



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee

At: Multi-Location Meeting - Lilian Hopkin Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

On: Monday, 6 January 2025

Time: 3.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Rebecca Fogarty

Membership:

Councillors: M Baker, O G James, S E Keeton, H Lawson, A J O'Connor, D Phillips and S J Rice

Watch Online: <http://tiny.cc/ClimateChangeSTC06-01>

Agenda

	Page No.
1 Apologies for Absence.	
2 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests. www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests	
3 Minutes: To approve & sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record.	1 - 4
4 Artificial Grass Environment Issues.	5 - 15
5 Work Plan.	16

Next Meeting: Monday, 17 February 2025 at 3.00 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Huw Evans'.

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
19 December 2024

Contact: Democratic Services - (01792) 636923

Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Monday, 9 September 2024 at 3.00 pm

Present: Councillor H Lawson (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
M Baker
S J Rice

Councillor(s)
S E Keeton

Councillor(s)
M Jones

Also present

Councillor D H Hopkins
Councillor A S Lewis

Deputy Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council

Officer(s)

Geoff Bacon
Jeremy Davies
Kieran O'Carroll
Rachel Lewis
Mark Barber

Head of Property Services
Group Leader Parks and Cleansing
Associate Lawyer
Project Manager
Biodiversity Natural Environment Officer / Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Co-ordinator
Placemaking and Strategic Planning Manager
Project Manager, Property Services
Democratic Services Officer
Nature Conservation Team Leader

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A J O'Connor and A H Stevens

14 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City & County of Swansea, the following interests were declared: -

Councillor S J Rice declared a personal interest in the agenda as a whole.

15 Minutes:

Resolved that the Minutes of the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee held on 15 July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

16 No Mow May Trials.

Jeremy Davies, Group Leader Parks & Cleansing, supported by Mark Barber, Biodiversity Natural Environment Officer provided the Committee with a verbal update on No Mow May trials.

He outlined the background to the trials and informed the Committee that this was an initiative promoted by the charity Plant Life, whose aim is to restore plant and fungi habitats. The initiative was originally focussed upon the approach of the general public to maintain their own gardens and lawns. The principle was also taken up by many larger organisations, including local authorities,

The overall aim includes providing a feast for pollinators, tackle pollution, heat extremes and trap carbon underground. The approach of the Council has included not cutting in May, cutting certain sections or not cutting throughout for long periods, which has resulted in queries from the public.

As a result of a request from a previous Committee in 2021 regarding open space management, the Council had undertaken cut and collect procedures, which plays a major role in maintaining a species rich vegetation, curbing the growth of dominant plants, improving soil nutrient levels and encouraging wildflower growth. This had been a major undertaking by the Authority and involved the Nature Conservation Team successfully bidding for appropriate machinery from Welsh Government grants. It was noted that the cut and collect method was very resource intensive and details were available on the Council website.

The No Mow May trials commenced in 2023, with a mixed take up from Councillors and mixed response from residents. The practicalities of not cutting for long periods were highlighted, including machinery difficulties and the impact of climate change resulted in the biodiversity benefit being very low compared to the cut and collect against the cost to the service. It was clear that the cut and collect trial was benefitting more than No Mow May. The Council was also leaving large areas uncut in order to benefit biodiversity.

The Council was looking to expand the cut and collect provision in the future, subject to resources and viewed the process far more beneficial than No Mow May. It was confirmed that all cut and collect sites were monitored closely, with an increase in wildflowers being observed and additional species, e.g. yellow rattle, being planted.

The Committee discussed fly-tipping in overgrown areas, recognising the lessons learnt regarding communications this year, cutting edges of overgrowth to show a deliberate strategy, theft of Council signage relating to the initiatives and specialist equipment required.

Resolved that the contents of the update be noted.

17 Local Development Plan (LDP).

Tom Evans, Placemaking and Strategic Planning Manager provided a verbal update regarding the Local Development Plan (LDP), which would be presented to the Committee in January 2025.

He outlined the timescales involved in the process and added that the Council was in the process of replacing the old LDP. During the course of the year there had been communications with stakeholders and partner organisations, such as Natural Resources Wales.

