



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

## Pwyllgor Datblygu Polisi yr Economi, Amgylchedd ac Isadeiledd

Lleoliad: O bell drwy Microsoft Teams

Dyddiad: Dydd Iau, 20 Ionawr 2022

Amser: 2.00 pm

Cadeirydd: Y Cyngorydd Cyril Anderson

### Aelodaeth:

Cynghorwyr: J E Burtonshaw, P Downing, P R Hood-Williams, P K Jones, M A Langstone, W G Lewis, P Lloyd, P M Matthews a/ac T M White

Gwyltio ar-lein: [//bit.ly/32uAY6d](https://bit.ly/32uAY6d)

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### Agenda

Rhif y Dudalen.

- |   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.  |         |
| 2 | Derbyn datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.<br><a href="http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau">www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau</a> |         |
| 3 | <b>Cofnodion.</b><br>Cymeradwyo a llofnodi cofnodion y cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol fel cofnod cywir..  | 1 - 3   |
| 4 | <b>Newid yn yr hinsawdd.</b>   | 4 - 32  |
| 5 | <b>Mesurau rheoli cyflymder mewn ardaloedd preswyl i gynnwys terfynau cyflymder 20mya.</b>   | 33 - 38 |
| 6 | <b>Work Plan 2020 - 2022.</b>  | 39      |

Cyfarfod nesaf: Dydd Iau, 17 Chwefror 2022 ar 2.00 pm

Huw Evans

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democraidd  
Dydd Gwener, 14 Ionawr 2022

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Cyswllt: Gwasanaethau Democraidd - Ffon: (01792) 636923

# Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Policy Development Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, 16 December 2021 at 2.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor C Anderson (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

J E Burtonshaw  
P K Jones  
P M Matthews

**Councillor(s)**

P Downing  
W G Lewis  
T M White

**Councillor(s)**

P R Hood-Williams  
P Lloyd

**Officer(s)**

Mark Barbour  
Jeremy Davies  
Deb Hill  
Chris Howell  
Rachel Lewis  
Simon Lydiard  
Paul Meller  
Pamela Milford  
Alan Webster  
Samantha Woon

Biodiversity Officer  
Group Leader Parks and Cleansing  
Nature Conservation Team Leader  
Head of Waste Management  
Project Manager  
Team Leader - Parks  
Natural Environment Section Manager  
Lead Lawyer  
Tree Officer  
Democratic Services Officer

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s):

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**24 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interest was declared:

Councillor P R Hood-Williams – Personal – Minute No. 26 – Management and Maintenance of Open Spaces (Biodiversity).

**25 Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Economy and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee held on 18 November, 2021, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**26 Management and Maintenance of Open Space (Biodiversity).**

The Head of Waste Management, assisted by Officers, presented a progress update on the review of the Council's management of its green spaces.

Officers detailed progress to date (including the role of the working group), purchase of equipment, engagement with environmental bodies, surveys, operational trials, preparation for expansion of trials next season, information and raising awareness, community consultation and general issues.

Members' asked questions of the Officers who responded accordingly.

The Head of Waste Management stated that a strategic policy would be required to be developed in the first instance, prior to any broader consultation. He reiterated the challenges faced by Members in balancing the Council's commitment to the climate change/nature emergency and the views of their local communities. Future consultation exercises would need to be implemented in a staged approach once the overarching framework had been approved.

The Chair thanked Officers for their informative presentation.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The progress to date and direction of travel were noted.
- 2) Chris Howell invite the Chair and Councillor P K Jones to future meetings of the Officer Working Group.
- 3) Members' to be invited to attend a working group to discuss the future on-line consultation exercise.

## **27 Tree Policy.**

The Natural Environment Section Officer presented a report which sought approval of a strategy for the management of trees on/affecting land/property in Council ownership and setting out the Council's duties in relation to protected trees.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his informative report.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) The Tree Management Strategy is agreed and referred to Cabinet for approval.
- 2) A mapping exercise is carried out to identify potential sites/zones for planting on Council owned land subject to future funding and maintenance availability.

## **28 Climate Change.**

**Resolved** that the matter be deferred to the meeting on 20 January, 2022.

## **29 Work Plan 2020 - 2022.**

The Chair introduced the Work Plan for 2020-2022 and stated that the Climate Change Strategy would be discussed at the meeting on 20 January, 2022.

Members' discussed topics for discussion for the remainder of the municipal year and suggested that the item regarding Street Lighting be deferred until the meeting on 17 February, 2022.

**Resolved** that:

- 1) the Democratic Services Officer organise a meeting between the Chair, Vice Chair and Director of Place to discuss the timing of future items for consideration for the remainder of the municipal year.

The meeting ended at 3.08 pm

**Chair**

# Agenda Item 4



## Report of the Director of Place / Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Service Transformation

Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee

20 January 2022

### Climate Change and Nature Strategy

**Purpose:** This report highlights the recently approved Cabinet report on the Climate Change and Nature Strategy (18<sup>th</sup> November 2021) which took into account the recent declaration of a Nature Emergency on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021. To aid forward planning, it also informs the Committee on the current status of each policy area included within the governance structure.

**Report Author:** Martin Nicholls  
**Finance Officer:** Ben Smith  
**Legal Officer:** Tracey Meredith  
**Access to Services Officer:** Rhian Miller

**For Information**

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Since the last update presented to the PDC in December 2019 there has been lots of positive activity within the Climate Change and Nature areas, both internally within the council, regionally and nationally. Most importantly a second update report and new Strategy were approved by Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> November. This report provides an overview of progress and will help the committee to determine which related policies to bring forward in the coming year.
- 1.2 Swansea Council declared a Nature Emergency on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and this has since been reflected in the governance changes below. Further work will be required by the Nature Conservation team to develop a Nature Recovery Action Plan.

## 2. Governance Update

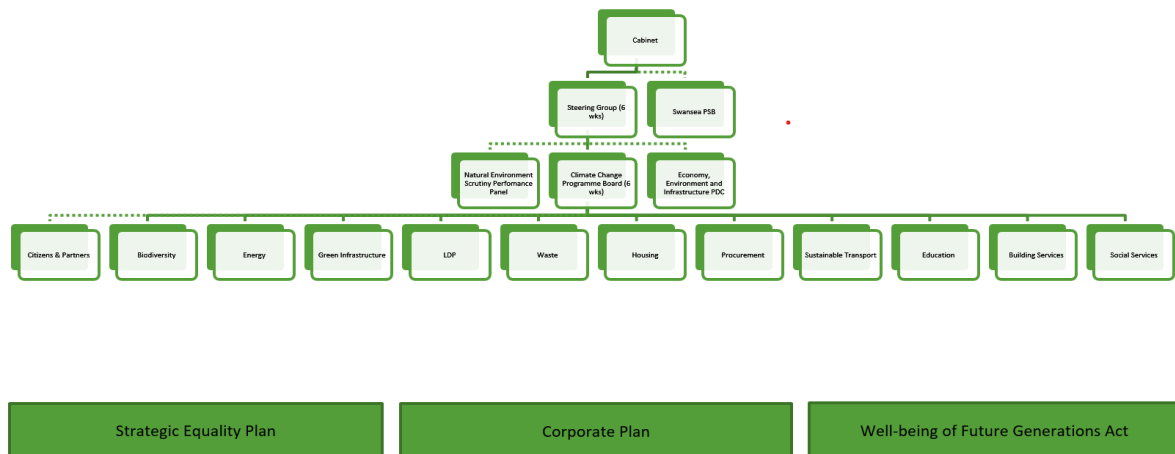
2.1 Governance has been formalised both internally and externally with partners, including PSB (Public Service Boards) and regular programme boards and steering group meetings have ensured good progress throughout 2020-21.

The Programme Board now reflects a council wide involvement with the addition of Education, Resources and Social Services colleagues, plus a change in name of both the board and strategy to reflect the importance of Nature Recovery too.

Also, Swansea Environment Forum, whilst still under contract to Swansea Council (March 22), will lead the main external partner forum for the remainder of this financial year. The tender process will begin for a future partner in the New Year.

As part of the regional agenda the 4 local authorities have progressed a new draft regional energy strategy due to be approved by cabinet in December. Further work is also progressing as part of the new CJC work programme also due to be reported to cabinet in December.

