



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

Council – 5 October 2023

### Policy Commitments Progress

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report seeks to summarise progress of the Policy Commitments adopted by Council in July 2022.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance, Access to Services.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Emily Davies
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Roach
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar
<b>For Information</b>	

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Policy Commitment Statement (see appendix A) was adopted by Council on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022, outlining the commitments aimed at helping to deliver Swansea Council's overall vision and key priorities within its Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 It should be noted that not all actions have been detailed in this report, as many aspects continue to evolve and progress on a daily or weekly basis.
- 1.3 Swansea Council continues 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 2023-28, our priorities are:

- **Safeguarding people from harm** - so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- **Improving Education and Skills** - so that everyone 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 a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- **Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities** - 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.
- **Transformation and Financial Resilience** - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

## 2. Policy Commitments Progress

2.1 This Policy Commitments Progress Report covers a broad range of areas, set out herewith to include a summary of progress and / or current positions regarding each commitment.

2.2 The tracking data relating to each individual commitment is presented in Appendix B (Policy Commitments Tracker).

2.3 A summary of each commitment and related progression is outlined as follows:

### Education

**2.3.1** Swansea Council is committed to investing £1 billion for better education, including £150 million investment in new and better schools. £215 million of total revenue funding is being provided to Education and schools in 2023-2024. Programmes are needing to take account of increases in construction costs.

**2.3.2** We are keeping school leadership standards high in Swansea. A Stress Management Counsellor was recruited to begin work with schools from September 2022, and a regional offer of leadership development is now in place. The CDC has considered the development of a standardised handbook for new and acting headteachers, which was published for all headteachers and their senior leadership teams after the February 2023 half-term. ERF funding has been extended to allow the project to continue whilst a sustainable delivery model is being worked on.

**2.3.3** We committed to mapping out future priorities, in line with our Quality in Education (QED) / Sustainable Communities for

Learning programme. Cabinet workshops have been held to consider school organisation options aligned to the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

- 2.3.4** Swansea Council have commenced the upgrade works at Cefn Hengoed Community School, progressing our £7million investment in a new community sports barn in Bonymaen. The construction phase is underway, with planned completion in Autumn 2023.
- 2.3.5** We have begun delivery of new special school facilities. The timeline has been approved and a strategic outline case approved by Welsh Government; however, further approval is required for revised scope due to increased projected demand for school placements. Initial ground investigations have been completed and a contractor will be appointed at the relevant stage.
- 2.3.6** The council has expanded free school meal provision and sought to implement a freeze on school meal prices. Universal free school meals were rolled out to all Reception pupils in September 2022 and to all Year 1 and Year 2 pupils in April 2023. Universal free school meals will be rolled out to all Key Stage 2 pupils by 2024. Meal prices were frozen for September 2022 - the fourth year of freezing paid school meal prices.
- 2.3.7** We have commenced the new regional partnership arrangements; the South West Wales Education Partnership is a regional collaborative arrangement designed to promote excellence in all of our schools. Regional arrangements commenced in April 2022, and during the first six months a wide range of professional learning was offered to Swansea schools, refined to meet the needs of practitioners in Swansea. 'Partneriaeth' delivers national programmes for curriculum and leadership development. There is a suitable offer of professional learning to support equity in education and a strong offer to support Relationships and Sexuality Education.

### **Better Care**

- 2.3.8** Swansea Council has committed to investing £750 million for better care in Swansea. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) has now been approved and planning is in place for budget requirements over the next four years.
- 2.3.9** The council is committed to fairer pay for care workers. Significant increases in the cost of living have impacted upon RLW rates for 2023/24. A fees paper was produced as part of the budget setting process and was agreed for 2023/24. This has been completed for 2023/24 and work has now begun

towards understanding the impact of these increases on 2024/25.

**2.3.10** Swansea Council continues to strive to provide new children's care facilities within Swansea. Work is continuing with Welsh Government on legislative changes to support the elimination of profit from the care sector and to understand in better detail how this will impact the sector, provision and placements.

**2.3.11** We are seeking to provide better day care opportunities and respite services across the city. A strategy is in development and a review of existing provision is underway. Linked to the capital programme, an FPR7 report is in place to look at the re-design of services, taking into consideration an integrated hub approach.

**2.3.12** Swansea Council has developed, and continues to operate, a network of Local Area Co-ordinators (LACs) to cover the whole of Swansea. Local Area Co-ordinators are well established across all areas of Swansea and work continues on the development of opportunities and links to local and regional prevention and community co-ordination work streams.

**2.3.13** The council is undertaking a review of post-pandemic care provision. Workstreams / reviews have included Internal and external domiciliary care capacity review; development of an Assistive Technology Strategy; internal residential care provision review; workforce development programme - recruitment & retention; locality-based prevention and early intervention; and support for parents and carers.

**2.3.14** We have begun options appraisal and move to increase council direct delivery of care. Scoping of current demand and pressures is underway, and work has commenced around costs comparisons of in-house / external provision, focusing on any budget gaps that would need to be identified and sources to progress this.

**2.3.15** Swansea Council will continue to engage with health to ensure care plans align with health recovery. Transformation priorities have been aligned with the regional transformation agenda and supports shared objectives with partners across the region. Specific workstreams have been developed including:

- Homes First Model Development
- Prevention and Community Co-ordination
- Learning Disability & Wellbeing
- Transformation Complex Care
- Wellbeing & Mental Health
- Carers

**2.3.16** We are progressing a new children's care facility. Work has commenced in this area, and we have purchased one home for development and transformation. Recruitment and development of staff for this provision is underway. Work is ongoing to source a second property and additional work is ongoing to secure further regional funding for extra developments in this area.

## **Climate Change**

**2.3.17** Swansea Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. A delivery plan has now been approved, and activities continue to reduce emissions.

**2.3.18** We have supported delivery of the first phase of the Blue Eden Lagoon project, including the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) commissioned feasibility report which has now been completed.

**2.3.19** We continue to progress the development of a council-operated solar energy farm at the City's Tir John site, including a revised business case / method of delivery. As reported to Cabinet in May 2023, this will be dependent on recent Blue Eden discussions.

**2.3.20** Swansea Council continues to install more electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the county, supporting a move to more EV ownership. A new policy is currently being drafted, following successful bids and receipt of funding.

**2.3.21** The procurement process has commenced, in relation to installation of more LED street lighting.

**2.3.22** We are developing a new city-wide tree planting map allowing us to plant thousands of new trees in communities. The initial tree assessment of council-owned land in all wards has been completed. The county-wide tree canopy coverage and opportunity mapping project is due for completion at the end of June 2023. A tree management strategy is being updated to include planting sites. Approximately 300 trees were planted during 2022/23 (figures do not include tree whips). Currently, the maximum tree planting resource capacity is approximately 300 standard and heavy standard trees per annum.

**2.3.23** We continue to aim to make neighbourhood greening improvements. The 'Wild About Your Ward' greening improvement programme identified the four most deprived wards; this is now being rolled out. Our bid for three-year grant funding to roll out to all wards was unsuccessful, however ERF/WG Placemaking Greening schemes are being undertaken in district and local centres. ERF funding will

continue to support the provision of nature trails, and grant funding has been obtained to retain temporary staff leading the scheme delivery until March 2025.

**2.3.24** Swansea Council continues to review the council transport fleet to maximise opportunities for use of a green fleet in line with its green fleet strategy. The current fleet includes 73 electric vehicles, 12 hybrid vehicles, and 34 additional electric vehicles due for delivery imminently.

## **Communities**

**2.3.25** Swansea Council pledged to ensure the availability of dedicated resources to tackle weeds, litter, and minor works in every community, recruiting local ward operatives. Following the successful recruitment campaign, teams are now fully operational, and work is ongoing.