The first key stage of the process would see the pre-deposit document / preferred strategy being presented to Council prior to the end of the year. The report would be the summary of the new strategy and would outline the corporate priorities, overall objectives, housing requirements etc. This would include a wide-ranging public consultation.

The report to the Committee in January 2025 would provide details of LDP deposit plan. Reference was made to the cross party LDP Member Group.

The Committee discussed brown / grey field sites, key times for discussing specific sites / procedures, protecting biodiversity sites, Section 106 principles, overarching governing objectives / principles within the LDP, public consultation on draft policies, virtual consultation room, partnership working and green infrastructure assessment / connectivity / strategy.

Resolved that the contents of the update be noted.

18 Local Area Energy Plan - Status Report.

Andy Edwards, Project Manager presented a report which advised the Committee on the development of Swansea's Local Area Energy Plan.

The background to the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) was outlined. It was noted that on 9 December 2023, the Committee considered the LAEP's development and the final plan was presented to Cabinet on 16 May 2024.

It was detailed that Swansea's LAEP consisted of 2 documents: the Local Area Energy Plan and a Technical Annex. The LAEP was the primary document that sets out the context, vision, potential interventions and an action plan. This was supplemented by a Technical Annex that provided more detailed information, offering a deeper understanding of the intricacies and specifics surrounding the local energy landscape and the strategic approach outlined in the LAEP.

The context of the plan presented a comprehensive vision for Swansea's future energy system, delineating the essential characteristics it would need to achieve a net zero energy system by 2050. It outlined a potential pathway towards this goal, which was used to develop and support a detailed Action Plan.

It was noted that the vision considered three options; to do nothing, widespread engagement or widespread hydrogen. It was highlighted that the UK Government was currently scheduled to make its decision on hydrogen for heating in 2026 and this decision would influence how the LAEP developed.

The six intervention areas within the plan and factors of assessment were detailed. These intervention areas were brought together to identify fifteen priority actions under five headings.

The final report had been agreed and City Science were in the process of translating both the LAEP and the Technical Annex into Welsh. Once these had been received, they would be published on the Council's website.

The proposed governance of the local area energy planning, risks and mitigation were listed. Appendix B provided Swansea's Local Area Energy Plan.

The Committee discussed EV charging, particularly from terraced housing, circular economy in industry to use others' waste, partnership working with neighbouring authorities, membership of the South Wales Industrial Cluster and the need for industry to lead on some areas.

Councillor A S Lewis, Deputy Leader of the Council updated the meeting in respect of the ongoing work surrounding EV charging.

Resolved that the progress of Swansea's Local Area Energy Plan be noted.

19 Work Plan 2024-2025.

The Chair presented an updated Work Plan 2024/25 report. It was noted that the Swansea Council Sustainable Food Policy Draft would not be ready on 2 December 2024. The meeting would therefore be a workshop session and the Chair requested Councillors forward potential discussion topics.

Resolved that the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 4.08 pm

Chair

Agenda Item 4



Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure

Climate Change and Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee – 6 January 2025

Artificial Grass Environment Issues

Purpose:	To seek the Committee's advice on a corporate position in relation to artificial grass on Council owned land.
Policy Framework:	The adoption of a corporate position would contribute to the Council's duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, along with the Council's well-being objective: Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change, the Swansea Public Service Board's Climate Change and Nature Recovery Well-being objective and the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance and Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The Council raise awareness around the environmental impacts associated with artificial grass.2) The Council promote the use of sustainable landscaping practices as an alternative to artificial grass.3) The Council develops a position statement on the use of artificial grass on Council sites and in Council projects.
Report Author:	Penny Gruffydd
Finance Officer:	Peter Keys
Legal Officer:	Jonathan Wills
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Artificial grass, also known as fake grass, or even 'counterfeit grass' has been used in sports arenas for decades. In recent years it has become increasingly popular for residential lawns and commercial landscapes. It is often marketed as a low-maintenance and versatile alternative to natural grass. It is hard wearing, does not require watering and reduces the need for potentially harmful fertilisers and herbicides. The more expensive versions mimic the colour, texture and softness of natural grass. Some artificial grasses use recycled materials and plant-based components.
- 1.2 There are numerous environmental issues resulting from choosing artificial lawns, which far outweigh the benefits mentioned above. However, the importance of synthetic sports pitches of which artificial grass is a component, i.e. 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G is acknowledged. To reflect this, the use of artificial grass on sports pitches (and other limited locations e.g. specific playground surfaces) is out of the scope of this report, i.e. sports pitches would be exempt from any position statement against using artificial grass on Council owned land.