Fig 1. Swansea Council Governance



2.2 The Council’s Well-being and Strategic Equality Objectives set out within the Corporate Plan and Strategic Equality Plan establish the Council’s overall strategic framework for maximising its contribution to a more resilient and a more equal Wales.

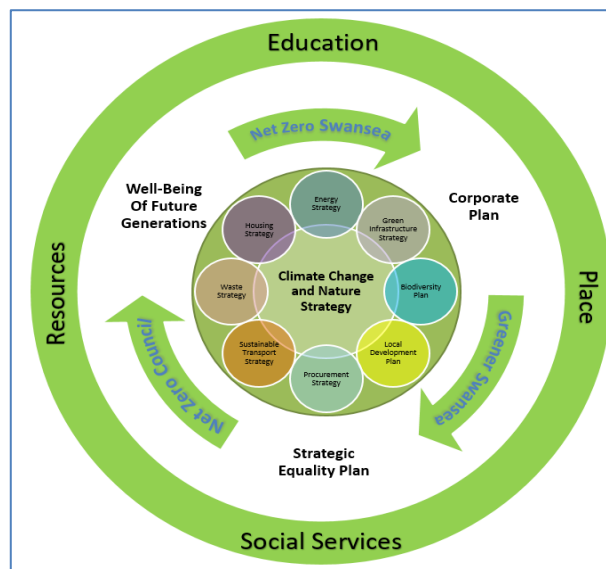
The plans are aligned and contain steps to tackle climate change and nature recovery and, through that work, address and improve equality.

In light of the recent ‘Nature Emergency’ announced by Swansea Council on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the overall programme has transformed from ‘Climate Change’ to ‘Climate Change and Nature Recovery, i

The intention is to cascade this down through all future activities and also in the proposal to amend the corporate well-being objective within the 2022/27 Corporate Plan and any subsequent changes necessary to the **Strategic Equality Plan** so as to maximise our contribution to a more environmentally resilient and a more equal Wales.

To ensure that in addition to achieving **Net Zero 2030 for Swansea Council**, we will continue to 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 greener Swansea.

Fig 2. New Strategic Approach



### 3. Strategy and Policy Update

3.1 The new **Climate Change and Nature Strategy** document is attached as **Appendix 1**. This will remain under continual review in light of Swansea’s recent Welsh Government emissions submission and the recent Nature Emergency declaration on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. It is recommended that approval for any subsequent changes would be delegated to the Steering Group Chair – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Service Transformation, along with the Director of Place. The intention is to expand this to include a wider range of actions relating to delivering nature recovery and ecosystem resilience.



### 3.2 **Biodiversity Plan/Section 6/Nature Recovery Action Plan**

As required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Biodiversity Duty, in December 2020 the Council submitted its first 3 year report outlining actions it had taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. Having appointed a new Biodiversity Officer in June 2021 we are in the process of consulting with all services across the council to develop a Section 6 Biodiversity Plan for the period 2021-2023.

In collaboration with members of the Local Nature Partnership, we are currently reviewing and updating the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to produce a Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea in accordance with Welsh Government guidance. We are currently in the process of recruiting a Local Nature Partnership Project officer to assist with this work and to support the delivery of nature recovery across the County.

Much progress has been made during the last two years enabled by revenue and capital funding from Welsh Government, NRW and others. Examples include

- Welsh Government Local Places for Nature Grant: Penllergaer Valley Woods - the restoration of a PAWS( Plantation on Ancient Woodland ) woodland through the clearance of non-native species and replanting with new native broadland woodland.
- Welsh Government Local Places for Nature Grant: Swansea Nature Network – creating, enhancing and connecting biodiversity assets to create resilient multifunctional greenspaces, ecosystems and wildlife sites within and around urban communities. This has included tree planting and the creation of new community orchards and the management of grassland areas for pollinators.

The recently awarded an Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing schemes (ENRaW); Welsh Government Rural Communities –grant ‘Connecting Green Infrastructure South West Wales’ will enable us to recruit additional temporary staff to deliver wider benefits for biodiversity across the whole county and also at a local Ward scale , and to engage more actively with communities and volunteers over the next 18mths.

### 3.3 **Develop a Sustainable Transport Strategy** – A task and finish group has been established to bring together all the great work currently being undertaken across the Highways and Transportation service area. This includes:

- Green Fleet
- Grey Fleet
- Street Lighting
- Other transportation e.g. taxi, schools etc.
- Active travel

This includes the new strategy for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) recently presented to committee, as part of the green fleet strategy which is required by Welsh Government to enable it to align it with any upcoming grant awards. It is proposed that the draft Sustainable Transport Strategy is presented to PDC in January 2022.

3.4 A draft **Tree Management Strategy** is also being presented to Economy, Environment & Infrastructure PDC on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec setting out protocols for the management and maintenance of trees on/affecting land/property in Council ownership as well as the Council's duties in relation to protected trees.

3.5 **New School Buildings** - We are working closely with Education colleagues to further enhance our Employer's Requirements (ERs) and meet the Welsh Government target of net-zero carbon schools from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and further detail and funding mechanisms will be available in due course.

3.6 **Procurement.** The following policies and guides are in development:

- A new socially responsible and sustainability procurement policy.
- A procurement guide for social value procurement.
- A social value procurement checklist.
- Introduction of mandatory completion of a sustainable risk assessment as part of procurement planning stage for procurements above a certain threshold. (Threshold value to be confirmed)
- A new procurement notification form which incorporates socially responsible procurement considerations.
- A new contract award report to capture what consideration has been given to social value during the procurement process, the expected outcomes and monitoring arrangements.

This may be a policy area where the PDC would wish consider as part of their forward work programme.

3.7 **Housing** - The **decarbonisation** of 13,580 Council owned houses in line with emerging WHQS2 Guidance has commenced. The cost of the programme is estimated to be £750m over a 10 year delivery period. Future progress will depend on availability of financial resources. The Council is working with Welsh Government to identify a capital funding delivery model. Initial demonstrator schemes will help establish technical solutions and supply chains to deliver at scale and pace as finance becomes available.

The Council's **More Homes Strategy** and associated 4 year development plans are focussed on providing new build Council housing, and set an ambitious 10 year delivery plan for 1000 new affordable homes. The Council developed its own Swansea Standard for new build, which can be combined with renewable technologies to create Homes as Power Stations. The key aim is to reduce energy demand and

reduce fuel poverty for residents. Every More Homes development places a strong emphasis on providing a variety of housing types and tenures to meet local need, building places at a walkable scale, with homes, local facilities and public transport within walking distance of each other and integrating green infrastructure, informed by the planning authority's Green Infrastructure Assessment. Every new home also contains a swift brick to encourage nesting birds.

The Strategy also includes an acquisitions element.

This was last reported to the PDC in March 2021 and is due to again be reported early in 2022.

- 3.8 The **Waste Strategy Policy** 2022-25 to take us to 70% has been drafted and is being discussed with the Cabinet Member prior to Cabinet in the New Year. The committee may consider this area as a suitable topic for their future work programme.

Biodiversity (maintenance of grassed areas) – Update report going to PDC on 16 December outlining further trials next season for the creation of biodiverse grassed areas (meadow lands). Further cut and collection equipment is being purchased, and work is ongoing to categorise options for different highway verge scenarios.

- 3.9 **Green Infrastructure Strategy** Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife was adopted in Feb 2021 by the Council following engagement by the PDC. Over the last 10 months the focus has been on embedding and delivering the outcomes of the strategy and includes internal staff knowledge and skill development and securing capital funding from the Welsh Government and Local Nature Partnership for green infrastructure/nature based solutions and biodiversity schemes. Schemes currently being delivered include:

- Local Places for Nature: City Nature - increasing and enhancing nature in the city centre,

We have recently been awarded an Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing schemes (ENRaW); Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development programme 2014 – 2020 grant 'Connecting Green Infrastructure South West Wales' – this revenue grant for next 18 months focusing on taking a regional collaborative approach to designing and implementing green infrastructure and nature recovery across Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Carmarthenshire.

