

# Swansea Replacement Local Development Plan (2023-2038)

## Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)

### Draft Scoping Report

August 2023

|                    | <b>Officer</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE SCOPING REPORT AND THE SWANSEA REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.2 This Scoping Report is the first step in the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for Swansea's emerging Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).

1.1.2 The ISA will identify, assess and address in an integrated manner any likely significant effects on the environment (including internationally designated sites), sustainability, health and equalities of undertaking the review and replacement of the Swansea LDP, as part of the process towards adopting the RLDP. The report outlines the proposed approach to undertaking the ISA, incorporating a suite of statutory and non-statutory assessment processes:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) as required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004<sup>1</sup> ('the 2004 Act') and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005<sup>2</sup> ('the 2005 Regulations') (as amended 2015);

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as required by Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004<sup>3</sup> ('the SEA Regulations');
- Supporting the implementation of wellbeing goals and wellbeing objectives (and the discharge of associated duties) as required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015<sup>4</sup>. The preparation of the RLDP needs to consider social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being;
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) under the Equality Act 2010<sup>5</sup> – covering the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Socio-economic Duty;
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – non-statutory but needed to support robust SEA, EqIA and wellbeing assessment processes; and,
- Welsh Language Impact Assessment as required under the 2004 Act (as amended by Section 11 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015<sup>6</sup>), the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015<sup>7</sup> and PPW 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.

1.1.3 It also refers to the Habitats Regulations Assessment required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (England and Wales)<sup>8</sup> as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species

<sup>1</sup> [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/20)

<sup>2</sup> [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Development Plan\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2005 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/1762/contents/made)

<sup>3</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2004/1656/contents/made](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2004/1656/contents/made)

<sup>4</sup> [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/15)

<sup>5</sup> [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15)

<sup>6</sup> [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/15)

<sup>7</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/996/contents/made](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/996/contents/made)

<sup>8</sup> [The Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning \(Various Amendments\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2018 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1211/contents/made)

(amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019<sup>9</sup> (though the HRA is a separate process, published within a separate document).

## 1.2 DETERMINATION OPINION

1.2.1 The adopted Swansea LDP was subject to SA (including SEA), and the SEA Regulations state that all proposed 'minor modifications' to existing Plans require the Council to determine, in consultation with the Consultation Bodies (Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw), whether the RLDP is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and thus a SEA is required. However, due to the likelihood of a changing environmental baseline since the SA of the LDP, a new national planning policy framework, and the comprehensive nature of the review of the LDP, the Council is of the opinion that the RLDP may have likely significant effects on the environment and a formal SEA is required, under Regulation 9(1) of the SEA Regulations. The SEA Consultation Bodies agreed with this determination and the Statement of Reasons is presented in Appendix 1, alongside the Consultation Bodies response.

1.2.2 Furthermore, the Welsh Government's (WG) Development Plans Manual states that an ISA is required when a full plan revision or a short form revision is undertaken. When undertaking a revision or replacement to the plan the starting point is to update

the baseline situation. The majority of plans and programmes previously examined remain relevant, however there are a number of legislative changes, national policy framework and contextual changes since the Scoping Report for the LDP was produced. The annual monitoring of the LDP SA framework contained within the LDP Annual Monitoring Reports has been taken into account when preparing this RLDP Scoping Report.

## 1.3 THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA AREA

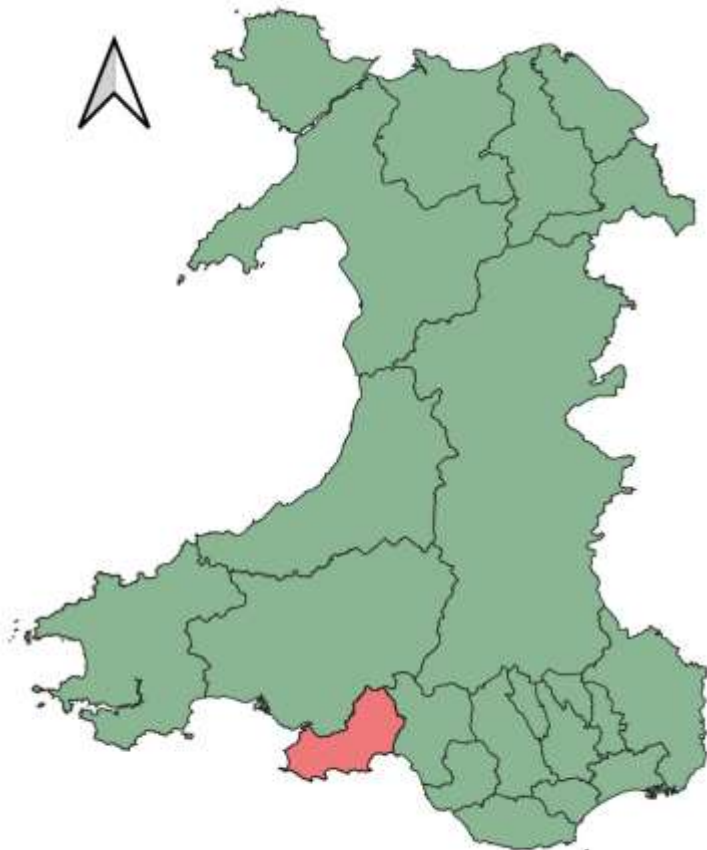
1.3.1 The City and County of Swansea is situated on the South West Wales coast, is Wales's second largest City and unitary authority (in terms of population) and covers an area of 379.7 square kilometres (146.6 square miles), approx. 2% of the land area of Wales. The County is mainly rural, with only 30.5% of the land area classified as urban. The majority of the population, 88%, live in urban areas. The 2021 census reported that the usual resident population of Swansea was 238,500, approx. 0.2% fewer than the 2011 census total.

1.3.2 The County extends from Rhossili Down at the western edge of the Gower Peninsula to Kilvey Hill, Crymlyn Bog and the slopes of the Drummau Mountain on the eastern border with Neath Port Talbot; and from Mumbles Head and the sweep of Swansea Bay in the south to the ridge of Mynydd y Gwair overlooking the

<sup>9</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/579/contents/made)

Amman Valley in the north. It is rich in ecological habitats and landscape features and contains many internationally, nationally and locally designated ecological sites and their associated species.

**Figure 1.1: Swansea Council Area**



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1.3.3 Some two-thirds of the County's boundary is with the sea - the Burry Inlet, Bristol Channel and Swansea Bay. The River Loughor forms the north-west boundary with Carmarthenshire while the boundary to the north and east is largely defined by hill and valley features.

1.3.4 The County can be broadly divided into four physical areas: the open moorlands of the Lliw Uplands in the north; the rural Gower Peninsula in the west, containing a number of rural villages, contrasting coasts and the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); the suburban area stretching from the edge of Swansea towards settlements in the west and around the M4 corridor; and the coastal strip around Swansea Bay, no more than two miles in width, which includes the city centre and adjacent district centres.

## 1.4 THE SWANSEA LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1.4.1 The Swansea LDP<sup>10</sup> was adopted by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The LDP sets out the Council’s planning framework for the development and use of land within the county boundary for the period up to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have a statutory duty to keep their development plans up to date and to undertake a formal review of the LDP at the required time. Given the Swansea LDP was adopted in February 2019, the statutory requirement to commence a review of the Swansea LDP was February 2023.

1.4.2 The LDP Review Report<sup>11</sup>, formally approved by Council in July 2023, concluded that the Full Revision procedure would be the most appropriate form of revision process for the Swansea LDP. The process involves a review of the strategy, policies and proposals of the adopted LDP to reflect the changes to the Plan area including its social, environmental and economic considerations. It also includes the content and outcomes of the LDP Annual Monitoring Reports<sup>12</sup> and any contextual changes emanating from legislation and national policy.

1.4.3 The RLDP will set out the Council’s planning framework for the development and use of land within the county boundary and have a fifteen year time period. The following timescale for preparing the RLDP is outlined within the adopted Delivery Agreement<sup>13</sup> (DA):

| <b>Definitive Stages</b> |   | <b>From</b>                         | <b>To</b>                          |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>                 | <b>Delivery Agreement</b><br>Draft DA Consultation, submission of Final DA to Welsh Government for approval   | <b>March/<br/>April 2023</b>        | <b>July 2023</b>                   |
| <b>2</b>                 | <b>Pre-Deposit Participation</b><br>Evidence base preparation   | <b>July 2023</b><br><b>Jan 2023</b> | <b>June 2024</b><br><b>Ongoing</b> |
|                          | Call for Candidate Sites – 12 weeks   | <b>Aug 2023</b>                     | <b>Oct 2023</b>                    |
|                          | Consultation on SA Scoping Report – 6 weeks   | <b>Aug 2023</b>                     | <b>Sep 2023</b>                    |
|                          | Preparation and Engagement on Vision, Objectives and Strategic Options  | <b>Sep 2023</b>                     | <b>Jan 2024</b>                    |
| <b>3</b>                 | <b>Pre-Deposit Consultation</b><br>Consultation on Preferred Strategy, Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report – 8 weeks | <b>July 2024</b>                    | <b>August 2024</b>                 |

<sup>10</sup> [www.swansea.gov.uk/ldp](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/ldp)

<sup>11</sup> [www.swansea.gov.uk/ldpreview](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/ldpreview)

<sup>12</sup> [www.swansea.gov.uk/planningdelivery](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/planningdelivery)

<sup>13</sup> [www.swansea.gov.uk/rldpdeliveryagreement](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/rldpdeliveryagreement)

|                          |   |                      |                  |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>4</b>                 | <b>Deposit Participation/ Consultation</b><br>Consultation on Deposit Plan, ISA, HRA and Initial Consultation Report  | <b>June 2025</b>     | <b>July 2025</b> |
| <b>Indicative Stages</b> |   | <b>From</b>          | <b>To</b>        |
| <b>5</b>                 | <b>Submission</b><br>Submission of Deposit Plan and all supporting evidence to WG   | <b>March 2026</b>    |                  |
| <b>6</b>                 | <b>Examination</b><br>Pre hearing meeting and Examination Hearing Sessions  | <b>June 2026</b>     | <b>July 2026</b> |
| <b>7</b>                 | <b>Publication of Inspectors Report</b><br>Local Planning Authority to receive binding Inspectors Report, check for factual errors and to Publish on its website. | <b>November 2026</b> |                  |
| <b>8</b>                 | <b>Adoption</b><br>Full Council adopts the Replacement LDP  | <b>December 2026</b> |                  |

## 1.5 INTRODUCTION TO INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

1.5.1 The Council is required by the 2004 Act (section 39(2)) to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the RLDP. The purpose of SA is to assess the social and economic effects of the component policies, proposals and strategy elements of the Local Development Plan to ensure that decisions accord with the principles of sustainable development.

1.5.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment of the RLDP is required by the SEA Regulations 5(2) and 5(4) and is focused on the environmental effects of plans as outlined within Schedule 2(6) of Regulation 12(3) of the SEA Regulations.

1.5.3 The Welsh Government’s (WGs) Development Plan Manual (ed 3) 2022 confirms that the LDP system must integrate the requirements of both the SA and SEA processes from the outset and ensure they provide input at each stage of plan preparation. The Manual states ‘*The SA will play an important part in demonstrating the development plan is sound, by ensuring that it reflects the legislative requirements and achieves sustainable development.*’ (para 4.4)

1.5.4 The Planning Wales Act (PWA) 2015 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system in Wales, mirroring that set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (The WBFG Act) 2015:

“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.”

1.5.5 The WBFG Act 2015 contains seven well-being goals which all public bodies are required to achieve:

- 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
- 1.5.6 The RLDP must demonstrate how it contributes to achieving the well-being goals which are integral to the preparation of the SA Scoping Report and used to inform the review of evidence, identify issues and structure the SA framework.
- 1.5.6 The WBFG Act 2015 also identifies five ways of working which public bodies need to demonstrate they have carried out when undertaking their duty to achieve sustainable development. These are:
- Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
  - Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring or getting worse;
  - Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives;
  - Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them; and
  - Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.
- 1.5.7 The well-being goals, objectives and the five ways of working should be integral to the development of the SA framework. It will be for each decision making body to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of WBFGA 2015.
- 1.5.8 The 2004 Act (as amended by the Planning Wales Act 2015 (section 11)) confirms the requirement for the SA to include an assessment of the likely impacts of the plan on the use of the Welsh language in the plan area. The Welsh language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process in order to make sure that the scale and location of change set out in the plan supports the Welsh language and ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place, if required.
- 1.5.9 The equality duty (Equality Act 2010, section 149) requires public bodies to assess the impact of policies on different population groups to ensure discrimination does not take place, and where possible, to promote equality of opportunity.
- 1.5.10 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 on physical and mental health and well being, requires a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out by public bodies. The Public Health (Wales) Act defines a HIA as "...an assessment of the likely effect, both in the short term and in the long term, of a proposed action or decision on the physical and mental health of the people of Wales or of some of the people of Wales." The HIA process should be integrated into the SA process with

the health component of a SEA broadened to include both physical and mental health objectives of a HIA.

1.5.11 The integration of statutory and key elements such as WBFGA 2015 requirements, Equalities Act, Welsh language, HIA and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (section 6) (where relevant) into a single Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) will enable a more transparent, holistic and rounded assessment of the sustainability implications of growth options, objectives, policies and proposals.

1.5.12 The RLDP is also subject to consideration under the Habitats Regulations Assessment as required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017 (England and Wales) as amended by the (amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

## 1.6 THE ISA PROCESS

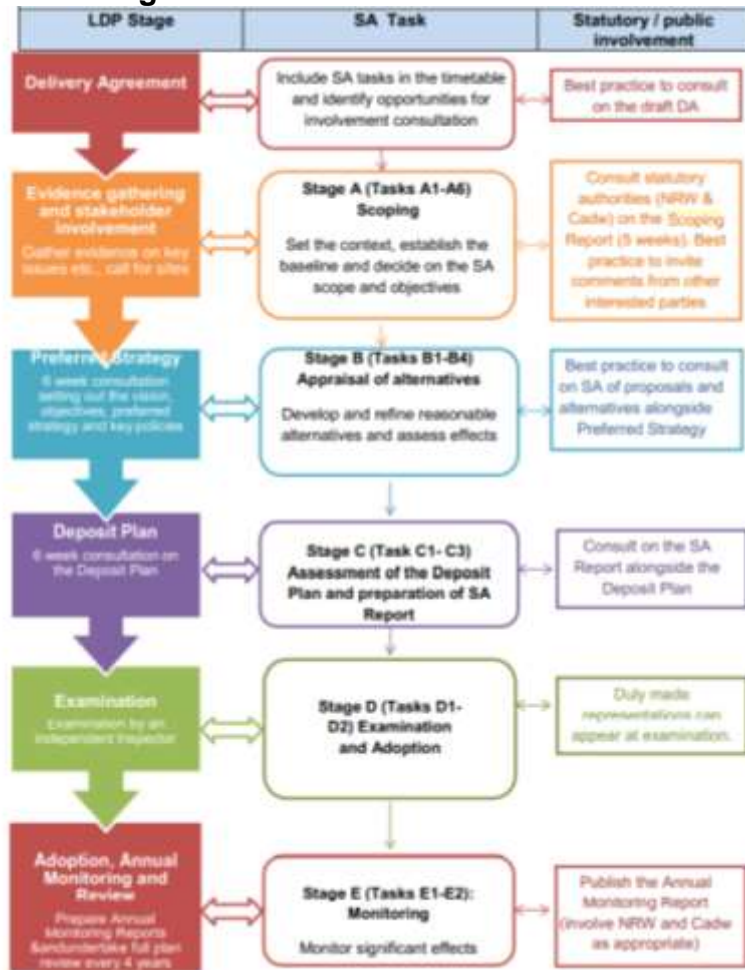
1.6.1 The main stages of an ISA and how it integrates into the RLDP process are set out in Figure 1.2. The main stages are:

- Screening: The Council, as responsible authority, has determined that the RLDP is likely to have significant environmental effects and must therefore be subject to SEA under Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (commonly known as the SEA Regs) (Appendix 1);

- Scoping - setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope. (This draft Scoping report fulfils this stage);
- Assess RLDP strategic options against the Sustainability Objectives and produce Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (incorporating SEA Reg requirements)
- Assess RLDP policies against the Sustainability Objectives and produce Sustainability Appraisal Report;
- Produce a Sustainability Statement stating how the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal have been taken into account in the final Plan.



**Figure 1.2 Main Stages of the LDP Process and Integration with SA Regulations**



Source: Development Plans Manual ed 3 (2020) Welsh Government

## 1.7 THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

1.7 This Scoping Report considers and covers the first stage of the SA process (Stage A, tasks A1-A6). The Scoping Report will need to cover a range of information to demonstrate consistency with the SEA Regulations. The stages are outlined in Table 1.2

**Table 1.2: Scoping Stage and Legislative Requirements Met**

| Task  | Legislative Requirements   | Section of Scoping Report  |
|---|--|--|
| A1: Outline the contents and main objectives of the plan.   | Required by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations 12(3)                        | Ch 1 presents the plan area and timescales.<br><br>RLDP Contents and main objectives not part of this Scoping Report |
| A2: Identify and review other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will inform the plan. | Required by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations 12(3)                        | Ch 2 and Appendix 2 identifies other plans and programmes and sustainability objectives                              |
| A3: Collect baseline information on the current and likely  | Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations require the baseline data to cover: 'the | Ch 3 identifies baseline information   |

| <b>Task</b>   | <b>Legislative Requirements</b>  | <b>Section of Scoping Report</b> |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| future social, economic, cultural well-being and environmental conditions at the relevant spatial scale for the plan. | relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan' (12(3)); and 'environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected'. |                                  |
| A4: Identify sustainability issues and problems which are relevant to the plan  | Required by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations (12(3))  | Ch 3                             |
| A5: Develop SA framework against which the plan can be appraised.   | Develop SA criteria and objectives and detailed appraisal questions to assess, analyse and compare effects of the policies and proposals, including  | Ch 4 presents ISA framework      |

| <b>Task</b>                                      | <b>Legislative Requirements</b>    | <b>Section of Scoping Report</b>       |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
|  | alternatives of the plan.          |  |
| A6: Prepare and consult on the SA Scoping Report | Required by SEA Regs 12(5) and 13. | Ch 5 sets out the consultation methods |

## **1.8 CONSULTATION**

1.8.1 The statutory SEA Consultation Bodies are Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw and they must be consulted on the draft Scoping Report in accordance with SEA Regs 12(5) and 13. In line with best practice the draft Scoping Report will also be made publicly available for comment.

## CHAPTER 2: LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 This section sets out some of the most relevant policies that are considered within the context of the land use planning framework and will influence the RLDP. Appendix 2 contains a full examination of plans, policies and programmes that contain relevant environmental protection objectives and wider policy requirements that should be taken account of within (or otherwise inform) the ISA and LDP Review, in accordance with the SEA Regulations 12(3) Schedule 2(1) and (5) .
- 2.1.2 Despite best efforts to include all relevant documents within this draft report there may be additional plans, policies or programmes (PPP's) not included that will also be of relevance. However, as the process is an iterative one and is ongoing throughout the preparation process of the RLDP, it is anticipated further documents will be issued or updated between now and when the RLDP is adopted. These updated/new documents will be taken into account during the preparation of the RLDP and the environmental baseline will be updated as appropriate. The Scoping Report has been undertaken following WG guidance.

### 2.2 NATIONAL CONTEXT

- 2.2.1 The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** aims to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of government and public bodies. It has seven Well-being Goals and promotes five Ways of Working. It provides the legislative framework for the preparation of Local Well-being Plans which has replaced Single Integrated Plans. Given that sustainable development is the core underlying principle of Local Development Plans and Integrated Sustainability Appraisals, there are clear associations between the aspirations of both the RLDP and Act/Local Well-being Plans.
- 2.2.2 **The Planning (Wales) Act 2015** aims to ensure the planning system in Wales is fair, resilient and enables development. The Act notes that LDPs must promote sustainable development in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, “for the purpose of ensuring that the development and use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales”. The Act requires the development of a National Development Framework (NDF) and regional-level Strategic development Plans (SDPs) and requires LDPs to be in general conformity with any NDF or SDP that includes the local authority area.
- 2.2.3 **Future Wales – the National Plan 2040 (2021)** is the NDF, setting out the WGs policies on development and land use in a spatial context. It is the national tier of the Development Plan. It supports decarbonisation and the

delivery of renewable energy; provision of housing in the right places; healthier places; strengthened ecosystems and enhanced biodiversity; and an economy that delivers prosperity for all. The national framework will be supported by Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs, both of which are required to conform to Future Wales. There is currently no SDP in place in the region within which Swansea is located.

2.2.4 **Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Ed 11) 2021**, integrates the seven Well-being Goals and five Ways of Working of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes. PPW 11 aligns with Future Wales and takes into account the socio-economic duty and impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also makes policy changes to housing supply monitoring, affordable housing led sites and development quality standards, local energy planning, transport and active travel. It sets out the WG’s land use planning policies to achieve well being and sustainable development via placemaking, and is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales.

**Figure 2.1: Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Well-being Goals and Sustainable Development Principles**



2.2.5 **Building Better Places**, 2021, sets out WG's planning policy priorities to assist in post Covid-19 recovery. It identifies eight issues:

- 1) Staying local: enabling people to live in well-located and well-designed energy efficient homes, delivery of new affordable homes, local food production and supply chains, creation of accessible and attractive neighbourhoods.
- 2) Active travel: reducing the need to travel, continued shift to sustainable and active travel modes.
- 3) Revitalising our town centres: new flexible approaches to retail and commercial centres, reassessment of the role and function of established shopping areas, planning for the use of open spaces in town centres, consideration of a wider range of uses in town centres.
- 4) Digital places: improvements to digital connectivity.
- 5) Changing working practices: re-examination of economic forecasts and employment allocations, support for flexible workplaces.
- 6) Reawakening Wales' tourism and cultural sectors, noting the need for social distancing and support for associated industries.
- 7) Green infrastructure, health and well-being and ecological resilience: enabling and providing green infrastructure.
- 8) Improving air quality and soundscapes for better health and well-being.

2.2.6 **The Environment (Wales) Act 2016** introduces a policy framework to deliver the concept of 'sustainable management of natural resources' (SMNR) to ensure sustainably is a core consideration in decision-making. LDPs must have regard to NRW's National Resources Policy (2017), the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), the South West Wales Area Statement and Marine Area Statement.

2.2.7 The Environment Act introduced the **Section 6: biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty**:

*"Public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions."*

2.2.8 Having regard to this duty the policies and proposals of development plans should not serve to reduce ecosystem resilience. The Council is currently preparing a Section 6 Action Plan, which is discussed further in Section 2.3.

2.2.9 **The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales, Setting the course for 2020 and beyond**, WG, was adopted in 2015 and updated in 2020<sup>14</sup>. The Plan puts nature at the heart of decision-making, increasing the resilience of natural systems (ecosystems), and taking specific action for habitats and species. It sets out how Wales

<sup>14</sup>[The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales 2020 to 2021 \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan)

will deliver the commitments of the European Union (EU) Biodiversity Strategy and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to halt the decline in biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline. It contains 6 objectives:

- Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.
- Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

2.2.10 In addition to the six objectives, the 2020 update identifies 5 'themes of action'.

- Maintaining and Enhancing Resilient Ecological Networks;
- Increasing Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer;
- Realising new Investment and funding;
- Upskilling and capacity for delivery;
- Mainstreaming, Governance and Reporting our Progress.

2.2.11 The Plan will be further updated in order to reflect the new Global Biodiversity Framework (the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>15</sup>) which was ratified in 2022 T cop-15.

2.2.12 **Second State of the Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) 2020**, NRW, assess environmental wellbeing at a national level and identifies 4 aims that must be met to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR):

1. Abundant Natural Resources
2. Resilient Ecosystems
3. Healthy Places for People
4. Regenerative Economy

2.2.13 **COP15, Biodiversity Deep Dive, Section 6 Duty and the Planning System, Chief Planning Officer Letter, WG, Dec 2022**. The letter highlights the role of the planning system in meeting challenges laid down by COP15, the Deep Dive recommendations and in fulfilling the Section 6 duty in Wales. The letter also gives notice of proposed changes to PPW in relation to net benefit for biodiversity and the protection afforded to Sites of Special Scientific Interest and trees and woodlands.

2.2.14 The Deep Dive committed delivery of the 30 by 30 target, to protect, effectively and equitably manage 30% of Wales's land, freshwater and seas by 2030 as a

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<sup>15</sup> [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/framework)

strategic focus to consider where and how action could be accelerated.

2.2.15 The **Welsh National Marine Plan 2019** supports the sustainable development of the seas, intertidal areas, estuaries or other coastal inlet waters falling within the Welsh onshore licence area around Wales, providing a national policy framework with regard to any aspects covering inshore and offshore areas.

2.2.16 The **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009** created a strategic marine planning system designed to balance energy, conservation, social and economic needs of the UK's seas. It sets up a network of Marine Protected Areas in Welsh.

2.2.17 The **UK Marine Strategy Regulations 2010** required action to be taken to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in the seas and to develop a marine strategy and public bodies must have regard to the marine strategy in the exercise of their functions. **The UK Marine Strategy parts 1 (2019), 2 (2014 and updated 2022) and 3** sets out indicators and methodology to collect data to monitor progress towards GES.

2.2.17 **The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016** made important changes to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Act now gives more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments; improves

the sustainable management of the historic environment; and introduces greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment. The Act will be repealed by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 in 2024.

2.2.18 The **Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023** received Royal Assent in June 2023, but is due to be brought into force in 2024. consolidate legislation relating to the historic environment in Wales. It provides for the protection of monuments, buildings and conservation areas by bringing together and restating already-existing legislation (both primary and secondary) in one place.

2.2.19 **The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017** aims to improve health and prevent avoidable harm to health. It requires the production of a national strategy on preventing and reducing obesity and for key decisions to be subject to Health Impact Assessment.

2.2.20 **Healthier Wales (2021)** – This sets out the WG national plan for health and social care to drive the changes needed to the Welsh health and social care system, so that it is able to meet the needs of current and future generations in Wales.

2.2.21 **Public Health Wales NHS Trust Guidance - Maximising health and well-being opportunities for spatial planning in the COVID-19 pandemic recovery** highlights the major positive and negative health impacts of spatial planning policies during the

COVID-19 pandemic on the population of Wales, the need to learn from these, any positive interventions and co-benefits in order to shape a healthier future environment for all.

**2.2.22 Net Zero Wales and All Wales Plan 2021-2025 (October 2021) - WG reduction plan for Carbon Budget (2021-2025)** – This sets the foundations to make Wales net zero by 2050. Alongside this, the first All Wales Plan has been published, which demonstrates the commitment from partners in working together to reach Net Zero.

**2.2.23** The Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in April 2019. In May 2019 the UK government announced a ‘net zero’ target by 2050. Initially, the Committee on Climate Change had suggested that Wales can only reach a 95% reduction because of the importance of agriculture to its rural communities, but in December 2020 it urged Wales to achieve net zero by taking up low-carbon solutions, expanding low-carbon energy supplies, reducing demand for high-carbon activities and transforming land from farmland to woodland and bioenergy production.

**2.2.24** The WGs **National Resources Policy 2017**, sets out how policies will be used and managed to improve the way natural resources are used and deliver both economic and environmental objectives. Three national priorities are identified:

- Delivering nature-based solutions;

- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and
- Taking a place-based approach.

**2.2.25 The Equality Act 2010.** The Act introduced a **Socio-economic Duty in 2021** that is aimed at encouraging better decision making and reducing inequalities resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. The duty requires relevant public bodies when taking strategic decisions/policy formulation, to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome that result from socio-economic disadvantage.

**2.2.26 Llwybr Newydd - The Wales Transport Strategy (2021)** - The strategy sets out the WG’s 5 year and 20 year priorities, along with nine mini plans explaining how they will be delivered for different transport modes and sectors. The strategy requires governments, local authorities, transport providers (both commercial and third sector) and colleagues in other policy areas to work together to ensure that transport contributes to the current and future well-being of Wales. The national strategy sets the framework for the two tiers of transport plans in Wales – the National Transport Finance Plan and Joint Local Transport Plans.

**2.2.27 Active Travel Act Guidance (2021)** - Part 1 of the guidance provides an outline summary of the aims, processes and key considerations associated with the duties of the Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013). Part 2, provides detailed technical advice on how infrastructure should be planned and designed. Active Travel



Network Maps should be used to inform the RLDPs, particularly site allocations.

2.2.28 The **Placemaking Wales Charter**<sup>16</sup> was developed by the WG and Design Commission for Wales in collaboration with the Placemaking for Wales Partnership in 2020. The Charter reflects the collective and individual commitment of these organisations to support the development of high-quality places across Wales for the benefit of communities.

## 2.3 REGIONAL CONTEXT

2.3.1 **The South West Wales Area Statement was produced by NRW** in response to the WGs Natural Resources Policy, 2017. The Area Statements cover seven separate areas of Wales and each statement outlines the key challenges facing that particular locality, what can be done to meet those challenges, and how natural resources can be better managed for the benefit of future generations.

2.3.2 The South West Wales Area Statement identifies key risks, opportunities and priorities that need to be addressed in order to build ecosystem resilience and support sustainable management of the natural resources. It sets out actions to address the issues identified. There are 4 themes:

- reducing health inequalities
- ensuring sustainable land management

- reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity
- cross-cutting theme; mitigating and adapting to a changing climate.

2.3.3 **The Welsh Marine Area Statement** produced by NRW covers the inshore waters of Wales, extending out 12 nautical miles and making up 43% of the Welsh territory. It covers three main themes:

- Building resilience of marine ecosystems;
- Nature-based solutions and adaptation at the coast; and
- Making the most of marine planning.

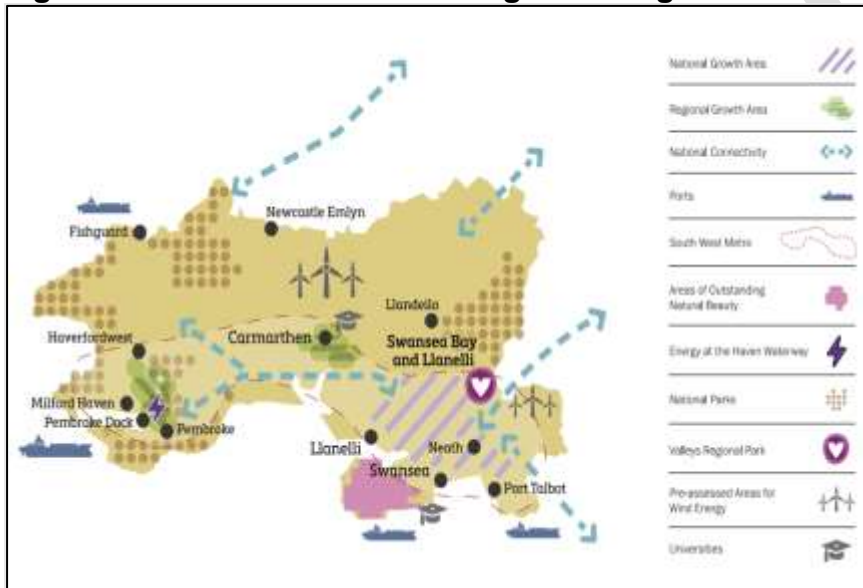
2.3.4 **Corporate Joint Committees and the South West Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) – Future Wales** identifies four planning regions in Wales and that SDPs will be required in each to form a regional tier of Development Plans. Matters relating to housing and economic growth, as well as digital connectivity and transport accessibility, should be co-ordinated and planned across the whole region by means of the SDP. Swansea is identified as being within the South West Wales region illustrated in Figure 2.2.

2.3.5 Future Wales Policy 1, 'Where Wales will Grow', identifies three National Growth Areas (NGAs) one of which, 'Swansea Bay and Llanelli', is to be the focus in the region for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced

<sup>16</sup> [Placemaking Charter - Design Commission for Wales \(dcfw.org\)](https://www.dcfw.org/placemaking-charter)

manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure and overall the main area for growth and investment in the region. Future Wales provides an indicative outline of the NGA. The planning authorities within the South West Wales region have undertaken to complete a research project that will further refine the spatial extent of the NGA, given that the shaded area indicated in Future Wales is only intended to provide a broad indication of the main urban focus for future development. This project will inform the RLDP and also the future work to prepare the SDP for the region.

**Figure 2.2: South West Wales Regional Diagram**



2.3.6 The **Swansea Bay City Deal**, 2017, is a 15 year programme with investment of up to £1.3 billion in a portfolio of major programmes and projects across the Swansea Bay City Region – Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea.

2.3.7 The **South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP)** is the Council’s over-arching economic regeneration policy and sets out a ‘route map’ for the development of the region’s economy over a ten year period, identifying priorities for intervention and setting out how business, government, education, voluntary/ community organisations, social enterprises and other partners can bring them forward. The REDP complements the Welsh Governments Regional Economic Framework (REF) and identifies three ambitions for building a South West Wales that is:

- “resilient and sustainable;
- enterprising and ambitious; and
- balanced and inclusive”.

2.3.8 The ambitions support three complementary missions:

- Establishing South West Wales as a UK leader in renewable energy and the development of a net zero economy, which involves taking forward the region’s major energy related projects and driving the benefits through the region.
- Building a strong, resilient, and ‘embedded’ business base by supporting business and entrepreneurship through technology, infrastructure and public sector support.

- Growing and sustaining the ‘experience’ offer by linking environmental quality, quality of life and community character.

2.3.9 The **Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales 2015-2020** is statutory policy which determines the strategy and programme for transportation infrastructure within the County. It is discussed further in section 3G.

2.3.10 **The Swansea Bay Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) 2** set out a strategic approach for managing the coastline from coastal flooding and erosion risks. Their aim is to reduce the risks to people, the developed, historic and natural environments over the next century. They are not statutory documents, but are to be considered in local decision-making and strategic planning, such as Local Development Plans and Local Flood Risk Management Strategies. The County falls within the area covered by the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) 20 – Lavernock Point to St Anne’s Head, is produced by the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group.

2.3.10 **The Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment, 2017** complements the strategic level **National Seascape Assessment for Wales** which identified 29 Marine Character Areas (MCAs) to inform the **Wales Marine Plan**. The Local Seascape Assessment identifies 20 individual Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) and forms part of the evidence base for the RLDP,

particularly with regard to policies protecting or enhancing the character and landscape of the undeveloped coastline, and consideration of designated Heritage Coast, and consideration of the impact of development on seascape with areas of intervisibility defined.

## 2.4 LOCAL CONTEXT

### The Swansea Local Well-being Plan 2023-28

2.4.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the requirement for each local Council area to have a Public Services Board (PSB) whose purpose is to work collectively to improve local social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. Each PSB is required to carry out an Assessment of Local Well-being to understand current levels of well-being and what matters most to local communities and to produce a Local Well-being Plan in order to improve well-being.

2.4.2 The 2017 Assessment of Local Well-being informed the development of Swansea's first Local Well-being Plan in 2018. The Assessment of Local Well-being was updated in 2022 and the evidence contained therein informed the Local Well-being Plan 2023 which provides an overarching framework for all LA plans/strategies including the Replacement LDP. Relevant information from the 2022 Assessment is included within this draft Scoping Report.

## **Climate and Nature Emergencies Declarations and Climate change and Nature Strategy 2022-2030<sup>17</sup>**

2.4.3 Swansea Council declared a **Climate Emergency** in 2019 and **Climate Change Charter** in 2020<sup>18</sup>, followed by an action plan to reduce organisational emissions, a policy review to tackle climate change as part of everything the Council does. The Council has an organisational target of a net zero Swansea Council by 2030<sup>19</sup> and plans for engagement to work with partners and citizens in striving for a net zero carbon Swansea by 2050<sup>20</sup>.

2.4.4 The Council recognises that the implications of biodiversity loss is as serious as climate change and that they are inherently linked. In support of WG's declaration of a nature emergency, the Council declared a **nature emergency** in November 2021. The Council will produce a **Section 6 Action Plan** (not yet published at time of writing the draft ISA Scoping Report), which will set out specific actions that the Council will take/aim to undertake to meet its Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and also towards the priorities identified in the Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) (2.4.6 refers).

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<sup>17</sup> [Climate Change and Nature Strategy 2022-2030 - Swansea](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Swansea Council Charter on Climate Change - Swansea](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Net Zero 2030 - Swansea](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Net Zero 2050 - Swansea](#)

## **2.4.5 The Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife 2021<sup>21</sup>**

Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy aims to bring more GI into the Swansea Central Area. It is anticipated that a GI strategy covering the whole County will be prepared in the next few years, which will complement the GI Assessment undertaken for the RLDP.

## **2.4.6 Swansea Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005<sup>22</sup>**

provided a strategic framework and series of detailed species and habitat action plans looking at how biodiversity loss could be halted in Swansea. The Plan will be replaced by the **Swansea LNRAP**, currently being produced by the Swansea Local Nature Partnership, which will set out the priorities for nature recovery in Swansea in the form of 25 'action themes'. It will also provide some information on nature in Swansea and suggestions for what members of the public can do to address the nature emergency and help meet the WGs 30x30 nature recovery targets. At the time of writing this draft Scoping Report the anticipated date for publication of the LNRAP is late 2023.

## **2.4.7 The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) 2011 and Addendum 2017** is a high-level assessment of local flood risk, involving the collection and reporting

<sup>21</sup> [Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife - Swansea](#)

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/2682/Local-Biodiversity-Action-Plan-summary/pdf/Local\\_Biodiversity\\_Action\\_Plan\\_summary.pdf?m=1629897929570](https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/2682/Local-Biodiversity-Action-Plan-summary/pdf/Local_Biodiversity_Action_Plan_summary.pdf?m=1629897929570)

of information on past (historic) and future (potential) floods to identify where the risk of flooding may be an issue within a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) area. In addition, information in the PFRA is used to confirm Flood Risk Areas- areas where flood risk is a significant issue.

2.4.8 PFRA only cover **local sources** of flood risk i.e. flooding from ordinary watercourses (small rivers, streams and ditches), surface runoff and ground water. They do not include flood risk from main rivers, the sea and reservoirs, as these sources of flooding are the responsibility of NRW. They provide the evidence base for the Councils **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013** as required under the Flood and Water Management Act. The main aim of the Strategy is to reduce the risk of flooding within the City and County of Swansea and to comply with the National Objectives as set out by Welsh Government. It does not identify specific projects but sets strategic actions and principles to aid decision making for flood alleviation schemes in the future.

2.4.9 The Council's **Flood Risk Management Plan 2015** takes forward objectives and actions from the Strategy and sets out how the Council will manage flooding so that the communities most at risk and the environment benefit the most, over a 6 year period.

2.4.10 **South West Wales Stage 1 Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (2022)** – This has been commissioned by a group of six authorities in the South

West Wales area, including Swansea. The Stage 1 SFCA is a desk based study that collates existing information to undertake a broad assessment of potential flood risks across the entire study area from all sources of flooding. The study will identify areas at potential high risk from flooding as well as providing details of historical flood events and any details of any flood risk management structure or procedures present.

2.4.11 **Abertawe 2023 Made in Swansea, 2023**, sets out the Council's **education priorities and how the vision will be delivered. The vision is 'Committed to excellent education for all'**. Abertawe 2023 sets out 5 priorities and the link with the development plan is clear, with Abertawe 2023 stating '*careful monitoring and evaluation of impact of local development plan (LDP) and adjustment of requirements as the timing and extent of future developments becomes more certain*'.

2.4.12 **Swansea Local Housing Strategy** sets out the following strategic housing priorities:

- Increasing the supply of good quality affordable homes
- Addressing the needs of specific groups
- Sustainable development

2.4.13 **More Homes**, the Council homebuilding programme, sets a target of delivering 1000 new Council houses between 2021 and 2031. Overall the Council has a target of 5,000 affordable homes over the same period.

2.4.14 **The Gower AONB Management Plan 2017**, the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 requires the Council to prepare a management plan for the Gower AONB *‘which formulates the policy for the management of the area of outstanding natural beauty and for the carrying out of the Council’s functions in relation to it’*.

2.4.15 **The Gower Landscape Character Assessment 2013** identifies 41 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) using LANDMAP as base data. The Assessment provides a clear understanding of the area’s landscape and settlement pattern, including a description of the key characteristics of the settlements and their relationship with the landscape setting. It identifies and describes Landscape Character Areas that provide more specific geographic representation of the area’s special qualities and sense of place, particularly remoteness, tranquillity and wildness; and sets out potential threats to landscape character.

2.4.16 The **Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries European Marine Site Management Plan** is currently being reviewed and updated. It is due to be released in 2024 and will be taken into account in preparation of the RLDP.

2.4.17 The Council became a signatory of the **Placemaking Charter Wales** in 2021. This is a pledge to:

- Involve the local community in the development of proposals
- Choose sustainable locations for new development
- Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport
- Create inclusive, well defined, safe and welcoming

streets and public spaces

- Promote a sustainable mix of uses to make places vibrant
- Value and respect the positive distinctive qualities and identity of existing places.

2.4.18 **Special Landscape Areas, green wedges, key village and settlement boundaries** were all assessed to inform the LDP. Each of these will be reconsidered for the forthcoming RLDP.

## CHAPTER 3: BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION

- 3.1 As stated in section 1.3 the County is diverse, not just in its landscape but in the variation of household incomes, range of housing values, pockets of the use of the Welsh language, and areas of least and most deprivation in Wales.
- 3.2 Baseline information and data on the main environmental, social, cultural and economic issues that affect, or are likely to affect the County over the lifetime of the RLDP is presented below and key issues are highlighted. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment are set out and the likely future situation without the RLDP is considered.
- 3.3 Each of the topics listed in Schedule 2 (6) of the SEA Regs (Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive) is presented below with relevant baseline data and key issues identified. Due to the interrelationship between some topic areas, some topics are grouped together, such as Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Soil. Although the baseline data is presented under the topic areas outlined within the Regulations, many of the issues cut-across themes. For example, all topics have an interrelationship with climatic factors (i.e. climate change), Placemaking and Green Infrastructure and this should be borne in mind when reading the Report.
- 3.4 Information and data relating to equalities impact assessment, health impact assessment and Welsh

language impact assessment is also presented, in order to ensure the scope of the ISA is clearly outlined within the report.

- 3.5 At the end of each section key issues of relevance to the County that are emerging from the baseline data review are identified, whether positive or negative, including gaps in data. Further issues are expected to be highlighted through the consultation process.
- 3.6 Under Schedule 2(2) of the Welsh SEA Regs consideration must be had to the likely evolution of the state of the environment without implementation of the RLDP. The 'situation without the plan' should assume there is no adopted development plan, but take account of any anticipated projects and trends factored in where possible. This is discussed after the key issues highlighted in each topic section.

## The Welsh SEA Regulations

### **Schedule 2(2) (Regulation 12(3)) requires an assessment of:**

*'The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme';*

*'The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected' (Schedule 2(3)); and*

*'Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(1) and the Habitats Directive' (Schedule 2.(4)).*

### **Schedule 2(6)) requires an assessment of:**

*The likely significant effects of the plan or programme, and of the alternatives considered, on the environment, including*

- *biodiversity,*
- *population,*
- *human health,*
- *fauna,*
- *flora,*
- *soil,*
- *water,*
- *air,*
- *climatic factors,*
- *material assets,*
- *cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage,*

- *landscape, and*
- *the interrelationship between the above factors.*

*These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects."*



## SECTION 3A

### TOPIC AREA: BIODIVERSITY, SOIL AND GEODIVERSITY

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:  
SEA Regs Sch 2(6)(a: biodiversity, d: flora, e: fauna, f: soil; i: climate factors and the interrelationship between the issues.

#### 3A.1 INTRODUCTION

3A.1.1 Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. It encompasses the rich variation to be found in living organisms; the variety within a species, between species, from one habitat to another and between ecosystems. It is not just restricted to rare or threatened species but includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the critically endangered. The sustainable management of natural resources must conserve biodiversity resources and support ecosystem resilience. The WG has expressed its commitment to supporting the 30 x 30 global biodiversity target drawn up ahead of the COP15 summit<sup>23</sup>. The target looks to protect 30% of terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine areas by 2030. The WG has set out a number of recommendations for specific actions to be taken in Wales to achieve the 30 x 30 target.

3A.1.2 The natural environment of the County is of outstanding quality and beauty. Its diversity of

landscapes and habitats, including upland moorlands, coastal cliffs, sandy beaches, woodlands, wetlands, river valleys and estuaries, all combine to make it one of the most attractive and ecologically rich counties in the UK. Approx. 21% of the area of the County (down to low mean water springs) is statutorily designated for nature. By including non-statutory SINC designations it rises to approx. 43%. The County contains international, national and locally designated sites (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Ecologically designated sites in Swansea**

| Number | Designated Site                                     |
|--------|---|
| 2      | Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance         |
| 7      | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)                |
| 2      | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)                     |
| 35     | Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)        |
| 4      | National Nature Reserves (NNRs)                     |
| 6      | Local Nature Reserves(LNRs)                         |
| 154    | Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) |
| 43     | South and West Wales Wildlife Trust Reserves        |

#### 3A.2 NATIONAL SITE NETWORK AND STATUTORY PROTECTED SITES

3A.2.1 SACs and SPAs no longer form part of the European Commission's Natura 2000 ecological network (Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment))

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-biodiversity-deep-dive>

(EU Exit) Regulations 2019). The 2019 Regulations created a national site network on land and sea which includes existing and any new SACs and SPAs. Ramsar sites do not form part of the national site network but remain protected in the same way as SACs or SPAs.

3A.2.2 Seven national network sites are partly within Swansea's boundaries – Crymlyn Bog SAC, Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC, Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC, Bristol Channel Approaches SAC, the Limestone Coast of South West Wales SAC, Carmarthen Bay SPA and Burry Inlet SPA. Only two sites are located entirely within the County (Gower Ash Woods SAC and Gower Commons SAC). The LDP also has the potential to impact on sites in the national network sites located outside the County boundary. Other statutorily protected sites include sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National and Local Nature Reserves (NNRs and LNRs).

3A.2.3 Statutorily protected sites cover approx. 21% of the land area of the County (excluding geological only SSSIs). NRW established the 2020 **Baseline Evaluation**<sup>24</sup> project to assess the quality of the protected sites (SACs, SPAs and SSSIs) evidence base to help understand, where possible, the relative 'health' of the key species and habitats across the range of freshwater and terrestrial features on protected sites in Wales. The results show that NRW

currently has insufficient evidence to determine the condition of around half of the features on these sites (condition classed as unknown). Of those features with an assessment:

- an estimated 20% are favourable
- around 30% are in unfavourable condition
- around 50% are not in a desired state

3A.2.4 Annex 3 contains a table showing sites of ecological significance in the County, the number of qualifying features and their indicative condition. Swansea Local Nature Partnership will be undertaking a baseline audit to assess whether a designated site is in positive/appropriate management. **Table 3.1** identifies the number of designated sites that lie within the County (either wholly within its borders or across borders).