**2.3.26** We had committed to investment in our towns and villages. This has included the successful allocation of 92 grants, totalling £470,000. Further grants continue to be worked on.

**2.3.27** We committed to promote the free use of sports pitches for local sports clubs. This scheme has now been concluded, and a new pricing tariff going forward has been agreed.

**2.3.28** Swansea Council committed to improving public toilets. Improvement works continue to progress well, following the successful bid for the *Changing Places* grant. A contract for *Changing Places* has been awarded, and we now await details from suppliers regarding planning applications.

**2.3.29** The council continues to invest in parks and play areas. The first tranche of work is underway, with a framework now in place for the remaining work.

**2.3.30** We continue our work with partners and communities across Swansea to become a Human Rights City and to continue to embed our commitment to values of equality and diversity in everything we do. In December 2022, following 18 months of action, Swansea's PSB partners declared Swansea a Human Rights City. During those 18 months, a 'Rights in Your Pocket' guide was launched, a guide for organisations and Public Bodies as to how to embed a Human Rights based approach. Over 80 senior managers and officers from Swansea's PSB organisations took part in the British Institute of Human Rights training in September 2022 and April 2023. The next stage is for each PSB organisation that signed the HRC declaration to form their own action plans. On 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, an action plan engagement event was held, where over 100 community

leaders, business and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector leaders, people with lived experiences and young people attended. They shared with us the main issues for them, potential actions and what success looks like under each priority - feeding into the action plans.

**2.3.31** The council is working to complete bus shelter installations, reviewing current stock to confirm which shelters are to be upgraded. All advertising shelters have now been replaced. Eighteen bus shelters have been upgraded as part of the first round of ERF funding and an order has been submitted for a further fifteen shelters.

**2.3.32** Swansea Council committed to installing new bins and to replace dog waste bins with larger general bins. The first delivery of bins has been received and bin replacements are ongoing. Overall, the programme progressing well.

**2.3.33** We committed to the roll-out of new drainage teams and new PATCH (Priority Action Team for Community Highways) programmes. ERF drainage project funding has been extended with additional funding into 2023-24. Teams have displayed exceptional performance with a substantial increase in resilience in wet weather situations. New rain forecasting software is now in place in addition to new monitoring software. New wet weather routes have also been introduced.

**2.3.34** ERF 'PATCH' programme funding has been extended to 2023-24. The programme comprised two teams in early October, and all works are scheduled to complete within the target year. Additional funding is being discussed due to an increase in material costs. Additional funding will be required to allow the project to continue, or it will revert to pre-ERF levels.

**2.3.35** The council committed to commence the £10 million local road upgrades. The additional funding has been approved and allocated. The programme priorities have been agreed and the first schemes, including sections of Carmarthen Road and Townhill Road, have been completed. Most of the work is scheduled for 2023/24 and will be due to complete by the end of March 2025. An additional £3m over three years has been approved in June 2023.

**2.3.36** Swansea Council has revised community budget rules, following cabinet approval.

**2.3.37** We have progressed roll-out of free public Wi-Fi. Work undertaken has included the completion of options appraisals, agreeing a strategic approach and procurement of the solution. Implementation is now underway, and work continues to ensure state aid compliance.

