Council does not explicitly provide for any future costs the bigger the risk of inevitable end loaded costs if no external support is obtained.
- 5.7 It is clear in any scenario residual carbon emissions will remain even after action and, subject to the views of WG in terms of their carbon emissions reporting guidance, there could be planned for costs of offsetting in either the revenue budgets from 2030 onwards (minimum £0.5m at current prices) or before that further capital (£27.5m at current prices)
- 5.8 At present the budget presumption is repeated that this Council is assuming that 100% of all costs are met externally as they materially transcend its ability to afford them itself.”

## **6. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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'.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 THIS REPORT IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND DOES NOT REQUIRE AN IIA SCREENING

**Background papers:** *None*

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Corporate Plan 22-23 pg 29 onwards



# Delivering a Successful & Sustainable **Swansea**

The City and County of Swansea's  
Corporate Plan 2022/23



***Delivering a Successful &  
Sustainable Swansea***

**The City & County of  
Swansea's Corporate Plan  
2022/23**

## Foreword

There are a number of major challenges facing the world, the UK, Wales and Swansea. Many of these challenges are having a major impact and require us to work in a different way to how we have worked before; and none more so than the impact from the Covid-19 pandemic. The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically changed the way we all live, work and spend our time - with measures implemented by Government continuously changing to contain the spread of this deadly virus.

Since March 2020, the Council's focus has been to preserve life, minimise the spread of the virus and support all our communities. Since the start of the crisis, Council staff and partners have demonstrated their willingness, flexibility, commitment and dedication to deliver front line services to the city's communities, volunteering to support priority areas while also adapting to new ways of working. We're operating the majority of our services in a different form and many staff continue to work from home. This model is not sustainable in its current format and we now need to manage the present as well as plan for the future. To do this we've set out a recovery plan – *Achieving Better Together* – which will allow us to both recover and to transform the Council so that it is better able to respond the challenges of the present and the future.

At the same time as dealing with Covid-19, the Council was preparing for the UK's departure from the European Union on 31<sup>st</sup> December. The UK's departure will bring a new relationship between the UK and the EU. Whilst this might not be what we wished to see and whilst we still have some serious concerns, Swansea is well-placed to take advantage of any new opportunities that may arise post-Brexit. Climate change is one of the greatest dangers and challenges facing us all and we need to think how we can adapt, reduce our carbon and greenhouse emissions and reduce our risk to flooding and other significant impacts. This also involves making better use of our land and natural resources whilst seeking to protect nature, our natural environment and improve biodiversity.

To tackle these challenges we need to work together. To give current and future generations a good quality of life we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make. We have to do things differently to make things change. If we are to beat these challenges we need to think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. This will help us to create a Swansea and a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. In the meantime, 2022 is an exciting year for Swansea Council. We have local government elections and the appointment of a new Chief Executive pending. These and other external factors mentioned here will bring change to how we do things in Swansea, including new commitments, guidance and direction. For these reasons we have developed an interim one-year Corporate Plan subject to a review with stakeholders in the summer of 2022, following the elections and appointment of a new Chief Executive. A longer-term 5 year Corporate Plan will be published in December 2022 following the review, which will evaluate the vision, objectives and measures contained within the plan.

Cllr Rob Stewart  
Leader of the Council

Martin Nicholls  
Interim Chief Executive

## **1. Introduction – Review of the Corporate Plan and Well-Being Objectives**

The City & County of Swansea published its Corporate Plan in 2017 as required by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which included a summary of its well-being statement and key priorities, known as ‘Well-being Objectives’.

**The Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives have been reviewed and refreshed for 2022/23.**

**There will be a further review of the Council’s Corporate Plan for the next five years 2022/27 following the appointment of a new Chief Executive and local government elections in May 2022.**

The review of the Corporate Plan and our Well-being Objectives for 2022/23 was undertaken by consulting with local people and by assessing, among other sources, the following evidence:

- Future trends and challenges.
- Future Generations Commissioners Report 2020.
- Our equality objectives, including Welsh language.
- Our policy commitments.

The Corporate Plan describes the steps being undertaken to meet our Well-being Objectives and contribute to the seven national well-being goals<sup>1</sup> outlined in the Act.

The Plan also sets out how we are maximising our contribution to our Well-being Objectives and national goals through the way in which we work, which is in line with sustainable principles as follows:

- Looking ahead to the medium and long-term challenges.
- Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse.
- Ensuring our objectives do not contradict each other and complement those of other public bodies.
- Working in partnership with others.
- Involving local people.

### **Covid-19**

The Covid-19 Crisis has posed significant and unprecedented challenges to the way we deliver our services, support partnership working and our way of life. Since March 2020, the Council’s focus has been to preserve life, minimise the spread of the virus and support all our communities.

This Corporate Plan has been developed within the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Goals are: A Prosperous Wales; A Resilient Wales; A Healthier Wales; A More Equal Wales; A Wales of More Cohesive Communities; A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language; A Globally Responsible Wales.

Since the start of the crisis the Council's staff have demonstrated their willingness, flexibility, commitment and dedication to deliver front line services to the city's communities, volunteering to support priority areas while also adapting to new ways of working from home.

The council is now operating the majority of its services in a different form and (in the main) many staff continue to work from home. This model is not sustainable in its current format and the Council now needs to manage the present as well as plan for the future.

To do this, consideration has been given to setting out a recovery programme – *Achieving Better Together* - that will re-mobilise the Council, refocus the Council to be able to be efficient and effective in delivering the Corporate Plan and its priorities taking account of the changes to the economy, health protections, ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and finally re-shape, looking beyond the next 2 years through the new Corporate Plan from 2022 building upon our previous transformation programme, *Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future*.

## **Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24**

There is a close correlation between the Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives and the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and Equality Objectives. A new Strategic Equality Plan with new Strategic Equality Objectives was published during 2020/21 following extensive consultation and engagement with people, including people with protected characteristics. There is now closer alignment between many of the steps to deliver both the Council's Equality and Well-being Objectives as we pursue integration, seek to improve well-being and strive towards a more equal Swansea and a more equal Wales.

## **2. Summary of Well-Being Statement**

### **Our Corporate Plan – vision, values, principles and well-being objectives**

Our Corporate Plan *Delivering a Successful & Sustainable Swansea* and our well-being objectives outline how we will work to meet present and future challenges.

### **The challenges ahead**

Swansea faces a number of challenges in the years ahead, which include:

- Population changes – a growing, ageing and more diverse Swansea.
- Economic changes – attracting investment, high quality jobs and new technology into Swansea while addressing the skills gap.
- Climate change and nature emergencies – risks from flooding, air and water quality, dangers to ecosystems and biodiversity and energy security.
- Social and cultural changes – addressing inequalities in health, education, employment and life chances.
- Covid-19 – helping Swansea to recover and transforming the Council to meet the changes and the new challenges ahead.

