



time to change: **SEVEN YEARS ON**

**2014 PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE
SWANSEA ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Swansea Environment Strategy, published by Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF) in 2006, provides a long-term vision and strategic priorities for the natural and built environment in Swansea. This report outlines the findings of the latest biennial review, which assessed progress made towards the Strategy's priorities in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

There have been a number of notable developments during this period which may impact on the delivery of the Environment Strategy and work of SEF and its partners. For example, from April 2013, a new body, Natural Resources Wales, took over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales. Also, the Swansea Community Plan has been replaced by the Single Integrated Plan with a new structure and set of priorities.

SEF is still the lead strategic partnership for all aspects of the natural and built environment in Swansea and works within the context of the Single Integrated Plan and in support of the Swansea Local Service Board. SEF is also supporting the Healthy City programme and the strategic role that SEF takes within this initiative is expected to increase in coming years.

The strategy review process involved collecting the most recent data for the Strategy indicators and updates on all the actions listed in the Swansea Environment Strategy Action Plan 2012-14. This data and information was provided by a wide range of partner organisations and additional data and other relevant achievements were also taken into account as part of the assessment of progress.

The five *shared priorities* agreed by SEF within the context of the Swansea Community Plan in 2008 – air quality, climate change, carbon management, biodiversity and water quality – have remained a high priority during the past two years. In addition, the built heritage, highlighted in the 2010 Strategy review, has also continued as a SEF priority. This latest review found evidence of good progress being made in each of these key areas.

The review demonstrates that progress has been made under each of the Environment Strategy's five themes. Most significantly, in waste management, sustainable building and energy use, managing flood risk, and community engagement. However, the safeguarding of our natural assets, the restoration of contaminated land, the provision of public transport, and the availability of affordable housing are highlighted as areas of particular concern.

Most of the strategy indicators have continued to provide useful information on the progress of the priorities but it was not possible to obtain updated data for all the indicators and it is clear that some indicators will no longer be suitable for future reviews and may need to be replaced or amended.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Swansea Environment Strategy – Time to Change – was published by Swansea Environmental Forum (SEF) in September 2006, following a fifteen months period of development and consultation with a large number of partners, members and the general public. The Strategy is arranged around five key themes – The Natural Environment and Biodiversity; The Built Environment and Energy Use; Water, Land and Waste Management; Sustainable Transport and Air Quality; and Environmental Awareness and Action. For each theme, there is an overarching vision and a set of strategic priorities.

The Strategy also sets out a framework for monitoring and reporting on progress. An initial one-year review was undertaken eighteen months after the strategy was formally published. The Forum then committed itself to carrying out and publishing biennial reviews. This latest report, *Seven Years On*, outlines the findings of the fourth progress review, which was undertaken May-July 2014 focussing primarily on the period from April 2012 to March 2014.

Swansea Environmental Forum is the lead strategic partnership for all aspects of the natural and built environment in the City and County of Swansea. It is an independent membership organisation, initially set-up in 1985, which brings together individuals, statutory bodies, businesses and voluntary groups to promote environmental sustainability and develop collaborative projects to improve our natural and urban environments.

Further information can be found on www.swanseaenvironmentalforum.net including downloadable copies of the Environment Strategy, action plans and strategy reviews.

ACTION PLANS

An Environment Strategy Action Plan was also produced in 2006 to sit alongside the Strategy and show how organisations would contribute to the priorities outlined in the Strategy. This first action plan covered the period 2006-8 and included 140 specific actions. New action plans have been compiled on a biennial basis at the same time as the progress reviews have been undertaken. The number of specific actions in the 2008-10 action plan increased a little to 150 but there was a large increase in the number of actions in the 2010-12 action plan as many more organisations offered actions, which totalled nearly 280. The 2012-14 action plan included 254 actions. A new action plan will also be published alongside this report to cover the period 2014-16.

The achievements rate for the first Action Plan (2006-8) was 57% (based on actions completed by the end of March 2008 and half those partly completed). The achievement rates increased for the subsequent action plans listed – 61% in 2008-10, 75% for 2010-12 and 76% for the 2012-14 action plan. The achievement rate for each of the five thematic sections ranged from 61% to 82%.

INDICATORS

A set of indicators was agreed and published within the Environment Strategy to help SEF monitor and measure change. These have been reviewed and amended from time to time in response to the availability and suitability of data. A comprehensive review of the indicator set was undertaken by SEF in 2013, in part to ensure that suitable indicators could also be used for the Single Integrated Plan.

Following the first strategy review (2008) a set of 51 indicators were agreed. Of these, just 35 (68%) provided suitable data in the second strategy review (2010) but 26 secondary indicators were also used, though some of these were not particularly robust – being subject to too many external variables or being obtained from surveys with relatively small samples numbers.

During this latest review, there were still a few indicators for which data was not available. These were either retained for further development or discontinued. A few additional indicators were added.

It should be noted that in a few cases, data published in previous reports has been amended in this report to rectify errors or inconsistencies.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This strategy review is focussed primarily on the progress made towards achieving the 22 priorities presented in the Strategy. To assess progress, information was gathered relating to the agreed indicators, the actions proposed in the last Strategy Action Plan and additional data, actions and other information that came to light during discussions with partners.

Each strategic priority has been assigned a RAG (red, amber, green) status to provide a very simple summary of progress. The overall RAG status for each priority is based on an assessment of five elements: the indicator data (primary indicators), the achievement of actions listed in the 2012-14 action plan, additional data (secondary indicators), further actions and achievements collected from partners and recorded in this report, and a comparison to progress or the status in Wales as a whole (where available). The criteria used to assign RAG status under each element is provided in the table below. The overall status is determined by combining the status for these five elements (where assessed) with a weighting towards the indicators and other data, and then the actions, unless the quality or quantity of data is poor, in which case the status relating to actions may take precedence.

	GREEN	AMBER	RED	N/A
indicator data (primary indicators)	significant improvement is evident	some improvement is evident	change is minimal or negative	no indicator or inadequate data
other data (secondary indicators)	significant improvement is evident	some improvement is evident	change is minimal or negative	no additional data considered
action plan (2012-14)	all or almost all actions achieved (85-100%)	most actions achieved (50-85%)	most actions not achieved (less than 50%)	
additional actions	several additional actions achieved	some additional actions achieved	-	no additional actions considered
comparison with Wales	better than average	about average	below average	not considered
OVERALL STATUS (taking into account the above aspects)	good progress has been made towards achieving the priority	some progress has been made but the breadth or rate of progress could be improved	insufficient progress is being made and more decisive action is needed	

The following pages provide the detailed review and the overall RAG assessment for each of the 22 strategic priorities in turn. A table showing the assessment for each element is provided on page 52.

It should be noted that the strategy review is looking for evidence of positive improvements and so where there is little or no change then a red status would generally be assigned. In this review, just one priority was assigned a red status and seven priorities were assigned green status. (In the last review there were two red and six green and in the 2003 review there were four red and four green).

An arrow has been placed within the RAG status box for each priority (both on the relevant page in the next section and in the table on page 52) which shows whether the RAG status has increased (↑), decreased (↓) or stayed the same (↔) compared to the last review. In this review, the status has decreased for two priorities and increased for four priorities (in the 2012 review, two decreased and five increased).

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

NE1: Establish and maintain data on the natural environment and monitor change

SUMMARY

Some developments have been made to support the monitoring of the natural environment in Swansea but suitable indicators have not yet been agreed.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
 City and County of Swansea (Nature Conservation)
 Natural Resources Wales
 SEWBREC (South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

A suitable indicator for biodiversity still has not been agreed, partly due to awaiting evolving new national policy and indicators.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The significant redevelopment of the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) online facility has been completed and is now spatially-based. The uploading of local BARS actions has been delayed while the redevelopment has been ongoing and the review of the LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan) has been completed.

Swansea Council contracted SEWBREC (South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre) to digitise Swansea data but funding still has not been identified to support a service level agreement between the Council and SEWBREC.

Training courses on invasive species, both marine and terrestrial, have been provided. The Welsh Government trial of natural control of Japanese Knotweed is continuing. The proposed website on the control of Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species has been prepared but is not live.

In the summer 2013, the British Geological Society completed a RIGS (Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites) survey for the south Wales region and identified 8 sites in Swansea, 7 of which are in the Gower AONB.

Penllergare Trust has established a wildlife journal (warden's log) for Penllergare Valley Woods, though this has not yet been made publicly available.

A SINC review has been completed and an initial county-wide assessment of ecosystem services has been undertaken.

NE2: Protect and safeguard our valued natural assets and halt loss of biodiversity

SUMMARY

Work continues on preparing management plans for important local sites and providing training on why and how valuable natural assets should be protected. Further resources will be needed if natural assets are to be safeguarded into the future.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Nature Conservation, AONB)
 Natural Resources Wales
 Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
 The Gower Partnership Group

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2009	2011	2014
Total area of LNRs, AONB and SINCs				
- LNRs and AONB	200 km ²	200 km ²	200 km ²	200 km ²
- SINCs	96 km ²	96 km ²	103 km ²	111 km ²

		2001-2006	2007-2013
Percentage of SAC, SPA and SSSI features in or recovering towards favourable condition	- SSSI features	29%	-
	- SAC / SPA features	46%	-

The area of LNRs (Local Nature Reserves) and AONB (Area of Outstanding natural Beauty) in the City and County of Swansea have remained the same. However, the Council's Nature Conservation Team has identified four sites that could be designated as new LNRs and is progressing the designation of Garth Farm.

Swansea Council has completed the SINC verification survey work and so the SINCs are now no longer candidate SINCs. The total number of SINCs has increased to 154 covering an area of 11,150 hectares or 111.5 km².

The most recent condition assessments of SAC (Special Areas of Conservation) features showed no change for the 25 features (out of 40) where monitoring results were available by the time of this review. No summary data was available for SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) features.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

A review of Swansea Biodiversity Action Plan was completed in early 2014. The redrafting and publication of the Gower AONB Management Plan has been delayed, in part due to staff changes. The revised Management Plan is out for public consultation until December 2014 and the final plan is expected to be adopted in Spring 2015

The Council's Nature Conservation Team has continued to provide training on the NERC Biodiversity duty, working with approximately 10 service teams across the authority to produce Service Specific Biodiversity Action Plans which will collectively form the CCS Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan. Nature Conservation staff have also given presentations on the NERC duty to two community councils.

The Nature Conservation Team's Biodiversity Officer post, which supported the LBAP and SBP, delivered NERC training and supported schools activities, has been discontinued as part of the Council's budget savings.

Work has begun on developing an action plan for Swansea from the management scheme for

Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries EMS (European Marine Site) and workshops are also being planned.

The CCW Special Sites Project continues as a mechanism for monitoring work undertaken by CCW (now NRW) and partners towards getting statutory sites into favourable conservation management. CCW itself completed 14 actions over the two period 12/13 and 13/14 (exceeding their 2012/13 target of 4 actions).

Environment Agency Wales continued to work with a range of local partners to address concerns about the disposal of building rubble and unwanted soil on Gower and the potential impact such practices may have on landscape, heritage and biodiversity features. (See reference to Stop Waste in Our Landscape Project on page 32).

Swansea University has developed a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for 2012-16 and already implemented actions. - A Biodiversity Trail has been established across the campus with signage including species and habitat information This was launched by Iolo Williams and has proved very popular with staff and students – over 20% staff have had a guided eco-walk, with many others trying it themselves.

Whilst some progress has been made, the loss of the Council's Biodiversity Officer post is seen as a major set back. Pressures on the Council to sell off land could potentially result in loss of biodiversity.

NE3: Maintain and enhance the quality and diversity of the natural environment

SUMMARY

An increasing amount of land in Swansea is being brought into active management by a range of organisations and community volunteers. However, the area of land managed under agri-environment agreements dropped sharply after scheme changes.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Nature Conservation, Parks)
Natural Resources Wales
Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
Welsh Government

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of Green Flags / Green Flag Community Awards	3 / 1	3 / 1	4 / 1	4 / 1	4 / 1	4 / 1	5 / 1

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Area of land managed under agri-environment agreement	5,483ha	9,371ha	8,299ha	8,011ha	10,052ha	10,213ha	6,818ha
- <i>Glastir (area)</i>	-	-	-	-	1,016ha	1,209ha	2,925 ha
- <i>Glastir (contracts)</i>	-	-	-	-	20	23	49
- <i>Tir Cynnal</i>	1,842ha	3,052ha	2,866ha	2,636ha	2,636ha	2,636ha	2,636ha
- <i>Tir Gofal</i>	3,298ha	5,455ha	4,452ha	4,395ha	5420ha	5388ha	277ha
- <i>Organic Farming Scheme (area)</i>	343ha	864ha	981ha	980ha	980ha	980ha	980ha
- <i>Organic Farming Scheme (schemes)</i>	(118)	13	21	21	21	21	21

	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>Rating of parks and open/green spaces (SVS - v. good / f. good)</i>	87%	87%	91%	-	90%	-	91%
<i>Ease of access to parks and open spaces (SVS - v. good / f. good)</i>	62%	-	-	-	71%	-	89%

The number of Green Flags and Green Flag Community Awards (formerly known as Green Pennants) in Swansea remained the same in 2012 but a Green Flag application for Cwmdonkin Park in 2013, following extensive development work, was successful. Applications for six parks (including Parc Llewellyn) are being submitted for 2014 and it has been suggested that there is potential for further parks to be added in the following years.

In 2012, there was an increase in the area of land in Swansea managed under agri-environment schemes when the new Glastir scheme was introduced to replace all previous agri-environment schemes. In 2014, there was a dip in the total figures as previous scheme agreements came to an end and have not all been replaced with Glastir.

There were no new Tir Cynnal agreements and all the existing agreements will finish at the end of 2014. There are just a small number of Tir Gofal agreements continuing into 2014. The Organic Farming Scheme figures have remained constant but there may be additions from 2015 when the reformed Common Agriculture Policy is implemented.

The Swansea Voices Citizens' Panel survey continues to show a very high users' rating for parks and open spaces. In the 2013 Swansea Voices Survey, 89% of respondents rated *ease of access to parks and open spaces* as very or fairly good (up from 71% in 2011). The aspect that attracted greatest criticism in this survey, as in previous surveys, was *keeping parks and open spaces clear of dog foul* with 22% of respondents considering this to be poor or very poor (21% in 2011). However, the number of people that viewed this service as very or fairly good was 52%, up from just 35% in the 2011 survey. In terms of frequency of use, 49% of respondents said they normally visit a park or open space in Swansea at least once a week (the same as in 2011).

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The council's Communities and Nature Programme benefitted 12 SINCs with habitat management, access improvements, site interpretation, and volunteer and community engagement. Additional funding was secured through Tidy Towns, RDP and Tranquil Spaces Fund to undertake additional management work in LNRs and SINCs.

Llys Nini had hoped to undertake a project to improve the purple moor grass fen habitat at their site but as yet funding has not been secured. They still plan to do this and also develop a wet meadow into a wetland area for aquatic invertebrates, otters and, possibly water vole, using the spoil for sand martin embankment to encourage nesting on the site. They have submitted an expression of interest to the National Lottery for significant funding to support these projects. Llys Nini have also been planting two new woodland areas and supporting pollinating insects: Swansea Bee Keepers have hives on site; volunteers have planted a field of wild flowers and started a native local providence heritage cider orchard, with 12 trees at present.

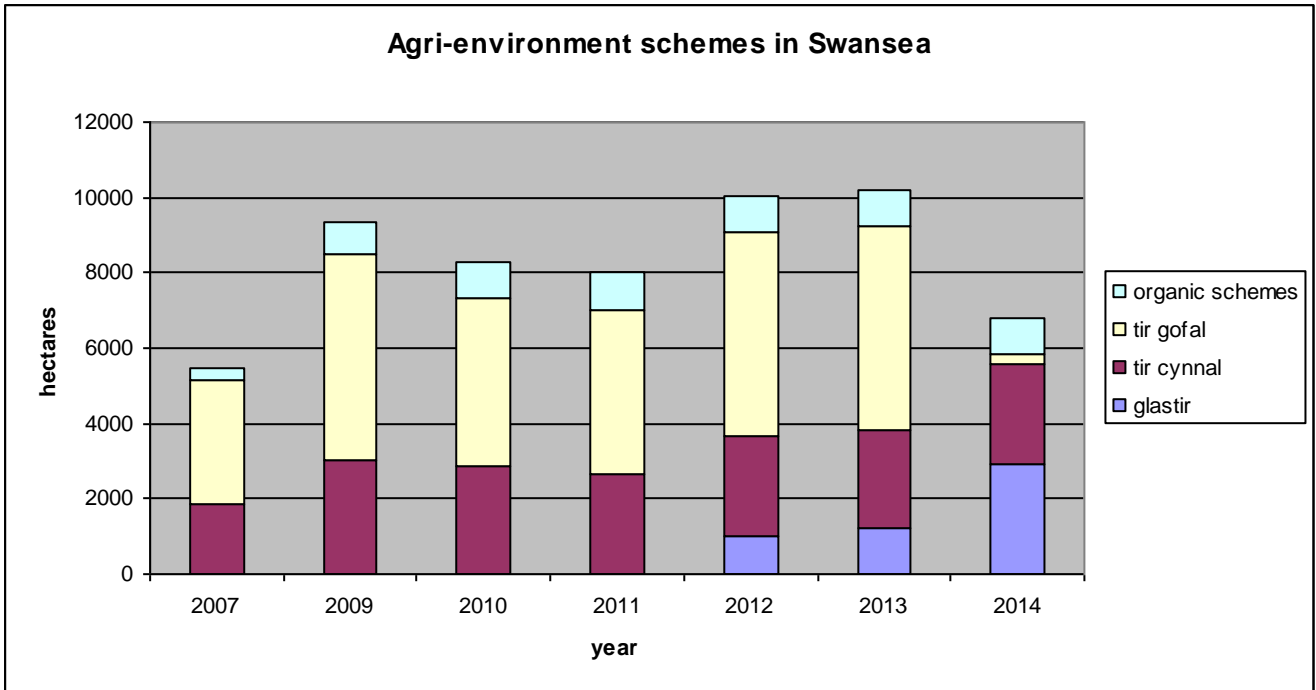
Mumbles Development Trust has continued to manage woodlands in Mumbles and has engaged local schools, the Gower College Learning Support Department and the local HSBC Community Initiatives team in woodland management tasks and tree planting.