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<sup>24</sup> [Natural Resources Wales / Protected sites baseline assessment 2020](#)

### 3A.3 ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE

3A.3.1 Ecosystem Resilience<sup>25</sup> can be understood through the attributes of: Diversity, Extent, Condition and Connectivity and other emergent Aspects – known as the DECCA attributes. The DECCA system can be applied to assessing ecosystem resilience within individual habitats or areas, such as Swansea, as follow:

- Diversity: Swansea has a rich variety of terrestrial, coastal, and marine habitats and species, including many internationally, nationally and locally important sites.
- Extent. Statutorily designated ecological sites cover approx. 21% of the County. If non-statutory sites are included the figure rises to approx. 43% of the County area being covered by designated ecological sites. Protected sites play a crucial role acting as reservoirs of biodiversity which can flow into the wider landscape supporting ecosystem resilience.
- Condition: Ecosystems are complex and dynamic and, combined with a lack of monitoring data, understanding their condition is difficult. However, the 2020 NRW baseline assessment for SSSIs and SACs in Wales showed that only 20% were in a favourable condition, meaning that although these sites are still of ecological value they need to be improved. A table of SACs, SPAs and SSSI within the County, qualifying

features and indicative condition, using the 2020 baseline data, is in Appendix 3 of this report. The condition of these sites provides some indication as to the health of the broad habitats across the county and region.

- Connectivity: Habitats are overall reasonably well connected through the area with notable networks of woodland and grassland habitats. However, there are exceptions. Some sites are becoming increasingly fragmented, isolated, and less resilient. Issues relating to a ‘biodiversity bottleneck’ between Gower and the rest of south Wales, have been identified which could restrict physical and genetic distribution and diversity (Swansea Assessment of Local Well being 2022). There are three isolated sites of heathland habitats, with only one being large enough to have a core network.
- other Aspect: ecosystem resilience is a product of the above four attributes. Adaptability, recovery and resistance to/from a disturbance are defining features of ecosystem resilience.

3A.3.2 The Council commissioned the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) to undertake a project to produce a map of ecosystem resilience for the County.

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<sup>25</sup> [Natural Resources Wales / Ecosystem resilience field guide](#)  
[Ecosystem Resilience in a Nutshell 1: what is ecosystem resilience?](#)  
[\(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)

3A.3.3 The project, when published, will inform the RLDP. It is intended to provide information to inform a range of issues including:

- identifying opportunities to develop nature recovery networks and to increase ecosystem resilience through habitat restoration, re-creation and creation;
- helping promote a broader understanding of the meaning of ecosystem resilience on the ground at the local level;
- the location and ecosystem resilience impact of land allocated in the statutory development plan; and
- the effectiveness of the suite of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (and other designations) in protecting the land identified as making the greatest contribution to ecosystem resilience.

DRAFT

### 3A.4 LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN AND SECTION 6 PLAN

3A.4.1 The draft Swansea Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP) is currently being produced by the Swansea Local Nature Partnership. At the time of writing this draft Scoping Report the anticipated date for publication of the Action Plan is late 2023. The Plan will identify the priorities for nature recovery in Swansea in the form of 25 'action themes'. It will not recommend or commit any single partner to specific actions but will guide the development of partners actions.

3A.4.2 The Council is also producing a Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Action Plan. At the time of writing this draft Scoping Report the anticipated date for publication of the Section 6 Action Plan is early 2024. The Action Plan will identify specific actions that the Council will take/aim to undertake to meet its Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and also towards the priorities identified in the Swansea LNRAP.

3A.4.3 Both documents will provide some baseline evidence and/or actions that will help inform the production of the RLDP.

### 3A.5 SPECIES

3A.5.1 Work is currently ongoing regarding an audit of Section 7 species in the County. One of the draft LNRAPs action themes will be for partners to monitor and survey species and habitats of principle importance (S7 lists of the Environment (Wales) Act) in order to expand current knowledge of presence and extent.

### 3A.6 WOODLAND AND TREES

3A.6.1 Wales is one of the least wooded countries in Europe, with woodland covering only 15% of the land area, compared to the EU average of 38%. The WGs 50 year strategy for woodlands and trees and Wales is set out within its 2018 Woodland Strategy<sup>26</sup>, 'Woodlands for Wales', the Vision of which is:

*'Wales will be known for its high-quality woodlands that enhance the landscape, are appropriate to local conditions and have a diverse mixture of species and habitats. These will:*

- provide real social and community benefits, both locally and nationally;*
- support thriving woodland-based industries; and*
- contribute to a better quality environment throughout Wales.'*

3A.6.2 The Woodland Strategy identifies six key outcomes:

- More woodlands and trees are managed sustainably.

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/woodlands-for-wales-strategy\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-06/woodlands-for-wales-strategy_0.pdf)

- Woodland ecosystems are healthy and resilient.
- Woodlands are better adapted to deliver a full range of benefits.
- Woodland cover in Wales increases.
- The management of woodland and trees is more closely related to that of other land uses.
- Urban woodlands and trees deliver a full range of benefits.

### Ancient Woodlands

3A.6.3 NRW publishes the Ancient Woodland Inventory, which identifies woodlands that have had continuous woodland cover for some centuries<sup>27</sup>. Figure 3.1 shows the extent of the coverage throughout the County. Studies show that these woodlands are typically more ecologically diverse and of a higher nature conservation value than those developed recently or those where woodland cover on the site has been intermittent. These woodlands may also be culturally important. NRW's Ancient Woodland Inventory 2021 places woodland into four categories:

- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW),
- Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS),
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) or
- Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category (AWSU).

**Figure 3.1: Extent of Ancient Woodland Cover in the County**



### Tree Canopy Cover

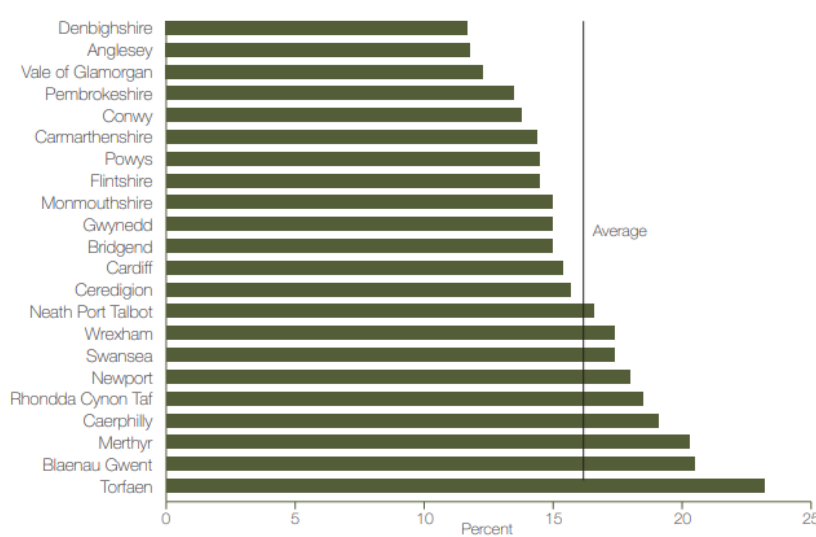
3A.6.4 Trees are amongst the most versatile natural assets to cost-effectively raise the quality of towns and cities and better provision and management of urban trees will help deliver the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development objectives and well-being goals. NRW published the Tree Cover in Wales' Towns and Cities (TCWTC) study, which provides baseline information to strategically plan and manage Wales' urban tree resource<sup>28</sup>. The study focuses on tree canopy cover (rather than counting individual numbers of trees). This was mapped through a desk-based analysis of 2006,

<sup>27</sup> [Natural Resources Wales / Identifying ancient woodlands](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Tree Cover in Wales' Towns and Cities \(full report\) \(naturalresources.wales\)](#)

2009 and 2013 aerial photographs for 220 urban areas as defined by the ONS’ settlement-based approach.

**Figure 3.2: Area of Canopy Cover in Welsh Local Authorities 2016.**



Source: Tree Cover in Wales’ Town and Cities (NRW 2016)

3A.6.5 Coastal areas have, traditionally, low canopy cover. As a County Swansea has higher than national average cover at 17.4% (Figure 3.3).

3A.6.5 Tree cover is usually less within deprived wards. Using the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), four wards/WIMD Category areas within the County are within the ‘Top 20’ most canopied urban wards/WIMD Category areas in Wales. All of these are within or on the edge of, the Gower AONB (Killay North, Fairwood, Gower and Mayals). The Study also identifies that the

following areas experienced canopy loss between 2009-2013: Bishopston (1.0ha), Penclawdd / Crofty (2ha) and Southgate (3.0ha – 3.4% of its cover) (Tree Cover in Wales’ Towns and Cities, 2016, NRW). This loss is expected to have increased significantly since that date due to ash die back.

3A.6.6 The Council is undertaking a study to map canopy cover in the whole of the County. At the time of writing this draft Scoping Report the map canopy study has not yet been published.

### 3A.7 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY OF SWANSEA CENTRAL AREA, 2021

3A.7.1 Green Infrastructure (GI) is the term used to describe all the green space, soil, vegetation and water that provide multifunctional ecosystem services that make places more liveable. This includes, for example, streets trees, green roofs and walls, natural play spaces, wildlife/nature gardens, pollinator corridors, landscaping, drainage and air quality management solutions. High quality multifunctional green infrastructure operates at different spatial scales providing a range of environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits to wildlife and wellbeing. The range of GI benefits are shown in Figure 3.3.

**Figure 3.3: Interconnections of GI**



Source: Swansea Central Area – Regenerating Our city for Wellbeing and Wildlife, 2021, Swansea Council and NRW,

3A.7.2 The vision is for a city with high quality multifunctional green infrastructure, which delivers resilience, prosperity, nature, health, wellbeing and happiness to the citizens and visitors of Swansea. The five Principles of Green Infrastructure to be applied to achieve this vision:

1. Multifunctional - making sure that all GI in the city centre provides as many benefits as possible.
2. Adapted for climate change - absorbing water to reduce flooding, providing summer cooling and accommodating wildlife and capturing and locking up carbon.

3. Healthy - helping physical and mental health by absorbing pollution, providing clean air, clean water, food and space to exercise, socialise and play and space to have contact with nature.
4. Biodiverse - supporting a wide variety of native species providing shelter and food and creating green corridors across the city centre linking to existing strategic wildlife corridors.
5. Smart and Sustainable - providing solutions, techniques and technologies that are low maintenance and reduce pollution and waste and maximise the use of recycled or sustainably sourced materials.

3A.7.3 The GI Strategy for the Swansea Central Area has a target to double GI in this area (from 13% to 26%) by 2030 and increase tree canopy cover to 20-25% by 2044.



### 3A.8 WILDFLOWERS/GRASS CUTTING

3A.8.1 The Council sow approx. 40,000m<sup>2</sup> (approx. 10 acres) of wildflowers (including ornamental non-natives) across 190 sites in the County. Furthermore, the Council are trialling ‘cut and collect’ grass cutting equipment across 15 sites in order to boost wildflowers and pollinators, slow rainwater and capture airborne pollutants, in order to help increase biodiversity and increase the capacity to adapt to climate change.

### 3A.9 NATIONAL TRUST LAND

3A.9.1 The National Trust own approximately 70% of the coastline of the Gower AONB as well as areas of common land.

**Figure 3.4: National Trust Land Holdings in the County**



### 3A.10 MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

3A.10.1 The County’s coastline abuts many nationally and internationally designated areas from SSSIs to Ramsar, SPA and SAC sites. NRW’s Marine Area Statement covers the inshore waters of Wales extending out 12 nautical miles and making up 43% of the Welsh territory. Marine and coastal habitats can provide protection from coastal erosion and flooding and marine industries including tourism are economically important. Offshore marine wave, tide and wind resources can also provide clean energy to help combat the climate emergency.

3A.10.2 The marine environment and Swansea’s coastline is home to a wide variety of habitats and species which are at risk from many pressures including climate change, development and pollution. National planning policy seeks to ensure that land use planning approaches in coastal areas are environmentally and economically sustainable, socially equitable and recognise the threat posed by the climate emergency. Development plans and the Welsh National Marine Plan must be complementary and support integrated decision making and collaboration across marine and terrestrial interfaces and boundaries.

3A.10.3 Landward development pressures may include major developments on the coast, port and harbour works, leisure and recreational facilities, renewable energy generation or coastal defences. Seaward development pressures may include waste disposal, sea fishing,

leisure sailing, dredging of navigable channels, water sports and bathing, marine aggregates extraction or tidal and wave power generation. The impacts associated with such activities can be widespread and overlap between sea and coastline. They may relate to inappropriate land use as a result of pressure for services and facilities. They may include impacts on existing businesses and employment as well as effects on the natural and historic character of the coastline and seascape, particularly where there is extensive inter-visibility between land and sea along the coastline.

3A.10.4 The climate emergency exacerbates the challenges faced in coastal places resulting in losses of protected habitat, through 'coastal squeeze', or the loss of features which protect against inundation, such as sand dunes, and salt marsh as well as consequential effects on recreational beaches, people and property. The irreplaceable nature of some coastal habitats should be recognised and they should be protected as finite and rare resources.

### 3A.11 SOIL

3A.11.1 Soil is a major component of the natural environment, providing an essential natural resource, which takes centuries to form. It is the layer of mineral and organic matter found at the interface between earth, air and water. Soil and landscape are intricately linked.

Climate change will have a range of effects upon the ability of soil to deliver goods and services, for example soil erosion, greater run-off and instability. Soils are also important for storing carbon. Soils with high organic content and good soil structure will be more resilient and better able to retain and store more water, and nutrients for plant growth.

3A.11.2 The 2018-19 Soil Policy Evidence Programme 'Assessment of Welsh Soil Issues in Context' (2019, WG and ADAS)<sup>29</sup> states that the most important threats to soil in Wales and the type of land use that is most affected by the threat are:

- I. Climate change (arable, grassland and forest)
- II. Soil compaction (mainly arable, intensive grassland and forestry)
- III. Soil erosion (mainly arable)
- IV. Loss of soil organic matter (SOM) and loss of soil biodiversity (mainly arable)
- V. Soil loss to development/soil sealing (arable and grassland)
- VI. Soil contamination (arable and grassland).

3A.11.3 The soils within Swansea range from peats in the upland areas to lime rich loamy soils on the coastal plains, with the majority of the county underlain by brown soils and surface water gleys. The brown soils are typically well-drained loamy soils. The surface water gleys are found in low ground such as valley bottoms and are seasonally wet due to slowly

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<sup>29</sup> [Soils policy evidence programme: all documents | GOV.WALES](#)

permeable subsoil. In addition to these predominant soils, some of the coastal areas such as the Loughor Estuary are underlain by groundwater gleys, which experience seasonal waterlogging on account of high groundwater levels. Some areas of the Gower Peninsula, particularly the coastal zones are also associated with shallow, lithomorphous soils (Swansea Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment, Stage 1, 2010).

3A.11.4 Soil is sealed during the construction process when the topsoil is stripped and an impermeable layer such as concrete seals the remaining sub-soil. The result is that the soil is no longer a functioning system but becomes essentially, an inert platform. Provision of a platform for construction is a primary function of soil.

### Peat Soils

Figure 3.5: Peatlands within the County.



Source: Wales Environmental Information Portal, NRW

3A.11.5 Peat bogs are of significant nature conservation interest and are frequently important for archaeological interest as well as providing a carbon sink and resources should be protected and conserved for future generations. NRW's Peatlands of Wales map series provides an updated distribution of Welsh Peatlands (to 2022). The Peatlands of Wales dataset identifies peat in the County with a thickness of more than 40cm of organic material within the upper 80cm of soil profile (Figure 3.5) together with the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and carbon stock levels. NRW are seeking to restore Crymlyn Bog SAC, with a funding programme covering 2022-2016.

3A.11.6 The Council's Climate Change and Nature Strategy 2022-2030 states '*LDP policy reviewed to protect land soils and habitats rich in carbon*' as part of the action plan to achieve net zero carbon by an organisation by 2030.

### 3A.12 AGRICULTURAL LAND

3A.12.1 Agricultural land is graded into 6 different grades:

- grade 1: excellent quality
- grade 2: good quality
- grade 3a: good to moderate quality
- grade 3b: moderate quality
- grade 4: poor quality
- grade 5: very poor quality

3A.12.2 Planning Policy Wales defines grades 1 to 3a as the 'best and most versatile' (BMV) agricultural land and this covers about 7% of the land in Wales. The Welsh Government published a Predicted Agricultural Land Map in 2017, which showed that within the County no land is predicted graded 1, there are 957ha of Grade 2 land and 5270.23ha of Grade 3a, thus resulting in only 16% of the County being classed as Predictive BMV. The Gower Peninsula and west Swansea contain the majority of the highest grades of agricultural land.

3A.12.3 The Map was updated in 2022 (Predictive Agricultural Land Map 2). The Council has not had the resources to undertake a comparison of the two maps in time for the publication of this draft Scoping Report, but it is clear that there remains no Grade 1 BMV land in the County. The importance of BMV land must be taken into account during the development of the RLDP.

### 3A.13 CONTAMINATED LAND

3A.13.1 Land contamination can be natural, or a consequence of industrial and land use practices. The impacts of contamination can be far-reaching. Initially, contamination of the soil system beyond the critical load impedes the buffering, filtering and transforming capacity of the soil, and associated impacts upon soil biological communities. At a more concentrated level, the buffering capacity of the soil is exceeded and the contaminating substance can be released into the

wider environment, affecting other media, such as surface and ground waters. The most extreme cases of soil contamination can have serious implications for both animal and human health.

3A.13.2 Contaminated land refers to: *“any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that either: significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or pollution of controlled waters is being, or is likely to be, caused.”*<sup>30</sup>

3A.13.3 The Council's **Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, 2005** identifies 289 potentially contaminated sites. The sites have been selected on the basis of the use to which the land has been put in the past one hundred years, as far as is known. The main part of the list contains sites that were used by former heavy industries such as mining, non-ferrous metal smelting, iron foundries, steel manufacture and tinsplate. Sites were often used for a succession of activities, each of which could have left chemical contaminants or other physical problems. The latest estimate of the area of contaminated land remaining in Swansea, taken from the 2014 progress review of Swansea's Environment Strategy, is 2149ha's, a reduction of 23 ha's or about 1% of the area estimated in 2007. The 'area of contaminated land remaining in Swansea' has not been calculated but is assumed to have remained about the

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<sup>30</sup> (Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, CCS, 2005:12)

same for the past few years. Restoration of contaminated land remains dependant on redevelopment projects and though some redevelopments have been undertaken in recent years, it has not been possible to verify that remediation or containment of contamination has been completed<sup>31</sup>.

### 3A.14 GEODIVERSITY

3A.14.1 “Geodiversity” is the variety of geological environments, phenomena and active processes that make landscapes, rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and other superficial deposits that provide the framework for life on earth. Geodiversity is important because it underpins biodiversity with soils being the link between them (TAN 5, 1.4.2, 2010). Geodiversity gives us natural resources, such as building stones and aggregates, coal and metals; harbours natural gas, oil and groundwaters; forms the basis of productive soils and agricultural land; helps shape landscape; provides an archive of past climatic and environmental conditions.

3A.14.2 The natural environment of Swansea contains a wealth of important geological sites, areas of highly attractive landscape and many valuable archaeological sites. These are all in need of protection and sensitive management. Nineteen SSSIs located within the County have geological interest. A number of

Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) are located in the County. RIGS are sites of local and regional geological importance and are the most important places for geology, geomorphology and soils outside the nationally recognised network of geological SSSI’s. A 2012 RIGS audit identified nine RIGS sites in Swansea:

- Cilifor Top
- King Arthurs Stone
- Llethryd Valley Caves and Swallet
- Rhossili to Port Eynon Coast
- Pennard Caves
- Pwlldu Bay
- Three Cliffs Bay
- Rosehill Quarry Community Park
- Paviland Moraine

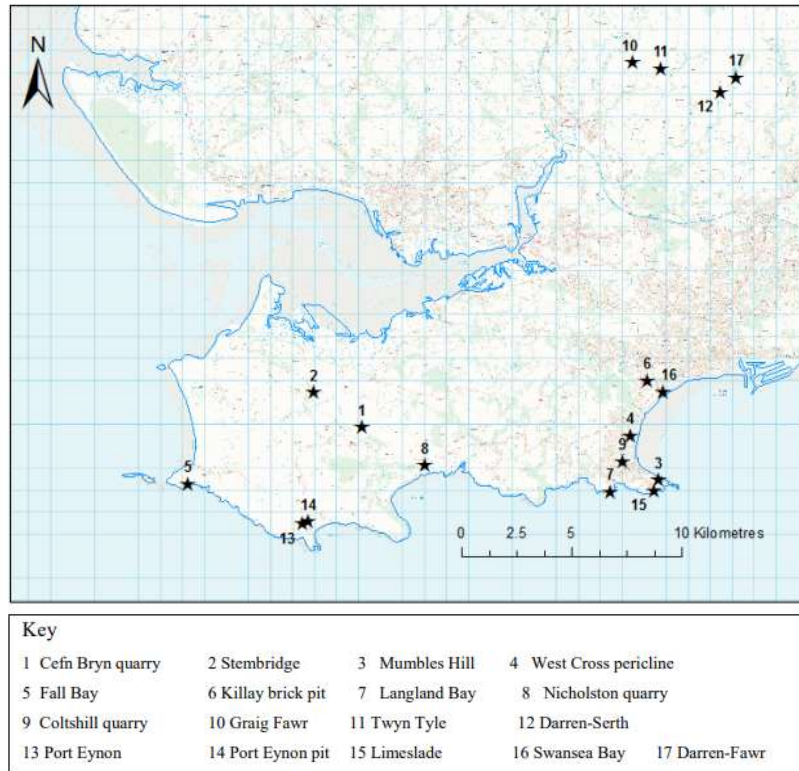
3A.14.4 A further audit in 2016, ‘Audit of potential Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological (Geodiversity) Sites (RIGS) in the Swansea area’<sup>32</sup> identified a potential other 17 Priority RIGS sites as shown in Figure 3.6.

3A.14.5 Soil and geodiversity influence biodiversity, landscape, and mineral resources, baseline data for which can be found in sections 3A, 3G and 3I.

<sup>31</sup> Source: Time to Change: SEVEN YEARS ON. 2014 Progress Review of the Swansea Environment Strategy, Swansea Environmental Forum

<sup>32</sup> ‘Sites of Geological Interest in the Swansea Area. RIGS Sites in Swansea’, Trenbith H.E., Swansea University, 2016

**Figure 3.6: Potential RIGS Sites of Priority Interest in Swansea, 2016**



The map contains Ordnance Survey Open Data and access under the terms of the Open Government Licence, OS data © Crown Copyright and database right (2016)  
 Source: sites of Geological Interest in the Swansea Area, 2016

### 3A.15 KEY ISSUES - BIODIVERSITY, SOIL AND GEODIVERSITY

- Welsh Government and Council commitment to 30 x 30 global biodiversity target to inform decision making
- Statutorily designated sites to be protected from damage in-line with national policy and relevant legislation
- Avoid wherever possible development that would adversely affect non-statutory designated sites
- Facilitate the restoration and creation of habitat and GI in urban and peri-urban areas, to increase access to good quality semi-natural green and blue spaces and the associated well-being benefits
- Help minimise loss and increase connectivity in key wildlife corridors and networks throughout Swansea to reduce the effects of habitat fragmentation resulting from urban growth and historic land use impacts.
- Help meet Council target to double GI in Swansea Central Area to 26% by 2030 and tree canopy to 20-25% by 2044.
- Give considerable weight to protecting Grades 1-3a agricultural land from development, which is mainly located within the Gower AONB
- Encourage reuse of brownfield land, where it is suitable for development, and follow the search sequence for new development land set out in national planning policy.
- Afford protection to ancient woodland from development that would result in loss/deterioration, and support an increase in canopy cover throughout the County.
- Facilitate sustainable use of marine natural resources, particularly within the Marine Protected Area's
- Protect coastline from inappropriate development and consider the consequential impacts of climate change on the coastline and coastal environments.

- Protect peat soil resources.
- Support improvement of the quality of Swansea's air and water (sea and fresh water) resources.
- Support the reduction of the spread of Invasive Non Native Species

### 3A. 16 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3A.16.1 Future development would have to comply with Future Wales, PPW and relevant legislation relating to biodiversity, statutory protected sites, soils, climate change and GI. Without an up to date statutory local development plan, new developments may occur in an uncoordinated and unplanned manner, with pressure for greenfield releases. The location of developments will not be informed by a county wide GI assessment, nor consider the cumulative impacts of developments.

3A.16.2 Interrelated issues of biodiversity, geodiversity, green infrastructure, open space, flood risk alleviation, sustainable drainage, active travel, landscape, health and wellbeing, climate change adaptation and placemaking will not be considered in a coordinated or cumulative manner as part of a comprehensive Sustainability Appraisal guiding the preparation of the plan Development has the potential to harm the County's biodiversity resource if not adequately mitigated. There will be less ability to integrate enhancement opportunities into development, decreasing opportunities for nature recovery and increasing ecosystem resilience.

3A.16.3 Without an up to date statutory local development plan, there would be no statutory local policy framework reflecting the most up to date national planning policy in respect of GI, climate change and biodiversity, guided by a strategic Green infrastructure Assessment to inform the location of development. The Council's adopted SPG, including for example those relating to Biodiversity and Trees, require an up to date local policy framework to be in place in order to have material weight for decision making.

DRAFT



## SECTION 3B

### TOPIC AREA: POPULATION (INCLUDING HOUSING AND EDUCATION)

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:

SEA Regs Schedule 2(6 b: population; c: human health; k: cultural heritage (Welsh language)); Equalities; Health and Wellbeing; and Welsh language

#### 3B.1 DEMOGRAPHY

3B.1.1 The 2021 Census shows that the estimated population of Swansea on Census Day (Sunday 21 March 2021) was 238,500, comprising of 121,000 females (50.7%) and 117,600 males (49.3%). This is approximately 8,100 (3.3%) less than the 2020 Mid-Year Estimate figure for Swansea and 500 (0.2%) lower than the 2011 Census total. Since then, the ONS have published the 2021 mid-year population estimates which show a further decrease in Swansea’s population of 600 people since census day, with a figure of **237,800** (rounded); comprising of 120,700 females and 117,100 males. Swansea still has the second largest local authority population in Wales (behind Cardiff).

3B.1.2 Before this, the annual mid-year estimates had showed a general steady increase in Swansea’s population since 2001, with an average growth of approximately 1,200 people (+0.5%) per annum. However, the 2021 Census figure goes against the established post- 2001

and 2011 trends previously published and the 2021 mid-year estimates show further population decrease.

3B.1.3. Analysis of the supporting data released with the mid-year 2021 estimates suggests that Swansea’s overall reduction in population during the three months to June 2021 was due to internal (UK-based) out-migration (-560 net approx.) and negative natural change (approx. 40 more deaths than births), with no net changes from international in-migration estimated in this period.

**Table 3.2: Swansea’s 2021 Census Population by Age and Sex**

| Age group       | Males          | Females        | Total (% of all)      | Wales %     | Difference: 2021 vs. 2011 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 0-4             | 5,800          | 5,600          | 11,400 (4.8%)         | 5.0%        | -1,700 (-13.0%)           |
| 5-9             | 6,800          | 6,300          | 13,000 (5.5%)         | 5.7%        | +600 (+4.5%)              |
| 10-14           | 7,100          | 6,500          | 13,700 (5.7%)         | 5.9%        | +500 (+3.7%)              |
| 15-19           | 7,600          | 6,900          | 14,500 (6.1%)         | 5.7%        | -1,500 (-9.7%)            |
| 20-24           | 10,500         | 8,700          | 19,200 (8.1%)         | 6.0%        | -1,300 (-6.4%)            |
| 25-29           | 7,100          | 7,200          | 14,200 (6.0%)         | 6.0%        | -1,400 (-8.7%)            |
| 30-34           | 7,400          | 7,700          | 15,100 (6.3%)         | 6.3%        | +700 (+4.9%)              |
| 35-39           | 7,100          | 7,400          | 14,500 (6.1%)         | 6.0%        | -200 (-1.4%)              |
| 40-44           | 6,800          | 7,000          | 13,800 (5.8%)         | 5.6%        | -2,100 (-13.4%)           |
| 45-49           | 6,900          | 7,100          | 14,000 (5.9%)         | 6.0%        | -2,300 (-14.1%)           |
| 50-54           | 7,800          | 7,900          | 15,700 (6.6%)         | 6.9%        | +500 (+3.6%)              |
| 55-59           | 7,800          | 8,200          | 16,000 (6.7%)         | 7.2%        | +2,100 (+15.5%)           |
| 60-64           | 7,000          | 7,600          | 14,500 (6.1%)         | 6.4%        | -500 (-3.2%)              |
| 65-69           | 6,100          | 6,600          | 12,700 (5.3%)         | 5.7%        | +700 (+5.4%)              |
| 70-74           | 6,200          | 6,900          | 13,100 (5.5%)         | 5.8%        | +3,000 (+29.6%)           |
| 75-79           | 4,400          | 5,200          | 9,600 (4.0%)          | 4.2%        | +1,000 (+11.2%)           |
| 80-84           | 2,900          | 3,900          | 6,800 (2.9%)          | 2.9%        | +500 (+8.5%)              |
| 85-89           | 1,700          | 2,600          | 4,300 (1.8%)          | 1.7%        | +500 (+12.7%)             |
| 90+             | 800            | 1,600          | 2,400 (1.0%)          | 1.0%        | +500 (+23.7%)             |
| <b>All ages</b> | <b>117,600</b> | <b>121,000</b> | <b>238,500 (100%)</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>-500 (-0.2%)</b>       |

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), © Crown copyright 2022.

Note: 2011 and 2021 figures are from the Census; 2020 figures use the latest published mid-year population estimates.

3B.1.4 The differences by specific age group and sex (between the 2011 and 2021 Census and the 2021 mid-year estimates) are summarised below:

- Aged under-5: a significantly lower figure in 2021, with a difference of around 1,700 or 13%, between the census dates and a further 100 in mid-year population 2021 mostly attributable to a falling number of births in recent years.
- Aged 5-14 years (school-age): a higher figure in 2021, by around 1,000 (4%), in part due to the higher number of births recorded in the late 2000s / early 2010s.
- 15-24 age group: substantially lower in 2021, by around 2,900 (8%). This goes against previous estimates and trends for this age group, which includes 19 to 22 year-olds studying at Swansea's universities. This is reinforced by the 2021 mid-year estimates which show a total of 32,600 some 1,100 fewer than the 2021 Census.
- 25-29: also a lower figure in 2021 compared to 2011, by around 1,400 or 9%.
- 30-39: this was 500 (1.7%) higher overall in 2021, with a more significantly higher number of females aged 30-34 in 2021 (+700 or 11% since 2011). The 2021 mid-year estimates show an additional 100 females in the 35-39 age group since the 2021 census, increasing the total in the age group to 19,700.
- 40-49: substantially lower figure in 2021, by 4,400 or 14%.

- 50-59: higher in 2021, by 2,700 or 9% overall, especially apparent within the 55-59 group – in part reflecting the 1960's baby boom.
- People aged 65+: 6,100 or 14% higher in 2021 than 2011, indicative of a generally ageing population, in line with established national trends. This group includes those born in the post-war baby boom period, with the highest reported increase (in terms of five-year cohorts) within the population aged 70-74 (+3,000 or 30%). The 2021 mid-year estimates indicate a further increase of 400 people in the 65+ age group, which makes up 20.7% (49,300) of Swansea's population in mid-2021.
- For the older groups (aged 85 and over), the total has increased in Swansea over the ten-years (2011 to 2021) by around 900 or 16%. A further increase of 100 is noted in the 2021 mid-year estimates.
- There were an estimated 500 (0.4%) fewer males in 2021 than in 2011, and around 100 (0.1%) more females in 2021 than 2011.

3B.1.5 The 2021 mid-year estimates show that median age of the population in Swansea was 41.5 years in mid-2021, which is 1.5 years higher than in mid-2011. Swansea has the fifth lowest median age within Wales at mid-2021(43.1) but above England and Wales (40.6).

3B.1.6 The Council has commissioned research to review the population data in order to understand the recorded decrease in population and the implications for forecasting future growth requirements eg for housing and employment land; over the plan period.

## 3B.2 EQUALITIES

3B.2.1 The Development Plan Manual (para 4.15) states that the nine protected characteristics defined within the 2010 Equalities Act, must be screened to identify and justify those which will be influenced by the RLDP. A brief outline of each category is presented below, alongside consideration of the influence of the RLDP. Table 3.3 identifies which characteristics will be influenced by the RLDP.

3B.2.2 In order to understand the diversity of Swansea's population in 2019 and to support the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024, the Council undertook a review of the available published statistics around the population characteristics related to equalities, as considered within the Equality Act 2010:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Marriage and civil partnership
5. Pregnancy and maternity
6. Race
7. Religion or belief
8. Sex
9. Sexual orientation.

3B.2.3 Some of the data has been superseded by the 2021 Census results and this is made clear in the paragraphs below. Limited 2021 Census results are available at the time of writing the Scoping Report, for

example they are not yet available at ward level to make comparisons of the variation within the County. This will be updated throughout the RLDP process.

### Age:

3B.2.4 Data relating to this topic is set out in section 3B.1 above.

### Disability:

3B.2.5 The 2021 Census records:

- In Swansea, around 113,800 people (47.7%) reported being in very **good health**, slightly higher than Wales (46.6%) and England & Wales (47.5%), with a further 73,800 people (30.9%) reporting good health, slightly below equivalent proportions in Wales (32.4%) and England & Wales (33.6%).
- However, the number and proportion reporting bad or very **bad health** in Swansea, at 17,500 or 7.3%, is higher than Wales (6.9%) and further above England & Wales (5.2% in 2021).
- In Swansea, the proportion of **disabled people** (under the Equality Act) was 22.4% (53,500) in 2021, higher than both Wales (21.6%) and England & Wales (17.5%). The 2021 question changed from 2011 in order to collect data that more closely aligned with the definition of disability in the Equality Act (2010). A further 15,600 people in Swansea (6.6%) had a long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited (not disabled under the Equality Act).
- An estimated 24,700 usual residents in Swansea aged 5 years and over (10.9%) provided **unpaid care** in

2021, slightly above Wales (10.5%) and England & Wales (8.9%) averages. The total providing unpaid care in Swansea decreased by around 5,600 or 18.6% since 2011, broadly in line with national trends.

- Age-standardised proportions (ASPs) have been used for the 2021 Census health data; they allow for comparison between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in population size and age structure.

### Gender reassignment (Gender Identity)

3B.2.6 The Equality Act 2010 specified that *'A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if the person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.'*

3B.2.7 Gender identity is considered a personal internal perception of oneself, and as such, the gender category with which a person identifies may not match the sex they were assigned at birth. In contrast, sex is biologically determined.

3B.2.8 The 2021 Census asked a **gender identity** question: "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" Overall, 93.5% of the population in Swansea aged 16 years and over answered the question. In total, around 184,200 people in Swansea (93.1%) answered "Yes" and 864 (0.4%) answered "No" (Wales 0.4%; England & Wales 0.5%). Of this total, 320 people in Swansea (0.2%) answered "No" but

did not provide a write-in response; 146 (0.1%) identified as a trans man; 160 (0.1%) identified as a trans woman; and 238 (0.1%) identified as non-binary or wrote in a different gender identity.

### Marriage and Civil Partnerships

3B.2.9 Census 2021 result:

- 41.2% of Swansea's residents aged 16 and over (81,400 people) are **married or in a registered civil partnership**, a slightly lower proportion than Wales (43.8%) and England & Wales (44.6%), with an overall reduction of around 5,400 (-6.2%) since 2011.
- In response to the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, local data on same-sex marital status will be available for the first time.
- The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019, will made couples of the opposite sex eligible to form civil partnerships.
- Of the 41.2% of residents married or in a registered civil partnership, some 41% were married and 0.2% in a registered civil partnership. 40.7% of residents were in opposite sex marriages and 0.3% in same sex marriages. 0.1% of registered civil partnerships were same sex and 0.1% opposite sex.
- In common with many urban areas and university cities, Swansea currently has a higher proportion of single adults (39.9%) (never married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership) than equivalent national averages (Wales 37.2%, England and Wales 37.9%).

## Pregnancy and Maternity

3B.2.10 Since 1995, the annual number of births and deaths in Swansea (as expressed in the midyear estimates) has broadly been in balance, with few years showing an excess in either direction above 300 (rounded). There was a relatively small excess of deaths over births between 1995 and 2005 and the reverse (more births than deaths) from 2007 to 2014. The current mid-year estimate series (from 2011) shows the excess of births slowing then reversing (i.e. more deaths than births) after 2015, with 2019-20 the largest difference (600). The 2019 survey states:

- Recent conception rates, live birth rates and fertility rates in the County are below those for Wales and England & Wales, ultimately reflected in lower numbers of average children born to women in Swansea.
- Over the last five years, numbers of conceptions and births have fallen slightly, both in Swansea and nationally.
- In Swansea, fertility rates are above national averages for women aged under 20 and those over 35, but lower than average in the 20-34 age groups.
- There are considerable variations in birth rates within Swansea, with lower rates in areas with an older age profile or higher proportions of students (e.g. under 4.0 in Uplands, Pennard and Bishopston), and higher rates in the less affluent urban wards or near areas of recent housing expansion (e.g. 15.2 in Penderry and 18.3 in Townhill).
- There are considerable variations in general fertility rates within Swansea, with lower rates in areas with an older age profile or higher proportions of students

(Killay North 20.3 and Uplands 11.7), and higher rates tending to be in the less affluent urban wards or near areas of recent housing expansion Townhill ward (81.1 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44), Lower Loughor (70.8) and Mayals (70.7).

## Race

3B.2.11 The 2021 Census recorded that 91.4% of Swansea's usually resident population were white (around 218,100 people). The proportion of people with non-white **ethnicity** in Swansea has increased from 6.0% in 2011 (around 14,300 people) to 8.6% in 2021 (20,400). The largest non-white ethnic group in Swansea in 2021 was 'Indian' (around 2,900 people or 1.2%) with 'Other Asian', 'Caribbean' and 'Bangladeshi' also above 2,000.

3B.2.12 More detailed breakdowns (such as at ward level) of Swansea's population by ethnic group are not yet available from the 2021 Census.

## Religion or belief

3B.2.13 The only source of local data on religion is the national Census. The 2021 Census data shows that the predominant religion in Swansea is Christianity, with 41.3% of Swansea residents (around 98,500) stated Christian as their **religion**. However this is an almost 14 percentage-point drop since 2011. The largest minority religion in Swansea is Muslim (around 7,700 or 3.2%)

**Sex**

3B.2.14 The 2021 Census shows a total of 238,500 people residing in the County, with 117,600 males and 121,000 females. Male:female ratios in Swansea change at different life stages, with more males than females in Swansea at ages 0-24 and the reverse at 25+.

**Sexual Orientation**

3B.2.15 The 2021 Census introduced questions on sexual orientation, voluntary for those aged 16 years and over.

- Some 175,700 people (88.8%) in Swansea identified as straight or heterosexual, slightly below averages for Wales and England & Wales (both 89.4%).
- Around 6,700 people (3.4%) in Swansea identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation"); slightly above Wales (3.0%) and England & Wales (3.2%).
- The remaining 15,400 people in Swansea (7.8%) did not answer the question.

**Table 3.3: Screening of Influence of RLDP on Protected Characteristic**

| Protected Characteristic       | Direct Influence | Indirect Influence | No Influence | Comment   |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|---|
| Age                            | √                | √                  |              | Direct and indirect influence on housing provision, education provision, employment, community facilities, leisure and green infrastructure – all of which are important for all ages of society. |
| Disability                     |                  | √                  |              | The RLDP will have indirect influence on disability through Placemaking and the built environment   |
| Gender reassignment            |                  |                    | √            | The RLDP will have no influence on a person’s decision re: gender identity  |
| Marriage and civil partnership |                  |                    | √            | The RLDP will have no influence on a person’s decision re: marriage and civil partnership   |
| Pregnancy and maternity        |                  |                    | √            | The RLDP will have no influence on a person’s decision re: pregnancy and maternity.   |

|                    |  |   |   |   |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Race               |  |   | √ | The RLDP will have no influence on a person’s race  |
| Religion or belief |  | √ |   | The RLDP will have no influence on a person’s personal belief or religion. However, indirect influence through placemaking and safeguarding re: places of worship |
| Sex                |  |   | √ | The RLDP will have no influence on a person’s sex   |
| Sexual orientation |  |   | √ | The RLDP will have no influence on a person’s sexual orientation  |

### 3B.3 HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLDS

3B.3.1 The most recent local statistics on households from the 2021 Census estimates there were 105,000 households in Swansea in March 2021, with a total of 1,347,100 million in Wales. Swansea has 7.8% of the total Welsh households and approx. 4,700 less than the official mid-year 2020 household estimates for Swansea, but a 1.5% increase on the 2011 Census figure of 103,500.

3B.3.2 Between 2011 and 2021, the estimated number of households in Swansea increased by around 1,500 (+1.5%), despite a fall in Swansea’s estimated population over those 10 years, indicating a small reduction in average household size (from 2.26 to 2.22 people). The County has the fifth highest population

density in Wales, with 632 usual residents per square kilometre compared to 150 residents per square kilometre in Wales.

3B.3.3 The mid-2020 household estimates are the latest available relating to household composition. Single adult households and 2 adult 0 child households are the most common household types in Swansea, with notable increases between 2015 and 2020 in these household types plus the 4+ adult 0 child categories. By contrast, the number of households with 2 adults and more than 1 child decreased over the period.

#### Housing Projections

3B.3.4 The most recent Welsh Government (WG) trend-based household projections for the 22 local authority areas in Wales were published in 2020 and cover the 25-year period from 2018 to 2043. These are the last projections published before the 2021 Census results.

3B.3.5 In the 2018-based projections, the total number of households in Swansea is projected to increase from an estimated 108,900 in 2018 to 115,000 in 2028 (+6,100 or +5.6% over 10 years), and to 122,800 by 2043 (+14,000 or +12.8% over 25 years). As a result, Swansea records the second highest projected level of growth (numeric) in Wales over the first ten years of the projection, behind only Cardiff (+8,700). As a percentage, Swansea has the sixth highest projected rate of growth between 2018 and 2028, behind Vale of Glamorgan, Newport, Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cardiff.

3B.3.6 Focusing on the first ten years of the projection (2018-2028), the key trends for Swansea by household type are as follows:

- The most significant growth is projected to be in single-person households, by approximately 4,500 (+11.7%), up from 38,000 in 2018 to 42,500 in 2028.
- One-parent households are projected to increase by 10.2% (+800) from 7,800 in 2018 to 8,500 in 2028, with growth within this category all due to 'one adult, one child' households (approx. +800 or 17.1%).
- The number of 'two adult, no children' households is projected to increase by 1,200 (+3.6%) from 32,000 in 2018 to 33,200 in 2028.
- The number of households with 4+ adults and no children is projected to increase from around 4,500 to 4,800 (+8.0%) over the 10 years – in part continuing recent growth in adult shared households including students.
- The number of households containing two (or more) adults and (any) children is projected to fall over the period by 200 (-1.1%).
- Swansea's private household population (i.e. excluding communal establishment residents) is projected to increase by around 7,700 (+3.2%), from 241,700 in 2018 to 249,400 in 2028.

3B.3.7 The above (and other) changes combine to result in a projected decrease in average household size in Swansea from 2.22 persons in 2018 (Wales 2.27) to 2.17 in 2028 (Wales 2.23).

3B.3.8 The Council has commissioned research to inform the strategic options on population and household forecasts and employment growth forecasts which together will inform the level of housing required over the Plan period. As part of this commission, a Local Housing Market Assessment is also being undertaken in-line with the latest WG guidance and toolkit, to inform the level of housing need and other requirements.

#### **New Dwelling Completions**

3B.3.9 Housing delivery is monitored in the LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). Some 374 dwellings were completed in the County in 2021-22 (36% of the Annual Average Housing Requirement (AAR)), a decrease from 446 dwellings in 2020-21, and 397 dwellings in 2019-20. House building rates have been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and other factors which have affected delivery rates across the country (these are detailed in the AMR).

#### **House price data**

3B.3.10 Whilst there are a number of regular house price surveys undertaken by the major mortgage providers and property consultancies, the ONS / Land Registry House Price Index (HPI) data records all residential properties purchased for market value in the UK (and local areas), and is normally updated on a monthly basis. Recent figures (seasonally adjusted) for November 2022 report an average sale price in Swansea of £202,940 (compared to £169,324 In Feb



2021); This is 7.9% below the Wales average and 31.2% below the UK figure. This data, including recent change and average price by property type, is summarised in Table 3.4. there are, of course, significant variations in average house price within the County and there is sometimes a time lag in the availability of data at the local level.

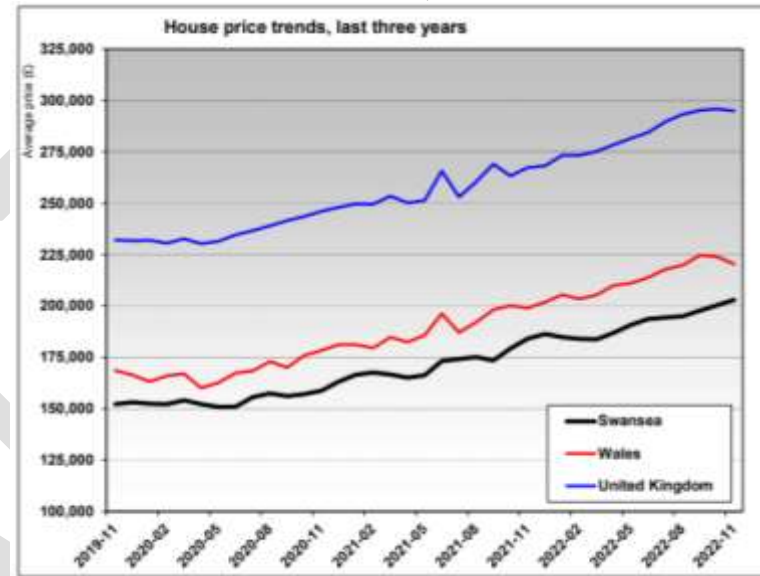
**Table 3.4: House Prices by Property Type**

| House prices by property type         | Swansea           | Index<br>(Jan 2015=100) | Wales    | UK       |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Average price, all house types</b> | £202,940          | 155.00                  | £220,366 | £294,910 |
| quarterly change (%)                  | +£7,982 (+4.1%)   | +6.10 %-points          | (+0.3%)  | (+0.6%)  |
| annual change (%)                     | +£18,791 (+10.2%) | +14.35 %-pts            | (+10.7%) | (+10.3%) |
| 3-year change (%)                     | +£50,785 (+33.4%) | +38.79 %-pts            | (+30.8%) | (+27.1%) |
| <b>Detached</b>                       | £327,076          |                         | £336,710 | £464,745 |
| <b>Semi-detached</b>                  | £211,923          |                         | £214,007 | £286,285 |
| <b>Terraced</b>                       | £164,877          |                         | £172,992 | £242,533 |
| <b>Flat / maisonette</b>              | £114,795          |                         | £136,269 | £232,762 |

Source: House Price Index (HPI) November 2022, Office for National Statistics.