We have sought to address these current and future challenges through our Corporate Plan and our Well-being Objectives. Going forward and looking beyond the next two years, the UK's departure from the EU, the climate and nature emergencies and the impact from Covid-19, including changes to the economy, health protections and any ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, have been considered and captured in the refreshed Corporate Plan from 2022.

### **Our ambitions and commitments to residents – our well-being objectives**

In order to meet these challenges, we have prioritised six well-being objectives. These are:

- ***Safeguarding people from harm*** – so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- ***Improving Education & Skills*** – so that everyone in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- ***Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure*** – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- ***Tackling Poverty*** – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- ***Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change*** – so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.
- ***Transformation & Future Council development*** – so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

The '*Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change*' objective is new for 2022/23 and is a development from the previous Well-being Objective 'Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity'. This new Well-being Objective has been adopted to place particular emphasis on addressing the long-term challenges arising from climate change and the threat to biodiversity; following Welsh Government declarations for Wales, the Council has declared both a Climate Emergency and a Nature Emergency, which will be responded to through this Well-being Objective.

### **How we will work – our values and principles**

Our values and principles expressed in our Corporate Plan underpin the delivery of our well-being objectives and reflect sustainable ways of working:

#### **Our Values**

Our Plans are built on three clear values, which guide the way that we work, how we develop as an organisation and our decision-making through the years ahead.

- ***People Focus***

We will focus on community needs and outcomes and on improving the lives of the people who live and work in Swansea. We will also respect, value and support our employees and demonstrate the highest standards of integrity.

- **Working Together**

We will promote a whole partnership approach, working across services to maximise resources and knowledge and joining forces with others outside the Council to ensure we prioritise our resources and get the best for our communities.

- **Innovation**

We will promote and support a culture of innovation. We will think and work differently to improve our ability to deliver and to meet the financial, demographic and societal challenges we face. The response to the Covid crisis has resulted in significant innovations and changes to the way staff work and deliver services.

## **Our Principles**

Our Plans and priorities will be underpinned by three key principles. These principles are essential to deliver our well-being objectives and will be woven into the way that we work.

- **Sustainability**

We will work to improve the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Swansea. This means making sure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

It is a key principle at the heart of our new *Achieving Better Together* programme, which is about recovering from Covid-19 and transforming Council services, ensuring the financial viability of the Council and improving outcomes for residents.

As part of this, we will continue to engage with and seek the views of residents and service users. The principle of sustainability has prevention and integration at its heart and we will develop long-term plans for addressing our Well-being Objectives, working with others. We will also ensure that, through this approach, we meet the requirements of the *Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*.

- **Prevention**

We will intervene earlier in order to support people at greatest risk, change behaviours and prevent the need for costly specialist services, often with a long-term support programme. This will help to make families and communities more resilient, reduce the demand for Council services, lower costs and achieve better outcomes. We will adopt a whole-Council approach to managing the demand for services and aim to deepen our understanding of customer contact and how services can be redesigned to eliminate, reduce or divert demand. For example, we have continued to work with social care providers to support the ongoing challenges to the easing of lockdown and fight against the effects of Covid-19, while plans are put in place to move the balance away from acute care towards preventative and community services.

- **Partnerships**

We will work together with our partners across the public, business and voluntary sectors through the Public Service Board and through other collaborative means in order to meet the shared challenges that face Swansea and its communities.

This 'Team Swansea' approach has been vital when dealing with Covid-19, working as a whole-Council with partners, such as Health, to ensure that every service can

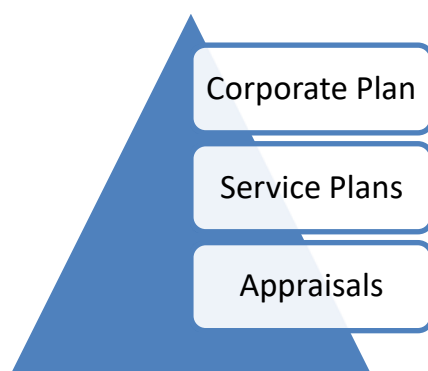


play a part in contributing to our well-being objectives and that we share resources and expertise in response to Covid-19. The needs of our residents and the major challenges facing Swansea can only be tackled through productive partnerships, greater integration of our services and pooling of resources.

### **Our Delivery – the steps**

Our Corporate Plan demonstrates that all of our Well-being Objectives taken together and the steps that we are undertaking to deliver them shows our contribution to all seven national goals and to the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of Swansea and Wales.

Our contribution to the national goals and well-being of Swansea and Wales is not just expressed in our Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan describes our key Well-being Objectives and contribution but it forms part of our wider Performance Improvement Framework, which includes departmental Service Plans; the Corporate Plan taken together with Service Plans describes our full contribution. This arrangement is outlined in the diagram below:



### **Our Delivery – sustainable ways of working**

We will further maximise our contribution to the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of Swansea and Wales through embedding sustainable ways of working.

These ways of working are reflected in our values and principles but also in the steps we are taking and plan to take in order to maximise our contribution.

- **Looking ahead to the long-term challenges**

Our Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives seek to address current and longer-term challenges.

We have started to further develop our capability and capacity for a longer-term strategic outlook, looking at future trends and scenarios in order to build a strategic picture looking ahead to between 10 and 25+ years. We have been working on building up a picture of what future trends might mean for the Council and for Swansea's communities in the future; this will be an important part of our *Achieving Better Together* programme as we seek to recover from Covid-19, tackle climate change and nature emergencies and transform Council services to be fit for the future.

- **Preventing problems from occurring or getting worse**

Through our well-being objectives we are working to prevent problems or to stop them from getting worse.

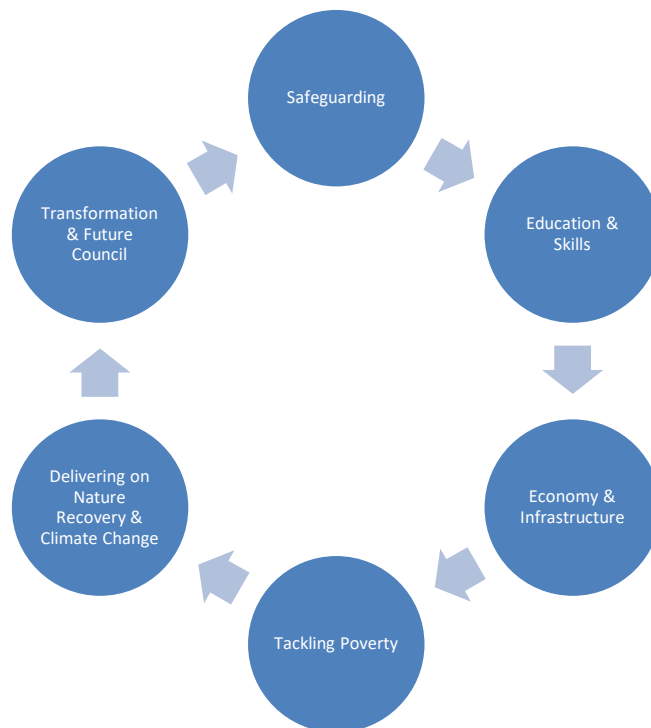
The Council needs to continue to develop its preventative approach and has to that end developed a *Prevention Strategy*. This strategy will further embed early intervention and prevention into the Council's business and place an even greater focus on improving well-being. Much of the approach to Covid-19 has been about preventing the spread of the virus; for example, by working with partners to inform and reassure the public and reinforce health and social distancing messages through social and other media.

