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Carmarthenshire County Council Forward Plan for Environment (Wales) Act 2016 2017–19

Date: January 2017

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Biodiversity Champion Foreword

As Biodiversity Champion I believe that, consistent with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the implementation of this Forward Plan will initiate the process of placing biodiversity as a natural and integral part of policy and decision making within Carmarthenshire County Council, and will embed it in its plans, policies and projects and day-to-day activities. It is pleasing to see the strong links made between the Environment (Wales) Act and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, and importance now placed on the natural environment by this legislation.

In Carmarthenshire we are aware of our rich and varied natural environment, of the many benefits it provide for us, and we take seriously our responsibilities to conserve this irreplaceable resource.

Sign Off

Director's Foreword

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides a clear direction for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems which is to be welcomed. Whilst this presents challenges it also provides opportunities for the County Council to focus priority and resource to the enhancement of the varied, and in some cases unique, ecosystems within Carmarthenshire. I consider that this Forward Plan sets out a realistic approach for what can be achieved in the initial term, and sets a framework that will continue to be developed. We have identified how we will collaborate with colleagues across the authority to develop our understanding of biodiversity, and ensure that we embed in all our business and project development processes actions to actively seek opportunities to maintain and enhance our natural environment, and promote ecosystem resilience.

Sign Off

1. Overview

- This plan has been published to comply with the Authority's legal obligation within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Under this Act all public bodies 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems'.
- The Authority is required to prepare and publish a plan on how they intend to comply with this Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty.
- A healthy natural environment helps society and the economy flourish. Our natural resources and ecosystems can help us in many ways: to reduce flooding, improve air quality and supply materials for construction. They also provide a home for a variety of wildlife, and give us landscapes we value in Carmarthenshire, encouraging people to live in and visit the county.
- It is well established now however, our natural resources are coming under increasing pressure from a variety of causes. A poorly managed natural environment increases the long-term risks to our wellbeing. Improving Wales' management of natural resources means that we will be better able to tackle these challenges. We need to look after our natural resources and ecosystems so they can continue to deliver us all the benefits they provide us. Any decisions we must consider the impacts on the natural environment and explore the potential to enhance its resilience.

In this plan the Authority will:

- Outline Carmarthenshire's natural resources, why they are so important and some of the activities already underway to protect them.
- Explain the legislative background and national and local policy and plan context to this report
- Set out how action plans are/will be developed
- Provide detailed actions to be achieved with milestones for reporting

2. Carmarthenshire's Natural Resources

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living plants and animals (including humans), their genetic variation and the ecosystems on which they depend. Biodiversity is everywhere: in gardens, fields, hedgerows, mountains, rivers and in the sea. Biodiversity represents quality of life. It gives pleasure, interest and an appreciation of our natural environment.

Why biodiversity matters?

The natural environment of Wales supports the huge variety of wildlife that lives here. But we must remember that biodiversity also sustains our lives. A healthy natural environment is a vital part of a sustainable and robust society in Wales. Wildlife provides us with pleasure, inspiration and attractive communities.

Carmarthenshire's natural environment matters to us all - in many different ways. Although it is not always obvious, biodiversity provides us with many of the things that sustain our lives, through a number of important services:

- Provisioning - providing food (wheat, fish, etc.), fuel (timber, coal), fresh water, medicine, textiles.
- Regulating - disposing of pollutants, controlling floods, absorbing carbon dioxide (greenhouse gases), stopping erosion.
- Cultural – beautiful landscapes, a sense of place, recreation and tourism, inspiration and investigation from schoolchildren to scientists.
- Supporting - maintaining soils and plant growth.

For more information visit the [Wales Biodiversity Partnership](#) website.

Biodiversity matters for a whole variety of reasons: ethically, emotionally, environmentally and economically. It is at the very foundation of our society and the basis of our economic success and wellbeing.

A lot of these services we get for free! The cost of replacing these (if possible) would be extremely expensive. For example, bees are vital to our economy – they pollinate many of our crops such as strawberries and apples as well as animal fodder crops such as clover. It would cost UK farmers £1.8 billion a year to pollinate their crops without bees (WG Bee friendly Action Guide).

