

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 and City Regeneration, Natural Environment Section

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:

Report to Planning Committee on 5th December 2023 seeking authorisation to consult on the Draft replacement Swansea Countryside Access Plan 2023-2033. This statutorily required document, otherwise known as the Rights of Way Improvement Plan assesses all aspects of the present condition of the public path network, i.e., public footpaths, bridleways and Access Land within the City and County of Swansea and identifies how this resource can be better managed and improved over the course of the next decade.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 plan is an aspect of the work of the Countryside Access Team that will be considered by the Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Working Group on 22nd November and will then be reported to Planning Committee on 5th December 2023 for public consultation authorisation. There is a statutory public consultation period of 12 weeks. The oversight of preparation and monitoring of the plan falls under the remit of the Swansea Local Access Forum. The forum is an independent group with a balanced representation of the interests of recreational access users including those less mobile, land managers and owners, together with representation of other interests especially relevant to access in the areas such as conservation and tourism. The preparation of the plan is also monitored by Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government and linked to future funding provision on which its implementation is dependent.

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 No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?
Yes No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?
Yes No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
Yes No

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

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

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

It will help meet the Gower AONB Management Plan’s objective of making 95% of public paths within the Gower AONB achieve the ‘easy to use’ standard.

It supports the Swansea Destination Management Plan 2023-2026 which identifies walking as the most popular activity for visitors to the area.

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

Yes No **If yes, please provide details below**

Online launch of public consultation on the draft plan and publication of the final version of this replacement plan on the external website

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 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?

The County's path network and Access Land are valuable economic and well-being assets, which need to be maintained, enhanced, and promoted to encourage walking, cycling, and riding. The path network enables visitors year-round to enjoy the County's natural landscape, helping to drive sustainable growth of the tourism economy. There are also significant health and wellbeing benefits of walking in the open countryside. Maintaining and improving the path network is a statutory requirement for the Council and can:

- Improve access to healthcare, leisure, recreation, and other community facilities
- Create environments that support and promote walking and cycling as integral elements of a sustainable transport system
- Support the development of safe, accessible places and spaces
- Create environments that encourage and support good health, well-being, and equality

Highways legislation requires the Council through this plan to have regard to the needs of people with mobility problems when authorising the erection of stiles, gates, or other furniture on public rights of way. Compliance with British Standards imposes conditions on the design and maintenance of these structures where they are needed for livestock control purposes.

The plan enables the Council to assess the needs of people with mobility problems and to determine which routes should have priority for improved access for such users. The plan also applies 'Least Restrictive Access' considerations, seeking to minimise barriers when replacing and installing gates and stiles, in agreement with the landowner.

Tackling physical barriers on public rights of way is only one part of providing better access to the countryside for disabled people and consideration is also given to publicity, parking, and other relevant facilities.

In preparing this plan consideration has been given to how the path network meets the current and future needs of users, including blind people and people with mobility problems.

Welsh language is given equal prominence with English. All route promotional material is bilingual, using text of the same size and prominence for both languages and where appropriate, commonly used symbols is used on signage instead of language.

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)**

The improvement and maintenance of public rights of way has a positive impact on those who use the path network and encourages greater use of it by residents and visitors to the area. Walking as an activity has both economic and health benefits and improving/extending path connections assists with community cohesion, provides more sustainable travel options and enables better access for all.

Preparation of this plan involves consideration by Scrutiny Working Group, Swansea Local Access Forum (with Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government input) and Planning Committee, followed by 12 week public consultation. The feedback from the consultation will be reported back to Planning Committee/Council next Spring together with an updated version of the plan for adoption.

The Plan has been prepared with full consideration of the Council's duties to work towards Wales' seven shared wellbeing goals and to contribute to sustainable development and management of natural resources.

There are no risks to preparation and adoption of this statutorily required plan. Not having an adopted plan in place would however pose a risk, as there would be less grant income made available and therefore less maintenance and improvement works being carried out, leading to path closures the majority of which lie within the coastal access zone. This would prevent access to most beaches as these can only be accessed via the path network and in turn impact on the visitor economy.

There are significant statutory requirements associated with managing, maintaining, protecting, and recording the path network. Adoption of this plan will meet the Council's duties in this regard, make the countryside as accessible to as many walkers and riders as possible, and encourage people from all backgrounds to take part in countryside access.

(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.

Screening completed by:
Name: Paul Meller
Job title: Natural Environment Manager
Date: 8 th November 2023
Approval by Head of Service:
Name:
Position:
Date: