



## Report of the Convener

### Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 14 May 2024

#### Panel Review of the Year 2023-24

<b>Purpose:</b>	As the municipal year ends, it is good practice to reflect on the Panel's work, experience, and effectiveness.
<b>Content:</b>	A summary of the year's activities is provided.
<b>Councillors are being asked to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflect on the year's work; and</li><li>• Share ideas to improve the effectiveness of Scrutiny.</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor:</b>	Councillor Sara Keeton, Convener of the Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel
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#### 1. Background

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

#### 2. Panel Overview

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

- 2.2 Possible lines of enquiry - To regularly review performance including asking questions about performance and improvement, focusing on outcomes, provision and leadership. To look at relevant data, commissioning reviews and anything that impacts on Climate Change and Nature in Swansea.
- 2.3 The Panel has a membership of 9 councillors. Overall Councillor attendance at the Panel for the year has been 73% to end of April 2024.
- 2.4 In accordance with the agreed Scrutiny Work Programme, the Panel has met every two months. During the 2023-24 municipal year, 6 meetings have been held. Meeting discussions have regularly been reported on by the local press, indicating the Panel has been focussed on issues of public interest.
- 2.5 The Panel has written to relevant Cabinet Members, to convey its views including suggested action, arising from meeting discussions. Letters, and responses where requested, were reported back to the Panel for comments and discussion as necessary.

### 3. Climate Change and Nature Work Programme 2023-24

Date	Items Discussed
4 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Convener</li> <li>• Draft Work Plan 2023-24</li> </ul>
3 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality, Management and Pollution Control</li> <li>• Planning Enforcement: Nature and Biodiversity (Discussion on how to encourage people to look at biodiversity within planning applications, for example, checklist/toolkit on biodiversity)</li> </ul>
28 November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Tourism briefing</li> </ul>
30 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Electric Vehicle Charging Provision</li> </ul>
19 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Flood Risk Management – Annual Update (including discussion on Drainage Systems/Services)</li> <li>• Air Quality Management</li> </ul>
14 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change Update (including achievement against corporate priorities/objectives/policy commitments)</li> <li>• Nature and Biodiversity Update (including achievement against corporate priorities/objectives/policy commitments)</li> <li>• Panel Review of the Year</li> </ul>

#### **4. Future Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 4.1 The future work programme for 2024-25 will be discussed and agreed at the first Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting in the new municipal year (16 July 2024).