The underlying geology, the geography and hydrology of the county allow many important ecosystem services to work and improve our lives. Some examples:

- Peatland – peat soils capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide which can be held in the soil permanently when the soil is in good condition.
- Saltmarsh on the coast – helps dissipate wave action and high tides to prevent flooding and erosion.
- Floodplains in the valleys – help dissipate water at high rainfall preventing flooding downriver.
- Species rich grasslands – provide essential habitat and connectivity for pollinators and food for livestock. Damp grasslands act like sponges, storing and slowly releasing water.
- Woodlands – help clean the air of pollutants, provide oxygen and timber products.

The varied habitats also bring job opportunities, particularly in the tourism sector where Carmarthenshire is well known for its magnificent coastline, for its forests for mountain biking and its uplands for walking.

There are a number of sites within Carmarthenshire that have been designated for nature conservation including local, national and international designations. These special habitats support some wildlife nationally important species such as the marsh fritillary butterfly, water vole and red squirrel.

The [Carmarthenshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan \(LBAP\)](#) focuses on local action that meets the objectives for each habitat and species within the plan.

How our natural resources support the seven well-being goals (from State of Natural Resources Report)

<i>A prosperous Wales</i>	Natural resources provide opportunities for employment and economic activity. For example, wildlife and outdoor activity tourism to Wales provides around 206,000 jobs and is estimated to be worth £6.2 billion. In 2013, over 3.5 million visitors to our coastline brought £602 million to the economy, with growth predicted at 10%. Wales' three National Parks attract 12 million visitors every year who spend £1 billion on goods and services.
<i>A resilient Wales</i>	Biodiversity, mountains, moorlands and heaths, semi-natural grasslands, woodlands, urban greenspaces, rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands, coastline, and marine ecosystems all contribute to supporting Wales' ability to adapt to climate change.
<i>A healthier Wales</i>	Natural resources make a significant contribution to the physical health and mental well-being of people in Wales. For example, trees help to absorb pollutants and improve air quality, which if poor can impact on people's health. Access to nature and greenspace has positive impacts on physical and mental health.
<i>A more equal Wales</i>	Equal access to ecosystems providing cultural services contribute to equality in Wales. We want to minimise negative and maximise positive impacts for everyone. At present, access is not equally distributed (for example, not everyone lives close to greenspace, and some people live in areas with better air quality than others.)
<i>A Wales of cohesive communities</i>	Involving communities in the management of their local parks and woodlands has been shown to improve community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour.
<i>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</i>	Landscapes have played a significant role in the development of distinct cultural practices, such as local building techniques relying on local materials, along with locally specific art and literature.
<i>A globally responsible Wales</i>	The environment supplies all our material resources but we must ensure that we use only our fair share.

3. Environment Act (Wales) 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on 21st March 2016. It puts in place legislation to enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up manner and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change. The Act supports the Welsh Government's wider remit under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act, see below), so that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities.

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Section 6 of the Act requires that all **public authorities** 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions'.

The duty replaces the Section 40 duty in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006), in relation to Wales, and applies to those authorities that fell within the previous duty. The duty came into force May 2016.

See Appendix 1 for more detail.

The intention is to ensure that in carrying out their functions, public authorities will:

- Place biodiversity as a natural and integral part of policy and decision making within public bodies, embedding it in its plans, policies and projects and day-to-day activities.
- Address biodiversity decline, through positive actions that will result in maintenance or enhancement of our biodiversity
- Develop ecosystem resilience through maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

A resilient ecosystem is one that is healthy and functions in a way that is able to address pressures and demands placed on it, and is able to deliver benefits over the long term to meet current social, economic and environmental needs. Our ecosystems provide us with a wide range of services and benefits. We need to take **all** of these into account when we make decisions about how we use them, so that they provide multiple benefits for the long term. This includes taking into account their intrinsic value.

It is part of a wider delivery framework for the sustainable management of natural resources (Appendix 2).

Biodiversity Lists

Welsh Government (after consultation with NRW) must prepare and publish a list of species and habitats which in their opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales ('Section 7 list'). Public bodies must take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included on this list. This replaces the list created under Section 42 of the NERC duty. The species and habitats on this list that occur in Carmarthenshire can be found [here](#).

Forward Planning and Reporting

Unlike the previous duty provision the new duty requires formal demonstration of compliance. The Authority is, therefore, required by the Act to prepare and publish a plan setting out how it intends to comply with the duty. While the Act does not set a timescale for this, guidance from Welsh Government expect it to be produced by March 2017. By the end of 2019 the Authority is required by the Act to publish a report on what it has done to comply with the duty, this is then required to be reported every 3 years.

