

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix B

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

Which service area and directorate are you from?

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

Directorate: **Place**

Section 6 Biodiversity Action Plan for Swansea Council

Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

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

(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

This report is to seeks approval of the draft Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan for Swansea.

Since 2015, Swansea Council (together with all other public bodies) has been given increased responsibilities and legal duties to maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity in order to comply with the following legislation:

- 1.1. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Resilient Wales Goal: 'A nation which maintains and enhances 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)'
- 1.2. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Part 1) Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty which requires that: 'A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions'
- 1.3. Swansea Council has a legal duty to report to the Welsh Government every 3 years outlining actions undertaken to comply with the Statutory Biodiversity Duty
- 1.4. The Welsh Government has also committed to a '30x30' target, stating that they aim to protect "at least 30% of the land and 30% of the sea by 2030"
- 1.5. One of the key corporate wellbeing objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan is 'Delivering on Climate Change and Nature Recovery'

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix B

- 1.6. Swansea Council endorsed the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) 2023 produced by the Swansea Local Nature Partnership in October 2023

2. Action Plan Report Overview

Nature Emergency

- 2.1. Outside of policy drivers for Section 6 Biodiversity plans there is also a real need for them as a tool in delivering nature recovery as we are in a nature emergency. The Senedd and Swansea Council declared nature emergencies in 2021, species are declining in abundance and distribution, habitats and protected sites are in poor condition and overall ecosystem resilience is poor. There is therefore the urgent need for coordinated and cohesive action at all scales to achieve nature recovery.

The draft Section 6 action plan (see link at appendix A) sets out the actions the Council proposes to take between now and December 2025 to meet its obligations under its Biodiversity Duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and contribute to the Welsh Government's 30x 30 targets for nature recovery.

- 2.2. Actions have been set out under the six key objectives of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\) for Wales](#) and the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan [add link](#) as set out below:

1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.
2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management.
3. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.
4. Tackle key pressures on species and habitats.
5. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.
6. Put in place a framework of governance and support delivery.

- 2.3. Some of the actions listed in the Plan are aspirational and long-term, we don't expect to complete them all by December 2025

- 2.4. Other actions reflect day to day work already being undertaken that contribute to nature recovery.

- 2.5. Many of the actions are dependent on, and subject to available funding and staff resources.

- 2.6. This action plan is a living document which will be reviewed and reported on annually.

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

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix B

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

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

- 3 The Section 6 Action Plan has been created with:
- feedback from Heads of Service questionnaire, group presentations/workshops with individual teams and the CC&NR Programme board and Steering Group plus written feedback, and suggestions from Heads of Service.
 - Key global, national, and regional legislation, policies, and plans in mind,
 - Consultation with the Climate & Nature STC Committee.
 - Awareness raising workshops and pilot projects with specific teams.

It is intended to review progress towards achieving the actions outlined in the Action Plan on a regular (annual) basis and to report to Welsh Government every 3 years

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

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?
Yes
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix B

Yes

- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

If yes, please provide details below

Yes, the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan will potentially impact all Council Services directly and indirectly in a positive manner. The section 6 Action Plan will provide the overarching framework to inform and direct actions the council will undertake to contribute to nature recovery.

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

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

The cumulative impact on people and communities will be low but positive. The Section 6 plan will help to coordinate and direct nature recovery action across all council services which will hopefully benefit everyone in Swansea long term. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity is clearly associated with improved health and wellbeing by providing access to biodiverse greenspaces to exercise, socialise, play and enjoy nature. Exposure to nature facilitates social interaction and is calming and inspiring, lowering stress and improving mental health and cognitive development. So, the Council's Section 6 Action Plan will provide long term health and well-being benefits to local communities as well as benefiting nature. Alongside the environmental and health benefits of nature there are numerous well documented economic benefits.

Outcome of Screening

Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:

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

Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix B

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

The Swansea Council Section 6 Plan has been created with consultation and input from all Heads of Services as well as regard to relevant national, and subnational policies and legislation, evidence reports and community consultations. The plan will also have been reviewed by the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board and Steering Group.

The plan will contribute to Swansea Council's Corporate Objective for Climate Change and Nature Recovery, and will assist the Council in delivering its Well-being Duty, especially with regard to the 'Resilient Wales Goal', under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It will also ensure compliance with the Council's Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

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

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

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

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

Screening completed by:
Name: Deb Hill
Job title: Nature Conservation Team Leader
Date: 6 February 2024
Approval by Head of Service:
Name: Phil Holmes
Position: Head of Strategic Planning and City Regeneration
Date: 6 Feb 2024

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