- **How our well-being objectives relate to each other and to those of other public bodies.**

It is important to point out though that each of our Well-being Objectives cannot be seen in isolation from each other. Each Well-being Objective both affects and is affected by the others.

For example, improving education and skills is both important to our efforts to reduce poverty and to improve the city and economy, which means transforming our education system to ensure children and young people have the necessary skills for the new economy and how society might change following Covid-19 and as a result from the threats from climate change and the decline in biodiversity.

This interdependency is illustrated in the diagram on the next page:



We are working to identify the connections and potential impacts of diverse policies and programmes and highlight where such policies / programmes can reinforce or undermine each other.

We have developed a new Integrated Impact Assessment tool that is being used to identify and strengthen interdependencies.

We used this tool to assess and review our Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives, which helped map our contribution to the national goals and identify further options for maximising the contribution to the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of Swansea and Wales.

Further engagement with our Public Service Board partners on our Well-being Objectives will be undertaken during the production of the next PSB Well-being Plan; PSB partners were offered the opportunity to participate in a survey to help inform the Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives for 2022/3.

- **Working in collaboration with others**

We are collaborating with partners from the public, private and third sector in order to take steps to deliver our Well-being Objectives, showing our contribution and options to maximise our contribution to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of Swansea and Wales. These include:

- Working with other local authorities to deliver school improvement services.
- Working in partnership on safeguarding with representatives of each of the main agencies and professionals who are responsible for helping to protect children and adults from abuse and neglect through the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Boards.
- Working with three other local authorities, the Welsh Government, Universities and the private sector through the Swansea Bay City Deal to transform the economic landscape of the area, boost the local economy by £1.8 billion, and generate almost 10,000 new jobs over the next 15 years.
- Working in partnership with Health, Welsh Government, other public bodies and the third sector to respond quickly and effectively to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **Involving all of our citizens in what we are doing**

The Council is committed to consulting with, and involving, residents, other stakeholders and employees in the Council's decision-making process. We have a new *Consultation and Engagement Strategy* for practitioners to help them engage with residents and service users.

In addition, the Council engages with the diversity of the population through diversity groups and forums, such as the 50+ Network and LGBT Forum. Schools' pupils are involved in their education through School Councils and through *Pupil Voice*, which is directly aimed at increasing pupil participation as set out in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); Swansea was the first UK Council to adopt and embed UNCRC. The Council's *Big Conversation* events give

children and young people an opportunity to discuss issues that matter to them and to influence Council policy.

Community action and involvement is central to how the Council is looking to plan and deliver services. The formation of 'Friends' groups are being supported to regenerate local parks, beaches and allotments. In social care, strengths based approaches to professional practice is also involving people and their families in helping to deal with their own problems by focussing on their strengths and assets and what they can bring to the table.

We have plans to involve more local people in the Council's decisions that affect them, their families and communities and is to that end have developed a *Co-production Framework*. We will look to establish a forum for community volunteers to involve them in the decision-making process and give them an opportunity to express their views and opinions. In response to Covid-19, our new recovery and transformation programme – *Achieving Better Together* – seeks greater and more meaningful engagement with our residents and community.

### ***Involving people in our Well-being Objectives***

The review of our Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives for 2022/23 has been done within the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which limited face-to-face engagement in particular.

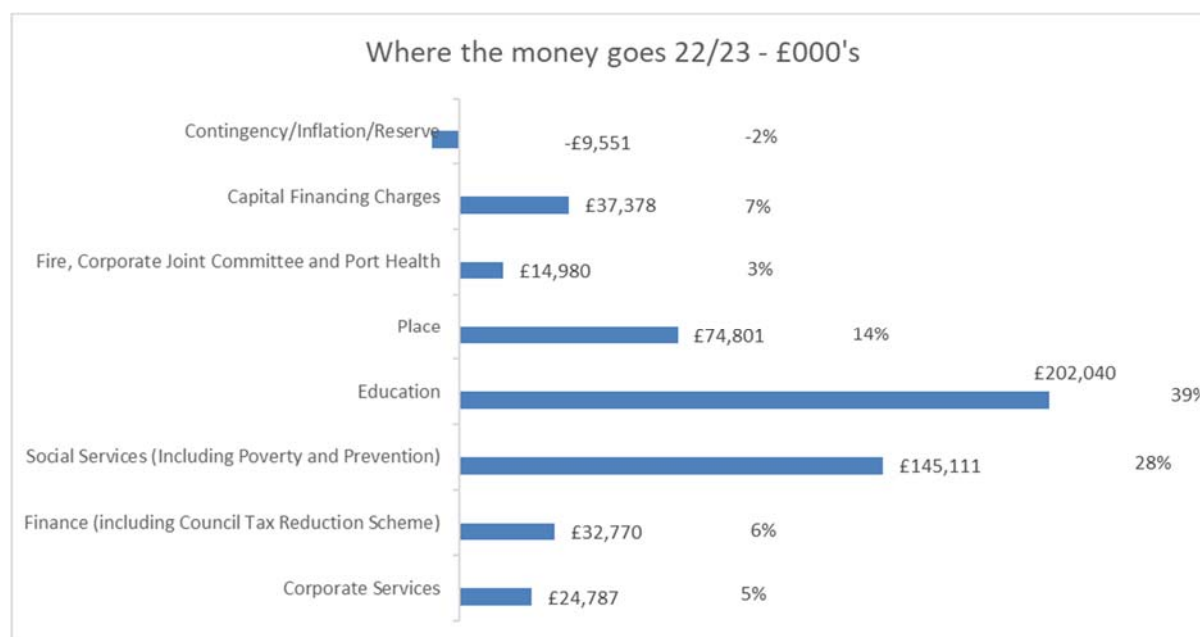
The Council undertook a survey as a guide and 'temperature check' to help inform the refresh of the Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives for 2022/23. The survey was widely publicised and, in addition to being aimed at the general public, was also targeted to specific stakeholders and accompanied by supporting information. Respondents were asked their views about the Council's existing Well-being Objectives and performance delivering them and whether they were the right objectives to improve well-being in Swansea now and in the future; respondents were also asked about their views on the new and proposed Well-being Objective '*Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change*'.

