

# Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form – Appendix A

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

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Planning & City Regeneration

Directorate:Place

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

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

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

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

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

This project recommends that the council:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**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                       No X

c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?

Yes                       No X

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

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**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

X

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

Yes                      X No                      If yes, please provide details below

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

X Yes                       No                      If yes, please provide details below

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

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

Yes                      X No

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

For more about the Information Asset Register, please see <https://staffnet.swansea.gov.uk/informationassetregister>

**Q9** What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and*

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

There are no direct impacts on any of these groups.

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## Outcome of Screening

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

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q9)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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