2. Environmental and legislative impacts of artificial grass

- 2.1 The information below has been drawn from a wide range of publication and reports.

2.2 Impact on Biodiversity

- Habitat loss: Replacing natural grass with artificial grass can lead to the loss of habitat for various insects, birds, and other wildlife.
- Soil ecosystem health: artificial grass restricts access to the soil for burrowing insects and soil dwellers i.e. worms. It also stops leaf litter and other natural materials from entering the soil ecosystem, reducing soil health, and affecting underground biodiversity.
- Microplastic pollution: microplastics pollution, found in multiple waterways including rivers and lakes in urban settings and national parks around the United Kingdom are likely to be a risk to wildlife through bioaccumulation (i.e. accumulation of substances in an organism).

2.3 Climate Change

- Heat island effect: artificial grass absorbs and retains more heat than natural grass, leading to higher surface temperatures. This contributes to the urban heat island effect, where urban areas become significantly warmer than their rural surroundings, impacting local microclimates and increasing energy consumption for cooling.
- Carbon storage: cumulatively, the impacts of replacing large areas of vegetation with artificial grass reduces the opportunity to maximise carbon storage. The use of sand as a stable bed of artificial grass also results in carbon locking soils being removed.
- Carbon emissions: the manufacturing of a 60sqm artificial lawn can generate approximately 435kg of CO2 emissions. A football pitch size

(9,000 sqm) of plastic grass releases approx. 55.6 tonnes of CO₂. Natural grass is a carbon sink, absorbing carbon dioxide and storing carbon within its biomass and soils. In comparison artificial grass is a carbon source. Not only is there a carbon footprint associated with its manufacturing, but the plastic compounds release greenhouse gases as they degrade - a process known as 'out gassing' or 'off gassing'.

2.4 **Resource Intensive Production**

- Petroleum-Based Materials: artificial grass is typically made from polyethylene, polypropylene, or nylon, all of which are derived from non-renewable petroleum resources. The production process involves significant energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Manufacturing: artificial grass production involves the use of various chemical additives to enhance its durability and appearance, contributing to environmental pollution during production.
- Water use and absorption: the water argument is complicated. Whilst artificial grass will clearly reduce the need for irrigation during hot summer months, most natural lawns can survive drought conditions. On the other side of the water debate, studies have shown that artificial grass increases surface water run-off, whereas natural living grass was significantly better at retaining water and delaying drainage.

2.5 **Life span and recycling**

- Non-Biodegradable: artificial grass has a shelf life of 10 – 20 years. Whilst technically it is recyclable, it is not widely recycled in Wales. Currently (2024), the Council has no viable option but to dispose of it via energy from waste.

2.6 **Microplastic and chemical pollution**

- Infill Materials: many artificial grasses use infill materials like crumb rubber, which can degrade into microplastics. These microplastics do not biodegrade and persist for many years (100's of years) in the environment as a form of pollution. They have been found to accumulate in waterways and drinking water. In September 2023 the European Union enacted a ban on the 'sale of products containing intentionally added microplastics' notably the regulation specifically included granular artificial grass infill (derived from shredded end-of-life automobile tyres).
- Wear and Tear: polypropylene or nylon (polyamide) fragments can also break down filtering into the soil adding to the microplastic pollution problem.
- Maintenance Chemicals: chemicals (e.g., antimicrobial treatments) can lead to runoff into nearby waterways, potentially harming aquatic ecosystems.

2.7 Legislation and policy

- The Council has declared both a climate and a nature emergency Climate Change and Nature Strategy 2022-2030 - Swansea and has a duty to nature recovery through the Environmental Act (Wales) 2016, Section 6 duty which requires that the Council “must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.
- The resilience goal in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, requires the Council to work to maintain and enhance a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
- The Council approved and endorsed the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Plan in October 2023. This countywide partnership plan identifies the priorities for nature recovery in Swansea. Action theme 4.1 identifies that it is a priority to “Reduce and, where possible, eliminate environmental pollution into terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environs in Swansea. Employing sustainable management and nature-based solutions where relevant.”

