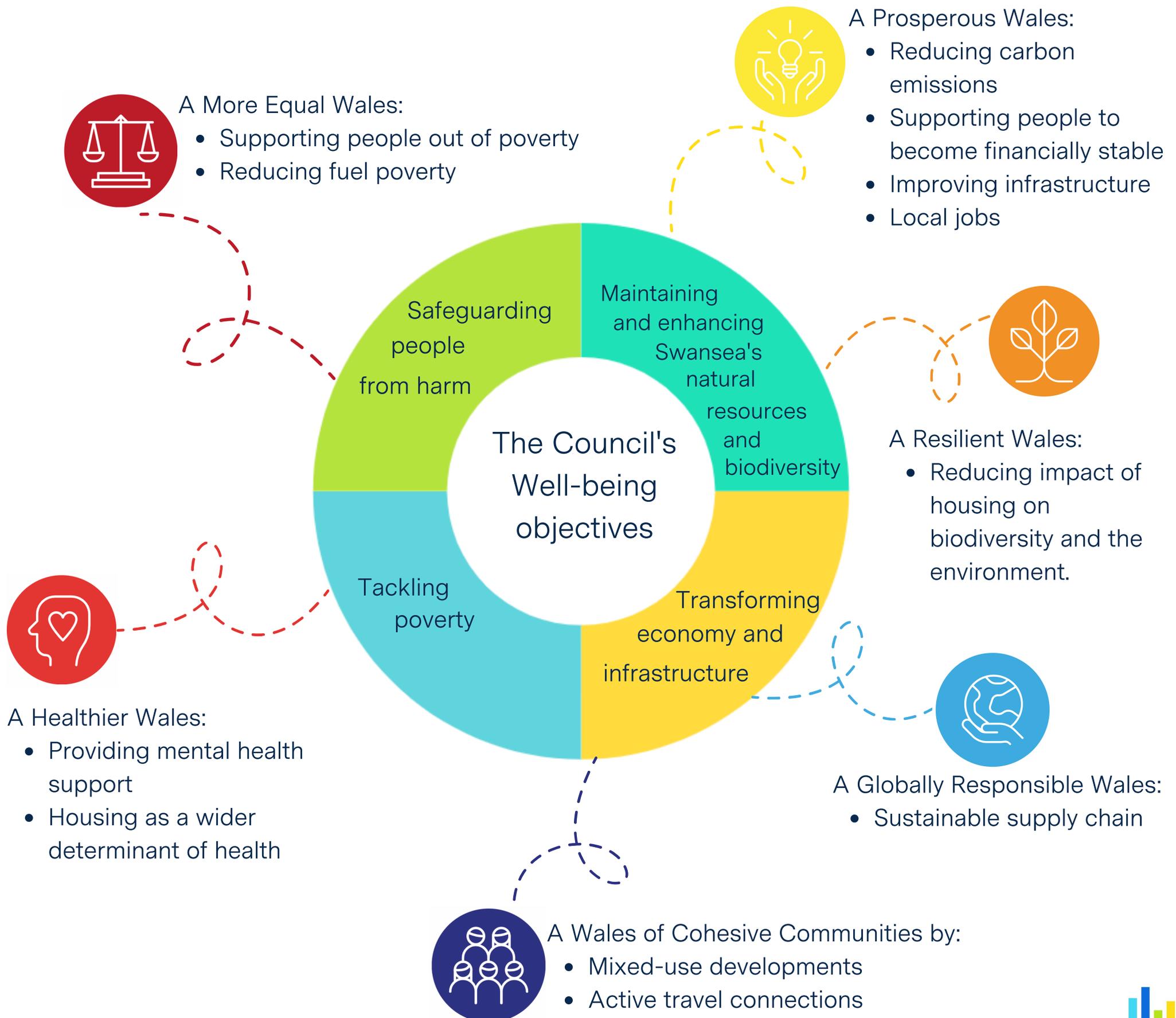




Swansea's approach to housing

COVID-19 has prompted urgent action to tackle homelessness across Wales. Swansea Council has found long-term homes for hundreds of people during the pandemic and they plan to develop this work further post-COVID-19. Because solving homelessness, reducing carbon emissions and fuel poverty are linked - the Council is working on all issues holistically through its well-being objectives. Energy efficient technology is being integrated in affordable housing projects. Additional work is being placed on improving residents' mental and physical health, thus contributing to multiple well-being objectives.