Overall, the results of the survey show that respondents agreed that the Council's proposed Well-being Objectives for 2022/23 were the right objectives for Swansea Council to continue to improve well-being in Swansea. The largest proportion of respondents agreed that Transforming our Economy and Infrastructure was the right objective for Swansea Council in the future (81%), closely followed by agreement with Safeguarding People from Harm (77%) and Improving Education and Skills (77%). Just under three quarters of participants (73%) thought that Tackling Poverty was the right objective for Swansea Council in the future and almost two thirds (62%) agreed with the new objective Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change and 54% agreed with Transformation and Future Council Development.

### **Our Budget – resourcing our Well-being Objectives**

Following consultation with staff, the public and other stakeholders, a report on the budget goes to Cabinet and is then discussed at a meeting of full Council. The Council has over £500 million to spend. The vast majority of this money comes from

the Government and grants, and we raise further money from council tax and income. This is how it is currently allocated (2022/23 budget):



Public consultation on the 2023/24 budget will be underway by the Autumn unless it is delayed, as has been the case for the last 3 years by national UK and Welsh government decisions to delay budget allocations and announcements (exacerbated more recently by Covid-19 financial uncertainty). Although the amount of money we receive from Welsh Government is a significant increase for next year (2022/23) and could well be a modest increase in cash in future years, there will need to be additional savings to offset our forecast additional expenditure, which is outside our control such as rising price inflation, national pay awards and demographics.

The public have already told us their priorities are schools and social services. Yet they also tell us some specific events, street cleaning and highways maintenance are very important to them too. We also have to ensure robust and rapid recovery from Covid-19 both in terms of health, wellbeing, and economic activity. Our budget includes a list of budget priorities in line with our well-being objectives set out in our Corporate Plan. But with finite resources we'll have to make tough choices in the future on spending and taxes to balance the books.

We raise over £135million in Council tax each year, not even enough to cover the cost of our social services, let alone all the other services we provide. The overall cost of Council services means simply raising Council Tax alone is not an option. So we have to take other steps.

### 3. Our Well-being Objectives

The next part of the Plan sets out our Well-being Objectives for 2022/23. Each objective is described in detail under the following headings:

- **Why this priority is a Well-being Objective.**
- **The longer-term challenges each well-being objective will help address.**
- **The steps we will take to meet each Well-being Objective.**

- **How we will maximise our contribution to the national goals through the way in which we work.**
- **How we will measure progress.**
- **The contribution each well-being objective makes to the Public Service Board Well-being Objectives.**

## **Safeguarding people from harm**

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

- Swansea is a fair and equal city in which children can have the best start in life to be the best they can be, safe within their families.
- Swansea is a vibrant city in which all people can together live happy, healthy, fulfilling lives, achieve their own wellbeing outcomes and age well.
- We are committed to enhancing the health, wellbeing, safety and to promoting the rights of vulnerable adults, children and families
- We aim to prevent and intervene early, where a person or child is at risk of harm, abuse, neglect or exploitation, and to ensure the right care and support at the right time.
- We will continue to promote safeguarding vulnerable people as everyone's business, across the Council, through a skilled and professional workforce, our elected members and any organisation or person who undertakes work on our behalf.

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

- Managing the impact of COVID-19 and looking forwards with the help of the Council's Recovery plan will be a key focus going into 2022/23 and beyond, as we carry on with transformation programmes to modernise social care services. An ageing population with increased health needs and overall greater demands on the health and social care system requires a more preventative, sustainable approach.
- We are working in partnerships to improve health wellbeing outcomes and safety of our most vulnerable citizens.
- Through coproduction we are involving people in everything we do, focusing on 'what matters most' to them as citizens, placing them at the centre of their own care and support and by coproducing services to achieve better outcomes
- By ensuring there is better quality and more accessible health and social care services for adults children and families who need our care and support.
- Swansea is engaged in work on a regional strategic approach to support the wellbeing needs of carers and young carers, this needs to translate into a clear approach locally to make a difference in the lives of individuals.

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

- **Safeguarding as Everyone's business** - safeguarding our most vulnerable people, prioritising services and contact during the Covid-19 response and beyond, continuing to ensure that safeguarding is 'everyone's business' across

the Council, within schools, with partners and through West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board and partnerships.

- **Prevention and early intervention** - working preventatively with partners to address social isolation, adverse childhood experiences and domestic violence. By extending local area coordination, offering support to families and promoting well-being opportunities to enhance our quality of life in supportive communities and within Swansea as a Healthier City.
- **High quality and resilient statutory services** - continue to ensure that Adult and Child & Family Services are robust, resilient and effective in getting right care and support to the right person, at right place and at the right time.
- **Improving outcomes for children and young people** - by promoting rights of children, young people, and improving outcomes of looked after children and care leavers, and to reduce number coming into our care through a new 'Supporting children and young people to be safe with family' strategy, by implementing Child and Family service improvements and through the Corporate Parenting Strategy to help them achieve a better life.
- **Transforming Care and Support to vulnerable adults** - Supporting our most vulnerable adults to remain safe and independent at home, with access to joined up Health and Social Care services to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable Swansea citizens, and by rebalancing our service offer to focus on prevention, reablement and recovery.
- **Support to unpaid carers, parent carers and young carers** - recognising the vital contribution of unpaid carers, parent-carers and young carers to supporting vulnerable people; by coproducing new approaches to improve access to a range of support to help achieve their own well-being outcomes.
- **Building a skilled, professional workforce** – to ensure we can recruit and retain a workforce that receives the leadership and professional support they need to be resilient and the best they can be in safeguarding the most vulnerable people, delivering high quality services, promoting better health and wellbeing outcomes for citizens, and in working with partners to achieve a sustainable, zero net carbon, integrated health and social care system.

**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"/>	



**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* – developing preventative services to help citizens achieve their own wellbeing outcomes and to reduce the need for people to access statutory services.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – working preventatively, in a rights-based way, co-producing care and support plans with citizens to help plan to address future care and support outcomes, and identify solutions for tackling new and rising demands on local health and social care services.
- *Working in partnership with others* – to tackle complex well-being and society issues such as adverse childhood experiences, domestic violence, homelessness and helping people to live and age well with partners through the Public Service Board.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – working collaboratively with partners through Western Bay regional health and social care partnership board, regional safeguarding board and through the Public Service Board.
- *Involving people* – involving all citizens, including carers, young carers and victims of domestic abuse and looked after children and their families in coproducing their own care and support plans, and by focussing on their rights, their strengths and assets and what they can bring to their own family networks and communities.

**How we will measure progress<sup>2</sup>.**

- Total number of reablement packages completed and the need for support.
- Adult care and support plans reviewed within statutory timescales.
- Carers assessments completed for adults.
- Children on the Child Protection Register, looked after, supported and visits not overdue.
- Children and young people supported.

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

Children have 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"/>

<sup>2</sup> Provisional pending review and data development.