In addition over the last 10 months we have seen a number of GI typologies including green walls and green roofs being installed in the city centre including the Environment Centre in Pier Street, Coastal High Street office buildings and most recently Potter Wheel on the Kingsway.

Next steps going forward include continuing to deliver schemes on the ground and the design and development of the countywide GI Strategy which it would be expected will be progressed in conjunction with the PDC from March 2022.

3.10 **Local Development Plan** - National planning policy and guidance places an increasing emphasis on the role of planning to address the challenges of the climate and nature emergencies. Swansea's LDP, adopted in 2019, provides the Council, as the Local Planning Authority, with a clear strategic framework to guide development to meet these challenges at the local level. More recently, the Council have prepared a suite of supplementary planning guidance to support the implementation of the LDP, and adopted the DcFW Placemaking Charter. This has considerably strengthened the Council's ability to make planning decisions which deliver against a range of critical corporate duties, responsibilities and objectives, (including, WCFG Act - Social & Economic Duty, EA(W) Act – s6 Biodiversity duty – obligations under Sustainable Drainage guidance etc). The Placemaking and Strategic Planning team play a key role in guiding the placemaking, master planning and delivery of large scale, strategic developments to ensure that they are in accordance with local and national climate change and nature emergency policy objectives. The team are also specifically involved in policy implementation on the More Homes, providing advice on the sustainability of the Council's own developments against policy objectives. Currently the supporting SPG is progressed via the planning committee

3.11 **Energy Plan** - On 19th November 2020, the Energy and Carbon Management Plan and Action Plan was approved by Cabinet following engagements with the PDC. It provides a co-ordinated approach which will identify and analyse energy and carbon emissions from the delivery of the Authority's operational service deliveries and will

- Provide an overarching programme that will align and integrate all legislations and policies that relate to energy, carbon management and climate change
- Clearly define Swansea Council strategic ambition and intent for addressing energy and carbon management
- Quantify the Authority's baseline carbon emissions from its service property activities.
- Identify and evaluate energy saving projects towards reducing energy costs
- Adapt to the new Welsh Government Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting requirements,
- Adapt a low carbon / renewable technology way of working, reducing the dependency on conventional energy supplies.

The plans were presented to Scrutiny Programme Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in response to a request by Cabinet Members to explore responsibilities and issues in relation to the Energy and

Climate Change Strategy, included within the Climate Change and Service Transformation Portfolio.

In 2017, the Welsh Government (WG) set the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. In doing so, WG recognised the public sector is uniquely placed to influence emissions far more widely than its own, relatively small direct emissions in areas such as transport, energy and land use. As well as tackling the issues of air pollution, WG deem that this approach can have a positive impact on the local economy by reducing energy costs and by creating investment opportunities for the low carbon economy.

In March 2019, WG published Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales which includes Policy 20: '*Support the public sector to baseline, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality.*'

Achieving this aim will require, amongst other things:

- Achieving net zero carbon emissions through actions to reduce emissions and increase the removal of carbon from the atmosphere;
- Understanding the priorities, costs, stakeholders and wider impacts of actions;
- Improving understanding of opportunities to implement climate change mitigation;
- Improving understanding of the role of the public sector in influencing change in the wider society and economic system.

It is intended that the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon guide published in May 2021 replaces and builds on the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme, for which the last reporting year was 2018/19. The approach also delivers against Policy 19: '*Welsh Government to consult on options for successor Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme*' in summer 2019. The guide details the principles and priorities for the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon reporting approach, its operational and organisational scope and the data which public bodies in Wales will need to assemble in order to fulfil the reporting requirements covering Energy including Water; Transport; Waste; Supply Chain Emissions and Land-based Emissions and Sequestration.

**3.12 Well-being of Future Generations Act - The Council's Sustainable Development Policy** is being updated and will be going to PDC for further review in January. The Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's well-being objectives for the next five years is also being reviewed for 2022-27 by services and leadership. This takes into account the Council's response to the climate and nature emergencies. The process will also inform the development of service plans for the next year. The Council's Strategic Equality Plan runs until 2024 and links to the corporate plan. It currently addresses many climate and nature issues in relation to fairness for all.

## 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 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required. This report covers an overarching strategy, each action as and when pursued will be screened independently. The IIA screening form is attached as **Appendix 2**

## 5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, it is clear to reach both the 2030 and 2050 targets, significant investment is required and any such decisions would be subject to separate cabinet reports at the time with the council continuing to lobby both Welsh and UK Governments to seek appropriate funding

## 6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** These will be included within the report.

Appendix 1	Climate Change and Nature Strategy
Appendix 2	IIA





# Climate Change & Nature Strategy 2021-2030



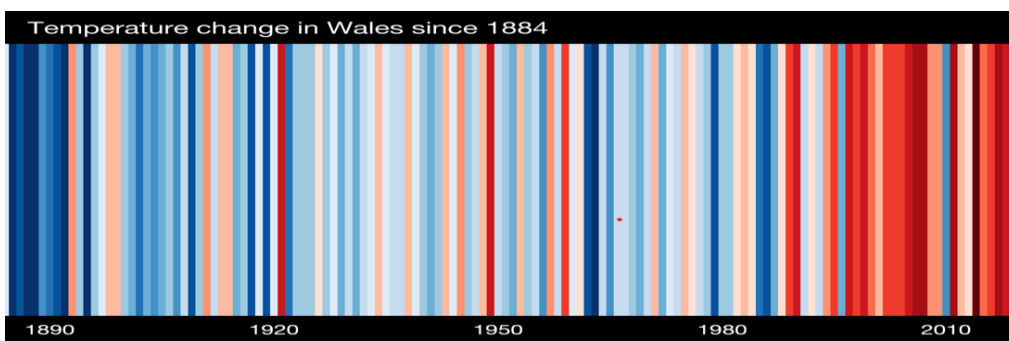


## 1. Introduction

Climate change is the long-term alteration of temperature and typical weather patterns largely caused by human activity, like burning fossil fuels, like natural gas, oil, and coal. Burning these materials releases what are known as greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Human health and well-being is vulnerable to such change. This shift is expected to cause fluctuating weather- heat and fire, drought and flood, an increase in waterborne diseases, poor air quality, threats to wildlife and loss of food sources.

The image below shows how the temperatures across Wales are already increasing year on year, setting a clear trend towards a hotter climate which will bring significant consequences.

Wales Warming Stripes – 1884 -2020 (Professor Ed Hawkins MBE, University of Reading)  
[#ShowYourStripes](#).



We all have a responsibility to act now. 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.

Nature Recovery is of equal parity.

## 2. So what are Swansea Council doing about it?

### Legislation, Regulation and Policy

There is a range of well publicised legislation and policy helping to drive this change:

#### Globally

The international Paris Accord 2015 which seeks to keep global temperature increases well below 2 degrees.

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) - In their Climate Change 2021 report, conclude that:

- there is still time to limit the worst effects of climate change
- stabilising the climate will require the globe to reach net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050

- human activities have already caused around 1.1°C warming
- the planet’s climate is warming faster than anything experienced
- every part of our planet is already seeing multiple and increasing changes in their climate systems
- global warming is very likely to reach 1.5°C by 2040
- climate change is intensifying the water cycle affecting rainfall patterns
- coastal areas will see continued sea-level rise throughout the 21st century
- further warming will amplify impacts on frozen regions
- the ocean is warming and acidifying.

### **Nationally**

In 2019 the UK Government amended the Climate Change Act 2008 by increasing the target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the UK to at least 100% lower than 1990 levels by 2050. This is otherwise known as the Net Zero target.

The Welsh Government Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 which requires accountability for the impacts of long term decision making.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 supports finding ways to secure healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems for the future whilst still meeting the challenges of creating jobs, housing and infrastructure.

Welsh Government has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, but is pushing to “get there sooner”. It recognises that climate change will impact us all, but the stark reality remains our most vulnerable communities will be hit the hardest. Welsh Government recognises that transition towards a Net Zero Wales must be fair and just, in order to achieve a green and clean future with good quality jobs and leaves no communities behind.

Swansea will strive to align with the Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (2021-2025), embracing the Team Wales approach.

### **Regionally**

As part of the regional agenda the 4 local authorities – Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea have progressed a new regional energy strategy. Further work is also progressing as part of the new CJC work programme.