Penllergare Trust has continued the restoration and conservation of ancient woodland sites within Penllergare Valley Woods including the removal of Rhodedendron and conifers. The organisation has entered into a Glastir woodland management contract with the Welsh Government.

A Swansea Bay Management Plan has been prepared by the Council and internal consultation has been undertaken. Wider consultation is expected to take place soon. A broad local forum for the coastal and marine environment has not yet been established but the SBP marine and coastal ecosystems subgroup continues to meet regularly. A Swansea Bay Fisheries Local Action Group (SBFLAG) has also been established to support the sustainable development of fisheries.

The Council's Nature Conservation Team has also undertaken an initial audit of ecosystems services across Swansea mapping existing and potential ecological connectivity, flooding risk/management, food production, carbon storage, etc. focused on LDP strategic candidate sites. Case studies have also been produced for Penclawdd and Penderry looking at how ecosystems services might support community resilience planning. The Team has also started to produce 'Wild About Your Ward' packs which provide ward profiles of natural resources.

Two studies have been commissioned by the Council into the opportunities for managing blown sand on two stretches of Swansea Bay.



NE4: Promote awareness, access and enjoyment of the natural environment

SUMMARY

There have been notable improvements to the Rights of Way network and a number of natural sites across Swansea. Several new walk leaflets and site guides have been published and new interpretation panels erected.

GREEN



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City & County of Swansea (Nature Conservation, Countryside Access, AONB)
Swansea Environmental Education Forum
Swansea Biodiversity Partnership
Rural Swansea Action

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005/ 6	2006/ 7	2007/ 8	2008/ 9	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14
Percentage length of Rights of Way which are easy to use	46.4%	47.3%	55.8%	59.1%	51.2%	55.0%	58.6%	78.1%	66.8%

Visitors to a selection of sites	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
National Trust: Penmaen, Cwm Ivy, Rhossili (beach / cliff)	379,735	648,651	571,960	638,285	652,755	624,560	501,237	932,035
CCS: Brandy Cove, Caswell	-	-	121,040	137,448	125,423	118,259	119,616	118,205

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Biodiversity events in annual environmental events booklet	97 (34%)	98 (34%)	85 (30%)	78 (24%)	121 (38%)	166 (39%)	174 (40%)	159 (39%)	119 (46%)

The wording of the first indicator has been slightly changed from *Length of easy-to-use footpaths and other rights of way*. The trend in Swansea is clearly upwards with a rise in the past decade from 44% in 2003/4 to 78% in 2012/13. Whilst the figure for 2013/14 is down, it should be noted that the figures are susceptible to variance due to them being based on an annual random survey of just 10% of the network. The progress made in recent years is probably due, at least in part, to increased resources applied to ROW and countryside access improvement work over the past five or six years. However, funding for this work in Swansea saw a significant reduction from April 2013.

The indicator 'Visitors to a selection of sites' uses data from visitor counters placed at 7 points in Gower. The figures are greatly affected by weather and the number of organised events taking place in a given year. Where data from a counter is missing for any month, for example due to battery failure, then an estimate based on the average for rest of the particular year is included for that month to better reflect the figures for that year.

The last review report included figures for counters at Crymlyn Bog NNR and Oxwich NNR but the Crymlyn counter has not been working since August 2012 and the Oxwich counters have also been

faulty so these figures have not been included this time.

There was a drop in 2012 and then significant increase in 2013 for the two National Trust counters in Rhossili which have at times been faulty. It is likely that the total for 2012 is too low and the total for 2013 too high, partly due to relying on estimates to replace missing or incorrect figures. However, it would appear that whilst visitor numbers to most of the sites has remained fairly constant, there may have been an increase at Rhossili.

The proportion of biodiversity-related events in Swansea Environmental Events leaflet increased a little in 2014. What constitutes a biodiversity event is not cut and dry but generally excludes events where the focus is on heritage, waste, food, art and craft or the general enjoyment of the countryside. There were two editions of the annual environmental events leaflet in both 2012 and 2013 but this reverted to just one edition in 2014 because of reductions in funding.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Council's Swansea Nature Network project (ended March 2014) and the Countryside Connections project (finishes in November 2014) – both managed by the Nature Conservation Team – have helped develop volunteering opportunities and promoted access to and enjoyment of the natural environment in urban and rural areas respectively.

As part of the Countryside Connections project, the Nature Conservation Team organised a John Muir Award scheme for 11 rural schools in 2012/13. This was an extended (25-30 hour) scheme enabling pupils (372 in total) not only to discover and explore wildlife sites but also engaging them in conserve activities. The Council also organised and supported school visits to a variety of wildlife sites, partly through funding from Tidy Towns, Forest School and Sculpture by the Sea.

The Council's Nature Conservation Team produced interpretative leaflets for Cryws Community Woodland and for Mumbles Hill (redraft) and also two leaflets relating to Swansea Bay – a wildlife calendar and an ID card – and installed four interpretative panels – outside 360, by the observatory, on the pier at Swansea Point and in Blackpill. A boardwalk has also been installed at Swansea Point.

With Rural Development Plan funding, improvements have been made to footpaths and bridleways in Mawr and Pontardulais and a number of leaflets have been (or are being) published to promote country walking routes in the area, including Lliw Reservoirs and Graig Fawr. Walk leaflets have also been published for a Heritage and History Trail in Pontardulais and for a Three Park Walk from Loughor to Pontardulais. The Coast Path around Gower has been completed and a leaflet produced to promote the whole route. A network of footpaths on Kilvey Hill have been secured as public footpaths and new signage and waymarking installed.

Swansea University Geology Department has been developing interpretive leaflets explaining geology, landscape, natural resources and changes in environment / climate along 4 trails in north Swansea and 6 in Gower. These were due for completion by the end of 2013 but the deadline has been extended to the end of 2014.

Mumbles Development Trust has maintained the Mumbles Green Action Team and organised volunteer activities such as woodland management, litter picks, beach cleans and guided walks. The trust has also engaged local schools, the Gower College Learning Support Department and the local HSBC Community Initiatives team in woodland management tasks and tree planting.

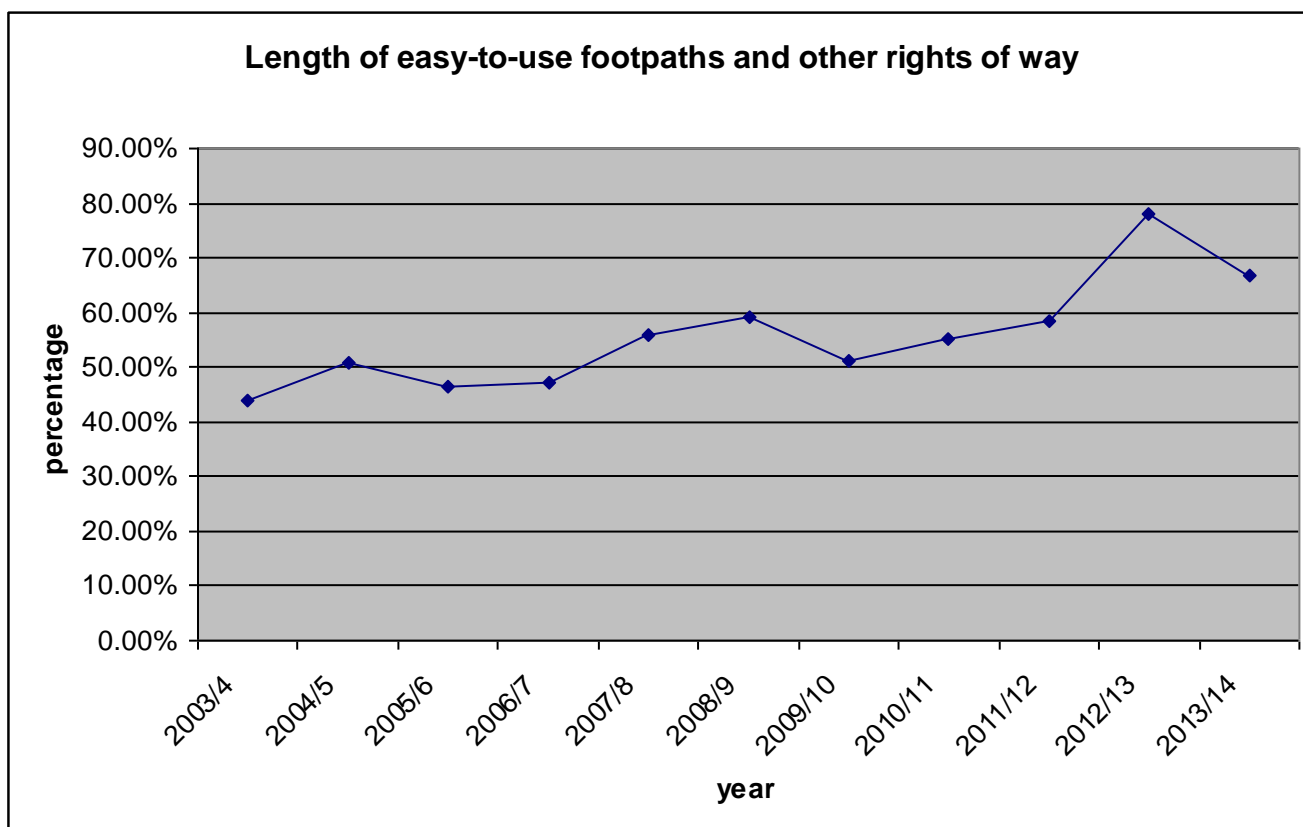
CCW completed a new 275m circular boardwalk at Crymlyn Bog NNR to facilitate public access out onto the bog and also installed a small boardwalk and viewing platform in Oxwich NNR. New interpretation planned for Oxwich NNR will soon be installed with new NRW branding.

RSPB have installed some sections of boardwalk to improve the path in the Cwm Clydach Reserve but this work is currently on hold as they have discussions with Swansea Council about the pathway being incorporated into a wider walking route which may require hard surface paths rather than boardwalks.

The Gower Walking Festival, organised by the Mumbles Tourist Information Centre, and the Gower Cycling Festival, coordinated by Wheelrights, have both continued to develop.

The Penllergare Trust opened its new visitor kiosk and car park in September 2013 and has continued to promote and develop Penllergare Valley Woods as an outdoor classroom and venue for environmental activities with an increasing number and range of educational and community activities, and training and volunteering opportunities, organised by the Trust and other bodies. The Trust has published a leaflet and erected boards to inform visitors of the on-site developments, and a new site map has been produced. Penllergare Valley Woods were added to the Swansea Sustainability Trail with two new boards installed explaining the contribution aspects of the project make towards sustainability. However, plans for an access route under the M4 to link Penllergare Valley Woods to Penllergaer Forest, Tir Coed and Pontlliw has been postponed as preliminary designs showed that the costs would be much higher than originally thought.

The Swansea Community Growing Network has continued to develop, bringing together organisations and individuals involved in community growing projects. Swansea Council has established a team that has a focus on community growing and food initiatives and launched a grant fund to support community growing projects. Transition Swansea has continued to encourage and provide advice on community growing using organic and permaculture principles, and maintain demonstration gardens at the Environment Centre and the Mount Zion Chapel in Bonymaen.



BE1: Improve the quality and attractiveness of the city centre, other settlements, neighbourhoods and streetscapes

SUMMARY

Some significant developments are ongoing in central Swansea but some regeneration work has been held back because of the financial climate. Street cleanliness and public satisfaction with their local neighbourhoods remains high.

GREEN



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Regeneration, Streetscene, Planning)
Keep Wales Tidy

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percentage of public satisfaction with their local area (SVS - v.good/ f.good)	91%	91%	93%	-	93%	-	90%	-
<i>Neighbourhood - general cleanliness</i>	72%	67%	70%	-	79%	-	76%	78%
<i>Neighbourhood - overall appearance</i>	73%	68%	70%	-	80%	-	73%	-
<i>City Centre - general cleanliness</i>	66%	43%	61%	-	-	58%	-	65%
<i>City Centre - overall appearance</i>	41%	36%	46%	-	-	41%	-	-

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Percentage cleanliness at high standard (LEAMS A, B+ and B)	91.7%	91.2%	92.5%	93.7%	92.6%	93.0%	95.5%	97.7%
<i>Cleanliness Indicator</i>	-	65.95	65.7	65.2	67.75	64.61	67.99	69.74

The most recent Swansea Voices Survey data relating to neighbourhoods shows satisfaction rates have remained high. The Percentage cleanliness at high standard, as measured using the Local Environmental Audit Management System (LEAMS) grading system, has continued to rise, as has the Cleanliness Indicator (formerly known as Cleanliness Index) for Swansea.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) continues to be progressed. Over 650 Candidate site assessments have been completed and ranked according to suitability for inclusion in the Deposit LDP. A key aspect of the work continues to be the collection of evidence and undertaking various studies to inform the plan. To date, these have included an Economic Growth and Employment Land Assessment, Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment, Population and Household Growth Analysis, Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Previously Developed Land Capacity Study, Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Gower Landscape Character Assessment, Gower Landscape Capacity Study for Caravan and Camping Sites, City and County of Swansea Open Space Assessment, and a Strategic Retail Assessment. Ward Profiles have also been produced along with 17 Topic papers covering a range of issues including Affordable Housing, Housing, Minerals, Natural Heritage and Countryside, Transport and Accessibility, and Waste

Consultation on the LDP Vision, Objectives and Strategic Options was undertaken between July and October 2012, resulting in the publication of a Preferred Strategy in July 2013. The Preferred Strategy sets out the broad approach that the LDP intends to take in order to ensure that Swansea is developed in a sustainable manner. It provides the strategic framework for detailed policies, proposals and land use allocations which will subsequently be included in the Deposit LDP. A Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Preferred Strategy was undertaken in July 2013 and a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) was published in August 2013.

It is expected that the final version of Preferred Strategy will be adoption in mid 2014 and that a skeleton Deposit Plan (identifying preferred Candidate Sites and settlement boundaries) will be produced for consultation in late 2014. The LDP is due to be placed on deposit in late 2015 with public examination and the production of an inspection report in 2016.

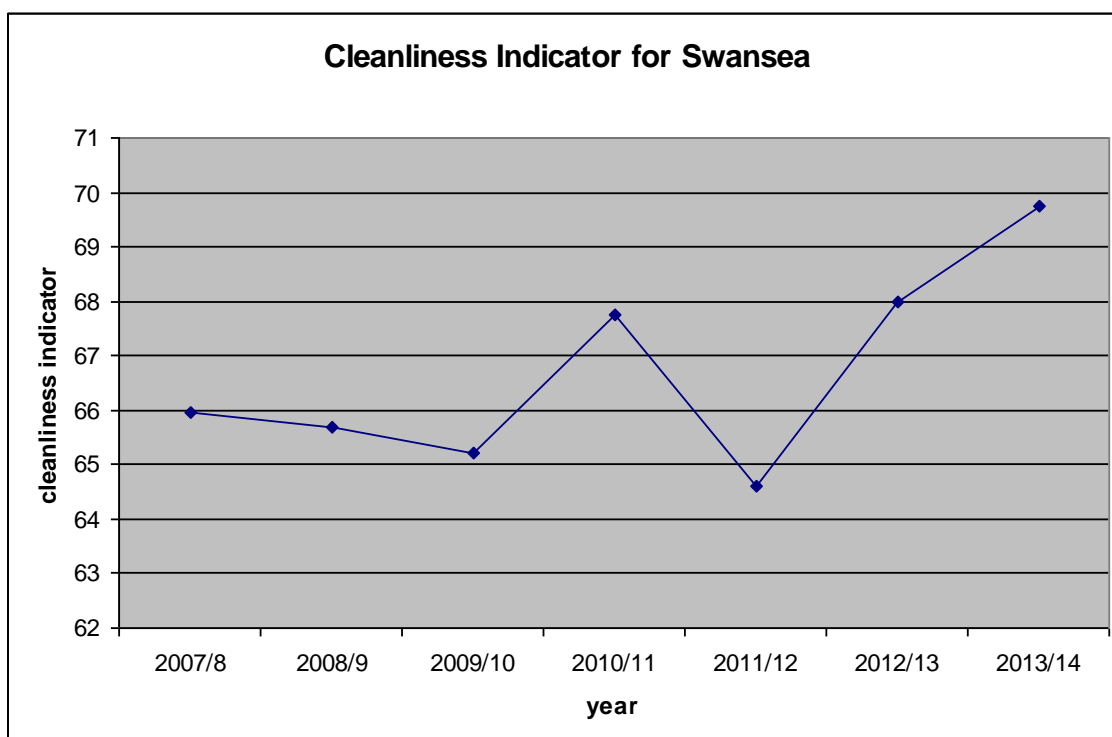
The first phase of the Urban Village development in Swansea High Street has been completed by Coastal Housing. It incorporates affordable homes, offices and retail units. The second phase, which includes the conversion of the King’s Lane Warehouse into units for creative industries and some additional new build commercial properties, is due to be completed by March 2015. Work on the Castle Lane regeneration scheme has also progressed and is due for completion by the end of 2014.

The first phases of the European Boulevard scheme – between Princess Way and the Tawe Bridges – were due for completion in autumn 2013, but because of contractual delays and operational issues it is not now expected to be completed until November 2014. The scheme includes enhanced pedestrian and cycling facilities and bus priority measures.

Infrastructure works at the Felindre Strategic Business Park site, a joint venture between the local authority and Welsh Government, have been completed. Landscaping work will now be undertaken and a marketing strategy developed.

The Council acquired and demolished the underperforming St.David’s Shopping Centre, creating a temporary car park.

A number of local community groups continue to undertake litter picks, tree planting and other projects to improve local neighbourhoods. The Gower Society reintroduced its best kept Village Award in 2013.



BE2: Promote sustainable buildings and more efficient use of energy

SUMMARY

Greater investment is being made into energy efficiency and other sustainable building measures for housing and non-domestic properties. Carbon emissions are increasingly being monitored and reductions are being achieved by many organisations.