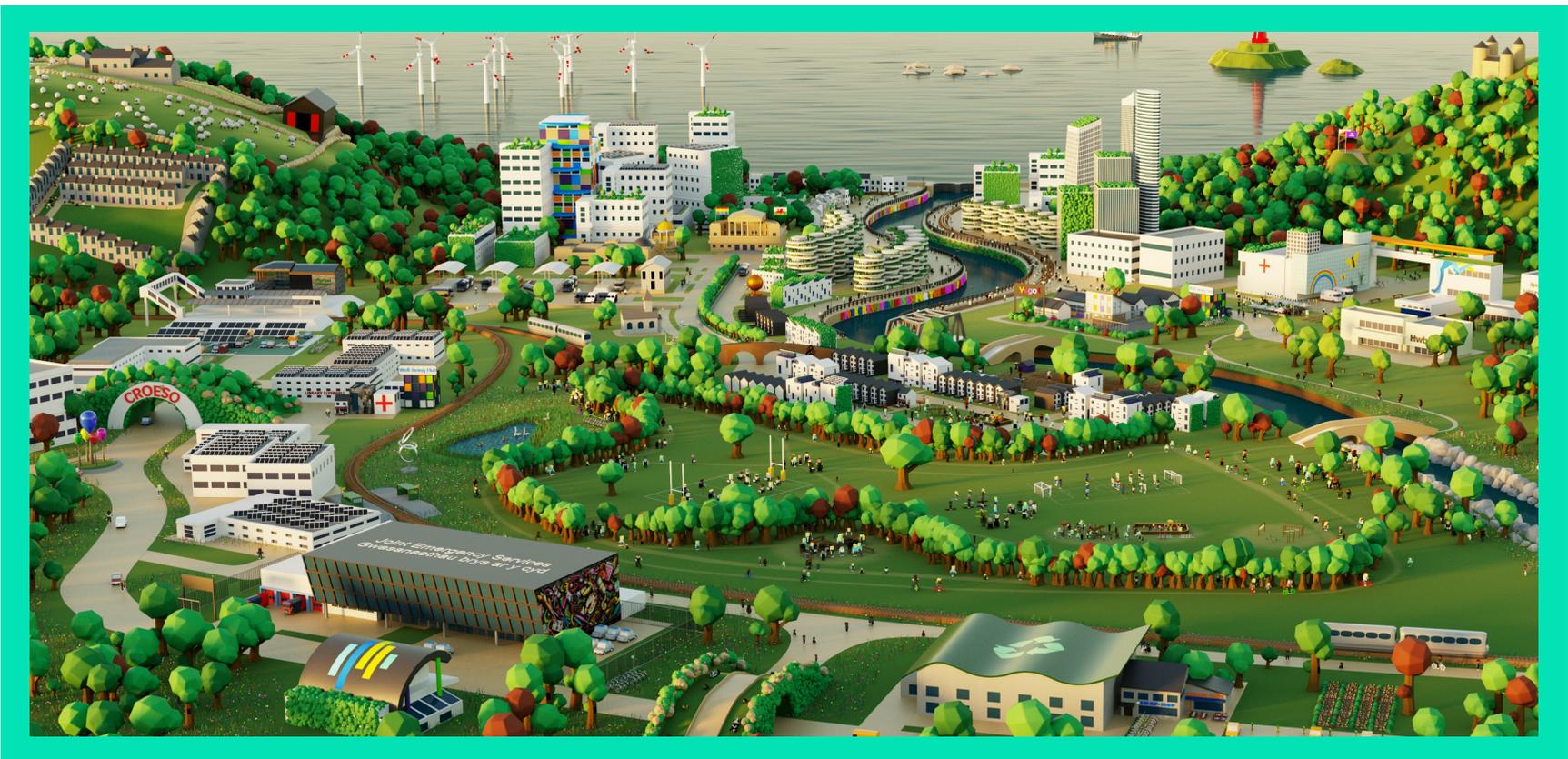
Contributes towards:



The Future Generations Commissioner's advice:

- The Future Generations Report 2020 recommends that public bodies build zero carbon homes and retrofit existing homes, and focus on prevention of inequalities.
- “I would like to see further integration of [Maintaining and enhancing natural resources and biodiversity] objective with your other objectives over the coming year, and an understanding of how development planning, your housing development work and 'transforming the economy' can positively impact upon this objective and the steps you are taking to meet it.”

Feedback to the Council from the Commissioner's monitoring of progress



Examples

Craig Cefn Park retrofit project

- Collaborating with Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture on 'Homes as Power Stations'
- Work undertaken to improve the insulation of building fabric and provide renewable energy to off grid council properties
- Bungalows fitted with solar panel roofs, a battery to store electricity, and ground source heating technology
- Roll out of Optimised Retrofit Programme by Welsh Government - 1,000 more homes to be fitted with similar technology across Wales



Cllr Andrea Lewis
Cabinet Member for Homes & Energy



Examples

Tackling homelessness

- Hundreds of people moved to long-term homes during the COVID-19 pandemic
- [Bringing empty properties back into use](#) for this
- Secured funding to provide up to 100 homes
- Social and mental health support
- New homes to include solar panels, ground source heating, and battery storage
- Local supply chain - 75% of workforce local; 90% of spend within 15 miles.



Examples

Affordable homes in Copr Bay

- Collaborating with Pobl to manage 33 affordable apartments for key workers
- Development will include restaurants, life performance arena and a conference centre
- Links city centre to the marina through a new active travel bridge
- Coastal park to be built for wildlife and access to green space
- Also collaborating with Pobl on Biophilic Living scheme and Coastal Housing on 144 zero carbon homes



Approach

Challenge

Carbon emissions from housing and homelessness in Swansea

Prevention

- Mental health and social support to prevent people from returning to homelessness
- Active travel links and access to green space to prevent ill mental and physical health

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Collaboration

- 'Work with Natural Resources Wales and Public Services Board on Green Infrastructure Strategy to be used in new housing developments
- Collaborating with Cardiff University on 'Homes as Power Stations'
- Collaboration with housing associations on affordable housing in new developments

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What next?

- Ensuring 100 new long-term homes are built for homeless people
- Using sustainable models of housing in all new developments
- Build upon success of current schemes to ensure homes are affordable and built for the future

Long Term

- Addressing impacts of carbon emissions and preparing a draft Strategy to decarbonise Swansea by 2050
- Installing solar panels on school rooftops
- Retrofitting existing housing and ensuring new housing is energy efficient
- 100 new long-term homes for homeless people

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Involvement

- Active listening through tenant participation groups
- Ongoing conversations via Tenant Participation Officer and members of the council's Housing team
- Increasing use of social media to connect with the public

➤ **A More Equal Wales**

Integration

- Contributing to multiple well-being objectives
- Integrating decarbonisation and homelessness - low carbon at new affordable homes
- Working with Public Services Boards on green infrastructure
- Affordable housing in regeneration work

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Impact

“ We've chosen to launch the [Optimised Retrofit] programme in Swansea after seeing the Council do such a great job in retrofitting similar innovative equipment to their existing housing stock.”

- Julie James, Minister for Housing and Local Government

“ The success we've had with the recently completed retrofit scheme in Craig Cefn Parc transformed the lives of tenants living in the properties and we are keen to see this technology rolled out to even more council homes in the city.”

- Councillor Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Homes Energy & Service Transformation