

WORKING WITH NATURE

A Swansea Local Well-being Plan Objective

improve health · enhance biodiversity · reduce our carbon footprint

ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

INTRODUCTION

The Swansea Local Well-being Plan, *Working Together to Build a Better Future*, was published by Swansea Public Services Board (PSB) in May 2018 presenting a vision for Swansea with four main objectives and a cross-cutting action to improve the well-being of people in Swansea. The Plan outlined a number of short-, medium- and long-term steps that partners will take together to progress each of the objectives.

One of the four objectives in the Swansea Local Well-being Plan is *Working with Nature* which highlights the importance of the natural environment to health and well-being and sets out proposals for increasing green infrastructure and biodiversity, reducing our carbon footprint and improving our understanding of natural resources and sustainability. A task group with representatives of PSB members was formed to develop and deliver an action plan for this objective.

This **action plan** initially outlines how the agreed short-term steps for the Working with Nature objective will be delivered. The action plan will help direct and document the work of the Working with Nature Task Group and will provide a useful tool for reporting on progress to the Swansea PSB, Welsh Government and other bodies. This is a working document and will therefore be amended and updated on a regular basis to reflect progress and new ideas.

Some of the Working with Nature actions included in this action plan were agreed in late 2017 / early 2018, prior to the well-being plan being finalised, and work on some actions may have started before the Plan was published. Nevertheless, it is important that they are included in the action plan to ensure that progress made with the agreed steps is fully taken into account within monitoring and reporting processes.

The Local Well-being Plan and the underpinning action plans focus specifically on the priorities and actions of the PSB and its partners. Whilst it is recognised that many other organisations and projects make significant contributions to the well-being of people in Swansea, including the areas of work highlighted by the Working with Nature objective, these are not part of this action plan. It may be appropriate to make reference to relevant actions and activities of others in progress reports but the Task Group will also consider other ways to capture and celebrate the actions of others.

The **appendices** to this action plan outline how the Working with Nature objective will help deliver the Well-being Goals and Ways of Working in The Well-being of Future Generations Act and ensure strong links and integration with the other objectives of the Swansea Local Well-being Plan.

1. Green Infrastructure: *Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Swansea and work with communities to understand and engage with the opportunities for implementation. This includes the opportunities for urban green infrastructure as well as accessing open greenspaces and the public sector estate.*

Actions	Details	Lead / Support	Outputs / milestones
<p>1.1 Green Infrastructure Strategy: Develop, adopt and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Swansea.</p>	<p>i) The Strategy will include a vision, provide an evidence base, identify opportunities and include a Green Space Factor Tool for assessing the level of green space (using a permeability factor) required for urban areas and developments.</p> <p>ii) Initially, a strategy document focused on the city centre will be developed and published and then expanded to cover the whole county.</p> <p>iii) The strategy is to be adopted by PSB partners and form the basis for Supplementary Planning Guidance which will set standards and include a checklist.</p>	<p>Fran Rolfe, NRW / Deb Hill, Swansea Council</p> <p>GI Strategy Project Group</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Consultancy</p>	<p>a) Develop and publish strategy for city centre (spring 2019)</p> <p>b) Deliver public and stakeholder involvement events (Feb-Apr 2019)</p> <p>c) Carry out public consultation activities</p> <p>d) Develop and publish county-wide strategy (Dec 2019)</p> <p>e) Develop and adopt a GI SPG (Dec 2019)</p> <p>f) Secure adoption of GI strategy by PSB members and partners (Mar 2020)</p> <p>g) Develop and publish implementation plan (Mar 2020)</p>
<p>1.2 Urban Tree Planting: Investigate and deliver opportunities for urban tree planting across Swansea.</p>	<p>i) Using opportunity mapping from other projects to identify areas suitable for planting trees within the urban areas of Swansea, including identifying constraints, at both large scale and ward levels.</p> <p>ii) Collaborate with Trees for Cities to identify sites suitable for large scale tree planting schemes.</p> <p>iii) Support community-led tree planting projects.</p> <p>iv) Encourage PSB members and partners to include tree planting actions in their corporate plans.</p> <p>v) Work in partnership to secure resources to support large scale and community tree planting schemes.</p>	<p>Deb Hill, Swansea Council</p> <p>NRW / ABMU</p> <p>Coed Cymru / SEF (Green Spaces Project)</p>	<p>a) Identify areas for urban tree planting using multi-PSB GI mapping (2018)</p> <p>b) Deliver tree planting schemes in three sites in Castle Ward (March 2019)</p> <p>c) Deliver first phase of Trees for Cities scheme (March 2019)</p> <p>d) Support three community-led projects (April 2019)</p> <p>e) Deliver first phase of a targeted tree planting scheme to address air quality issues (early 2020)</p>
<p>1.3 Green Spaces: Improve the quality and use of Swansea's open green spaces and the public sector estate.</p>	<p>i) Support communities to improve and manage their local green spaces.</p> <p>ii) Pilot a community-based green infrastructure improvement project in collaboration with Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend PSBs.</p> <p>iii) Investigate and maximise opportunities to improve the use of the public sector-owned green spaces.</p>	<p>Philip McDonnell, SEF (Green Spaces Project)</p> <p>Swansea Council NRW / PHW</p>	<p>a) Maintain the Community Green Spaces Initiative (ongoing)</p> <p>b) Deliver tree planting schemes in three sites in Castle Ward (March 2019)</p> <p>c) Collate information on public sector estate (tbc)</p> <p>d) Establish a public-sector working group to identify opportunities and actions (tbc)</p>