However, as Carmarthenshire County Council falls under the WFG Act it can:

- use its statement on Well-being Objectives to state how it plans to deliver the Biodiversity Duty.
- report on how it will meet the Biodiversity Duty via the annual review of the Well-being Objectives.

Nature Recovery Action Plan

The Welsh Government launched its own [Nature Recovery Action Plan](#) (NRAP), which sets out its commitment to biodiversity in Wales, the issues we need to address, and the objectives for action to show how in Wales, we can address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. Specifically by:

- Putting nature at the heart of decision-making
- Increasing the resilience of our natural environment
- Taking specific action for habitats and species

It sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the decline in our biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline. The ambition of the plan is: *To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society.*

It also sets out how current and proposed actions for biodiversity, through the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the WFG Act

By adopting and applying the NRAP objectives, when carrying out their functions, public authorities can ensure that they comply with the new duty.

This approach will also help public authorities meet their obligations under the WFG Act, in particular to meet the Resilient Wales goal, as well as many of the other goals. Appendix 4 suggests ways in which the authority action could meet these objectives (from WG guidance).

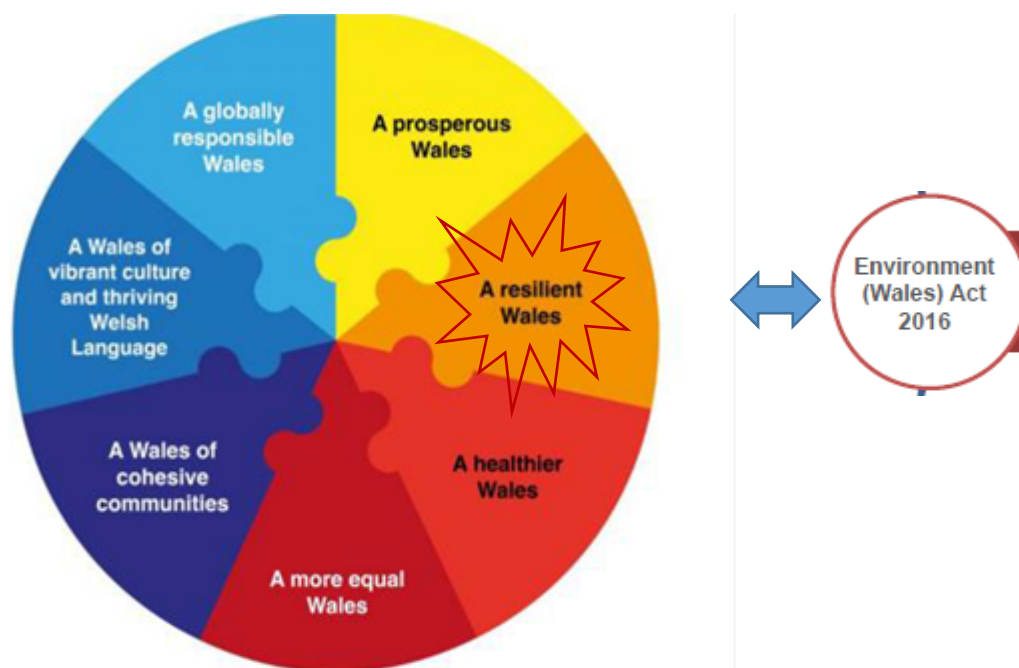
The NRAP objectives are:

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

4. Strategic context

4.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act) puts in place a stronger, more coherent sustainable development framework for Wales through a set of seven well-being goals (Appendix 4), a sustainable development principle, and a strong duty for all public bodies to carry out sustainable development, reflecting the need to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 complements the WFG Act.



- As part of the WGF Act individual Public Bodies must prepare and publish well-being objectives based on the well-being goals alongside a statement about the well-being objectives by 31 March 2017.
- With regard to the 'Resilient Wales' goal, the Act requires public bodies to set objectives to achieve a 'biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems'. This must be considered within the context of all the goals being integrated, i.e. the fact that biodiversity contributes to our economy and health and well-being, etc.

The Sustainable Development Principle and the Five Ways of Working

The WFG Act sets out five ways of working public bodies must adhere to in order to demonstrate how they are meeting their duty. Any plan/project must now demonstrate that they are following these ways of working.

