



Report of the Cabinet Members for Service Transformation and Corporate Service and Performance

Climate Change and Nature Scrutiny Performance Panel – 13 September 2022

OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE RECOVERY IN SWANSEA

Purpose	To receive an overview on the Council's current and future planned strategies and actions in relation to Climate Change and Nature Recovery
Content	This report includes a summary of the current position in relation to the work of the Climate Change and Nature Conservation Teams. It outlines how the new Corporate Wellbeing Objective for Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change is planned to be met. It also includes for information details of the 2019 Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations which remain in the process of being implemented. A progress report against these recommendations is scheduled to be reported to this Panel in March 2023.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the update report and raise any questions relating to the content
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillors Andrea Lewis and David Hopkins - Cabinet Members for Service Transformation and Corporate Service and Performance
Lead Officer	Geoff Bacon, Head of Property Services
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1. Overview

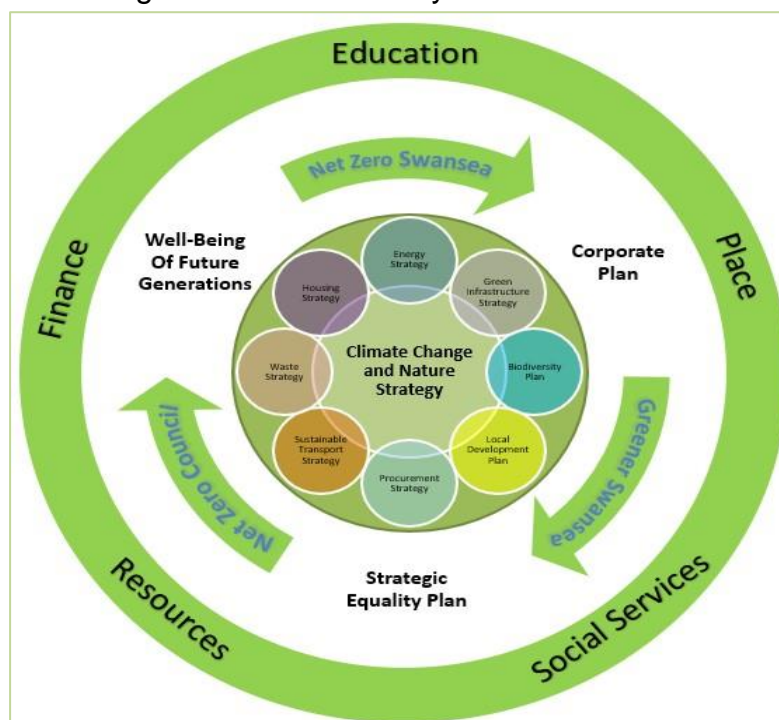
- 1.1 The Climate Change and Nature Recovery agenda is evolving rapidly and over the last 18 months two reports have been approved by Cabinet and Council (Nov 2020 & Nov 2021).
- 1.2 A report was also presented to the Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Development Committee in March 2022 providing a status update, whilst also proposing projects for a forward plan.

- 1.3 In recognition of the urgency needed to tackle the significant challenges posed by Climate Change and Biodiversity loss, the Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019 followed in November 2021 by a Nature Emergency declaration.
- 1.4 The new 'Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change' corporate well-being objective was approved at July 7th 2022 Council meeting. Please refer to **Appendix A** which provides a suite of evidence to back up how the Council will meet the proposed objective and how it links to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

2. Climate Change & Nature Recovery Governance

- 2.1 Governance has advanced and continues to adapt to ensure we keep a clear focus on:

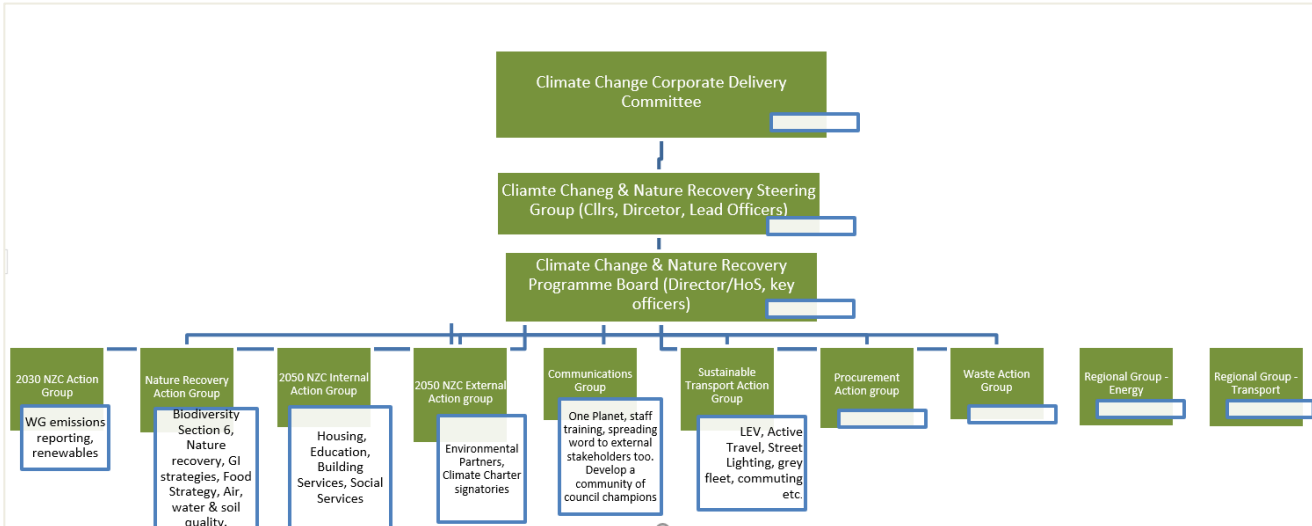
- Swansea Council Achieving net zero carbon by 2030
- Swansea achieving net zero carbon by 2050
- Delivering on Nature Recovery



- 2.2 The majority of strategies under this new well-being objective have been approved or are imminent with both the Street Lighting and Sustainable Transport Strategies and the Council's Biodiversity Plan due for approval in coming months.

3. Internal Reporting

3.1 Focus must now turn to delivery with an expectation that each priority area develops a sound action plan that can be reported on annually.



4. External Reporting

4.1 Emissions

To date Swansea has submitted two years of data – 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 to Welsh Government. We are currently working on the 2021-22 submission which is due for return on 9th September 2022. There will be new additions e.g. commuting emissions.

Once the data has been collated for 2021-22, the intention is that the team take a report to Cabinet and Council later this year outlining options to ensure delivery of the net zero council target for 2030 and respective funds required to achieve the target.

4.2 Nature Recovery - Council Biodiversity (Section 6) Plan and Nature Recovery Action Plan

As required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Biodiversity Duty, in December 2019 the Council submitted its first monitoring report outlining actions it had taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. This is currently being reviewed in line with the Welsh Government's 3-year reporting cycle. A part time Biodiversity (Section 6) Officer has been appointed to oversee this process and to develop a Council Biodiversity Action Plan for the next 3 years (to Dec 2025).

In collaboration with members of the Local Nature Partnership, we are also currently reviewing and updating the Local Biodiversity Action Plan to produce a Nature Recovery Action Plan for Swansea.

To support working with partners to develop and implement opportunities to enhance biodiversity a number of new posts have been created within the Council's Nature Conservation Team during 21/22, including a Local Nature Partnership Officer, a Woodland Officer and Additionally three temporary grant funded Community Greenspace Officers and a Volunteer Co-ordinator have also been appointed to begin the process of mapping existing biodiversity and Green Infrastructure assets within each ward. They are working with the local community to identify opportunities for enhancement and improving ecosystem resilience, as well as engaging local groups and volunteers in helping to deliver practical improvements, such as tree and wildflower planting, community growing and habitat management.

The former Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel were monitoring the ongoing implementation of the long -term recommendations arising from the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry in 2019, some of which remain outstanding with target dates for implementation or completion by the end of this financial year. Progress is monitored via an Action Log which is included for information only as **Appendix B**, and progress against these recommendations is scheduled to be reported to this Committee in March 2023.