



Report of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance and Strategy

Council – 7 July 2022

Policy Commitments Statement

Purpose:	To provide an outline of Council Policy Commitments for the City and County of Swansea for the next 5 years.
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	N/A
Recommendation(s):	1) It is recommended that Council adopts the Policy Commitments Statement as set out in Appendix A.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the election of the new Labour Administration on the 5th May 2022, the Authority wishes to establish a number of new Policy Commitments, attached as Appendix A, each helping to deliver Swansea Council's overall vision and key priorities within its Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 It should be noted that further work may take place surrounding the full scope of these commitments, which will be reflected in future corporate plans, policies and strategic documents.
- 1.3 Swansea Council will continue to work in partnership to promote and develop the well-being of all our citizens and our communities. We will work co-operatively and co-productively both within the council as well as

with other bodies/organisations and put the well-being of our citizens and communities at the heart of everything we do.

- 1.4 As outlined in the Corporate Plan 2022-23, we are building on three clear values (*People Focus, Working Together and Innovation*) which guide the way that we work, how we develop as an organisation and our decision-making through the years ahead.
- 1.5 Our plans and priorities will be underpinned by three key principles – *Sustainability, Prevention and Partnerships*. These principles are essential to deliver our well-being objectives and will be woven into the way that we work.

2. Corporate Priorities

2.1 Council are asked to adopt the Corporate Policy Commitments Statement, which in turn will be used to inform the Corporate Plan and council priorities for 2022-27. Over time, the themes identified in the Policy Commitments Statement will be built into the Authority's local plans, policies and strategies.

2.2 Our priorities for 2022-23, that are set out within our Corporate Plan, are:

- **Safeguarding people from harm** - so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- **Improving education and skills** - so that every child and young person in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- **Transforming our economy and infrastructure** - so that Swansea has a thriving mixed-use City Centre and town centres, and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- **Tackling poverty** - so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- **Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change** – so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change with the aim of being a net zero council by 2030 and a net zero city by 2050.
- **Transformation and future council development** - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

3. Policy Commitments

3.1 The Policy Commitments Statement is contained within Appendix A and is based upon the published manifesto commitments, covering a broad range of issues.

4. Integrated Impact Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) 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 Act.
 - 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.
- 4.2 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'.
- 4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.
- 4.4 This Statement lists the policy commitments to be adopted by Council. Whilst the Statement will have a positive impact on the groups listed in the IIA, each individual commitment will need to be clearly defined and built into Corporate / service plans and subjected to consultation and engagement and individual IIAs as appropriate.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications arising directly from simply adopting this report, acceptance of the actions contained within the report may result in additional expenditure at a future time which will be dealt with by appropriate and subsequent cabinet reports if additional revenue or capital funding is required.
- 5.2 The first substantial tranche of funding will be aided and assisted by the replenishment of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) once the outturn position is agreed at Cabinet in July.
- 5.3 Acceptance of this statement does not mean further additional resources will be made available beyond those in the Economic Recovery Fund, once that is replenished, or already budgeted for 2022-23 and it should be assumed for now that all future spending needs will need to be contained within existing budget and medium-term financial plan provisions and specifically set aside reserves levels.

- 5.4 That assumption regarding overall future revenue spending will be dependent upon the level of future local government finance settlements and decisions to be made by Council on levels of future Council Tax as part of the annual budget cycle and medium-term planning. Overall real terms future revenue resources are likely to remain significantly constrained given current inflation pressures and expectations.
- 5.5 Capital investment decisions and the associated funding requirement will be primarily a function of decisions by Council regarding the broad level of capital versus revenue spending, including any further amounts that Council may decide to budget for capital financing (borrowing), capital receipts from ongoing asset disposals, continued successful access to large scale capital funding programmes and future funding flexibilities.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Legal advice and assistance will be provided where necessary in relation to the policy commitments.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A - Policy Commitments Statement 2022-27

Appendix B - IIA