GREEN



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Housing, Corporate Building & Property Services)
 Low Carbon Swansea Partnership
 Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SAP rating for housing in Swansea	- social housing	79	-	64	68	61	63	64
	- private housing	61	-	55	54	-	-	-

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of developments meeting Ecohomes or BREEAM standards <i>(excellent or very good)</i>	8 (7)	15 (13)	24 (18)	32 (24)	34 (25)	36 (27)	42 (33)

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
CO₂ emissions in CCS corporate buildings (average tonnes CO ₂ /M ²)	0.069	0.067	0.066	0.065	0.059	0.056	0.053	0.052

SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating is a calculation of the energy efficiency of homes using a sophisticated modelling system. The SAP rating for social housing (the figure is only for Council housing stock) has increased a little over the last few years. The current minimum requirement under WHQS is a SAP rating of 65 and SAP ratings are to be taken into account in future rent setting in Wales. It should be noted that figures before 2011 were calculated using different methodologies and cannot be compared to more recent figures. A SAP rating for private housing in Swansea has not been calculated since 2010.

BREEAM, the environmental assessment method for buildings managed by BRE, involves a scoring system with a five star scale – Pass, Good, Very Good, Excellent and Outstanding. The number of developments in Swansea that meet the higher BREEAM standards continues to increase.

As part of the Council's Carbon Reduction strategy, a new baseline was established using the 2009/10 figure for carbon emissions which equated to 0.059 tonnes CO₂/M². A target reduction of 3% per annum was set from this base date. CO₂ emissions from CCS corporate buildings continue to reduce and meet this target. (It should be noted that some figures included in the previous report have been amended.)

Since 2010/11, the Council has included overall carbon emissions and energy costs within its Annual Statement of Accounts. In subsequent years, the methodology for sustainability development reporting has further developed to improve its Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions indicators. The most recently reported total annual carbon emissions for Scope 1 and Scope 2 in 2012/13 37,623 tonnes CO₂ dropping from 42,532 tonnes CO₂ in 2009/10.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Council delivered a CERT-funded loft insulation installation programme and in excess of £2m of funding was secured via the CESP programme for energy saving measures such as external wall insulation and efficient boilers in council housing. The Council also implemented an Arbed phase 2 scheme in Morriston with 138 energy efficiency measures being installed in 69 properties. However, a further Arbed funding bid for 2013-14 was unsuccessful. The Council has yet to develop a policy approach to the Green Deal and has instead focussed on trying to understand and take advantage of the new ECO funding regime that targets low income areas and replaces CESP.

The Council have introduced a county-wide programme of eco-street light replacement, reducing the council's carbon footprint and saving energy costs. The use of LED lamps and dimming aims to reduce average carbon emissions by 60% in residential areas and by 40% over the whole lighting system. Installations in residential areas are 40% complete. By the end of March 2014, the Council had also installed over 400 SMART electricity meters into their non-domestic properties.

Swansea Environmental Forum secured funding from Environment Agency Wales and the Welsh Assembly (ESF) to develop and deliver the Low Carbon Swansea project to provide a coordinated, integrated and sustainable approach to reducing carbon emissions across all sectors in Swansea. The initial focus was on working with just over 20 partners, primarily from the public sector, to agree shared emission reduction targets and to organise networking and training meetings. A project manager was appointed, a website established and a baseline carbon footprint for the partners commissioned. Over the course of two and a half years, eleven partnership meetings and two training events were held. The project manager supported additional collaborative meetings on district heating and on electric vehicles. In early 2014, the partnership was extended to include housing associations and a number of large or selected businesses. Public funding for the project came to an end in Spring 2014 but several partners contributed to a £10,000 interim fund to enable the project to continue and to develop a continuation strategy. An independent evaluation of the project was very positive and a second analysis of carbon emissions undertaken in 2013/14 demonstrated reductions beyond the targets agreed by partners.

The Environment Centre developed and administered the Eastside Energy Scheme using funding from the SA1 community wind turbine. The project included a fridge/freezer swap scheme – replacing inefficient equipment with new efficient models. Under the scheme, 149 units were replaced in 2013 but as there were over 300 applications it is intended to repeat the scheme in 2014.

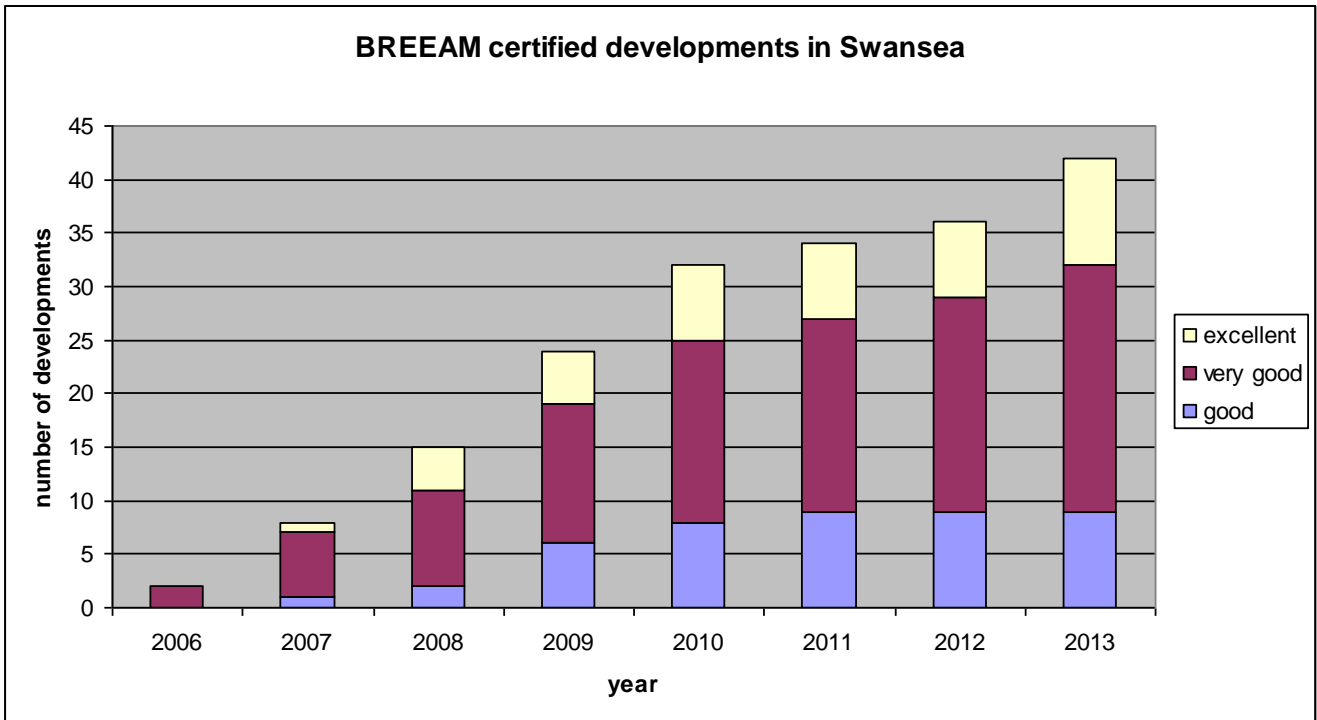
Swansea University has set a goal of achieving BREEAM Excellent for all its new builds and Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 for all new residential projects. It is also aiming to have DEC ratings of no less than E for all its buildings over 1000m² by 2015/16 and seeking to reduce its absolute carbon emissions by at least 35% by 2020/21 based on 2010/11 baseline. The University now also sources 65% of its electricity from on-site or grid renewables.

Gower College Swansea has installed voltage optimisation at both the Tycoch and Belgrave sites, and LED lighting in the car parks at Tycoch and Sketty Hall.

With funding from the EDF Green Fund, the Down to Earth Project has installed a 35kw log gasification boiler with solar thermal feed and RHI eligibility. These technologies enable the project site to be 100% renewable for all energy supply. They have also completed a refurbishment of the barn training centre at the Murton site using low carbon technologies. Planning permission has also been obtained, and Big Lottery funding to the value of £716k has been secured, for an additional eco-development on Gower.

An Archimedes screw has been installed at the waterfall in Penllergare Valley Woods to provide an income and renewable energy for the Woodland Centre, new kiosk/café and site office. The Penllergare Trust are in the process of establishing arrangements for selling the electricity.

Proposals for a tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay have developed significantly over the past two years and, following broad consultation, Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay has submitted a planning application.



BE3: Ensure the supply of high-quality, affordable and social housing within mixed, settled and inclusive communities

SUMMARY

Improvements continue to be made to both social and private housing in Swansea but housing supply is still not meeting current or future demands.

GREEN



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Housing, Planning, Environmental Health)
Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Proportion of social housing meeting WHQS (council / RSLs)	-	-	-	-	- / 38%	-	-	- / 100%	
<i>Proportion of new housing that is affordable</i>	2%	2%	9%	29%	17%		30%	17%	57%
<i>Number of affordable homes built</i>	13	12	102	299	124	104	257	129	215 (tbc)
<i>Number of homelessness preventions</i>	-	-	-	632	797	866	910	1,476	1,496
Proportion of private housing left vacant	4.41%	3.40%	3.59%	3.47%	3.24%	3.27%	2.56%	1.91%	2.05%
Number of homes brought back into use and problem buildings demolished or renovated (total since 2005/6)	9	16	39	61	88	117	156	202	296

Each of the housing associations (RSLs) operating in Swansea have now reached Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) compliance on their properties. Swansea Council continues to make significant investments in improving its housing stock and has now devised a plan for WHQS compliance by 2020. Unless interim figures become available to demonstrate progress towards this target, this indicator is no longer useful.

The proportion of new housing that is affordable has been high in recent years (on average a third of all new housing over the last three years) but the number of affordable housing units built is still below demand. For example, the Local Housing Market Assessment indicated a projected need for 473 affordable housing units in 2013/14 but just 215 were delivered through the Social Housing Grant Programme and 106 agreements.

There are a number of social and economic factors influencing the delivery of affordable housing. There has been a downturn in the economy leading to a slowdown in the construction industry. The local authority has also seen a reduction in the amount of Social Housing Grant funding. These factors have led to a slower rate of affordable housing delivery in comparison to need. Research is being undertaken to look at innovative funding models to enable maximum delivery of affordable housing. New targets for affordable housing will be included in the LDP based on the findings of the Housing Market Assessment.

The economic downturn, the insufficient supply of housing and welfare reforms have all had a significant impact on the level of homeless presentations (people presenting themselves as homeless). Swansea Council has continued to focus on early prevention work through its Housing Options service. As a consequence, the '*Number of homelessness preventions*' has increased significantly.

There were 46 long-term empty properties brought back into occupation in 2012/13 and a further 94 in 2013/14 (4.75% of long term vacant properties in Swansea, exceeded the Council's target of 4.19% for the year. The sharp increase in the last two years may in part be due to the Houses to Homes scheme.

The '*Proportion of private housing left vacant*' has continued to fall and has halved in the last decade. There were 2,101 long term vacant dwellings in the private sector at 1st April 2014.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Hafod Renewal Area programme was completed in 2013. It has been agreed that the next renewal area programme will take place in Sandfields. This will be a 5 year programme starting towards the end of 2014 and will involve improvements to approximately 1,000 private properties in that area.

The Council has continued to provide Homefix Loans and to undertake disabled adaptations works.

The new Local Housing Strategy has been delayed while various studies and reviews have been undertaken. A stock condition survey was completed in 2012 and the Council has developed a plan for its housing stock to meet WHQS by 2020. A local Housing Market Assessment was undertaken by Swansea Council, jointly with Neath Port Talbot Borough Council, and this was published in February 2014. There has also been a review of the Council's Allocations Policy which includes the allocation criteria.

Grwp Gwalia completed the development of 19 one- and two-bedroom affordable flats at the site of the former Margret Street Nursery in St Thomas in 2013. The housing association published new Design Guidelines, adopted in December 2013, which provide their designers, contractors and other partners with an explanation of the organisation's commitment to good quality social and affordable housing. The focus of the document is on creating quality places to live, which are safe, practical, designed to respond to context, low on energy use, sustainably located, and economical to manage and maintain.

Coastal Housing completed Phase 1 of the Urban Village development in Swansea High Street which incorporated 76 affordable homes to CSH 3+ level, along with offices and retail units. Work on the Castle Lane regeneration scheme, with 26 affordable apartments to CSH 3+, has progressed and is due for completion by the end of 2014.

Family Housing provided twelve affordable flats in the Viridian development in St. Thomas, completed at the end of 2012.

Swansea Council received funding for two years through the Welsh Government's Houses to Homes initiative to provide property owners with interest-free loans to help bring empty properties back into use. About 20 loans have been made to date and the scheme will continue in coming years using the capital that becomes available again as loans are repaid.

The Council decided not to introduce a new empty property strategy.

BE4: Protect and promote historic buildings and heritage sites

SUMMARY

Good progress has been made in safeguarding some of Swansea's historic buildings and improving access to and interpretation of important heritage sites but some key buildings have been lost and many are still at risk.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Planning, Regeneration, Culture and Tourism)
 Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
 Swansea Built Heritage Group
 CADW
 Swansea Civic Society

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		2008	2013	2014
Percentage of buildings at each level on the 'Buildings at Risk' register (<i>whole of Wales</i>)	<i>not at risk</i>	71.95% (74%)	-	74.5% (77.27%)
	<i>vulnerable</i>	20.31% (17%)	-	17.5% (13.81%)
	<i>at risk</i>	7.74% (9%)	9.3%	8% (8.92%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of venues / visitors in 'Open House' events	31/1,000	43/1,500	50/1,750	35/1,300	25/1,100	27/1,904	26/(2,000)

The Council's Design and Conservation Team undertook an assessment of listed buildings in 2013. The results indicated that the number of properties currently at risk has increased since Cadw's survey in 2008. The Council's Listed Buildings at Risk Register published in December 2013 stated that Swansea has 515 listed buildings, structures and monuments. Of these, 48 were at risk – representing 9.3% of the total listed building stock – 23 are owned by the Council and the rest are privately owned.

In 2014, Cadw funded a rapid external assessment of all listed buildings/structures in Swansea which showed that proportion of buildings 'at risk' and 'vulnerable' had reduced. (The figures shown in the table include adjustments made to the survey's initial figures using detailed local knowledge). Whilst the percentage of listed buildings 'not at risk' has improved, it is still below that for the whole of Wales.

Trilein continued to organise the Open House weekend in 2012 and 2013. This is an independent local initiative but run in collaboration with the all-Wales Open Doors scheme which up until 2013 was managed by the Civic Trust. An event brochure was produced in 2012 but not in 2013. The 2012 attendance figure is based on the returns received from venues so actual numbers are likely to have been higher as not all venues sent figures back. Attendance figures for 2013, which were collected by the Civic Trust, have not been made available but it is estimated that they would be similar to 2012 as it was equally popular based on anecdotal evidence and number of venues.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

SEF continued to arrange and provide a chair and secretarial support for the Swansea Built Heritage Group, which met five times in the past two years bringing together interested individuals and representatives of local organisations to network and share information and ideas on heritage issue. Much time was spent by the group in 2012 exploring the opportunities for establishing a Building Preservation Trust in Swansea. Having considered a long list of local historic properties – primarily listed buildings categorised as being at risk – it was decided that none offered a good enough opportunity at present for that approach.

Swansea Council and Swansea University have continued their partnership exploring the potential for redeveloping the Hafod and Morfa Copperworks site. Groundwork was commissioned to undertake an initial phase of work to raise awareness, engage the local community and lay the foundations for future development. The focus was on improving access to the site with new pathways and trails; engaging volunteers and working with schools; installing art and interpretation; and making listed buildings and structures safe and securing boundaries. A car park area was created and visitor counters were also installed. This phase of the project finished in May 2014 and further funding is now being sought. Over 7,000 visitors attended the site open day in June 2014.

The Swansea Branch of the Historical Association has been developing digital trails of the White Rock Copper Works and has also been undertaking some clearance work around the site.

The Council's Cabinet approved a strategy to help tackle listed buildings at risk in January 2014. This identifies 26 privately owned and 22 publically owned listed buildings.

Improvements have been made to several historic buildings in Swansea and several local heritage projects have progressed. The Guildhall has undergone significant refurbishment, the facade of Swansea Prison has been restored, and the former Central Library has been undergoing restoration. Following a fire in 2010, the Swiss Cottage in Singleton Park has now been restored and the RNLI have restored the end of Mumbles Pier – it is expected that the stem will be repaired when other developments in the area are undertaken. There has also been a multi-million pound redevelopment project at the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery but this has suffered delays because of problems with the contractor. Major restoration work at Cwmdonkin Park has been completed.

The Council has worked in partnership with the Clyne Valley Partnership to secure funding from Entrust to restoring the Roman Bridge in Blackpill which was considered to be a dangerous structure. The repair work is planned to commence in the autumn of 2014. The Council has also secured funding from WREN to undertake repairs at Scotts Pit in Birchgrove which is also considered to be at risk. Again this work is planned to commence in the autumn of 2014.

Feasibility studies have been carried out on the Palace Theatre and Danbert House. A £75,000 grant has been offered to the owners of the Palace Theatre to support urgent works such as vegetation removal, masonry repairs and roof repairs. Parts of Danbert House had to be demolished for structural reasons by the Council and an enforced sale process has now been instigated on this building. Some repair work has been done on Hendrefoilan House with some surrounding greenery removed and Swansea University is currently discussing the sustainable reuse of the house with the Council. The University of Wales Trinity Saint David are looking at the potential development of the Albert Hall as a cultural venue.

The Council was successful in securing funding for landscaping and interpretation work at the Swansea Castle site. The landscaping was completed in 2013 and the site has already been used for events. The interpretation should be in place by the end of 2014. The Council has been installing 17 pavement markers at key locations across the city centre to form a trail leading to the castle. The Council are now considering submitting bids for HLF and EU funding for a new building on the site to house a Tourist Information Centre and café on the ground floor with an education room and links to the castle prison block on the first floor.

Sadly, the Bush Hotel on High Street and the Libanus Chapel on Cwmbwrla roundabout have both been lost – the first to neglect and the second to fire.

Conservation Area reviews have been undertaken for Morryston, Mumbles and Ffynone. Each review has resulted in an appraisal and management plan being produced which should enable better control of planning decisions. It was proposed that the Ffynone and Mumbles Conservation Areas are expanded. Consultation on the Ffynone Conservation area is being undertaken during August and September 2014 and the Council plan to adopt this as supplementary planning guidance towards the end of 2014. Furthermore the proposal is to apply to the Welsh Government to remove permitted development rights for minor changes to further protect the special character.