Looking at the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
Understanding the root causes of the issues to prevent them reoccurring
Taking an integrated approach so that we look at all well- being goals and objectives of other services and partners
Collaboration - working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions
Involvement - ensuring a diversity of the population is involved in decisions that affect them

4.2 Council Plans and Policies that link to Environment Act (Wales) 2016

- **The County of Carmarthenshire’s Well-being Plan** – To be published by May 2018
- **Carmarthenshire County Council’s Well-being Objectives** - To be published by March 2017
- **Carmarthenshire’s Corporate Strategy 2015–20** – To be revised following May 2017 elections

In September 2015 the Council published its Corporate Strategy and outlined its key areas of focus across seven outcome areas. In particular the embedding of the Environment Act supports the following focus points:

Corporate Strategic Expected Outcomes and Strategic Focus		Support
		✓
Making Better Use of Resources		
3	Investigating and developing new ways of working and providing services	✓
	Improved public satisfaction levels with the services provided by the Council	
Building a Better Council		
10	Increasing collaboration with our partners and communities in order support the delivery of services	✓
People in Carmarthenshire are healthier		
19	Getting more Carmarthenshire people more (physically and creatively) active, more often in order to improve the health and well-being of our residents.	✓
	Increased use of leisure facilities	
People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential		
21	Successfully introducing and translating the new national curriculum and qualifications into an inspiring and engaging local curriculum	✓
People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer		
32	Reducing anti-social behaviour by working in partnership with other agencies and communities to tackle local problems	✓
Carmarthenshire’s communities and environment are sustainable		
34	Enhancing and utilising our rich natural environment whilst at the same time adapting to future needs as a result of climate change	✓
35	Supporting resilience with our rural and urban communities	
Carmarthenshire has a stronger and more prosperous economy		
39	Developing training and learning opportunities for local people	✓

• Service Specific Plans and Strategies

Environment
Local Development Plan
Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Flood Risk Management Plan
Corporate Asset Management Plan (AMP)
Service Asset Management Plans (SAMPs)
Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Highway assets management Plan
Integrated Network Plan
Carmarthenshire Cycling Strategy
Safe Routes to School
Chief Executive
Communities
Corporate Services
Education & Children

5. Forward Plan – Divisional Actions

How the action plan was developed

This first action plan has been developed by and for the Environment Department through a series of workshops with both Heads of Service and colleagues within four of its divisions in late November and December 2016. Those attending were asked to review the activities for which they are responsible, and identify which of these had the potential to impact on biodiversity and where there are opportunities to address, through a change in working practice, the new Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience duty placed on public bodies by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The goals set out below reflect these discussions, and have been circulated to Heads of Service and all those that attended the workshops prior to inclusion in this plan. Assuming that this proves to be a successful approach, similar workshops will be carried out with other CCC departments in 2017.

What we are doing already

Planning Service promotes the environmental policies set out within the LDP and SPG
Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership – provides regular liaison between environmental organisation working in Carmarthenshire to achieve shared goals
Verges managed with advice from Biodiversity Officer
Creation of uncut areas in public parks and other areas e.g. St David's Park
Replanting of trees lost through age / disease e.g. St David's Park
Habitat surveys for developments on CCC owned land including bats / water voles / otters / invertebrates
Creation of habitat and wildlife areas in school grounds
Dedication and management of wildlife habitats as mitigation for development projects e.g. Cross Hands West / Burry Port Regeneration / Cross Hands Link Road
Supporting agri-environment schemes and woodland management schemes on CCC's rural estate
Coed Cymru - promoting management and conservation of Carmarthenshire's woodlands
Country Parks – providing natural green space for the public
Shoreline Management Plan

Environment Act Workshop schedule

Department	Division	Workshop?	Goal agreed?	Comments
Chief Executive	Administration & Law			
	People Management			
	Regeneration & Policy			
Communities	Business Support & Service Imp.			
	Commissioning			
	Housing & Public Protection			
	Integrated Services			
	Leisure			
	Mental Health & Learning Disability			
Corporate Services	Audit, Risk & Procurement			
	Financial Services			
	ICT			
	Revenue Services			
Education & Children	Children's Services			
	Education Services			
	Strategic Development			
Environment	Planning	✓		
	Policy & Performance			
	Property	✓		
	Transport & Highways	✓		
	Waste & Environmental Services	✓		