- 2.3.38** We have investigated options for a substance use truth commission. Following a review with partner organisations, the independent Western Bay Drugs Commission (formerly known as the Western Bay Substance Use Truth Commission) was launched in December 2022. A Call for Evidence survey has been issued to commence and inform the work of the commission.
- 2.3.39** The council shall agree a local library plan including the Community Hub developments. Work is progressing on the Community Hub as an 'anchor' site for the future model. The MALD grant for the library facilities has been approved, and equipment for the new community space is in store. Project scope for the wider plan is now detailed within the Corporate Transformation Plan for governance purposes, and a project manager has been assigned from Property Services.
- 2.3.40** Swansea Council has sought to expand Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). A City Centre on-street PSPO has been operational since December 2021 with enforcement available from April 2022. Over 200 on-street engagements were undertaken by Rangers and 11 FPNs issued. A formal review of the scheme is to be conducted following conclusion of the ongoing Scrutiny process, looking at Swansea wide anti-social behaviour. ERF funding for additional resources has been secured for expansion to outlying areas, but the short-term timeline is prohibitive given recruitment issues and staff training requirements.
- 2.3.41** We have engaged with the police to improve visibility of local policing. Meetings continue to be scheduled with Cabinet Members, South Wales Police representatives and community safety officers; with a view to improving visibility across council members and communities. A joint set of priorities has been established and an action plan put in place.
- 2.3.42** Swansea Council had prepared to receive more refugees. Robust processes have been put in place using well established support mechanisms, however the level of arrivals is high, and this is pressurising temporary accommodation and delaying move-on options. Support is funded by the Welsh Government Ukraine Scheme, and other schemes are also in operation as funded by the Home Office.
- 2.3.43** We have progressed roll-out of the next generation CCTV systems. The contract has been awarded and implementation works have commenced. Work is progressing well although timelines are under pressure due to external factors.



## Housing

- 2.3.44** Swansea Council committed to providing more energy efficient homes and more affordable homes, alongside more investment in social housing. Schemes continue to progress at various stages of design, procurement, and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget.
- 2.3.45** We will deliver on the refurbishment and upgrade of remaining tower blocks. A contractor has been appointed for Croft Street and progress is being made on the detailed design stages.
- 2.3.46** The council committed to taking strong action against disruptive tenants. We continue to work in partnership with other agencies to address causes and to tackle anti-social behaviour. Guidelines are also being refreshed to reflect the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016.
- 2.3.47** The council committed to offer immediate support for people who become homeless and made a commitment to shorter housing waiting lists. The HSP Strategy has been approved by Cabinet, which included the on-going commitment to 'always a bed' pledge and to ensuring appropriate support is available for people who are or may become homeless, at the right time. Some uncertainty remains around funding for temporary accommodation.
- 2.3.48** The council has completed Welsh Quality Housing Standard One (WQHS1) and has begun planning WQHS2. Schemes are now progressing at various stages of design, procurement and site delivery to maximise spend of capital budget. We are awaiting an announcement from Welsh Government regarding WHQS2, but work is progressing in preparation.
- 2.3.49** The council has begun its review of the Council Housing Lettings Policy. The policy review is making good progress and the draft policy is due for consultation in Autumn 2023.
- 2.3.50** We remain committed to agreeing a strategy to support homeless individuals as the covid hotel use ends, whilst we strive to continue our 'always a bed' pledge. Work is ongoing to ensure people are moved on to appropriate accommodation with support at the earliest opportunity. There remains some long-term uncertainty around funding for temporary accommodation.
- 2.3.51** Swansea Council will continue onto the next phase of the more homes build, whilst maintaining progress on further retrofitting of council homes. Some schemes have experienced delays due

to capacity. External design is now being procured to increase capacity.

## **Regeneration**

**2.3.52** The council is delivering on the £1 billion regeneration of the City Centre and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash to develop seven key strategic sites. Progress of individual projects is underway, subject to capital funding availability.

**2.3.53** We shall introduce new public and local service hubs in communities. This scheme, linked to the library plan and BPA activity, has commenced, with funding in place for review.

**2.3.54** Swansea Council committed to help create thousands of new jobs for the people of Swansea, aiming to provide high quality and secure employment. So far, seventy start up grants have been issued (WG Economy) and UK CRF start up and digital grants completed. SPF delivery is underway (pre-start, digital, growth job creation grants and green energy grants); inward investment conversations with potential investors continue; and 317 business improvement grants have been approved to date cross county.

**2.3.55** We are progressing the Palace Theatre and Albert Hall developments to secure these historic buildings for future generations, and we continue to seek an innovative solution to secure the future of the Elysium building, looking at powers to gain access to undertake a structural survey. £16m has been confirmed in existing scheme envelopes; Albert Hall and Palace Theatre teams are on site, although subject to usual current construction industry issues.