3B.3.11 Average house price trends in Swansea over the last three years are shown in Figure 3.7, with equivalent Wales and UK figures. The graph shows that prices have risen more sharply since mid-2020; however overall gaps between Swansea, Wales and UK have remained generally constant in recent times.

**Figure 3.7: House Price Trends, last Three Years**



3B.3.12 Further indications of local and national housing market activity can be obtained from the data on the number of completed transactions or sales. Table 3.5 shows the figures for the quarter ending August 2022 for Swansea, Wales and UK and change over one and two years. The volume of sales, both nationally and locally, has dropped since mid-2021.

**Table 3.5: House Transactions**

| Transactions:             | Swansea       | Wales    | UK       |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| <b>House sales, total</b> | 742           | 9,543    | 213,918  |
| annual change (%)         | -208 (-21.9%) | (-30.4%) | (-31.0%) |
| 2-year change (%)         | +279 (+60.3%) | (+37.7%) | (+15.5%) |

Source: House Price Index (HPI) to August 2022 (published January 2023), ONS.

Source: Swansea Economic Profile Jan 2023

3B.3.13 House price data is important for monitoring development viability and will be closely tracked during the RLDP process. When aggregating house price to Strategic Housing Policy Zones (SHPZs), all the SHPZ showed an increase in the house prices paid between 2020-21, with the greatest increases in Gower (+£69,373) and Gower Fringe (+£37,810). Three SHPZs showed an increase above 10% in 2020- against the base date of the Plan (2010) with Gower increasing by 22%, Gower Fringe by 17% and North by 15%. The rest of the Zones increased between 2% and 9%.

3B.3.14 Table 3.6 shows the distribution of housing tenure across the County from 1981 to 2011. The number of properties available for social rent is significantly lower than in 1981. This is due to the Right to Buy Policy that was in place. The Council suspended the Right to Buy in December 2014 and the Welsh Government has subsequently abolished the policy.

3B.3.15 There has been a gradual increase in the amount of social housing available to rent in Swansea since 2014. Swansea Council, in conjunction with its Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners have set ambitious targets to develop 5,000 units of new affordable housing in Swansea over a 10-year period (1,000 to be delivered by the Council through direct building programme, 4,000 to be delivered by Housing Associations).

**Table 3.6: Housing Tenure**  
(data from the Assessment of Local Being 2022)

| Tenure         | 1981              | 1991              | 2001              | 2011              |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Owner Occupied | 50,200<br>(62.3%) | 61,300<br>(70.1%) | 65,600<br>(69.5%) | 66,700<br>(64.3%) |
| Private Rent   | 6,600<br>(8.2%)   | 5,700<br>(6.5%)   | 10,400<br>(11.0%) | 17,100<br>(16.5%) |
| Social Rent    | 23,700<br>(29.4%) | 20,500<br>(23.4%) | 18,300<br>(19.5%) | 19,900<br>(19.2%) |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>80,600</b>     | <b>87,500</b>     | <b>94,400</b>     | <b>103,500</b>    |

Source: UK Census of population, ONS.

**Housing need/affordable Housing Construction**

3B.3.16 A total of 149 affordable homes were built through the planning system in 2021-22, 113 social rented and 36 intermediate tenure, while planning consent was granted in the 12 month period for a further 254 affordable homes. Affordable housing delivery is below the level required to meet the LDP affordable housing targets.

**Current Demand For Social Housing**

3B.3.17 As of 30/9/2021 the Council's waiting list held 4,639 households:

- 26% were households who were homeless or threatened with homelessness
- 43% were waiting list applicants with other, less severe forms of housing need
- 31% were council tenants who have applied for a transfer to another property/area.

3B.3.18 Demand for social housing remains high and there is insufficient supply to fulfil the needs of all households

on the waiting list (Assessment of Local Wellbeing 2022).

**Rent affordability** (information from the Local Wellbeing Assessment 2022)

3B.3.19 In the absence of sufficient social housing to meet current levels of demand, private renting remains the only option for many households – some of whom select it as their tenure of choice, but many others are forced to rent.

3B.3.20 Joseph Rowntree Foundation has stated that private rents are forecast to rise by 90 per cent in real terms between 2008 and 2040, more than twice as fast as incomes, pushing up to half of private renters into poverty. Local data analysed shows that this predicted trend applies to Swansea. Rents are rising at a faster rate than incomes. This means that rents in the private rented sector are largely unaffordable for people on welfare benefits or with low incomes. Tables 3.7 and 3.8 show that the median rents in the private sector have increased at a much higher rate than the median income.

**Table 3.7: Comparison of Median Private Rented Sector (PRS) Rents 2017/18 and 2020/21**

|                                 | 1 bed       | 2 bed        | 3 bed        | 4 bed        |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Median Private Rent 2017/18 (£) | 126.00      | 125.00       | 137.00       | 178.00       |
| Median Private Rent 2020/21 (£) | 126.00      | 154.00       | 162.00       | 276.00       |
| <b>Percentage Increase</b>      | <b>0.0%</b> | <b>23.2%</b> | <b>18.2%</b> | <b>55.1%</b> |

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Median Weekly Gross Income 2017/18   | £473.00      |
| Median Weekly Gross Income 2020/21   | £538.00      |
| <b>Percentage increase in income</b> | <b>13.7%</b> |

Sources: Median Gross Income for Swansea, Office of National Statistics. Median Rents for Private Rented Sector in Swansea, Hometrack Intelligence Systems

**Table 3.8: Median Rents, Private and LHA, 2017/18 and 2020/21**

| Property Type       | Private – Median Weekly rent | LHA Rate | Difference between Rent and LHA Rate | % difference between rent and LHA rate |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>2017/18 data</b> |                              |          |                                      |  |
| 1 bedroom           | £126.00                      | £96.97   | -£33.03                              | 26.21%                                 |
| 2 bedroom           | £125.00                      | £105.94  | -£44.06                              | 15.25%                                 |
| 3 bedroom           | £137.00                      | £113.92  | -£23.08                              | 16.85%                                 |
| 4 bedroom           | £178.00                      | £153.02  | -£24.98                              | 14.03%                                 |
| <b>2020/21 data</b> |                              |          |                                      |  |
| 1 bedroom           | £126.00                      | £103.56  | -£22.44                              | 17.81%                                 |
| 2 bedroom           | £154.00                      | £113.92  | -£40.08                              | 26.03%                                 |
| 3 bedroom           | £162.00                      | £120.82  | -£41.18                              | 25.42%                                 |
| 4 bedroom           | £276.00                      | £166.16  | -£109.84                             | 39.80%                                 |

## Homelessness

3B.3.21 Homelessness is a significant issue in Swansea and there is high demand for social housing and the private rented sector is increasingly unaffordable. Over 2,500 homelessness applications are made each year. The top causes of homelessness have remained similar over a number of years, with the notable exception that loss of rented accommodation is no longer the top cause of homelessness:

- Parent no longer willing or able to accommodate – 19% (compared to 13% in 2019/20)
- Other relatives/friends no longer willing or able to accommodate – 16% (12% in 2019/20)
- Breakdown of relationship with partner (Non-violent) – 12%
- Domestic abuse – 11%
- Prison leaver – 11%
- Loss of rented accommodation – 10% (15% in 2019/20).

## Rough Sleeping

3B.3.22 Since 2015, the Welsh Government has required local authorities to carry out an annual rough sleeping count. The actual counts of rough sleepers are single night snapshots. The estimated count is based on data collected over a two-week period with assistance from the voluntary sector, faith groups, local businesses, residents, health and substance misuse agencies, and the police. Due to the pandemic, the national count was not carried out in 2020 and figures for Wales were not produced. However, Swansea continues to closely

monitor rough sleeping numbers so local data is available. The number of rough sleepers has fallen dramatically since the start of the pandemic and the suspension of the priority need test.

3B.3.23 Local authority comparisons are not available for 2020. Data from the one night count in 2019 showed Swansea with the fourth highest number of rough sleepers in Wales, behind Cardiff (57), Newport (24) and Wrexham (21). Since the reopening of the day and night time economy post -lockdowns, the number of people sleeping rough has been on the increase and in September 2021 there was an average of 9 rough sleepers per night.

**Table 3.9: Number of people sleeping rough in Swansea between 2015 and 2020**

|   | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Actual Count</b>                         | 5    | 16   | 21   | 18   | 19   | 1    |
| <b>Est. Rough Sleepers (2 weekly count)</b> | 19   | 23   | 26   | 33   | 37   | 13   |

## Care establishments

3B.3.23 There are 82 adult care homes within the County (source: StatsWales).

## Second homes

3B.3.24 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published Census 2021 data on the number and location of second addresses (ONS), **including** those used as holiday homes. *It must be noted though, that the data only includes people who are usually resident in England and Wales and stay **at least 30 days a year at a second address**. It does **not** include homes that may be owned by usual residents of England and Wales but are let as holiday homes (i.e. the owner never stays there, or it is not occupied by the same person for at least 30 days a year). It also does not include information on homes of people who usually reside outside England and Wales. The Census did not ask about ownership of second addresses.*

**Table 3.10: Location of dwellings used as second addresses by usual residents in England and Wales, by second address type, Census 2021**

| Type of second address                      | Swansea | Wales total |
|---|---------|-------------|
| <b>Holiday home</b>                         | 465     | 10,070      |
| Another address when working away from home | 315     | 4,050       |
| Students tern time address                  | 180     | 895         |
| Students home address                       | 1,830   | 23,800      |
| Another parent or guardians address         | 3,175   | 39,535      |
| Partners address                            | 750     | 9,815       |
| Other (including armed forces)              | 900     | 11,445      |

3B.3.25 Swansea has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest number of second addresses used as holiday homes within Wales, just

above Carmarthenshire (425). There is a variation as to the location of those properties within the County, as shown in Table 3.11. Only eight wards had a high enough number of holiday homes to be significant (i.e. count of 10 or more=c). Further analysis is required in order to calculate the proportion (%) of dwellings per ward, and this work will be required in order to inform the RLDP. Additionally, further information relating to tourism accommodation is set out in Section 3C.

**Table 3.11: 2021 Census data of second homes and their use by ward**

| Ward                    | Holiday home | Another address when working from home | Students tern time address | Students home address | Another parent or guardian address | Parents address | Other (including armed forces) |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Bishopston              | 15           | c                                      | c                          | 55                    | 70                                 | 15              | 20                             |
| Bon y Maen              | C            | 10                                     | C                          | 20                    | 95                                 | 20              | 30                             |
| Castle                  | C            | 30                                     | 25                         | 65                    | 115                                | 40              | 60                             |
| Clydach                 | C            | C                                      | C                          | 60                    | 105                                | 20              | 20                             |
| Cockett                 | C            | C                                      | C                          | 50                    | 140                                | 25              | 35                             |
| Cwmbwrla                | C            | C                                      | C                          | 20                    | 110                                | 30              | 15                             |
| Dunvant and Killay      | C            | C                                      | C                          | 105                   | 150                                | 25              | 35                             |
| Fairwood                | C            | C                                      | C                          | 35                    | 40                                 | C               | 15                             |
| Gorseinon and Penyrheol | C            | 10                                     | C                          | 80                    | 145                                | 30              | 30                             |
| Gower                   | 145          | 10                                     | C                          | 50                    | 50                                 | 10              | 25                             |
| Gowerton                | C            | C                                      | C                          | 50                    | 90                                 | 10              | 20                             |
| Landore                 | C            | C                                      | C                          | 20                    | 80                                 | 10              | 25                             |

|                       |     |    |     |     |     |    |    |
|-----------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Llangyfelach          | C   | C  | C   | 25  | 45  | 10 | C  |
| Llansamlet            | C   | C  | C   | 80  | 235 | 45 | 40 |
| Llwchwr               | C   | C  | C   | 65  | 145 | 25 | 20 |
| Mayals                | 10  | C  | C   | 45  | 35  | C  | 20 |
| Morryston             | C   | 20 | C   | 85  | 220 | 55 | 50 |
| Mumbles               | 135 | 15 | C   | 120 | 145 | 45 | 75 |
| Mynydd bach           | C   | C  | C   | 40  | 100 | 15 | 20 |
| Penclawdd             | C   | C  | C   | 30  | 45  | 15 | 15 |
| Penderry              | C   | C  | C   | 35  | 120 | 20 | 25 |
| Penllergaer           | C   | C  | C   | 35  | 60  | C  | C  |
| Pennard               | 20  | C  | C   | 45  | 50  | 10 | 10 |
| Pontarddulais         | C   | C  | C   | 55  | 95  | 20 | 20 |
| Pontlliw and tircloed | C   | C  | C   | 30  | 40  | 10 | c  |
| Sketty                | 10  | 10 | C   | 210 | 175 | 50 | 60 |
| St Thomas             | C   | 15 | C   | 35  | 60  | 20 | 20 |
| Townhill              | C   | C  | C   | 35  | 85  | 20 | 20 |
| Uplands               | C   | 45 | 110 | 135 | 175 | 70 | 70 |
| Waterfront            | 50  | 55 | C   | 20  | 40  | 30 | 40 |
| Waunarlwydd           | C   | C  | C   | 25  | 40  | 10 | 10 |
| West Cross            | 15  | c  | c   | 70  | 75  | 20 | 25 |

### Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)

3B.3.26 There are estimated some 2,000 HMOs in Swansea, not all of them licensed. The Council maintains a Public Register of HMOs<sup>33</sup>, detailing the location of each licensed property. The LDP AMR monitors the proportion of HMOs within the HMO Management Area, as a proportion of the residential properties. Overall, within the HMO Management Area, HMOs were identified as comprising 24.1% of all residential

properties, which is just under the 25% threshold identified in the monitoring indicator.

### WIMD Housing Domain

3B.3.27 The housing Indicators used in WIMD 2019 are:

- the percentage of people living in overcrowded households (2011 Census-based bedroom measure)
- An indicator on poor quality housing. It measures the likelihood of housing being in disrepair or containing serious hazards (for example, risk of falls or cold housing), and was calculated from a mixture of survey and administrative data sources by the Building Research Establishment (BRE). This includes the likelihood of housing containing serious hazards (%) and the likelihood of housing being in disrepair (%).

3B.3.28 The indicators are combined and weighted to provide a ranking for the Housing Domain. There are 16 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Swansea that are in the 20% most deprived areas in Wales within the Housing domain. There is a difference across the County. Table 3.12 shows the WIMD 2019 indicators data Domain: Housing for the three parliamentary constituencies, Swansea as a whole, and Wales.

<sup>33</sup> [www.swansea.gov.uk/hmoregister](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/hmoregister)

**Table 3.12: WIMD 2019 Indicator data Domain: Housing**

|                    | Indicator: People in overcrowded households (%) | Indicator: likelihood of poor quality housing (being in disrepair or containing serious hazards) |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
|                    |   | Likelihood of poor quality housing (%)   | Likelihood of housing containing serious hazards (%) | Likelihood of housing being in disrepair (%) |
| Swansea            | 5.89  | 16.6%  | 15%  | 3%   |
| Gower Constituency | 3.72  | 16.3%  | 14.8%  | 2.7%   |
| Swansea East       | 6.99  | 16.6%  | 15.1%  | 3%   |
| Swansea West       | 6.92  | 16.9%  | 15.2%  | 3.2%   |
| WALES              | 5.53  | 19.7%  | 18%  | 3.2%   |

**Gypsy and travellers**

3B.3.29 The Housing Act 2004 requires Council’s to undertake an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. In addition, PPW requires that LDPs ensure identified pitch requirements are met.

3B.3.30 The LDP does not currently allocate land for new Gypsy and Traveller site provision. On the basis of the assessed need at the time of LDP formation (as evidenced by the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2015) there was sufficient land

available with lawful use to accommodate the need at the time of LDP adoption. The 7 pitches that were due to be built by the end of 2021 to meet immediate unmet need have not yet commenced to date. Future Wales has identified that the future SDP for the region should identify the Gypsy and Traveller need for pitches. However, the SDP will likely not be in place ahead of the Replacement LDP being adopted. Therefore, as part of the preparation of the Replacement LDP, a review will need to be undertaken regarding the latest need position for additional pitches in Swansea (which will be identified from the most up to date GTAA), and consideration given to the available land that can accommodate that need within the timescales required.

**3B.4 EDUCATION**

**Schools**

3B.4.1 There were 35,013 pupils in Swansea in Jan 2022 (excluding pupils who live out of County). The 2021 Census recorded some 51,800 schoolchildren and full-time students in the County, out of a total 227,100 usual residents aged 5 and over (22.8%). This is higher than the equivalent for Wales (19.9%) and England and Wales (20.4%) and is likely due to presence of two Universities.

3B.4.2 The County contains the following schools:

- 62 English medium Primary;
- 10 Welsh medium Primary;
- 4 Faith Primary;

- 11 English medium Secondary;
- 2 Welsh medium Secondary;
- 1 Faith Secondary; and
- 2 special needs schools.

In addition there is 1 independent faith school and 1 independent primary and 1 secondary school.

3B.4.2 Some 79.1% of pupils attended English medium schools, 14.1% Welsh medium, 6.2% faith schools and 0.6% special needs schools.

3B.4.3 The number of school aged children resident in wards varies considerably with Killay South, Killay North (since May 2022 both form part of new Duvant and Killay ward,) Mawr, Mayals and Pennard having the fewest number of school aged residents. Penderry, Llansmlet, Morryston, Cockett and Townhill have the most school aged children.

3B.4.4 The majority of pupils (31,712) speak English or Welsh as their first language, with 4,175 pupils having a different first language. Within this group there is a diversity of languages spoken, with the most common being: Polish; Arabic; Begali; Malayalam Romanian; Kurdish; Mandarin/Putonghua; and Urdu.

#### Further Education and Higher Education

3B.4.5 The County has two sixth form colleges which offer post-16 education and is home to 2 Universities:

- Swansea University; and
- University of Wales Trinity St Davids.

| year               | University college    |                    |                        |                    |                        |                    |           | Total students in both HE and FE |              |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|
|                    | Higher education (HE) |                    |                        |                    | Further Education (FE) |                    |           |                                  |              |
|                    | Swansea /uni          |                    | UWTSD (Swansea Campus) |                    | Gower College          | Gower College      |           | Full-time                        | Part-time    |
| Full-time Students | Part-time students    | Full-time Students | Part-time students     | Part-time students | Full-time Students     | Part-time students | Full-time | Part-time                        |              |
| <b>2019-2020</b>   | 18,500                | 1,875              | 3,805                  | 805                | 110                    | 4,510              | 3,335     | <b>26,815</b>                    | <b>6,125</b> |
| <b>2020-2021</b>   | 19,375                | 2,090              | 5,4045                 | 940                | 65                     | 4,570              | 3,950     | <b>28,990</b>                    | <b>7,045</b> |

**Table 3.13: Students in Swansea: Summary of Welsh Government data for 2020-21 and 2019-20**

3B.4.6 Welsh Government publish data sourced from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) showing the number of full-time and part-time students at each of Swansea's higher and further education institutions. Table 3.13 shows that student numbers increased between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 in the Higher and Further Education establishments in Swansea.



### Education/Skill levels

3B.4.7 The 2021 Census results show:

- In 2021, over 100,000 residents in Swansea (51%) had qualifications at **Level 3 or above** (two or more A Levels or equivalents and above).
- 32.8% of usual residents in Swansea aged 16 years and over (64,800 people) had **Level 4** or above qualifications (for example, Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree and post-graduate qualifications); slightly higher than Wales (31.5%) and below England & Wales (33.8%). This figure has increased by around 13,800 (+27%) in Swansea since 2011, broadly in line with national trends.
- The proportions with a highest level of qualification at **Level 1 or 2** has fallen since 2011. However, the number with **Apprenticeships** as their highest qualification has increased by around 3,000 or 36%.
- In Swansea, almost one in five people aged 16 and over (18.9% or 37,300) reported having **no qualifications**, again between Wales (19.9%) and England & Wales averages (18.2%). However, this figure has fallen by around 10,000 (21%) in Swansea since the 2011 Census.

### 3B.5 KEY ISSUES - POPULATION (INCLUDING HOUSING AND EDUCATION)

- Identify the latest and most accurate data on demographic projections and changes in population (e.g. falling birth rates, drop in population aged 0-5 and 15-29 yrs, and ageing population) and future economic forecasts, which along with other relevant evidence will inform the number of people, homes and jobs to be planned for in the RLDP.
- Respond to the housing need across the County identified through an updated Local Housing Market Assessment.
- Help meet the Council target for the delivery of 5,000 affordable homes between 2021-2031, including 1,000 new Council homes as part of the More Homes Programme.
- Identify and monitor HMO concentrations and produce appropriate policy framework
- Review the latest published Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need figures against supply and produce appropriate policy framework
- Collate and review evidence on any issues caused by Holiday accommodation/second homes/short term lets and produce appropriate policy framework

### 3B.6 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3B.6.1 Without the RLDP the key issues identified would not be able to be addressed at a local level via the land use planning system. Although Future Wales and PPW both contain policies relating to housing provision, a lack of an up to date statutory development plan may result in unplanned/ uncoordinated developments as

there no would no land allocated for residential development.

3B.6.2 The inter-related issues of transport, landscape, Placemaking, GI, drainage etc may not be considered and it may be more difficult to mitigate development, for example in terms of biodiversity, landscape, transport impacts, education provision, and avoidance of flood risk. Furthermore there would be no integrated understanding of how employment growth and providing the right number of homes interrelate and impact each other.

3B.6.3 The RLDP will be informed by an up to date LHMA. Without the RLDP it may be more difficult to ensure that the house types most needed by the County's population are delivered, impacting on equalities and health and wellbeing, e.g. the ageing population of the County may have different housing needs and placemaking considerations. Uncoordinated housing development may put pressure on education and healthcare services with developments unable to deliver Placemaking objectives, e.g, not being serviced by adequate community facilities, employment, retail and commercial provision.

## SECTION 3C

### TOPIC AREA: ECONOMY

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:  
SEA Regs Schedule 2(6 b: population; j:material assets);  
Health and wellbeing; economy, Equalities

### 3C.1 ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWANSEA

3C.1.1. Table 3.14 provides a summary of the labour market in the County, in the year leading to December 2022. It highlights that the percentage of economically active people (80.5%) is higher than Wales (75.6%) and the UK (78.3%). The unemployment figure is higher than Wales but slightly lower than the UK and there are less economically inactive people in the County compared to the Welsh and UK averages.

3C.1.2 Table 3.15 provides figures for the claimant count for unemployment within the County and other areas. Within the County, there are more male claimants than female claimants, though the number of females increased slightly in the year, compared to males which fell. Of the three Parliamentary Constituencies which make up the County, it is clear that the highest level of unemployment is experienced in Swansea East. Swansea West has seen the highest increase in unemployment claims, whilst Gower has the least.

**Table 3.14: Labour market summary: year to December 2022**

| Swansea: all people          | Total   | Change on year  | Rate % | Wales % | UK % |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|------|
| <i>Economically active</i>   | 130,500 | +6,300 (+5.1%)  | 80.5   | 75.6    | 78.3 |
| In employment                | 123,400 | +6,800 (+5.8%)  | 76.1   | 73.3    | 75.5 |
| Unemployment (model-based)   | 4,400   | -900 (-17%)     | 3.4    | 3.0     | 3.5  |
| <i>Economically inactive</i> | 30,500  | -6,100 (-16.7%) | 19.5   | 24.4    | 21.7 |

Source: Annual Population Survey (APS) and model-based estimates, Office for National Statistics (ONS). 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**Table 3.15: Claimant count unemployment: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (data not seasonally adjusted unless stated)**

| SWANSEA (City & County) | People       | Rate %     | Change on quarter   | Change on year      |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Men                     | 3,235        | 4.4        | +135 (+4.4%)        | -340 (-9.5%)        |
| Women                   | 2,285        | 3.1        | +80 (+3.6%)         | +10 (+0.4%)         |
| <b>People</b>           | <b>5,520</b> | <b>3.7</b> | <b>+215 (+4.1%)</b> | <b>-330 (-5.6%)</b> |

| Other areas:               | People           | Rate %     | Change on quarter      | Change on year          |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Swansea TTWA*              | 8,420            | 3.3        | +230 (+2.8%)           | -800 (-8.7%)            |
| Gower PCA**                | 1,010            | 2.2        | -30 (-2.9%)            | -140 (-12.2%)           |
| Swansea East PCA**         | 2,235            | 4.2        | +85 (+4.0%)            | -120 (-5.1%)            |
| Swansea West PCA**         | 2,275            | 4.1        | +155 (+7.3%)           | -70 (-3.0%)             |
| <b>WALES (unadjusted)</b>  | <b>64,535</b>    | <b>3.4</b> | <b>+2,240 (+3.6%)</b>  | <b>-8,630 (-11.8%)</b>  |
| <i>Seasonally adjusted</i> | <i>61,549</i>    | <i>3.3</i> | <i>-1,608 (-2.5%)</i>  | <i>-8,714 (-12.4%)</i>  |
| <b>UK (unadjusted)</b>     | <b>1,576,390</b> | <b>3.7</b> | <b>+61,180 (+4.0%)</b> | <b>-141,270 (-8.2%)</b> |
| <i>Seasonally adjusted</i> | <i>1,527,397</i> | <i>3.6</i> | <i>-12,099 (-0.8%)</i> | <i>-139,940 (-8.4%)</i> |

Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) administrative systems, ONS / Nomis, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

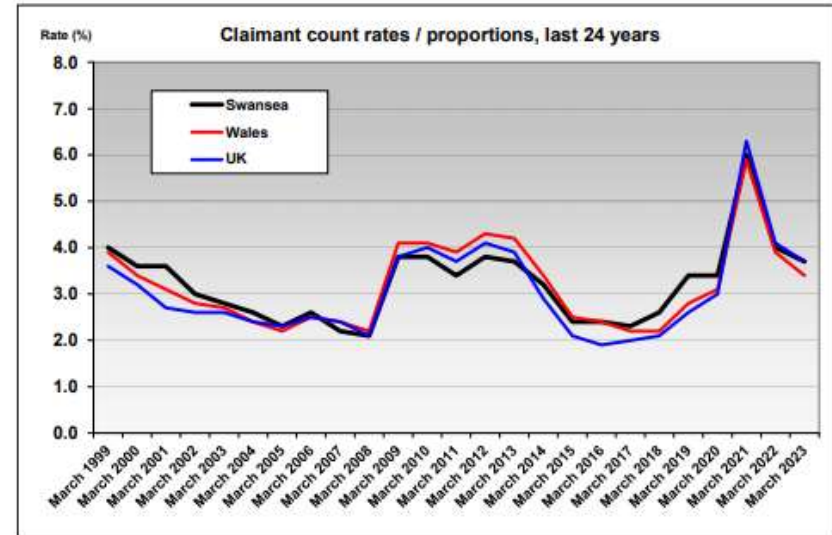
**Notes:**

- The count includes people who claim Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), plus claimants of Universal Credit (UC) who are required to seek work.
- Claimant count rates are expressed as a percentage of the resident working age population aged 16-64.
- Swansea TTWA\*: Travel to Work Area (2011 Census based); PCA\*\*: the three Parliamentary or Assembly Constituency Areas in Swansea.
- Seasonally adjusted data is available for UK countries and regions, but not local areas (e.g. local authorities, constituencies, wards).

3C.1.3 Within Swansea, the ward claimant count figures (Dec-22) show that a number of local areas experience rates significantly above the Swansea average (3.4%); in particular Townhill (7.7%), Penderry (6.8%), Castle (6.3%) and Landore (4.9%). The lowest rate is Mayals (0.5%).

3C.1.4 Figure 3.8 shows the claimant count rates and proportions for Swansea over the previous 24 years compared to the Welsh and UK averages. The trends for all three areas are very similar, although it is notable that the rate for Swansea is somewhat higher than the other two areas in the late 1990's and early 2000's. In the early 2010's, the rate was lower but by the end of the decade and in the approach to the onset of Covid-19, there was a significant gap between Swansea, Wales and the UK. The claimant numbers increase significantly for all areas at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, falling in all areas sharply since the lockdown periods ceased. In September 2022 Swansea had slightly fewer claimants than the UK average, but slightly more than the Welsh average.

**Figure 3.8: Claimant count rates/proportions, last 24 years Swansea, Wales and UK**



Source: Claimant Count Unemployment Trends to March 2023  
 Source: Swansea Council Information, Research and GIS. n.b.: Claimant count rates are expressed as a proportion of the resident population aged 16-64 (ONS mid-year estimates). This data is not seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted claimant count data is available for UK countries/regions only.

### 3C.2 GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)<sup>34</sup>

3C.2.1 GVA is a measure of output similar to Gross Domestic Product (GDP<sup>35</sup>). The latest available sub-regional

<sup>34</sup> Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. The latest release provides a 'balanced estimate' – GVA(B) – of regional GVA which balances the income and production approaches to measuring the economy.

<sup>35</sup> GVA plus taxes (less subsidies) on products is equivalent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

“balanced estimates” of Gross Value Added (GVA) are to 2021. The County’s estimated GVA in 2021 was approximately £5.6million, £23,591 per head (7.7% increase above the previous year). This is above the Wales average but below the UK level) Table 3.16.

**Table 3.16: GVA**

| Indicator                     | Swansea | West Wales & Valleys | Wales   | UK         |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|------------|
| Gross Value Added, £million   | £5,611  | £37,931              | £69,500 | £2,025,600 |
| Gross Value Added, £ per head | £23,591 | £19,585              | £22,380 | £30,221    |
| % change on previous year     | +7.7%   | +11.0%               | +9.7%   | +7.2%      |
| GVA per head indices (UK=100) | 78.1    | 64.8                 | 74.1    | 100        |

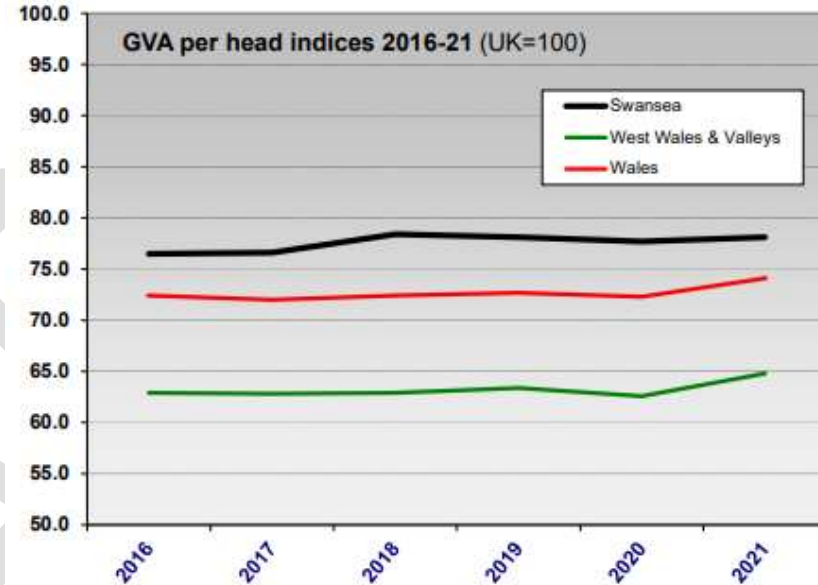
Source: 'Regional economic activity by gross value added (balanced), UK: 1998 to 2021' statistical bulletin and data tables, ONS.

Source: Swansea Economic Profile Jan 2023

3C.2.2 The most recent (2020 to 2021) trend in GVA per head figures reports an increase in Swansea of 7.7%, reflecting in part recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and comparable with increases in Wales (+9.7%) and the UK (+7.2%). Over the longer term (2016 to 2021), overall growth in Swansea’s GVA per head was 14.3%, which is slightly lower than the West Wales & Valleys percentage increase (+14.3%), Wales (+14.5%), and higher than the UK (+12.0%).

3C.2.3 In these estimates, Swansea’s GVA per head index value (where UK = 100) increased slightly over the year to 2021 from 77.7 to 78.1. Over the last five years (2016 to 2021), the Swansea index values have risen overall (from 76.5 in 2016) (Figure 3.9).

**Figure 3.9: GVA per head Indices 2016-21**



### 3C.3 GROSS DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME (GDHI)

3C.3.1 The most recent sub-regional estimates of Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) are available up to 2020. GDHI is the amount of money that all of the individuals in the household sector have available for spending or saving after income distribution measures (for example taxes, social contributions and benefits) have taken effect. Conceptually it reflects the ‘material welfare’ of the household sector, and aims to measure economic diversity and social welfare from regional to

local levels. While GDHI is valuable as a measure of relative wealth between areas, it gives no information on the spending patterns of households or family units.

**Table 3.17: Gross Disposable Household Income**

| Indicator                      | Swansea | West Wales & Valleys | Wales   | UK         |
|--------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|------------|
| GDHI, £million                 | £4,172  | £33,591              | £55,760 | £1,438,237 |
| GDHI, £ per head               | £16,919 | £16,901              | £17,592 | £21,440    |
| % change on previous year      | +1.9%   | +1.0%                | +0.9%   | -0.2%      |
| GDHI per head indices (UK=100) | 78.9    | 78.8                 | 82.1    | 100        |

Source: Regional gross disposable household income, UK: 1997 to 2020 statistical bulletin and data tables, ONS.

**Notes:**

- i. Household income covers the income received by households and non profit making institutions serving households.
- ii. These estimates relate to totals for all individuals within the household sector for a region rather than to an average household or family unit. GDHI per head estimates give values for each person, not each household.
- iii. Estimates are on a residence basis, with the incomes of individuals allocated to the region in which they live.
- iv. The latest figures for 1997-2020 were published by ONS on 13 October 2022. The 2020 figures are provisional.
- v. The index values are the published figures (UK less Extra-Region=100). The UK £ per head figure excludes Extra-Region.

Source: Swansea Economic Profile Jan 2023

3C.3.2 In 2020, total GDHI for the Swansea local authority and 'ILT3'<sup>36</sup> area stood at £4,172million. Its GDHI per head figure was £16,919; which is 3.8% below the Wales average and 21.2% below the UK level. Swansea's GDHI per head figure is the seventh lowest of the 22 local authority areas in Wales and as a ITL3 area is above only the Gwent Valleys, Central Valleys and Gwynedd. Latest trends suggest that between 2019 and 2020, the Swansea GDHI per head figure increased by 1.9%, above the Wales increase whilst UK fell slightly. Over the longer-term (the latest five-year period: 2015-2020), Swansea's growth of 10.7% is slightly above that of Wales (+10.5%) and the UK (+9.8%).

<sup>36</sup> The International Territorial Levels (ITL) classification provides a single uniform breakdown for the production of regional statistics for the UK. The City & County of Swansea on its own constitutes one of the eight ITL3 areas within the 'West Wales & Valleys' ITL2 area. The UK-based ITL replaces the former EU 'NUTS' system, but with no initial changes to areas.

### 3C.4 HOURS WORKED AND EARNINGS

3C.4.1 The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)<sup>37</sup> provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours worked for employees. The latest median weekly full-time earnings figure for residents in Swansea is from April 2022 and is £593.10 (1.7% lower than the Wales figure and 7.3% below the UK average) (Table 3.18). The published workplace-based full-time weekly earnings figure for Swansea is around £12 per week lower than the resident-based figure, as shown in the table below.

3C.4.2 Over April 2021 to April 2022 the survey estimates that full-time weekly earning in Swansea rose by 6.9% above average increases in Wales (+5.4%) and the UK (+5.0%).

**Table 3.18: Weekly Earnings**

| WEEKLY earnings           | Swansea | Swansea (% of Wales) | Wales   | UK      | Swansea (Workplace) |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| FULL-TIME employees       | £593.10 | 98.3                 | £603.50 | £640.00 | £581.50             |
| % change on previous year | +6.9%   | -                    | +5.4%   | +5.0%   | +5.8%               |
| Male full-time            | £596.20 | 94.2                 | £633.00 | £683.00 | £580.40             |
| Female full-time          | £583.60 | 104.3                | £559.30 | £584.10 | £580.10             |
| PART-TIME employees       | £214.30 | 93.2                 | £230.00 | £228.00 | £215.00             |
| ALL employees             | £503.50 | 99.7                 | £504.90 | £532.50 | £497.10             |

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2022, ONS.

3C.4.3 Annual earnings data is also available from ASHE. The Swansea median full-time figure (2022) of £30,262 is

<sup>37</sup> ASHE is conducted in April each year to obtain information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours worked for employees. The latest estimates (2022 provisional) were published on 26 October 2022.

very close to the Wales average, although both figures are below the UK average (in Swansea by 8.3%). Over the last year, average annual full-time earnings in Swansea rose by 4.9%, lower than Wales and UK increases (Table 3.19).

**Table 3.19: Annual Earnings**

| ANNUAL earnings           | Swansea | Swansea (% of Wales) | Wales   | UK      | Swansea (Workplace) |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| FULL-TIME employees       | £30,262 | 98.2                 | £30,821 | £33,000 | £30,190             |
| % change on previous year | +4.9%   | -                    | +6.7%   | +5.7%   | +5.3%               |
| Male full-time            | £30,423 | 93.3                 | £32,598 | £35,260 | £30,252             |
| Female full-time          | £29,777 | 104.4                | £28,534 | £29,684 | £29,988             |
| PART-TIME employees       | £12,518 | 102.6                | £12,206 | £12,247 | £12,019             |
| ALL employees             | £25,872 | 98.5                 | £26,268 | £27,756 | £25,937             |

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2022, ONS.

Source: Swansea Economic Profile Jan 2023

### 3C.5 DEPRIVATION

3C.5.1 In the latest (2019) Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) Index, Swansea has an above average proportion of its LSOAs featuring in the most deprived 10% in Wales, with 17 (11.5%) of its 148 LSOAs in the 191 (10%) most deprived. The local authority areas in Wales with the highest proportions are Newport (24.2%), Merthyr Tydfil (22.2%), Cardiff (18.2%) and Rhondda Cynon Taf (17.5%). In all, seven of Wales’ 22 local authorities have a higher proportion of most-deprived LSOAs than Swansea (note: in 2014, Swansea had the 9th highest proportion on this basis). Within Swansea the number of LSOAs in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales is down slightly from 18 in 2014 to 17 in 2019. The number and proportion of

Swansea LSOAs in the most deprived 20% and the most deprived 50% in Wales has also fallen, as detailed in Table 1 below. However, the proportion of Swansea LSOAs in the most deprived 30% in Wales has increased to over 30% (46 of its 148 LSOAs).

**Table 3.20: Number and % of Swansea LSOAs in the most deprived 10%, 20%, 30% and 50% in Wales.**

| WIMD | Most deprived 10% |          | 20%   |          | 30%   |          | 50%   |          |
|------|-------------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|
|      | LSOAs             | % of all | LSOAs | % of all | LSOAs | % of all | LSOAs | % of all |
| 2014 | 18                | 12.2     | 37    | 25.0     | 42    | 28.4     | 72    | 48.6     |
| 2019 | 17                | 11.5     | 35    | 23.6     | 46    | 31.1     | 68    | 45.9     |

3C.5.2 In WIMD 2019, Townhill 2 (ranked 16 in Wales) and Townhill 1 (18 in Wales) are the most deprived LSOAs in Swansea. In the Overall Index, Swansea’s 17 most deprived LSOAs, i.e. those featuring in the most deprived 10% (191 LSOAs) in Wales, are located in the following wards:

- Townhill (5 of 6 LSOAs)
- Penderry (5 of the 7 LSOAs in the ward)
- Castle (2 of 10 LSOAs)
- Morrison (2 of 11 LSOAs)
- Bonymaen (1 of 4 LSOAs - central/east)
- Mynyddbach (1 of 6 LSOAs - Clase area).
- Llansamlet (1 of 8 LSOAs - part Birchgrove)
- (Total = 17 LSOAs)

3C.5.3 Swansea now has two LSOAs in the 20 most deprived LSOAs in Wales, and 13 in the 100 most deprived (in WIMD 2014, these figures were 0 and 11).

### **3C.6 THE SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL**

3C.6.1 The City Deal is a 15 year programme of investment in the Swansea Bay City Region (Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Pembrokeshire). It is led by the four regional local authorities, Swansea Bay and Hywel Dda University Health Boards, Swansea University, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and private sector partners. The deal seeks to encourage up to £1.3 billion in investment with a regional economic boost of at least £1.8 billion and create over 9,000 jobs through nine programmes and projects that are part of the scheme. The programmes and projects are based on key themes including economic acceleration, life science and well-being, energy, smart manufacturing and digital.

3C.6.2 By March 2022 all nine projects and programmes were approved by the UK and Welsh Governments and moved to the delivery phase.

### **3C.7 SWANSEA BAY AND LLANELLI NATIONAL GROWTH AREA**

3C.7.1 The 'Swansea Bay and Llanelli' National Growth Area (NGA), is identified within Future Wales as the focus in the region for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure and overall the main area for growth and investment in the region. The RLDP must take account of the NGA.

### **3C.8 SWANSEA CITY CENTRE REPURPOSING STRATEGY**

3C.8.1 The Swansea city centre repurposing strategy follows a Council review into the current retail and leisure offer in the city centre, with the aim of identifying further opportunities to continue the sustainable regeneration of the city centre. The high-level city wide-masterplan and strategy set outs the potential key interventions developed to address both the impacts of Covid and the changing nature of the UK retail sector and consumer needs. The strategy builds on the current regeneration strategy set out in the Swansea central area regeneration framework (2016) and the multi-million pound investment in new office and work space, leisure and entertainment, homes and accommodation, better transport links, public realm improvements and more greenery in the city centre. A shortlist of potential interventions addressing buildings, public realm and policy have been identified, which include:

- the retention of the former Debenhams building as a retail unit
- boosting Swansea Market trade by improving its entrances
- enhancing the look of key gateways in and out of the city centre with public art and more greenery
- introducing a new street food market with links to both Swansea Market and the Quadrant Shopping Centre
- creating a new public area for families at the junction between Oxford Street and Portland Place, including play facilities and seating



### 3C.9 EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

3C.9.1 The Swansea economy has a proportionately large share of jobs in the public administration, health, education, financial services and retail sectors. Of the 108,000 people in employment within Swansea (2021), an estimated 89.8% (97,000) are employed in the service sectors (SICs G-U in Table 3.21), with 29.6% (31,900) working within the public sector. These are higher than the Wales figures of 80.3% (service sector) and 24.1% (public sector). The manufacturing and construction sectors employ approximately 9,500 in total; with both sectors' share of employment in Swansea below the averages for Wales and Great Britain.

3C.8.2 The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) estimates suggest that total workplace employment in Swansea decreased between 2020 and 2021 by around 2,000 (-1.8%), whilst total employment increased (slightly) in Wales (+0.3%) and GB (+2.8%). Total service sector employment (SICs G-U) in Swansea rose by 1,000 (+1.0%) over the year, with the largest estimated rises in Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services and Retail; partly offset by a fall in Education. Employment in manufacturing also fell by 1,000. Over a longer period (2016-2021), estimated total employment in Swansea was also down by 2,000 (-1.8%); whilst the equivalent totals increased in Wales (+0.1%) and GB (+3.8%). Again there are sector-based

differences in these longer-term changes, with the largest estimated growth in the Business administration, Transport and Professional, scientific & technical sectors; and falls in the Retail and Construction sectors.

**Table 3.21: Employment in Swansea, Wales and UK by Industry Group, 2021**

| Employment by Broad Industry Group (SIC 2007) ('open access' data) | Swansea (total) | Swansea (%) | Wales (%)  | GB (%)     |
|--|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1: Agriculture, forestry & fishing (industry section A)            | 900             | 0.8         | 3.2        | 1.6        |
| 2: Mining, quarrying & utilities (B, D and E)                      | 1,000           | 0.9         | 1.7        | 1.3        |
| 3: Manufacturing (C)   | 5,000           | 4.6         | 10.3       | 7.4        |
| 4: Construction (F)  | 4,500           | 4.2         | 4.5        | 5.0        |
| 5: Motor trades (Part G)   | 3,000           | 2.8         | 1.9        | 1.7        |
| 6: Wholesale (Part G)  | 2,500           | 2.3         | 2.2        | 3.5        |
| 7: Retail (Part G)   | 12,000          | 11.1        | 10.4       | 9.2        |
| 8: Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)                            | 3,500           | 3.2         | 3.4        | 5.1        |
| 9: Accommodation & food services (I)                               | 8,000           | 7.4         | 7.9        | 7.5        |
| 10: Information & communication (J)                                | 2,500           | 2.3         | 2.8        | 4.3        |
| 11: Financial & insurance (K)                                      | 5,000           | 4.6         | 2.5        | 3.5        |
| 12: Property (L)   | 1,750           | 1.6         | 1.5        | 1.9        |
| 13: Professional, scientific & technical (M)                       | 5,000           | 4.6         | 5.4        | 8.9        |
| 14: Business administration & support services (N)                 | 10,000          | 9.3         | 7.3        | 8.7        |
| 15: Public administration & defence (O)                            | 13,000          | 12.0        | 7.4        | 4.5        |
| 16: Education (P)  | 10,000          | 9.3         | 8.5        | 8.5        |
| 17: Health (Q)   | 18,000          | 16.7        | 14.8       | 13.3       |
| 18: Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R-U)         | 4,500           | 4.2         | 4.2        | 4.3        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>108,000</b>  | <b>100</b>  | <b>100</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) workplace employment analysis, 2021. ONS.

**Notes:**

- i. BRES is an employer survey providing estimates of the numbers of jobs held by employees in workplaces broken down by full/part-time and detailed industry – section, division, group or class, using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007.
- ii. The data does not represent an administrative count of local employment. For the 2021 survey, approximately 85,000 businesses in Great Britain were sampled, drawn from ONS' Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR).
- iii. BRES data for 2021 was published on 13 October 2022. Employment numbers are estimated as at 13 September 2021.
- iv. There is a discontinuity in the BRES data from 2015, due to the inclusion of solely PAYE-based businesses.
- v. Public (and private) sector employment estimates are not defined solely on the basis of SICs. In this survey, each business or organisation is defined as being in the public or private sector, rather than by its SIC code.
- vi. Totals may not sum due to rounding. The above table includes figures from the BRES 'open access' dataset.