Ref	Divisions: Planning (PL) Property (PR) Transport & Highways (TH) Waste & Environmental Services (WES) With Key Actions and Key Outcome Measures	By When	By Who											
	Key Actions (Service Priorities)													
1 PL	Undertake workshops with relevant Divisions in other CCC Departments to generate an action for these Divisions to incorporate into the Forward Plan in 2018 <table border="1" data-bbox="161 443 1374 566"> <tr> <td>1 Integration into decision making/policy</td> <td>2 Safeguard species and habitats</td> <td>3 Restore/ Create habitats</td> <td>4 Tackling key pressures</td> <td>5 Improving our evidence</td> <td>6. Governance and policy</td> <td>A Long Term</td> <td>B Prevention</td> <td>C Integration</td> <td>D Collaboration</td> <td>E Involvement</td> </tr> </table>	1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement	April 2018	Isabel Macho Rosie Carmichael
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement				
2 PL	Produce guidance notes on protected species for use by colleagues to ensure that we work within the legislation with regard to protected species and to be consistent with our duty under the Environment Act 2016 <table border="1" data-bbox="161 672 1374 795"> <tr> <td>1 Integration into decision making/policy</td> <td>2 Safeguard species and habitats</td> <td>3 Restore/ Create habitats</td> <td>4 Tackling key pressures</td> <td>5 Improving our evidence</td> <td>6. Governance and policy</td> <td>A Long Term</td> <td>B Prevention</td> <td>C Integration</td> <td>D Collaboration</td> <td>E Involvement</td> </tr> </table>	1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement	Feb 2017	Isabel Macho
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement				
3 PL	Review the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Carmarthenshire in light of the new legislation and guidance <table border="1" data-bbox="161 878 1374 1001"> <tr> <td>1 Integration into decision making/policy</td> <td>2 Safeguard species and habitats</td> <td>3 Restore/ Create habitats</td> <td>4 Tackling key pressures</td> <td>5 Improving our evidence</td> <td>6. Governance and policy</td> <td>A Long Term</td> <td>B Prevention</td> <td>C Integration</td> <td>D Collaboration</td> <td>E Involvement</td> </tr> </table>	1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement	Mar 2018	Isabel Macho
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement				
4 PL	The Planning Division will develop a consistent approach to ensuring that biodiversity is maintained and enhanced, and that ecosystem resilience is promoted as part of the planning system and also within its Conservation, Minerals and Building Control activities. In 2017/18 this will be promoted through training and workshops for staff, and also for external partners – agents, developers and ecologist. Training will make reference to CCC’s published policies and Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance, and also to the British Standard - Biodiversity - Code of Practice for planning and development (2013) <table border="1" data-bbox="161 1256 1374 1375"> <tr> <td>1 Integration into decision making/policy</td> <td>2 Safeguard species and habitats</td> <td>3 Restore/ Create habitats</td> <td>4 Tackling key pressures</td> <td>5 Improving our evidence</td> <td>6. Governance and policy</td> <td>A Long Term</td> <td>B Prevention</td> <td>C Integration</td> <td>D Collaboration</td> <td>E Involvement</td> </tr> </table>	1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement		L Quelch/ J Edwards/H Towns Llewelyn/R carmichael
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement				
5 PL TH	Environment Department to deliver an integrated and long term approach to the implementation of projects on the Llanelli Levels. Identify and work with partners and stakeholders e.g. Network Rail, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Wildlife Trust, local communities. <table border="1" data-bbox="161 1480 1374 1610"> <tr> <td>1 Integration into decision making/policy</td> <td>2 Safeguard species and habitats</td> <td>3 Restore/ Create habitats</td> <td>4 Tackling key pressures</td> <td>5 Improving our evidence</td> <td>6. Governance and policy</td> <td>A Long Term</td> <td>B Prevention</td> <td>C Integration</td> <td>D Collaboration</td> <td>E Involvement</td> </tr> </table>	1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement		D King/ I Macho/ R Williams
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement				
6 TH	Verge Cutting - Continue to implement policy, deliver annual tool box talk and make provision for late cut verges. <table border="1" data-bbox="161 1715 1374 1834"> <tr> <td>1 Integration into decision making/policy</td> <td>2 Safeguard species and habitats</td> <td>3 Restore/ Create habitats</td> <td>4 Tackling key pressures</td> <td>5 Improving our evidence</td> <td>6. Governance and policy</td> <td>A Long Term</td> <td>B Prevention</td> <td>C Integration</td> <td>D Collaboration</td> <td>E Involvement</td> </tr> </table>	1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement	On- going	Darren King
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement				
7 TH	Transport and Highways – plans and policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review of Rights Of Way Improvement Plan will address new duties placed on LAs under this Act. The review will be completed in 2018 The Highway Asset Management Plan that is being developed will address the LAs responsibilities under this new Act. Highway Asset Management Plan to be completed by October 2018 as recommended by Well Managed Highways Code of Practice. CF 	2018 Oct 2018												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Network Plans are produced for the larger settlements in Carmarthenshire each year. H and T to review these plans with Rural Conservation Section, and in particular the contribution PROWs, and other off road routes are making to ecological resilience, in terms of the habitats alongside these routes. Review the management of routes that have biodiversity interest. Next review of INM to be completed and submitted to WG by November 2017. • Carmarthenshire Cycling Strategy (currently in draft) Rural Conservation will be consulted on this plan to assess whether it creates opportunities for managing and enhancing biodiversity and promoting ecological resilience. Consultation with Rural Conservation in mid Jan 2017. • Safe Routes to School - As a pilot project for schemes to be implemented in 2018/19 proposals for SRtS will be passed to the Rural Conservation Section when they are received by Highways. An assessment of the likely impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, if any will be assessed, and these issues will then be addressed from the outset in terms of the design of the scheme. The assessment is likely to be a desk exercise using aerial photos etc. and