**2.3.56** Swansea Council will develop and promote more city living, including new hotels, retail, office space and food and beverage and leisure facilities. Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the additional funding requirement from WG and the preferred developer to take forward the Hotel. A draft report is being prepared with a target of September Cabinet.

**2.3.57** Working with our regional partners, we are progressing a £1 billion regeneration and £750 million strategic partnership with Urban Splash as our new strategic partner; with an initial focus on Copr Bay Phase 2, the civic centre site and St Thomas site. The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) has been signed and the partnership announced, with work having now commenced on initial schemes.

**2.3.58** We will secure a major new tenant for the Debenhams unit in the Quadrant shopping centre, securing the use of this unit for

the future. Acquisition of the unit has been completed and discussions are underway with the prospective tenant.

- 2.3.59** The council is progressing work on the new Castle Square Gardens project. The design stage has been completed and planning permission approved. Procurement of the contractor is now underway.
- 2.3.60** The council will progress work on the new central library project. RIBA Stage 4 has been completed, and an FPR7 report will be submitted in July 2023.
- 2.3.61** Swansea Council committed to begin the phased demolition of Ty Dewi Sant and the old multi-storey car park. Ty Dewi Sant has now been demolished. Further car park demolition will follow in Q1 2024. Snagging of the North Car park is to be completed before the demolition of St David's car park.
- 2.3.62** We are progressing the build of 71-72 The Kingsway, to create an innovation hub which will be home to new businesses and help create up to six hundred new jobs. Work is progressing on site and the superstructure works are underway. Marketing has commenced, along with branding work, and discussions with prospective occupiers are progressing.

### **Attractions**

- 2.3.63** Swansea Council will seek to deliver the biggest ever events programme each year, for the next five years. The 2022 events programme closed as the largest to date. The 2023 programme is underway.
- 2.3.64** Swansea Council continues to deliver an annual programme of community safety / community engagement events across the city. This events programme is midway through delivery, with an agreed uplift in funding of £150,000.
- 2.3.65** Working in partnership with Penderyn Distillery, we committed to support a new whisky distillery attraction at Landore. Practical completion has been achieved with the hand over to Penderyn for final fit out. Full attraction opening is due imminently.
- 2.3.66** We continue to progress development and investment through the Skyline attraction on Kilvey Hill, having hosted the Skyline Board visit during June 2022. The Skyline Board have since approved the project subject to funding offers. Cabinet have approved grant funding support and PAC is complete.
- 2.3.67** We committed to progress hotels discussions for the city centre and stadium. Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the

additional funding requirement from WG and the preferred developer to take forward the Arena Hotel. A draft report is being prepared with a target of September Cabinet. A hotel demand study has also been completed. Hotel provision near the stadium will be considered as part of the Tawe riverside strategy action plan.

**2.3.68** We had committed to progressing the development and reopening of the River Tawe corridor, including new pontoons. The design has been completed and a planning application was submitted in July 2022, followed by the procurement stage.

**2.3.69** Swansea Council will deliver new promenade improvements and developments, as well as new lighting around Swansea Bay. Work commenced in April 2023 and is expected to take around 18 months.

**2.3.70** We continue to deliver a range of new and exciting immersive attractions, summer concerts and a new phase of arena shows; encapsulated in a larger than ever events programme (including the half iron man event), which commenced last year with community support for the Platinum Jubilee events.

**2.3.71** The council is committed to retaining the Wales National Air Show in Swansea, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to the city for this annual event and reviewing how its delivery can align with its net zero carbon targets. For the 2022 Wales Airshow, a specialist sustainability company (A Greener Festival) was engaged to review the events' sustainability characteristics. Whilst they agreed that there were a lot of positive actions already in place, given the size of the event, further work would be needed. Several changes had been implemented for this year, which included an enhanced sustainability policy and checklist for the event catering suppliers; changes to the trader's sustainability guidelines; an updated risk assessment in relation to environmental damage; additional public water bottle refill points and increased social media sustainability messaging.