Phase 1 of the restoration of the historic landscape at Penllergare Valley Woods is well underway. Llewelyn bridge has been rebuilt and much work has been done on dredging the upper lake, and reinstating the terraces. This phase of work will be completed by March 2015 and plans have been developed for a second phase of work which will include the restoration of the walled gardens, which have now been added to the Trust's lease of the Valley Woods. The Trust has also acquired a 25-year rent-free lease of the Penllergare observatory from Swansea Council together with a £25,000 contribution towards repair work. This £190,000 project is due to be completed by October 2014. The Trust will seek additional funding for educational resources and interpretive materials.

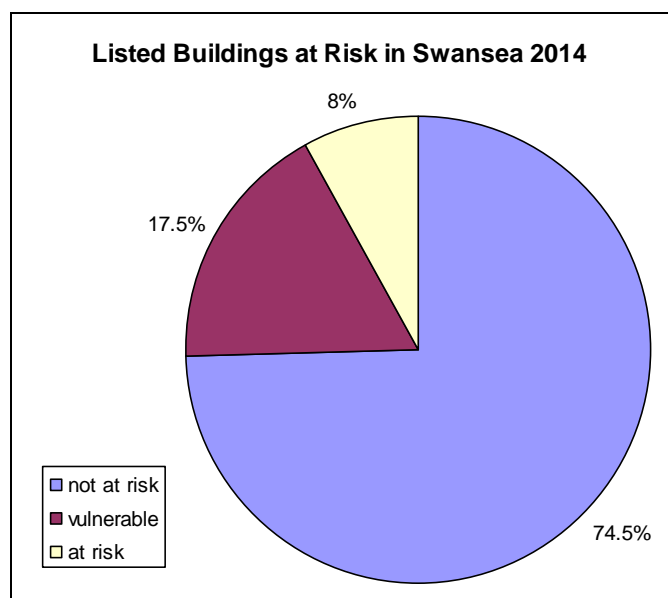
The Gower Landscape Partnership secured £1.4m HLF funding for a major 4 year project which aims to inspire and help local people to look after Gower's special and distinctive features. Saving Gower for All Its Worth is a £1.9m project with additional funding and resources from the RDP, NRW and the National Trust. A project team has been established based jointly with the local authority and the National Trust on Gower.

A printed version of the Gower AONB Design Guide (which was produced and adopted as SPG in 2011) was published in July 2012. The local authority held an awareness raising / feedback event with local architects and other stakeholders on the Guide in March 2014.

The Pontardulais Heritage Trail has been developed with a walk leaflet produced by the marketing company Cazbah, working in conjunction with the Council's Countryside Access Team, with Rural Development Plan funding.

GGAT had planned to create a leaflet providing details of Gower historic churches. This has partly been achieved but following discussions with the Gower Deanery, it was decided that the Church in Wales would produce its own leaflet with details of Gower churches. GGAT had also intended to provide information on its website on ten sites and monuments to visit within the City and County of Swansea but this has not yet been achieved. However, GGAT has been working with Swansea University's Cu@swansea project to provide a community excavation on the site of the Hafod-Morfa Copperworks and a volunteer survey to record the use of copper-slag blocks in buildings in Swansea and the neighbouring area. The value of Arfordir, GGAT's community project enlisting volunteers to monitor the state of coastal archaeology, has been demonstrated in the amount of information that has been recorded over the last couple of years. GGAT has now started to work with the Gower Landscape Project to help protect and promote the historic environment of Gower.

The Gower Society continues to give Design Awards on an annual basis. In 2013, ten properties were short listed and five awards given. In 2012, four properties were given awards. The Society also reintroduced its Best Kept Village Award in 2013 which it had not run for many years. The 2012-13 Sustainable Swansea Awards included a Built Heritage category for the first time.



WM1: Protect and improve river and ground water

SUMMARY

A new more stringent system for assessing the health of waterbodies has been introduced. Collaboration between organisations is helping in the efforts to address pollution sources and deliver innovative community engagement projects.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Natural Resources Wales
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)
Swansea Bay Bathing Water Quality Working Group

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percentage of waterbodies at good ecological status (WFD)	32%	35%	35%	32%	27%

Natural Resources Wales assesses waterbodies, including rivers, estuaries, coastal waters, groundwater and lakes, according to the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Fewer waterbodies are meeting the required criteria under this new system because the standards set are higher and take into account a wider range of factors. The new system reports on over 30 measures, grouped into ecological status and chemical status, and applies the principle of 'one out, all out' which means that the poorest individual result determines the overall classification. The assessments included in this indicator relate to 37 waterbodies. Figures included in the last strategy review report have been amended in response to a review of the waterbodies included and the methodology.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Much of the work undertaken to improve water quality is focused on the findings of the Smart Coasts project (see next section) and delivered through collaboration between NRW (formerly EAW), the City and County of Swansea and Welsh Water.

Environment Agency Wales has undertaken desktop studies and catchment studies to investigate the causes of WFD failures. This has helped to identify previously unknown discharges and is feeding into action plans for each waterbody. EAW (now NRW) officers have continued to visit industrial sites to inform businesses of their obligations, have undertaken drainage surveys in Llansamlet, Fforestfach and Crofty and produced maps of drainage systems and tributaries of the Tawe. The Misconnections Project, delivered by Swansea Council has continued around the Clyne and Cwm Stream areas.

The Clear Streams initiative, initiated by EAW and developed and delivered in partnership with SEF, the wildlife trust and Welsh Water, has involved a number of awareness-raising and community engagement projects. These have included the Digital Streams Project, where participants visit various sites along a local river, from source to the sea, taking photos to record their observations, both positive and negative, which are then exhibited. The Wildlife Trust ran the Water Butts and Ponds Project to promote water conservation and organised a programme of wildlife related events. The Clear Streams Means Business project included visits to hundreds of businesses to encourage good practice in water and pollution management.

Environment Agency Wales also commissioned Cardiff University to prepare a report on the remediation of small scale minewater discharges using low cost, low tech systems.

In the last Environment Strategy Action Plan, Swansea University aimed to reduce its absolute water consumption by 30% by the end of 2012/13, relative to 2005/6 levels. By 2011/12 it had achieved a 29.7% reduction from the baseline year.

WM2: Maintain and improve bathing and drinking water quality

SUMMARY

A comprehensive research project involving extensive sampling and modelling has improved understanding of bathing water quality in Swansea Bay and is enabling a targeted approach to improving water quality to meet new standards.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)
Natural Resources Wales
Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Percentage of bathing waters at guideline standard	87.5%	100%	87.5%	75%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%
Percentage of bathing waters at sufficient or above standard	100%	100%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	100%
Percentage of bathing waters at excellent standard	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%	87.5%
Number of Blue Flags / Green Coast Awards in Swansea	4 / -	5 / 5	5 / 5	5 / 4	4 / 4	4 / 5	4 / 2	4 / 2
- in Wales	45 / -	50 / 49	48 / 46	42 / 44	45 / 50	41 / 47	43 / 51	38 / 35

Under the current Bathing Water Directive, all eight of Swansea's designated bathing water beaches reach the mandatory standard for water quality but just seven of the eight beaches generally reach guideline standards – Swansea Bay usually fails to meet this higher standard. However, in 2013, Swansea did achieved guideline standard but Caswell Bay did not.

The new standards being introduced under the Water Framework Directive will rate beaches as excellent, good, sufficient or poor and the directive requires that all beaches reach sufficient. The new sufficient standard is more stringent than the current minimum standard. These measures will come into force in 2015 but Natural Resources Wales is already running models to produce results which are measured against the revised directive using rolling sets of four years of data. Using this new system Natural Resources Wales have calculated that seven of Swansea's designated beaches will reach excellent standard with just Swansea Bay at risk of not achieving sufficient standard in 2015.

The number of Blue Flags in Swansea has remained at 4 (Bracelet Bay, Caswell Bay, Llangland and Port Eynon) but the number of Green Coast Awards has reduced from 5 in 2011 to just 2 in 2012 and 2013 (Rhossili and Limeslade). It has been decided that a classification of excellent under the Water Framework Directive is now being required for a Blue Flag. Across Wales, the total number of Blue Flags has fluctuated between 40 and 50 but dropped below this in 2013. The number of Green Coast Awards dropped significantly in 2013 after reaching a peak of over 50 in 2012.

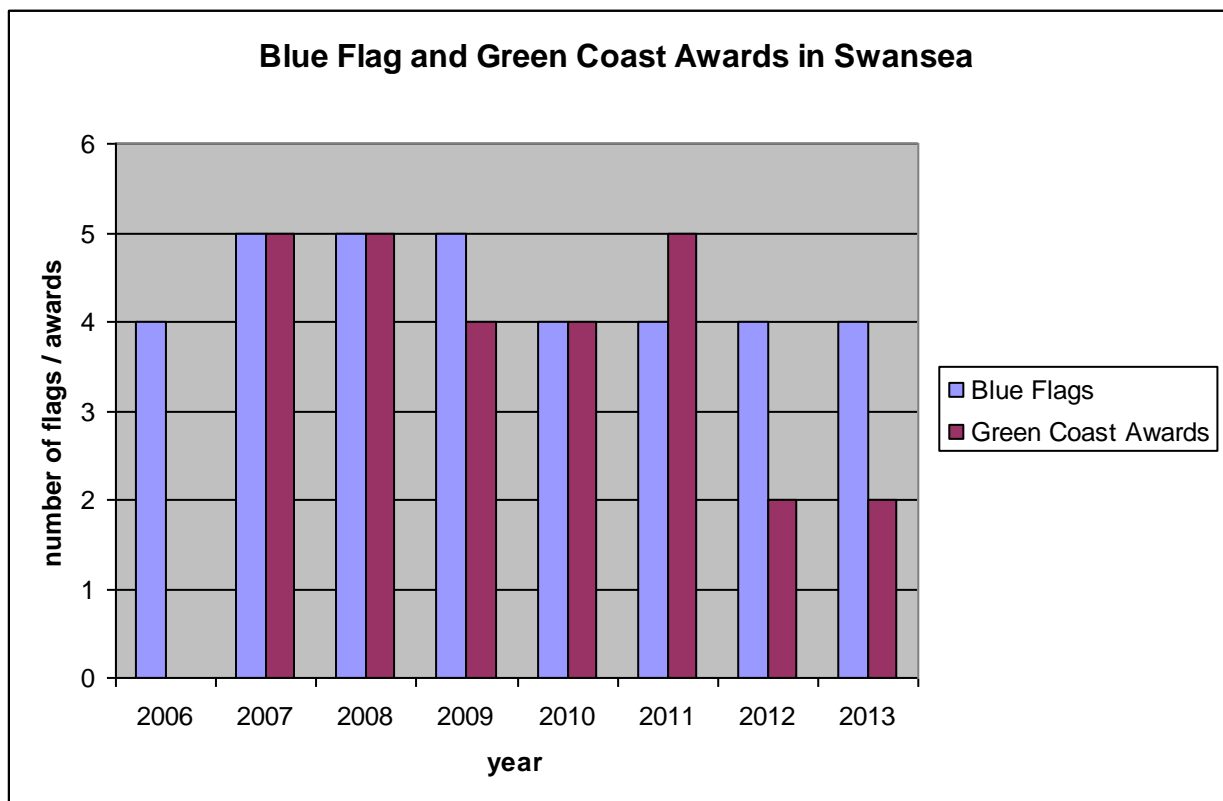
ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Smart Coasts project – a major EU-funded research project focused on Swansea Bay - was completed in spring 2013. This was a partnership involving Aberystwyth University, the City and County of Swansea, Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water. The project developed a modelling system for bathing waters in Swansea Bay which was run three times a day throughout the

summer in 2013. A simple water quality information sign was placed by the bathing sampling point near the Slip and changed up to three times a day in response to the results from the model. The sign read either 'Good water quality is predicted today.' or 'Bathing not advised today. Risk of poor water quality.' The information was also maintained on the website and a Twitter feed. This reporting system will continue in 2014.

The Smart Coast partners continue to meet on a regular basis to respond to the research findings, further develop the modelling system and to identify and deal with the main sources of pollution affecting bathing water quality. The EU funding has been extended to enable further sampling to be undertaken and the model will be recalibrated using new data to test different hypotheses.

The local authority continues to implement a private water supply inspection programme to risk assess, sample and improve all shared supplies. Many private supplies are now switching to mains.



WM3: Restrict development on flood plains, reduce flood risk and improve flood awareness

SUMMARY

There has been significant investment in reducing flood risk and raising awareness of flood risk, particularly in the Lower Swansea Valley.

GREEN



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Planning / Resilience)
Natural Resources Wales
South Wales Resilience Forum

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014
Number of properties at high risk of flooding	4,429	-	4,589	4,216	4,249
<i>Percentage of properties at risk from flooding</i>	4.1%	-	4.1%	3.7%	3.8%
<i>Percentage of at risk properties on flood warning service</i>	-	8%	56%	67%	81%

There has been little change in the number of properties in Flood Zone 2 (with a 1,000 to 1 chance of flooding in any year) within the City and County Swansea. The percentage of at risk properties in Swansea on flood warning system was previously based on those registered to the flood warning service. This was recorded as 67% in the last review report. However, the way this is measured has now been changed from being the number of properties that actually receive warnings to the number that are able to receive the service. This fluctuates on a monthly basis but currently remains around 80-81%. This is high compared to other parts of Wales.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The South Wales Resilience Forum established a Critical Infrastructure Group to map and prioritise assets in the South Wales Police area to inform emergency response and recovery from flooding or other emergency incidents. Much of this work has been undertaken but is not yet assembled in a central storage portal.

In line with the statutory duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was completed in early 2013, which deals with flood risk from surface water runoff, groundwater and watercourses. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, City & County of Swansea will develop the subsequent Flood Risk Management Plan for Swansea for submission to Natural Resources Wales by June 2015. A Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment (SFCA) was also undertaken and published in 2012 to inform the Local Development Plan.

A £7 million flood scheme in the Lower Swansea Valley has been completed. This included improvements to the flood bank, the removal of four low bridges and the installation of a new bridge. New banks were constructed away from the river channel leaving more space for water to flow. This has also created 6 hectares of wetland wildlife habitat. The scheme successfully prevented flooding during severe storms and prolonged periods of heavy rain in winter 2013/14.

The Lower Swansea Valley project also involved improved flood warning and community flood awareness activity. New river level gauges and CCTV systems have been installed to monitor how quickly the river rises during periods of heavy rainfall. A new targeted flood warning system has been introduced and all businesses within the flood risk area were visited and encouraged to develop their own flood plans. In total, 73 business flood plans have been prepared across the county (37 in Tawe Vale, 27 in the Swansea Marina area and 9 in Pontardulais). There are also two flood plans at nurseries in the Tawe Vale area and, as part of the Tawe Vale flood alleviation scheme, NRW and CCS staff engaged with the two traveller sites. Since 2010, the NRW (or previously EAW) has visited all properties offered a flood warning service in Swansea to provide information on personal flood plans and registration to the free flood warning service.

WM4: Restore contaminated land ensuring minimum risks to the environment and public health

SUMMARY

The restoration of contaminated land in Swansea continues to be achieved through development projects rather than a proactive programme of work and the mapping of contaminated land remains incomplete.

RED



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control, Planning)
Natural Resources Wales

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2010	2012	2014
Area of contaminated land remaining in Swansea (hectares)	2,172	2,149	2,149	-

The 'area of contaminated land remaining in Swansea' has not been calculated but is assumed to have remained about the 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. Further resources will be necessary to enable data to be generated for this indicator.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Redevelopment has continued to be slow due to the unfavourable economic climate. Some work is ongoing in SA1 and around the Morfa Road.

A proposed review of the local authority's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy has still not been undertaken and a map of contaminated sites in Swansea is has still not been made publicly available.

In 2013, the Welsh Government published "Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance for Wales 2012" to explain how local authorities should implement Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and how they should go about deciding whether land is contaminated in the legal sense of the term and how they should ensure that remediation requirements are reasonable.

The British Geological Society (BGS) was commissioned to provide guidance on normal background concentrations (NBCs) of 7 contaminants: arsenic, benzo[a]pyrene, lead, cadmium, copper, mercury and nickel.

WM5: Reduce waste going to landfill and increase reuse, recycling and composting

SUMMARY

Recycling and composting in Swansea continue to increase, driven by extensive and targeted promotion. Waste going to landfill continues to fall but at a slower rate. Fly tipping incidents have increased a little.

GREEN



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Waste Management)
Swansea Waste Forum
Natural Resources Wales

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Average household waste arising / municipal waste arisings (kg per person)	521kg / 620kg	504kg / 609kg	476kg / 567kg	470kg / 551kg	438kg / 516kg	402kg / 472kg	397kg / 461kg	393kg / 488kg
Percentage of municipal waste recycled, reused or composted	29% (21% rec, 8% com)	30% (22% rec, 8% com)	32% (23% rec, 9% com)	35% (22% rec, 13% com)	40% (26% rec, 14% com)	45% (29% rec, 16% com)	48% (31% rec, 17% com)	53% (35% rec, 17% com)
Percentage of waste at civic amenity sites that is recycled or composted	31%	50%	54%	58%	59%	54%	56%	61%
<i>Percentage commercial waste recycled, reused or composted (CCS)</i>	15%	19%	18%	19%	17%	20%	28%	32%
<i>Amount of material reused</i>	195 tonnes	344 tonnes	519 tonnes	566 tonnes	447 tonnes	246 tonnes	197 tonnes	327 tonnes
<i>Percentage of LAS allowance used</i>	67%	69%	68%	67%	78%	73%	83%	85%
Number of fly tipping incidents (Wales)	7,416 (54,841)	7,335 (61,995)	5,088 (55,349)	4,042 (48,179)	2,902 (41,750)	2,003 (-)	2,705 (34,876)	2,702 (32,530)

Municipal recycling and composting rates have continued to increase, primarily due to the successful promotion of the kerbside collection scheme. Though the Council failed to reach the 50% target set by the Welsh Government for 2012/13, this figure has now been surpassed and there is confidence that the 2015/16 target of 58% will be met.

Recycling rates from waste collected at amenity sites has picked up again after a dip in 2011/12.

Whilst recycling rates for the Council's commercial waste collections continue to rise, it remains well behind the figures for household collections and at amenity sites.

The total waste arisings in Swansea have continued to fall though the rate of reduction has slowed down. The Council has kept within the *Landfill Allowance Scheme (LAS)* limit but the percentage of allowance used has increased.