biological records, with a site visit where there are particular concerns if considered necessary or appropriate. Proposals made in Sept - Dec 2017, to be implemented in 2018, will be submitted to Rural Conservation Section for ecological appraisal prior to developing details of the schemes. • Tywi Valley Cycle way Ffairfach to Nantgaredig will form a planning application. As part of the development of the scheme, and so as to inform the development of the design, the Rural Conservation Section will review the possible impact of the cycle way on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and comment on initial scoping report and feedback from initial walkover surveys (already completed). Opportunities that the scheme could deliver for promoting ecosystem resilience, and enhancing biodiversity will be explored. This assessment should be done in order to inform the design process rather than as part of the planning process. Project team (BJ/SC as lead) to discuss initial proposals in January 2017. IM/ RC to respond by mid-February 2017. Output – development of a plan that addresses ecological concerns raised through this process. <table border="1" data-bbox="161 1126 1385 1249"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6.</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration into decision making/policy</td><td>Safeguard species and habitats</td><td>Restore/ Create habitats</td><td>Tackling key pressures</td><td>Improving our evidence</td><td>Governance and policy</td><td>Long Term</td><td>Prevention</td><td>Integration</td><td>Collaboration</td><td>Involvement</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6.	A	B	C	D	E		Integration into decision making/policy	Safeguard species and habitats	Restore/ Create habitats	Tackling key pressures	Improving our evidence	Governance and policy	Long Term	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement		<p>Nov 2017</p> <p>Jan 2017</p> <p>Dec 17/ Jan 2018</p> <p>Feb 2017</p>	<p>Caroline Ferguson</p> <p>Simon Charles</p> <p>Simon Charles</p> <p>Simon Charles/ Isabel Macho/Rosie Carmichael</p> <p>Brian Jenkins /Simon Charles</p>
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<p>8 TH PR</p>	<p>Commissioning of ecological surveys - In order to demonstrate that CCC is embedding biodiversity into its ways of thinking, in-house ecological surveyors and consultants appointed by Highways and Transportation and Property will be asked to consider, when assessing a site or a building, issues relating to ecosystem resilience. This information will help to establish a preferred option, and will inform mitigation and enhancement proposals. This approach is also referred to in CCC's Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance, so it is something that will be considered should a site go forwards as a planning application. This is another reason for addressing biodiversity and ecological resilience at the very outset when developing the design of a scheme. Framework Service Briefs to include specific reference to Environment Act and 'ecosystem resilience'.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="161 1682 1385 1805"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6.</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration into decision making/policy</td><td>Safeguard species and habitats</td><td>Restore/ Create habitats</td><td>Tackling key pressures</td><td>Improving our evidence</td><td>Governance and policy</td><td>Long Term</td><td>Prevention</td><td>Integration</td><td>Collaboration</td><td>Involvement</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6.	A	B	C	D	E		Integration into decision making/policy	Safeguard species and habitats	Restore/ Create habitats	Tackling key pressures	Improving our evidence	Governance and policy	Long Term	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Brian Jenkins – T&H Hywel Harries - Prop</p>
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<p>9 PR</p>	<p>Sites that are being retained - Carry out biodiversity assessments of these sites and identify both the biodiversity they support and the contribution that they make to ecosystem resilience. Review management of these sites. Lead: Stephen Morgan – Property – as part of ongoing support for all Divisions undertaking Service Asset Management Plans</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="161 1984 1385 2098"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6.</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration into decision making/policy</td><td>Safeguard species and habitats</td><td>Restore/ Create habitats</td><td>Tackling key pressures</td><td>Improving our evidence</td><td>Governance and policy</td><td>Long Term</td><td>Prevention</td><td>Integration</td><td>Collaboration</td><td>Involvement</td><td></td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5	6.	A	B	C	D	E		Integration into decision making/policy	Safeguard species and habitats	Restore/ Create habitats	Tackling key pressures	Improving our evidence	Governance and policy	Long Term	Prevention	Integration	Collaboration	Involvement		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Stephen Morgan</p>
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10 W ES	<p>Flood Defence - Develop working methods that address biodiversity issues. Build these into method statements for work being done at individual sites. Develop procedure that will ensure that contractors carrying out works on site are aware of the site's biodiversity interest, of its biodiversity constraints and of the required method statement for the work being undertaken.</p> <p>Review training needs for officers and contractors and provide training needs</p>	June 2017	Rhys Williams with Isabel Macho									
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement		
11 W ES	<p>Pride in your place - provide links to suitable sources of biodiversity information that can be added to Pride in your place web page. Jan 2017</p>	Jan 17	I Macho/ K Fulham/ B Mogford									
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement		
12 W ES	<p>Management of land managed by the division e.g. Wern Ddu and Ammanford Cemetery. Carry out biodiversity assessments of sites managed by the division, and include an assessment of the contribution these sites to make to ecosystem resilience. In the light of these assessments and where appropriate develop management plans for these sites that will protect and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. Ammanford Cemetery will be assessed by May 2017. Biological recording of Wern Ddu has already started.</p>	On-going	Diane Thomas/Isabel Macho/Rhys Davies									
1 Integration into decision making/policy	2 Safeguard species and habitats	3 Restore/ Create habitats	4 Tackling key pressures	5 Improving our evidence	6. Governance and policy	A Long Term	B Prevention	C Integration	D Collaboration	E Involvement		