**2.3.72** Swansea Council remains committed to progressing discussions for the new interactive aquarium, aiming to offer an immersive experience for visitors and a wider educational resource. Initial design works are underway, and discussions continue to take place with the aquarium operator. Urban Splash have been introduced to the project proposer, and the Levelling Up Fund Round 3 bid is being prepared.

## **Finances and Resources**

**2.3.73** We had continued making cost of living payments on behalf of Welsh Government until the scheme closed / the fund was spent

in full. At the time the Main Scheme element of the COLP scheme was closed, over 94% of those believed to be eligible had claimed a payment and been paid. The remaining Main Scheme funds were then transferred to the Discretionary Scheme and we were able, with Cabinet approval, to make additional groups of people eligible for those payments. By the time the discretionary scheme closed, 97% of potential payments had been claimed and distributed. Various measures had been undertaken to encourage claims and maximise payments in the Swansea area.

**2.3.74** The council committed to agree the outturn position and where possible provide more resources for reinvestment. Indicative outturn will be delivered to within £32,000 of overall revenue budget (on £524million). Significant variances with major underspends on services (£17m), capital financing (£9m) and significantly lower than expected draws from reserves (£26m). Overall, still a draw from reserves of circa £2m and a draw from schools reserves circa £8m will be needed to fully balance the 2022-23 position, so longer term sustainability will remain an issue but short-term delivery continues to be within budget. Capital budget records slippage and carry forward request anticipated.

**2.3.75** Swansea Council committed to replenish the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) from the outturn position and to ensure continued focus on the fund to aid economic recovery and part fund many of the policy commitments. The ERF continues to be tracked in year.

**2.3.76** We committed to reviewing the 'Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme' goals. Cabinet approved a new Corporate Transformation Plan for 2023-25 in April 2023.

**2.3.77** The council committed to commencing a senior pay and grading review and ensuring it fits with the wider workforce pay and grading scheme. The LGA scheme has now been identified as the most appropriate job evaluation scheme and Council approved its adoption in May 2023. The evaluation process will now take place for all Chief Officer posts.

**2.3.78** We committed to ensure planned savings were secured. Indicative outturn will be almost exactly in line with the overall budget (£524million). Overall savings deemed found, even though not specifically tracked as part of the covid response.

**2.3.79** The council committed to agree a post-pandemic working model. Cabinet approved a report on the Post Pandemic

Working Model on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022, and service models aligned to the agreed principle have been formalised.

## **Transport and Energy**

**2.3.80** The council have announced progress on the Blue Eden project. A formal proposal has now been discussed with DST and partners announced. Work to finalise CRF is complete and final submissions made to the UK Government. The Cabinet report regarding land disposal and acquisition was approved on May 23<sup>rd</sup> by Cabinet.

**2.3.81** We successfully provided the 'free bus ride' scheme for the 2022 school summer holidays and have extended this scheme this year.

**2.3.82** Swansea Council have supported and enabled the increase and availability of electric vehicle (EV) charging points, developing a wider EV charging strategy. Fifteen public facing charge points are now installed in council car parks (June 2022).

**2.3.83** We will continue to review the council transport fleet to increase the green fleet in line with the agreed green fleet strategy.

**2.3.84** Swansea Council will commence the review of its disabled parking bay policy. A draft report is being prepared regarding the new policy, which will be taken to the Strategic Transformation Committee.

**2.3.85** We have progressed initial discussions regarding a new ferry service linking Wales with the south-west of England.

**2.3.86** We have progressed discussions on the development of a hydrogen fuelling hub. A formal proposal has now been discussed with DST and partners have been announced. CRF activity is complete, and a final report submitted. Work is also progressing on an aligned EV/Hydrogen bus transport hub with Network Rail, TFW and Welsh Government. Land transaction approval provided by Cabinet as part of May 2023 report.