### 3C.10 AGRICULTURE

3C.10.1 Table 3.22 shows the total number of farm businesses in the County 2017-2011, which has increased from 452-484. Classification of Farm

Businesses by type is a relatively simple process when only one agricultural enterprise type is present on a farm. However, when more than one enterprise type is present (for example both pigs and poultry), a system is needed for deciding how to classify the resulting Farm Business.

3C.10.2 This means that a system is needed for weighting the relative contributions of different crop or livestock types to the Farm Business as a whole. The UK system is based on weighting contributions by the output associated with them. Standard Outputs (SOs) are calculated per hectare of crops and per head of livestock and used to calculate the standard output associated with each part of the Farm Business.

3C.10.3 Standard outputs measure the total value of output of any one enterprise - per head for livestock and per hectare for crops. For crops this will be the main product (e.g. wheat, barley, peas) plus any by-product that is sold, for example straw. For livestock it will be the value of the main product (milk, eggs, lamb, pork) plus the value of any secondary product (calf, wool) minus the cost of replacement.

**Table 3.22: Farm businesses in the County by year and type.**

| Robust Farm Type            | Year       |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                             | 2017       | 2016       | 2015       | 2014       | 2013       | 2012       | 2011       |
| Specialist pigs             | 6          | 7          | 6          | 6          | 7          | 7          | 6          |
| Specialist poultry          | 26         | 27         | 25         | 27         | 28         | 25         | 14         |
| Specialist pigs and poultry | 32         | 34         | 31         | 33         | 35         | 32         | 20         |
| dairy                       | 11         | 11         | 11         | 12         | 11         | 14         | 13         |
| Cattle and sheep (SDA)      | 57         | 58         | 63         | 62         | 62         | 59         | 57         |
| Cattle and sheep (DA)       | 91         | 87         | 90         | 8          | 83         | 83         | 82         |
| Cattle and sheep (LFA)      | 148        | 145        | 153        | 151        | 145        | 142        | 139        |
| Cattle and sheep (lowland)  | 102        | 106        | 111        | 111        | 110        | 106        | 102        |
| cereals                     | 8          | 8          | 7          | 7          | 8          | 9          | 7          |
| mixed                       | 26         | 19         | 18         | 17         | 25         | 26         | 25         |
| General cropping            | 4          | 3          | 6          | 6          | 6          | 8          | 7          |
| Horticulture                | 15         | 15         | 17         | 19         | 15         | 21         | 19         |
| Other                       | 138        | 142        | 137        | 132        | 139        | 127        | 120        |
| <b>total</b>                | <b>484</b> | <b>483</b> | <b>491</b> | <b>488</b> | <b>494</b> | <b>485</b> | <b>452</b> |

### 3C.11 THE VISITOR ECONOMY

3C.11.1 The County is traditionally a popular area for tourism, with the tourism and hospitality sectors key parts of the economy. Both those sectors were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, though the increase in staycation holidays did go some way to alleviate the impacts, with the County achieving very high occupancy levels in 2020 and 2021.

3C.11.2 'Welcome to Wales: 2020 – 2025. Priorities for the Visitor Economy 2020-2025, the Welsh Government Strategy for Tourism', has the ambition 'To grow tourism for the good of Wales' and the following goals:

- economic growth that delivers benefits to people and places
- environmental sustainability
- social and cultural enrichment
- health benefits.

3C.11.3 Wales attracts around 11 million overnight visitors a year, around three visitors to every resident in Wales. It can get very busy in hotspot areas during the peak summer months, but the Strategy sees scope to grow the overall number of visitors that come to Wales across the year, by targeting seasonality, spend and spread. The Strategy's focus is on sustainable growth – '*quality over quantity; value over volume*'. It states that growth in the staycation market is an opportunity to attract new, high-value visitors, to stay longer and spend more.

3C.11.4 One of Wales' core offers is the 'outstanding natural landscapes' and this is an important consideration when considering sustainable growth in relation to the protected landscape of the Gower AONB.

3C.11.5 The Council's Tourism Recovery Action Plan 2021-22 has the following vision: 'Create a world class tourism destination, which delivers a high-quality visitor experience in a pleasant, clean and well-maintained environment'.

3C.11.6 STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) is a tourism economic impact modelling process which measures local data, tourism performance and visitor survey data. The most recent STEAM figures relating to the tourism sector in the County are from 2019:

- 4.79 million people visited Swansea Bay (-0.2% on 2018).
- Expenditure of £477.22 million (+2.2% on 2018)
- Supports 5,998 jobs (+3.4% on 2018).

3C.11.7 The Wales Tourism Business Barometer 2022 Summer Wave Report (October 2022) showed that visitor volumes were less than those of summer 2021 and compared to pre-Covid levels, with 39% of operators having fewer customers. Following on from the 2021 domestic tourism boom, wider economic concerns over the cost of living together with the ability to holiday abroad are thought to be reason why visitor numbers were lower, with accommodation holidays

booked closer to time of departure and shorter in duration. Caravan and self catering operators experienced the most downturn in customers, with catered accommodation remaining fairly steady.

3C.11.8 The most recent Council Swansea Bay Visitor Survey was undertaken in 2019, pre the Covid-19 pandemic and does not reflect the most recent findings set out above. The previous survey was undertaken in 2015.

3C.11.9 Just over half of visitors (53%) stay overnight in the Swansea Bay area, a slight increase since 2015 (50%). The majority of visitor stayed in Gower (43%) slightly less than in 2015 (54%) with an increasing number of visitors staying in Swansea (38%) compared to 2015 (31%). The number of people staying in Mumbles also rose slightly (18%) compared to 2015 (16%).

3C.11.10 Walking remains a key activity undertaken by visitors, with 43% walking more than 2 miles and 28% walking less than 2 miles; watersports (6%); cycling (4%); fishing (2%); and golf (1%) remain the most common other sports.

3C.11.11 The popularity of the area for activity tourism is reflected by the response that 58% of people stated that the coast and beaches was a reason to visit (22% main reason) and 38% states that the scenery/landscape was a reason (10% main reason). Tying in with the above, 21% of people stated that walking was the main reason to visit the area, with 6% stating it was their main reason.

3C.11.12 The coast, beaches, scenery and landscape therefore remain key attractions to Gower and Mumbles.

#### **Accommodation data**

3C.11.13 The published a **Swansea City Centre Demand Study in 2022**, which focused on the City Centre, SA1 and Copperworks areas of the County. As a result of the success of regeneration projects in the city centre (such as the Arena) there is growing demand for hotel accommodation from both leisure and business sectors. The area is undersupplied and needs an additional 285-255 rooms, which is equivalent to 3 new hotels by 2026 and more again by 2032.

3C.11.13 Despite the demand for additional hotels in the acity centre, SA1 and waterfront, over recent years a number of hotels have ceased trading and have been converted into residential flats, particularly outside the city centre. There has been an increase in the number of dwellings being used as short term holiday lets alongside the rise of web platforms such as Airbnb or Booking, and numbers rose significantly during the Covid-19 pandemic and the 'staycation' boom.

3C.11.14 Dwellings used as short term lets can have a positive impact on the local economy, with associated spending in the hospitality and leisure sectors, and provide employment in the form of cleaners, gardeners etc. However, the purchasing of dwellings to be used as short term lets, often as investments by owners from

outside the area, can push up local house prices and reduce the number of properties available for families people trying to live in the area. Particular hotspots for dwellings being used as short term lets and second homes are Gower, Mumbles and the Marina. Coincidentally, West Swansea and Gower have the highest prices in the County, seen the biggest increases over recent years and have a lack of affordable housing.

3C.11.15 Calculating the number of properties in the County that are used for second homes and/or short term lets for holiday lets is difficult. No planning permission is required in order to use a dwelling as a second home or short term let, compared to permission being required to run a hotel, guest house or B&B. Furthermore, unlike hotels, guest houses etc, no licences are required.

3C.11.16 The WG have introduced changes to the land use planning system use Class Order, introducing new Use Classes for dwellings used as second homes or short term lets. However, no planning permission is required to move between a dwelling and the two new use classes. The Council has the powers to introduce planning restrictions requiring planning permission to use a dwelling as a second home or short term let, if such use has social and/or community impacts. At the time of writing the draft Scoping Report, no such powers exist in the County. The WG have also consulted on introducing a licensing or registration scheme for short term lets.

3C.11.17 In order to try and estimate the amount of visitor accommodation within the County and its locations, a number of dwellings being used as second homes and/or short term lets; the number of hotel bedspaces, a wide variety of data must be examined.

**Council Bedstock Survey**

3C.11.18 The Council undertakes a bedstock data survey which records the number of bedspaces (i.e. a double bed would constitute 2 bedspaces). The database used by the Tourism section of the Council lists all the properties known by them. Results for May 2023 indicate a decrease in bedstock compared to 2021 data. The difference is primarily due to the closure of two council run centres.

| <b>Non serviced</b>        | <b>2021</b> | <b>May 2023</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Self catering</b>       | 4170        | 4094            |
| <b>Caravan and camping</b> | 22,923      | 21,983          |

3C.11.19 According to the Council’s Tourism Section 2021 Bedstock Survey, 415 businesses offered self-catering accommodation which equated to 636 separate self-catering units (cottages or apartments). Around two thirds of all self-catering businesses were located in Gower in 2021 (67%) – compared to 72% in previous years. The proportion of self-catering businesses based in Swansea has also decreased slightly (8% down from 12% in previous years). However, the proportion of

self-catering accommodation based in Mumbles has increased from 16% of the total in previous years to 25% in 2021.

### **Camping and caravanning accommodation in more detail**

3C.11.20 Looking at the types of camping and caravan accommodation available in the City and County of Swansea, a third of businesses (33%) described themselves as Touring Parks, while around a quarter (24%) described themselves as Holiday Parks. A further fifth (19%) of businesses offered a broad range of accommodation so described themselves as Holiday, Touring and Camping Parks.

3C.11.21 Almost all camping and caravan businesses were based in Gower (95%). This was also the case in previous years when 94% of camping and caravan businesses were based there. Only a small proportion of these businesses were based in Swansea (5%) while none of the camping and caravan businesses recorded in 2021 were based in Mumbles (2% in previous years).

### **Occupancy Data**

3C.11.22 The Council records the occupancy levels of non serviced accommodation:

- 2017: 59.9% (Wales average: 57.6%)
- 2018: 59.2% (Wales average: 54.4%)
- 2019: 65.8% (Wales average: 57.3%)
- No full year data for 2020 or 2021
- Change of data collection for 2022, results not yet available.

### **Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG)**

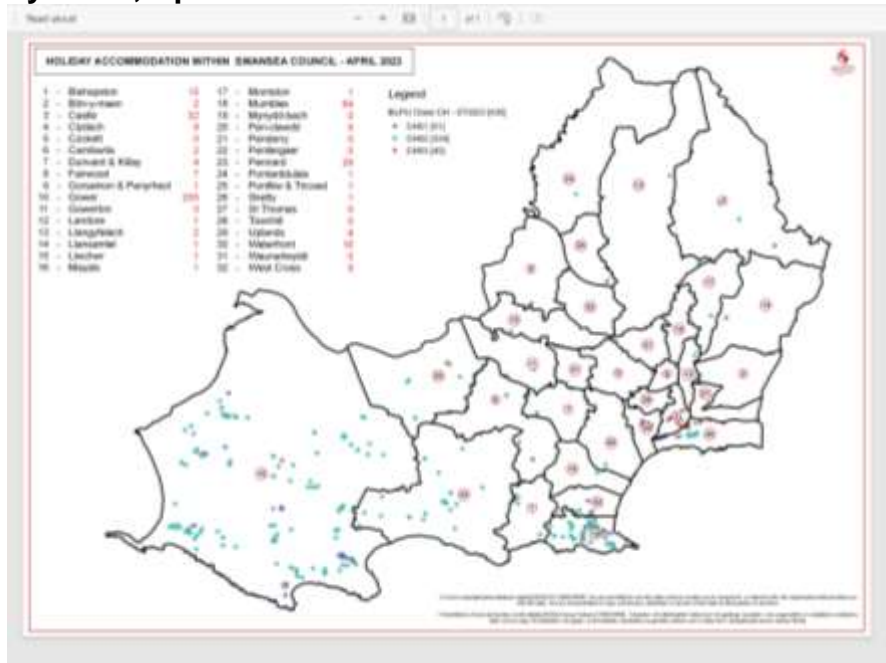
3C.11.23 The LLPG is the central corporate database for all addresses, used by government, emergency services and Councils. It ensures only one address is used per property. Each Basic Land and Property Unit (BLPU) has a classification. The classification CH describes:

- CH01 – Boarding / Guest House / Bed and Breakfast / Youth Hostel – includes commercial lodging
- CH02 – Holiday Let / Accommodation / Short-term Let other than CH01 – not privately-owned holiday caravan/chalet
- CH03 – Hotel / Motel

3C.11.24 The LLPG is updated daily, so subject to a degree of fluctuation. Using data from April 2023 and shown in Figure 3.10, the LLPG recorded 430 addresses used as holiday accommodation (excluding privately owned chalets/chalets that may be used as holiday accommodation).

3C.11.25 The map clearly illustrates that Gower, Mumbles, city centre and waterfront areas of the County have the highest numbers of tourism accommodation, and hotspot areas can be seen in Gower, such as Rhossili, Oxwich and Port Eynon.

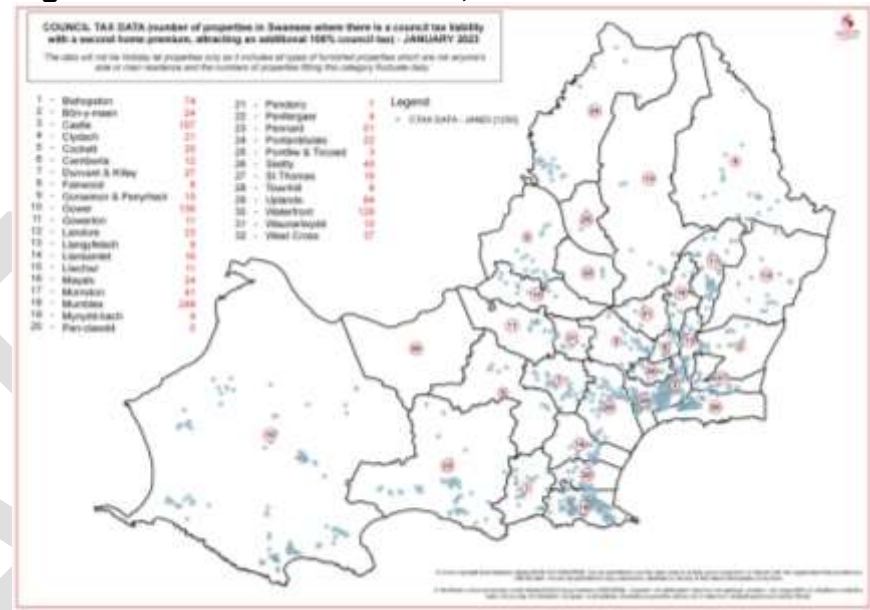
**Figure 3.10: LLPG Holiday Accommodation in Swansea by Ward, April 2023**



**Council Tax**

3C.11.26 Council tax records can provide another layer of evidence in which to try and estimate the number of properties that were recorded as being used as second homes and or short term lets in January 2023. The Council tax data in Figure 3.11 shows the number of properties in Swansea where there is a council tax liability with a second home premium, attracting an additional 100% council tax.

**Figure 3.11: Council Tax Data, Jan 2023**



3C.11.27 A ‘Second home premium’ doesn’t necessarily mean the property is a second home. The premium applies to properties that are furnished which are not anyone’s sole or main residence. This will include furnished holiday lets, properties used by owners as an actual second home or tenanted properties where a landlord would usually let the property as a furnished let and is currently between tenants.

3C.11.28 The data shows 1,250 properties attracted a Council tax premium in January 2023. The highest concentration being located within the following electoral wards: Mumbles (248 properties), Gower (136

properties), Waterfront (129 properties) and Castle (107 properties).

### Non-Domestic Rates

3C.11.29 The Non-domestic rates data shows the number of properties that are categorised as ‘apartment houses and premises’ by the Valuation Office Agency and pay commercial rates (non-domestic). As at January 2023, for a self-catering property to be considered in the commercial rating list the property had to meet the following criteria:

- Within any 12 month period the property must be available for let for at least 140 days and actually let for at least 70 days.

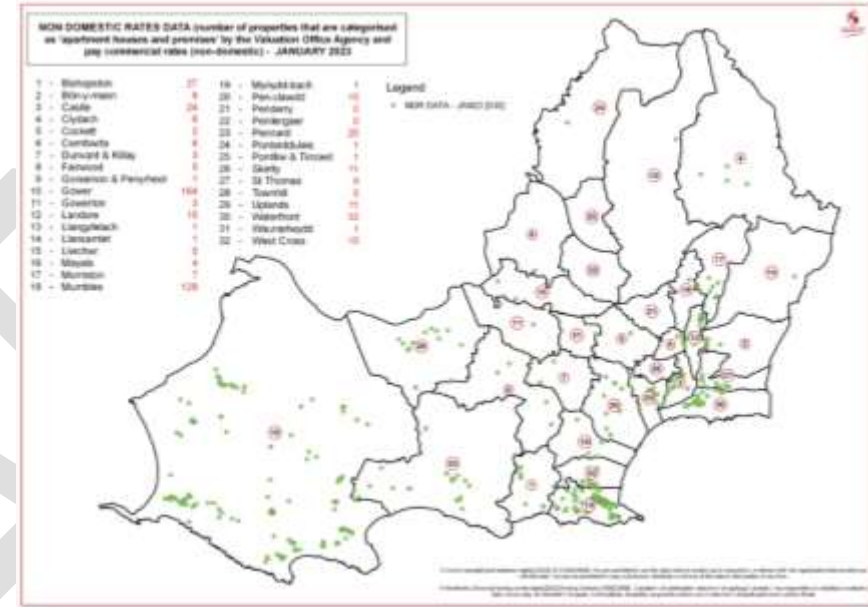
From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 this changed to:

- Within any 12 month period the property must be available for let for at least 252 days and actually let for at least 182 days.

3C.11.29 The implications of the change are not yet known and will be kept under review.

3C.11.30 Figure 3.12 shows that 530 properties are categorised as ‘apartment house and premises’ by the VOA and pay nondomestic commercial rates. The electoral wards with the highest number are: Gower (164 properties), Mumbles (129 properties), Waterfront (33), Pennard (25) and Castle (24).

**Figure 3.12: Non-domestic rates data categorised as apartment houses and premises – January 2023**



### Webplatform Data

3C.11.31 ‘Seetransparent.com’ provide details of all accommodation advertised on Airbnb, Booking.com, Tripadvisor and Homeaway. The data is refreshed monthly.

3C.11.32 In November 2022 there were 1,710 holiday accommodation properties advertised in the County on those webplatforms, providing some 3,475 bedrooms and with capacity for 7,423 people. The accommodation ranges from a single bedroom in a



domestic dwelling being rented to visitors, or whole properties. It excludes caravan and campsites.

3C.11.33 In May 2023, the number was 1,847 properties providing some 3,981 bedrooms with capacity for 8,442 people, illustrating the fluctuating nature of properties advertised on webplatforms.

3C.11.34 Seetransparent also provides occupancy data and this will be examined in more detail and used as part of the evidence base for the RLDP.

### Census 2021 data

3C.11.35 The Census 2021 estimates the number of dwellings used as second address, by usual residents in England and Wales. Dwellings used as second addresses but owned by usual residents outside England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, are not included. Furthermore, the estimates only capture second addresses that have a person staying at them for 30 days or more a year. It does not record data on second addresses that are not stayed at by someone for this time period. If someone owns a second address but never stays there, or is not occupied by the same person for 30 days a year or more, it will not be captured. The census asks where people live or stay, but does not ask about ownership of second addresses.

3C.11.36 Swansea has the 7<sup>th</sup> highest number of second addresses used as holiday homes within Wales, just above Carmarthenshire (425). There is a variation as

to the location of those properties within the County, as shown in Table 3.23. Only eight wards had a high enough number of holiday homes to be significant (i.e. count of 10 or more=c).

**Table 3.23: Second homes across the Swansea Wards**

| Ward                    | Holiday home | Another address when working from home | Students tern time address | Students home address | Another parent or guardian address | Parrents address | Other (incuding armed forces) |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bishopston              | 15           | c                                      | c                          | 55                    | 70                                 | 15               | 20                            |
| Bon y Maen              | C            | 10                                     | C                          | 20                    | 95                                 | 20               | 30                            |
| Castle                  | C            | 30                                     | 25                         | 65                    | 115                                | 40               | 60                            |
| Clydach                 | C            | C                                      | C                          | 60                    | 105                                | 20               | 20                            |
| Cockett                 | C            | C                                      | C                          | 50                    | 140                                | 25               | 35                            |
| Cwmbwrla                | C            | C                                      | C                          | 20                    | 110                                | 30               | 15                            |
| Dunvant and Killay      | C            | C                                      | C                          | 105                   | 150                                | 25               | 35                            |
| Fairwood                | C            | C                                      | C                          | 35                    | 40                                 | C                | 15                            |
| Gorseinon and Penyrheol | C            | 10                                     | C                          | 80                    | 145                                | 30               | 30                            |
| Gower                   | 145          | 10                                     | C                          | 50                    | 50                                 | 10               | 25                            |
| Gowerton                | C            | C                                      | C                          | 50                    | 90                                 | 10               | 20                            |
| Landore                 | C            | C                                      | C                          | 20                    | 80                                 | 10               | 25                            |
| Llangyfelach            | C            | C                                      | C                          | 25                    | 45                                 | 10               | C                             |
| Llansamlet              | C            | C                                      | C                          | 80                    | 235                                | 45               | 40                            |
| Llwchwr                 | C            | C                                      | C                          | 65                    | 145                                | 25               | 20                            |
| Mayals                  | 10           | C                                      | C                          | 45                    | 35                                 | C                | 20                            |
| Morrison                | C            | 20                                     | C                          | 85                    | 220                                | 55               | 50                            |
| Mumbles                 | 135          | 15                                     | C                          | 120                   | 145                                | 45               | 75                            |

|                       |    |    |     |     |     |    |    |
|-----------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| Mynydd bach           | C  | C  | C   | 40  | 100 | 15 | 20 |
| Penclawdd             | C  | C  | C   | 30  | 45  | 15 | 15 |
| Penderry              | C  | C  | C   | 35  | 120 | 20 | 25 |
| Penllergaer           | C  | C  | C   | 35  | 60  | C  | C  |
| Pennard               | 20 | C  | C   | 45  | 50  | 10 | 10 |
| Pontarddulais         | C  | C  | C   | 55  | 95  | 20 | 20 |
| Pontlliw and tircloed | C  | C  | C   | 30  | 40  | 10 | c  |
| Sketty                | 10 | 10 | C   | 210 | 175 | 50 | 60 |
| St Thomas             | C  | 15 | C   | 35  | 60  | 20 | 20 |
| Townhill              | C  | C  | C   | 35  | 85  | 20 | 20 |
| Uplands               | C  | 45 | 110 | 135 | 175 | 70 | 70 |
| Waterfront            | 50 | 55 | C   | 20  | 40  | 30 | 40 |
| Wanarlwydd            | C  | C  | C   | 25  | 40  | 10 | 10 |
| West Cross            | 15 | c  | c   | 70  | 75  | 20 | 25 |

3C.11.37 Data on Second Homes and short term lets will be kept under review and feed into the Local Housing Market Assessment, in order to attempt to understand the influence (if any) of the use of dwellings as short term lets on the local housing and long term rental markets.

### 3C.11 KEY ISSUES - ECONOMY

- Facilitate the regeneration of Swansea Central Area in collaboration with development partners, focussing on key sites for delivery
- Help maximise socio-economic benefits and potential of the Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area and the City Deal.
- Understand retail trends and impacts being experienced by retail centres in the County and facilitate regeneration projects and other measures to support their future vitality and viability.
- Swansea has a relatively high share of LSOAs in the 10% most deprived in Wales. Support economic growth and employment opportunities, and measures to tackle deprivation and inequality of access to employment, education and training.
- Understand the need and demand for commercial land (B uses), including the latest evidence and trends that have a bearing on the requirement for land for such uses eg rise of home working.
- High proportion of residents work within the service and public sectors. Support growth of the identified priority employment sectors
- Interrelationship between quality of the natural environment (particularly landscape and beaches) and the attraction to visitors.
- Importance of walking, cycling and other activities as part of the visitor economy and interrelationship with active travel routes, health and wellbeing and GI.

- Collate and review evidence on any issues caused by Holiday accommodation eg in Gower AoNB. Collate and review evidence on use of properties as short term lets (e.g. Airbnb) adding to pressures on long term rental market and lack of availability of properties for local residents

### 3C.12 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3C.12.1 Future Wales sets out the National Growth Area, but requires local vision for each city and/or town supported by a spatial framework that guides growth and regeneration. Without the RLDP, this will not be delivered.

3C.12.2 Future leisure and retail developments will have to comply with Future Wales Town Centre's first approach and adopt sequential tests, however there would be a lack of local strategy and coordination without the RLDP. Developments would not be informed by an up to date evidence base.

3C.12.3 Decisions would not take account of most recent local evidence relating to district and local centres, employment land provision and tourism strategies.

### SECTION 3D

#### TOPIC AREA: HUMAN HEALTH (INCLUDES AIR)

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:

SEA Regs Schedule 2(6)[(b) population (c) human health; (j) material assets; (h) air; l: landscape] Equalities; Health and Wellbeing

#### 3D.1 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

3D.1.1 Swansea Public Service Board Assessment of Local Well-being (May 2022) splits the County into community areas: Bay East, Bay West, City, Cwm Tawe, Llŷchwr and Penderi, as shown in Figure 3.13.

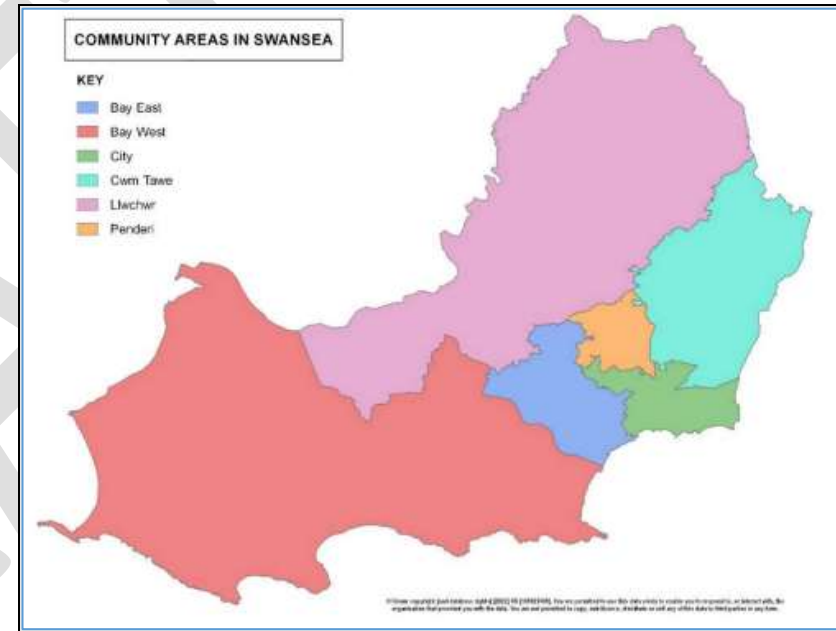
3D.1.2 These are the same areas identified in the 2017 Assessment of Local Well-being and mostly coincide with the local Primary Care Network Areas – an all-Wales network of GP cluster areas used across the health and social care sectors in particular. However, the largest of them ('Bay'), which includes both rural Gower and more urban parts of Swansea, is split into East and West areas.

#### Life Expectancy

3D.1.3 Life expectancy in Swansea has increased over the long-term, contributing to a generally ageing population. The ONS figures on average life expectancy at birth (for 2018-20) stand at 77.5 years for males in Swansea (Wales 78.3) and 81.8 for females (Wales 82.1). Five years previously, i.e. 2013-

15, life expectancy in Swansea was 78.0 years for males (Wales 78.4) and 82.5 years for females (Wales 82.3). In recent years therefore, long-term improvements in life expectancy have slightly reversed.

**Figure 3.13: Community Areas in the City and County of Swansea**



#### Young People Receiving Care and Support

3D.1.4 Wales has some of the highest levels of deprivation and child poverty in the UK, and this has a clear impact on the wellbeing and outcomes for children and young people. Swansea has slightly lower number of children in need of care and support than in recent years. In March 2021 there were 46,988 children and young

people (aged 0-17yrs), living in the County, compared to 47,272 in March 2017. During 2020/21, Swansea Council's statutory Child and Family Social Services received 9,309 contacts, compared to 10,251 in 2016/17. In March 2021, there were:

- 1,303 (1,728 in March 2017) children and young people receiving care and support by statutory services in Swansea, including:
- 253 (252 in March 2017) children and young people on the child protection register
- 550 (480 in March 2017) children and young people looked after, of this number 30 (40 in March 2017) children were supported within residential placement.

3D.1.5. The main parental factors identified for children looked after in Swansea are: domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse.

3D.1.6 In March 2020, there were 16,581 children receiving care and support in Wales (according to the Children Receiving Care and Support Census) with a rate of 263 per 10,000 children aged 0-17 years. In Swansea, the rate was 283 per 10,000 over the same time period, higher than the Wales average. Over the same time period (March 2020), there were 2,311 children Swansea Public Services Board: Assessment of Local Well-being 2022 27 in Wales on the Child Protection Register, with a rate of 37 per 10,000. In Swansea the rate was 54 per 10,000, higher than the Wales average. In March 2020, 7,172 children were looked after in Wales (a 5% increase on the previous year)

with a rate of 114 per 10,000 population aged under 18. Swansea's rate was 117 per 10,000 aged under 18 which was also higher than the Wales average over the same time period.

### **Adult Social Care**

3D.1.7 The demand for Adult Social Care in the County is increasing. The main reasons for the increasing or changing demand include:

- Increasing numbers of people as more people live longer,
- Increasing levels of need from people with complex / chronic conditions
- Increasing expectations from people that their needs can be met, particularly by health and social care services
- Immediacy of needs – people have expectations for faster response times
- Carers have their own wellbeing needs and lives.

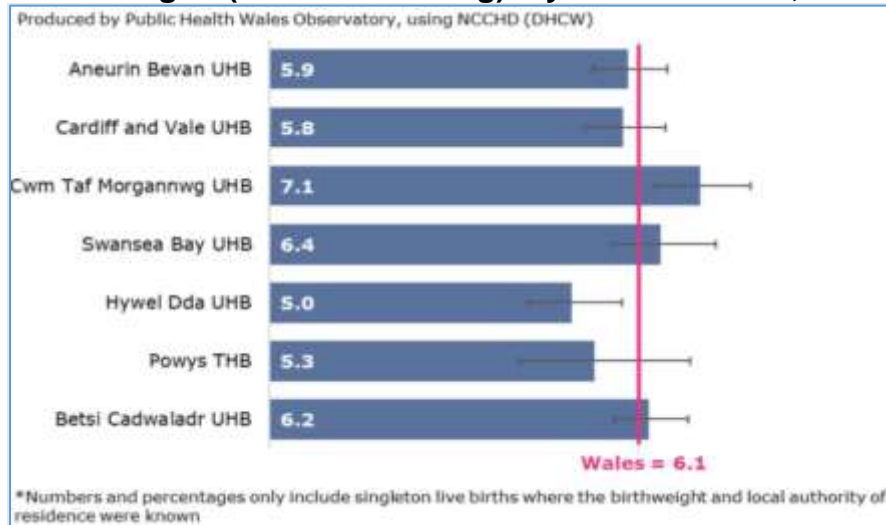
3D.1.8 Performance figures contrasting outcomes in 2017-2018 with those in 2019-20 confirm that Swansea Council is supporting more people in their own homes, with fewer people being cared for in care homes. Of the 200,000 (approx.) adults aged 18 and over living in Swansea, the number who received care and support from Swansea Council's Adult Services during the last 3 years were:

- 2020/21 = 6,951
- 2019/20 = 6,463
- 2018/19 = 6,434

### Birth Weight

3D.1.9 Low birth weight remains a key indicator when assessing the health of children in early years. The Public Health Observatory shown in Figure 3.14, published for 2020, show that the percentage of live births with a low birth weight in Swansea is higher than the national average.

**Figure 3.14: Percentage of Singleton Live Births with a low Birth Weight (less than 2500g) by Health Board, 2020**



### Children, Young People and Adult key issues

3D.1.10 The Assessment of Local Wellbeing identifies that one of the key issues that children and young people have identified in order to make a Swansea a better place that has the potential to be addressed via the land use planning system is to:

- 'Protect the Environment and Green Spaces'.

3D.1.11. Relevant issues identified by older people (50+) are:  
 -transport  
 -improving Swansea city centre and local facilities.

### Age Friendly City

3D.1.12 The Council signed the "The Dublin Declaration of Age Friendly Cities and Communities" in 2014, which contains the following pledges:

- commit to specific actions and principles that aim to ensure that older people have the opportunities to make the most of their lives and to play as full a part as possible in their communities,
- develop citizen-centred engagement opportunities to ensure that older people have meaningful involvement in local development and service changes,
- develop safe and inclusive public spaces, housing of the highest quality, communities for all ages, available & affordable public transport, etc.

### Crime and Safety

3D.1.13 The Swansea Assessment of Local Wellbeing 2022, states that crime and safety is a significant key topic within social well-being, with several distinct (but interlinked) elements. Over the 12 months to June 2021 there were a total of 18,240 recorded crimes in Swansea, an overall decrease of 1,101 (-5.7%) on the previous 12 months. Significant decreases over the year can be seen in the categories violence with injury,

down 132 (-6.4%), and for burglary, shoplifting and theft categories. The biggest increases (over +10%) occurred in possession of drugs and public order offences (Swansea Assessment of Local Wellbeing, 2022).

3D.1.14 The Assessment states that Swansea has the highest levels of fatal drug poisonings in Wales. Data from the ONS 'Drug deaths registered in 2020 in Wales shows 42 drug deaths recorded in Swansea, nearly 40% more than any other local authority, with Wrexham the second highest (17). Data from Public Health Wales shows that Swansea has had the highest rates of drug deaths since 2016.

3D.1.15 Hate crime is generally low across all areas of Swansea, with racial hate is the most prevalent hate offence recorded in Swansea. The Assessment of Local Wellbeing states that 209 were reported in 2014/15 rising to 240 by 20/2021. In comparison, religious, transgender or disability hate crimes have comparatively low numbers. Most hate crimes are recorded within the city centre, reflecting the dense concentration of residents from minority backgrounds residing in the City Sector, resulting in the highest level of reporting.

### **Primary Health Care**

3D.1.16 The County falls within the Swansea Bay University Health Board Area. The County contains four hospitals: 1) Singleton (a range of services including regional maternity and neonatal intensive care), 2)

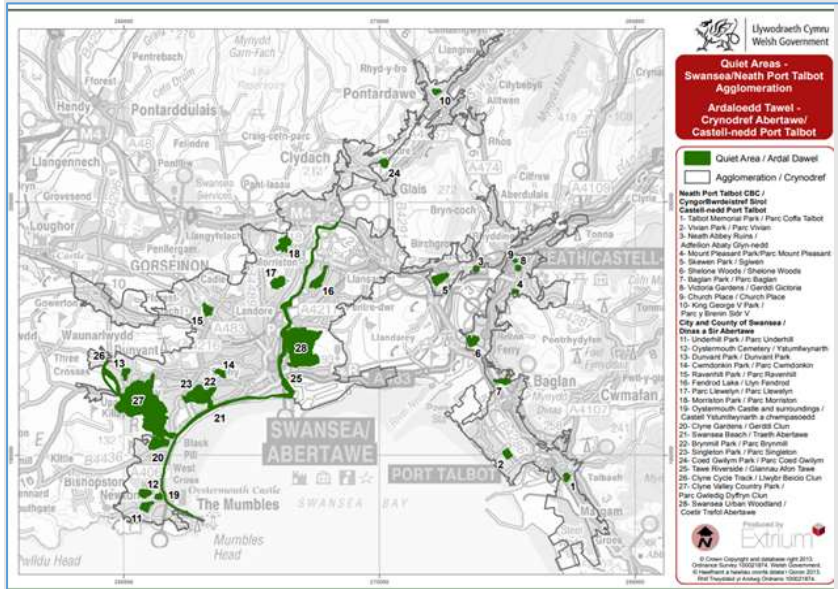
Gorseinon (older persons assessment and rehabilitation), 3) Cefn Coed (support for mental health and dementia) and 4) Morriston which is the regional acute tertiary hospital for South West Wales. Other hospitals which serve the Health Board area are: Neath Port Talbot, Tonna, Taith Newyd and Caswell clinic.

3D.1.17 Community and primary Health care also include GPs, pharmacists, dentists, physiotherapists and opticians. The Health Board and Public Health Wales must be consulted throughout the development of the RLDP.

## **3D.2 NOISE AND SOUNDSCAPE**

3D.2.1 The Welsh Government produced a Noise and Soundscape Action Plan for Wales 2018 - 2023. The action plan describes how and why environmental noise is managed across Wales. Section 12 of the Action Plan is devoted to noise management in the built up area of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. It includes Swansea Council's commitment to managing noise through the planning process. Particularly the need to "take noise maps, priority areas, quiet areas, and other tranquil urban green space into consideration when a noise-sensitive or noise-generating development is proposed. The Action Plan also includes a Quiet Area map, which consists of tranquil public places that are valued by the local community and are shown in Figure 3.15.

**Figure 3.15: Quiet Areas Swansea/Neath Port Talbot Agglomeration**



### 3D.3 AIR QUALITY

3D.3.1 Good air quality is important for health and quality of life. The Council has a statutory duty to review and assess the air quality within the County and to identify the air quality standards and objectives.

3D.3.2 The Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 set standards for seven key pollutants. These are benzene, 1,3-butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, fine particles (PM<sub>10</sub>) and sulphur dioxide.

### Monitoring

3D.3.3 Air quality in the County is continuously monitored and the Council is required to submit regular reports which make up the review and assessment process to show how air quality in the area meets set standards. These include:

- an Air Quality Action Plan, which shows how air quality standards and objectives are to be achieved (required under S84 of the Environment Act 1995);
- the Update and Screening Assessments (USA), which provide an update of air quality and determine whether the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved;
- and Progress Reports, which provide an update of air quality.

### 3D.3.4 Swansea Council's 2022 Air Quality Progress

**Report** (2023) contains the most up to date air quality monitoring results within the County:

- In 2021 passive **nitrogen dioxide** (NO<sub>2</sub>) recorded an increase over 2020 levels, (2020 levels were low primarily due to the low traffic flows during Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and increase in home working). Traffic flows returned to post pandemic levels in 2021 but there are no exceedances of the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> Air Quality Standard (AQS) objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> within the County.
- During 2021 **PM<sub>10</sub>** concentrations were below the 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> PM<sub>10</sub> AQS objective;
- **PM<sub>2.5</sub>** concentrations were below the PM<sub>2.5</sub> AQS target in 2021.



- There were no exceedances of the **sulphur dioxide** (SO<sub>2</sub>) AQS objective
- **Ozone** (O<sub>3</sub>) is monitored at four sites within Swansea. Compliance with the 8-hour mean UK objective (not set in regulation) has been observed during 2021 at all sites.

3D.3.5 The Progress Report examines policies and strategies that affect airborne pollution, citing the LDP, Local Transport Plan, Active Travel Plans, Green Infrastructure Plans, Climate Change Strategies, and Well-being Plans.

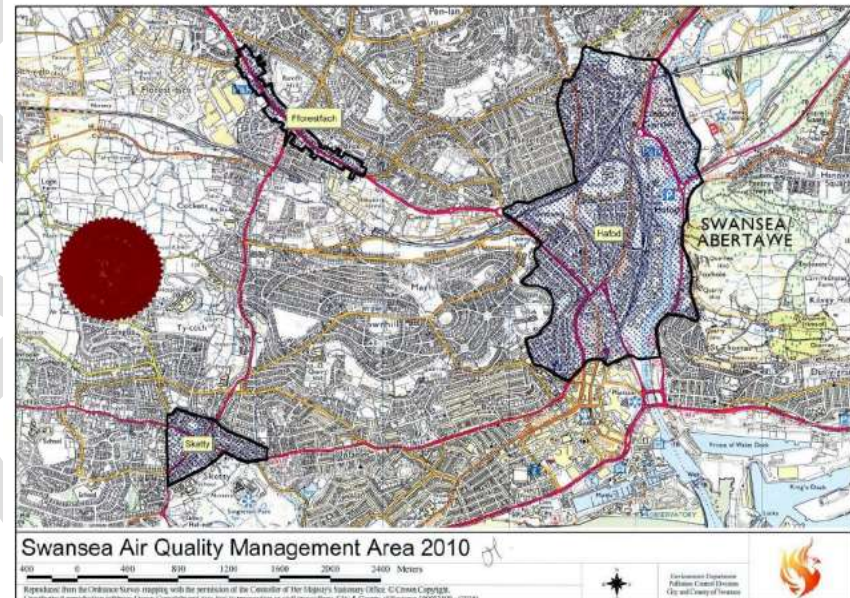
3D.3.5 The Council requests air quality assessments for new planning applications where relevant, to ensure that there is no significant degradation of air quality or that no new sensitive receptors are being introduced into areas of existing poor air quality.

### Air Quality Management Area

3D.3.6 Section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995 requires the Authority to designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in areas where it is likely that the standards for any of the identified pollutants would be exceeded. The Hafod Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) (Figure 3.16) was declared in 2001 due to exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) annual mean AQS objective. All AQMA boundaries are either close to, or have busy roads within them, recognising the influence vehicle emissions have upon local air quality. All sections of the AQMA are compliant and

the Council will continue monitoring. To ensure that continual compliance is achieved, the Council do not intend to revoke this AQMA at this moment in time. If concentrations continue to remain stable, then the Council may carry out the revocation process.

**Figure 3.16: Swansea Air Quality Management Area 2010**



### Demand for interventions reducing air and noise pollution

3D.3.7 Air pollution from motorised transport and industry can have a strong impact on health and well-being within urban centres, and is estimated to contribute to approximately 2,000 deaths annually in Wales. Greenspaces within the urban environment can help to

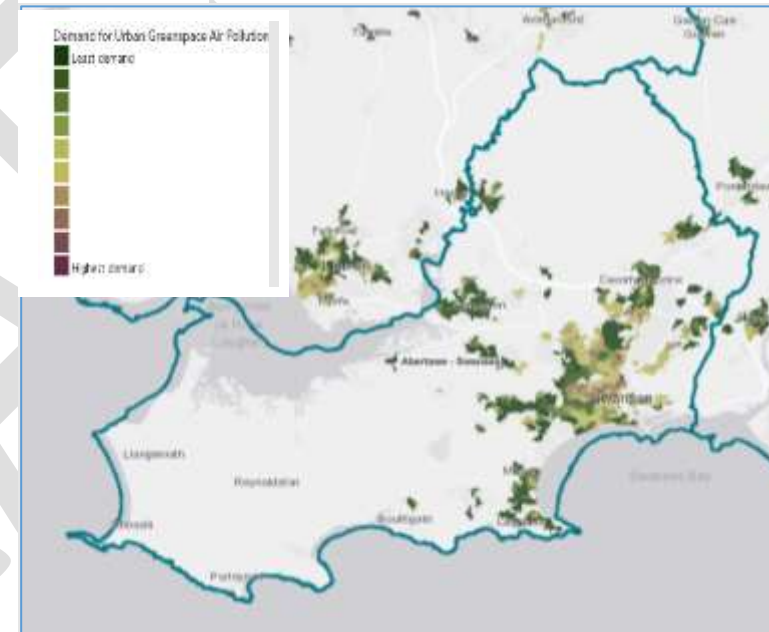
provide places for recreation and commutes by bike and on foot that are removed from the direct vicinity of roads, thereby decreasing the exposure of people to polluted air. **The Welsh Information for Nature-based solutions (WINS)** website identifies areas of demand for greenspace based on locations with air quality issues, with air with air quality being based on annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Figure 3.17). Along a colour gradient from dark green to dark brown the demand increases, based on a combination of three factors: the intensity of the air pollution problem, population density, and deprivation.

3D.3.8 From the map, the wards within the County with the highest demand for greenspace interventions to reduce air pollution are: Castle, Townhill, Landore, Penderry and Morrision.

3D.3.9 Some of those wards also contain roads along which NRW's mapping shows demand for greenspace based on locations affected by noise pollution (with noise pollution in decibel sound level contours), based on a combination of three factors: the intensity of the noise pollution problem, population density, and deprivation. Areas falling within the  $\geq 75$  dB class are considered to have the highest demand for greenspace to shelter from noise pollution, whilst areas falling within the 70-74.9 dB bracket are considered to have some demand.

Stretches of the: A4067 in Morrision and Landore; A4127 in Bonymaen; A483; A4118; Orchard S; Oystermouth Rd; the Kingsway in Castle; and Fabian Way in St Thomas

**Figure 3.17: Urban Greenspace Interventions to Reduce Air Pollution**



Source: NRW Wales Environmental Portal, Welsh Information for Nature Based Solutions, Reducing Air Pollution<sup>38</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Welsh Information for Nature-based Solutions (WINS) NRW; Opportunity Maps for Area for Implementing the Natural Resources Policy User Guide 2020 Environment Systems evidence and Insight, NRW Bangor University

### 3D.4 TRANQUILITY

3D.4.1 Tranquillity is important as a landscape asset and important cultural service and could therefore also be considered under those topic areas. Tranquillity is highly valued and contributes to landscape value and identity, it also contributes to health, well-being, spiritual benefit and quality of life. This in turn can bring economic benefits from tourists and visitors to tranquil areas. But it has limited resilience, and subtle changes in noise, visual intrusion and light pollution may have marked effects on natural settings and tranquillity.

3D.4.2 NRW produced a nationally consistent Tranquillity and Place resource in 2023 that identifies the strategic and local resource for use as an evidence base to inform policy intent, practice and provision for well-being benefits. Figure 3.18 shows the extract for Swansea. The resource has 6 themes, four of which are finalised and published (at time of writing):

- Theme 1 -relative abundance, perception or experience of nature, natural landscapes and greenspaces.
- Theme 2 -relative freedom from intrusive visual disturbance and human influence.
- Theme 3 -relative dark skies (incorporating the dark skies and light pollution work completed last year).
- Theme 5 -visually tranquil places (themes 1, 2 and 3).

3D.4.3 Key findings in relation to visually tranquil places are:

- 558.5 km<sup>2</sup> of Wales is in the top 20% for relative abundance, perception or experience of nature, natural landscapes and greenspaces, when all ten contributing indicators for theme 1 are summed.
- 3,931.7 km<sup>2</sup> of Wales is in the top 20% for relative freedom from intrusive visual disturbance and human influence, when all six contributing indicators for theme 2 are summed.
- 1,389.7 km<sup>2</sup> of Wales is in the top 20% of visually tranquil areas when the normalised scores of themes 1, 2 and 3 are combined.
- 67% of Wales is in the top 3 most visually tranquil categories.
- 9% of Wales' urban areas are in the top 3 visually tranquil categories.