## Improving **Education & Skills**

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

- We want all children and young people in Swansea to be ambitious, capable enterprising learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives and be creative contributors to life and work.
- We want all children and young people to attend school regularly, to be safe, to be resilient and to be healthy.
- We want all children and young people with additional learning needs to have timely and effective support to enable them to reach their full potential.
- We want to encourage and support vulnerable learners and their families to be engaged in learning.
- As corporate parents of Looked After Children, we want our Looked After Children to succeed in school and to have opportunities for further education, higher education, employment or training.
- We want our children and young people to be aware of their rights and responsibilities in Swansea and as global citizens.
- We want our children and young people to have good Welsh language skills.

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

- Ensuring young people have the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills to be able to take the opportunities arising from the Swansea Bay City Deal.
- Providing a school estate that is fit for the 21st century.
- Recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people's learning and health and well-being.
- Addressing the inequalities created by the link that exists between educational attainment and economic prosperity.
- Ensuring that the support for the provision of additional learning needs is stronger, less adversarial and places children and young people at the centre of decision making.
- Ensuring equal opportunities for all learners to learn Welsh and speak the language confidently and to promote the benefits of bilingualism/ multilingualism.

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

- **Pupil attendance and performance** - Support and challenge schools to improve attendance and pupil performance, with a focus on improving literacy (in English and Welsh), numeracy and digital competence for all children of all ages, including children who are looked after (LAC), educated other than at school (EOTAS) or have additional learning needs (ALN).
- **Impact from Covid-19** - Support pupils, families and schools to maintain continuity of learning and well-being during the Covid-19 response and recovery.
- **Welsh language** - Increase the number of children taught through the medium of Welsh and promote the use of Welsh in schools and socially through the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- **Pupil voice** - Continue to involve children and young people in their education and community through Schools Councils and engagement events.
- **Pupil rights and responsibilities** - As part of our commitment to the UNCRC, support schools to design a curriculum that will help its learners understand and exercise their responsibilities and rights; to respect the needs and rights of others; and show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet.
- **Poverty and disadvantage** - Ensure our vulnerable children are not disadvantaged by poverty or other factors that negatively affect their well-being and limits or restricts them in achieving and attaining high standards in education.
- **Schools estate** - Transform the schools' estate to meet demand and respond to the developments set out within the local development plan (LDP) whilst ensuring community benefits from contracts.
- **School buildings** - We will, by using our school building and maintenance programme, reduce our carbon footprint.
- **STEM** - Align our education system and continue to collaborate with partners ensuring we create the right people with the right skills to supply the new economies and meet the challenge of the Swansea Bay City Deal.
- **Apprenticeships** - Raise vocational aspirations and skill levels in the workplace, contributing to the development of ambitious, skilled young people and adults by providing high-quality apprenticeships.
- **Lifelong learning** - Develop independent learning skills for lifelong learning to reflect the changing nature of work and to support well-being, creativity and reduce social isolation.

**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* – Supporting schools to design engaging curriculums so that pupils improve their skills and qualifications that they need to go on into further and higher education, training or employment. Early support for learners and their families to overcome barriers to good attendance. Collaboration with families who choose to electively home educate.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – Ensuring the school curriculum in Swansea provides pupils with the skills and qualifications for the future and contributes to the success of the Swansea Bay City Deal in raising prosperity.
- *Working in partnership with others* – Collaborate with local authorities through the regional arrangements to support school improvement services. Improved collaboration and information sharing with agencies to ensure early identification and support to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – Creating synergy between national and local objectives and economic development.
- *Involving people* – Involving learners in their education through a range of engagement mechanisms in order to demonstrate we value these key stakeholders. Ensure the views of families and the wider community are considered.

**How we will measure progress<sup>3</sup>.**

- Attendance at school.
- Reduced exclusions from schools.
- Achievement at the end of Key Stage 4, including those receiving free school meals, children looked after by the Council, pupils educated other than at school.
- Enrolment and attainment in Mathematics and Science subjects at the end of key stage 4.
- Success of individual and personal plans for most vulnerable children.

<sup>3</sup> Provisional pending review and data development.

- Levels of enrolment and attainment of Welsh at Key Stage 4.
- Timeliness in completing statutory Individual Development Plans for learners with additional learning needs.
- Young people known to be NEET at 16 years of age.
- Enrolment and outcomes of apprenticeships in the Council and the wider community.
- Engagement with training weeks secured for the economically inactive or unemployed through community benefit clauses in contracts.
- Number of learners in Year 1 receiving their education in a Welsh-medium primary school.

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

Children have 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"/>

## Transforming our **Economy & Infrastructure**

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

- We want to raise economic performance to create wealth and employment opportunities to improve the economic well-being of Swansea's citizens.
- We want to lever all investment and funding opportunities in realising this objective including UK Government City Deal, Levelling up and Shared Prosperity Fund, Welsh Government Transforming Towns, Economy and Creative Wales and other major funders.
- We want to ensure our local economies are supported to achieve resilience in the face of future global, national and regional challenges, in particular the city centre and our small independent businesses and organisations that are the fabric of our communities large and small.
- We want to provide an enabling approach to support individuals, businesses and communities through our employment and business support, regeneration activities, cultural assets, transport connectivity, planning and other support and regulatory frameworks in delivering these practical measures.
- We want to ensure Swansea is a place characterised by sustainable communities with sufficient good quality housing and places for work and leisure.
- We want to continue to forge strong, hard-working networks with our external partners who are co-delivering with the Council.
- We want to take advantage of untapped growth potential to generate sustainable energy, deliver on net zero commitments, protect the environment and boost the economy.

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

- Post-Covid support and recovery.
- A digital and connected future and new models of working.
- Ongoing productivity gap with rest of UK – Swansea's productivity (GVA per hour worked) stood at 87.6% of the UK average in 2019.
- Swansea has a healthy level of new business formations but the relative size of the business base (497 businesses per 10,000 population) is below Wales (539) and UK (717) averages, and one and five year survival rates for enterprises are below the equivalent rates for Wales and UK.
- A new future for both the City Centre and smaller district and local centres and adapting to new ways of working including transport methods and connectivity and positive impact on places.