The number of fly tipping incidents in Swansea in the last two years was higher than in 2011/12 but was still lower than in the previous five years. The total number of fly tipping incidents across Wales has continued to fall. In 2006/7, incidents in Swansea were 14% of the total in Wales. This fell to just 7% of the Wales total in 2010/11 but rose again to 8% in 2013/14.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The local authority has continued to put significant effort and resources into promoting waste reduction, reuse and greater participation in recycling schemes. This has included the 'Give it a Try' campaign, using Ospreys players, and the recent 'Keep it to 3' black bag campaign. These campaigns have included advertising in the Evening Post, bridge banners and on collection vehicles. There have also been materials sent to homes, the recycling website and a new phone app to help inform people on waste services available and encourage recycling, reuse, etc. Specific leaflets have been produced for flats and for students.

There has been a particular focus on food waste with surveys and targeted door knocking in 13 areas during 2012-14. This approach has not only resulted in a significant increase in food waste segregation but also improvements across other waste streams. There are currently four staff involved in door knocking work.

The Council has also undertaken road shows at supermarkets, events and within the city centre, and a new vehicle has been purchased to improve such activities. Pop-up recycling/reuse events have been held at 8 sites with collection skips. The Council has also worked with Swansea BID to increase the amount and range of recycling in the Quadrant and Swansea Market. The Wise up to Waste week was coordinated by the council again in 2012 but this did not happen in 2013 and there are no plans to continue the initiative. The Swansea Waste Forum has not met since May 2012 as it is felt that there has not been a reason to bring the group together. The Council maintain the Forum website.

From April 2014, the Council introduced a 3 bag limit to the number of black bags residents can put out for collection each fortnight. Collection crews will leave the remaining black bags and residents will have to remove them and either put them out on the next black bag collection day or take them to their local Household Waste Recycling Centre. Household with excess bags will be contacted and given information about recycling. Residents who continue to place more than three bags out for collection may have enforcement action taken against them as a last resort after all efforts have been made to encourage them to recycle. Households can apply for exemption.

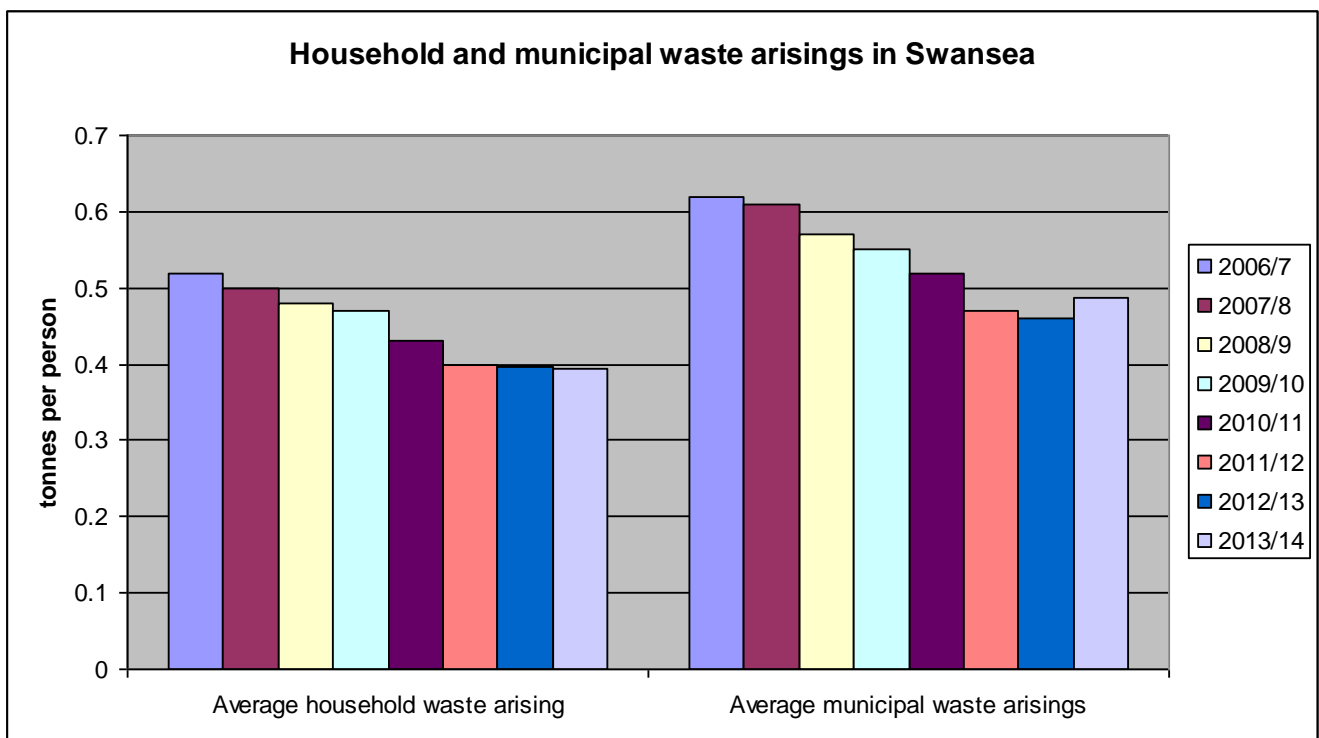
The Swansea Waste Action Team (SWAT), based at the Council's Clydach depot, continues to help sort through items from the bulky waste collection. The waste education classroom, also at the Clydach site, has not been used much as the Council's waste education officer more often visits schools rather than schools visiting the classroom. There has been an increase in visits to the Baling Plant and Llansamlet Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) by schools and community groups.

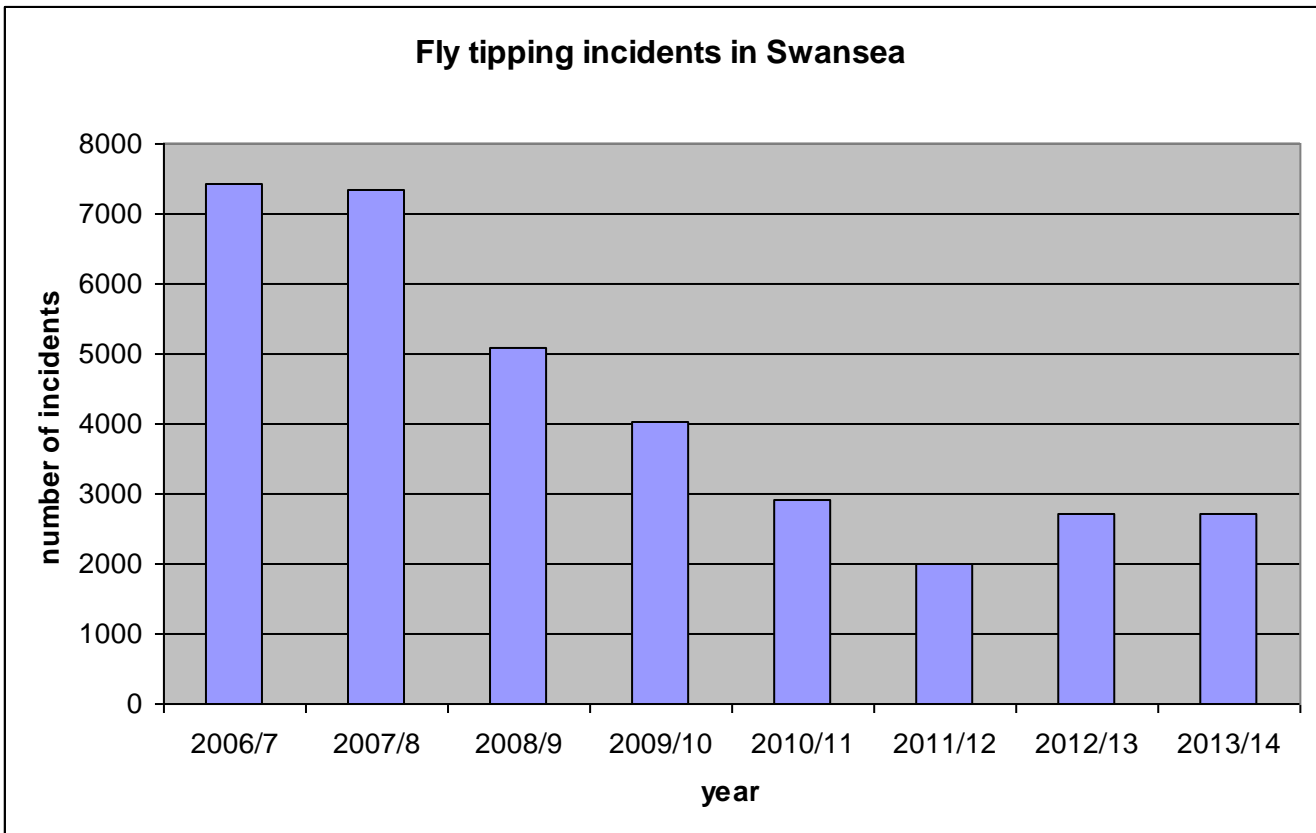
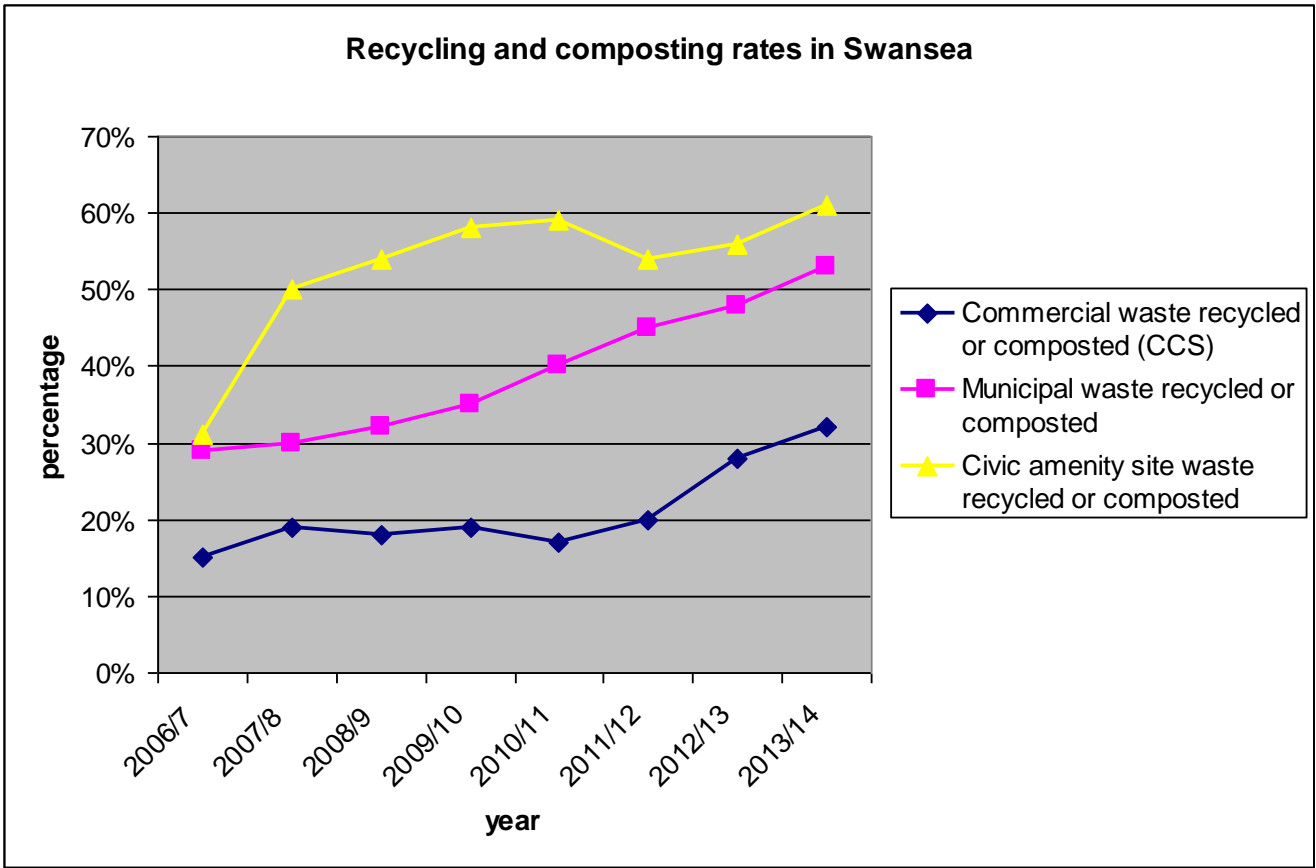
Improvements have been made to civic amenity sites, which are being rebranded as Household Waste Recycling Centres. All staff at these sites have undergone training to improve recycling and reuse rates. This includes sorting black bag residual waste. Rubble can now also be segregated at all sites and a permit scheme has been introduced to allow trade waste to be deposited at the sites. CCTV cameras are being installed to monitor use, particularly trade waste. A 'Corner Shop' has been established at the Llansamlet HWRC selling a variety of items including books, toys, crockery, ornaments, furniture and electrical items, that have been rescued by recycling staff from waste brought to the site for disposal, and probable landfill. The Council also continues to run an online Swap Shop.

The Stop Waste in Our Landscape Project (SWOLP) continued to mid-2013 involving a partnership between nine organisations and aiming to raise awareness of the potential impact that illegal and insensitive disposal of building rubble and unwanted soil on Gower may have on landscape, heritage and biodiversity features. The project largely involved the distribution of awareness-raising leaflets and posters, and presentations to various organisations including 11 community councils in and on the edge of Gower.

Swansea Metropolitan University (SMU) aimed to reach 70% recycling rate by 2013. The University has subsequently merged with other institutions to form the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and whilst the plan is to unify waste management services across the various campuses, and indeed collaborate with other institutions too, there are currently a range of contractors and levels of reporting. However, the former SMU campuses are served by EPS with a 100% diversion rate and it is estimated that approx. 60-70% of the waste is recycled.

Changes in waste collection and disposal services do not appear to have had a significant effect on the level of fly-tipping. Fly tipping offences are still mainly covered by the Environment Protection Act, the Control of Pollution Act and the Clean Neighbourhoods Act. However, there are a number of new documents that will have a bearing on this issue. The Welsh Government's Fly-tipping Strategy is currently out for consultation and a proposal to place a statutory duty on local authorities to investigate fly tipping incidents is being considered. New Sentencing Council guidelines recommend that any fines awarded shouldn't be any less than the money made in committing the offence. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act, due to come into force in October 2014, will give local authorities new powers to deal with businesses and social landlords.





WM6: Provide and develop suitable sites and sustainable technologies for dealing with waste

SUMMARY

Plans are still progressing towards regional facilities to deal with food waste and residual waste.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Waste Management)
Regional Sustainable Waste Management Project Board
Natural Resources Wales

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

No indicators have been agreed for this priority.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Regional Sustainable Waste Management Project Board had sought to establish a hub for food waste treatment by 2014 but the preferred bidder dropped out of the tender process. Similarly, work is ongoing to secure residual waste treatment for the region by 2018.

Improvements have been made to the Tir John Landfill site and the Baling Plant. The Tir John Landfill site is still being used to take Swansea's residual waste. Compostable materials are dealt with by Biogen and Cowbridge Compost with some material being returned as soil conditioner for householders and groups to access from the Tir John site.

Suitable provision of waste management facilities is being incorporated into the LDP.

The Council's Recycling Team reports a marked increase in the number of building developers that seek their advice regarding waste facilities within new building developments.

ST1: Promote more sustainable forms of travel and transport

SUMMARY

Cycling in Swansea appears to be increasing and facilities for cyclists are improving but car use still dominates and some bus services are reducing.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Transportation, Highways)
 SWWITCH (South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium)
 Sustrans
 Wheelrights
 Bikability Wales
 BayTrans (Swansea Bay Sustainable Travel and Tourism Partnership)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Modal split City Centre User Survey	<i>car / p&r</i>	56%	55%	57%	53%	49%	52%	54%	53%
	<i>bus / train</i>	24%	28%	27%	27%	30%	27%	24%	26%
	<i>foot / cycle</i>	17%	16%	14%	18%	20%	19%	19%	19%
Modal split SWWITCH Household Travel Survey (South West Wales region)	<i>car</i>	-	68% (71%)	-	-	-	73% (63%)	-	71% (76%)
	<i>bus / train</i>	-	11% (10%)	-	-	-	7% (9%)	-	8% (7%)
	<i>foot / cycle</i>	-	19% (17%)	-	-	-	18% (27%)	-	20% (16%)

		2006	2007	2009	2013	2014
Number of cyclists using National Cycle Network	<i>Blackpill Lido</i>	228,000	142,000	-		197,744
	<i>Clydach Connect2</i>			6,000	31,610	

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cycle route counter data	<i>Blackpill Lido</i>	154,000	176,000	184,000	185,000	177,000	203,000
	<i>Blackpill North</i>	152,000	160,000	173,000	114,000	165,000	-
	<i>Civic Centre</i>	138,000	160,000	174,000	184,000	191,000	209,000
	<i>Tawe Bridges</i>	45,000	38,000	49,000	61,000	63,000	58,000

		2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Main transport for shopping (SVS):	- car / van	69%	74%	77%	78%	66%	78%
	- bus / train	11%	20%	13%	10%	19%	25%
	- walking / bicycle	6%	14%	8%	8%	8%	20%
	- park and ride	-	-	-	-	4%	3%
	- other	14%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Main transport for	- car / van	66%	63%	67%	67%	58%	83%

<i>leisure (SVS):</i>	- bus / train	11%	17%	13%	11%	19%	30%
	- walking / bicycle	11%	20%	16%	19%	10%	30%
	- park and ride	-	-	-	-	1%	2%
	- other	12%	5%	4%	3%	12%	4%
<i>Main transport for work (SVS):</i>	- car / van	69%	49%	61%	64%	43%	61%
	- bus / train	11%	7%	9%	6%	13%	14%
	- walking / bicycle	11%	9%	8%	11%	7%	14%
	- park and ride	-	-	-	-	0%	0%
	- other	9%	36%	21%	18%	37%	23%

Number using park and ride facilities	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	208,512	255,552	304,235	334,440	320,986	297,068	309,435	303,523	277,178

The results from the City Centre User Survey suggests a small decrease in use of public transport and a small increase in car and park & ride use but the figures are very similar to those in previous years. This survey is no longer going to be conducted and there are no immediate plans for any replacement.