### **Locally**

Following the Notice of Motion on Climate Change Emergency presented to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Authority reaffirms its commitment to:

- Call upon the UK and Welsh governments to provide us with the necessary powers and resources to ensure Swansea Council becomes net zero by 2030.
- Publicise climate emergency and promote a greater awareness of the truth of climate change amongst the local population aiming for a county wide target of net zero by 2050
- Work with relevant experts in research and development to:
  - Review our current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change.
  - Identify any further policy changes or actions which we could undertake, within the scope of our powers and resources, to meet the challenge of climate emergency.

- Seek the help of local partners such as Swansea University and other research bodies to, within one year, produce a report to share with the community, explaining work already underway and achievements already made, as well as targets for the future.
  - Update on further work undertaken by the Council in this area on an annual basis through the Council Annual Review of Performance Report section on corporate objective - Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity.
- The Council undertook a citizen's survey in March 2021, with excellent response, but the key message taken on board is 'Go Faster, Go Further'.



## Climate Change Survey 2021

Overall survey results told us

**“Go Faster! Go Further!”**

967 people were surveyed

**93%**

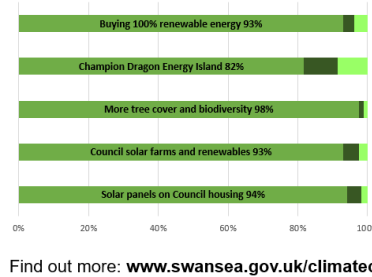
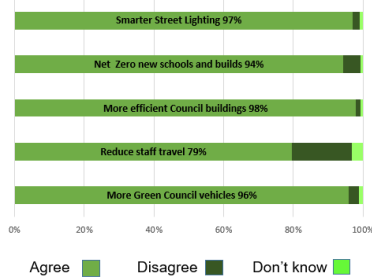
were concerned about climate change

A Twitter check of 396 people found

**66%**

were concerned about climate change

Percentage of agreement that these Council actions will help us reach a Net Zero Swansea



Find out more: [www.swansea.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/climatechange)

### 3. The Vision

Swansea Council's commitment to addressing climate change is broken down into clearly defined work streams alongside its commitment to nature recovery.

*The council will lead by example and be the focal point for response to climate and nature action across the whole city and county.*

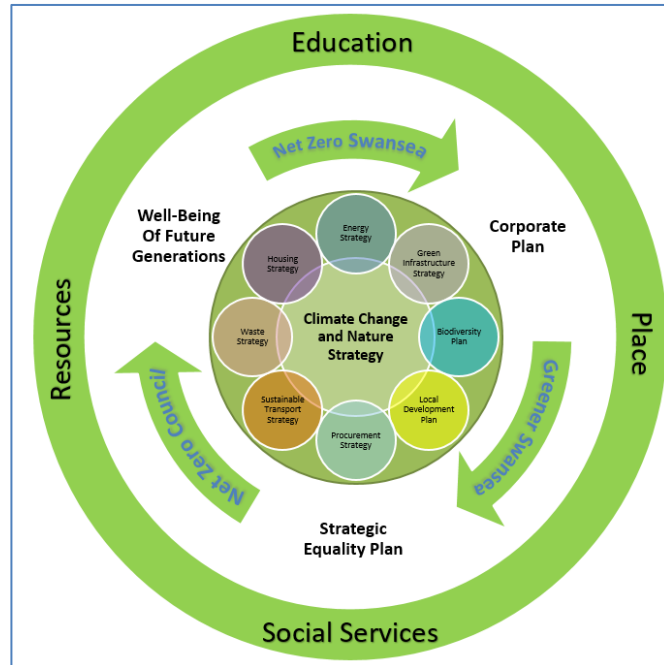
*The council business will strive for net zero carbon by 2030, establishing monitoring processes for emissions and developing a robust action plan in order to achieve the target.*

*Working with partners, the council will call on the whole City and County of Swansea, its major employers, its citizens, community groups and businesses to contribute to achieving net zero carbon by 2050. There will be a need for collective leadership and a shared ambition.*

**Nature Recovery** - A separate action plan will be formulated to sit alongside this strategy.

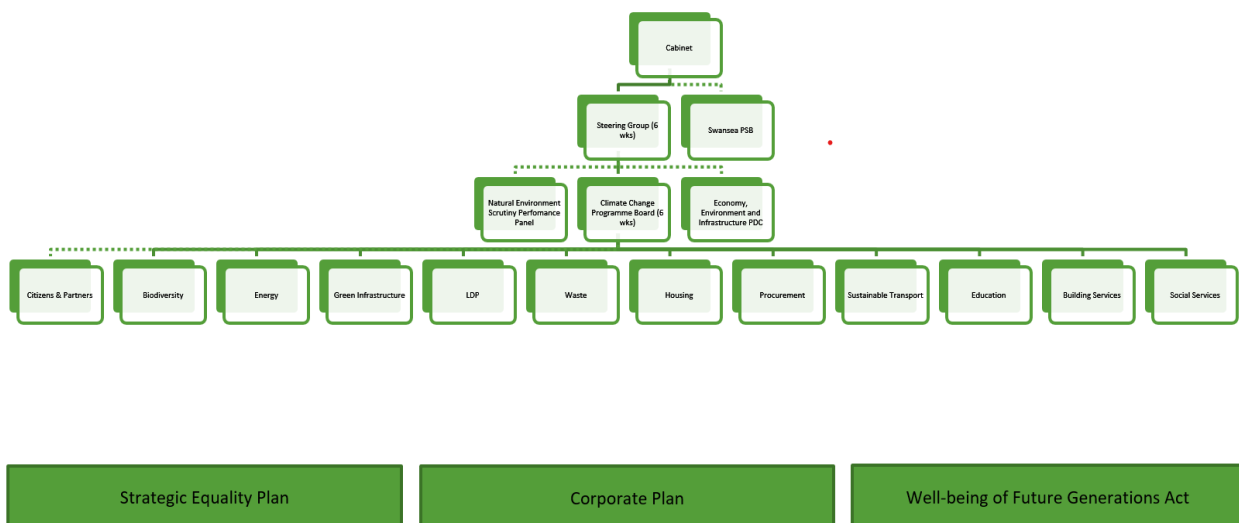
## 5. Governance

- 5.1 To enable the Council to continue to make progress one of the key actions from the NoM was to review the current policy framework and how this could contribute to the achieve achievement of net zero carbon and climate emergency response.
- 5.2 Therefore it has been necessary to review over 100 Council policies that contribute to this agenda and distil these down to 8 key themes as outlined below.



The infographic demonstrates that these policies overlap to firstly feed into the core short term target of net zero carbon for the council emissions by 2030 and the longer term goal of achieving a similar aim for the whole of the city by 2050. These polices are then intrinsically wrapped up in the overarching requirements of the Corporate Plan, Strategic Equality Plan and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

The governance structure represents a golden thread not only through the organisation, but externally with partners.



## 6. The journey so far

Swansea Council have achieved a great deal over several years to mitigate the impacts of Climate Change such as:

- Swansea Council procures its energy using Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreements, via the National Procurement Service (NPS), for its energy supplies. All electricity procured via the NPS framework is from 100% renewable energy sources; 41% sourced from Wales (Apr 20 – Mar 21); Gas – Total Gas and Power (TGP) procured as new gas supplier (from Apr 21), registered interest in purchasing 'Green Gas'- dependant on viability and cost impact.
- Refit Low Carbon Programme - Swansea Council is participating in the Welsh Government supported Re:fit Low Carbon Programme to implement energy efficiency saving opportunities in non-domestic buildings. A £1.3 million interest free loan has been secured from Welsh Government Wales Funding Programme (Salix) to deliver a Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project comprising over 18 buildings which is projected to save an estimated 400 tCO<sub>2</sub>e every year. Quantifying the energy savings delivered by the Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) will be validated using the Measurement and Verification (M&V) process.
- Carbon Reduction Retrofit (phase 2): Working towards developing a business case to implement Energy Conservation Measures for Education Services - Schools.
- Swansea Council with the support of Welsh Government Energy Services are progressing towards the development of a 3MW Ground Mounted Solar PV farm located on a capped waste land filled area. It is predicted over the asset lifespan (35 years) that 101,302,731 kWh of renewable energy will be generated equating 28,454 t/CO<sub>2</sub>. Part of this capital expenditure cost could be recovered as it would create revenue for the Authority, in the form of either Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) or private wire connection. There is the potential opportunity of extending the Solar PV site in future years as current additional waste land is capped.
- Public Sector Hub: Cabinet are considering moving from the Civic Centre to a new public sector hub in the heart of the city centre as part of Swansea Bay Central Phase 2, the £1bn project to revitalise the St David's area of the city centre. This is an opportunity for the Authority to show its commitment towards meeting its net zero carbon aspirations by 2030 incorporating renewable technologies into the design specifications.
- Progressing work towards a world-leading Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon, estimated electricity generation of 504,854 MWh, equating to carbon emission savings of 94,913 mT CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### 6.1 Community Energy

Community energy covers aspects of collective action to reduce, purchase, manage and generate energy. Community energy projects have an emphasis on local engagement, local leadership and control and the local community benefiting collectively from the outcomes.