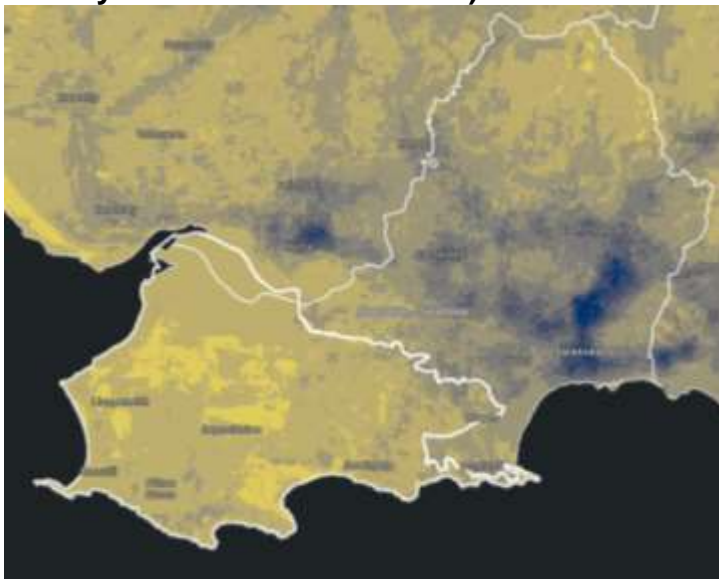
#### **Dark Skies Community**

3D.4.4. The Council applied to the Dark Skies Association in 2023 to designate the Gower AONB as a Dark Skies Community and is (at the time of writing) working on feedback received.

3D.4.5 Monitoring of sky quality within the AONB has been undertaken since 2019. The results are broadly comparable, with locations further west from Swansea consistently having the best readings. Readings along the south coast of Gower – from Bracelet Bay westward – are poorer. Street lighting within the AONB is being changed to LED Dark Sky friendly lighting

units. One of the causes of poor light quality is poor lighting design around developments and light spill from new developments. The Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB specifically seeks to address the issue and encourage developers to reduce light spill and light pollution in developments.

**Figure 3.18: Visual Tranquil Places Map (showing the County and AONB Boundaries)**



source: NRW

| key | rural              | urban |                    |
|-----|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
|     |                    | ■     | 1 (least tranquil) |
| ■   | 2 (Least tranquil) |       |                    |
| ■   | 3                  |       |                    |
| ■   | 4                  |       |                    |
| ■   | 5                  |       |                    |
| ■   | 6                  |       |                    |
| ■   | 7                  |       |                    |
| ■   | 8                  |       |                    |
| ■   | 9                  |       |                    |
| ■   | 10 (most tranquil) |       |                    |

### 3D.5 RADON GAS

3D.5.1 Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is present in all homes and is the major source of ionising radiation exposure to the UK population. Where high levels are found, a radon Action Level (200 Bq m<sup>-3</sup>) is used to advise householders on the need to take remedial action in the home.

3D.5.2 The 'Radon in Homes in Wales', 2016<sup>39</sup> (Public Health England) report provides a summary of approx. 18,400 radon measurements taken in homes in Wales between 1982 and 2015. A total of 11 homes measured at or above the Action Level in electoral wards in Bishopston, Newton and Pennard.

### 3D.6 LAND INSTABILITY

3D.5.3 There is an extensive legacy of underground workings and surface spoil heaps in parts of Swansea due to the

<sup>39</sup>[Wales data report 2016.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

area's long history of mining and quarrying. However, there is only evidence of one defined slip area which is located at Graig Trewyddfa, near Morriston and is defined on the LDP Constraints and Issues Map.

3D.5.3 The Coal Authority publish an online interactive map containing Coal Authority data which can be used to determine whether a coal mining report is required. Much of the County lies within the South Wales coal mining Reporting Area which covers the known extent of coal mining activity. The interactive map shows present activity and the legacy of past activity, including for example mine entries, past shallow coal mine workings, coal outcrops and abandoned mines. Development High risk Areas are also defined (Figure 3.19), within which a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is required to accompany most planning applications for development.

**Figure 3.19: The Coal Authority Interactive Map showing Development High Risk Areas**



Source: [Interactive Map Viewer | Coal Authority \(bgs.ac.uk\)](https://www.coalauthority.gov.uk/interactive-map-viewer/)

### 3D.6 KEY ISSUES - HUMAN HEALTH (INCLUDES AIR)

- Promote a Placemaking approach that enables new developments to be sustainably located with access to a range of services by active travel, reducing the need to travel by the private car, and encouraging sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Consider key findings from The Assessment of Local Wellbeing including making Swansea a better place eg by 'Protecting the Environment and Green Spaces', supporting transport improvements and improving Swansea city centre and local facilities.
- The County has an ageing population, so this needs to be considered as part of future policy and strategy development.
- Increase GI interventions to aid air pollution mitigation; ensure new developments do not significantly degrade air quality and minimise new sensitive receptors being introduced unmitigated into areas of existing poor air quality
- Help minimise the emissions of air pollutants and the number of people who are receptors.
- Integrate health and wellbeing throughout relevant policies
- Increase awareness of soundscape and tranquillity for health and wellbeing.
- Protect and enhance community facilities of value, to aid socio-community wellbeing.
- Help reduce light pollution, for the benefit of dark skies, tranquillity, ecology and health and wellbeing, particularly within the Gower AONB, particularly regarding light spill from new development
- Understand any areas of land instability when considering future use of areas

- Consult with Health Board and Public Health Wales throughout RLDP preparation
- Help target resources to address deficiencies in greenspace.

### 3D.7 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3D.7.1 Health is a principle element embedded within the Well-being of Future Generations Act which places an emphasis on taking a holistic, long term and collaborative approach to achieving well-being through placemaking and improved health is one of the objectives of Future Wales. Development will have to comply with relevant legislation regarding air quality, soundscapes, noise and light pollution, even without the RLDP.

3D.7.2 The lack of a statutory local development plan may lead to uncoordinated developments, which do not consider wider health and wellbeing implications or the cumulative impacts of development. Health and wellbeing will be an overarching consideration that will have overriding influence throughout the Replacement LDP. The interrelationship of health and wellbeing with the provision of GI, accessible greenspaces, play areas, connection with nature, active travel routes and so on.

3D.7.3 The impact of light pollution on tranquillity needs to be fed into Placemaking and Design principles.

## SECTION 3E TOPIC AREA: WATER

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:

SEA Regs Schedule 2(6)(g) water; (b) population (c) human health; (a) biodiversity, (e) flora, (d) fauna, (j) material assets; (f) soil; (i) climatic factors; Health and Wellbeing

### 3E.1 RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS

3E.1.1 The County falls within the Western Wales River Basin, the Management Plan for which runs 2015-2021 (2015). The purpose of the Management Plan is to protect and improve the water environment for the wider benefits to people and wildlife. The plan aims to be integrated at the catchment scale ensuring a connection across the wider environment for people and wildlife, from catchment to coast.

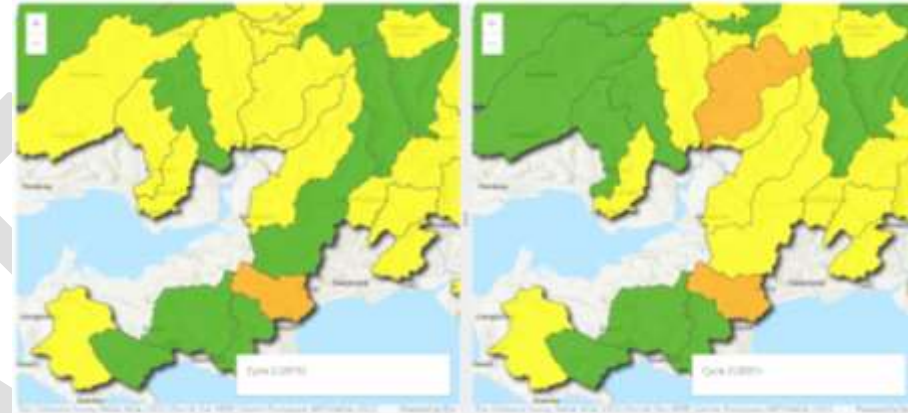
#### Status of Surface and Ground Water Framework Directive Water Bodies (2021)

3E.1.2 NRW updates the classification every 3 years. In 2021 40% of 933 surface and ground water bodies in Wales were at good or better status. This represents an improvement of 3% from 2015 and 8% improvement since 2009.

3E.1.3 The maps included in Figure 3.20 provide a comparison of waterbodies classification within the County (2015 and 2021). There is a deterioration in one waterbody: 'river Llan-Headwaters to tidal limits' whose overall status had deteriorated from 'good' in

2015 to 'moderate' in 2021 (green to yellow on the maps).

**Figure 3.20: Cycle 2/Cycle 3 Comparison Map**



Source: NRW Waterwatch Wales

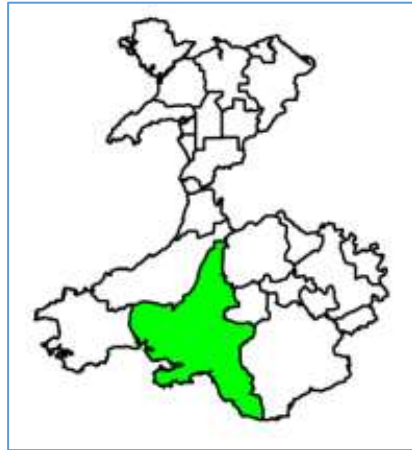
#### South West Wales Water Resource Zone (WRZ): Tywi Conjunctive Use System

3E.1.4 The County lies within the South West Wales Water Resource Zone (WRZ): Tywi Conjunctive Use System, the extent of which is shown in Figure 3.21 (shaded green). The water resources within the zone consist of four impounding reservoirs and two river abstractions which are operated conjunctively to make best use of the available water during years of average and below average rainfall.

3E.1.5 **Dŵr Cymru Welsh Waters Final Water Resource Management Plan 2019** (2019) sets out the companies ability to meet the future demand for water

within our supply area, and where they predict demand may outstrip supply, and how that challenge will be met, from 2020 to 2050.

**Figure 3.21: The Tywi Conjunctive Use System**



3E.1.6 Water is abstracted from the River Tywi at two locations - Nantgaredig and Manorafon. When levels are low in the River Tywi it is necessary to make releases of water from Llyn Brianne reservoir to enable abstraction of the required volumes of water at intakes further downstream. The majority of the abstracted water is pumped to the Felindre works, which supplies the bulk of customer demand in Swansea, Neath, Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan.

3E.1.7 If storage in the Usk reservoir is low water is pumped from Manorafon to Bryngwyn water treatment works. If storage in Usk is healthy, the reservoir provides the

whole supply to Bryngwyn which feeds the upper Swansea Valley.

3E.1.8 Ystradfellte and Crai reservoirs supply the upper parts of the Neath, Afan and Tawe Valleys. As storage in these reservoirs declines, the area served is gradually reduced in order to preserve supplies with this additional demand supported from Felindre. There are no imports of water in to the zone but water is exported to the neighbouring South East Wales Conjunctive Use System (SEWCUS) zone (which includes Cardiff and Newport).

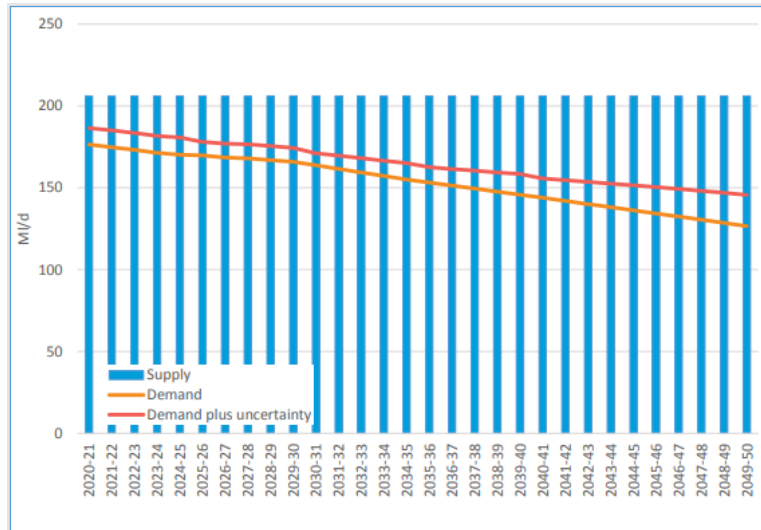
3E.1.9 Dŵr Cymru's modelling demonstrates that the zone is resilient to **climate change** with no loss of deployable output expected across the planning period, due to the substantial resource available in Llyn Brianne which can be used to support the demand on the other sources. An initial analysis of extreme **drought events** shows that under a 1 in 200 year drought event Dŵr Cymru would not need to implement extreme supply side measures.

3E.1.10 The population within the Tywi CUS zone is forecast to increase from 734,680 in 2020 to 783,200 by 2050 with large development in and around Swansea as set out within the LDP, and other significant housing allocations at Neath, Port Talbot and Bridgend. Dŵr Cymru are anticipating a decline in the demand for water over the 2019 Management Plan planning period. The Plan reports a reduced DO value (the available output of a water source, or group of sources, which



can be constrained by a number of factors such as abstraction licence limits, pipework or water treatment works capacity or the quality of the raw water) for the zone, however overall the zone retains a healthy surplus as shown in Figure 3.22.

**Figure 3.22: Tywi CUS Annual Average Supply and Demand Balance**



**3E.1.11 Dŵr Cymru’s PR19 Business Plan 2020-2025**

includes a number of drinking water quality and environmental performance targets, including

- a 15% reduction in leakage levels (which have already been roughly halved in the last 20 years)
- a reduction in the numbers of customers experiencing temporary discolouration or taste and odour issues with their water supply, from 2.8 to 2.0 (contacts per 1,000 customers)

- a reduction in supply interruptions, which are particularly important for businesses as well as households, from 12 to eight minutes a year per customer
- a 10% reduction in incidents of sewer flooding of customer premises each year, which would otherwise be on an upward trend due to climate change, from 300 to 273 a year
- a 20% reduction in pollution incidents (which are predominantly minor ‘category 3’ incidents), from 112 to 90 a year, and
- the number of customers receiving a service below our defined minimum-threshold levels will be reduced by 18%, from 1,500 to 1,230, meaning fewer ‘worst-served’ customers suffering repeated water supply outages, sewer flooding or low water pressure.

3E.1.12 PR19 was developed in the context of a long-term plan ‘Welsh Water 2050’ (Dŵr Cymru) (2018) and as a means to help achieve the Welsh Water 2050 Vision, and provide a framework beyond the 5-year regulatory cycle. The Document was reviewed in 2022: ‘Welsh Water 2050: Review and Update’, which updated trends, risks and resilience issues and outlines 18 strategic responses to inform future investment planning for PR24 (the next Ofwat price review). All of the responses have relevance for the County, especially response 15 which aims to use nature to reduce flood risk and pollution, and cites installing sustainable drainage systems in Swansea in partnership with the Council.

3E.1.13 Dŵr Cymru's Asset Management Plan (AMP) 7 programme is currently being delivered which covers investment for the period 2020-2025. This will be followed by AMP 8 2025-2030 and AMP 9 (2030-35).

3E.1.14 Welsh Water been downgraded by NRW for second year (now a 2 star rating 'requires improvement') due to a further decline in environmental performance. Increasing overflows from combined sewers is impacting water quality.

3E.1.15 The majority of the sewer pipes in the County (and Wales) are 'combined sewers', which means that they usually combine both wastewater from homes and businesses (toilets, sinks, showers, baths etc.) and clean rainwater from roads, hardstanding areas and roofs. During heavy rainfall the capacity of pipes can be exceeded, resulting in possible flooding of sewage works affecting the treatment process, and the potential to back up and flood homes, businesses, roads and open spaces, unless it is allowed to spill elsewhere. Storm overflows (often referred to as Combined Sewer Overflows) act as overflow valves to reduce the risk of sewage backing up during heavy rainfall.

3E.1.16 As discharges of storm sewage only occur during wet weather, sewage in the sewers is diluted and rivers have high volumes of water in them. This helps minimise the impact of storm sewage entering the watercourse. Some discharges do occur in dry weather because of sewer blockages. NRW issues

permits for storm overflows. The WG established the **Wales Better River Quality Taskforce in 2022**. The taskforce has developed action plans to gather greater evidence on the impact of **storm overflows** on rivers, to reduce the impacts they cause, to improve regulation and to educate the public on sewer misuse.

3E.1.17 Event Duration Monitors have been fitted to all CSO's in Wales by Dŵr Cymru. Figure 3.23 shows the location of the Event Duration Monitors within the County in 2022.

**Figure 3.23: Welsh Water Dŵr Cymru location of installed Event Duration Monitors 2022.**



Source: [Combined storm overflows | Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water \(dwrcymru.com\)](https://www.dwrcymru.com)

### 3E.2 SOURCE PROTECTION ZONE

3E.2.1 A Source Protection Zone (SPZ) is located on the Gower peninsula, as shown shaded in green on Figure 3.24. SPZs are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites. SPZs provide additional protection to safeguard drinking water quality through constraining the proximity of an activity that may impact upon a drinking water abstraction.

**Figure 3.24: Source Protection Zone (shaded green)**



Source: Datamap Wales

### 3E.3 BATHING WATER QUALITY

3E.1.20 The County’s beaches are popular for leisure activities and contribute to coastal economic activities. They are a prime factor in attracting visitors to the County, making an important contribution to the visitor economy. Bathing water quality is therefore extremely important.

2E.1.21 NRW test bathing waters for two types of bacteria, *Escherichia coli* (E.coli) and intestinal enterococci, at least 10 times per year between 15 May and 30 September, and use the results to assess compliance with the Bathing Water Regulations. The County has eight defined bathing waters and the 2021 and 2020 results are contained in Table 3.24.

**Table 3.24: Bathing Water Quality Results<sup>40</sup>**

| Designated Bathing Water | 2022 Classification | 2021 classification |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bracelet Bay             | excellent           | excellent           |
| Caswell Bay              | excellent           | excellent           |
| Langland Bay             | excellent           | excellent           |
| Limeslade Bay            | good                | excellent           |
| Oxwich                   | excellent           | excellent           |
| Port Eynon               | excellent           | excellent           |
| Rhossili                 | excellent           | excellent           |
| Swansea Bay              | excellent           | good                |

<sup>40</sup> <https://naturalresources.wales/media/696486/wales-bathing-water-report-2022-final.pdf>

### 3E.4 KEY ISSUES - WATER

- Water supply exceeds demand, so no anticipated issues relating to increased population and demand for water from industry.
- Help ensure new development is serviced by existing water supply and sewerage network or can be connected to network.
- Help reduce and where possible eliminate environmental pollution into freshwater and marine environs (as influenced by the land use planning system).
- Help ensure water infrastructure and supply is resilient to climate change; and help improve bathing water quality, the quality of groundwater and surface water bodies, and river quality.

### 3E.5 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3E.5.1 If the RLDP was not in place, legislation relating to water quality, flood risk and SUDS, for example, would still have to be adhered to. However, without the RLDP there may be a lack of strategic co-ordination between developers and utility providers. This may result in delays in bringing developments forward and potential impacts on water quality.

## SECTION 3F

### TOPIC AREA: CLIMATIC FACTORS

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:

SEA Regs Schedule 2(6)(i):climatic factors; (a) biodiversity; (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna); (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (J) material assets; (l) landscape; Human health and wellbeing, Climate Change.

#### 3F.1 ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

3F.1.1. Swansea Council is seeking to reduce its overall ecological footprint and has made an organisational commitment to reach net zero as a council by 2030. This includes decarbonisation, which covers buildings, travel, land use and waste, enhancing biodiversity and considering the Council's impact on natural resources. The goal is that Swansea (as a County) will reach net zero by 2050<sup>41</sup> (as per the Paris Agreement 2015 commitment) and the Council has asked members of the public and stakeholder to pledge to work together to meet the 2050 target.<sup>42</sup>

#### 3F.2 FLOODING

3F.2.1 Climate projections indicate that we will see an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including storm events in the Summer

and prolonged wet periods during the Winter period. This will increase peak flows in our rivers, which is expected to increase the risk of flash flooding events. Such flooding is very difficult to forecast and predict and can be very challenging to manage.

3F.2.2 Climate change projections also indicate that sea level rise will occur for all carbon emission scenarios and at all locations around the UK. Coastal areas will become progressively more vulnerable to flooding, wave action and accelerated coastal erosion associated with climate change. These impacts will affect not only coastal communities who live and work in coastal areas, but some of Wales' most important natural habitats and heritage sites which are located along our coastline.

3F.2.3 The County is situated on the lower part of the Swansea Valley where the River Tawe meets the sea. The upper regions of the Swansea Valley are steep sided which can generate flash floods in the River Tawe, causing the river to rise quickly during heavy rainfall. On the Western edge of the administrative boundary the River Loughor also has steep catchments emanating from the Black Mountains which rapidly discharge surface water flows to the lower catchments situated on the Western edge of Swansea contributing to the flows and the general trend is for both rivers to rise quickly during storm events. Where these two

<sup>41</sup> [Net Zero 2050 - Swansea](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Climate pledge - Swansea](#)

main rivers meet the sea at Swansea and Pontarddulais respectively, both rivers are affected by Tidal interactions.

3F.2.4 The Welsh Governments National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2020) provides the framework for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales.

3F.2.5 NRW published (2023) their latest draft Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales<sup>43</sup> which sets out what is at risk of flooding and the priorities and measures to manage the risk of flooding to people, the environment and economic activity across Wales over the next six years. The first FRMP was published in 2016<sup>44</sup>. The FRMP aligns and supports the South West Wales Area Statement which identifies mitigation and adapting to climate change as a key theme.

3F.2.6 The draft FRMP states that in Wales, there are estimated to be 245,118 properties at risk of flooding from the sea, rivers and surface water. This is approximately 1 in 8 properties. Swansea is situated within NRW's South West Wales Place, alongside Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

3F.2.7 Across the South West Wales Place, there are 20,299 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and 7,845

properties at risk of flooding from the sea. This equates to over 56,000 people at risk of flooding from rivers and nearly 20,000 people at risk of flooding from the sea. This increases to nearly 25,000 properties at risk of flooding from rivers and over 4,500 properties at risk of flooding from the sea by 2120.

3F.2.8 NRW identify communities at greatest risk from flooding on their Communities at Risk Register (CaRR)<sup>45</sup> (Figure 3.25) which informed Flood Risk Areas in NRW's 2018 Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report. Within the County, Blackpill and Swansea centre are identified as communities at risk from flooding from rivers or the sea. The Swansea Community shown in Figure 3.25 is also a community that is predicted to be in danger by 2120 from the flooding from the sea.

3F.2.9 NRW's 2016 FRMP identified a number of community scale measures to manage and reduce the risk of flooding and includes the completion of a flood risk management scheme in Pontarddulais that reduces the risk of flooding to 224 homes and 22 businesses. Three actions are proposed in the draft 2023 FRMP for Swansea: updating existing hydraulic model; undertake initial assessment and feasibility work for reducing flood risk; and design and construction of flood risk asset improvements.

<sup>43</sup> No longer available on NRW website

<sup>44</sup> [Western Wales Flood Risk Management Plan \(naturalresources.wales\)](https://naturalresources.wales)

<sup>45</sup> [Communities at Risk Register \(CaRR\) | DataMapWales \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

**Figure 3.25: Communities across the South West Wales Place that are most at risk of flooding from Rivers or the sea as identified by the CaRR**



Source: NRW Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales: South West Wales, 2023

3F.2.10 The Council's Flood Risk Management Plan, 2015<sup>46</sup>, highlights the areas most at risk from surface water flooding and ordinary watercourses in the County and sets out mitigation measures over a 6 year period. There is a risk of flooding in the County from a range of different sources. The Key Flood Risk Indicators for the County are presented in Table 3.25:

**Table 3.25: Counts of Features in the County**

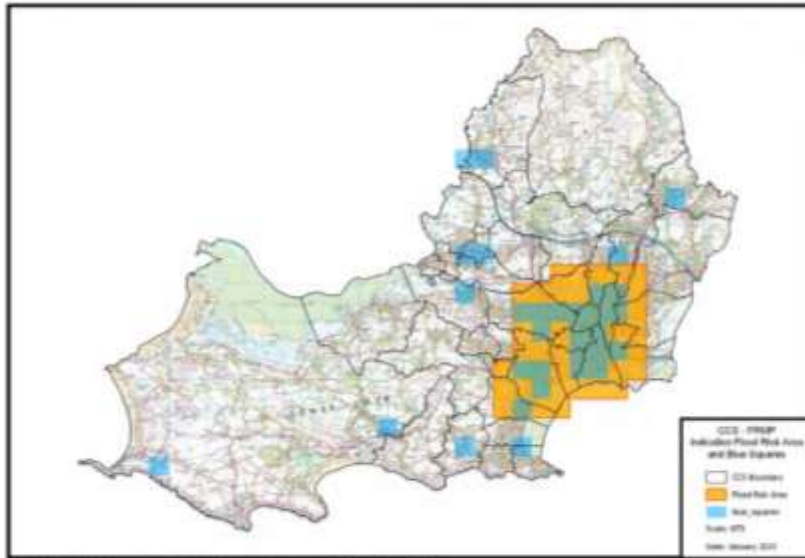
| Consequence        | Number   |
|--------------------|--|
| Human Health       | <b>6993</b> – Number of people (2.35 multiplier)           |
| Other Human health | <b>5</b> – Number of Critical services flooded             |
| Economic           | <b>1036</b> - Number of non-residential properties flooded |

Source: Swansea FRMP 2015

3F.2.11 Using NRW Flood Maps, the Council's FRMP identifies the counts made for the County's Flood Risk Area for risk to people, economic activity and natural and historic environments. It is estimated that there are 879 people, 262 residential properties, 96 non-residential properties, 1km of Primary Trunk road, 1km of main railway line, 7ha of parks/gardens and 3 listed buildings at high risk of flooding for the Indicative Flood Risk Area (FRA) (Figure 3.26).

<sup>46</sup> [Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 - Swansea](#)

**Figure 3.26: Flood Risk Areas**



3F.2.12 Nineteen of the County’s wards are most at risk from surface water flooding in the FRA. These are:

|              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Bonymaen     | Landore      | Sketty     |
| Casle        | Llangyfelach | St Thomas  |
| Cockett      | Llansamlet   | Townhill   |
| Cwmbwrla     | Mayals       | Uplands    |
| Killay North | Morrison     | West Cross |
| Killay South | Mynyddbach   |            |
| Kingsbridge  | Penderry     |            |

3F.2.13 The FRMP identifies specific measures to in order to address surface water flooding in each ward in the FRA, together with the remaining wards in the County.

3F.2.14 The council has a duty to do the following in relation to flooding: to maintain the highway drainage system, including highway gully emptying and keeping highway culverts clear; operate a 24 hour emergency service and respond to severe flooding events to ensure safety on the public highway; work to avoid or reduce flooding of the public highway, and maintain culverts on council-owned land; and work with other emergency services in response to severe or major emergencies.

### 3F.3 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

3F.3.1 Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) are non-statutory high level coastal erosion and flood risk management policy documents to aid the strategic management of the coast. They must be taken into account in local decision-making and strategic planning, such as LDPs and Local Flood Risk Management Strategies. The Plans split the coastline into small sections (called policy units) and describe how these sections will be managed over the: short-term (2005-2025); medium-term (2025-2055); and long-term (2055-2105). There are four approaches that can be applied to each policy unit, for each period of time, including:

- Hold the line (HTL) by maintaining or changing the existing standard of protection



- Advance the line (ATL) by building new defences on the seaward side of the original defences (although none applied in Wales)
- Managed realignment (MR) which allows the shoreline to move backwards and forwards, with management to control or limit the movement
- No active intervention (NAI) where there is no investment in coastal defences and natural processes are allowed to continue to create an evolving coastline

3F.3.2 The County falls within the South Wales Coastal Group and the Second SMP (SMP2) for the area was published in 2012<sup>47</sup>. The only changes in management and policy from SMP1 (2001) are:

- **PU10.8 Oxwich Bay**- Retreat with selective hold the line in the south west corner of the bay (at the Oxwich Bay hotel and church access road). Given the important nature conservation value of this stretch, the recommended SMP2 policy is for adaptation measures rather than hold the line, with managed realignment of the dunes. This would not preclude landowners from privately maintaining or upgrading existing defences, subject to obtaining the necessary consents, licences and approvals. Localised defences at the western end of the bay would have a limited impact on coastal processes in the wider shoreline and bay.

- **PU10.10 Port Eynon Bay (Horton to Port Eynon Point)** - SMP1 suggested 'Hold line – possible future retreat'. Given the important nature conservation value of this stretch, the recommended SMP2 policy is for adaptation or erosion-slowing measures rather than hold the line, with managed realignment of the dunes. Small scale works (which could include existing defences surrounding the Salt House and potential measures to reduce the risk of coastal erosion to properties at the western end of the Bay (youth hostel and cottages) and coastal residential properties at Horton) could be considered, as part of the managed realignment policy.

#### **Mumbles Defence Works**

3F.3.3 Works are currently ongoing on renewing 1.2km of the sea defence wall in Mumbles<sup>48</sup> in order protect property from future tidal flooding events due to increased tidal levels and increased storm events as a result of climate change. Seventy-nine properties at current 1 in 10 risk of tidal flooding will be protected.

### **3F.4 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

3F.4.1 Data from the UK Government shows Local Authority Territorial Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimates from 2005-2021 (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e). The information combines data

<sup>47</sup> [Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group \(southwalescoastalgroup.cymru\)](https://southwalescoastalgroup.cymru)

<sup>48</sup> [Mumbles coastal protection project - Swansea](#)

from the UKs Gas Inventory and other sources and shows emissions allocated on an ‘end-user’ basis where emissions related to energy use are distributed according to the point of energy consumption. The greenhouse gases covered by the statistics are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide and reported in kilotonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e) units. The three gases make up an estimated 97% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK in 2021. The remainder is made up of Fluorinated gases but it is not currently possible to estimate local authority emissions. Table 3.26 shows the most recent data published in July 2023. The ‘grand total’ emissions are combined totals of the following categories:

- Industrial,
- Commercial,
- Public sector,
- Domestic, transport,
- Waste management,
- Land use, Land Use change and Forestry (LULUCF) Net
- Agricultural totals.

**Table 3.26: Greenhouse Gas Emission Estimates for the County 2005-2021 (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e)<sup>49</sup>**

| year | Grand Total | Per capita emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) | year | Grand Total | Per capita emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) |
|------|-------------|---|------|-------------|---|
| 2005 | 2,214.2     | 9.6                                       | 2014 | 1,413.1     | 5.9                                       |
| 2006 | 2,206.6     | 9.6                                       | 2015 | 1,350.8     | 5.6                                       |
| 2007 | 2,042.2     | 8.8                                       | 2016 | 1,326.8     | 5.5                                       |
| 2008 | 1,994.8     | 8.5                                       | 2017 | 1,322.7     | 5.5                                       |
| 2009 | 1,804.6     | 7.7                                       | 2018 | 1,273.7     | 5.3                                       |
| 2010 | 1,856.5     | 7.8                                       | 2019 | 1,270.6     | 5.3                                       |
| 2011 | 1,575.5     | 6.6                                       | 2020 | 1,1430.0    | 4.8                                       |
| 2012 | 1,626.2     | 6.8                                       | 2021 | 1,179.9     | 5.0                                       |
| 2013 | 1,558.3     | 6.5                                       |      |             |   |

### 3F.5 RENEWABLE/LOW CARBON ENERGY

3F.5.1 Wales produces 55% of its electricity needs from renewable sources. In January 2023 the Climate Change Minister announced consultation on targets to meet 100% of its electricity needs from renewable resources by 2035 in order to help meet Net Zero. Funding was also announced in order explore offshore wind potential and infrastructure in association with Associated British Ports (ABP). The National Energy

<sup>49</sup> source:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1168130/2005-21-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions-update-060723.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1168130/2005-21-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions-update-060723.xlsx)

Plan is expected to be published in 2024 and will help inform RLPD energy and infrastructure policies.

3F.5.2 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and is striving for a net zero carbon Swansea by 2050<sup>50</sup>. Swansea Council 'Charter on Climate Change 2020'<sup>51</sup> sets out the Council's commitment to become a Net Zero organisation by 2030, including:

- A 55% reduction on 2010 Carbon Reduction Commitment emissions in 2019/2020
- Electric vehicle charge points installed in council car parks
- All electricity from 100% renewable energy sources
- 580kw of community solar energy panels installed on schools and communities
- Super-energy-efficient new council houses, built to a "Swansea Standard" with solar battery storage and air source heat pumps
- Grown cycle network by 25% over 3 years
- Achieved 64% recycling levels by 19/20 target
- 21,053 street lights upgraded to low emission LEDs

### **Renewable Energy Assessment 2018, Sustainable Search Area and Local Solar Search Areas**

3F.5.3 The County contains part of a Strategic Search Area (SSA), areas considered to be the most appropriate locations for large scale (>25MW) wind farm

developments. SSA E: Pontardawe covers parts of Mynydd y Gwyr in the north of the County and generates some 48MW. The SSA was identified within Technical Advice Note 8 which is now revoked. Future Wales replaces with SSAs with Pre-assessed Areas for Wind Energy.

3F.5.4 The LDP was informed by a Renewable Energy Assessment (REA) (2018) which evaluated the potential energy capacity of renewable and low carbon technologies in the County. The REA concluded that the County has potential for the development of low carbon and renewable energies. Eleven Local Search Areas (LSAs) for solar were identified, but non for wind. The solar LSAs are defined on the LDP Proposals Map<sup>52</sup>. The LDP AMR 3 states that up to 21.8MW has been delivered within the solar LSAs and up to 40.6MW in the Wind SSA since LDP adoption. The RLDP must be informed by an up to date Renewable Energy Assessment.

### **The Blue Eden Project**

3F.5.5 The Council is pursuing a £1.7bn energy hub and tidal lagoon in the Swansea Bay area, known as the Blue Eden Project. The scheme would be privately funded and includes:

- A 60,000m<sup>2</sup> manufacturing plant to make high-tech batteries for renewable energy storage

<sup>50</sup> [Climate change and nature recovery - Swansea](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Swansea Council Charter on Climate Change - Swansea](#)

<sup>52</sup> [Swansea LocalDevelopment Plan 2010-2025 \(LDP\) - Swansea](#)

- A battery facility that will store the renewable energy produced at Blue Eden and power the site.
- A 72,000m<sup>2</sup> floating solar array anchored in the Queen’s dock area, helping offset CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by an estimated two million kilogrammes a year.
- A 94,000m<sup>2</sup> data centre storing, processing and providing network capabilities, entirely powered by an uninterruptable renewable energy power supply.
- An oceanic and climate change research centre
- Floating dome structures that will become cultural and scientific centres
- Residential waterfront homes for 5,000 people
- Approximately 150 floating, highly energy-efficient eco-homes anchored in the water.

**Table 3.27: The Amount of Low Carbon Generation in the County**

|      | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWth) |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2020 | 3,348              | 90                        | 12                   | 140,827                      | 32,632                 |
| 2019 | 3,100              | 89                        | 9                    | 135,621                      | 26,154                 |
| 2018 | 2,987              | 55                        | 9                    | 61,572                       | 24,957                 |
| 2017 | 2,907              | 55                        | 7                    | 58,717                       | 21,349                 |
| 2016 | 3,097              | 45                        | 7                    | 48,548                       | 19,468                 |
| 2014 | 2,208              | 19                        | 4                    | 23,533                       | 13,533                 |
| 2012 | 1,579              | 8                         | 2                    | 14,733                       | 4,129                  |

Source:StatsWales

### The National Marine Plan

3F.5.6 The WGs National Marine Plan, 2019, recognises Swansea, alongside other Welsh ports, as having a competitive advantage in exploiting opportunities arising from low carbon and renewable energy generation.

### Low carbon energy generation in the County

3F.5.7 There has been an increase in the amount of low carbon energy and heat generated in the County since 2012, as seen in Table 3.27. Tables showing the amount of electricity and heat generated by various low carbon technologies since 2012 is set out in Appendix 4.

### Solar Arrays and Agricultural Land

3F.5.8 In March 2022 the WG published a letter<sup>53</sup> clarifying that where Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land is identified within a proposed solar PV array development, considerable weight should be given to protecting such land from development, because of its special importance, and unless other significant material considerations indicate otherwise it will be necessary to refuse permission. Local Planning Authorities (LPA’s) are required to consult with the Welsh Government before granting planning permission for any proposals which do not accord with the Development Plan and would involve the loss (both permanent and temporary) of 20 hectares or more of BMV land. This includes losses which are less than 20

<sup>53</sup> [Best and most versatile agricultural land and solar PV arrays | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/best-and-most-versatile-agricultural-land-and-solar-pv-arrays)

hectares but likely to lead to further losses amounting cumulatively to 20 hectares or more. For planning applications which do not ‘trigger’ the statutory requirement, the WG may comment on planning applications.

thermal efficiency and insulation of council properties, the average SAP rating for Council dwellings in Swansea is 69 (band C) and 100% of properties have reached this level.

**Energy Efficiency of residential dwellings (from the Assessment of Local Wellbeing 2022)**

3F.5.9 Welsh Government uses Energy efficiency of dwellings as a national wellbeing indicator – NI33: Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance (% of dwellings with SAP 65 or higher).

3F.5.10 The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is a methodology used to assess the energy performance of dwellings, assessing how much energy is consumed and how much carbon dioxide is emitted, based on standardised occupancy conditions. The SAP rating is expressed on a scale of 1-100, the higher the number the lower the energy costs (100 = no energy costs).

3F.5.11 Forty seven percent of dwellings in Wales have a SAP rating of 65 or above. This data is taken from the Welsh Housing Conditions Survey carried out in 2017/18, which was a sample survey of properties across Wales. This data is not available at a local authority level.

3F.5.12 The Welsh Housing Quality Standard, which is the statutory standard for all social housing in Wales, currently requires all social housing to achieve a SAP rating of 65 or above. Due to investment to improve the

**Table 3.28: Swansea EPC data January 2008-June 2021 (81,926 domestic EPCs)**

| Band (SAP rating) | Number | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------|------------|
| A (92-100)        | 72     | 0.01%      |
| B (81-91)         | 6,538  | 8%         |
| C (69-80)         | 21,956 | 27%        |
| D (55-68)         | 32,097 | 39%        |
| E (39-54)         | 16,097 | 20%        |
| F (21-38)         | 4,030  | 5%         |
| G (1-20)          | 1,055  | 1%         |

3F.5.13 As an indication of energy efficiency in the private rented/owner occupied sector, data is available from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Energy Performance of Buildings Data England and Wales which provides the results of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data from 2008-2021. Whilst this does not take into account energy improvement measures carried out since an EPC was provided or data for the whole housing stock, in the absence of up-to-date private rented/owner occupier stock condition information, this provides an indication of levels of energy efficiency in dwellings across Swansea (Table 3.28).

3F.5.13 The Welsh Government is in the process of setting new decarbonisation requirements and targets for social housing providers, which will mean Councils and RSLs will be required ensure their social housing stock is net carbon zero by 2030.

### Tree Carbon Storage

3F.5.14 Using data from the i-TreeEco projects in Wales, estimates have been made for the carbon stored (per hectare) in each respective town or city (Table 3.29: Carbon Storage Values for Completed I-Tree Eco Projects in Wales). Trees in Swansea stored an estimated 102,000 tonnes of carbon in 2014<sup>54</sup>.

**Table 3.29: Carbon Storage Values for Completed I-Tree Eco Projects in Wales**

| I-Tree Eco town/city     | Year | Total hectares of study area | Trees per hectare | Canopy Cover % | Canopy cover equivalent in hectares | Average C/ha across full study Area (tonnes) | Average C/ha of canopy cover (tonnes) (a) | Estimated Carbon Storage (tonnes) |
|--------------------------|------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Bridgend                 | 2014 | 4,440                        | 99                | 12.0           | 532                                 | 12   | 100                                       | 53                                |
| Cardiff                  | 2017 | 14,064                       | 100               | 18.9           | 2,658                               | 22   | 120                                       | 321                               |
| Tawe Catchment (Swansea) | 2014 | 6,995                        | 76                | 16.0           | 1,119                               | 14   | 91  | 102                               |
| Wrexham                  | 2013 | 3,833                        | 95                | 17.0           | 651                                 | 17   | 100                                       | 65                                |

Source: I-Tree Eco Projects (a) calculated by dividing the estimated carbon stored by the area of canopy in the study area

<sup>54</sup> [Swansea and Tawe's urban trees October 2016 \(naturalresources.wales\)](http://naturalresources.wales)

### 3F.5 KEY ISSUES – CLIMATIC FACTORS

- Built environment and infrastructure must be resilient and adaptable to the current and future effects of climate change, with particular relevance to sea and river flooding.
- The land use spatial strategy and location of new development must take a precautionary approach with regard to flood risk in line with WG policy
- Facilitate the development of appropriate renewable and or low carbon energy schemes in the County, informed by an up to date Renewable Energy Assessment.
- Facilitate the aim that ecosystems and the natural environment are resilient and able to adapt to climate change.

### 3F.6 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3F.6.1 Without the RLDP development would still have to comply with the requirements of national planning policy and Future Wales with regard to the location of development in relation to flood risk, shoreline management and renewable/low carbon energy proposals. However, it is possible that development could be uncoordinated and lack a wider placemaking approach, including GI, climatic change adaptations and mitigation proposals.

Proposals for renewable/low carbon energy would not be informed by an up to date Renewable Energy Assessment.

## SECTION 3G

### TOPIC AREA: MATERIAL ASSETS

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:  
SEA Regs Schedule 2(6) (b) population; (c) human health; (j) material assets. Health and wellbeing, equalities

#### 3G.1 LANDUSE

3G.1.2 There is a need for an up to date land use capacity study to inform the RLDP to ensure the efficient use of land by maximising the use of previously developed land, minimising the use of primary materials such as aggregates and increasing the use of secondary materials and ensuring development is located close to existing infrastructure and services where capacity exists.

#### 3G.2 WASTE

3G.2.1 Welsh Planning Policy (TAN 21, 2014) requires each of the three regions in Wales to prepare a Waste Planning Monitoring Report (WPMR) on an annual basis. In 2021 the constituent Council's which make up the three regions were reorganised, with the inclusion of Powys into the Mid & South Wales Region whilst Bridgend was moved to the South East Region.

#### Municipal waste

3G.2.2 The WG's waste strategy 'Towards Zero Waste' requires a reduction of around 1.5% (of the 2006-7 baseline) each year across all sectors, including household waste. The definition of Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) changed in 2012 and includes household and non-household waste collected and disposed of by local authorities.

3G.2.3 Swansea has seen a fluctuating amount of LACW collected since 2012/13, with 111,676 tonnes collected in 2020/21, compared to 109,448 tonnes in 2019/20. As a region as a whole, there was a decrease in the amount of LACW collected since 2019/20.

3G.2.4 Residual household waste is the total amount of household waste minus household waste sent for reuse/recycling/ composting. The amount of residual waste generated per dwelling in the County was 328kg per dwelling in 2020/21, an increase since 2019/20 (297kg per dwelling). It remained below the Welsh average of 401kg per dwelling. Similarly the 'per person' amount of residual waste also grew in 2020/21 with 149kg per person compared to 135kg per person in 2019/20. Again, the figure was below the Welsh average of 182kg per person

#### Re-use, Recycling and Composting of LACW

3G.2.5 The WGs current waste strategy 'Beyond Recycling', 2021, sets statutory targets of recycling a minimum of 70% of waste by 2024-25. There has been a steady



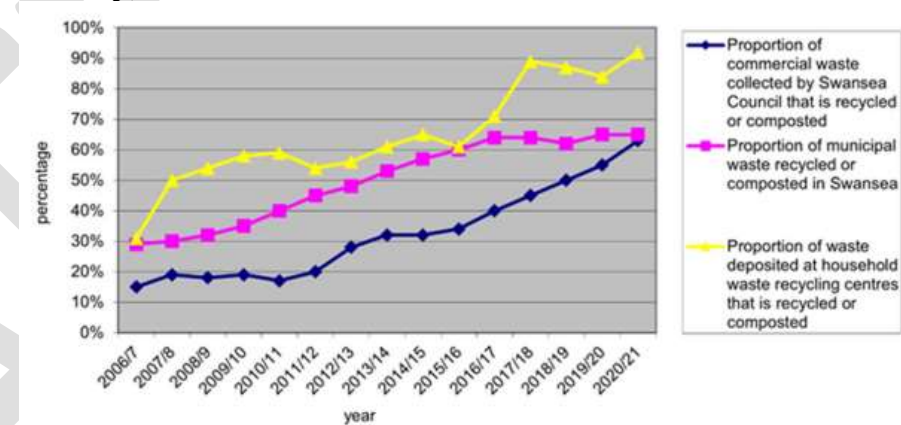
increase in recycling and composting rates, with the Council meeting the 2019/20 target of at least 64% of preparing for reuse and recycling/composting (or AD), with 64.9%. This fell slightly in 2020/21 (64.5%) but increased in 2021/22 to 65.1%<sup>55</sup>. Figure 3.27 shows the recycling and composting rates in the County for commercial waste collected by the Council, municipal waste and waste deposited at household waste recycling centres.

3G.2.6 Kerbside collection of recyclables and black bagged residual waste extends to all households in the County. Recyclables are taken to the Baling Plant Transfer Station for further sorting/bulking prior to transportation for treatment etc whilst residual waste is sent to Energy from Waste plants in the UK or Europe. Food waste is treated at an anaerobic digestion facility in Bridgend. The regional contract started in August 2017 and lasts 15 (+10) years.

3G.2.7 A consequence of the increased LACW recycling and composting of waste is the reduction in the amount of waste being landfilled. The situation will need to be monitored closely over the next few years to see whether the WG’s 2025 target in Toward Zero Waste (TZW) and Beyond Recycling is reached. The overall reduction since 2014/15 has potential implications in terms of the slower rate at which landfill void within the region is used up.

3G.2.8 The Council has five Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) sites throughout the County, with two of them accepting non-recyclable waste (black bags).

**Figure 3.27: Recycling and Composting Rates in the County, 2006 to 2021**



Source: Assessment of Local Well-being 2022, Swansea PSB

**The Local Authority Recycling Carbon Index**

3G.2.9 The Index shows which local authorities’ recycling activities are delivering the greatest carbon benefits, providing an alternative measure of the environmental performance of waste and recycling services than a purely weight-based measure. Councils are ranked in terms of the CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent saving per head of population and Swansea is ranked as a ‘Good Performer’ (Figure 3.28).