3. General Issues

- 3.1 This report does not propose that existing artificial grass is removed from sites and replaced immediately. It is suggested that when current artificial grassed areas reach their end of life, or are being upgraded, that alternative sustainable landscaping practises are applied in preference to artificial grass.
- 3.2 Under current planning legislation the planning process cannot be used to restrict the use of artificial grass. However, through the Green Infrastructure (GI) Statement process artificial grass would not be considered an acceptable GI enhancement.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage

- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.2 This project is limited to Council owned land and Council projects and aims to reduced impacts to the natural environment of artificial grass. The focus of the project is internal and includes raising awareness, providing sustainable alternatives to artificial grass where it has been used in the past and developing a corporate position statement on the use of artificial grass. The project aims to align the use of artificial grass with the Council duties via the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Environment Act and the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.
- 4.3 The importance of synthetic sports pitches of which artificial grass is a component i.e. 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G is acknowledged. To reflect this, the use of artificial grass on sports pitches (and other limited locations e.g. specific playground surfaces) is out of the scope of this project, i.e. sports pitches would be exempt from any position statement against using artificial grass on Council owned land.
- 4.4 The proposed project does not suggest that existing artificial grass is removed from sites and replaced immediately. Instead, it is suggested that when current artificial grassed areas reach their end of life, or are being upgraded, that alternative sustainable landscaping practises are applied in preference to artificial grass.
- 4.5 The project will not have an impact on the groups highlighted in Question 2, there is a low positive impact to all people of all ages where artificial grass and its associated negative impacts are removed and replaced with sustainable alternatives.
- 4.6 This small internal project will meet the duties of the resilience goal of the Well-being or Future Generations (Wales) Act, it meets the needs of present generations without compromising those of future generations and it aligns to some of the ways of working i.e. prevention and long-term approach. The project has been reviewed by the Nature Recovery and

Climate Change Programme Board a transdisciplinary corporate group of officers.

- 4.7 There are no risks identified for the project nor any negative cumulative impacts to Swansea communities.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report other than those detailed above.

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: Appendix A - IIA Form

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

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

Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Planning & City Regeneration

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
- Other

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Artificial grass, also known as fake grass, or even 'counterfeit grass' has been used in sports arenas for decades. In recent years it has become increasingly popular for residential lawns and commercial landscapes. It is often marketed as a low-maintenance and versatile alternative to natural grass. It is hard wearing, does not require watering and reduces the need for potentially harmful fertilisers and herbicides. The more expensive versions mimic the colour, texture and softness of natural grass. Some artificial grasses use recycled materials and plant-based components.

However, there are a number of environmental issues resulting from choosing artificial lawns, which far outweigh these benefits, including impacts on biodiversity, climate change, microplastic and chemical pollution and the use of artificial grass is not aligned to the Councils policies and duties to Welsh environmental legislation i.e. Well-being of Future Generations Act and Environment Act and the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.

This project recommends that the council:

1. The Council raise awareness around the environmental impacts associated with artificial grass.
2. The Council promote the use of sustainable landscaping practices as an alternative to artificial grass.
3. The Council develops a position statement on the use of artificial grass on Council sites and in Council projects.

Under current planning legislation the planning process cannot be used to restrict the use of artificial grass. Therefore, it is proposed that and position statement agreed by the Council would only relate to council owned land or council projects.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

The importance of synthetic sports pitches of which artificial grass is a component i.e. 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G is acknowledged. To reflect this, the use of artificial grass on sports pitches (and other limited locations e.g. specific playground surfaces) is out of the scope of this project, i.e. sports pitches would be exempt from any position statement against using artificial grass on Council owned land.

Neither does the proposed project suggest that existing artificial grass is removed from sites and replaced immediately. Instead, it is suggested that when current artificial grassed areas reach their end of life, or are being upgraded, that alternative sustainable landscaping practises are applied in preference to artificial grass.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<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"/>	X
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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"/>	X
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
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"/>	X
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?

Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

The briefing note has been reviewed by Nature Recovery and Climate Change Programme Board, Nature Recovery and Climate Change Steering Group and has been presented at Nature Recovery and Climate Change Service Transformation Committee workshop.

Nature Recovery and Climate Change Service Transformation Committee has requested the idea be brought to Nature Recovery and Climate Change Service Transformation Committee for further discussion on the 6th Jan 2025.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

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

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

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

Awareness around the environmental impacts of artificial grass could be promoted via the Council external website.

Q8 Does the initiative involve changes to the way you process the personal data of Council staff or service users, for example the purchase of new customer management software?

Yes

No

If your answer is yes, you should also screen the initiative for any implications regarding privacy and other GDPR rights and consider whether you need to amend your entry in the Council's Information Asset Register. Please use the following link to the online screening form for a Data Protection Impact Assessment <https://staffnet.swansea.gov.uk/dpiascreeing>
For more about the Information Asset Register, please see <https://staffnet.swansea.gov.uk/informationassetregister>

Q9 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

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

There are no direct impacts on any of these groups.

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 (Q9)**

This project is limited to Council owned land and Council projects and aims to reduce impacts of the natural environment of artificial grass. The focus of the project is internal and includes raising awareness, providing sustainable alternatives to artificial grass where it has been used in the past and developing a corporate position statement on the use of artificial grass. The project aims to align the use of artificial grass with the Council duties via the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Environment Act and the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.

The importance of synthetic sports pitches of which artificial grass is a component i.e. 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G is acknowledged. To reflect this, the use of artificial grass on sports pitches (and other limited locations e.g. specific playground surfaces) is out of the scope of this project, i.e. sports pitches would be exempt from any position statement against using artificial grass on Council owned land.

The proposed project does not suggest that existing artificial grass is removed from sites and replaced immediately. Instead, it is suggested that when current artificial grassed areas reach their end of life, or are being upgraded, that alternative sustainable landscaping practises are applied in preference to artificial grass.

The project will not have an impact on the groups highlighted in Question 2, there is a low positive impact to all people of all ages where artificial grass and its associated negative impacts are removed and replaced with sustainable alternatives.

The proposed project has the support and input for the Nature Recovery and Climate Change Programme Board, Nature Recovery and Climate Change Steering Group and has been presented at Nature Recovery and Climate Change Service Transformation Committee workshop.

Nature Recovery and Climate Change Service Transformation Committee has requested the idea be brought to Nature Recovery and Climate Change Service Transformation Committee for further discussion on the 6th Jan 2025.

This small internal project will meet the duties of the resilience goal of the Well-being or Future Generations (Wales) Act, it meets the needs of present generations without compromising those of future generations and it aligns to some of the ways of working i.e. prevention and long term approach. The project has been reviewed by the Nature Recovery and Climate Change Programme Board a transdisciplinary corporate group of officers.

There are no risks identified for the project nor any negative cumulative impacts to Swansea communities.

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

(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.

Screening completed by:
Name: Penny Gruffydd
Job title: Landscape and Green Infrastructure Principle Officer
12 December 2024
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Phil Holmes
Position: Head of Planning and City Regeneration
Date: 12 December 2024

Please return the completed form to accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5



Report of the Chair

Climate Change & Nature Recovery Service Transformation Committee – 6 January 2025

Work Plan 2024-2025

Date of meeting	Agenda items
3 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future Waste Strategy.• Work Plan 2024-25 Discussion.
15 July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation - Local Places for Nature (LPfN). Programme - Local Nature Partnership Grant 2023-25.
9 September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Mow May Trials. (Verbal)• Local Development Plan (LDP). (Verbal)• Local Area Energy Plan - Status Report.
21 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Transport Strategy – Cancelled.
2 December 2024	<u>Workshop Session</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Green Infrastructure Strategy to include fake grass and eco mapping.2. New local nature reserve proposals.3. Transport updates on Metro and bus franchising projects.
6 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artificial Grass Environment Issues.
6 January 2025	<u>Workshop Session</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Transport Plan.
17 February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Development Plan (LDP).• Regional Transport Plan.
31 March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adaption & Mitigation Plan update.• Waste Strategy.

Potential / Workshop Items

- Tree Management Strategy.