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

The new Biodiversity Duty replaces Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 in Wales whereby public authorities had a duty to ‘have regard to the conservation of biodiversity’ in the exercise of their functions.

- (1) A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.
- (2) In complying with subsection (1), a public authority must take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects—
 - (a) diversity between and within ecosystems;
 - (b) the connections between and within ecosystems;
 - (c) the scale of ecosystems;
 - (d) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);
 - (e) the adaptability of ecosystems.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply to—
 - (a) the exercise of a function by Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, or
 - (b) the exercise of a judicial function of a court or tribunal.
- (4) In complying with subsection (1)—
 - (a) the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister for Wales, the Counsel General to the Welsh Government, a Minister of the Crown and a government department must have regard to the United Nations Environmental Programme Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992, and
 - (b) any other public authority must have regard to any guidance given to it by the Welsh Ministers.
- (5) In complying with subsection (1), a public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must have regard to—
 - (a) the list published under section 7;
 - (b) the state of natural resources report published under section 8;
 - (c) any area statement published under section 11 for an area that includes all or part of an area in relation to which the authority exercises functions.

“Biodiversity” means the diversity of living organisms, whether at the genetic, species or ecosystem level

The intention is to ensure that in carrying out their functions, public authorities will help to reverse biodiversity decline but also to assist in the delivery of sustainable management of natural resources by contributing to the resilience of ecosystems.

Forward planning and Reporting

- (6) A public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with subsection (1).
- (7) A public authority must, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what it has done to comply with subsection (1).

- (8) A public authority that has published a plan under subsection (6)—
- (a) must review the plan in the light of each report that it publishes under subsection (7), and
 - (b) may revise the plan at any time.

Explanation

The duty requires that public authorities *'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems*

- Biodiversity – the variety of species and habitats found in the county.
- Ecosystem – communities of plants and animals, together with the non-living physical characteristics of their environment (e.g. geology, soil and climate) interlinked together as an ecological system through nutrient flows and energy cycles.

e.g. woodlands, grasslands, freshwater

What is ecosystem resilience?