<sup>55</sup> (source: statwales.gov.wales)

### Industrial and Commercial (I&C)

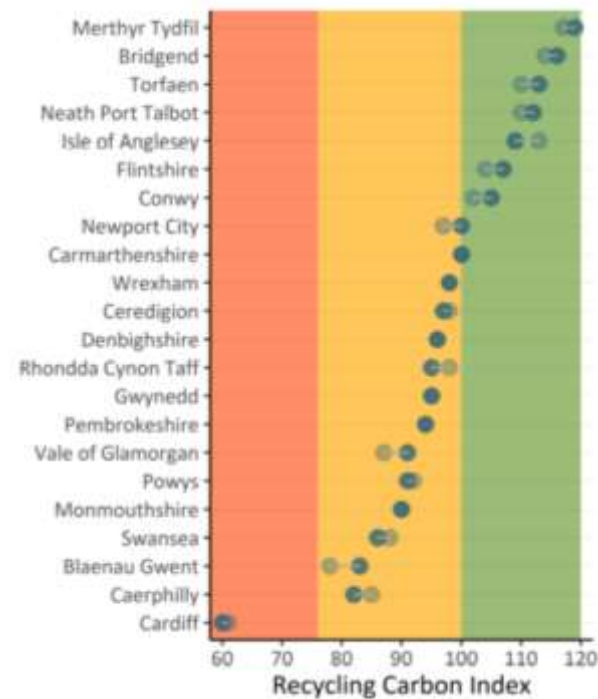
3G.2.10 NRW (2020) data shows that the quantity of waste generated in the I&C sector in Wales decreased significantly from 3.7 million tonnes in 2012 to 2.9 million tonnes in 2018 (split broadly 50%:50% between industrial and commercial businesses). The main method of managing I&C waste was Preparation for Reuse, Recycling and Composting (78% and 64%).

### Construction and Demolition (C&D)

3G.2.11 The most recent data is from 2012 and comparisons with previous years data cannot be made for a number of reasons, including the changes in the definition of waste and the economic recession and the lack of major infrastructure projects in 2012. The SW Wales region generated around 35% of the total C&D waste generated in Wales in 2012 and the predominant waste management method in the region was land disposal.

3G.2.12 Just over 19% of inert waste managed in Mid and SW Wales in 2019 was sent to landfill, a higher percentage than the other two Welsh regions.

Figure 3.28: Recycling Carbon Index for Welsh Councils



Source: Recycling Carbon Index – England, Wales and Northern Ireland Local Authorities 2018/19 (Eunomia, Winter 2020)

### Hazardous

3G.2.13 The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations and the List of Wastes (Wales) Regulations replaced the Special Waste Regulations in 2005 and increased the number of wastes classified as 'hazardous' (e.g. waste TV's, computer monitors and other waste electrical and electronic equipment, florescent tubes and pesticides). The

amount of hazardous waste arisings in Swansea was 16,069 tonnes in 2020, a decrease from 19,722 in 2019. The amount of hazardous waste deposited also decreased from 28,369 tonnes in 2019 to 17,345 tonnes in 2020. Deposited waste includes recovery, treatment, transfer landfilled waste. Less than 1% of deposited waste was landfilled in Mid and SW Wales).

3G.2.14 The Council has five HWRC sites and all sites accept WEEE, gas cylinders and household batteries; paints, household chemicals, fluorescent tubes, engine oil. Two of the sites accept car batteries and only some sites accept WEEE items such as fridges, freezers and large household appliances. Asbestos is not accepted at the sites bonded but bonded asbestos sheets can be collected from resident's addresses. Waste tyres are not accepted at the sites.

3G.2.15 There is little data with regard to agricultural waste, either at a national or County level.

#### **Landfill sites**

3G.2.16 The Council stopped taking waste to the County's landfill site, Tir John, in February 2022. The site remains in operation until 2024 with soil and waste being imported to bring the site to the final contours prior to being capped and restored.

3G.2.17 TZW has a 2025 goal of as close to zero landfill as possible in Wales. However, there will be a need for at least a small landfill capacity in respect of residual

waste both in terms of contingency (Energy from Waste (EfW) closed for maintenance / repair etc.) and for certain elements of waste that cannot be recycled or dealt with in other ways. The amount of waste being landfilled in Wales is decreasing. In order to ensure sufficient landfill capacity remains in the region until other residual treatment methods are developed, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21: Waste sets out a 7 year landfill void trigger, in order to enable the market to come forward with a solution to the lack of landfill capacity. The Mid & SW Wales region has some 7.5 years landfill capacity remaining, thus above the trigger set out in TAN 21.

3G.2.18 There is very little residual waste treatment options/facilities in mid and west wales. The annual WPMR 2021-2022 concludes that given the quantities of residual waste produced in Mid & SW Wales, and the continued use of landfill (in varying degrees) for its disposal, it is clear that the region has insufficient capacity in "other recovery" facilities and has therefore some way to go to be able to meet the 2025 goal of achieving as close to zero landfill as possible.

3G.2.19 In the Written Statement, '*Taking action to make the circular economy a reality*', the WG stated that "Evidence from our recycling journey as a nation, as well as the accompanying reduction in waste, means we have now reached the point where we will not need any new large scale energy from waste infrastructure to deal with the residual waste generated in Wales. The WG therefore brought

forward an immediate moratorium on any future large scale energy from waste developments in 2021 with the publication of '*Beyond Recycling*', thereby ending the stance for the promotion of such development taken in the CIMSP in 2012. For the purposes of the moratorium 'large scale' is defined as plants of 10MW or greater.

3G.2.20 In addition, small scale energy from waste plants of less than 10MW will only be allowable if the applicant can demonstrate need for such a facility for the non-recyclable wastes produced in the region. Any new small scale facilities must also supply heat, and where feasible, be carbon capture and storage enabled or ready. This would therefore mean a small scale plant would not be allowable if waste is to be imported from outside of the proposed region (unless in close proximity to a region), in order to also avoid locking in transport emissions and associated pollution.

3G.2.21 WG focus is therefore on reducing residual waste to meet the 2050 target, increasing recycling, and preventing waste at source rather than waste management and treatment.

3G.2.22 The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in an increase in waste and recycling kerbside collection for the Council, particularly garden wastes.

### 3G.3 MINERALS

3G.3.1 Local mineral resources have been of considerable importance in the industrial development of Swansea and indeed the U.K. The area has a complex geology with a wide range of rock types and it was the close relationship of coal, iron ore, limestone, fireclay and silica rock that provided the basis for the Industrial Revolution and the rapid expansion of mineral production in the area. Swansea now relies upon quarries in neighbouring authorities to provide for its aggregate needs.

#### **Limestone**

3G.3.2 Swansea is rich in Carboniferous limestone resources, however virtually the whole of the resource lies within the Gower AONB. Mineral Technical Advice Note (MTAN) 1 (2004) precludes additional provision for the working of minerals within the AONB, but does require that the mineral resources are safeguarded for future use. Safeguarded areas of resource (in accordance with the British Geological Survey's safeguarding maps) are defined on the LDP Proposals Map and it is expected that these will also be shown on the RLDP Proposals Map (unless there is a change in the national policy requirement to do so).

#### **Sandstone**

3G.3.3 Swansea contains Pennant Sandstone resources in the north, which overlay the Coal Measures. There are currently no Sandstone quarries in operation, but

areas of resource (in accordance with the British Geological Survey's safeguarding maps) are safeguarded on the LDP Proposals Map and it is expected that these will also be shown on the RLDP Proposals Map (unless there is a change in the national policy requirement to do so).

### **Sand and Gravel Resources**

3G.3.4 Swansea imports all of its sand from marine-dredged sources in the Bristol Channel, via wharves in Swansea and in neighbouring Neath Port Talbot. Current levels of marine aggregates production are likely to continue in future years, in line with the WGs Interim Marine Aggregates Dredging Policy (IMADP) South Wales, 2004<sup>56</sup> and the National Marine Plan 2019<sup>57</sup>.

3G.3.5 Swansea contains land based sand and gravel resources, but they are not currently worked. They are however safeguarded (in accordance with the British Geological Survey's safeguarding maps) on the LDP Proposals Map and it is expected that these will also be shown on the RLDP Proposals Map (unless there is a change in the national policy requirement to do so).

### **Coal**

3G.3.6 South Wales was formerly one of Britain's most productive coal fields, but production has rapidly

declined over the past thirty years. A WG policy objective is to avoid the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels and their Coal Policy Statement 2021<sup>58</sup> sets out the WGs intention not to authorise new Coal Authority mining operation licences or variations to existing licences. The presumption against coalmining is also contained within PPW.

### **Secondary Aggregate**

3G.3.7 Secondary aggregate is imported (by road) from the Port Talbot steelworks, whilst recycled aggregates from construction, demolition and excavation wastes are likely to be in plentiful supply within the urban areas of Swansea itself. Locally-derived recycled aggregates are important in order to offset the transportation of both primary and secondary aggregates from other sources.

### **Regional Technical Planning Statement for the North Wales and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties, 2<sup>nd</sup> Review (2020)**

3G.3.8 MTAN 1 (2004) requires the preparation of Regional Technical Statements (RTS) for the areas covered by both the South Wales and North Wales Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPs). The RTS provides supporting detail to implement national planning policy regarding minerals and covers a period up to 2041 but is subject to 5 yearly reviews. The original RTS were completed in 2008 and the

<sup>56</sup> [Marine Dredging Cover for#6B0DE \(gov.wales\)](#)

<sup>57</sup> [Welsh National Marine Plan \(gov.wales\)](#)

<sup>58</sup> [Coal policy statement \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

First Review was undertaken in 2013/2014, which informed the LDP.

3G.3.9 The Second Review (RTS2) commenced in 2018 and was published in 2020. RTS2 states that the local planning authority is required to make future provision for land-won primary aggregates within its development plan on the basis of the following annualised apportionments:

- Land-won sand & gravel provision: Nil
- Crushed rock aggregates provision: 0.305 million tonnes per year until the end of the Plan period and for 10 years thereafter.

3G.3.10 RTS 2 calculates the total apportionments for Swansea, as zero for land-won sand & gravel and 7.636 million tonnes for crushed rock, over 25 years. [It is noted that part of the modelling used predicted housing figures (as outlined within the LDP and subject to change within RTS3) and did not explicitly take into account the potential for changes that may arise as part of the response to climate change, including the potential for significant changes in material specifications in future construction activity.]

3G.3.11 Swansea currently has zero existing landbanks of permitted reserves, both for sand & gravel and for crushed rock. As such allocations totalling at least 7.636 million tonnes will need to be identified within the RLDP. The requirement, based on the potential availability of resources, and the concept of replacing

some of the output from NPT, is specifically for Carboniferous HSA Sandstone

3G.3.12 This contrasts with the zero apportionment given in The First Review of the RTS, upon which the LDP is based. Given the lack of existing operational sites within Swansea, the Council will need to seek proposals for new working from industry. Any allocations that may be required should, as far as possible, be identified as Specific Sites or, failing that, as Preferred Areas. If, as a last resort, it is only possible to identify broad Areas of Search, these should be sufficient to offer the potential of much greater quantities of reserves, in order to reflect the uncertainties involved.

3G.3.13 In the event that allocations (or new permissions) cannot be made to address the shortfall, consideration may, subject to be given to collaborative working with neighbouring LPAs within the same sub-region, such that some of the required provision (apportionment) is effectively transferred.

**Statement of Sub Regional Cooperation Council - 2021**<sup>59</sup>

3G.3.14 The Council endorsed RTS2 in 2021, after the LDP was adopted. In order to comply with RTS2, the Council entered into a Statement of Sub Regional Cooperation with the other councils in the defined sub-region (Neath Port Talbot (NPT) County Borough Council and part of Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)). The SSRC confirms that each constituent LPA accept the individual apportionments for aggregates for their individual Authority areas, as set out in the RTS (second Review), and that (as a minimum) the RTS requirements for that sub-region will be met. NPT agrees to cover Swansea's apportionment requirement until Swansea's RLDP, when a call for candidate sites will help demonstrate interest from the mineral industry.

3G.3.15 Evidence from the Third Review (RTS3) will be taken into consideration during the preparation of the LDP, as and when it becomes available.

**Future Resource Implications due to Major Infrastructure Developments**

3G.3.16 Potential resources required and supply chain considerations associated with major infrastructure projects such as the proposed Blue Eden development, the Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) proposals in the Celtic Sea and Strategic

Development Allocations must be considered as they are likely to have significant aggregate demand and the resource implications should be considered as part of the evidence base of the forthcoming RLDP. This may also have impacts on the Port infrastructure as discussed in section 3G.5.20.

3G.3.17 National policy states that all existing and potential new wharves and railheads should be identified for safeguarding within the LDP, in order to provide a full range of sustainable transport options (whether or not they are currently utilised).

**3G.5 INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Highway Network**

3G.5.1 Swansea Council is the Highway Authority for all non-trunk roads maintainable at the public's expense within the County. The Councils Highways Forward Works Programme 2020-2025 is a long term programme of planned works which is subject to change due to external forces, changes of funding, network deterioration etc. Due to the effect of climate change and increasing numbers of severe weather events, it is anticipated that there will be a noticeable increase in the deterioration of the network.

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<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s71203/07%201%20of%202%20Aggregates%20report.pdf?LLL=0>

3G.5.2 The network includes 1108 kilometres of carriageway, 1500 kilometres of footway, more than 28,000 lighting units, 216 structures and 39,053 drainage units with an estimated carriageway value in excess of £1.4 billion.

### **Active Travel Network**

3G.5.3 The Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013) places a legal duty upon local authorities in Wales to map, plan for and promote active travel journeys to make it easier for people to walk and cycle in Wales, specifically to promote walking and cycling as viable modes of transport for everyday journeys such as to the shops, work or college. The Council produced an Active Travel Network Map (ATNM)<sup>60</sup> 2022 which shows the routes the Council intends to deliver over a 15-year period (up to 2033). The ATNM replaces the Existing Route Map (2016) and Integrated Network Map (INM) (2018). The ATNM includes 213 future aspirational routes for walking and cycling, as well as the existing route network.

3G.5.4 The Active Travel Annual Report 2020-2021 records a total of 8.2km of new shared use routes were delivered in that period and 400m of improved shared use routes.

3G.5.5 The ATNM Development Report 2023<sup>61</sup> sets out the prioritising method for routes identified within the ATNM. The RLDP process must be aware of the ATNM prioritising, particularly during the formation of the strategy and selection of development sites.

### **Joint Transport Plan for South West Wales 2015-2020**

3G.5.6 The Plan was developed by the Swansea Bay City Region Board who seek to deliver the objectives and outcomes from the Regional Economic Regeneration Strategy, and develop strategic transport priorities and prioritising transport schemes across the region (Figure 3.29). The plan sets out a vision, objectives and a long term strategy for a 20 year period and a five year programme of projects.

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<sup>60</sup> <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/activetravelact>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/11567/Active-Travel-Network-Map-ATNM-development-report->

[2023/pdf/Active\\_Travel\\_Network\\_Map\\_ATNM\\_development\\_report\\_2023.pdf?m=1676988427763](https://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/11567/Active-Travel-Network-Map-ATNM-development-report-2023/pdf/Active_Travel_Network_Map_ATNM_development_report_2023.pdf?m=1676988427763)

dfdx



**Figure 3.29: Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales**



3G.5.7 The City Region Local Transport Plan (LTP) is targeted at addressing both the National Transport Plan and the WG Programme Priority Areas, in particular:

- Economic growth: Supporting and Safeguarding jobs in the City Region
- Access to employment: Reducing economic inactivity by delivering safe access to major employment sites in the City Region
  - Tackling poverty: Maximising the contribution that transport services can make to targeting improvements to tackling poverty and target

improvements at the most disadvantaged communities

- Sustainable travel and safety: Encouraging safer, healthier and more sustainable travel
- Access to services: Connecting communities and enabling access to key services

3G.5.8 Key gateways into and out of the region include the M4 motorway, trunk roads and strategic local roads, the strategic rail network, ports and airports.

3G.5.9 The LTP objectives for a better connected region are:

1. To improve the efficiency and reliability of the movement of people and freight within and beyond South West Wales to support economic growth in the City Region
2. To improve access for all to a wide range of services and facilities including employment and business, education and training, health care, tourism and leisure activities
3. To improve the sustainability of transport by improving the range and quality of, and awareness about, transport options, including those which improve health and well being
4. To improve integration between policies, service provision and modes of transport in South West Wales
5. To implement measures which will protect and enhance the natural and built environment and reduce the adverse impact of transport on health and climate change
6. To improve road safety and personal security in South West Wales

3G.5.10 The medium and long term strategies, to 2030, are:

- Improving strategic east/west road and rail links
- Improving linkages between key settlements and strategic employment sites
- Improving the efficiency of the highway
- Improving the integration of land use and transportation planning
- Promoting integration
- Improving Strategic Bus Corridors
- Improving safety in transport
- Providing more and better information

#### **Railway**

3G.5.11 Swansea Railway station is located within Swansea City Centre and is the terminus of the South Wales Mainline. It has 0.5-2million trips per year. There are also suburban stations in Gowerton, Llansamlet and Pontarddulais. The ATNM states that ensuring all rail stations can be accessed by foot or on bike is an important policy objective and route to stations continue to be improved.

3G.5.12 The LTP five year (1015-2020) aspirations for rail are:

- Improvement to rail services to, from and within the region including services which connect the main east/west flows and also the north/south corridor
- Improved access by rail and to rail
- Future proofing rail services in the region

3G.5.13 The 2013 Regional Rail Strategy was produced by the former South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH), the Regional Transport Consortium (RTC) for South West Wales, covering the four local authorities of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. The Strategy recommends policy and strategy for the improvement of rail services across the region from the, point of the view of the Local Authorities as rail is the responsibility of the Department for Transport and the Welsh Government; and its operation and development is the responsibility of Network Rail. It contains short term proposals to 2018-, medium- and long-term goals.

#### **Bus**

3G.5.14 Swansea Bus Station is located in the City Centre and the ATNM states that an important policy objective is to ensure that it can be accessed by foot or by bike. Active travel route serve transport hubs, including local bus stops to improve interchange facilities between sustainable modes.

#### **The Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro**

3G.5.15 Welsh Government and Transport for Wales are working in partnership with Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea Councils to develop proposals for the Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro (Figures 3.30 and 3.31). The aim of the Metro is to provide a series of regional integrated

transport systems across Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea.

3G.5.16 The areas of improvement which the Swansea Bay and West Wales metro network programme will be working towards (most relevant to the ATNM) are:

- Reduce rail journey times between Swansea and Cardiff to a target of 30 minutes.
- Increase service frequencies between Southwest Wales and London.
- Reduce journey times between key population centres including Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Llanelli, Carmarthen, Haverfordwest and Milford Haven.
- Improve Park and Ride provision for access to the Swansea Bay region.
- Provide a viable public transport alternative to the congested M4/A48 corridor.
- Contribute to developing a Swansea Bay Urban Area Metro including improvements to multimodal interchanges.

**Figure 3.30: Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro: Emerging Priorities to 2029<sup>62</sup>**



3G.5.17 As the Metro network is developed it will be important to ensure that transport hubs are well served by active travel routes. Understanding the proposed delivery programme and timelines, particularly with regard to any new stations proposed, will be an important input into the RLDP evidence base.

<sup>62</sup> [Future developments | Transport for Wales \(tfw.wales\)](https://www.tfw.wales/)

**Figure 3.31: Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro Longer Term Priorities**



### Docks/Ports and Airport

3G.5.18 The **Port** of Swansea is owned by Associated British Ports (ABP) and covers some 521 acres. It has the capacity to handle large vessels of up to 30,000dwt and is equipped to handle a wide range of cargo. The Port handles approx. £140 million in trade per year and 520,000 tonnes of cargo per year. Together with the ABP's Port Talbot the port contributes £670 million to the economy and supports nearly 10,000 jobs.

3G.5.19 The Government has recently announced (2023) the designation of the Celtic Freeport at Port Talbot. ABP expect this to result in increased activity at the Port of Swansea. Furthermore, the proposed Celtic Sea Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW) Farms may also

result in increased activity at the port which may require a review of the Port infrastructure in time to facilitate the FLOW ambition of up to 5GW by 2030 with a view the deployment of 34GW by 2040. This issue is related to the development and provision of mineral resources as set out in section 3G.3.16.

3G.5.20 The National Marine Plan, 2019, seeks to support the sustainable development of port, harbour and marina infrastructure and safeguard the Ports and Shipping Sector by ensuring developments or other activities which may restrict ports and shipping in terms of continuing current operations and responding to future development opportunities are considered and addressed in decision making. The Plan also recognises the significant potential for coexistence of compatible activities with ports and shipping. Displacement of shipping should be avoided where possible. Swansea, alongside other Welsh ports, is recognised as having a competitive advantage in exploiting opportunities arising from low carbon and renewable energy generation.

### Airport

3G.5.21 Swansea Airport is owned by Swansea Council and operated by Swansea Airport Ltd. It is located within the Gower AONB. The airport does not operate scheduled passenger flights, though flight schools, private flights and leisure flights can operate from the site.

3G.5.22 The LTP aspirations for sea and air are:

- To maximise the current potential of ports and airports in the region
- To improve access to and from ports and airports
- To collaborate on potential improvements which improve connectivity and support multi modal access for goods and people

Lake and permanently laid orienteering markers in twelve parks and wooded areas. There are many other privately-operated sports and leisure providers in Swansea including gyms, swimming pools, bowls, sailing, fishing, horse-riding, tennis, surfing, watersports and archery.

### **3G.6 UTILITIES**

3G.6.1 Adequate utilities provision across the County is essential to enable the future delivery of services and development, including employment sites, housing, renewable energy projects and so forth. Water utility infrastructure is discussed within Section 3E

3G.7.3 There are 16 allotments managed by allotment associations and a privately owned and managed allotment.

3G.6.2 National Grid are seeking to improve the speed and ability to connect new renewable energy generation schemes to the grid, via new transmission infrastructure and increasing battery storage facilities.

3G.7.4 There are seven cemeteries across Swansea, with space for new graves available at six. There is also a crematorium in Morriston.

### **3G.7 COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

3G.7.1 The Council has 17 libraries throughout the County and offers a delivery service for customers who cannot access a library.

3G.7.2 There are 6 leisure centres within the County (4 with swimming pools), operated by Freedom Leisure in partnership with the Council. There is a fitness trail along Swansea Promenade and around Fendrod

### 3G.8 KEY ISSUES – MATERIAL ASSETS

- Maximise the efficient use of land, following the search sequence for new sites outlined in national policy, informed by a land use capacity study.
- Regard must be had to the capacity of landfill sites in the region
- Ensure sufficient mineral resources are available to facilitate key infrastructure projects.
- The potential need for new electricity infrastructure in order to improve network capacity and connections (many cross cutting issues such as implications for landscape and public amenity)
- Active travel network priority routes are taken into account in the development of the RLDP
- The land use spatial strategy to have appropriate regard to the emerging South Wales Metro developments
- Consider potential implications of the Free Port development at Port Talbot in relation to Swansea Docks and Port.
- Consider ecological footprint and climate change impacts of a development by considering the entire life cycle of a development, particularly with regard to materials.

most recent proposals are considered at a local level and contain policies which reflect current legislation and guidance, for example in relation to the South Wales Metro developments, mineral resources and the dock and port.

### 3G.9 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3G. 9.1 Future development will have to comply with relevant legislation and Future Wales policies relating to waste developments, highways infrastructure, rail, and active travel. However the RLDP can ensure the

## SECTION 3H

### TOPIC AREA: CULTURAL HERITAGE

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:

SEA Regs Schedule 2(6) (k) cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; (b) population; (j) material assets; (f) soil; Health and wellbeing, Equalities, Welsh Language

### 3H.1 THE WELSH LANGUAGE

#### Number of Welsh speakers

3H.1.2 The number of people able to speak Welsh in Wales continues to decline, with the 2021 Census showing 538,296 usual residents aged 3 or over (17.8%) able to speak Welsh (ONS Dec 2022). In 2011 the figure was 562,000 or 19% of the usual resident population.

3H.1.3 In 2021 some 25,986 people in Swansea aged three or over were able to speak Welsh (11.2%). In 2011, 11.4% of people in Swansea aged three or over were able to speak Welsh. There were approx 350 fewer Welsh language speakers (over the age of 3) in Swansea in 2021, and an increase of 1,100 people who do not speak Welsh.

3H.1.4 The future development of the language is linked with Welsh Medium Education and there are 10 primary schools feeding into two comprehensive schools in the County. The number of pupils attending Welsh medium education across three age ranges (primary; year 7-11 and years 12-13) was 14.42% in 2021-2022. This is also discussed in section 3B.4

#### Strategies

3H.1.5 The Welsh Governments Welsh Language strategy 'Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers', 2017<sup>63</sup>, includes two main targets:

- The number of Welsh speakers to reach 1 million by 2050
- The percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh to increase from 10% (in 2013 to 2015) to 20% by 2050.

3H.1.6 Swansea Council has a five-year strategy for the Welsh language<sup>64</sup> and the strategy covers two major areas of operation – Community and Authority. *Authority* refers to actions specifically within the Council such as regulatory tasks and *Community* refers to tasks and initiatives through which the Council (alone or in partnership) can identify and nurture Welsh language activities and resources

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy.pdf>

<sup>64</sup> [Swansea Council 5 year strategy for the Welsh language - Swansea](#)

outside the Council – with the aim, as a minimum, of maintaining numbers of Welsh speakers in the area.

### **Existing LDP Policy**

3H.1.7 The LDP defines a **Welsh Language Sensitive Area** (WLSA) on the LDP Proposals Map, along with a specific policy. The extent of the WLSA is based on 2011 Census data amongst other information. The WLSA covers electoral wards with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers in the County and collectively an average of 19% speak Welsh, which was the Welsh average in 2011. The WLSA will be reviewed as part of the RLDP process.

## **3H.2 BUILT HERITAGE**

### **Listed Buildings**

3H.2.1 There are 500+ listed buildings within the boundaries of the City and County of Swansea<sup>65</sup> ranging from telephone boxes, domestic residences and commercial premises. Buildings are 'listed' because they are considered to be of special architectural or historic interest and as a result require special protection. Listing protects the whole building both inside and out and possibly also adjacent buildings if they were erected before 1 July 1948. The prime purpose is to protect the building and its surroundings from changes, which will materially alter the special

historic or architectural importance of the building or its setting.

3H.2.2 All buildings erected prior to 1700 and substantially intact are listed, as are most buildings constructed between 1700 and 1840, although some selection does take place. The selection process is more discriminating for buildings erected since 1840 because so many more properties remain today. Buildings less than 30 years old are generally only listed if they are of particular architectural or historic value and are potentially under threat.

3H.2.3 There are three grades of listing;

- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest. Only about 2% of listed buildings are in this category.
- Grade II\* buildings are of particular importance. Around 4% of listed buildings are in this category.
- Grade II buildings are of special interest. 94% of listed buildings are covered by this grade.

### **Buildings of Special Local Interest**

3H.2.4 Historic buildings help create an areas distinctive character and contribute to identity and sense of place. The County contains many buildings that do not meet the national threshold for designation as Listed Buildings, but are locally significant historic buildings. The Council intends to establish an inclusive process for the identification of places,

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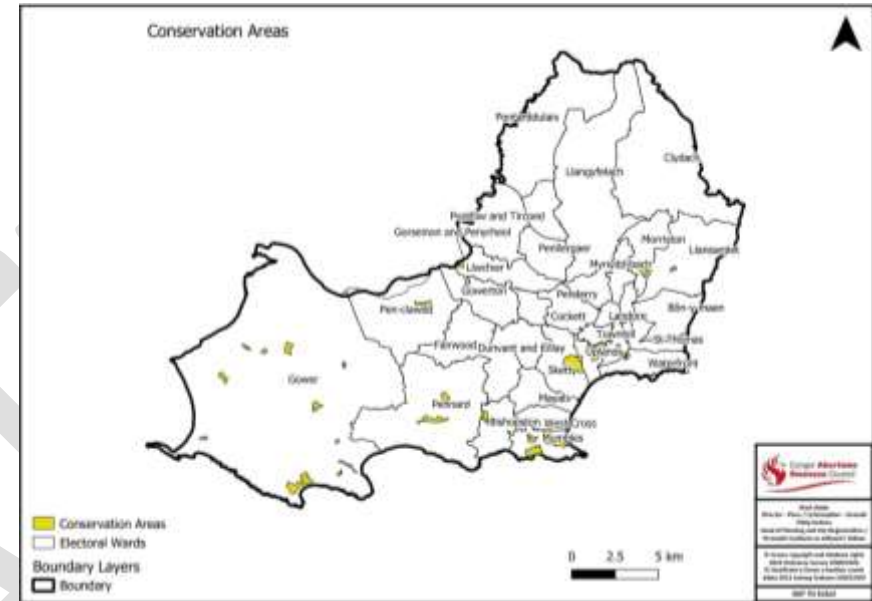
<sup>65</sup> [Listed buildings - Swansea](#)



structures and buildings of special local interest and this will inform the RLDP.

### Conservation Areas

3H.2.4 A conservation area is an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. The emphasis is placed on the quality of an area rather than individual buildings, for example groups of buildings, open spaces, street patterns or trees, can all be important factors which give an area its character. There are currently 31 conservation areas in the City and County of Swansea<sup>66</sup> (Figure 3.32). They vary greatly in character, due to the diverse mix of settlements found in the area, from small villages to urban areas.



**Figure 3.32: Designated Conservation Areas within the County**

3H.2.5 Restrictions apply in all conservation areas and additional planning controls are imposed within the following conservation areas via an article 4 direction:

- Maritime Quarter
- Mumbles
- Rhossili
- Horton
- Port Eynon
- Penclawdd
- Llangennith
- Reynoldston
- Holt's Field

### Ancient Monuments

3H.2.6 There are currently over 120 ancient monuments within the boundaries of the City and County of

<sup>66</sup> [Conservation areas - Swansea](#)

Swansea<sup>67</sup>. The term 'ancient monument' is applied to a very wide range of archaeological sites. Some examples may be completely buried below ground, and may only be known through archaeological excavation. Others are far more prominent, and include the great standing ruins of well known medieval castles and abbeys.

### **Archaeological Sensitive Areas**

3H.2.7 Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust have identified five Archaeological Sensitive Areas (ASAs) within the County. The designation indicates areas where the effect of any proposed development on the archaeological resource may become an issue during the determination of a planning application. The boundaries of the ASAs are shown on the current LDP Constraints and Issues Map<sup>68</sup>. The ASAs are located within:

- The City Centre
- Llangyfelach
- Oystermouth
- Lower Swansea Valley
- Loughor

### **Canals**

3H.2.8 The County contains two canals – the Tennant Canal and the Swansea Canal. The canals form an important part of the county's heritage and are an important element of the Green Infrastructure

network. A Feasibility Study has investigated the potential of restoring and opening up the canal network to create a 32 mile integrated water system connected to Swansea Docks. The LDP seeks to safeguard gaps in the navigable network and the routes are shown on the Constraints and Issues Plan.

### **Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens**

3H.2.9 Discussed in Section 3I

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<sup>67</sup> [Ancient monuments - Swansea](#)

<sup>68</sup> [Swansea Local Development Plan 2010-2025 \(LDP\) - Swansea](#)

### 3H.3 KEY ISSUES - CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Help safeguard and support growth in the use of the Welsh language as an integral part of social and community life.
- Contribute to the objective to preserve, protect and enhance cultural assets and their settings.
- Understand the buildings and other assets considered to be of special Local Importance and the mechanisms available through the RLDP to safeguarding these
- Have regard to the Historic Environment (Wales) 2023 Act throughout RLDP process.
- Facilitate the beneficial reuse of underused historic buildings.

### 3H.4 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

3H.4.1A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language is one of the seven well-being goals identified in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, which is also embedded in PPW and the sustainable placemaking principles. The importance of the Welsh Language is also highlighted by the Welsh Government's ambitious target to achieve one million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. The impacts of the land use planning system on the Welsh language are not direct, but can be a means to facilitate and encourage growth and ensure the Welsh language is integrated into the social and cultural fabric of a community, via for example new Welsh medium education facilities, and having policies to mitigate the impact of new development on Welsh speaking

communities. Without an up to date local development plan there would be no policies in place to ensure new developments mitigate impacts on the Welsh language, particularly where the Welsh language is an important part of the social fabric.

3H.4.2 Many heritage assets are protected via legislation other than the land use planning system. However, by including policies relating to built heritage, archaeology and landscape means that wider considerations relating to Placemaking can be considered.

3H.4.3 Non statutory designations such as ASAs and Historic Assets of Special Local Interest are given weight by inclusion within the RLDP.

## SECTION 3I

### TOPIC AREA: LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

Baseline evidence covers the following interrelated topics and themes:

SEA Regs Schedule 2(6) (l) landscape; (k) cultural heritage; (i) climatic factors; (a) biodiversity (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (j) material assets. Health and wellbeing, equalities.

#### 3I.1 LANDSCAPES

##### LANDMAP

3I.1.1 LANDMAP is a complete all-Wales GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.

3I.1.2 NRW: Area 3: Swansea LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Monitoring Report Final, 2015. Recommended updates to the visual and sensory aspect layers, taking into account settlement expansions and resultant new settlement boundaries particularly around the M4, Morriston Hospital and Pontarddulais; windfarm planning consents; and the Felindre Business Park development. Some aspect areas have also been revalued.

##### Historic Landscapes

3I.1.3 The Gower AONB contains two areas that are designated on the Register of Landscapes of

Outstanding and of Special Interest in Wales. The Gower Registered Historic Landscape defines West Gower and Cefn Bryn as the two best surviving and most complete, close but topographically discrete, archaeologically rich areas of the peninsula.

##### Historic Parks and Gardens

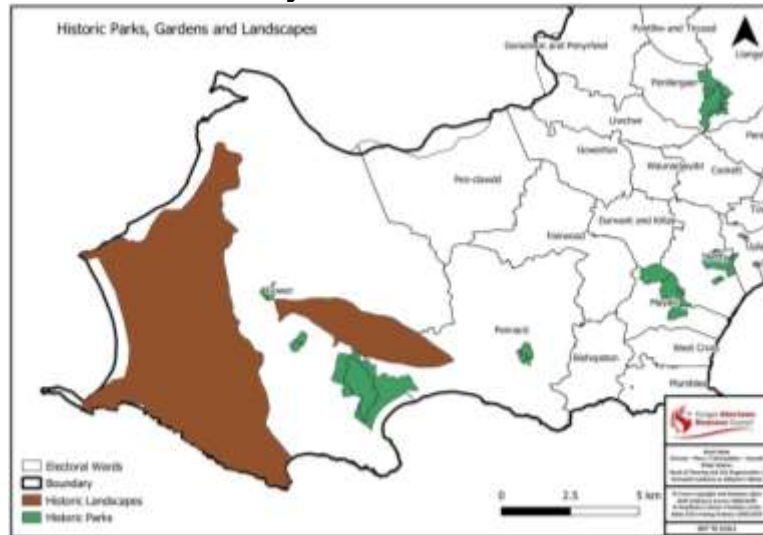
3I.1.4 Historic parks and gardens are part of Wales's national identity. They enrich the texture and pattern of our landscapes and form a valuable record of social, cultural and economic change. Many offer outstanding conservation value for wildlife as well as opportunities for public recreation. As a source of enjoyment and learning, and a valuable network of green spaces, our historic parks and gardens play an important role in building a healthier and greener Wales.

3I.1.5 Historic parks and gardens are a fragile and finite resource that can be easily damaged or lost. It is important to raise awareness of their significance and to encourage those involved in their management to treat them as valuable and distinctive places. Through their care and commitment to safeguarding these precious assets, we will all be able to enjoy these historic parks and gardens of special historic interest now and in the future.

3I.1.6 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 makes it a statutory duty for the Welsh Ministers, through Cadw, to compile and maintain a register of historic parks and gardens in Wales. The effect of a proposed

development on a registered site or its setting may also be a 'material consideration' in the determination of a planning application. The Council has 13 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens as shown in Figure 3.33.

**Figure 3.33 Designated Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens in the County**



The 13 historic parks and gardens are:

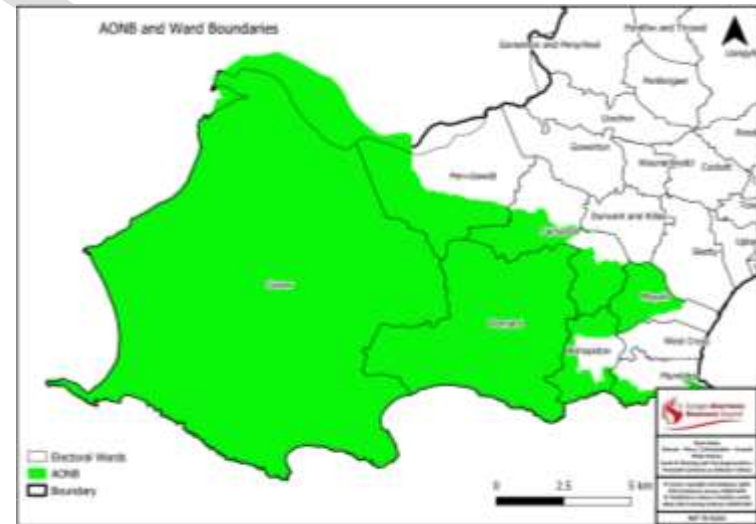
- Fairyrhill
- Stouthall
- The Dingle
- Penrice Castle
- Kilvrough
- Clyne Castle
- Cwmdonkin Park
- St James' Gardens and Crescent
- Penllergare
- Cwmgelli Cemetry
- Parc Llewellyn

- Singleton Park and Sketty Hall
- Brynmill Park

**Gower AONB**

3I.1.8 An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a designated landscape, whose distinctive character and natural beauty is so precious that it is to be protected in the national interest. AONBs are protected and enhanced for nature, people, business and culture. The Gower AONB (Figure 3.34) became the first designated AONB in the UK in 1956. It covers an area of 188 km<sup>2</sup> (73 m<sup>2</sup>) and much of the coastline (33miles) is designated Heritage Coast, from Caswell Bay to the Salhouse Point in Crofty.

**Figure 3.34: Area of the County Covered by the Gower AONB**



### **Special Landscape Area**

3I.1.9 The LDP designates four Special Landscape Areas:

- Mawr Uplands
- Lower Loughor Valley and Estuary and Southern part of the Burry Inlet; and
- North East Gower and Cockett Valley.
- Garngoch and Lower Afan Llan Valley.

3I.1.10 The Special Landscape Areas are areas outside the Gower AONB that are considered to be of high landscape importance and the designation seeks to provide increased landscape protection (shown in Figure 3.33).

### **Clyne Valley Country Park**

3I.1.11 Clyne Valley Country Park is the county's only country park, covering some 700 acres of open and wooded hillsides, steep gorges, former quarries, meadowland, streams, lakes and wet valley floor. This varied landscape provides a range of habitats for a great diversity of plants and animals. Due to its industrial past, the park also contains a number of ancient monuments and also a number of leisure activities such as part of the national cycle network, a BMX pump track and a play area. Part of the site is in the Gower AONB and the Killay Marsh Local Nature Reserve lies within the boundary of the park.

### **Local Playgrounds and Parks**

3I.1.12 The County contains 97 playgrounds, owned and maintained by the Council. There has been significant investment in playgrounds in recent years,

with upgrading and the creation of 7 new playgrounds.

3I.1.13 There are 37 parks in the County, owned and maintained by the Council. Six of these parks were awarded Green Flag status in 2022, recognising their role in residents wellbeing and improving the natural environment. They are: Clyne Gardens, Singleton Botanical Gardens, Brynmill Park, Parc Llewellyn, Cwmdonkin Park and Victoria Park.

3I.1.14 Green Flag awards were also awarded to Swansea University Singleton Campus and Penllergare Valley Woods. A further 14 community awards were given to smaller community based gardens and green spaces.

3I.1.15 Under the United Nations Right of the Child (UNRC) children and young people have a right to play and therefore there should be appropriate safe and appropriate areas for them throughout the County, ensuring a range of opportunities for various age groups.

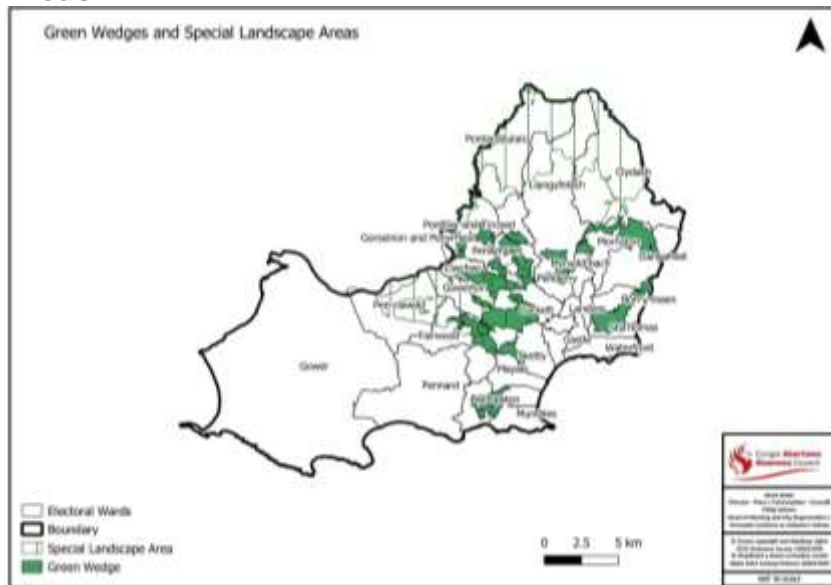
### **Green Wedges**

3I.1.16 The LDP designates eight green wedges within the County. Green wedges are areas of the Countryside that are considered to act as buffers between settlements to prevent settlement coalescence in areas under pressure for development and are shown in Figure 3.35. The designated areas are:

- Birchgrove and Glais

- Bishopston and Newton
- Dunvant and Three Crosses
- Gowerton/Waunarlyydd and Dunvant
- Penclawdd and Blue Anchor
- Penllergaer and Pontlliw
- Penllergaer/Kingsbridge and Gowerton/  
Waunarlyydd/ Fforestfach
- Penyrheol and Grovesend

**Figure 3.35: Green Wedges and Special Landscape Areas**



### Village Greens

3I.1.17 The County has 11 designated Village Greens, covering some 9.3 ha. They are listed in Table 3.30

**Table 3.30: Registered Village Greens**

| Name                             | Area/Community | Final Date of Registration |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Eastern Penrallt                 | Llanrhidian    | 01/10/70                   |
| Penrice Green                    | Penrice        | 01/10/70                   |
| Llangyfelach                     | Llangyfelach   | 01/08/72                   |
| Sketty Green                     | Sketty         | 16/01/86                   |
| Reynoldston Lower & Higher Green | Reynoldston    | 11/11/08                   |
| Bishops Grove & Dulais Grove     | Sketty         | 01/05/08                   |
| Rhyd y Defaid Drive & Valley Way | Sketty         | 30/04/09                   |
| Alderwood Road                   | West Cross     | 26/06/12                   |
| Heathwood Road                   | West Cross     | 01/03/13                   |
| Castle Acre Green                | Norton         | 15/10/15                   |
| Tirmynydd Road                   | Three Crosses  | 6/02/17                    |

### Common Land

3I.1.18 There are 49 registered areas of Common Land within the County, covering some 7,116ha. The majority of these are located in Gower and Mawr. A list of registered areas of common land can be found in Appendix 5.

### 3G.1 SEASCAPE

3I.2.1 The definition of seascape in the UK Marine Policy Statement, 2011, 2.6.5.1 is: '*Landscapes with views of*

*the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other’.*

must take the designation into account when making decisions on planning applications.

3I.2.2 The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires the WG to develop a spatial planning approach to the management of its marine areas, which is presented within the Welsh National Marine Plan, 2019.

3I.2.3 The Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment, 2017, identifies 8 (SCA 2 – 9) (Seascape Character Areas (SCA's)) which abut the County's coastline and a number of other offshore SCA's around the County.

3I.2.4 Three of the County's beaches have been awarded blue Flags in 2023: Caswell Bay, Langland Bay, Port Eynon Bay, together with Swansea Marina. Bracelet Bay has been awarded the Green coast award meaning that it is a 'hidden gem' and an 'exceptional place to visit and enjoy diversity and rich coastal heritage'.

### **Heritage Coast**

3I.2.5 Much of the coastline of the Gower AONB was designated as Heritage Coast in 1973, running from Caswell Bay on the south coast to the Salhouse Point, Crofty on the north coast. The Heritage Coast runs for some 33 miles and the designation seeks to protect coastlines from insensitive developments. There is no defined inland boundary. The Council



### 31.3 KEY ISSUES - LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

- Contribute to the objective to conserve and enhance protected landscapes, particularly Gower AONB and its setting.
- Review the SLA boundaries, the Green Wedge and settlement boundaries.
- Balance pressure for development against the need to protect the integrity of protected landscapes.
- Provide sufficient safe and appropriate formal and informal areas for children and young people to play:
  - Use GI Assessment and Strategy to inform RLDP, when available
  - Sensitivity of seascape and undeveloped coast to developments, onshore and offshore be considered within RLDP
  - Climate change influences on landscape, seascape and coastline be considered in RLDP.

impacts of climate change and result in habitat fragmentation.

31.4.3 The consideration of developments influence on seascape, plus the cumulative impacts of developments, may not be considered without the RLDP.

### 31.4 LIKELY FUTURE WITHOUT THE PLAN

31.4.1 With respect to landscapes, only the Gower AONB will be statutorily protected for its landscape quality and the weight of protection for SLAs and green wedges will be weaker as they are a local designation.

31.4.2 The multi-functional benefits of the wider green infrastructure and its connectivity would not necessarily be recognised or safeguarded without the RLDP. This could have significant consequences through jeopardising the effective management of the

## CHAPTER 4: THE ISA FRAMEWORK

4.1 The ISA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared in a systematic and consistent manner. The framework primarily consists of a series of sustainability objectives and indicators, as defined in the paragraphs and Tables below.

### Review of SA Framework of the current LDP

4.2 A review of the SA framework of the current adopted Swansea LDP was undertaken as the starting point in formulating the draft ISA framework for the RLDP. This review ensures that:

- the ISA reflects the latest key sustainability issues identified by the baseline review contained within this draft Scoping Report and that the RLDP responds to the identified issues, with the RLDP objectives reflecting the ISA objectives
- the ISA reflects any issues identified via LDP annual monitoring reports, in terms of terminology, etc.
- the framework responds to the wider ISA assessment topics.