A third SWWITCH Household Travel Survey was conducted between February and May 2014 and the results showed a small switch from car use to walking, cycling and public transport.

Data collected through the Swansea Voices surveys suggests that travel by personal motor vehicle for shopping, leisure and work still dominates. The surveys allow respondents to choose more than one answer – and it would appear that this practice has increased in more recent surveys having the effect of boosting the figures for each answer significantly. The increases for use of public transport, cycling and walking have increased by a greater proportion than for motor vehicles which might suggest that the number of people using these modes may have increased.

The figures given for cyclists using the NCR (National Cycle Routes) are estimates based on Cycle Route User Surveys carried out by Sustrans at Blackpill (2006, 2007 and 2014) and in Clydach (2009 and 2013). The latest Blackpill survey was completed in April 2014. The annual usage estimate at was 330,470 of which, it was estimated, 197,744 users would be cyclists, 118,865 pedestrians and 13,861 other types of route users. The 2013 Clydach survey estimated the total annual use to be 105,130 of which 31610 were cyclists.

Council cycle counters are in place in several locations on cycle paths across Swansea. Data from four key locations is given. A figure for the Blackpill North counter is not provided for 2013 as it was malfunctioning. The data generally suggests an increase in cycling. The lower figure for the Tawe Bridges counter in 2013 may be due to a stretch of NCN 43 being closed for a 12 month period when the Lower Swansea Valley Flood Scheme was being carried. These approximate annual figures are derived from daily averages and rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Patronage of the park and ride facilities in Swansea has fallen in the last two years with the total in 2013 dropping to its lowest level for six years. This may be partly due to decreases in visits to the City Centre in recent years.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Boulevard development has provided a new cycle route through the City Centre and a new counter has been installed along the route. Bus priority measures – bus lanes and bus gates – are also incorporated into the scheme and should be completed by the end of 2014.

The Clydach Connect2 scheme was successfully completed in Nov 2013 with approximately 6km of

path laid and art work along the Afon Tawe Bridge section. One section – The Lone – was not completed due to funding and time constraints. Sustrans has now completed a feasibility study on creating links from the Connect2 path through the Players Industrial Estate in Clydach. The Lower Swansea Valley Flood Scheme included an upgrade of approximately 3km of cycle path. However, plans to complete the remaining sections of the North Gower Trail have been suspended for the foreseeable future because land agreements could not be made.

A commuter cycle map leaflet, based on the style of the London Underground map, has been produced in collaboration with Neath Port Talbot Borough Council. Coloured route signs, linked to the routes on the map, have been installed along the routes. However, an interactive cycle parking map that had been planned for the council website was not completed.

Wheelrights have continued to meet with the Council's Transport Planner and Cycling Officer on a quarterly basis. However, as of May 2014 there will no longer be a Cycling Officer post at the Council.

The annual Gower Cycling Festival, organised by Wheelrights, has continued to develop. The 2013 festival, which took place in August rather than September as in previous years, included 22 rides and almost 200 participants (up about ¼ on 2012). Wheelrights also continued to provide adult cycle training sessions organising five sessions in 2013 involving about 30 trainees in total.

In 2012, Wheelrights, the local authority, SWWITCH and others supported the first Swansea Cycle Challenge. This workplace cycling campaign initiative, coordinated by Bristol-based Challenge for Change, takes the form of a competition for workplaces to get as many workers as possible to cycle during the challenge period. 90 organisations signed up to the scheme and 921 people participated, of which 292 described themselves as new cyclists. 70% of the challenge participants were non- or occasional cyclists and three months after the Challenge 34% of non-cyclists reported cycling weekly. The Swansea Cycle Challenge took place again in 2013 involving 775 participants from 67 organisations with 134 new cyclists. The project is not taking place in 2014. However, the supporting website, where people can log their rides, has been maintained and people are still logging rides.

Bikability Wales continues to provide opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in cycling through the provision of 80 different conventional and specialist cycles at their Dunvant site. In 2013, there were 7,310 service users which included primary and secondary school groups, university student groups, youth centres, day centres, NHS departments, ethnic minority groups, individuals and families from across Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot. Over the last year, Bikeability also taught in the region of 50 complete beginners to ride a bicycle, ranging in age from 3 years old to 60 years old, and over 80 children attended the National Standard Cycle training sessions.

An appropriate site for a park and ride facility in west Swansea has still not been identified and is not currently being actively pursued. Automated barrier and ticketing systems were introduced at the three existing park and ride facilities early in 2013 and from July 2014, park and ride customers can purchase a ticket giving unlimited travel for a day on First Cymru services across the Swansea area for just £1.50.

Preliminary plans have been prepared and an appropriate site identified for a permanent park and share site at Felindre but the necessary funding has not yet been secured. The existing facility, which is also used by DVLA for staff parking, will continue to be used on a temporary basis but as this is expected to be the last part of the site that is developed, the facility will probably continue for several years.

The regional car sharing system sswitch2share was closed down and replaced by a national scheme – Sharecymru.

Baytrans, the Swansea Bay Sustainable Travel and Tourism Partnership, has provided transport information combined with local maps showing walks, etc at bus stops and travel information at accommodation sites. Since 2011, the popular Gower Sunday Explorer - a BayTrans initiative funded through the Swansea Rural Development Partnership – has been operating every Sunday and on public holidays throughout the spring and summer with hourly services between 10am and 17pm, alternating via north and south Gower routes with all buses running through to Rhossili. A survey conducted on this service suggests that the proportion of visitors using the bus to go walking has risen from 12% to around 23% over the three years.

ST2: Improve access to services, workplaces and community facilities

SUMMARY

Ease of access to facilities and services within Swansea is perceived to be generally good. Many organisations continue to produce and develop travel plans.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Transportation, Highways, Road Safety)
SWWITCH (South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		2006-2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of organisations with local travel plan awards	bronze	36	6	5	3	2
	silver	16	4	3	3	1
	gold	1	4	4	2	-
	platinum	-	-	1	2	5
Number of schools with local travel plan awards	bronze	10		5	-	2
	silver	1			-	-
	gold	1		1	-	-
	platinum	-	-	-	-	-

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<i>City Centre User Survey (very or fairly easy to access)</i>	89%	93%	95%	95%	96%	94%	96%

<i>Ease of getting to facilities and services (SVS – very or fairly easy)</i>	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
- local shopping facilities	93%	95%	94%	92%	94%	96%
- city centre shopping facilities	87%	88%	82%	82%	85%	89%
- GP	89%	93%	92%	91%	91%	93%
- parks and open spaces	92%	92%	89%	90%	92%	90%
- public transport (bus stop / train station)	88%	90%	88%	88%	92%	90%
- recycling facilities	63%	72%	66%	68%	71%	76%
- civic amenity site	62%	68%	63%	67%	66%	75%
- sport / leisure centre	77%	68%	66%	72%	82%	84%
- Civic Centre / Guildhall / council offices	75%	78%	76%	78%	77%	85%
- local library	88%	86%	84%	88%	72%	89%
- cultural facilities (cinema / theatre)	79%	83%	80%	78%	77%	84%
- local hospital	71%	78%	74%	78%	75%	82%
- pharmacy or chemist	94%	96%	96%	96%	95%	97%
- place of work	62%	72%	64%	71%	71%	69%

	2007	2010
<i>Frequency of public transport services direct from Swansea to key regional settlements (bus / train)</i>	279 / 127	155 / 108

SWWITCH continued to organise annual travel plan award ceremonies in 2012 and 2013 with 10 and 8 awards being made respectively. Seven of these awards were at the new Platinum level. Just two schools were awarded in the last two years. The future of these awards, and the associated indicators, is in doubt as SWWITCH has now been disbanded.

The City Centre User Survey suggests ease of access to the City Centre has remained fairly constant over recent years. It should be noted that this survey is no longer being conducted and there are no immediate plans for any replacement.

The latest Swansea Voices Survey data suggest that the proportion finding it easy to get to most local facilities and services is generally improving, increasing to an average of 86% in 2012 from an average of around 81% in previous years.

SWWITCH was unable to provide additional data for the indicator '*Frequency of direct train and bus services from Swansea to other key settlements in the south-west Wales region*' and given that SWWITCH is no longer operating, it is unlikely that this indicator will remain viable.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Funding and responsibilities were withdrawn from regional consortia and these were effectively disbanded at the end of March 2014. The members of SWWITCH, including representatives of the four local authorities in the region, decided to continue meeting on an informal basis as a regional transport partnership and this body now feeds into the Swansea Bay City Region Board.

Over the past two years, SWWITCH continued to oversee the delivery of the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) programme but plans for RTP2 did not develop as the Welsh Government decided that it would revert to Local Transport Plans (LTP). The four authorities have agreed to prepare a joint LTP for the region.

SWWITCH continued to support organisations to produce and implement travel plans and has organised annual travel planning awards. Despite the demise of SWWITCH, funding for the Travel Plan Coordinator post has been continued for 2013/14.

SWWITCH completed a regional rail strategy in December 2013 and a regional network strategy for public transport in January 2014. SWWITCH also managed the much-depleted bus service operators' grant for the region in 2013/14.

QR codes have been introduced at bus stops to provide information and, since 2012, 49 bus stops have been upgraded to raised kerb standard as part of an ongoing programme to improve accessibility.

Modelling related to the proposed extension and enhancement of Morfa Road is partially completed with final surveys being undertaken in July 2014. Modelling and monitoring of traffic flows between Tawe bridges and LC has been done annually since 2011 using data from both the urban traffic controller and floating car surveys. The data is continuing to show significant improvements to journey times through the reconfigured system.

The construction elements of the Penlan Safe Routes in Communities scheme were fully implemented during 2012/13 but, due to staff shortages, it has not been possible to monitor the impact that the scheme has had in encouraging modal shift e.g. by getting more pupils to walk to school. In 2013/14, the Council successfully implemented a scheme in the Morryston area improving cycling and walking facilities and helping to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists. As with the Penlan scheme, no monitoring has subsequently been undertaken. The Council was successful in securing £555,500 to implement Safe Routes works in the Townhill area in 2014/15. The detailed design is well underway and it is anticipated that all works will be completed by the end of the financial year.

ST3: Improve air quality and reduce air pollution

SUMMARY

Air quality in Swansea is still a concern and policies that aim to increase inner city dwellings and café type environments may increase the number of people exposed to poor air quality in the City Centre.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of days when air pollution is moderate or higher	138	58	142	126	108	59	50	89
Number of roadside NO₂ monitoring sites exceeding annual mean limit	-	17	23	28	57	35	38	22
<i>Number of roadside NO₂ monitoring sites close to exceeding annual mean limit</i>	-	10	14	10	26	20	10	11
Number of PM_{2.5} monitoring sites exceeding annual mean limit	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of PM_{2.5} monitoring sites close to exceeding annual mean limit	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Number of PM₁₀ monitoring sites exceeding annual mean limit	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Number of PM₁₀ exceedences of 24-hour mean limit</i>	- Swansea AURN	7	6	4	0	5	4	2
	- Morriston	10	12	6	1	9	0	0

Some of the data does suggest that there have been less exceedences in the last two years than the two preceding years but it should be noted that air pollution figures are highly dependent on weather conditions.

In 2011, the Morfa PM₁₀ station was decommissioned so previous results for that station are no longer included in the table.

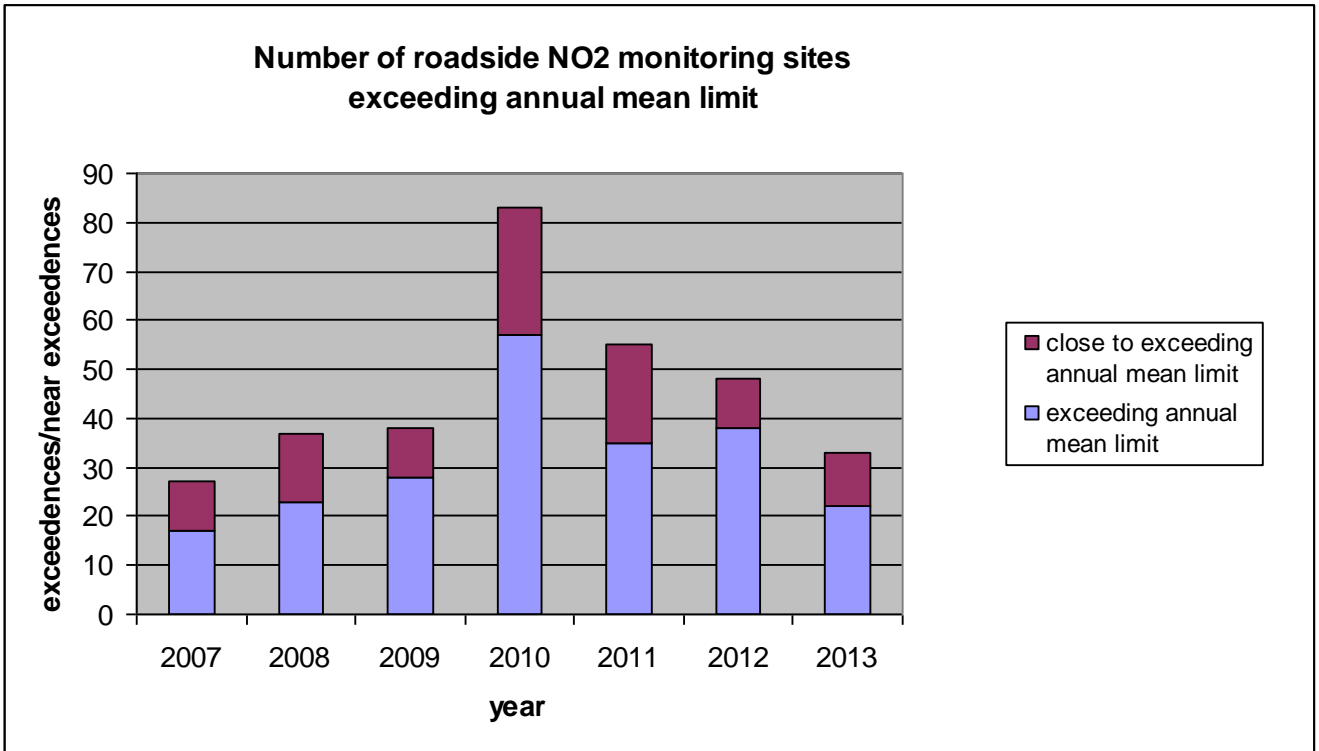
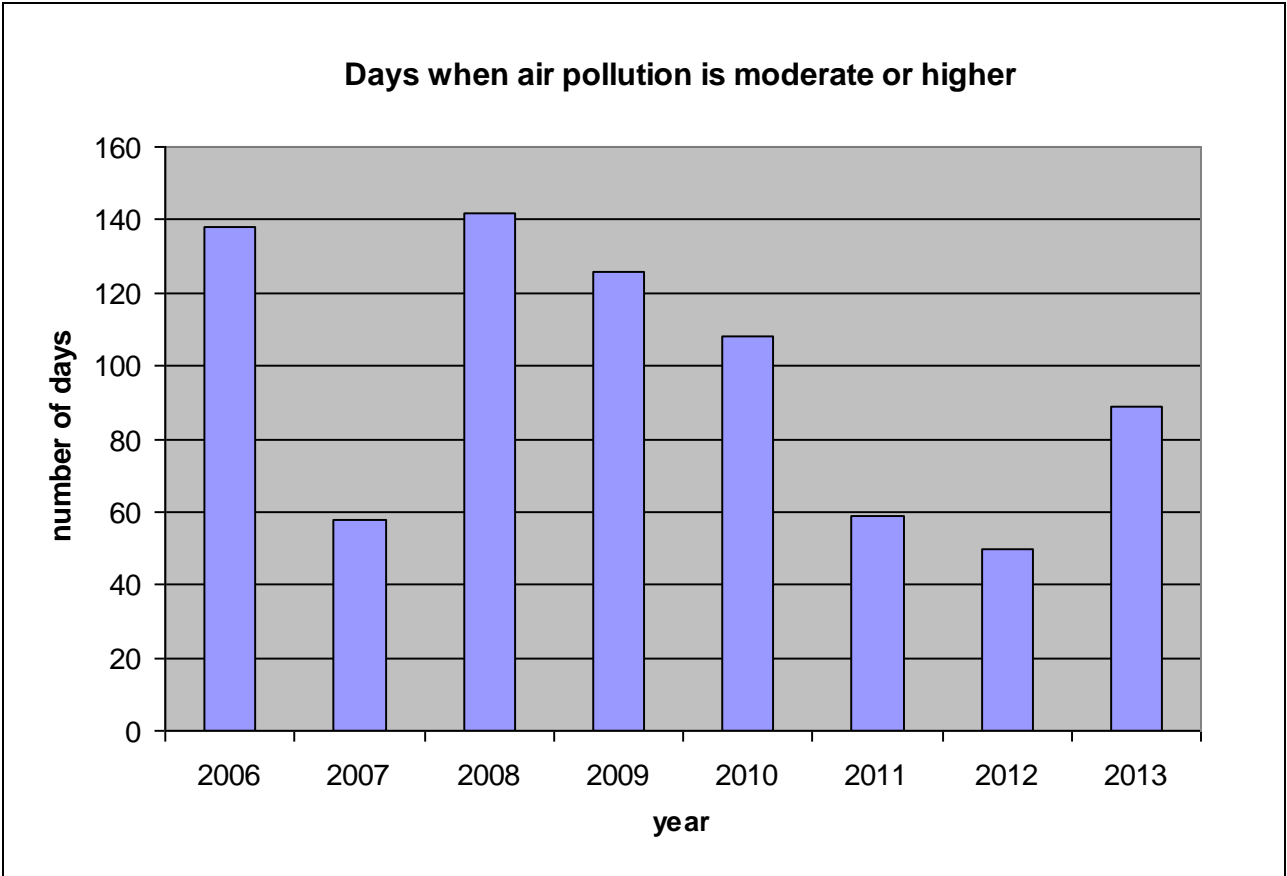
From the beginning of 2015, the annual mean target value for PM_{2.5} (25ug/m³) will become an obligatory limit value (exposure reduction targets over an agglomeration).

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Air Quality Improvement Task Group did not meet in 2012 but did reconvene in September 2013 where the action plan was reviewed and it was agreed that the group should meet on an annual basis.