### 6.2 Homes as Power Stations

- 6.2.1 Since the first development at Colliers Way, the More Homes development team, in partnership with Corporate Building Services (CBS) have developed the Swansea Standard which has incorporated Homes as Power Stations (HAPS) owing to Welsh Government (WG) Innovative Housing Programme (IHP) funding enabling Swansea Council to build exemplar homes,

combining the latest Innovative renewable technologies such as Solar PV, Tesla Batteries, Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery (MVHR) and Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP).

- 6.2.2 With a building fabric first approach integrating the Swansea Standard; Swansea Council has been able to build homes that are super energy efficient; achieving the EPC rating of A and which are almost self-efficient in producing their own energy to decrease energy demand and tackle fuel poverty typically generating around 60% - 80% of the energy consumed.
- 6.2.3 The HAPS properties are being monitored in collaboration with Welsh School of Architecture (WSA) at Cardiff University. The research team will work in collaboration with industry, government, academia and the public on built environment projects and evaluate renewable energy supply, energy storage and energy demand reduction technologies to create a low carbon-built environment that is both replicable and affordable.
- 6.2.4 The HAPS developments have now been completed at The Parc Yr Helyg development in Birchgrove (September 2020) and Phase 2 of the Colliers Way, Penplas development (April 2021). The Hill View Crescent/Beacons View Road HAPS development is scheduled to be completed by early 2022. The latest HAPS standard development is due to start in West Cross.
- 6.2.5 In addition, Swansea Council have retrofitted to HAPS standard several bungalows at Ffordd Ellen, Craig Cefn Parc which are also being monitored by WSA.

### 6.3 District Heating System

- 6.3.1 The latest consultant study from 2018 showed that there is an opportunity for Swansea Council to deliver a viable city centre District Heating System network, but this would not be without cost or risk. The options for delivery include a wholly Swansea Council owned and operated model through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), or a joint venture partnership with the private sector to reduce the risk (and return). Assumptions were made that certain city centre buildings would connect to the network and the construction costs of £11.5m (excluding inflation and fees but including contingency at 30%) could attract a return of 8.2% over a 20-year period. The risks revolve around lower than forecasted energy demand, lower heat payments/tariffs, lower additional revenues and higher capital and operating costs, all of which would affect the Internal Rate Return (IRR) negatively. Since the biggest of these risks is demand, it should be noted that 55% of the energy demand came from three of our development sites (Copr Bay Phase 1, Sailbridge, Civic Centre), to date only Copr Bay has been developed, the other two are yet to come online.
- 6.3.2 The timescales of the District Heating System network proposal and the Copr Bay development weren't aligned with one another sufficiently enough for the heat network to be included within the Copr Bay scheme. Consideration was given to installing ductwork across Oystermouth Road during the Copr Bay construction which could be used in the future for district network pipework. Unfortunately the nature of the road construction, location of existing underground services and the additional complexities due to trench sizes and logistic issues with highway closures and noise considerations, there was no benefit in installing the ductwork during the Copr bay construction. That does not preclude the development from connecting to a heat network in the future, however. The heating solutions installed in Copr Bay could connect to such a heat network if one was established.

### 6.4 **Solar PV Schemes - Swansea Community Energy & Enterprise Scheme (SCEES) and EGNI/AWEL Co-Operative**

- 6.4.1 These are schemes exploring how local people in some of Swansea's most economically deprived areas can benefit from community renewable energy projects. They have installed Solar PV systems on a number of Swansea schools with a total estimated renewable generation of electricity amounting to 946,211 kWh/year (assuming 85% Solar PV generation

used by schools, this equates to 804,279kWh/yr at electricity corporate rates (£0.13/kWh), estimated financial savings of £104K).

6.4.2 As part of the Egni Co-operative's Solar PV proposal offer to Swansea Council, they have partnered with charity 'Energy Sparks' to provide educational and energy data visualisation programmes to several Swansea schools. Working in collaboration with Education Services and School ECO Clubs, Energy Sparks will provide access to their online energy analysis software to monitor the schools smart meter data to identify energy and financial savings, along with carbon emission reductions. The software will also show the Solar PV data generation from the Egni Co-op PV System. The programme is supported with an extensive list of built-in energy related activities and lesson plans categorised by education level (key stage); subject (Science) and topic (Climate Change).

## 6.5. **Swansea City Deal**

The Swansea Bay City Deal is a £1.3bn investment in 9 major projects across the Swansea Bay City Region – which is made up of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea together with the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Hywel Dda University Health Boards, Swansea University, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and private sector partners. The City Deal is being funded, subject to the approval of project business cases, by the UK Government, the Welsh Government, the public sector, and the private sector. Over the next 15 years, the City Deal will boost the regional economy by £1.8bn and generate almost 10,000 new, high-quality jobs. The new Swansea arena is part of the council's £135m Swansea Central Phase One transformation scheme which includes almost 1,000 parking spaces. The arena's external skin will be covered in tens of thousands of LED lights. It is due to open in 2021/22.

6.6. In addition, Swansea Council have been in collaboration with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay City Region partners to 'draft' a Regional Energy Strategy plan for South West Wales which will be completed towards by the end of 2021.

6.7 Promoting Welsh & UK Government campaigns and programmes to increase energy efficiency amongst private tenants and home owners, reducing fuel poverty and reducing emissions.

6.8 The Blue Eden Tidal Lagoon formally launch in October 2021, along with other community owned renewable energy schemes, like SCEES, to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and community buildings. The lagoon alone has an estimated electricity generation of 504,854 MWh, equating to carbon emission savings of 94,913 mT CO<sub>2</sub>e.

6.9 Working with others nationally to urge Welsh Government to develop electric car charging infrastructure.

6.10 Being leaders of good practice in Wales through having Sustainable Development policies and approaches pre-dating the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

6.11 Building the first council housing in a generation here in Swansea to a super-energy-efficient "Swansea Standard" that will enable all components to be procured locally and reducing emissions using solar battery storage and air source heat pumps.

6.12 Using innovation in construction for flagship projects such as Pentrehafod School, showcasing waste minimisation and sustainability.

6.13 Winning investment for innovative green technology, such as "Homes as Power Stations", as part of the City Region Deal.

- 6.14 Securing funding for a vast increase in Active Travel (walking and cycling) routes throughout the county and supported Swansea University's community cycle scheme.
- 6.15 Implementing agile working so that the workforce may reduce unnecessary travel.
- 6.16 Developing local procurement practices to reduce carbon footprint.
- 6.17 In Education, Swansea is an early joiner of the international EcoSchools programmes which encourages schools to promote recycling and reduce energy and water consumption.
- 6.18 Encouragement of Foundation Phase pupils to learn outdoors ensuring a respect for nature, biodiversity and eco-systems.
- 6.19 At KS4, developing partnerships with Universities to establish STEM workshops including the impact of climate change.
- 6.20 Recently incorporating care for the natural environment into the corporate plan as a new priority, recognising the hugely important contribution made by the extensive work of our Nature Conservation Team.
- 6.21 Working with Swansea Public Services Board to improve local services. The four statutory members of the Board are Swansea Bay University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, the Fire and Rescue Service and the council who will continue to work collectively to improve local social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. For this part the focus will be on a Greener Wales.
- 6.22 Street lighting have upgraded 21,053 street lights to LED, along with the installation of City Touch, Central Management System commissioned to control the street light output around Swansea ring road (financial and carbon savings).
- 6.23 Council car parks have had electric vehicle charge points installed. A total of 16 dual-headed charge points have been installed, serving 32 recharging bays. With the exception of the two Park & Ride sites, the charge points provide 22kW 'fast' charging capabilities. The Park & Ride sites feature 7-22kW charge points (load balancing depending on how many vehicles are plugged-in at the same time). All charge points provide 100% renewable electricity to users. Users can access the charge points through an App or by calling a 24/7 customer service line (bi-lingual).
- 6.24 Active Travel. The total network has increased in length by 25% in the past three years, with over £12million of investment made in active travel infrastructure. Of the 72,000 households in Swansea, 60% now live within 500m of a dedicated off-road cycle route.