4.3 The draft ISA framework includes the SEA topics outlined in Reg 12(3), together with SA topics such as health and wellbeing. It also incorporates Health Impact Assessment and Welsh language assessment considerations within the scope of the SA topics and objectives.

4.4 In order to aid the assessment process, each ISA objective has 'decision making questions/criteria' alongside it. The purpose of these is to help explain the key issues associated with the objectives and indicators, and to clarify the assessment process to those involved. This approach helps to provide a consistent definition of sustainable development throughout the preparation of the Plan and aids the iterative appraisal process.

4.5 The draft ISA objectives have been screened against the seven well-being goals contained within the Well-being of Future Generations Act, 2015, the Equalities Act, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Health Impact Assessment and Welsh Language assessment to ensure that all relevant matters have been considered and fully integrated within the ISA Framework objectives.

4.6 Table 4.1 provides an analysis of the existing LDP SA framework. It considers whether each SA objective requires amending and proposes new or revised ISA objectives where appropriate for the RLDP.

**Table 4.1: Review of the Swansea LDP SA Framework**

| <b>EXISTING LDP SA TOPIC</b>                    | <b>EXISTING LDP SA OBJECTIVE</b>   | <b>ASSESSMENT OF TOPIC &amp; OBJECTIVE</b>  | <b>REVIEW of ISA OBJECTIVE for RLDP</b>   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Sustainable Development</b>                  | Promotion of sustainable development   | An overarching topic that embraces all the other topics within the framework. The objective is hard to quantify and measure and does not need a specific objective as the ISA objectives will all contribute to delivering sustainable development  | No need for a separate topic or a specific objective on sustainable development. Do not include in ISA  |
| <b>Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)</b> | Maintain and enhance biodiversity resource and protected habitats and species.           | This topic and objective remain relevant, particularly due to the introduction of the Section 6 Duty in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Geodiversity is not addressed within the objective. Could the topic and objective be widened to include geodiversity and soil, rather than have soil as a separate topic? However, soil is a stand alone SEA topic, so it may be better to identify it as a separate objective, with links to carbon sinks and BMV agricultural land. | Possible new, broader objective: <i>'Maintain and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity resources, including protected habitats and species; enhance green infrastructure provision and safeguard important soil resources'</i> .<br><br>Concern that such a broad objective will be difficult to assessed with any accuracy. |
| <b>Population</b>                               | Increase community safety and sense of security  | Remains relevant but difficult to measure/monitor.  | Do not include within ISA   |
|   | Enable people to meet their housing needs and provide good quality housing               | Objective remains relevant. Should the housing objective refer to sustainable locations and affordable housing specifically?  | Retain objective in ISA, but potentially modify as: <i>'Enable people to meet their housing requirements by providing sufficient good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations, which embodies the principles of Placemaking'</i> .  |
|   | Provide high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities which meet future needs | Relevant, but include within an economic objective?   | Do not include in ISA   |
|   | Encourage an inclusive society and promote equality                                      | Remains relevant but does it need to be broader? <i>'Encourage an inclusive society by tackling social exclusion, promote equality of opportunity and reduce socio-economic disadvantage'</i>   | <i>'Encourage an inclusive society by tackling social exclusion, promote equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage and promote cohesive communities'</i>  |

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| <b>Economy</b>                                   | Support the development of Swansea as a competitive place and contribute to Swansea’s role as a regional economic driver | Combine the economic objectives into 1?<br>Is it still relevant to focus on Swansea’s regional role, or should this be via the SDP?<br>Amend objective for ISA:<br><i>‘Diversify and strengthen the county’s economy, increase the number of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels.’</i><br>Is this too broad? | Retain but reword economic objective:<br><i>‘Diversify and strengthen the county’s economy, increase the number of employment opportunities and improve educational and skill levels while supporting the role of the County in the City Bay Region and National Growth Area.’</i> |
|  | Promote and enhance the rural economy  | Combine the economic objectives into 1, as above.<br>Do not distinguish between rural and urban economy in overarching objective?  | Include as part of above objective.  |
|  | Support the development of the environmental goods and services sector.  | Do not include. Difficult to monitor /measure.   | Do not include in ISA  |
| <b>Human Health</b>                              | Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well-being.                                | Remains relevant. Expand to include community safety.  | Include in ISA:<br><i>‘Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health, well-being and community safety.’</i>  |
| <b>Soil</b>                                      | Protect soil resources   | Remains a relevant topic, particularly with links to biodiversity, GI and climate change. Could it be linked in with biodiversity topic and combined as a single objective?  | <i>Ensure land is used sustainably by avoiding development on BMV agricultural land and carbon rich soil.</i>  |
| <b>Water</b>                                     | Improve the quality of inland coastal water (surf zone) and rivers   | Relevant, but could amend to ‘water environments’ and also include water resources?  | Potential objective for water and flood risk:<br><i>‘Protect and enhance the quality of inland and coastal water environments, the quantity and quality of water resources and reduce the risk of flooding’.</i>   |
|  | Promote the efficient use of water resources   | Difficult to monitor. No direct impact from LDP.   | Do not include in ISA  |
| <b>Water/Soil/<br/>Landscape<br/>/Population</b> | Ensure development respects constraints such as floodplains and unstable land  | Remains relevant, with new TAN and guidance. Include flooding as part of water topic or climate change?  | Do not include – incorporate into a single objective (above)   |

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| <b>Air/Climatic Factors</b>              | Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel and development patterns that do not cause significant harm to air quality | Separate air quality and transport within this topic/objective.<br>Air is a separate topic area in the SEA Regs.<br><br>Transport a separate topic.   | Potential objectives for Air:<br><i>'Reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants. Reduce exposure to poor air quality.'</i><br><i>'Reduce the need to travel through the design of new development, the inclusion of active travel infrastructure and its location close to active travel and public transport networks'.</i> |
| <b>Climatic Factors</b>                  | Support adaptation and mitigation measures due to climate change   | Relevant and retain. New Climate Emergency declaration and targets for zero carbon and renewable energy production.<br>This objective is difficult to measure. Has links to flooding.   | Reword to make specific link between objective and new development:<br><i>Ensure all development adopts appropriate adaption and mitigation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climatic change.</i>   |
|  | Improvement in prudent and efficient use of energy   | Difficult to monitor and measure. The use of energy itself is outside the scope of the LDP. However the importance of well designed energy efficient buildings is important to ensuring efficient energy use. This factor is incorporated into the adaptation measures set out above. | Remove objective as inherent part of building design which is part of the above objective.  |
|  | Development of appropriate types of renewable energy resources   | Remains relevant as new national targets and national and local policies. Must include 'low carbon'.<br>Retain in ISA?  | Retain in ISA:<br><i>Development of renewable and low carbon energy resources in appropriate locations</i>  |
| <b>Climatic Factors/ Material Assets</b> | Promote the sustainable management of waste in an integrated manner, aiming towards zero waste by 2050   | Retain, but reword to focus on circular economy. The zero waste target remains relevant.<br>Have a singular objective that links both minerals, waste and natural resources?  | Retain in ISA but reword:<br><i>Encourage the circular economy during development, manage waste in a sustainable manner.</i>  |
| <b>Material Assets</b>                   | Efficient use of minerals that safeguard existing resources and promote the use of secondary aggregates over primary resources where appropriate.  | Retain, re: safeguarding mineral resources.<br>Focus on circular economy.<br>Focus on natural resources?  | <i>Ensure natural resources are protected and where their use is necessary, they are used sustainably to provide an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</i>   |

|                          |  |   |   |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Cultural Heritage</b> | Protect and enhance the quality of the cultural and historic environment                       | Include Welsh language specifically in objective.           | Proposed ISA objective:<br><i>'Protect and enhance the quality of the historic and cultural environment and assets, including the use of the Welsh language as an important element of the social and cultural fabric of the County'.</i> |
| <b>Landscape</b>         | Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape. | Retain. Specifically mention AONB and protected landscapes? | <i>Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape. Ensure the protected landscape of the Gower AONB is conserved and enhanced.</i>   |

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## **Linkages and Compatibility between draft ISA objectives the Welsh Government Well-being goals, Equalities Act, Health Impact Assessment and Welsh Language**

- 4.7 Table 4.2 illustrates the linkages and compatibility between the draft ISA framework objectives, the SEA Regulation Topics (SEA Regs Sch 2.6), the Equalities Act, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Health Impact Assessment and The Welsh Language assessment to ensure that all relevant matters have been considered by the SA Framework objectives
- 4.8 The ISA process also supports the WG's Well-Being Ways of Working as follows:
- *Long-term*: The draft ISA identifies the likely future situation in the absence of the plan; predicts the emerging RLDP's impacts; and identifies long-term impacts and needs
  - *Integration*: The ISA considers how the RLDP will impact on different sustainability objectives
  - *Involvement*: Both the emerging RLDP and its ISA will be open to public involvement at various stages
  - *Collaboration*: The ISA will be undertaken with input from a variety of stakeholders, including the statutory Consultation Bodies as defined in the SEA Regs
  - *Prevention*: The ISA by definition aims to prevent significant negative impacts of the emerging RLDP

**Table 4.2: Relationship between Proposed ISA Framework Objectives and Other Relevant Legislation**

|   | ISA Objective TOPIC                  | LDP REVIEW ISA OBJECTIVE   | Relationship between the Proposed ISA Framework Objectives and Other Relevant Legislation |                |                                     |                          |                |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|   |                                      |  | SEA TOPIC (SEA Regs Sch 2.6)  | Equalities Act | Wellbeing of Future Generations Act | Health Impact Assessment | Welsh Language |
| 1 | <b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b> | <i>'Maintain and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity resources, including protected habitats and species; enhance green infrastructure provision'.</i>   | Biodiversity 6(a)<br>Human health 6(c)<br>Fauna 6(d)<br>Flora 6(e)<br>Soil 6(f)           | X              | √                                   | √                        | X              |
| 2 | <b>Housing and Placemaking</b>       | <i>'Enable people to meet their housing requirements by providing sufficient good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations, which deliver the principles of Placemaking'.</i>                           | Population 6(b)<br>Human health 6(c)<br>Material assets 6(j)<br>Cultural heritage (k)     | √              | √                                   | √                        | √              |
| 3 | <b>Equality and Social Exclusion</b> | <i>'Encourage an inclusive society by tackling social exclusion, promote equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage and promote cohesive communities'.</i>  | Population (b)<br>Human health (c)<br>Material assets (j)<br>Cultural heritage (k)        | √              | √                                   | √                        | √              |
| 4 | <b>Economic Growth</b>               | <i>'Diversify and strengthen the county's economy, increase the number of employment opportunities and improve education and skill levels while supporting the role of the County in the City Bay Region and NGA.'</i> | Population (b)<br>Human health (c)  | √              | √                                   | √                        | √              |



|   |                                  |  |  |   |   |   |   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>      | <i>'Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health, well-being and community safety and deliver Placemaking principles.'</i>  | Population<br>Human health   | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| 6 | <b>Protecting Soil Resources</b> | <i>Ensure land is used sustainably by avoiding development on BMV agricultural land and carbon rich soil.</i>  | Soil<br>Biodiversity<br>Flora<br>Fauna<br>Climatic factors<br>landscape                                | X | √ | √ | X |
| 7 | <b>Water</b>                     | <i>'Protect and enhance the quality of inland and coastal water environments, and the quantity and quality of water resources'.</i>  | Biodiversity<br>Human health<br>Fauna<br>Flora<br>Soil<br>Water<br>Climatic factors<br>Material assets | X | √ | √ | X |
| 8 | <b>Air</b>                       | <i>'Reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and reduce exposure to poor air quality.'</i>  | Human health<br>Air<br>Climatic factors  | √ | √ | √ | X |
| 9 |                                  | <i>'Reduce the need to travel through the design of new development, the inclusion of active travel infrastructure and its location close to active travel and public transport networks'.</i> | Biodiversity<br>Flora<br>fauna   |   |   |   |   |

|    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | <b>Climate Change</b>  | <i>Ensure all development adopts appropriate adaption and mitigation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climatic change and reduce the risk of flooding.</i>                                     | Air<br>Climatic factors<br>Biodiversity<br>Flora<br>Fauna<br>Human health<br>Water                              | X | √ | √ | X |
| 11 | <b>Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</b>                           | <i>Facilitate the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources in appropriate locations</i>  | Air<br>Climatic factors<br>Biodiversity<br>Flora<br>Fauna<br>Material assets                                    | X | √ | √ | X |
| 12 | <b>Waste</b>   | <i>Encourage the circular economy, manage waste in a sustainable manner.</i>   | Material assets<br>6(j)<br>Climatic factors<br>6(i)<br>Human health<br>6(c)                                     | X | √ | √ | X |
| 13 | <b>Managing Natural Resources</b>                                | <i>Ensure natural resources are protected and/or safeguarded and where their use is necessary, they are used sustainably to provide an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</i>         | Material assets<br>6(j)<br>Climatic factors<br>6(i)<br>Landscape 6(l)<br>Biodiversity<br>Flora<br>Fauna<br>soil | X | √ | X | X |
| 14 | <b>Historic and Cultural Heritage (including Welsh language)</b> | <i>'Protect and enhance the quality of the historic and cultural environment and assets, including the use of the Welsh language as an important element of the social and cultural fabric of the County'.</i> | Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage 6(k)<br>Landscape 6 (l)                  | √ | √ | X | √ |

|    |                  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | <b>Landscape</b> | <i>Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape. Ensure the protected landscape of the Gower AONB is conserved and enhanced.</i> | Landscape 6 (l)<br>Architectural and archaeological heritage 6(k) | X | √ | √ | X |
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### Draft ISA objectives and decision aiding questions

- 4.9 Table 4.4 (over page) sets out the draft decision aiding questions (DAQs) that are intended to aid the assessment process using the ISA Objectives. DAQs are designed to ensure that the assessment undertaken against each objective relates to the key economic, social and environmental issues within the County that have been highlighted in the Scoping Report. Specifically, the issues that have been identified as being capable of being addressed via the land use planning system.
- 4.10 The ISA Framework will be used to assess each key stage of the RLDP. Inevitably the level of detail possible in the assessments will vary depending on the nature of the RLDP stage. By way of an example, it will be less possible to identify likely significant effects of the high level Vision and the Strategic Objectives of the Plan upon the Welsh language for instance, than it would be assessing more detailed policies at Deposit Plan stage.
- 4.11 Once the ISA objectives have been finalised - following consultation on the draft Scoping Report - the ISA framework scoring matrix can be formulated. This will enable the policies of the plan to be scored against assessment criteria - defined in Table 4.3 - in a standardised and methodical way. This scoring matrix will also be used to assess those Candidate Sites that progress to 'Stage 2' detailed assessment (see section that follows).

**Table 4.3: ISA Assessment Criteria**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>++</b>  | <b>Significant positive effect</b>       |
| <b>+</b>   | <b>Minor positive effect</b>             |
| <b>-</b>   | <b>Minor significant effect</b>          |
| <b>--</b>  | <b>Significant negative effect</b>       |
| <b>0</b>   | <b>Neutral effect</b>                    |
| <b>?</b>   | <b>Uncertain/unknown effect</b>          |
| <b>+/-</b> | <b>Both positive and negative effect</b> |
| <b>x</b>   | <b>Not applicable</b>                    |

### Candidate Site Assessments

- 4.12 Table 4.4 sets out specific DAQs for the assessment of Candidate Sites, which are different than those that will be used for the assessment of the proposed Vision, Strategic Objectives and individual policies of the Plan. This is to enable more site specific issues to be addressed in a more direct way using this process.
- 4.13 All candidate sites submitted that are not discounted in the initial 'Stage 1' assessment, will be subject to ISA, with the findings detailed within the ISA Reports for the LDP Pre-Deposit and Deposit Documents.
- 4.14 As identified above, once the ISA Objectives are finalised following the necessary consultation stages,

this will enable an assessment scoring matrix to be formulated on the basis of the final objectives. Each assessment matrix will include a commentary to explain the reasons for the assessment score, identify any likely significant environmental or other effects within the context of the SEA Regs and other applicable statutory requirements. It will also serve to identify any likely different or disproportionate effects on demographic groups with protected characteristics or those vulnerable to social exclusion or poverty; and identify any mitigation or enhancement measures considered necessary to either avoid significant adverse environmental and other effects (which would otherwise be expected to occur) or to enhance the performance of the proposed policies.

- 4.15 Assessment will take into account the information available at the time of assessment and can be amended at any point up to RLDP Deposit Stage, as further information, such as changes to national policy or emerging technical studies are presented. The comments section of each assessment will document how the assessment may have been affected by additional information received. Assessments will be published as part of the ISA process.

### Indicators

- 4.16 The SEA Regulations (Article 17) require that the significant environmental effects of the Plan are monitored in order that any unforeseen adverse effects can be remediated and therefore draft monitoring indicators are presented in Table 4.5. The existing

LDP's AMR indicators have been considered as part of this process, particularly with regard to the availability of data and contextual changes experienced as part of the AMR process. Given the relatively short timespan since the LDP was adopted, many of the issues identified within this draft Scoping Report remain the same, and therefore the key issues for monitoring are expected to remain similar and are those areas of the environment where the SA Report indicated the implementation of the LDP will have the most significant likely effect. These include:

- Loss of habitats and species (biodiversity);
- Impact on landscape character, particularly protected landscapes;
- Impact on the cultural and historic environment, particularly the Welsh language and archaeology;
- The provision of affordable housing to meet local needs;
- The provision of necessary social and community infrastructure and highway and transport improvements,
- Increased employment and economic activity throughout the County as a result of the economic strategy of the Plan.

- 4.17 Given the above, the draft ISA indicators presented in Table 4.5 are largely taken from the existing LDP AMRs, with some slight amendments. It is important to note that the indicators will be reviewed throughout the RLDP and ISA preparation process and will need to reflect the final policies of the RLDP, which in some

cases may be different from the LDP depending on the emerging evidence base.

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**Table 4.4 Draft ISA Objectives and Decision Aiding Questions**

|          | <b>ISA Objective TOPIC</b>           | <b>Draft ISA OBJECTIVE</b>   | <b>Draft Decision Aiding Questions for ISA of RLDP</b><br>Will the RLDP ....?   | <b>Draft Decision Aiding Questions for ISA of Candidate Sites</b>  |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b> | <i>'Maintain and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity resources, including protected habitats and species; enhance green infrastructure provision'.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-help achieve nature recovery?</li> <li>-help improve habitat connectivity and prevent damage and fragmentation?</li> <li>-protect designated species and habitats?</li> <li>- safeguard carbon sink soils</li> <li>- increase ecosystem resilience/connect areas of higher resilience?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-what is the location of site in relation to any identified biodiversity or geodiversity resource and/or protected habitat and/or species and/or other biodiversity constraint?</li> <li>- is any part of the site designated at international, national, local level for biodiversity conservation, ecological or geological importance?</li> <li>- are there protected trees, hedgerows or woodlands on any part of the site?</li> <li>- is there potential for habitat fragmentation/ connectivity</li> <li>- is there potential to enhance GI provision/network within and around site</li> </ul> |

|   |                                      |  |  |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 2 | <b>Housing and Placemaking</b>       | <i>'Enable people to meet their housing requirements by providing sufficient good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations, which deliver the principles of Placemaking'.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-provide a range of housing across the County for all sectors of the population to ensure people's housing requirements are met, including gypsies, older people, low cost housing and students;</li> <li>-allocate sufficient land to provide the quantity of housing identified in the Housing Market Needs Assessments?</li> </ul> | <p>Is the site located in an area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) where there is an identified housing need?</li> <li>b) identified for residential growth in the preferred strategy?</li> <li>c) served by community infrastructure, or will provide infrastructure?</li> <li>d) that is deficient in open space/GI provision?</li> <li>e) well served by public/active travel/PROW routes, or can provide new routes?</li> <li>f) with infrastructure/utilities constraints (including highway infrastructure)?</li> </ul> <p>What is the housing capacity of site and at what stage of the plan period could it be delivered?</p> |
| 3 | <b>Equality and Social Exclusion</b> | <i>'Encourage an inclusive society by tackling social exclusion, promote equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage and promote cohesive communities'</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-help to reduce poverty and social exclusion?</li> <li>-help to promote the needs of all members of society?</li> <li>-seek to promote and protect the Welsh Language?</li> <li>-improve access to employment, particularly by means other than the private car?</li> </ul>   | <p>Does the site provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-new community infrastructure, or is it located in close proximity to existing community infrastructure?</li> <li>-a range of housing types to meet local needs?</li> <li>-employment opportunities, or is close to existing employment opportunities?</li> <li>-good opportunities to travel via public and/or active transport?</li> </ul> <p>Does the proposal result in a loss of community facility/infrastructure?<br/>Does the site positively/negatively impact on certain communities, groups and characteristics as outlined within the Equalities Act and IIA?</p>  |



|                 |                               |   |   |  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <p><b>4</b></p> | <p><b>Economic Growth</b></p> | <p><i>'Diversify and strengthen the county's economy, increase the number of employment opportunities and improve education and skill levels while supporting the role of the County in the City Bay Region and NGA.'</i></p> | <p>-facilitate business development and enhance competitiveness?<br/>                 -support job creation across a wide variety of sectors for all sections of the populations?<br/>                 -support new rural businesses and/or rural enterprises and the expansion of existing rural business and/or rural enterprises in appropriate locations?</p> | <p>Will the proposal/site provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- direct provision of employment (i.e. employment site [B use class])?</li> <li>- other economic uses such as tourism, leisure, hospitality?</li> <li>- development that contributes to the Council's objectives for City Centre? Regeneration/City Bay Region/NGA.</li> <li>- new educational facilities?</li> </ul> <p>Will the proposal/site result in the loss of existing employment use, education facility or negatively impact upon skills levels?</p> |
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|                 |   |  |   |   |
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| <p><b>5</b></p> | <p><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p>      | <p><i>'Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health, well-being and community safety and deliver Placemaking principles.'</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-maintain or enhance healthy lifestyles, including active travel choices?</li> <li>-provide GI and improve accessible natural green spaces for all communities?</li> <li>-improved accessibility to essential services?</li> </ul>   | <p>Assess effect on ability to create environments that encourage health and well-being which includes consideration of extent to which proposal creates/or is located in proximity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Existing/opportunities to create new/link into active travel/PROW network</li> <li>2. Accessible existing open space/creation of new open space</li> <li>3. Existing community services and facilities/creation of new community services and facilities</li> <li>4. Contaminated land</li> <li>5. Existing/proposed noise emitting land uses</li> <li>6. Existing/proposed light emitting development</li> <li>7. Loss of open/space/PROW/community facility</li> </ol> <p>Assess impact of proposal on Soundscape/tranquillity.</p> |
| <p><b>6</b></p> | <p><b>Protecting Soil Resources</b></p> | <p><i>Ensure land is used sustainably by avoiding development on BMV agricultural land and carbon rich soil.</i></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-protect the best and most versatile agricultural land from development?</li> <li>-maximise the use of previously developed land?</li> <li>-offset soil carbon loss?</li> <li>-reduce the amount of soil loss to impermeable developments (e.g. through SUDS)?</li> <li>-reduce risk from contaminated land and result in an increase in its remediation?</li> </ul> | <p>Assess extent to which development would affect the ability of soil to function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- impact upon BMV grade 1-3a agricultural land</li> <li>- impact on carbon rich (peat) soils</li> <li>- brownfield or greenfield land</li> <li>- contaminated land</li> </ul> <p>n.b. ANY built development will have some negative impact on soil</p>   |

|   |                    |   |  |   |
|---|--------------------|---|--|---|
| 7 | <b>Water</b>       | <i>'Protect and enhance the quality of inland and coastal water environments, and the quantity and quality of water resource'.</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-help improve the quality of coastal bathing waters?</li> <li>-protect the quality and quantity of all controlled waters?</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the proximity of the site to controlled waters?</li> <li>- Will the site impact on the quantity of controlled waters?</li> <li>- Is the site served by existing sufficient foul and surface water drainage infrastructure, or can it be provided</li> <li>- Has a SUDS scheme been submitted? If so, is it acceptable in principle? [N.B. this may not be applicable for those resi sites screened out at Stage 1.]</li> <li>- Is the site impacted by leaching from contaminated land?</li> </ul> |
| 8 | <b>Air Quality</b> | <i>'Reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and reduce exposure to poor air quality.'</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensure there will be no deterioration of air quality as a result of development?</li> <li>- ensure development will not lead to a greater risk of exposure to poor air quality</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the site located within the AQMA?</li> <li>- What is the proximity of the site to existing sources of emissions</li> <li>- Will it increase vehicular volumes through an AQMA?</li> <li>- Will it result in emissions which may impact upon air quality?</li> </ul>   |
| 9 |                    | <i>'Reduce the need to travel through the design of new development, the inclusion of active travel infrastructure and its location close to active travel and public transport networks'</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improved accessibility to essential services?</li> <li>- maintain or enhance healthy lifestyles, including active travel choices?</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Is the site well served by public/active travel/PROW routes, or can provide new routes</li> <li>- is the site located close to public transport routes/stops</li> <li>- is the site located close to local services and facilities</li> </ul>   |

|                  |   |   |   |  |
|------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>10</b></p> | <p><b>Climate Change</b></p>                  | <p><i>Ensure all development adopts appropriate adaption and mitigation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climatic change and reduce the risk of flooding.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promote the development of sustainable buildings that can adapt to changing temperatures (i.e. climate resilient)?</li> <li>- encourage the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in developments?</li> <li>-leave room for habitat adjustment and coastal and fluvial waters?</li> <li>- avoid locating highly vulnerable development in flood risk areas?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- site capacity sufficient to allow climate change adaption measures such as GI for species/habitat migration</li> <li>- Is the proposed use consistent with the TAN 15 precautionary approach in areas of known flood risk and/or NRW's Flood Map for Planning? Has an FCA been submitted? If so, is it acceptable?</li> <li>- What is the proximity of the site to the public transport network – links to objective 8.</li> <li>- Is there potential to incorporate renewable/low carbon energy provision – this will mainly be in design/building control considerations and therefore insufficient detail to assess at this stage unless specific measure for whole site, such as District Heating Network.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>11</b></p> | <p><b>Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</b></p> | <p><i>Facilitate the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources in appropriate locations</i></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facilitate the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources in appropriate locations.</li> <li>- encourage the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in developments?</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the submission propose renewable energy or low carbon development in appropriate location which does not conflict with constraints/other allocations.</li> </ul> <p>N.B. An assessment will be specific for renewable/low carbon candidate site proposals – for all others assess as 0, unless a district Heat network/solar farm is proposed as part of a development.</p>  |

|    |                                   |  |  |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 12 | <b>Waste</b>                      | <i>Encourage the circular economy, manage waste in a sustainable manner.</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promote the circular economy?</li> <li>- encourage the development of an integrated network of waste management facilities both within Swansea and regionally in order to adequately and sustainably manage waste?</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- will the proposal contribute to the management of waste in a sustainable manner, including recycling and composting.</li> </ul> <p>Note:<br/>Depending on stage of assessment and level of detail submitted, most sites will be assessed “?” uncertain effects unless proposal is for a specific waste management facility, due to fact that objective relates to impact of development on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reduction of household waste - this cannot be assessed until detailed development stage.</li> <li>- effects on waste facilities network is only applicable to submission of proposals for waste facilities/infrastructure - Site Waste Management Plans will set out how waste management is integrated into development, both during development and after e.g. bin locations etc. This is detailed information available at application stage</li> <li>- Will the development require extensive soil excavation/levelling etc that can be reused on site</li> </ul> |
| 13 | <b>Managing Natural Resources</b> | <i>Ensure natural resources are protected and/or safeguarded and where their use is necessary, they are used sustainably to provide an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-avoid the sterilisation of known reserves?</li> <li>-minimise consumption of primary aggregates where appropriate?</li> <li>safeguard known resources</li> <li>- safeguard infrastructure in support of the movement and storage of mineral resources</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Will the site sterilise safeguarded mineral reserves.</li> <li>-Will the site contribute to the regional apportionment of mineral reserves.</li> <li>- safeguard/provide infrastructure in support of the movement and storage of mineral resources.</li> </ul>   |

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|----|--|--|--|---|
| 14 | <b>Historic and Cultural Heritage (including Welsh language)</b> | <i>'Protect and enhance the quality of the historic and cultural environment and assets, including the use of the Welsh language as an important element of the social and cultural fabric of the County'.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical or cultural interest (including conservation areas, Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes, listed buildings and Ancient Monuments)?</li> <li>- promote and enhance the Welsh language in the WLSA and throughout the County?</li> </ul> | <p>The impact on cultural/built heritage designations and their settings. Site distance from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-conservation areas</li> <li>-historic parks, gardens&amp; their settings,</li> <li>-historic landscapes,</li> <li>-listed buildings</li> <li>-ancient monuments</li> <li>- archaeological resources</li> </ul> <p>Is the site within a designated Welsh Language Sensitive Areas (WLSA)</p> |
| 15 | <b>Landscape</b>   | <i>Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape. Ensure the protected landscape of the Gower AONB is conserved and enhanced.</i>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-maintain and enhance the quality of the landscape and townscape?</li> <li>-protect and enhance seascape?</li> <li>-protect designated landscapes?</li> <li>-promote high quality design and layout in new developments, embodying Placemaking principles and GI?</li> </ul>                        | <p>Is the site within, or in the setting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gower AONB</li> <li>- a designated SLA</li> <li>- a designated green wedge</li> <li>- Historic Landscape</li> <li>- the Heritage Coast</li> </ul> <p>Impact on visual amenity and key views</p> <p>Will the proposal impact on Dark Skies designation</p>   |

**Table 4.5: Draft ISA Objectives, Decision Aiding Questions and Indicators**

|          | <b>ISA Objective Topic</b>           | <b>Draft ISA Objective</b>   | <b>Draft Decision Aiding Questions for ISA of RLDP</b><br>Will the LDP ....?   | <b>Draft Indicators</b>   |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b> | <i>'Maintain and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity resources, including protected habitats and species; enhance green infrastructure provision'.</i>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-help achieve nature recovery?</li> <li>-help improve habitat connectivity and prevent damage and fragmentation?</li> <li>-protect designated species and habitats?</li> <li>- safeguard carbon sink soils</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The number of planning applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites contrary to the policy framework.</li> <li>-The number of planning applications permitted on locally designated sites contrary to the policy framework.</li> <li>- The number of applications permitted on regionally designated geodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework.</li> </ul> <p>[N.B. If data becomes available during production of RLDP, consider indicators on: species/habitat loss and or restoration/creation; and the amount of species/habitat enhancements achieved via planning consents.]</p> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Housing and Placemaking</b>       | <i>'Enable people to meet their housing requirements by providing sufficient good quality and affordable housing in sustainable locations, which deliver the principles of Placemaking'.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-provide a range of housing across the County for all sectors of the population to ensure people's housing requirements are met, including gypsies, older people, low cost housing and students;</li> <li>-allocate sufficient land to provide the quantity of housing and identified in the Housing Market Needs Assessments?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual dwelling completions (in-line with the Development Plans Manual methodology for monitoring delivery).</li> <li>- Annual dwelling completions for affordable housing</li> <li>- HMO concentrations</li> <li>- Gypsy &amp; Traveller accommodation provision in-line with the RLDP policy framework.</li> </ul>   |

|   |                                      |  |  |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 3 | <b>Equality and Social Exclusion</b> | <i>'Encourage an inclusive society by tackling social exclusion, promote equality of opportunity, reduce socio-economic disadvantage and promote cohesive communities'</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-help to reduce poverty and social exclusion?</li> <li>-help to promote the needs of all members of society?</li> <li>-seek to promote and protect the Welsh Language?</li> <li>-improve access to employment, particularly by means other than the private car?</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked</li> <li>- Worklessness rate (working age)</li> </ul>   |
| 4 | <b>Economic Growth</b>               | <i>'Diversify and strengthen the county's economy, increase the number of employment opportunities and improve education and skill levels while supporting the role of the County in the City Bay Region and NGA.'</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-facilitate business development and enhance competitiveness?</li> <li>-support job creation across a wide variety of sectors for all sections of the populations?</li> <li>-support new rural businesses and the expansion of existing rural business in appropriate locations?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning applications permitted for employment uses (B uses), measured in floorspace (ha), on sites allocated for mixed/employment uses in the RLDP</li> <li>- Indicator monitoring Class B job growth in line with the strategy</li> </ul> |
| 5 | <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>          | <i>'Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health, well-being and community safety and deliver Placemaking principles.'</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-maintain or enhance healthy lifestyles, including active travel choices?</li> <li>-provide GI and improve accessible natural green spaces for all communities?</li> <li>-improved accessibility to essential services?</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Length of new Active Travel Routes Created</li> <li>- Major new residential developments located within 400m of a public transport stop</li> </ul>  |



|   |                                  |   |   |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 6 | <b>Protecting Soil Resources</b> | <i>Ensure land is used sustainably by protecting BMV agricultural land and carbon rich soil.</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-protect the best and most versatile agricultural land from development?</li> <li>-maximise the use of previously developed land?</li> <li>-offset soil carbon loss?</li> <li>-reduce the amount of soil loss to impermeable developments (e.g. through SUDS)?</li> <li>-reduce risk from contaminated land and result in an increase in its remediation?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of planning applications permitted for development on BMV grade agricultural land contrary to the policy framework.</li> </ul>              |
| 7 | <b>Water</b>                     | <i>'Protect and enhance the quality of inland and coastal water environments, and the quantity and quality of water resources.'</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-help improve the quality of coastal bathing waters?</li> <li>-protect the quality and quantity of all controlled waters?</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of water bodies at excellent, good, moderate and poor condition compared to previous data release.</li> </ul>                               |
| 8 | <b>Air</b>                       | <i>'Reduce emissions and concentrations of harmful atmospheric pollutants and reduce exposure to poor air quality.'</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will there be any deterioration of air quality as a result of the development?</li> <li>- Will the development lead to a greater risk of exposure to poor air quality?</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of planning applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the policy framework.</li> </ul>   |
| 9 | <b>Air</b>                       | <i>'Reduce the need to travel through the design of new development, the inclusion of active travel infrastructure and its location close to active travel and public transport networks'</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facilitate the promotion of active travel and public transport via new networks</li> <li>- require the incorporation of active travel infrastructure as part of new development</li> <li>- locate new development close to existing services and facilities</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Length of new Active Travel Routes created</li> <li>- Major new residential developments located within 400m of a public transport stop</li> </ul> |

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|----|--|--|--|---|
| 10 | <b>Climate Change</b>                  | <i>Ensure all development adopts appropriate adaption and mitigation measures to reduce and respond to the impacts of climatic change and reduce the risk of flooding.</i>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promote the development of sustainable buildings that can adapt to changing temperatures (i.e. climate resilient)?</li> <li>- encourage the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in developments?</li> <li>-leave room for habitat adjustment and coastal and fluvial waters?</li> </ul> | Number of planning applications permitted in areas subject to most significant flood risk (wording to be confirmed subject to publication of revised TAN 15).   |
| 11 | <b>Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</b> | <i>Facilitate the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources in appropriate locations</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facilitate the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources in appropriate locations.</li> <li>- encourage the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies in developments?</li> </ul>  | - Number of planning applications for renewable energy and capacity permitted (electricity and heat) - wording to be confirmed following the Renewable Energy Assessment.   |
| 12 | <b>Waste</b>                           | <i>Encourage the circular economy, manage waste in a sustainable manner.</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promote the circular economy?</li> <li>- encourage the development of an integrated network of waste management facilities both within Swansea and regionally in order to adequately and sustainably manage waste?</li> </ul>   | - The waste policies within the LDP will be reviewed to ensure they reflect the latest WPMR for the South West Wales region and an appropriately worded indicator will be prepared based on the final policy framework.   |
| 13 | <b>Managing Natural Resources</b>      | <i>Ensure natural resources are protected and/or safeguarded and where their use is necessary, they are used sustainably to provide an adequate supply of minerals and materials for construction.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-avoid the sterilisation of known reserves?</li> <li>-minimise consumption of primary aggregates where appropriate?</li> <li>-safeguard known resources</li> <li>- safeguard infrastructure in support of the movement and storage of mineral resources</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indicators to be reviewed during RLDP production with regard to any potential mineral allocations/workings.</li> <li>- Number of planning applications permitted within safeguarded mineral areas contrary to the policy framework.</li> </ul> |

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|----|--|--|---|---|
| 14 | <b>Historic and Cultural Heritage (including Welsh language)</b> | <i>'Protect and enhance the quality of the historic and cultural environment and assets, including the use of the Welsh language as an important element of the social and cultural fabric of the County'.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protect or enhance sites, features or areas of historical or cultural interest (including conservation areas, Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes, listed buildings and Ancient Monuments)?</li> <li>- promote and enhance the Welsh language in the WLSA and throughout the County?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of planning applications within the WLSA that trigger the thresholds contained in the HC 3 policy, that are permitted contrary to the policy framework.</li> <li>- Number of applications permitted with an outstanding objection from a statutory heritage advisory body, considered to adversely affect Scheduled Ancient Monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, listed buildings or conservation areas.</li> </ul>  |
| 15 | <b>Landscape</b>   | <i>Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape. Ensure the nationally protected landscape of the Gower AONB is conserved and enhanced.</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-maintain and enhance the quality of the landscape and townscape?</li> <li>-protect and enhance seascape?</li> <li>-protect designated landscapes?</li> <li>-promote high quality design and layout in new developments, embodying Placemaking principles and GI infrastructure?</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indicators to be reviewed during RLDP production to potentially identify an appropriately worded indicator that will monitor loss of GI network (to be reviewed following GI assessment).</li> <li>- Number of planning applications permitted within the Gower AONB contrary to the policy framework.</li> <li>-Number of planning applications permitted within the Special Landscape Areas contrary to the policy framework.</li> <li>- Number of planning applications permitted for development in the green wedge contrary to the policy framework.</li> </ul> |

## CHAPTER 5: NEXT STEPS

### 5.1 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

- 5.1.1 Consultation will take place with the statutory Consultation Bodies in compliance with SEA Regulations 12(5) and 13. The Consultation Bodies are asked for comments on the content of the draft Scoping Report, specifically:
- whether it meet the SEA Regulations;
  - covers all the necessary information with regard to the RLDP process,
  - whether any baseline data has been missed out, and
  - whether the draft ISA Framework covers key issues identified.
- 5.1.2 Consultation will also take place with neighbouring authorities, particularly as internationally designated sites cross local authority boundaries and the draft report will be made available to members of the public.
- 5.1.3 The SEA Regulations (13(3)(a)) set out a 28 day statutory consultation period, however the consultation period for the draft Scoping Report will run until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.
- 5.1.4 All comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the Scoping Report where relevant. As the Scoping Report contains baseline evidence which, by its very nature is

continually subject to change, the evidence base will constantly be under review in the preparation of the RLDP.

### 5.2 FUTURE STAGES

- 5.2.1 The draft RLDP Vision and Objectives, Spatial Strategy, and Growth Options will be contained within a draft Preferred Strategy. The elements of the draft Preferred Strategy will be subject to assessment via the ISA Framework and a draft ISA Report (which incorporates the Environmental Report for SA Regulation 12(1) purposes) will be published alongside the Preferred Strategy to comply with SA Regulation 13(3).
- 5.2.2 Following public consultation, the iterative process of the ISA process means that any amendments to the Preferred Strategy will be subject to further assessment via the ISA Framework prior to progression to the Deposit Plan, when a future ISA Report will be published, detailing the detailed policies of the RLDP.
- 5.2.3 All above stages will include consideration of HIA, Welsh land assessment, equalities impact assessments, etc.

## APPENDIX 1: SEA DETERMINATION OPINION OF CONSULTATION BODIES AND NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (SEA REG 9(1))

CADW

From: [REDACTED]@gov.wales <[REDACTED]@gov.wales>

Sent: 14 August 2023 15:36

To: [REDACTED]@swansea.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Asesiad Amgylcheddol Strategol (AAS) ac Arfarniad Cynladwyedd (AC) o Gynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd Abertawe / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Swansea Replacement Local Development Plan

I have spoken to our Senior Historic Environment Planning Officer who has said he has read the Statement of Reasons and concur with its conclusions that the Swansea Replacement Local Development Plan is considered likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (SA) will need to be prepared.

Kind regards

NRW

From: SW Planning <swplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 August 2023 10:24

To: Planning Services <Planning.Department@swansea.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Swansea LDP - Swansea rLDP (SEA and SA) - NRW Response NRW:01260997 Thank you for your emails regarding the SEA and SA of the Swansea RLDP.

We agree with the determination opinion.

Kind Regards  
[REDACTED]

Tim Cynllunio Datblygu / Development Planning Team  
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

### **Penderfyniad o dan Atodlen 1 o Effeithiau ar yr Amgylchedd Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd Abertawe**

Datganiad o Resymau pam y penderfynwyd y bydd Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd (CDLIN) Abertawe'n cael Effeithiau Amgylcheddol Sylweddol

### **Cyflwyniad**

1.0 O dan ddarpariaethau Rheoliad 9 (1) Rheoliadau Asesiadau Amgylcheddol o Gynlluniau a Rhaglenni (Cymru) 2004 (y Rheoliadau) rhaid i'r cyngor, fel yr awdurdod cyfrifol, benderfynu a yw'r CDLIN yn debygol o gael effeithiau amgylcheddol sylweddol ai peidio a bod yn destun Asesiad Amgylcheddol Strategol (AAS) o ganlyniad.

1.1 Mae'r datganiad hwn yn nodi'r rhesymau pam y penderfynodd y cyngor y bydd y CDLIN yn cael effeithiau amgylcheddol sylweddol. Wrth wneud penderfyniad o'r

fath, roedd y cyngor yn ystyried y Rheoliadau yn ogystal â'r canlynol:

- 'Llawlyfr Cynlluniau Datblygu, Argraffiad 3, 2020, Llywodraeth Cymru;
- Cynigion 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' gan ODPM, Gweithrediaeth yr Alban, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru ac Adran yr Amgylchedd Gogledd Iwerddon i roi arweiniad ymarferol ar gymhwyso Cyfarwyddeb 2001/42/EC ar asesu effeithiau rhai cynlluniau a rhaglenni ar yr amgylchedd. (Medi 2005) ODPM.

### **Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Newydd.**

2.0 Mae Asesiad Amgylcheddol Strategol (AAS) yn orfodol ar gyfer pob cynllun datblygu defnydd tir (Rheoliad 5(2)) a lle mae cynhyrchu ffurfiol yn dechrau ar ôl mis Gorffennaf 2004 (Rheoliad 5(4)). Gan fod AAS yn ofyniad gorfodol ar gyfer CDLlau, mae'n dilyn felly y bernir bod y CDLIN yn arwain at effeithiau amgylcheddol sylweddol. Serch hynny, er mwyn cydymffurfio â'r Rheoliadau, bydd y cyngor yn gwneud penderfyniad ffurfiol.

2.1 Cyn gwneud penderfyniad, rhaid i'r cyngor ystyried Atodlen 1 paragraff 1 o'r Rheoliadau. Mae hyn yn nodi'r meini prawf ar gyfer pennu'r effeithiau sylweddol tebygol ar yr amgylchedd, gan gynnwys ystyried effeithiau tebygol y cynllun sy'n cael ei lunio, nodweddion yr effeithiau a'r ardal sy'n debygol o gael ei heffeithio. Nodir sut mae'r CDLIN yn ymwneud ag Atodlen 1 nodweddion paragraff 1 a-d isod:

- (a): *i ba raddau y mae'r cynllun neu raglen yn gosod fframwaith ar gyfer prosiectau a gweithgareddau eraill, naill ai o ran lleoliad, natur, maint ac amodau gweithredu neu drwy ddyrannu adnoddau;* Bydd y CDLIN yn nodi polisiau a chynigion y cyngor ar gyfer datblygu a defnyddio tir yn Abertawe yn y dyfodol. Mae ganddo rôl allweddol i'w chwarae wrth sicrhau bod datblygiadau newydd yn fwy abl i wrthsefyll newid yn yr hinsawdd, datgarboneiddio'r gymdeithas, a diogelu a gwella'r amgylchedd naturiol. Mae'r ACLI (Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol) yn aelod o nifer o weithgorau cynllunio rhanbarthol trawsffiniol a bydd yn cydweithio ac yn ymgynghori ag awdurdodau cyfagos ac ar sail ranbarthol.
- (b): *i ba raddau y mae'r cynllun neu raglen yn dylanwadu ar gynlluniau a rhaglenni eraill gan gynnwys y rhai sydd mewn hierarchaeth;* Bydd y CDLIN yn ystyried rheoliadau, cynlluniau a rhaglenni rhyngwladol, cenedlaethol, rhanbarthol a lleol presennol ac yn cael ei ddylanwadu ganddynt, gan gynnwys Cymru'r Dyfodol: y cynllun datblygu cenedlaethol a dogfennau a chyngor polisi cynllunio cenedlaethol ar lefel leol. Bydd yn helpu i hwyluso gweithrediad strategaethau corfforaethol drwy drosi eu polisiau a'u cynigion i'r fframwaith cynllunio defnydd tir ar gyfer y sir. Rhaid i'r CDLIN hefyd ystyried effaith y CDLIN ar awdurdodau lleol cyfagos a bod yr ACLI yn aelod o nifer o weithgorau rhanbarthol i sefydlu'r sylfaen dystiolaeth a dylanwadu ar bolisiau newydd.

Bydd y CDLI hefyd yn gosod fframwaith ar gyfer dogfennau lefel is, megis Canllawiau Cynllunio Atodol (CCA) y gall y cyngor eu mabwysiadu i roi rhagor o fanylion mewn polisiau a chynigion sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn y CDLIN.

- (c): *pa mor berthnasol yw'r cynllun neu raglen ar gyfer integreiddio ystyriaethau amgylcheddol yn benodol gyda'r bwriad o hybu datblygu cynaliadwy*; Bydd y CDLI yn hyrwyddo datblygu cynaliadwy yn unol â Deddf Cynllunio a Phrynu Gorfodol 2004. Cyflawnir hyn drwy fynd i'r afael â materion sy'n ymwneud â diogelu'r amgylchedd, hwyluso adfywio a chefnogi cynllunio cymunedol. Bydd y CDLIN yn ceisio sicrhau, er enghraifft, bod digon o dir ar gael ar gyfer yr holl anghenion datblygu a bod y dyraniadau mewn safleoedd da o ran dyheadau amgylcheddol, cymdeithasol ac economaidd a bod y cyngor yn gwarchod ac yn gwella bioamrywiaeth.
- (ch): *y problemau amgylcheddol sy'n berthnasol i'r cynllun neu'r rhaglen*; Bydd y CDLIN yn ceisio integreiddio defnydd tir gyda'r angen i ddiogelu'r adnoddau treftadaeth naturiol sylweddol o fewn y sir. Bydd y CDLI yn ceisio ystyried unrhyw faterion amgylcheddol, megis llygredd aer, golau a sain, perygl llifogydd a chanlyniadau newid yn yr hinsawdd. Bydd y CDLI yn darparu'r fframwaith polisi i gefnogi datblygu cynaliadwy.
- (d): *pa mor berthnasol yw'r cynllun neu'r rhaglen ar gyfer gweithredu deddfwriaeth y Gymuned ar yr*

*amgylchedd*: Cadwodd Deddf yr Undeb Ewropeaidd (Y Cytundeb Ymadael) 2018 gyfraith yr UE a pharhaodd i fod yn berthnasol mewn cyfraith ddomestig ar ôl Brexit a rhaid i'r CDLIN gydymffurfio â deddfwriaeth berthnasol nes iddo gael ei dirymu gan y Llywodraeth.