The extent of the Swansea AQMA (air quality management area) has not varied since 2010 when it was increased to include parts of Sketty and Fforestfach.

A Welsh Government grant was obtained in 2012/2013 to fund 3 new roadside signs adding to the 3 already installed as part of the Boulevard development. The six signs have been placed on Oystermouth Road (outside Swansea Prison), Quay Parade, Fabian Road (near the Park & Ride), New Cut Road and two on Fford Cwm Tawe (one near Beaufort Road and one near Liberty Stadium).



ST4: Improve air quality monitoring and reporting mechanisms

SUMMARY

The level of air quality monitoring and reporting in Swansea remains high and the number of hits on the Swansea Air Quality website continues to increase.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

City and County of Swansea (Pollution Control)

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of NO ₂ monitoring locations	-	71	134	137	274	211	245	246
Number of hits on Swansea Air Quality website	163,139	168,538	202,668	211,791	186,343	202,545	273,906	311,059

The number of active NO₂ monitoring sites was reduced in 2011 to save costs but were increased again the following year.

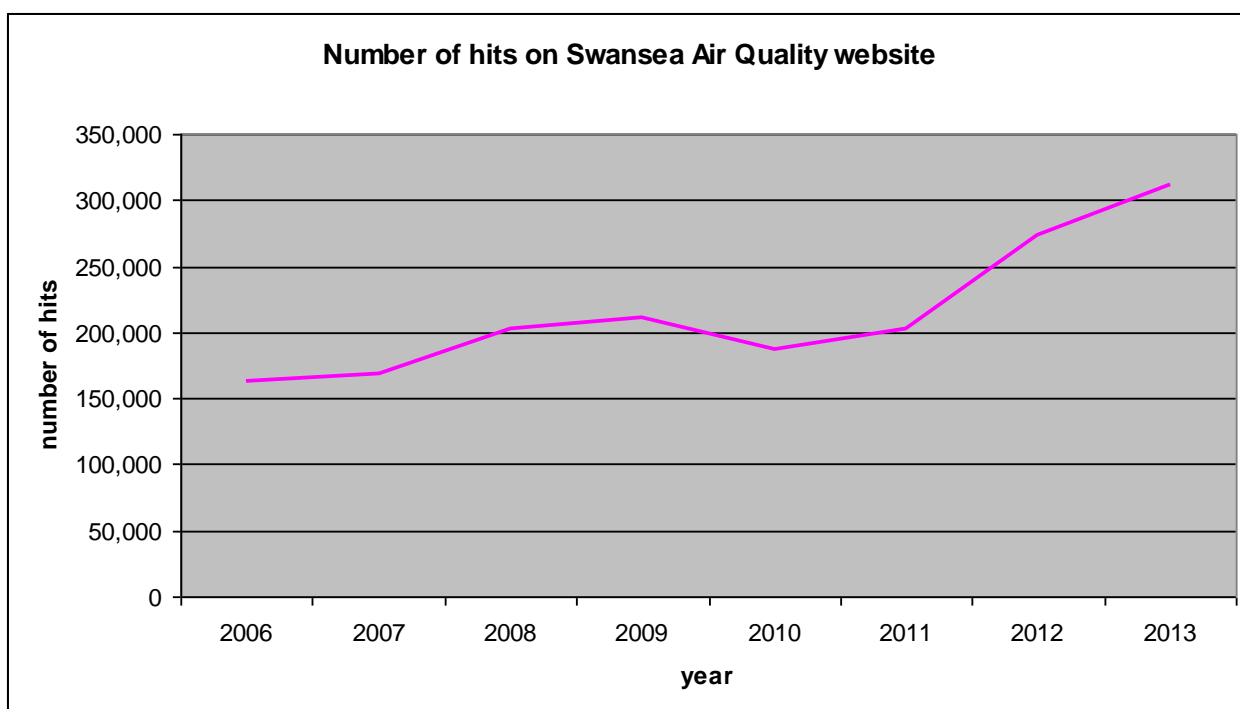
The number of hits on the Swansea Air Quality website has continued to increase and has almost doubled in seven years.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The validation of the Nowcaster system hit severe delays due to server and developer issues. However, initial test validations correlate well to measured data along Neath Road.

The proposed re-establishment of regular monitoring of background radiation was not achieved.

Five new MetOne EBam PM10 monitoring stations were installed and became operational in November 2012.



EA1: Encourage and support good practice in ESDGC in local education establishments

SUMMARY

Many education establishments in Swansea are making progress with national and local sustainability schemes. Some local environmental education providers have seen a drop in school visits but the range of providers and activities has increased.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Swansea Environmental Education Forum
Keep Wales Tidy

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		2007	2009	2011	2013
Percentage of schools with Eco-School Green Flag		23%	38%	51%	58%
Percentage of schools at other Eco-School levels	- registered	92%	98%	100%	100%
	- bronze	47%	70%	93%	-
	- silver	35%	55%	79%	-
	- platinum	-	1%	7%	10%

		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Percentage of schools in Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme		8%	17%	23%	24%	28%
Number of awards at each level of Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme	- bronze	7	15	21	22	25
	- bronze plus	-	-	1	1	3
	- silver	2	3	5	5	7
	- gold	-	-	1	1	1

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Number of supported schools visits to key sites and facilities <i>(number of pupils)</i>	164 (4,000)	273 (4,400)	346 (4,700)	406 (8,100)	379 (7,500)	240 (6,350)	172 (4,732)

	2005/6	2006/7	2007-09	2009-10	2010-12	2012-14
<i>Number of times Green Boxes loaned out</i>	33	29	-	18	17	47

The number of Swansea schools progressing with the Eco-School scheme has continued to increase. At the end of September 2013, 58 schools had gained International Green Flags. Of these, 43 had received two Green Flag awards, 24 had gained three awards and 10 had achieved Platinum status (4 consecutive Green Flags over 8+ years). 2013 data was not available for bronze and silver levels.

The number of schools participating in the Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme, launched in Autumn 2008, has steadily grown with 28 schools achieving 36 awards (25 bronze, 3 bronze+, 7 silver, 1 gold) by the end of July 2014.

Data for schools visits is collected from The Environment Centre, Swansea Community Farm, Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Forest School SNPT and the WWT National Wetlands Centre Wales (for Swansea schools only). Each of these providers has continued to experience a fall in the number of

school sessions provided in the last two years – falling from a peak in 2009/10. However, some of these providers have delivered additional activities through special projects e.g. the Countryside Connection project, Clearstreams Swansea, the 14-19 Network and Respect programme, which are not all counted in the figures. Several other organisations have also provided field studies and site visits including Nature Days which delivers dozens of field study sessions each year with direct funding from the Gower Society and Natural Resources Wales, as well as on behalf of the Environment Centre, Clearstreams and Countryside Connections.

The Green Boxes, managed by SEEF and loaned to schools via the Education, Learning and Resource Service in Port Talbot, were reviewed and updated in 2013. The ELRS reported that there were 47 loans between 2012 and 2014. Though there may be some overlap with the earlier figure, it is clear that there has been a notable increase in use, despite not being available during the

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Penllergare Valley Woods supports an increasing amount of educational work provided both directly by the Trust and by other organisations working with the Trust. Forest School has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Penllergare Trust, makes regular use of the woodland classroom and has established two Forest School sites within the woods.

A dedicated Education Room has been established at Swansea Community Farm with storage and work surfaces built by Farm volunteers from reclaimed timber. The room houses a biodiversity display funded by NRW. Full day Food and Farming visits are offered to primary schools and a new Habitats and Biodiversity programme has also been developed. A 10-week NOCN Animal Husbandry course has been developed for secondary age pupils as part of both the 14-19 Network and Respect programmes. A 10-week research project was undertaken with Gower College to develop a 'Food We Eat' programme which is also now available to secondary schools. The Farm is continuing a subsidised visit programme (12 free visits) for local STF's supported by a local foundation and a subsidised visits programme for Communities First schools as part of the NRW-supported Habitats and Biodiversity project.

The Down to Earth Project worked with 2 schools each year on outdoor classroom and sensory garden development. They also completed an outdoor lecturing facility on the Swansea University campus using cob and round pole timber framing and they continue to work with University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) with two groups of 30 students each spring attending ESDGC training. The project also continued to provide long-term educational programmes for 'hard to reach' groups in ESDGC with over 400 participants per year in recent years. They have also provided residential experiences for about 40 'disadvantaged' clients per year.

In 2013, SEEF reviewed the Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme but found so few potential amendments that it was decided not to make any changes. Schools that had received awards in the scheme were invited to a celebration event at the National Botanic Gardens in May 2013 with 80 attendees from 5 schools. A second celebration event took place in June 2014 with almost 100 participants from 6 schools.

The Nature Conservation Team organised a John Muir Award project for rural schools – an extended five day scheme enabling pupils not only to discover and explore wildlife sites but also engaging them in conserve activities.

SEEF has maintained the secondary schools teachers network but just one meeting was held in 2012/13. However, new networking events for primary school teachers were started with two such events being held in that year. SEEF helped arrange a series of ADD sessions for teachers on 'Literacy and Numeracy in the Outdoors' with Amy Smith of NRW. So far, 42 teachers have attended these with a further session being considered.

The SEEF website has been maintained but the online forum facility has not taken off. SEEF continues to provide 'green envelope' information for teachers via the website and emails but this is now sent twice a year – September and Easter.

Resources were still not identified to enable SEEF to fulfil recommendations listed in the research project report 'Improving the coordination and delivery of Out-of-Classroom Learning within the City and County of Swansea' produced by the National Foundation for Educational Research in 2010.

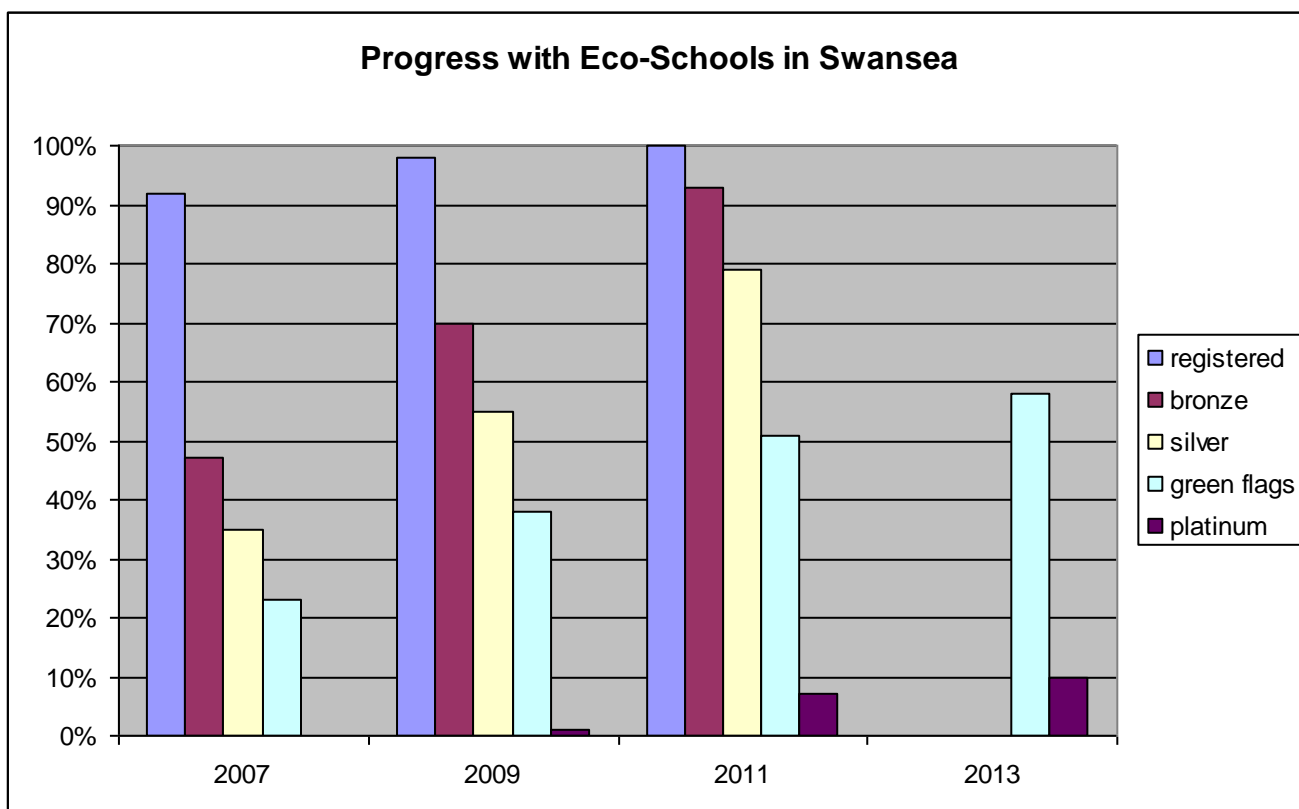
Gower College Swansea attained Green Dragon level four in November 2013 and trained two members of staff as environmental auditors. The Estates Department of the College is looking to attain Green Dragon Level 5 and ISO 14001.

Swansea University has now attained Platinum level in the Ecocampus scheme and achieved ISO14001 in September 2013. They also achieved Level 5 of the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework in two areas of work by the end of 2013/14 (e business and food) and is aiming for three other areas in 2014/15.

The former Swansea Metropolitan University – now part of UWTSD – established INSPIRE (Institute of Sustainable Practice, Innovation and Resource Effectiveness) to “embed sustainable development through the learning, teaching, curricula, campus, community and culture of” of the institution. UWTSD has now achieved Green Dragon Level 5 and participated in the Green Impact environmental accreditation and awards scheme for the first time in 2013/14, achieving a Bronze award.

An updated Fairtrade Schools Award was launched in January 2014 designed to give schools better support, more flexibility and a focus on learning. The new scheme has three award levels: FairAware, FairActive and FairAchiever. The first 2 levels are self assessed online and the third level is assessed by a trained volunteer assessor and is the equivalent to the old Fairtrade Schools Award.

RCE Wales, based in Swansea University with the aim of improving understanding, practice and uptake of ESDGC in Wales, has established a Food Working Group to research, develop and promote issues around the non-sustainability of food. RCE Wales had planned to compile a data bank of transferable resources and materials for ESDGC but was unable to do so because of a lack of support and resource. Similarly, the organisation had intended to showcase and share existing good practice in ESDGC and sustainability through a dedicated RCE website but offers of support and resources to achieve this did not materialize. However, it is hoped that a website will be set-up in 2014.



EA2: Actively promote sustainable living

SUMMARY

The number and range of activities, events, groups and information sources that support and promote sustainable living in Swansea continue to increase and improve.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Swansea Environmental Forum
Sustainable Swansea Initiative
Swansea Environmental Education Forum
The Environment Centre
Transition Swansea

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of hits on Sustainable Swansea website	13,975	28,467	-	25,903	-	-	-	-	57,400
Number of hits on Environment Centre website	11,150	15,015	30,419	36,017	35,875	37,572	42,595	61,374	70,863

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>Number of events listed in annual environmental events leaflet</i>	282	292	288	331	316	428	434	410	237

The annual total number of hits on the Environment Centre website has increased significantly in the last two years. At the end of 2013, the Centre also had 320 Facebook group members. Sustainable Swansea has not been able to maintain website hit data consistently. The 2009 entry is derived from the number of hits between May 2009 and March 2010. The 2014 figure is derived from a 30-day period (June-July 2014) when the site had 4,784 unique visitors (hits) looking at 5,338 pages.

There were two editions of the annual environmental events leaflet in both 2012 and 2013: the first editions covering mid-February to the end of July and the second editions overlapping by two months and including events from the start of June to the end of December. The Total number of events hit a high in 2012 but fell back a little in 2013. Just one edition was produced in 2014 because of reductions in funding. There were many fewer events in the 2014 listing but this covered only the period from the start of April to the end of September – six months rather than at least 10 months in previous years – and it did not include individual listings for local produce markets – these were retained on a general page but not included in the monthly listings, as in previous years. Overall, this would suggest a continued increase in the number of events.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Over the past two years, Transition Swansea has held less meetings and events but has focused on promoting and supporting the events and activities of other organisations. They have closed their Ning website and replaced it with a simpler website and a Facebook page. They have also continued to support community growing and maintain the Environment Centre garden and the community garden at the Mount Zion chapel.

The Gower Walking Festival and the Gower Cycling Festival have established themselves as popular and well-attended annual events – both coordinated by voluntary organisations. Swansea Bae Fest

ran in 2013 after a two-year absence. This seafront family-event provided an opportunity for several environmental groups and projects to come together to raise awareness of environmental issues. However, the event is not taking place in 2014.

In the summer holidays of 2012, Sustainable Swansea ran Trailblazers: a 10-day program of activities for 8-12 year olds. All the activities were designed to promote general environmental awareness, provide opportunities to be outdoors enjoying the natural heritage, to provide physical activity and assist in social development. 39 children participated – all from Swansea’s rural wards as the programme was funded by Swansea’s Rural Development Plan. The scheme didn’t run in 2013 or 2014 but funding has been secured to run it during February half term 2015.

SEF collaborated with St.Madoc Centre to arrange screenings of Project Wild Thing in January 2014 and later with Play Rights to organise a screening in the National Waterfront Museum on 1st May 2014. The latter was attended by approx. 80 people and was followed by a discussion panel.

The Environment Centre continues to produce ten editions of Green Light each year and also sends out two ECNews emails per month to an email list of 574 members including all local schools and councillors. In 2013, the Centre has been developing their information area which now has touch screen computers and a bespoke artist designed eco-friendly notice and leaflet area. The Centre also has a Wi-Fi hotspot for use by visitors and has been developing a new website with an “information portal” section – this will be launched in October 2014.

In the last two or three years, the Environment Centre has organised successful training programmes with environmentally-themed activities and craft workshops for the public, INSETs for teachers and education sessions for schools. The public workshops and courses have included Understanding Behavioral Change, Urban Permaculture, Willowcraft, Decoupage, Funky Junk Art, Sewing and Eco Stained Glass. The annual Green Fayre has continued to be held at the National Waterfront Museum with approx. 65 stalls and an estimated 4,000 visitors in 2013 (3,000 in 2012).