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

**As the governance structure implies, 8 critical areas of the authority are working on their action plans in order to deliver the 2030 target.**

### **i. Energy Strategy**

Swansea Council recognise and understand the importance of effective energy and carbon management and the implications and risks of climate change, rising energy costs and the preservation of finite energy sources. The preservation of our natural environment on a regional and national level and safeguarding of the wellbeing of our communities for current and future generations is a vital aim of the Authority.



It is within this context that the Energy and Carbon Management Strategic Plan was developed. The Energy and Carbon Management Plan provides a co-ordinated approach which will identify and analyse energy and carbon emissions from the delivery of the Authority's operational service deliveries and will:

- Provide an overarching programme that will align and integrate all legislations and policies that relate to energy, carbon management and climate change
- Clearly define Swansea Council's strategic ambition and intent for addressing energy and carbon management
- Quantify the Authority's baseline carbon emissions from its service property activities.
- Identify and evaluate energy saving projects towards reducing energy costs.
- Adaptable to the new Welsh Government Net Zero Carbon Reporting requirements.
- Adapt a low carbon / renewable technology way of working, reducing the dependency on conventional energy supplies.

## ii. **Green Infrastructure Strategy**

This strategy considers how green infrastructure can be increased in area and quality in the central area of Swansea in order to make it better adapted to climate change and better for people and wildlife. Green infrastructure is a term used to describe all the greenspace, soil, vegetation and water (ranging from parks to roof gardens) that provide the ecosystem services that make our cities liveable.

This strategy sets out a vision for the central area in Swansea to be much greener, creating green spaces and using a combination of street-level features like street trees and rain gardens as well as vegetation on buildings, including green roofs and green walls. The intention is to double the amount of green infrastructure (with the exception of open water) within 10 years.

The focus will be to create a green infrastructure network, centred on a Green Artery that will connect Swansea Station in the north, with the beach and marina in the south and the wider area, via existing, improved greenspaces including churchyards and Castle Square. Green infrastructure will be planned and designed to be multi-functional and will involve a partnership approach, using innovative solutions, including Supplementary Planning Guidance for green infrastructure and a Green Space Factor tool (GSF). Swansea Council is committed to using the GSF tool, designed for the Swansea Central Area, as a measure for the quantity and functionality of green space in development.

## iii. **Local Biodiversity Plan**

Promoting Swansea's Natural Environment is a strategy and action plan for the protection, management, enhancement and promotion of Swansea's outstanding natural environment and biodiversity. It outlines a number of strategic actions required for the conservation of the wider biodiversity resource together with a set of detailed actions for the protection of priority habitats and species.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBAP) has three key parts:

**Part 1 Strategy** This part provides a background to the biodiversity action planning process, identifies key issues affecting biodiversity in Swansea and priorities for future work. It proposes a number of broad actions to meet these priorities, and outlines procedures for measuring progress.

**Part 2 Audit** This part provides an overview of Swansea's biodiversity resource and contains information on protected habitats and species present in the County, together with draft proposals for the identification of a network of non-statutory Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation or candidate SINC.s.

**Part 3 Habitat and species action plans** This part provides detailed action plans for priority habitats and species which occur in the County in accordance with UK and Welsh Assembly Government Guidance. At the time of printing 23 Habitat Action Plans (HAP.s) and 98 Species Action Plans (SAP's) have been included. There are plans to add additional HAP's and SAP's in due course.

#### **iv. Local Development Plan**

The 2010-2025 Plan provides a clear planning framework to address key issues facing the County, providing certainty and the basis for efficient planning decisions. Its policies and proposals will enable the delivery of sustainable development, and ensure that social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being goals are all suitably balanced in the decision making process so that the right development occurs in the right place.

The Plan is underpinned by an extensive and up to date evidence base which, in combination with extensive public and stakeholder engagement undertaken during Plan preparation, has been used to identify the key opportunities, land use requirements, and issues for the County over the Plan period.

#### **v. Procurement Strategy**

Swansea Council procurement is underpinned by maximising the economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits that may be obtained from buying power. Best value can be viewed as the optimum combination of whole-life costs in terms of not only generating savings and good quality outcomes for the organisation, but also benefit to society and the economy.

Procurement activity strives to deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act through a holistic approach to procurement processes and including where relevant specific provisions within the procurement documents. There is commitment to strive to ensure that carbon reduction ambitions that underpin the sustainable development principle are integrated within procurement practice as appropriate.

#### **vi. Sustainable Transport Strategy**

A great deal of positive work has been carried out in this area to date with all activity becoming part of this overarching strategy. This includes how the council deals with its Council fleet, the grey fleet (personal mileage by employees), its emissions from street lighting, the continued promotion of active travel and the development of a local and regional sustainable public transport system.

Some specifics include:

- Continuation of planning for, and improving the active travel network. Refresh of the current Active Travel maps and consult on potential new routes for development, though a new Active Travel Network Map in 2021.
- Increase levels of active travel though promotion, engagement and encouragement of active travel with the general public, businesses,

communities and educational establishments, through a behaviour change campaign, Swansea Bayways.

- Further roll out of EV charging infrastructure.
- Continue to deliver a 5 % year on year reduction in council fleet emission via its green fleet strategy.
- The development of the ULEV strategy will support further emissions reductions. Targets will gradually increase over time up to 10% per annum to align with technological advances in coming years.
- Seek to embed the reductions in grey fleet mileage which achieved 50% and 1 million miles less in 2020/21 to date.
- South West Wales Metro - Continue the development of business cases for investment in active travel, bus and rail projects across the region.
- Investigate low-emission public transport alternatives through work with partners, such as Transport for Wales and First Cymru to establish how vehicle emissions could be reduced in the future.

## **vii. Waste Strategy**

The Council's existing strategy aligns to Welsh Government's recycling targets which aimed to achieve 64% recycling levels by 19/20 and this was achieved by Swansea. This target increases to 70% by 24/25 and the council is reviewing its option to achieve these increased levels.

In the meantime as part of the overall Climate change plan it will develop a new Waste Strategy which it will seek to align with the overarching Welsh Government plans over the coming 12 to 18 months.

## **viii. Housing Strategy (Decarbonisation)**

Following the publication of the report, Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World (BHBWBW), Welsh Government set up a working group made up of the Welsh School of Architecture (WSA) and selected social landlords to further develop decarbonisation targets and prepare guidance for social landlords on decarbonising their housing stock.

Officers from the Housing Service have participated in the development of the study document and so are included in regular update meetings with Welsh Government's Decarbonisation Team and academics from WSA on latest developments.

Welsh Government has taken a view that a retrofit decarbonisation programme can be delivered as an extension to the existing Welsh Housing Quality Programme due for completion at the end of 2020. The revised WHQS programme that will commence in April 2021 will set a target achieving EPC A/SAP 92 to 231,000 socially owned properties by 2030, which represents almost 17% of the entire housing stock in Wales.

The next stage for Swansea will be to develop a long term Decarbonisation Strategy alongside the excellent work that is already being undertaken. Examples include:

New Homes 'Swansea Standard' are currently being developed as HAPS at Parc y Helyg, Birchgrove, Colliers Ways, Penplas development 1 and 2 and Hillview Crescent, Clase. The properties will not have a traditional gas supply, but will generate, store and then release their own electricity.