- Climate emergency and adaptations and achieving Council's Net Zero ambitions.
- Ongoing issue of unemployment and inactivity and ensuring a supply of genuine pathways and opportunities. Economic activity and employment rates in Swansea are lower than Wales averages and further below equivalent UK rates.
- The Household Income Gap – although Gross Disposable Household Income has risen in Swansea by 11.2% since 2014, it continues to lag behind Wales and the UK where rises were 14.5% and 19.7% respectively.
- Wage rate gap - Over the last year, average annual full-time earnings in Swansea have fallen by 2.3%, whilst Wales and UK figures have increased by 1.5% and 3.6% respectively.
- Contribute to a reduction in deprivation, through the creation of sustainable well paid employment. There are pockets of deprivation across the county, with a number of areas among the highest levels of deprivation in Wales. In the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), Swansea has an above average proportion of its Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) featuring in the most deprived 10% in Wales, with 17 (11.5%) of its 148 LSOAs in the 191 (10%) most deprived.
- Change the current business sectoral mix towards higher skilled, higher paid employment. 88.4% of employment is currently service sector based, and there is an under- representation of businesses in professional, scientific and technical sectors which tend to have better skilled and higher paid roles.
- Swansea has a higher proportion of retail businesses than the Welsh and UK average – the planned regeneration schemes will help diversify the city and district centres.
- Resident skills – continue to upskill people to take advantage of opportunities in new and emerging industries.
- Address skills gaps in sectors such as care, hospitality and construction.
- Recognising and working with deep seated anti-social behaviour, crime and associated issues and providing real alternatives and support.
- Enabling creation of sustainable energy sources.
- Help reduce commercial property viability gap with provision of quality flexible adaptable office space in response to increasing levels of inward investment interest and local independent business growth in both town centres and modern industrial settings.

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

- **Regional Economic Delivery Plan** - Lead implementation of South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan in Swansea and associated work packages

and funding streams such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Welsh Government sources.

- **Diverse and sustainable local economy** - Promote and enhance a diverse and sustainable local economy through strong local networks such as the Regeneration Swansea Partnership, development partner Urban Splash and leisure delivery partners Freedom Leisure and Parkwood, to progress Swansea's economic regeneration and cultural agendas including delivery of the Welsh Government Transforming Towns programme, Creative Wales, and through the implementation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) that supports the regeneration of Swansea and promotes sustainable communities underpinned by sustainable transport connectivity.
- **Community Benefit clauses** - Create employment & training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive through community benefit clauses in contracts.
- **Business support** - Leverage of support, advice and funding for new start-up businesses and our existing business stock through Business Swansea and working with Welsh Government to continue to innovate support programmes such as commercial meanwhile uses, and other support interventions in City Centre and District and Local Centres.
- **Creative Network** - Continue to work through strong and resilient Creative Network to support both existing, under development and future fabric of cultural and leisure assets embedded across the City Centre and District and local centres.
- **Housing** - Progress strategic housing and mixed development sites to meet housing need and provide employment.
- **Public protection** - Protect and promote the health, wellbeing, safety and consumer interests of people living in or visiting Swansea by working with others to maintain public safety across the range of regulatory services such as pollution, scams and unfair trading, public health and housing issues, etc.

**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"/>	<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* – promoting development opportunities for renewable energy and sustainable transport to build the economy and help tackle climate change.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – reshaping Swansea and the region’s economy to meet the economic challenges of the future and technological change through the City Deal.
- *Working in partnership with others* – working with three other local authorities, the Welsh Government, Universities, Health Boards and the private sector to deliver the City Deal.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – adopting the Local Development Plan to support the regeneration of Swansea and provide a blueprint for good and consistent land use planning decisions for current and future generations.
- *Involving people* – extensive consultation and engagement process during each stage of the development of our Local Development Plan looking to identify opportunities to meet housing need and provide employment.

**How we will measure progress<sup>4</sup>.**

- Timeliness assessing planning applications.
- Approvals of major planning applications.
- Housing units and commercial floor space created as a result of the Transforming Towns programme
- Value of inward investment into Swansea.
- Tourism spend.
- Projects containing community benefit clauses in contracts and number of training weeks created.
- Average Turnaround Time for Land Charge Searches.

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

Children have 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"/>

<sup>4</sup> Provisional pending review and data development.

## **Tackling Poverty.**

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

- Swansea Council is committed to reducing poverty and the impacts that poverty has upon its citizens. Poverty can limit aspirations, damage relationships and ensure a loss of life chances.
- We want a Swansea where having poverty is not a barrier to doing well at school, having a healthy and vibrant life, developing skills and qualifications and having a good job and income.
- We want to ensure equitable access to necessary services of good quality by targeting resources where they have the most effect, with decisions about that made in conjunction with service users.
- We want all of our residents to have the opportunity and resources to join in with social, cultural and leisure activities and decision-making.
- We want people to maximise their income and get the most out of the money that they have.
- We want people to avoid paying the 'Poverty Premium', the extra costs people on low incomes must pay for essentials such as fuel and transport.
- We want to ensure removal of barriers to employment.
- We want to ensure inclusion of people from Swansea's most disadvantaged communities so that we reduce inequalities between and within communities.

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

- Poverty levels in Wales remain persistently high, with almost a quarter of people in Wales living in poverty.
- Wales has the worst child poverty rate of all UK nations with 31% of children living below the poverty line.
- People living in the least deprived areas of Swansea can expect to live healthily for nearly 22 years longer than those in the most deprived areas of Swansea.
- The extra costs that people on low incomes must pay for essentials, such as transport, fuel and food, remain very high.
- In Swansea, people only get the most for their money if they are already quite well resourced with knowledge and information, well connected digitally and able to get around easily to take advantage of deals. The people least likely to be in this situation are those already suffering the impacts of poverty.

- The detrimental impact of deprivation begins at a very young age and builds up throughout a person's lifetime. Action proportional to the need to support families and children during the very early years can help mitigate this effect.
- Swansea still has large numbers of working age people not in work and barriers to work, such as experience, childcare and transport, needs to be tackled.
- Single parents have the highest in-work poverty rates.
- Ongoing changes in Welfare Reform can create problems for those already in financial crisis, and push more people into poverty.
- The economic and social fall-out and the immediate and longer-term implications from the Covid-19 pandemic for poverty in Swansea.

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

- **Tackling Poverty Strategy** - Work in partnership to tackling poverty including the revision and implementation of Swansea Council's *Tackling Poverty Strategy* ensuring that tackling poverty is everyone's business.
- **Community Cohesion** - Enhance community cohesion and reduce inequalities of income, resource and opportunity by ensuring that residents can fully participate in society and contribute to their communities.
- **Access to Services** - Ensure that services are accessible, inclusive, timely and effective, and that those with lived experience are involved in coproducing solutions.
- **Early Years** - Work with our Health partners to ensure that, through our Early Years Strategy, children in their early years and at Foundation Phase achieve their expected language, emotional, social and cognitive development and are ready for learning and for school.
- **Education, Training & Employment** - Work with our partners to reduce inequalities in educational, training and employment outcomes throughout the life course.
- **Person-centred employment** - Provide a coordinated person-centred approach to supporting people to overcome their barriers to employment.
- **Welfare reform** - Help to address the impacts of welfare reform and socio-economic disadvantage by supporting people to claim the full benefits and financial support that they are entitled to, reduce costs and make the most of the resources that they have, improving access to opportunities to improve their financial wellbeing.
- **Homelessness prevention** - Prevent homelessness and support people to maintain their tenancies to help provide stability and security for families and communities, through the development and implementation of a new Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026.