Swansea Community Farm has become registered as a training centre with Agored Cymru. The Farm’s new café, opened in April 2013, not only caters for volunteers and visitors but offers training opportunities. Basic cookery skills courses (accredited and non-accredited) have been undertaken in collaboration with the Princes Trust and Communities First cluster groups. The Farm is a major contributor to both the Swansea Food Network and the Swansea Community Growing Network and has piloted and evaluated the ‘Love Food, Hate Waste’ programme (WRAP).

EA3: Promote active citizenship and increased participation in decision-making processes

SUMMARY

Whilst the number of volunteers with some organisations has fallen, the range of volunteering opportunities continues to grow along with the number and range of groups, projects and partnerships involved in environmental activity in Swansea.

GREEN



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainable Swansea Initiative
 Swansea Environmental Forum
 Swansea Environmental Education Forum
 Swansea Community Growing Network
 Clearstreams Swansea

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of volunteers / volunteer hours in environmental projects <i>(National Trust, and Swansea Community Farm)</i>	638 / 21,456	434 / 20,602	484 / 20,317	522 / 17,911	428 / 19,061	712 / 21,425	1,043 / 21,366

In previous reports, the indicator included volunteering data from BTCV. This initially made a significant contribution to the total with over 5,000 volunteers contributing 38,000 volunteer hours in 2007. This was reduced significantly by 2011 with just 82 volunteers contributing 4,500 hours. With the closure of BTCV operations in Swansea, it has not been possible to obtain figures for the last two years.

The National Trust has seen a significant increase over the past two years in both the number of volunteers and the total volunteer hours contributed to their conservation work on Gower. This is largely due to a successful push on the number of school groups that have worked with the Trust, as these are included in the figures. The Trust organise three midweek volunteer days every week and a monthly Saturday volunteer day. The numbers attending these adult volunteer days has also increased.

The number of volunteers and volunteer hours at Swansea Community Farm increased significantly in 2012, due in part to volunteers supporting the construction of the new Farm café. Whilst the number of volunteers remains high, the number of hours recorded has dropped back in the last year. Swansea Community Farm secured almost £¼ million through Big Lottery Fund People & Places Programme in 2012 to implement a new volunteer and training programme – ‘Community Roots’.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

BTCV has now withdrawn from Wales. Llys Nini have taken on the former BTCV officer based at their site as a full-time woodsman/ranger offering training and volunteering opportunities to all ages especially adult long-term unemployed and people with learning difficulties (PAWS group). In addition to a regular group of volunteers, the site has also provided volunteering activities for local businesses, such as HSBC, and local community groups, such as brownies. Llys Nini were also hoping to build a visitors’ centre to act as a focus for volunteers and groups working for biodiversity at their site but this has been delayed until the Local Development Plan has been produced as this may include areas suitable for a visitors centre. However, using a Collaborative Communities Grant, they did make structural alterations to the site’s main building allowing more room for visitors and will review this to re-evaluate the need for a new building. They have also taken on an additional volunteer Education Officer to support school and community group visits.

The Down to Earth Project has continued to work with more than 100 volunteers per year and provided a programme of courses in traditional/sustainable building and adventure activities with

approximately 170 participants per year.

The Penllergare Trust is on its way to 10,000 volunteer hours over 3 years as part of its volunteering development plan. From July 2013 to July 2014, over 3,700 hours were recorded just for its woodland management activities. The new visitor kiosk/café is primarily staffed by volunteers and the Trust supports many other volunteer activities including volunteer groups from local schools and businesses.

Sustainable Swansea (managed by SEF in partnership with the Environment Centre, Swansea CVS and the City and County of Swansea) worked with community groups, particularly through digital media training courses, to produce green maps for Gower (2012-13) and St.Thomas / Port Tennant (2013-14). During 2013, Sustainable Swansea engaged with over 160 people in the east side of Swansea through various events such as an energy efficiency drop-in session, visiting toddler groups to raise awareness of real nappies, green map consultation with groups, digital photography sessions and drop-ins at the library. 3,000 copies of the St Thomas and Port Tennant Community Green map were produced and have been distributed widely amongst the community.

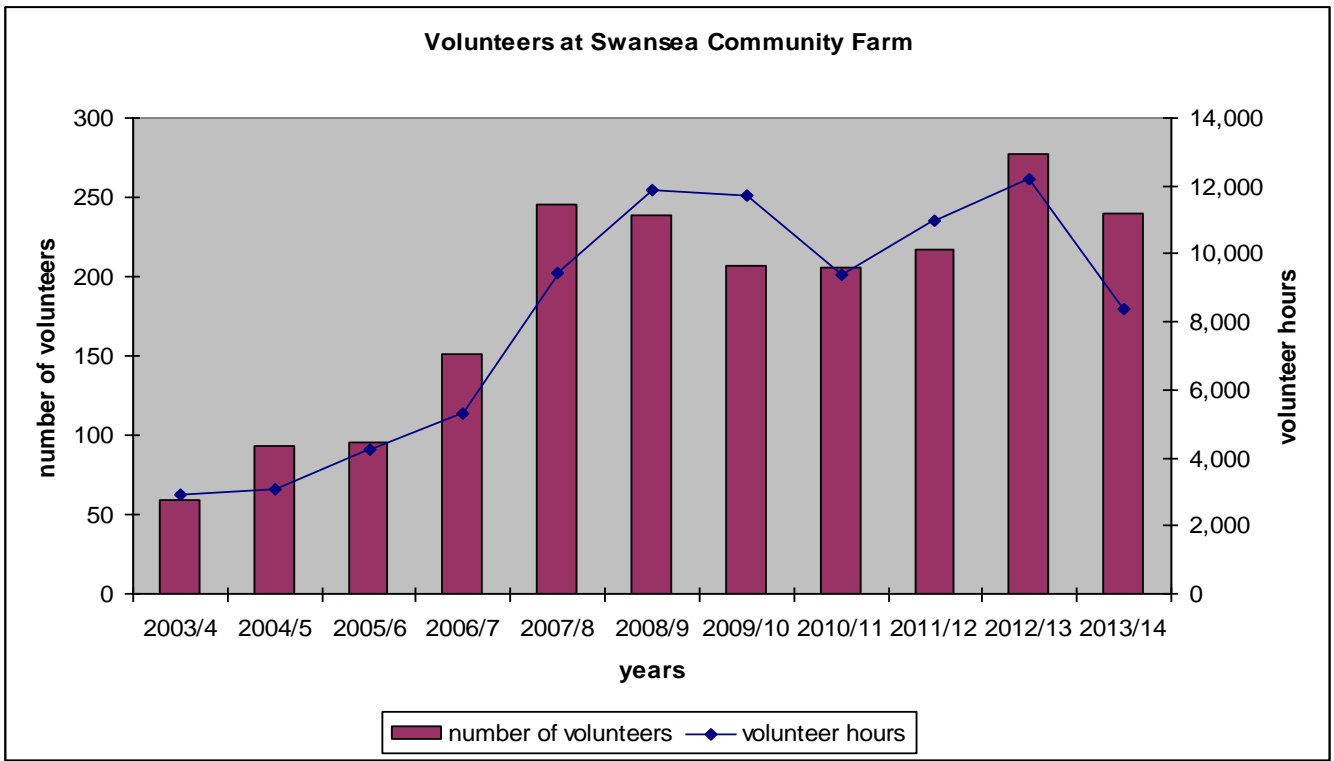
Working with EAW, through the Clearstreams initiative, Sustainable Swansea also lead the Digital Streams project – running courses involving site visits and digital photography along the course of local rivers and resulting in photographic exhibitions. Also, as part of the Clearstreams initiative, the Wildlife Trust has developed a volunteer river warden scheme.

Swansea Environmental Forum has continued an active partnership of organisations and individuals and has maintained and developed both its strategic role and project work. The SEF Executive Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and is represented on the Local Services Board. It has organised open ‘full-forum’ seminars on various themes, issues and projects including Community Green Spaces, the Local Development Plan and Bathing Water Quality. In 2013, SEF also undertook an audit of environmental bodies in Swansea, preparing a list of organisations, groups and partnerships involved in environmental activity.

SEF has continued to administer the Swansea Built Heritage Group, manage the Sustainable Swansea initiative and coordinate the Low Carbon Swansea Project. SEF also developed Clearstreams Swansea and the Community Green Spaces project (part of the Community Voices programme). SEF project staff have increased from two in early 2012 to five in early 2014. However, the Low Carbon Swansea officer post is due to end in July 2014 and the Clearstreams Coordinator post at the end of 2014.

The Environment Centre has continued to support other environmental organisations and partnerships, providing office space, meeting rooms, administrative facilities and project management support. From 2012 to 2014, between 7 and 10 different organisations and partnerships have used the Centre as their base. In 2012/13, the Centre hosted 213 organisations in 261 room bookings involving 3,857 attendees. In 2013/14, this increased to 230 organisations, 343 bookings and 4,013 attendees

The Swansea Fair Trade Forum has maintained Fairtrade County status for Swansea and continues to help raise the profile of fair trade during Fairtrade Fortnight and through other events throughout the year. Swansea University retained its Fairtrade status and the Swansea Metropolitan University Fairtrade status has now been achieved across the new merged Trinity St.David’s institution.



EA4: Encourage good environmental practice amongst organisations and businesses

SUMMARY

Local organisations continue to participate in environmental management and standards schemes and good practice is celebrated through the Swansea Sustainability Trail, the Sustainable Swansea Awards and other award schemes.

AMBER



LEAD BODIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainable Swansea Initiative
Groundwork Wales
Swansea Environmental Education Forum
Low Carbon Swansea
Clearstreams Swansea

INDICATORS AND OTHER DATA

		Mar 2007	Feb 2010	Mar 2011	Mar 2012	Jul 2014
Number of Green Dragon Awards (level 2+)	- Swansea	63	22	19	24	23
	- Wales	approx 900	358	250	338	168

	2005	2006	2008	2010	2012/13
<i>Sustainable Swansea Awards applicants (finalists / awards)</i>	51 (20 / 6)	57 (19 / 7)	45 (21 / 8)	41 (20 / 7)	32 (24 / 8)

The number of businesses and other organisations in Swansea attaining Green Dragon Environmental Standards has remained at a similar level but the overall number across Wales (and beyond) has reduced significantly so that the proportion in Swansea has effectively doubled. Some organisations have progressed with alternative EMS schemes. For example, Swansea Environment Centre achieved Ecocentre status in April 2014, Swansea University achieved Platinum level in the Ecocampus scheme and ISO14001 in September 2013, and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David has achieved Green Dragon Level 5.

The number of applications to the Sustainable Swansea Awards dropped again in the 2012/13 scheme but there were more finalists than in previous years, mainly due to there being eight different award categories when previously there were six or seven.

ACTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Low Carbon Swansea project, set-up and managed by SEF, has worked with many public sector organisations, and more latterly some large businesses, to promote not only energy efficiency and low carbon technologies but also sustainable transport, waste management and water management. The Clearstreams initiative, also coordinated by SEF in partnership with NRW and the Wildlife Trust, has also involved engaging businesses and other organisations in issues about water management.

The fifth biennial Sustainable Swansea Awards was launched in September 2012 with eight categories including a new Built Heritage Award and a Clear Streams Swansea Award; reflecting key priorities emanating from previous Environment Strategy reviews. The Award ceremony took place on 22nd March 2013 at the Marriott hotel. There were 24 finalists including Vetch Veg Community Garden, Henbury Cottage, Swansea Canal Society and the Crwys Community Woodland.

The Gower AONB Sustainable Development Fund has awarded grants totally about £70k in each of the last two years to support local projects within or benefitting the AONB. The fund has been confirmed for 2014-15 but the scheme is under review.

The Gower Society continues to present awards for good building design and also continues to give grants to various projects.

Rural Swansea Action (RSA) produced two publications: Advice for your business: How to be more sustainable; and Save Energy – Save Money; and actively encouraged sustainability via its Facebook and Twitter accounts by sending out green tips relating to waste, energy saving, etc. They also made followers aware of grants available for insulating lofts etc and encouraged up-cycling of furniture and local crafts. RSA promoted all the local produce markets and started up two evening produce markets encouraging people to buy local food and support local business. Though RSA had been due to finish at the end of December 2013, it has been extended to November 2014 and it is hoped that further funding may be secured.

With funding from Environment Wales, Llys Nini has been managing a volunteer and land management training initiative (originally in partnership with BTCV). This includes an element of social enterprise with animal homes being made and plants potted for sale at Llys Nini, and innovative uses for waste materials being explored.

The former Swansea Metropolitan University – now part of University of Wales Trinity Saint David – established INSPIRE (Institute of Sustainable Practice, Innovation and Resource Effectiveness) which aims to “embed sustainable development through the learning, teaching, curricula, campus, community and culture of Trinity Saint David to ensure that future graduates are globally aware and responsible citizens in the 21st century.”

APPENDIX1: Detailed Assessment Matrix

The table below shows the RAG assessment for each strategic priority broken down into the five individual components described on page 5.

Strategic Priority	Indicator Data	Additional Data	Action Plan (2012-14)	Additional Actions	Compared to Wales	Overall Status
NE1	-	-			-	↔
NE2		-			-	↔
NE3					-	↔
NE4					-	↔
BE1				-	-	↑
BE2					-	↔
BE3				-	-	↑
BE4		-				↔
WM1		-			-	↔
WM2				-		↔
WM3				-	-	↔
WM4	-	-			-	↔
WM5						↔
WM6	-	-			-	↔
ST1				-	-	↔
ST2					-	↔
ST3				-	-	↑
ST4	-				-	↔
EA1					-	↓
EA2					-	↓
EA3		-			-	↑
EA4						↔

APPENDIX 2: Sources of Indicator Data

The following table provides the sources of data used in this report.

Priority	Indicator / Additional Data	Sources
NE2	Total area of LNRs, AONB and SINCs Percentage of SAC, SPA and SSSI features in or recovering towards favourable condition	CCS(nc) NRW
NE3	Number of Green Flags and Green Pennants Area of land managed under agri-environment agreements Rating of parks and open/green spaces Ease of access to parks and open spaces	Civic Trust Welsh Government CCS(Swansea Voices) CCS(Swansea Voices)
NE4	Length of easy-to-use footpaths and other rights of way Visitors to a selection of sites Biodiversity events in annual environmental events booklet	CCS(ca) National Trust, CCS(ca) CCS(nc)
BE1	Percentage of public satisfaction with their local area Percentage cleanliness at high standard Cleanliness Index	CCS(Swansea Voices) CCS(streetscene) CCS(streetscene)
BE2	SAP rating for housing in Swansea Developments meeting Ecohomes or BREEAM standards CO2 emissions in CCS corporate buildings	CCS(housing) BRE CCS(cbps)
BE3	Proportion of social housing meeting WHQS Proportion of new housing that is affordable Number of affordable homes built Number of homelessness preventions Proportion of private housing left vacant Number of homes brought back into use and problem buildings demolished or renovated (total since 2004)	CCS(housing), RSLs CCS(housing) CCS(housing) CCS(housing) CCS(environmental health) CCS(environmental health)
BE4	Percentage of buildings at each level on the 'Buildings at Risk' register Number of venues and visitors in 'Open House' events	CCS(design and conservation), Cadw Trilein
WM1	Percentage of waterbodies at good ecological status	NRW
WM2	Percentage of bathing waters at guideline standard Percentage of bathing waters at sufficient or above standard Percentage of bathing waters at excellent standard Number of Blue Flags and Green Coast Awards	NRW NRW NRW Keep Wales Tidy
WM3	Number of properties at high risk of flooding Percentage of properties at risk from flooding Percentage of at risk properties on flood warning system	NRW NRW NRW
WM4	Area of contaminated land remaining in Swansea	CCS(pollution control)
WM5	Average household / municipal waste arisings Percentage of municipal waste recycled, reused or composted Percentage of waste at civic amenity sites recycled Percentage commercial waste recycled, reused or composted Amount of material reused Percentage of LAS allowance used Number of fly tipping incidents	CCS(waste management) CCS(waste management) CCS(waste management) CCS(waste management) CCS(waste management) CCS(waste management) CCS(waste management) EA (England)

ST1	Modal split – City Centre User Survey Modal split – SWWITCH Household Travel Survey Number of cyclists using National Cycle Network Cycle route counter data Main form of transport for shopping, leisure, work Number using park and ride facilities	CCS(riu) SWWITCH Sustrans CCS(transport) CCS(Swansea Voices) CCS(transport)
ST2	Number of organisations with local travel plan awards Number of schools with local travel plan awards City Centre User Survey – ease of access Ease of getting to facilities and services Frequency of public transport services direct from Swansea to key regional settlements	SWWITCH SWWITCH CCS(riu) CCS(Swansea Voices) SWWITCH
ST3	Number of days when air pollution is moderate or higher Number of roadside NO2 monitoring sites exceeding / close to exceeding annual mean limit Number of PM2.5 monitoring sites exceeding / close to exceeding annual mean limit Number of PM10 monitoring sites exceeding annual mean limit Number of PM10 exceedences of 24-hour mean limit	CCS(pollution control) CCS(pollution control) CCS(pollution control) CCS(pollution control) CCS(pollution control)
ST4	Number of NO2 monitoring locations Number of hits on Swansea Air Quality website	CCS(pollution control) CCS(pollution control)
EA1	Percentage of schools with Eco-School Green Flag Percentage of schools at other Eco-School levels Percentage of schools in Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme Number of awards at each level of Swansea Sustainable Schools Scheme Number of supported schools visits to key sites and facilities Number of times Green Boxes loaned out	Keep Wales Tidy Keep Wales Tidy SEEF SEEF Community Farm, Forest School NPT, Bishop's Wood, WWT, Environment Centre SEEF
EA2	Number of hits on Sustainable Swansea website Number of hits on Environment Centre website Number of events listed in annual environmental events leaflet	Sustainable Swansea, Environment Centre CCS(nc)
EA3	Number of volunteers / volunteer hours in environmental projects	National Trust, Community Farm
EA4	Number of Green Dragon Awards (level 2+) Sustainable Swansea Awards applicants	Groundwork Trust Sustainable Swansea

Key to abbreviations used in table

CCS(nc): City and County of Swansea (Nature Conservation)

CCS(ca): City and County of Swansea (Countryside Access)

CCS(cbps): City and County of Swansea (Corporate Building and Property Services)

CCS(riu): City and County of Swansea (Research and Information Unit)

NRW: Natural Resources Wales

EA: Environment Agency (England)

SWWITCH: South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium

SEEF: Swansea Environmental Education Forum