Homes as Power Stations (HAPS): The Council has retrofitted and transformed into HAPS 6 bungalows at Ffordd Ellen, Craig Cefn Parc which include external wall insulation, Ground

Source Heat Pumps (GSHP), Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery unit (MVHRs), PV solar roofs and Tesla battery storage.

## 9 City & County wide Net Zero Carbon by 2050

All activity will be underpinned by the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals and ways of working, the Corporate Plan Priorities and the Strategic Equality Plan actions.

- i. **The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015** This legislation places a duty on the Council to carry out sustainable development improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. It sets out the sustainable development principle's five ways of working and seven national well-being goals.
- ii. **Strategic Equality Plan** This sets out how the Council makes every effort to respect children's rights, promotes healthy lives, helps tackle poverty and play its part in treating people and communities are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. It promotes equal opportunities for all, making a real difference to the lives of those living and working in Swansea.
- iii. **Corporate Plan-** This details how the Council will improve well-being in practice. It lays out priorities for action in six well-being objectives and the steps to achieve them in line with the sustainable development principle.

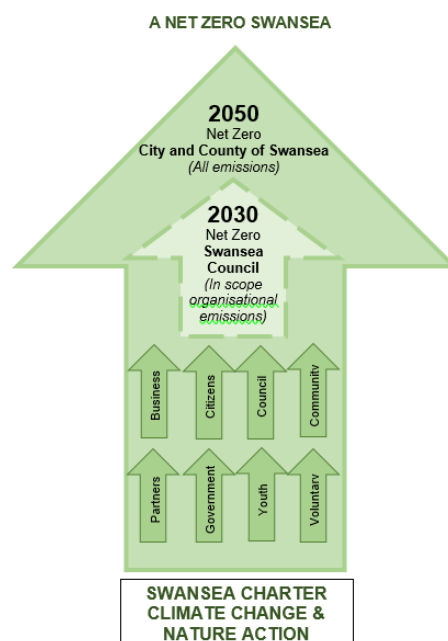
All activities must align to create a long term Climate Change and Nature Strategy and demonstrate the commitment asked of the Notice of Motions.

Governance accounts for Regional, Welsh, National and European directive alongside the additional policies and strategies sitting at Council level that will support delivery.

This approach aligns with the council's pledged to "Act in Response to the Climate Emergency" within its Corporate Plan 2020-23, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030

### 9.1 Wider communication and engagement.

This will be established through a variety of routes as per below.



There will be a continued commitment to engage with **local people, groups and businesses** and help them be smarter and better prepared for the impacts of climate change and nature recovery. This will be enhanced via the Climate and Nature Charter and online pledge wall.

Swansea Council recognises that it must lead by example and use its 'Sphere of Influence' to reach out to as many citizens and businesses as possible. The Leader and Cabinet Members have signed the charter, and a more generic version for Swansea Citizens and public sector, business, charities, schools, groups etc. will be used, alongside the more simplistic pledge wall as mechanisms to seek wider buy in across the whole city and county.

Involving partners will be paramount to success, and will help support Swansea Council's ambition to lead by example. Agreed strategies will provide structure and governance to ensure delivery.

Listening to and acting on community groups, school groups ideas will help shape the strategy.

Swansea council will commit to making long term and embedded behaviour change via training and support not only within its own authority but also across the City and County, for all citizens. We want everyone to shape Swansea's vision for reaching net zero carbon.

We can make changes on a huge scale if we all make small changes to how we move, shop, eat, think and live, together.

Reducing emissions and recovering nature needs businesses and households to change. We must use more renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal. We also have to change how we use energy, by cutting down on the power we use. We need to be more mindful of food sources, the nature surrounding us, its recovery and how our communities need to adapt for the future.

Swansea Council cannot make Swansea net zero carbon on its own. We need everyone in Swansea to act now and consider what they can do to reduce their impact on the planet. We all need to take action at home, in the workplace, and across the county as a whole.

The Council is well placed to work with others. We can make the most of Swansea's collective potential and create solutions together. There will need to be major investments. We will have to make changes to existing systems of how we use and interact with energy. We must change how we live our lives. We will have to redefine how we manage and interact with our environment.

Above all, to meet this challenge, we need collective leadership and shared ambition.

# 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:

#### Climate Change and Nature Strategy Progress Update

1.1 The report provides an update on the approved recommendations from the Cabinet report presented in November 2020, 'Climate Emergency Declaration – Policy Review and Proposed Action'. The supplementary strategy and action plan are derived following over 1000 responses to a public survey undertaken in the spring of 21, who supported a 'go faster, go further approach to tackling climate change and nature recovery.

### 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"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<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

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

Over 1000 responses to public survey in March 2021, which have reinforced Swansea Council approach on this subject matter. Also working with PSB partners to align in readiness for the wider City and council of Swansea challenge to achieve net zero carbon by 2050.

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

Low risk

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

x  Yes

No

**If yes, please provide details below**

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

**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*

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

*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 and use its 'Sphere of Influence' to reach out to as many citizens and businesses as possible regarding climate change and nature recovery. The Leader and Cabinet Members have signed the climate charter, and a more generic version for Swansea Citizens and public sector, business, charities, schools, groups etc. will be used, alongside the more simplistic pledge wall as mechanisms to seek wider buy in across the whole city and county.

Involving partners will be paramount to success, and will help support Swansea Council's ambition to lead by example. Agreed strategies will provide structure and governance to ensure delivery.

Listening to and acting on community groups, school groups ideas will help shape the strategy.

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We can make changes on a huge scale if we all make small changes to how we move, shop, eat, think and live, together.

Reducing emissions and recovering nature needs businesses and households to change. We must use more renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal. We also have to change how we use energy, by cutting down on the power we use. We need to be more mindful or food sources, the nature surrounding us and how our communities need to adapt for the future.

Swansea Council cannot make Swansea net zero carbon on its own. We need everyone in Swansea to act now and consider what they can do to reduce their impact on the planet. We all need to take action at home, in the workplace, and across the county as a whole.

The Council is well placed to work with others. We can make the most of Swansea's collective potential and create solutions together. There will need to be major investments. We will have to make changes to existing systems of how we use and interact with energy. We must change how we live our lives. We will have to redefine how we manage and interact with our environment.

Above all, to meet this challenge, we need collective leadership and shared ambition.

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

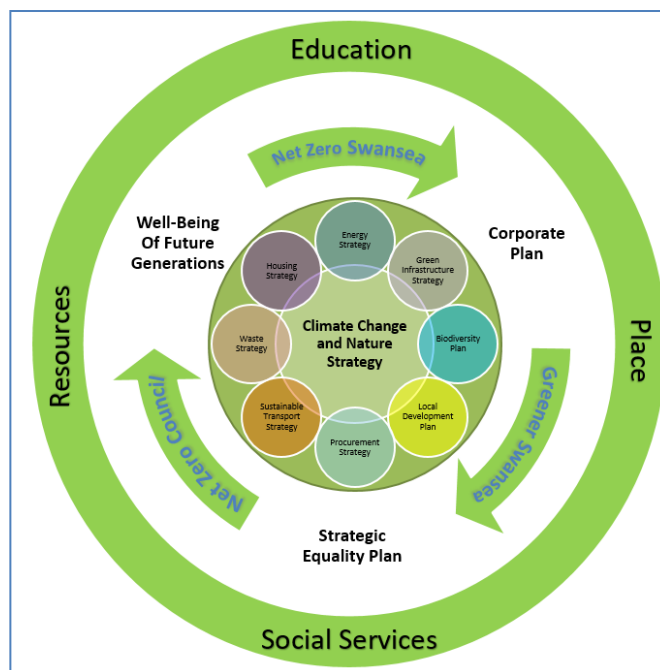


# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

## 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 and bring citizens along with us 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)** The initial survey provided very positive feedback, we will be continuing with more general engagement but will also looking to use partners to reach out to specific communities, schools, businesses etc.
- **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 - financially we will need to continue to lobby WG to ensure funding available to make such changes – eg decarbonisation of homes, 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 better 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

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

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

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Rachel Lewis
<b>Job title:</b> Directorate Project Manager
<b>Date:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Martin Nicholls
<b>Position:</b> Director of Place
<b>Date:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2021

