

# Climate Emergency

Swansea's Response

Cllr Clive Lloyd, Deputy Leader

# Swansea Environmental Credentials

- The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund is one of the first Pension Fund's in the UK to adopt an Environmental, Social & Governance policy which commits the pension fund to reduce its already low exposure to carbon based fossil fuel investments by up to 50% over the next 4 years.
- Changing 21,053 street lights to LED, reducing CO2 year on year by 2,198,608.49kg.
- Delivering insulation and energy efficiency measures to benefit tenants of our council housing.
- Promoting Welsh & UK Government campaigns and programmes to increase energy efficiency amongst private tenants and home owners, reducing fuel poverty and reducing emissions.
- Campaigning for the electrification of the railway line from Swansea to London.
- Progressing work towards a world-leading Tidal Lagoon, supporting community-owned renewable energy schemes, like SCEES, to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and community buildings.
- Working with others nationally to urge Welsh Government to develop electric car charging infrastructure.
- Being leaders of good practice in Wales through having Sustainable Development policies
- Recently incorporating care for the natural environment into our corporate plan as a new priority
- Building the first council housing in a generation here in Swansea to Passivhaus standard, and begun building new council housing to a super-energy-efficient "Swansea Standard" that will enable all components to be procured locally and reducing emissions

# Swansea Environmental Credentials (cont)

- Using innovation in construction for flagship projects showcasing waste minimization and sustainability.
- Winning investment for innovative green technology, such as “Homes as Power Stations”, as part of the City Region Deal.
- Continuing to seek opportunities to add to our corporate fleet of Electric Vehicles, which is already the largest in Wales.
- Continuing to deliver on our Carbon Reduction strategy: 42% reduction in emissions since our baseline year. (09/10)
- Securing funding for a vast increase in Active Travel (walking and cycling) routes throughout the county and supported Swansea University’s community cycle scheme.
- Becoming an Anti-Fracking Local Authority in 2016, having passed a motion to “oppose any unconventional gas development (fracking)” which also committed us to working towards being a fossil fuel free local authority by 2025.
- Implementing agile working so that our workforce may reduce unnecessary travel.
- Developing local procurement practices to reduce our carbon footprint.
- In Education, we are early joiners of the international EcoSchools programmes which encourages schools to promote recycling and reduce energy and water consumption.
- Encourage our Foundation Phase learning pupils to learn outdoors ensuring a respect for nature, biodiversity and eco-systems.
- At KS4, developing partnerships with our Universities to establish STEM workshops including the impact of climate change.

# Climate Emergency Notice of Motion

- NoM passed by council on the 27<sup>th</sup> June:- climate emergency, and calls upon the UK gov. to do the same. We commit to:
- 1. Call upon the UK and Welsh governments to provide us with the necessary powers and resources to ensure Swansea becomes carbon neutral by 2030.
- 2. Publicise climate emergency and promote a greater awareness of the truth of climate change amongst the local population.
- 3. Work with relevant experts in research and development to:
  - a. Review our current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change.
  - b. Identify any further policy changes or actions which we could undertake, within the scope of our powers and resources.
  - c. Seek the help of local partners such as Swansea University and other research bodies to, within one year, produce a report to share with the community, explaining work to date, achievements and targets for the future.
- 4. Update on further work undertaken by the Council in this area on an annual basis through the Council Annual Review of Performance Report section on corporate objective - *Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity.*

# Actions developments since NoM

- APSE engaged to assist
- Cross council working group initiated
- Develop thinking about scoping and next steps
- Use existing energy strategy as the “basis” but clearly much wider reaching actions
- APSE recent publication on Climate Emergencies NoM
- WG working on its own definition and implementation proposals
- Plan being developed

# Scope?

- NoM:- ensure Swansea becomes “nett” carbon Neutral by 2030
  - Is this Swansea council and its core functions (using CRC definition)e.g. buildings, street lighting, fleet.
  - The wider Council functions e.g. including grey fleet and wider land
  - The addition of key partners e.g. health, Universities, PSB?
  - The whole city and county of Swansea
- The wider the scope the greater the challenge both in terms of measurement and in delivery as the council can influence but not directly control. APSE advise to be aware of unintended scope creep

# Action Plan

- Due to commission baseline assessment by end of September
- Will assess council functions and try and assess overall city and County
- Group into
  - a) Those activities directly delivered by the council and in scope and deliverable within current and likely future budgets and resources
  - b) Those activities that we would wish to action but require powers or resources from QWG/UK Gov as NoM
  - c) Those activities that we would like to “influence” but not within direct control of the council E.g. partners

# Some other thoughts

- Progress thought Equalities and Future Generations PDC
- Maintain internal forum but develop wider external engagement. PSB and other routes
- Develop schools engagement strategy
- Develop wider Climate Change Charter
- Resourcing programme and implementation plan
- Policy clashes e.g. planning policy versus capital receipts, affordable homes and 106 contributions



- Questions?