2.2 At hynny, mae AAS yn orfodol ar gyfer pob cynllun datblygu defnydd tir (Rheoliad 5(2)) a phan fydd cynhyrchu ffurfiol yn dechrau ar ôl Gorffennaf 2004 (Rheoliad 5(4)). Gan fod AAS yn ofniad gorfodol ar gyfer cynlluniau datblygu defnydd tir, mae'n dilyn y bernir bod y CDLIN yn arwain at effeithiau amgylcheddol sylweddol.

### **Penderfyniad**

3.0 Yn dilyn ymgynghoriad â'r cyrff ymgynghori (Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a Cadw) ym mis Gorffennaf/Awst 2023, derbyniodd pob parti'r gofyniad i ymgymryd ag AAS o'r CDLIN gan yr ystyrir bod y ddogfen yn debygol o gael effeithiau amgylcheddol sylweddol.

### **Determination under Schedule 1 of the Effects on the Environment of the Swansea Replacement Local Development Plan**

Statement of Reasons why it has been determined that the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) for Swansea will have Significant Environmental Effects

## Introduction

1.0 Under the provisions of Regulation 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) the Council, as the responsible authority, must determine whether or not the RLDP is likely to have significant environmental effects and thus be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.1 This statement sets out the reasons why the Council determined that the RLDP will have significant environmental effects. In making such a determination the Council had regard to the Regulations as well as:

- 'Development Plans Manual, Ed 3, 2020, Welsh Government;
- 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' Proposals by ODPM, the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment for practical guidance on applying Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. (Sept. 2005) ODPM.

### **The Replacement Local Development Plan.**

2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is mandatory for all land use development plans (Regulation 5(2)) and where formal production begins after July 2004 (Regulation 5(4)). Since SEA is a mandatory requirement for LDPs, it follows that the RLDP is deemed to have significant environmental effects. Nevertheless, in order

to comply with the Regulations, the Council is undertaking a formal determination.

2.1 Before undertaking a determination the Council must consider Schedule 1 paragraph 1 of the Regulations. This sets out criteria for determining the likely significant of effects on the environment, including consideration of the likely impacts of the plan that is being produced, the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected. How the RLDP relates to Schedule 1 paragraph 1 characteristics a-e is set out below:

- (a): *the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources:* The RLDP will set out the Councils policies and proposals for the future development and use of land within Swansea. It has a key role to play in making new development resilient to climate change, decarbonising society, and protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The LPA (Local Planning Authority) is a member of a number of cross-boundary regional planning working groups and will collaborate and consult with neighbouring authorities and on a regional basis.
- (b): *the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy:* The RLDP will take account of, and be influenced by, existing international, national, regional and local regulations, plans and programmes, including Future Wales: the national development plan



and national planning policy documents and advice at a local level. It will help to facilitate the implementation of corporate strategies by translating their policies and proposals into the land use planning framework for the County.

The RLDP must also consider the impact of the RLDP on neighbouring local authorities and the LPA is a member of a number of regional working groups to establish the evidence base and influence emerging policies.

The RLDP will also set a framework for lower tier documents, such as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) which may be adopted by the Council to provide further detail to policies and proposals contained within the RLDP.

- (c): *the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.* The LDP will promote sustainable development in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This will be achieved by addressing issues relating to the protection of the environment, facilitation of regeneration and supporting community planning. The RLDP will aim to ensure, for example, that sufficient land is available for all development needs and that the allocations are well located in terms of environmental, social and economic aspirations and that the Council protects and enhances biodiversity.

- (d): *environmental problems relevant to the plans or programmes:* The RLDP will seek to integrate land use with the need to protect the considerable natural heritage resources within the County. The LDP will aim to take account of any environmental issues, such as air, light and sound pollution, flood risk and the consequences of climate change. The LDP will provide the policy framework to support sustainable development.
- (e): *The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment:* The European Union (withdrawal) Act 2018 retained EU law and continued to apply in domestic law post-Brexit and the RLDP must comply with relevant legislation until revoked by the Government.

2.2 Furthermore, SEA is mandatory for all land use development plans (Regulation 5(2)) and where formal production begins after July 2004 (Regulation 5(4)). Since SEA is a mandatory requirement for land use development plans, it follows that the RLDP is deemed to have significant environmental effects.

### **Draft Determination**

3.0 Following consultation with the consultation bodies (Natural Resources Wales and Cadw) in July/August 2023, all parties accepted the requirement to undertake an SEA of the RLDP as the document is considered likely to have significant environmental effects.

## **APPENDIX 2: PLAN, POLICY AND PROGRAMME REVIEW (SEA Regs Schedule 2 (Regulation12(3)))**

TASK A2 of the ISA process, as set out in Table 1.2 of the draft Scoping Report is to identify and review other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will inform the plan. The main purpose of the review is to identify relevant environmental protection objectives and wider policy requirements within relevant plan, policy and programme documents that should be taken account of within (or otherwise inform) the ISA and RLDP.

DRAFT

| SEA Topic                                  |                      | Plan/Policy /Programme  | Purpose  |
|--|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>BIODIVERSITY, FAUNA, FLORA AND SOIL</b> | <b>International</b> | The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971), AEWA (1995) Convention on the Agreement on the Conservation of African – Eurasian Migratory Water birds (The Bonn Convention), UNESCO (1973) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, United Nations (1992) The Rio Convention on Biodiversity, United Nations (2001) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Convention on Migratory Species 1979 (UNEP), Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Draft) | <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna:</b><br>These documents provide an international framework to protect sites designated at the international level for reasons of biodiversity conservation and important species from harm.<br><b>Soil &amp; Land:</b><br>This convention aims to reduce the production and use of persistent organic pollutants. |
|  | <b>European</b>      | Council of Europe (1981) Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats - The Bern Convention, EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC/ on the conservation of wild birds), EU Habitats Directive (EU Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (As amended by 97/62/EC)).  | <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna:</b><br>These documents provide a European framework to protect sites designated at the European level for reasons of biodiversity conservation and important species from harm.  |
|  | <b>National (UK)</b> | The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework, The Protection of Badgers Act 1992, The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) and amendments (2012), The Invasive and Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for GB, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010,  | <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna:</b><br>These documents provide a framework at the UK level to provide protection for species and habitats. <b>Soil:</b> These documents provide a framework at the UK level to identify and remediate contaminated land.   |

|                                  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>National (Wales)</b>          | Planning (Wales) Act 2015; Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Welsh National Marine Plan 2019; National Resources Policy 2017; National Nature Recovery Action Plan 2020-21; Future Wales: The National Plan 2021; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; LANDMAP; TAN 5 Nature conservation and Planning 2009; TAN 10 Tree Preservation Orders 1997; TAN 12 Design 2016; The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR 2020); Wales Predictive Agricultural Land Map 2 2022; Tree Cover in Wales' Towns and Cities, NRW 2016; Woodlands for Wales The Welsh Governments Strategy for Woodlands and Trees 2018; 2018-19 Soil Policy Evidence Programme 'Assessment of Welsh Soil Issues in Context' (2019, WG and ADAS) | <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna:</b><br>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to protect biodiversity interests, including designated sites and important species.<br><b>Soil:</b><br>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the avoidance and remediation of contaminated land and the creation of a geological profile of Wales. |
| <b>Regional</b>                  | South West Wales Area Statement 2017, Marine Area Statement, River Basin Management Plan; The Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries European Marine Site Management Plan   | Documents provide baseline environmental evidence and data and set policies and management principles.   |
| <b>Local</b>                     | Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005; Climate Change Charter in 2020; The Swansea Local Well-being Plan 2023-28; Assessment of Local Wellbeing 2022; Swansea Ecosystem Resilience Report 2022; Climate and Nature Emergency 2019; Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife Green Infrastructure Strategy 2019; Climate Change and Nature Strategy 2022-2030;   | <b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna:</b><br>The local biodiversity action plan and duty plans aim to map/quantify biodiversity and identify its importance for the Swansea area.  |
| <b>Consideration in the RLDP</b> |   |  |

**Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna and Soil:**

The RLDP must enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act S6 Duty. The RLDP will have to conform to national legislation, Future Wales, PPW and TANs in with regard to policies and advice in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. The County has many statutorily designated ecological sites and national legislation requires they are protected. The RLDP must reflect this requirement, similarly in relation to protected habitats and species. The RLDP will have to set out policies, proposals, advice and guidance for the avoidance of detrimental impacts on biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems, including when allocating sites for development. Measures for enhancement and/or mitigation must also be set out. Forthcoming LNRAP and S6 Plans must be considered. In accordance with national planning policy, the RLDP should set out policies for the protection of BMV agricultural land, remediation of contaminated land and the protection of carbon rich soils. The Council's Climate Change and Nature Strategy states 'LDP policy reviewed to protect land soils and habitats rich in carbon' as part of the action plan to achieve net zero carbon by an organisation by 2030. The interrelating issues of climate change and adaptation, biodiversity, ecosystem reliance, GI, health and wellbeing, air quality, soils, food production, tranquillity, leisure and recreation and pressures for development must be considered.

| <b>SEA Topic</b>                                    |                         | <b>Plan/Policy /Programme</b>   | <b>Purpose</b>  |
|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>POPULATION (INCLUDING HOUSING AND EDUCATION)</b> | <b>International</b>    | United Nations (2016) Habitat III (Quinto), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (1998) The Aarhus Convention.   | These documents provide an international framework for promoting sustainable development within all decision making. National and local developments should take sustainability into account and openly share relevant information to the public. |
|   | <b>European</b>         |   |   |
|   | <b>National (UK)</b>    | Equality Act 2010   | The Act protects from discrimination or unfair treatment on the basis of certain personal characteristics.  |
|   | <b>National (Wales)</b> | Planning (Wales) Act 2015; Wellbeing of Future Generations 2015; Environment (Wales) Act 2016; The Housing (Wales) Act 2014; Increasing the Supply of Affordable Homes Through Planning 2019; Living Longer Living Better 2013-2023; Future Wales: The National Plan 2021; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; TAN 2 Planning and Affordable Housing 2006; TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities 2010; TAN 12: Design 2016; TAN 20 Planning and the Welsh Language 2017; Placemaking Wales Charter 2020; | These policies are informed by International, European and UK policies and broadly focus on progressive agendas for increasing economic growth and enhancing social wellbeing in Wales.   |
|   | <b>Regional</b>         |   |   |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Local</b></p>  | <p>Swansea Well Being Assessment 2022; Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022; Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026; Swansea Local Housing Strategy 2015-2020; Ageing Well and Strategy for Older People Action Plan 2015-2019; LHMA; Abertawe 2023 Made in Swansea, 2023</p> | <p>Local policies regarding socio-economic issues broadly address the following themes: improving quality of life for all; Protecting and enhancing the environment; Increasing prosperity; Delivering safer and more inclusive communities; Achieving a healthier County Borough; and, Ensure good quality housing.. <b>Housing:</b> The Council’s strategic housing priorities are set out in its Local Housing Strategy, which are: Increasing the supply of good quality affordable homes; Addressing the needs of specific groups. Council housing strategies seek to increase the supply of suitable and affordable accommodation with a target delivery of 5,000 dwellings between 2021 and 2031, 1,000 of which will be new Council homes delivered via the More Homes Programme.</p> |
| <p><b>Consideration in the RLDP</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p>The RLDP must conform with Future Wales spatial and land use strategy. The Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area - the focus in the region for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure and overall the main area for growth and investment in the region. PPW and TANs set out policies and advice ensuring housing needs are met and the RLDP must ensure sufficient land is available to meet the evidenced housing requirements. It must contain policies to encourage the delivery of all types of tenure, including affordable housing and gypsy and travellers sites (if required).<br/>                 The RLDP must help facilitate the local education strategy ‘Abertawe 2023.’<br/>                 The interrelating issues of housing provision, transport and travel, the need for resources, employment, education, GI, health and wellbeing, air quality, biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, climate change and adaptation, soils, food production, tranquillity, leisure and recreation and pressures for development must be considered.</p> |  |   |

| SEA Topic  | Plan/Policy /Programme  | Purpose  |  |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| <b>ECONOMY</b>   | <b>International</b>    |  |  |
|  | <b>EU</b>               |  |  |
|  | <b>National (UK)</b>    | The Growth Plan 2022   | The Plan makes growth the central economic mission of the UK Government. |
|  | <b>National (Wales)</b> | Planning (Wales) Act 2015; Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015; Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Public Health (Wales) Act 2017; Future Wales: The National Plan 2021; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; TAN 4: Retail and Commercial Development 2016; TAN 13: Tourism 1997; TAN 23: Economic Development 2014; Welsh Government Smarter Working: a remote working strategy for Wales 2022; |  |
|  | <b>Regional</b>         | South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan; Swansea Bay City Deal; Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013 – 2030  |  |
|  | <b>Local</b>            | Swansea Well Being Assessment 2022; Swansea PSB Well Being Plan 2023; Swansea STEAM Report 2019; Visitor Survey 2022; tourism trade survey 2022; City Centre Hotel Demand Study 2022; Swansea city Centre Repurposing Strategy; Beyond Bricks and Mortar; Swansea Central Area Regeneration Framework 2016.  |  |
| <b>Consideration in the RLDP</b>   |                         |  |  |
| <p>Future Wales sets out the spatial land use strategy, including the Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area - the focus in the region for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure and overall the main area for growth and investment in the region. Future Wales provides an indicative outline of the NGA and the RLDP must include policies reflecting the role and purpose of the NGA. Similarly, the RLDP must reflect and help facilitate The City Deal Programme and Projects, and the Swansea city Centre Repurposing Strategy. The RLDP can facilitate new hotel development within the city centre, SA1 and copperworks area.</p> <p>The RLDP must contain policies to support a sustainable rural economy</p> <p>The interrelating issues of housing provision, transport and travel, resource need, employment, education, GI, health and wellbeing, equalities, air quality, biodiversity, ecosystem resilience, climate change and adaptation, soils, food production, tranquillity, leisure and recreation and pressures for development must be considered.</p> |                         |  |  |



| SEA Topic                           | Plan/Policy /Programme  | Purpose   |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>HUMAN HEALTH (INCLUDING AIR)</b> | <b>International</b>    | UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; WHO Guidelines for Community Noise 1999, WHO Air Quality Guidelines, United Nations (1979) Geneva Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution.   | <b>Human Health:</b><br>These documents provide an international framework which recognises the importance of the preservation and protection of human health when undertaking development activities. <b>Air:</b> These guidelines provide a scientific assessment of the health impacts of Air Pollution and provides guidelines applicable worldwide for various pollutants. |
|                                     | <b>European</b>         | EU New Air Quality Framework Directive  |   |
|                                     | <b>National (UK)</b>    | The Health and Social Care Act (2012), The Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) as amended, UK's Air Quality Action Plan 2016, The Environment Act (1995)   | <b>Human Health:</b> These documents provide a framework at the UK level to reduce health inequalities and make improvements to public health while promoting active lifestyles. <b>Air:</b> These documents provide a framework at the UK level to implement objectives for the reduction of air pollution.  |
|                                     | <b>National (Wales)</b> | A Healthier Wales 2021; Planning (Wales) Act 2015; Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015; Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Public Health (Wales) Act 2017; Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014; The Environmental Noise (Wales) regulations 2006; Wales Active Travel Strategy 2021; Wales Air Quality Regs 2002; The Clean air Plan for Wales 2020; The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR 2020); Future Wales: The National Plan 2021; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; TAN 11: Noise 1997 (Update 2015); TAN 12 Design 2016; TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space 2009; | <b>Human Health:</b><br>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to improve the physical and mental health of the population.<br><b>Air:</b><br>This document provides a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection and improvement of air quality in accordance with limits set within European legislative.  |
|                                     | <b>Regional</b>         |   |   |

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|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Local</b></p>   | <p>Swansea Well Being Assessment 2022; Swansea PSB Well Being Plan, 2023; Equalities Statistics Review 2020; LHMA's; Swansea Central Area Green Infrastructure Strategy – Regeneration Our city for Wellbeing and Wildlife; Air Quality Action Plan 2004; Updating and Screening Assessment 2015, Progress Report 2022.</p> | <p><b>Human Health:</b><br/>The health policies relevant to Swansea address issues encompassing social inclusion, lifestyle and health and social care.<br/><b>Air:</b><br/>This Air Quality Strategy sets out Swansea’s approach to tackle air quality issues in the area now and in the future.</p> |
| <p><b>Consideration in the RLDP</b></p>   |   |   |
| <p><b>Human Health:</b> The RLDP must conform with Future Wales which sets out the Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area - the focus in the region for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure and overall the main area for growth and investment in the region. The RLDP must accord with the Well being of Future Generations Act and PPW, which seeks to ensure planning decisions support wellbeing. PPW requires that the preparation of LDP’s takes account of the physical and environmental constraints on development of land, including, for example, the level of contamination and stability. Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts which remediation of land contamination might have upon the natural and historic environments. Statutory Regulations address noise issues, as do PPW and TANs. Soundscape must also be addressed. Placemaking ensures health and wellbeing is integrated in all new development. Integrated issues of soundscape and tranquillity, biodiversity, GI, active travel, employment etc will be considered with regard to their impact upon health and wellbeing and equalities.<br/><b>Air:</b> In accordance with national legislation, the RLDP will include policies in relation to air quality, to ensure acceptable levels of Air Quality and control the proximity of communities to developments which may cause unacceptable levels of air quality, or new developments which may have a detrimental impact on air quality.</p> |   |   |

| SEA Topic    |   | Plan/Policy /Programme  | Purpose   |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| <b>WATER</b> | <b>International</b>                      | United Nations (1982) Convention on Law of the Sea,   | The Convention demonstrates the rights and responsibilities of nations for fair use of the world's oceans.  |
|              | <b>European</b>                           | EU Water Framework Directive (2006), Groundwater Directive (1991), The Urban Waste Water Directive (1998), The Drinking Water Directive (2006), The Bathing Waters Directive (2008) Marine Strategy Framework Directive; EU Nitrates Directive  | These documents provide a European framework which seek to protect the quality of the water environment, including through ensuring safe levels for bathing and drinking water and by promoting sustainable urban drainage. |
|              | <b>National (UK or England and Wales)</b> | Flood and Water Management Act (2010), Fisheries 2027: A long-term vision for sustainable fisheries, Defra (2009); Adapting to Coastal Change: Developing a Policy Framework, Defra (2012) Marine Strategy Part 1: UK Initial Assessment and Good Environmental Status, DECC (2010) Marine Energy Action Plan, Department for Transport (2011) National Policy Statement for Ports, Environment Agency (2013) Groundwater Protection Policy and Practice (GP3), HM Government (2003) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017, HM Government (2007) Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2010), HM Government (2009) Flood Risk Regulations, HM Government (2009) The Marine and Coastal Access Act, (2010) Marine Strategy Framework Directive - (2011) UK Marine Policy Statement, | These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding flood risk management and the protection of water and coastal environments.   |

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|---|---|---|
| <p><b>National (Wales)</b></p>  | <p>Environment Wales Act 2016; Water Strategy for Wales 2015; Final Drought Plan 2021 (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water); Final Water Resources Management Plan, 2019 (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water); Our Plan PR19 Business Plan 2020-2025 (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water)</p> | <p>Welsh Government’s long term policy direction for managing Flooding Risk, with the aim of managing water and its associated services in a more sustainable and integrated way</p> <p>Sets out Welsh Government’s and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water’s long term policy direction and business plan, with the aim of managing water supply and demand.</p> <p>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the management of coastal and river areas, marine renewable energies, surface water management and coastal tourism.</p> |
| <p><b>Regional</b></p>  | <p>Shoreline Management Plan 2004; Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies; The Carmarthen Bay &amp; Estuaries European Marine Site Management Plan; Marine Area Statement NRW, South West Wales Area Statement NRW.</p>                          |   |
| <p><b>Local</b></p>   |   |   |
| <p><b>Consideration in RLDP</b></p>   |   |   |
| <p>The RLDP will have to accord with Future Wales, which forms part of the development plan and sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use. The Environment (Wales) Act sets out the “sustainable management of natural resources” (SMNR); using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes the achievement of the objective to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. PPW and TANs set out national planning policy and advice to which the RLDP must accord. PPW requires the RLDP to take water-related issues into account from an early stage in the process of identifying land for development and redevelopment. Allied to this, the Council, as a Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB), has statutory responsibility for determining drainage applications in conjunction with new development. The ecological status and quality of bathing and controlled water bodies must be safeguarded.</p> |   |   |

| SEA Topic |   | Plan/Policy /Programme  | Purpose   |
|-----------|---|---|---|
|           | <b>International</b>                      | Kyoto Protocol to the UN Convention on Climate Change, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations (2009) The Copenhagen Accord, United Nations (2010) Cancun Adaptation Framework, United Nations (2016) Paris Agreement, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context 2017 (UNECE), General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020, Glasgow Climate Pact, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 1992 (UNEP), Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2015, United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2016, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1994 | These documents provide an international framework which identifies the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation action.   |
|           | <b>European</b>                           | EU (2009) Renewable Energy Directive, A Resource Efficient Europe, 2001, National Emissions Ceiling Directive 2007, The Integrated Climate and Energy Package, 2012, Energy Efficiency Directive 2014 2030 Policy Framework for Climate and Energy; EU Flood Directive  | These documents provide a European framework to respond to the global challenge of climate change. Primarily, the minimisation of future climate change through mitigation and the implementation of adaptation measures are key themes.  |
|           | <b>National (UK or England and Wales)</b> | Flood Risk Regulations 2009; Flood and Water Management Act, 2010, UK Ports for the Offshore Wind Industry: Time to Act, DECC (2011); National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure, DECC (2011) UK Renewable Energy Roadmap, DECC (2014) UK National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, The Stern Review: HM Government (2017) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment;   | These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In particular, the Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legally binding target of reducing the UK's GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 compared with 1990 and requires a programme of rolling carbon budgets to be set to achieve this. |

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|---|---|--|
| <b>National (Wales)</b>   | National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2020; Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales; NET Zero Wales and All Wales Plan 2021; Planning (Wales) Act 2015; Future Wales: The National Plan 2021; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; Placemaking Charter Wales; Clean Air Plan for Wales 2020; National Flood and Coastal Erosion risk Management Strategy; Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales - South West Wales Section 2023 | These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level to respond to the need to mitigation and adapt to climate change. The framework focuses on seeking to decarbonise key economic sectors, encouraging low carbon energy generation and enhancing the reliance of the natural environment. |
| <b>Regional</b>   | Western Wales River Basin Flood Management Plan, NRW 2015; Shoreline Management Plan 2004; Draft Flood Risk Management Plan for Wales - South West Wales Section 2023   |  |
| <b>Local</b>  | Preliminary Flood risk Assessment 2011; Preliminary Flood risk Assessment Addendum 2017; Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013; Flood Risk Management Plan 2015; Climate and Nature Emergency Declaration 2019; Swansea Climate Change Charter 2020; Climate change and Nature Strategy 2022-2030.  | The Flood Risk Management Plan provides an overview of the flood risk in the County, highlighting the areas most at risk from surface water flooding and ordinary watercourses.  |
| <b>Consideration in RLDP</b>  |   |  |
| The RLDP must be in accordance with Future Wales which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use in Wales, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales provides a framework for the land use planning system to mitigate and adapt to the effect of climate change and decarbonisation. PPW and TAN set policies and advice to which the RLDP must accord. The pre-assessed energy for wind within Future Wales must be included within the RLDP. The RLDP must take account of TAN 15 and Flood Consequence Assessments. The Council has published Climate change and Nature Strategy, which seeks to make the Swansea (countywide) net zero carbon by 2050. |   |  |

| SEA Topic              |                      | Plan/Policy /Programme   | Purpose  |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| <b>MATERIAL ASSETS</b> | <b>International</b> | United Nations (1989) Basel Convention,  | The Basel convention seeks to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations and the amounts/toxicity of waste generated.                                 |
|                        | <b>European</b>      | The EU Landfill Directive; the Waste Framework Directive   | The waste framework directive sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management. The landfill directive regulates waste management of landfills. |
|                        | <b>National (UK)</b> | The National Infrastructure Plan (2011), The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, The Waste Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations amending The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) (Waste Management Licensing) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005, The Waste Regulations 2011, Landfill Regulations 2002 (amended 2005), Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003 (Amended) | These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding infrastructure development, environmental permitting, waste management and energy generation.        |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>National (Wales)</b></p>   | <p>The environment (Wales) Act 2016; The Waste (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020; Towards Zero Waste, 2010; Active Travel Guidance 2021; Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales 2012; Manual for Streets 2 2019; Future Wales: The National Plan 2040; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; MTAN 1: Aggregates (2004); MTAN 2: Coal (2009); TAN 21: Waste 2014; Collections, Infrastructure and Market Sector Plan, 2012; Beyond Recycling 2021; Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013; Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy (2021); Future Wales – The National Plan.</p> | <p>These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection of natural resources, infrastructure development strategies and investment plans, and transport strategies and policies.</p>   |
| <p><b>Regional</b></p>   | <p>South West Wales Area Statement;<br/> <b>Minerals and Waste:</b> SWRAWP Annual Report 2020; Waste Planning Monitoring Report 2021/22; Regional Technical Statement for the North and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Parties (2<sup>nd</sup> Review) 2020;<br/> <b>Infrastructure:</b> Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales 2015-2020.</p>  | <p>Ensures the land use planning system helps facilitate adequate waste management infrastructure across the region; a sustainable supply of mineral resources to ensure future demand can be met;<br/>                 Development of strategic transport networks</p> |
| <p><b>Local</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p><b>Consideration in RLDP</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p>The RLDP must accord with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. The Environment (Wales) Act sets out the “sustainable management of natural resources” (SMNR); using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes the achievement of the objective to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. Policies must promote the circular economy. Reflect moratorium on EfW plants more than 10MW. Consider whether sufficient capacity within alternative residual treatment facilities to cater for the region’s waste post TZW landfill 2025 target.<br/>                 Emerging strategic transport schemes and plans must be taken into account, including the South Wales Metro.<br/>                 The RTS for aggregates must be taken into account when developing RLDP mineral policies.</p> |  |   |



| SEA Topic                |                         | Plan/Policy /Programme   | Purpose  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| <b>CULTURAL HERITAGE</b> | <b>International</b>    | World Cities Culture Report 2015 – measures and cultural assets, UNESCO (1972) Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO (2001) Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.  | These documents provide an international framework to identify and protect cultural heritage assets. They aim to ensure the cultural heritage assets have a function in the community and are integrated into various planning programmes. |
|                          | <b>European</b>         |  |  |
|                          | <b>National (UK)</b>    | The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990   | These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the protection and conservation of cultural and heritage assets, including listed buildings, ancient monuments and archaeological resources.                                 |
|                          | <b>National (Wales)</b> | Planning (Wales) Act 2015; Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016; Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023; Future Wales: The National Plan 2021; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; Placemaking Charter Wales; LANDMAP; Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers, 2017; TAN 20: Planning and the Welsh Language 2017; TAN 24: The Historic Environment; Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes in Wales; | These documents provide a framework at the Welsh national level regarding the protection and conservation of cultural heritage; including heritage assets and the use of the Welsh language.   |
| <b>Regional</b>          |                         |  |  |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Local</b></p>   | <p>Landscape Character Assessment of the Gower AONB (2013); Historic Landscape Characterisation Gower (GGAT); GGAT Archaeologically Sensitive Areas in Swansea; Sites of Geological Interest in the Swansea Area 2016; Swansea Canal Network Feasibility Study; Conservation Areas; Schedule Ancient Monuments; Listed Buildings and their settings; Local Listings</p> | <p>The documents provide detail at local scale in relation to the historic environment and assets.</p> |
| <p><b>Consideration in RLDP</b></p>   |   |  |
| <p>The RLDP will set out policies for the protection and sustainable management of cultural heritage assets as required by legislation (The Historic Environment (Wales) Act), Future Wales, PPW and TANs, including buildings of local interest and other local heritage assets as well as statutorily protected assets.<br/>The RLDP will seek to safeguard and promote the Welsh language in accordance with national and local policies and strategies.</p> |   |  |

| SEA Topic                     |                              | Plan/Policy /Programme   | Purpose  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE</b> | <b>International</b>         |  |  |
|                               | <b>European</b>              | European Landscape Convention: Florence Convention 2000  | The Convention addresses the protection of natural and cultural heritage, and regional and spatial planning.   |
|                               | <b>National (UK)</b>         | Hedgerow Regulations 1997, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), HM Government (1949) National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, HM Government (1967) Forestry Act 1967, HM Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, HM Government (2006) Commons Act 2006. | These documents provide a framework at the UK level regarding the protection of national parks, countryside and rural communities including rights of way and protection of forests. |
|                               | <b>National (Wales)</b>      | National: Future Wales: The National Plan 2040; Planning Policy Wales ed 11; Placemaking Charter Wales; LANDMAP; Environment (Wales) Act 2016; TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities; TAN 7: Outdoor Advertising; TAN 10: Tree Preservation Orders; TAN 12: Design;                          | These documents provide a framework at the Welsh level regarding the protection and mapping of natural resources, protected and important landscapes of historic interest.           |
|                               | <b>Regional</b>              | Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment 2017; South West Wales Area Statement NRW;   | The documents provide information to assist in the management of coastal, marine and landscape environments.   |
|                               | <b>Local</b>                 | Gower Management Plan 2017; Landscape Character Assessment of the Gower AONB 2013; Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for the Gower AONB, 2014; LDP Special Landscape Areas Character Assessment; LDP Green Wedge Assessment;  |  |
|                               | <b>Consideration in RLDP</b> |  |  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>The RLDP will have to conform with Future Wales, which sets a spatial framework for land use and PPW and TANs which provide policy and advice in relation to landscape and seascape. The nationally protected landscape of the AONB and its setting must be conserved and enhanced via consideration of the Landscape Character Area Assessment. Placemaking is a key tool in ensuring development integrates and enhances surrounding landscape characteristics. Reviews of the SLA and green wedges will be required. Marine and coastal change will be managed and informed by the Seascape Assessment.</p> |
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### APPENDIX 3: SITES OF ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE, THE NUMBER OF QUALIFYING FEATURES AND INDICATIVE CONDITION

| Number | Feature                                     | Site Name  | Number of Qualifying Features (SAC and SSSIs only) | Indicative Condition (SACs and SSSIs only)   |
|--------|---|--|--|--|
| 2      | Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance | Burry Inlet  |  |  |
|        |   | Cors Crymlyn<br>Crymlyn Bog  |  |  |
| 7      | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)        | Bristol Channel Approaches   | 1 feature  | favourable                                   |
|        |   | Twyni Bay Caerfyrddin<br>Carmarthen Bay Dunes                                    | 8 features   | 5 unfavourable;<br>2 unknown<br>1 favourable |
|        |   | Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd<br>Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries                      | 11 features  | 9 Unfavourable                               |
|        |   | Cors Crymlyn<br>Crymlyn Bog  | 3 features   | Unfavourable                                 |
|        |   | Coedydd Yn Gwyr<br>Gower Ash Woods   | 2 features   | Unfavourable                                 |
|        |   | Tiroedd Comin Gwyr<br>Gower Commons  | 5 features   | Unfavourable                                 |
|        |   | Afordir Calchfaen De Orllewin<br>Cymr<br>Limestone Coast of South and West Wales | 8 features   | 3 favourable<br>4 unfavourable<br>1 unknown  |
| 2      | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)             | Burry Inlet  | 13   | 7 favourable,<br>5 unfavourable<br>1 unknown |
|        |   | Bae Caerfyrddin  | 1  | favourable                                   |

| Number                              | Feature                                     | Site Name  | Number of Qualifying Features (SAC and SSSIs only) | Indicative Condition (SACs and SSSIs only)  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|                                     |   | Carmarthen Bay                                   |  |   |
| 35                                  | Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | Barlands Common Stream Section (Bishopston SSSI) | 1 feature  | unfavourable                                |
|                                     |   | Berry Wood                                       | 1 feature  | unknown                                     |
|                                     |   | Bishop's Wood                                    | 1 feature  | unknown                                     |
|                                     |   | Blackpill  |  |   |
|                                     |   | Bracelet Bay                                     | 2 features   | favourable                                  |
|                                     |   | Burry Inlet                                      | 1 feature  | favourable                                  |
|                                     |   | Caswell Bay                                      | 5 features   | 1 favourable<br>2 unfavourable<br>2 unknown |
|                                     |   | Cefn Bryn Common                                 | 12 features  | 3 unfavourable<br>9 unknown                 |
|                                     |   | Courthouse Grassland                             | 3 features   | 1 unfavourable<br>2 unknown                 |
|                                     |   | Cors Crymlyn Crymlyn Bog                         | 11 features  | 1 favourable<br>5 unfavourable<br>5 unknown |
|                                     |   | Cwm Ivy Marsh and Tor                            | 1 feature  | destroyed                                   |
|                                     |   | Fairwood, Pengwern and Welshmoor                 | 2 features   | 1 unfavourable<br>1 unknown                 |
|                                     |   | Glais Morain                                     | 1 feature  | unfavourable                                |
| Gower Coast: Rhossili to Port Eynon | 16 features                                 | 3 unfavourable<br>13 unknown                     |  |   |
| Graig Fawr                          | 4 features                                  | 1 favourable<br>1 unfavourable<br>2 unknown      |  |   |

| Number | Feature | Site Name  | Number of Qualifying Features (SAC and SSSIs only) | Indicative Condition (SACs and SSSIs only)   |
|--------|---------|--|--|--|
|        |         | Great Tor (Three Cliffs Bay)   | 1 feature  | favourable                                   |
|        |         | Horton, Eastern and Western Slade  | 8 features   | 8 unknown                                    |
|        |         | Ilston Quarry  | 1 feature  | unknown                                      |
|        |         | Langland Bay (Rotherslade)   | 1 feature  | unfavourable                                 |
|        |         | Minchin Hole   | 2 features   | unfavourable                                 |
|        |         | Nicholaston Wood   | 1 feature  | unknown                                      |
|        |         | Nant y Crimp   | 3 features   | 2 unfavourable<br>1 unknown                  |
|        |         | Oystermouth Old Quarry   | 1 feature  | unfavourable                                 |
|        |         | Oxwich Bay   | 14 features  | 7 favourable<br>7 unknown                    |
|        |         | Coedydd Parkmill a Cwm Llethrid<br>Parkmill Woodlands and<br>Llethrid Valley | 5 features   | 2 favourable<br>2 unfavourable<br>1 unknown  |
|        |         | Pennard Valley   |  |  |
|        |         | Penlleger Railway Cutting  | 1 feature  | unfavourable                                 |
|        |         | Penplas Grassland  | 1 feature  | unfavourable                                 |
|        |         | Penrice Stables and Underhill Cottage  | 2 features   | 1 unfavourable<br>1 unknown                  |
|        |         | Pwll Du Head and Bishopston Valley   | 12 features  | 1 favourable<br>1 unfavourable<br>10 unknown |
|        |         | Rhossili Down  | 8 features   | 2 unfavourable<br>6 unknown                  |

| Number   | Feature                       | Site Name  | Number of Qualifying Features (SAC and SSSIs only) | Indicative Condition (SACs and SSSIs only)  |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
|          |                               | Rose Cottage, Llethrid   | 1 feature  | favourable                                  |
|          |                               | Six Pit, Swansea Vale and White Rock   | 3 features   | Unknown                                     |
|          |                               | Sluxton Marsh, Whitemoor   | 2 features   | 1 destroyed<br>1 unknown                    |
|          |                               | Twyni Chwitffordd, Morfa Landimor a Bae Brychdwn<br>Whiteford Burrows, Landimore Marsh and Broughton Bay                                   | 12 features  | 2 favourable<br>6 unfavourable<br>4 unknown |
| 4        | National Nature Reserve (NNR) | Oxwich   |  |   |
|          |                               | Gower Coast  |  |   |
|          |                               | Whiteford  |  |   |
|          |                               | Crymlyn Bog and Pant y Sais  |  |   |
| 6        | Local Nature Reserve (LNR)    | Bishops Wood   |  |   |
|          |                               | Cwm Llwyd Wood   |  |   |
|          |                               | Killay Marsh   |  |   |
|          |                               | Mumbles Hill   |  |   |
|          |                               | Pwll Du Cliffs   |  |   |
|          |                               | Cadle Heath  |  |   |
| numerous | SINCs                         | n.b.: a SINC is locally designated because of its significant nature conservation value. Designated SINC boundaries are subject to review. |  |   |



| Number | Feature                                      | Site Name             | Number of Qualifying Features (SAC and SSSIs only) | Indicative Condition (SACs and SSSIs only) |
|--------|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| 43     | South and West Wales Wildlife Trust Reserves | Throughout the County |  |  |

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## APPENDIX 4: RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY GENERATED BY TECHNOLOGY IN THE COUNTY

### Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: biomass

|      | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020 | 57                 | 0                         | 7                    | 0                            | 21,658                  |
| 2019 | 56                 | 0                         | 5                    | 0                            | 15,557                  |
| 2018 | 54                 | 0                         | 5                    | 0                            | 15,416                  |
| 2017 | 52                 | 0                         | 4                    | 0                            | 12,549                  |
| 2016 | 71                 | 0                         | 4                    | 0                            | 11,078                  |
| 2014 | 30                 | 0                         | 2                    | 0                            | 6,173                   |
| 2012 | 9                  | 0                         | 1                    | 0                            | 3,058                   |

Source:StatsWales

### Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: biomass Electricity and Combined Heat and Power

|           | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020      | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,132                        | 0                       |
| 2019      | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,244                        | 0                       |
| 2018      | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,437                        | 0                       |
| 2017-2012 | 0                  | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 0                       |

Source:StatsWales

### Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: Heat Pump

|      | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020 | 292                | 0                         | 3                    | 0                            | 5,765                   |
| 2019 | 225                | 0                         | 3                    | 0                            | 5,431                   |
| 2018 | 173                | 0                         | 2                    | 0                            | 4,380                   |
| 2017 | 152                | 0                         | 2                    | 0                            | 3,645                   |
| 2016 | 140                | 0                         | 2                    | 0                            | 3,181                   |
| 2014 | 92                 | 0                         | 1                    | 0                            | 2,258                   |
| 2012 | 41                 | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 946                     |

Source:StatsWales

### Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: hydropower

|           | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020      | 2                  | 0                         | 0                    | 150                          | 0                       |
| 2019      | 2                  | 0                         | 0                    | 154                          | 0                       |
| 2018      | 2                  | 0                         | 0                    | 118                          | 0                       |
| 2017      | 2                  | 0                         | 0                    | 156                          | 0                       |
| 2016      | 1                  | 0                         | 0                    | 55                           | 0                       |
| 2014-2012 | 0                  | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 0                       |

Source:StatsWales

**Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: landfill gas**

|      | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020 | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 2,284                        | 0                       |
| 2019 | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,070                        | 0                       |
| 2018 | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,444                        | 0                       |
| 2017 | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,764                        | 0                       |
| 2016 | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 5,732                        | 0                       |
| 2014 | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 5,732                        | 0                       |
| 2012 | 1                  | 2                         | 0                    | 7,955                        | 0                       |

Source:StatsWales

**Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: onshore wind**

|      | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020 | 5                  | 34                        | 0                    | 82,553                       | 0                       |
| 2019 | 5                  | 34                        | 0                    | 78,407                       | 0                       |
| 2018 | 4                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,370                        | 0                       |
| 2017 | 4                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,370                        | 0                       |
| 2016 | 6                  | 1                         | 0                    | 3,452                        | 0                       |
| 2014 | 4                  | 0                         | 0                    | 801                          | 0                       |
| 2012 | 4                  | 0                         | 0                    | 742                          | 0                       |

Source:StatsWales

**Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: sewage gas**

|           | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020      | 1                  | 1                         | 1                    | 2,052                        | 4,906                   |
| 2019      | 1                  | 1                         | 1                    | 1,899                        | 4,906                   |
| 2018      | 1                  | 1                         | 1                    | 2,070                        | 4,906                   |
| 2017      | 1                  | 1                         | 1                    | 1,945                        | 4,906                   |
| 2016-2014 | 1                  | 1                         | 1                    | 2,119                        | 4,906                   |
| 2012      | 1                  | 1                         | 0                    | 2,209                        | 0                       |

Source:StatsWales

**Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: solar pv**

|      | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWhth) |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020 | 2,827              | 53                        | 0                    | 50,656                       | 0                       |
| 2019 | 2,658              | 52                        | 0                    | 48,847                       | 0                       |
| 2018 | 2,603              | 52                        | 0                    | 49,132                       | 0                       |
| 2017 | 2,551              | 52                        | 0                    | 49,482                       | 0                       |
| 2016 | 2,699              | 42                        | 0                    | 37,189                       | 0                       |
| 2014 | 1,954              | 17                        | 0                    | 14,881                       | 0                       |
| 2012 | 1,438              | 5                         | 0                    | 3,828                        | 0                       |

Source:StatsWales

**Low Carbon Energy Generation in the County by technology: solar thermal**

|      | Number of projects | Electrical capacity (MWe) | Heat Capacity (MWth) | Electrical Generation (MWhe) | Heat Generation (MWth) |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2020 | 162                | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 303                    |
| 2019 | 151                | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 260                    |
| 2018 | 148                | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 0                      |
| 2017 | 144                | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 248                    |
| 2016 | 178                | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 303                    |
| 2014 | 126                | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 197                    |
| 2012 | 85                 | 0                         | 0                    | 0                            | 125                    |

Source:StatsWales

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**APPENDIX 5 : REGISTERED COMMON LAND IN THE COUNTY**

| <b>Name of Common</b>   | <b>Area/Community</b>  | <b>Final Date of Registration</b> |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Rhossilli Downs & Cliffs  | Rhossilli, Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton   | 05/06/94                          |
| Mynydd Bach Y Glo   | Cockett  | 15/11/02                          |
| Hardings Down (includes Pitton Cross, Pilton Green, Burry Green, Coety Green) | Rhossilli, Llangennith, Llanmadoc, Cheriton, Port Eynon & Reynoldston                          | 15/11/02                          |
| Newton & Summerland Cliffs  | Mumbles  | 01/10/70                          |
| Ryers Down  | Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton  | 01/10/70                          |
| Bracelet  | Mumbles  | 01/10/70                          |
| Llanmadoc Hill & Tankey Lake Moor   | Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton  | 07/01/09                          |
| Picket Mead   | Mumbles  | 16/04/07                          |
| Llanrhidian Marshes & Landimore   | Llanrhidian Higher, Llanrhidian Lower, Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton                       | 10/12/97                          |
| Mayals Green  | Mumbles/Sketty   | 16/04/07                          |
| Llanrhidian Hill & the Common   | Llanrhidian Lower  | 10/12/99                          |
| West Cefn Coed  | Sketty   | 01/10/70                          |
| The Wern & the Rhallt   | Llanrhidian Higher   | 10/12/99                          |
| Cefn Coed   | Sketty   | 01/10/70                          |
| Cefn Bryn   | Port Eynon, Reynoldston, Penrice, Ilston, Llanrhidian Lower, Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton | 22/01/09                          |
| Gors Lawena   | Cockett and Llchwyr  | 01/10/70                          |
| Pengwern  | Ilston   | 01/10/70                          |
| Cadle   | Penderry   | 01/10/70                          |
| Welsh Moor, Forest Common & The Bryn  | Ilston, Llanrhidian Higher & Llanrhidian Lower   | 26/02/10                          |
| Mynydd Cadle  | Penderry   | 01/10/70                          |
| Mynydd Bach Y Cocs  | Llanrhidian Higher   | 07/01/09                          |

| <b>Name of Common</b>                                 | <b>Area/Community</b>  | <b>Final Date of Registration</b> |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mynydd Bach   | Penderry   | 01/10/70                          |
| Penclawdd and Gowerton Marshes                        | Llanrhidian Higher & Gowerton  | 01/08/72                          |
| Blackpill Burrows                                     | Sketty   | 01/10/70                          |
| Pennard Cliffs and Burrows                            | Ilston & Pennard   | 19/08/89                          |
| Middle Head Mumbles                                   | Mumbles  | 01/10/70                          |
| Bishwell  | Dunavnt & Gowerton   | 07/01/09                          |
| Langland Cliffs                                       |  | 1st October 1970                  |
| Fairwood and Clyne                                    | Bishopston, Upper Killay, Mumbles, Dunvant, Ilston, Pennard & Llanrhidian Higher | 07/01/09                          |
| Bishopston Valley                                     | Pennard & Bishopston   | 10/11/07                          |
| Barlands  | Bishopston   | 07/01/09                          |
| Morfa Mawr  | Grovesend  | 27/04/89                          |
| Mynydd Gelliwastad                                    | Mawr, Clydach & Morrision  | 11/04/89                          |
| Mynydd Garngoch                                       | Gorseinon, Llchwyr, Penllergaer & Pontlliw                                       | 01/10/0                           |
| Cefn Drum   | Mawr & Pontarddulais   | 20/03/92                          |
| Llangyfelach  | Llangyfelach   | 04/01/90                          |
| Mynydd Lliw   | Gorseinon, Grovesend, Pontarddulais & Pontlliw                                   | 27/04/89                          |
| Stafford  | Llchwyr & Gowerton   | 01/08/72                          |
| Gorseinon   | Penllergaer  | 01/10/70                          |
| Goppa Hill and Bryn Bach                              | Mawr, Pontarddulais & Pontlliw   | 17/03/92                          |
| Penmaen and Nicholston Burrows                        | Ilston   | 13/04/98                          |
| Pentwyn Mawr and Craig Y Bewd                         | Mawr   | 18/03/92                          |
| Penller Castell, Mynydd Y Gwair and Banc Maestir Mawr | Mawr   | 19/03/92                          |
| Wern Olau   | Llanrhidian Higher   | 01/08/72                          |
| Oxwich Point and Slade Cliffs                         | Port Eynon & Penrice   | 07/01/09                          |
| Common Cliff and Overton Cliff                        | Port Eynon   | 18/07/73                          |
| Rhyddwen  | Mawr   | 09/02/88                          |

| <b>Name of Common</b> | <b>Area/Community</b> | <b>Final Date of Registration</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pant Y Celyn          | Llanrhidian Higher    | 01/08/72                          |
| Llotrog Bank          | Llanrhidian Higher    | 01/08/72                          |

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