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

# Agenda Item 5



Report of the Director of Place

**Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee**

**20 January 2022**

## **Speed Control Measures in Residential Areas to include 20mph speed limits**

<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide a brief overview on the background and issues associated with the introduction of speed control measures to support a speed limit of 20mph in residential areas.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Alan Ferris
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Roach
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>	

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide an overview of the issues associated with the introduction of speed control measures to support a speed limit of 20mph in residential areas. It looks at the funding mechanisms generally used to introduce such schemes as well as the advantages and disadvantages associated with the introduction of measures aimed at managing speeds.
- 1.2 The focus on this issue is increased as a consequence of Welsh Government's proposals to make 20mph the default limit on street lit roads in Wales. The report also provides a timeline for this together with an outline of the processes that will be followed in implementing the change.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Traffic calming is a tool used predominantly in response to concerns over a pattern of collisions where speed is at the least seen as being a contributory factor; or in situations where recorded traffic speeds are a significant cause for concern. Although the enforcement of the speed limit is the responsibility of the police, high demand for enforcement often stretches available resource, limiting the opportunity for effective speed limit enforcement activities.
- 2.2 Traffic calming can also be a key driver in encouraging the use of public transport, cycling and walking, and discouragement of using the car for non-essential journeys. Traffic calming has a significant role to play in achieving these objectives by improving the safety of vulnerable road users. This supports a raft of policies most particularly it assists in supporting the aspirations of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The introduction of such measures also assists the Council in meeting its obligations under the Road Traffic Act 1998. This requires the Highway Authority to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety.

## **3.0 Potential negative impacts**

- 3.1 Whilst the introduction of traffic calming can be beneficial in reducing the severity and frequency of collisions there are numerous issues which need to be considered. Whilst traffic calming will see a reduction in speed on the road they are unlikely to be universally popular. Some of the issues and limitations that have been identified include:
- 3.2 Buses – journey times can increase, as can passenger discomfort and concerns about passenger safety (especially when humps or cushions are placed at or near bus stops). There are also some concerns about increased wear to buses.
- 3.3 Emergency services – whilst road traffic cushions are designed to provide minimal disturbance to large emergency vehicles such as fire engines and ambulances, emergency services must be consulted prior to consideration of traffic calming an area, to ensure that emergency response times are considered.
- 3.4 Local environment – traffic calming measures change speed profiles and in some circumstances may lead to higher emission and noise levels. Care needs to be taken to minimise any such adverse effects by encouraging smooth driving patterns, this is generally achieved by ensuring that any features are located at a spacing which discourages excessive acceleration and deceleration, which lead to increased noise and emissions. Studies undertaken by the TRL have shown that in terms of noise and vibration, well designed schemes do not have negative impact in residential areas. However, recent studies show that increased braking

and acceleration patterns may see an increase in emissions and particulates.

- 3.5 Highway Maintenance – The introduction of traffic calming on the existing highway in many cases leads to increased stresses on the existing surface. This in turn decreases the lifespan of the highway in proximity to features, designed to manage the flow of traffic and reduce collisions. In addition, alteration to the flow of water may affect the maintenance requirements of drainage systems. Winter maintenance is also a concern where snow cover of traffic calming features creates difficulties for ploughs.

#### **4.0 Design Process**

- 4.1 Good design requires that these issues be considered at an early stage. By doing so, most if not all of the above issues can be identified and addressed.
- 4.2 Early consultations with stakeholders is designed to ensure that the appropriate solutions are introduced for the routes being treated. The use of longer plateaus reduces the impact on buses and emergency service vehicles and the use of these is promoted on sensitive routes.
- 4.3 Furthermore, Highway Authorities have a statutory duty to consult the police (Highways Act 1980) when road hump schemes are proposed for a road or area and they must also post notices in the street and in local papers advertising the scheme. The 1999 Highways (Road Hump) Regulations require consultation with the fire service, ambulance service and organisations representing those who use the road. This process allows designers to identify issues causing concern locally and to tailor the solution to address specific issues that are highlighted.
- 4.4 In terms of environmental considerations, careful design in relation to the spacing of features will avoid the acceleration, deceleration features which leads to increased noise and vibration. Whilst some studies show that there may be an increase in exhaust emissions and braking particulates, these have to be set against the potential road safety and environmental benefits associated with a reduction in collision numbers and severity and achieving modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport. In addition, the design of the traffic calming measures will take into account proximity to properties and prevailing atmospheric conditions to ensure that public health is not compromised.
- 4.5 In maintenance terms, care is also taken to ensure that the existing carriageway surface is free of defects prior to the introduction of traffic calming and that the scheme is designed to support continuation of drainage runs. However, seasonal conditions do inevitably create strains where leaf fall around features places additional demands on street cleansing practices.

## **5.0 Funding Mechanisms for the introduction of traffic calming schemes**

- 5.1 There are currently three principal sources of funding available to introduce speed control measures to support a 20mph limit in residential areas. These are Welsh Government Road Safety Grant, Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities funding and Members resources via Community Budget/ Fund allocations.
- 5.2 The Welsh Government Road Safety Grant is specifically targeted at accident reduction. The bid process requires detailed analysis of collisions on the route applied for and identifying common patterns of issues. The bid requires an assessment on how the implemented measures will help in reducing the severity and frequency of these collisions and a cost benefit analysis of the suggested improvement. The grant condition requires the authority to monitor the success of the scheme in achieving the targeted outcomes.
- 5.3 The Safe Routes in Communities grant does not place the same emphasis on collision and casualty reduction. This funding is targeted at removing obstacles to sustainable modes of travel in communities, particularly around schools. However, in developing a case for intervention it is necessary to describe the barriers to creating safer walking and cycling routes. Invariably this involves examining the collision statistics in the area as well as demonstrating that excessive speeds are causing local concern and restricting the potential to how local residents choose to make their journeys. However, as with the Road Safety Grant, the Local Authority are required to submit annual monitoring of schemes implemented showing the success of the measures against stated anticipated outcomes.
- 5.4 The final mechanism generally used to introduce measures to address local concerns is through the Community Fund/Budget allocations provided to enable Members to consider issues that are causing concern locally. Whilst these schemes do not require the same levels of analysis as those funded by Welsh Government, the design process has to be similarly rigorous to ensure that the schemes meet the requirements of the local communities.

## **6.0 National 20mph rollout**

- 6.1 At present, the Council make decisions about those routes and areas where the targeted introduction of 20mph limits and zones will provide the greatest benefit to local communities. In fact, a significant number of schools already benefit from 20mph limits on the surrounding highway network. However, Welsh Government are, in conjunction with Local Authorities, developing proposal which will see the default speed limit in built up areas lowered to 20mph. The current programme for this will see the legislation for this be passed by Welsh Government later this year with the physical change taking place on roads in May 2023.

6.2 However, the Welsh government have yet to develop firm proposals. Once this information becomes available, consideration could be given to a further report on this matter.

## **7. Financial implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **8. Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **9. Integrated Assessment Implications**

9.1 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.

9.1.1 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'.

9.1.2 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.

9.2 As noted, this report is for information only. An IIA assessment will be undertaken to consider the impact on the community and different user groups of any proposed road safety interventions.

**Background Papers:** None.



**Economy, Environment & Infrastructure PDC**  
**Work Plan - 2020 – 2022**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Report Summary</b>	<b>Report Author</b>
20 Jan 2022	<b>Climate Change Strategy.</b>		Rachel Lewis
20 Jan 2022	<b>Speed Control Measures in Residential Areas.</b>		Stuart Davies/Mark Thomas and Alan Feris
17 Feb 2022	<b>High Street Regeneration.</b>		Phil Holmes/Paul Relf
17 Feb 2022	<b>Empty Premises.</b>		Phil Holmes/Paul Relf
17 Mar 2022	<b>Street Lighting Policy.</b>		Stuart Davies/Jonathan Hurley/Roger Mulachy and Phil John)
17 Mar 2022	<b>Annual Report.</b>		Martin Nicholls

**For Consideration in 2022/2023 Municipal Year:**  
More Homes Housing and De-carbonisation Strategy.  
Llwybr-Newydd (the new Wales Transport Strategy).