- **New energy efficient Council homes** - Continue to invest to improve existing council housing, provide energy efficiency improvements / decarbonisation to reduce fuel bills and fuel poverty for council tenants and help meet local and national targets for decarbonisation.
- **Affordable housing** - Build more energy efficient Council homes and support the building of affordable housing to help meet housing need, regenerate estates and bring wider economic and employment benefits.

**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* – helping to prevent high fuel bills and the ‘poverty premium’ by building energy efficient Council homes.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – helping to overcome barriers to employment and get people into work through co-ordinated person-centred employment schemes, affordable childcare and transport.
- *Working in partnership with others* – working with our health partners through the *Flying Start* scheme to ensure that children in their early years are ready for school and for learning.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – recognising that reducing poverty is everyone’s business and the Public Services Board has a key role in making this happen across all sectors.
- *Involving people* – Working within communities and successfully engaging, involving and co-producing with people to build resilience and reduce reliance.

**How we will measure progress<sup>5</sup>.**

- Welfare benefits secured by the Welfare Rights service.
- Timeliness processing housing and council tax benefit applications and changes of circumstances.

<sup>5</sup> Provisional pending review and development.

- Average number of days homeless families with children spend in Bed & Breakfast accommodation.
- Affordable Housing units delivered.
- Number of people gaining employment through Employability Support.
- Number of accredited qualifications achieved by adults with local Authority support.
- Deliver the *Tackling Poverty Strategy* showing demonstrable achievement.
- Deliver our *More Homes & Homelessness Strategies*.

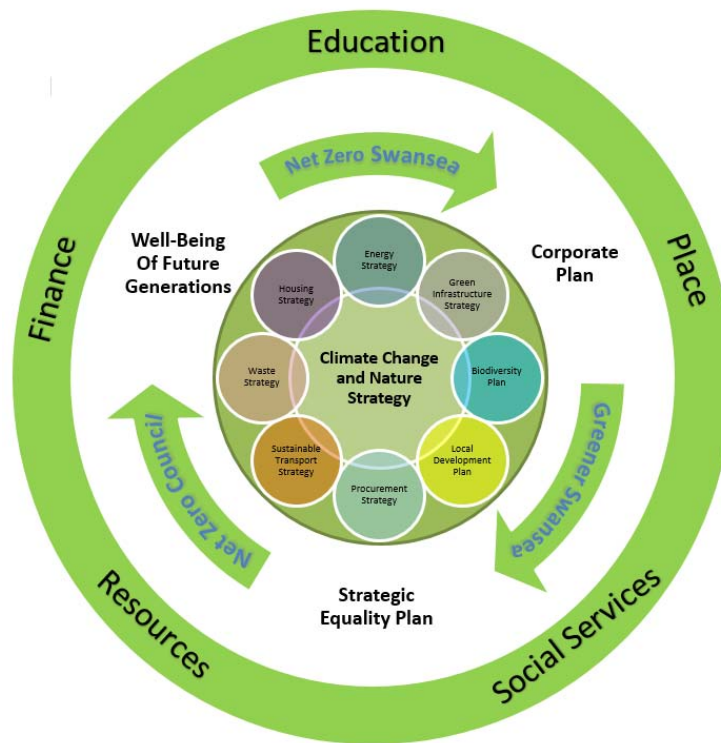
**The contribution this well-being objective makes to the Public Service Board Well-being Objectives.**

Children have 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"/>

## 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>6</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>6</sup> Provisional pending review and data development.

## **Transformation & Future Council development**

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

- We want to implement the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and work with other members of the 'local government family' on regional collaboration.
- We want to modernise and transform the Council through our *Achieving Better Together* Transformation programme. In the medium to long-term the programme will build on what has changed as a result of the pandemic and how we can deliver services in different ways to help tackle rising demand and reducing revenue budgets.
- We want a sustainable organisation with improved efficiency in the future that ensures costs and savings are considered over the medium to longer term and have due regard to the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- We want to provide effective meaningful engagement with our stakeholders including our staff, citizens of Swansea and our partner organisations, so the Council can make informed decisions that improve the access, quality and delivery of services.
- We want to embed equality, diversity and integrated thinking across the Council.
- We want to ensure the Council's priorities, objectives and themes are embedded into all that we do and that the organisation culture is aligned and attracts the right talent for the future.
- We want to develop and maintain the approach where residents are able to use online channels first while ensuring all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to online services.
- We want the public to play their part by co-producing and helping to run services, with more people involved in the Council's business and in making decisions on things that affect them and their families and communities.
- We want to continue reviewing all of our services to ensure they are delivered in the best way working with partners and preventing the need for people to access complex statutory services.

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

- Despite increases in funding because of the pandemic, the long term funding position facing Swansea Council is challenging.
- Public service demand is projected to continue to increase.
- How people interact with public services is changing.

- Demographic patterns are changing, including reducing fertility rates and increasing life expectancies.
- The ability to provide opportunities to all populations and places equally across all areas of society is required.
- The evolution of technology is expected to continue to pave the way in defining how modern societies and economies will interact and develop into the future, not least our approach to social interactions, where we work, and how we access key services like education, health and social care.

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

- **Regional working** - Work with CJC partners on regional collaboration to exercise functions relating to strategic development planning, regional transport planning, promoting the economic well-being and delivering a regional energy strategy for South West Wales.
- **Recovery and transformation** - Continue with the Council's short, medium and long term transformation programme '*Achieving Better Together*' working towards a Council that is sustainable, efficient and effective in all that it does, with the citizen at the heart of decisions.
- **Managing resources** - Ensure we have a joined-up approach promoting partnership working, explore innovative funding and investment strategies and how the value of Council assets can be maximised, longer-term budget planning that balances the budget with indicative costed savings and a capital programme balance that links the capital to revenue, cost to services users and the expected benefits.
- **Community benefits** - Continue to work with Welsh Government with a commercial focus on re-investment in the local economy and review the Council's approach to procurement to secure local economic and community benefits, in line with the sustainable development principles.
- **Involvement in local democracy** - Continue to modernise public engagement in local democracy and Council decision making to ensure diversity in our decision making and effective meaningful consultation, engagement, participation and coproduction with our stakeholders including our staff, citizens of Swansea and our partner organisations, so the Council can make informed decisions that improve the access, quality and delivery of services.
- **Equality & Human Rights** - Continue to implement our Strategic Equality Plan 2020/24, work towards becoming a Human Rights City and embed equality, diversity and integrated thinking across the Council's action plans and decision-making.
- **Workforce development** - Implement the Council's Organisation Workforce Strategy to deliver joined up transformed services. Ensure that we have the right people with the right skills, including Welsh language, in the right areas and

Leadership and Management that set us up to be a sustainable, efficient and effective organisation with a culture that attracts the right talent for the future.