2. Ecosystem Services (Natural benefits): *Understand, and raise awareness of, the ecosystem services provided throughout the county. Reduce the risks and enhance opportunities around these.*

Actions	Details	Lead / Support	Outputs / milestones
<p>2.1 Ecosystem Services Mapping: Map ecosystem services across Swansea and improve understanding of the opportunities they present.</p>	<p>i) Map existing ecosystem services to identify deficiencies and issues to be addressed ii) Map at a more detailed, micro-level (e.g. by ward or strategic area) to help identify priorities iii) Raise awareness and understanding amongst decision-makers / partners of ecosystem services and embed in practices. iv) Explore opportunities for making use of ecosystems mapping to influence decision-making and practices (e.g. fire service)</p>	<p>Max Stokes, NRW / Deb Hill, Swansea Council</p>	<p>a) Macro-level mapping completed (spring 2018) b) Micro-level mapping undertaken (????) c) Ecosystem mapping training/awareness-raising sessions delivered to decision-makers and partners (????) d) Ecosystem mapping used by at least four PSB partners (????)</p>
<p>2.2 Vulnerable Species: Seek opportunities to support vulnerable and degraded species and habitats.</p>	<p>i) Maintain and develop local Nature Partnership ii) Produce local Nature Recovery Action Plan</p>	<p>Steve Bolchover, Swansea Local Nature Partnership / Deb Hill, Swansea Council</p>	<p>a) Vulnerabilities are identified and mapped. b) Nature Recovery Action Plan produced (????) c) Mitigation and compensation opportunities through the planning system are taken to improve habitats and connectivity</p>
<p>2.3 Pollinators: Develop a local partnership project to promote pollinators and raise biodiversity awareness.</p>	<p>i) Identify areas and implement measures to promote pollinators ii) Explore Bee-friendly City status and encourage all public sector partners to participate</p>	<p>Fran Rolfe, NRW / Deb Hill, Swansea Council</p>	<p>a) Build on work by Buglife using the B-Lines mapping / pollinator project (on-going) b) Apply for Bee-friendly City status (????)</p>

3. Carbon Reduction and Offsetting: *Understand the risks posed by climate change to Swansea and the size of our carbon footprint. Identify and implement opportunities to reduce this. Opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint includes transport and waste (circular economy).*

Actions	Details	Lead / Support	Outputs / milestones
3.1 Climate Change Risk Assessment: Undertake a Climate Change Risk Assessment to understand the longer-term risks to Swansea.	i) Review existing risk assessments and risk management structures	TBC	TBC
3.2 Carbon Footprinting: Understand Swansea's carbon footprint and the opportunities to reduce this collaboratively.	i) Explore approaches and methodologies for measuring Swansea's carbon footprint ii) Coordinate Low Carbon Swansea Bay network events and activities	Swansea Environmental Forum / Low Carbon Swansea Bay network	a) Maintain and expand Low Carbon Swansea Bay network b) LCSB presentation to PSB c) Collaborative projects developed d) Carbon footprint measured and reduced

4. Improving Knowledge and Understanding: *Undertake initiatives to increase awareness around environmental challenges (such as the decline in biodiversity) and opportunities (such as the availability of greenspace).*

Actions	Details	Lead / Support	Outputs / milestones
4.1 Staff Environmental Awareness Programme: Develop staff environmental awareness programme to be used across PSB partners.	i) Develop and deliver awareness training on WBFGA and Environment Act suitable for all staff across PSB partners	TBC	a) Scope out and develop awareness raising programme (????) b) Deliver awareness raising programme (????)
4.2 Wider Engagement and Involvement: Organise events to promote the Working with Nature objective and wider driver diagram.	i) Organise a series of talks and events to promote the Working with Nature objective and action plan, and associated concepts and issues ii) Develop a plan for monitoring the delivery of actions in support of the wider driver diagram	Swansea Environmental Forum / The Environment Centre	

Swansea Local Well-being Plan: *Working with Nature* Objective and the Seven Well-being Goals

	1. Green Infrastructure	2. Ecosystem Services (<i>Natural benefits</i>)	3. Carbon Reduction and Offsetting	4. Improving Knowledge and Understanding
A Prosperous Wales				
A Resilient Wales				
A Healthier Wales				
A More Equal Wales				
A Wales of Cohesive Communities				
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language				
A Globally Responsible Wales				

Swansea Local Well-being Plan: *Working with Nature* Objective and the Five Ways of Working

	1. Green Infrastructure	2. Ecosystem Services (<i>Natural benefits</i>)	3. Carbon Reduction and Offsetting	4. Improving Knowledge and Understanding
Long Term – balancing short-term needs with long term needs.				
Prevention – stopping problems happening or getting worse.				
Integration – thinking about how this plan works with other plans.				
Collaboration – working together with other services to meet our goals.				
Involvement – involving people so they have a say in decisions.				

Swansea Local Well-being Plan: *Working with Nature* Objective and the Other Local Objectives

	1. Green Infrastructure	2. Ecosystem Services (<i>Natural benefits</i>)	3. Carbon Reduction and Offsetting	4. Improving Knowledge and Understanding
Early Years – To make sure children in Swansea have the best start in life to be the best they can be.				
Live Well, Age Well – To make Swansea a great place to live well and age well.				
Strong Communities – To build strong communities with a sense of pride and belonging				
Sharing for Swansea – To work towards integrated public services in Swansea by sharing resources, assets and expertise. To develop a common language and making every contact count to maximise the contributions to Swansea’s well-being goals.				