## **Well – Being**

**2.3.87** Swansea Council has progressed delivery of all-weather sports pitches. Funding has been confirmed and work is progressing for additional facilities at Underhill Park; Cefn Hengoed; Elba; KGV playing fields and agreed school sites.

**2.3.88** We have progressed discussions with partners regarding the international sports science village. A Prior Information Notice (PIN) for consultancy is now published on Sell to Wales. We now

aim to seek advice on long-term operating and governance models for investment.

**2.3.89** Swansea Council continues to work towards announcing new active travel routes, which develop the built and natural environment and encourages higher levels of physical activity. Funding has now been allocated by Welsh Government.

**2.3.90** We had committed to delivering better skate-park facilities within Swansea. Budgets and a strategy have been agreed to include a programme of improvements to existing facilities and the creation of new destination wheel and skate facilities. Tender documents for specialist support are currently out to market.

### **Other**

**2.3.91** We have progressed work of the new Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). The CJC forum is now established and meeting regularly, with all governance arrangements in place.

**2.3.92** The council has commenced a review of delegated decisions that can be taken by both officers and councillors. A report has been taken to Cabinet/CMT and Leadership; the delegated decisions policy was circulated to heads of service, presented to heads of service and has been deployed.

**2.3.93** Swansea Council will agree a new Swansea Bay Strategy. A briefing note was presented to the CDC/Scrutiny Panel regarding the Swansea Bay action plan. Progress will now be monitored by the Regeneration Programme Board going forward.

**2.3.94** The council is updating the naming policy. A draft naming policy has been presented to CMT and the final policy is expected to be presented to the Constitution Working Group.

**2.3.95** We continue to progress Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 discussions with Welsh Government to find a solution that supports appropriate development. A workshop has been held with Welsh Government and a formal response submitted. We await publication of a revised TAN by Welsh Government in 2024.

## **3. Conclusion**

3.1 In conclusion, this report covers the vast array of activity that is underway. The report highlights the wide range of projects and programmes that have been / are being implemented and acknowledges the preparatory work that is required around each commitment. Varying degrees of detail are appropriate for each update and, although this report gives an

overview of progress, each commitment continues to evolve and develop, taking account of opportunities and pressures as they may arise.

3.2 Appendix B gives an overview of progress tracking, highlighting that:

- 71% of the total commitments have been completed.
- 24% of the total commitments are on track.
- 5% of the total commitments have experienced delays.

3.3 The 5% of commitments that have experienced delays are summarised below:

**3.3.1** *A new Castle Square Gardens, Palace Theatre & Albert Hall* - £16m has been confirmed in existing scheme envelopes. Teams are on site at the Albert Hall and Palace Theatre, although subject to the current construction industry delays.

**3.3.2** *New hotels & more city living* - Discussions are nearing a conclusion on the additional funding requirement from Welsh Government and the preferred developer to take forward the Hotel. A draft report is being prepared for Cabinet.

**3.3.3** *Expand PSPO* - A formal review of the scheme is to be conducted following conclusion of ongoing scrutiny process looking at Swansea wide ASB.

**3.3.4** *Demolish old MSCP* - Ty Dewi Sant has been demolished and further car park demolition is to follow in Q1 2024.

**3.3.5** *Deliver new promenade* - Work successfully began April 2023.

**3.3.6** *Deliver new Bay lighting* - Funding has been confirmed and work has started on site.

3.4 The Policy Commitments have been incorporated into the council's Corporate Plan 2023/28 and future reporting will be done through the council's performance management arrangements.

#### **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 report notes the progress around policy commitments, as adopted by Council. Whilst the report 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 reports if additional revenue or capital funding is required.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this progress report. Where a specific policy commitment requires legal input, officers will be provided with such advice.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A: Policy Commitments Statement 2022-27

Appendix B: Policy Commitments Tracker

Appendix C: Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form