- **Digital First** - Continue to embed a “Digital First” strategy, ensuring that citizens who want to can access more Council services and information on-line, while promoting Digital Inclusion and access to online services for others by offering our citizens lifelong learning opportunities, free computer courses and training.
- **Partnership working** - Continue to work and collaborate with our partners including the Third sector to encourage and support community action and citizen groups to sustain and add value to community based resources, infrastructure and services.
- **Community involvement** - Develop more collaborative and partnership working, including with Councillors, communities, organisations and citizen groups to encourage and enable greater community ownership of assets, services, resources, funding with devolved decision making that provides long-term sustainability in communities.

**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"/>		

**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* – helping to prevent people from needing immediate recourse to statutory services through the ‘prevention’ stream of the *Achieving Better Together* programme.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – changing the way the Council works including more digital services to reflect the move during Covid-19 towards people wanting and needing to access services through digital, mobile internet and social media.
- *Working in partnership with others* – working in collaboration with other public bodies and the third sector to deliver services.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – improving engagement with partners, including the third sector, through the Public Service Board to help support the transformation of Council services.
- *Involving people* – involving citizens in policy development and how the Council delivers services, enabling community action and ownership.

**How we will measure progress<sup>7</sup>.**

- Identified forecast general fund revenue savings and income for the year compared to Council approved budget.
- Number of payments and forms completed online.
- Any data breaches.
- Workforce supported to develop skills and learn new things as part of an organisational development strategy, targeted towards a more agile workforce and 21<sup>st</sup> century public servant.
- Staff sickness.
- Beneficiaries who have attended the “Get Swansea online” programme.

**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"/>

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<sup>7</sup> Provisional pending review and data development.

## **4. Monitoring Delivery – keeping performance under review**

We will monitor delivery and keep our progress meeting our Well-being Objectives under review as follows:

### **How we will monitor progress**

- Through the quarterly and annual performance monitoring reports to Cabinet.

### **How we will report achievements**

- Quarterly and annually through Cabinet.
- Annual Report.

### **When and how this plan will be updated**

- Annual review and refresh.

## **5. Next Stages – what we plan to do next**

We have made some good progress embedding sustainable ways of working into how we do business as illustrated in this Plan; we want to continue to build on this.

To fully meet our obligations under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, we want to:

- ensure sufficient and joined-up capability and capacity in strategic planning;
- continue to look for ways to increase citizens' involvement;
- look to create a longer-term strategic outlook, looking ahead up to 25+ years;
- ensure strategic integration and coherence between plans and strategies;
- work to ensure that the sustainable development principle shapes strategy and decision-making, and;
- continue to further embed the sustainable ways of working.

## **6. Where to find additional information**

Strategies, plans and policies

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/policies>

Performance and statistics

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/statistics>

Finance and Council budget

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/financeandbudget>

Scrutiny

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/scrutiny>

Well-being of Future Generations Act

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/wellbeingfuturegenerations>

Safeguarding

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/safeguarding>

Schools and learning

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning>

Children and Young People's Rights – UNCRC

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/uncrc>

Swansea Bay City Deal

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/swanseabaycitydeal>

West Glamorgan Regional Partnership

<http://www.westernbay.org.uk/>

Partneriaeth (formerly Education through Regional Working (ERW))

<http://erw.wales/>

Poverty and Prevention Strategies

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/povertyandpreventionstrategies>

Climate change and nature

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/climatechange>

Have Your Say – consultations

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/haveyoursay>

Strategic Equality Plan

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/sep>

Welsh Language

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/cymraeg>



# Agenda Item 8



## Report of the Convener

### Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 2 May 2023

#### Panel Review of the Year 2022-23

<b>Purpose:</b>	As the municipal year ends, it is good practice to reflect on the Panel's work, experience, and effectiveness.
<b>Content:</b>	A summary of the year's activities is provided.
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect on the year's work; and</li><li>• Share ideas to improve the effectiveness of Scrutiny.</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Hannah Lawson, Convener of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel
<b>Lead Officer &amp; Report Author:</b>	Liz Jordan, Scrutiny Officer E-mail: <a href="mailto:liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk">liz.jordan@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 As this is the final meeting of this municipal year, the Panel is invited to reflect on the year's scrutiny work, experience and effectiveness. Any ideas that will improve the effectiveness of the scrutiny of Climate Change and Nature, and scrutiny generally, are welcome.
- 1.2 To aid Panel Members, a summary of the year's work has been included at 3.0.
- 1.3 Some of the questions the Panel may want to consider:
  - Have things worked well?
  - What, if anything, could be done better?
  - Has the Panel's work focused on the right things?
  - What have we learnt that will help us to improve and develop future scrutiny?

#### 2. Panel Overview

- 2.1 The Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel is responsible for ongoing monitoring of Council performance in relation to climate change and the natural environment. The Panel monitors delivery of the Council's work, commitments and implementation of agreed plans, and assesses progress.

- 2.2 Possible lines of enquiry - To regularly review performance including asking questions about performance and improvement, focusing on outcomes, provision and leadership. To look at relevant data, commissioning reviews and anything that impacts on Climate Change and Nature in Swansea.
- 2.3 The Panel has a membership of 10 councillors. Overall Councillor attendance at the Panel for the year has been 88% to end of April 2023.
- 2.4 In accordance with the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme, the Panel has met every two months. During the 2022/23 municipal year, 4 meetings have been held. Meeting discussions have regularly been reported on by the local press, indicating the Panel has been focussed on issues of public interest.
- 2.5 The Panel has written to relevant Cabinet Members, to convey its views including suggested action, arising from meeting discussions. Letters, and responses where requested, were reported back to the Panel for comments and discussion as necessary.

### 3. Climate Change and Nature Work Programme 2022-23

Date	Items Discussed
9 November 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Role of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel</li> <li>2. Water Quality and Water Management</li> <li>3. Overview of Climate Change and Nature in Swansea (including key priorities and challenges)</li> <li>4. Draft Work Programme 2022-23</li> </ol>
10 January 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate Change Update (including action plan for 2030 and Response to WAO report: Public Sector readiness for net zero carbon by 2030)</li> <li>2. Green Vehicle Adoption</li> <li>3. Public / Residential EV Charging</li> <li>4. Weed Management / Use of Glyphosate</li> </ol>
8 March 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nature Conservation – Project updates</li> <li>2. Air Quality Management</li> <li>3. Local Flood Risk Management – Annual Update</li> </ol>
2 May 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate Change Update (further discussion on ‘Green Vehicle Adoption’ included under this item – continuing from 10 January meeting)</li> <li>2. Achievement against Corporate Priorities / Objectives / Policy Commitments</li> <li>3. End of Year Review</li> </ol>

### 4. Future Scrutiny Work Programme

- 4.1 The future work programme will be discussed at the first Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel in the new municipal year.