- Diversity of species and habitats within and between ecosystems
- Size and extent of the ecosystem. The greater the extent of an ecosystem the more able it will be able to cope with disturbance, e.g. the larger the area of habitat is the larger population of a species it can support – ditches in Llanelli area and water voles, so they are less likely to become extinct and the more genetically diverse they will be.
- Condition of the ecosystem. If an ecosystem is in poor condition it will be stressed and reduced capacity to resist, recover or adapt to new disturbances or to deliver ecosystem services.
- Connection and linkages between and within ecosystems. This usually applies to movement of organisms – from foraging to dispersal of seeds and genes, adjustment to climate change. Also with regard to natural processes, e.g. water cycling within a landscape. Good connectivity allows ecosystems to recover from disturbance more easily Connectivity can be reduced through habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Adaptability to change (e.g. climate change). A vital part of resilience allowing ecosystems to adapt to change, climate change. All the other elements of resilience are the basis of allowing adaptation to happen.

The Environment Act is part of a wider delivery framework for the sustainable management of natural resources.

- [State of Natural Resources Report](#) (SoNaRR) – has been produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The report sets out the state of Wales’ natural resources. It assesses the extent to which natural resources in Wales are being sustainably managed, and recommends a proactive approach to building resilience. And - for the first time – the report links the resilience of Welsh natural resources to the well-being of the people of Wales. NRW consider how pressures on Wales’ natural resources are resulting in risks and threats to long-term social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being, as set out in the WFG 2015. It looks at the key issues, as well as opportunities for integrated solutions that provide multiple benefits. SoNaRR **will underpin the,**
- A [Natural Resources Policy](#) (NRP) – will be produced by Welsh Government, which will set out will set out the priorities for sustainable management of natural resources at a national level. The priorities in the NRP will be delivered at a **local level through,**
- *Area Statements* – to be produced by **NRW** in order to facilitate the implementation of the NRP. Area statements will set out the key risks that need to be carefully managed and mitigated and the key opportunities and priorities for the sustainable use of natural resources at an area level. These will be produced between May 2017 and December 2019.

	NRP objectives	
1	Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward plan and implement management schemes and practises that enhance biodiversity, e.g. beneficial cutting to encourage wild flowers and pollinators, use of native trees and plants, reduce the use of herbicides, pesticides and water and avoid the use of peat. • Encourage officers to think how their roles link with biodiversity and provide specialist training if needed. • Take account of the links between biodiversity and your organisations wider functions such as; land management, waste management, building maintenance and energy consumption. • Work with your partner organisations to promote biodiversity. • Increase access to, awareness of and involvement in biodiversity, e.g. involve local communities in your work. • Promote the benefits of access to biodiversity in the delivery of services to the public such as social care, community development, health, and recreation.
2	Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance biodiversity on your own land and land that you manage. • Think about new site or new building designs that can provide benefits for biodiversity, e.g. are their opportunities to provide wildlife habitats / shelter, green walls and brown and green roofs, reduce energy consumption and improve drainage systems • Maximise opportunities to raise awareness of biodiversity through your work with your partners and the public, e.g. through the provision of advice to the business community, run a biodiversity award scheme, organise local community biodiversity events etc. • Explore ways you can both save money and benefit biodiversity, e.g. where biodiversity benefits from less intensive land management such as a reduced mowing regime, a reduction in the use of artificial fertiliser, using woody waste as habitat piles etc.
3	Increase the resilience of our natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand your local biodiversity you have and how it

	environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	<p>can be enhanced; undertake surveys, seek expert advice, use your Local Environment Record Centres etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the best information to ensure sensitive species and habitats are not adversely affected by the work you do or intend to do and that appropriate enhancement action is taken. • Make the most of external funding opportunities; explore which funding options may be available to you , e.g. Glastir and Glastir woodlands, landfill and aggregates tax schemes, the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery Funds, EU LIFE Fund.
4	Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help the people you work with get the best biodiversity support, e.g. signpost to other organisations and bodies that can help (Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, wildlife organisations, farming unions, etc) • Make the most of your existing resources; think about what you have and what can be achieved. • Harness the energy of volunteers and your local communities; much is achieved for biodiversity by volunteers and local communities conservation of biodiversity in their area; get involved with citizen science schemes • Work with your partners to link natural areas across the wider countryside • Improve and increase understanding in the wider community; record, monitor and share information on the work that you do and the improvements you make.
5	Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base decisions on the Best Available Evidence – from LERCs, the Atlas for Living Wales, Local expertise and your local nature partnership. • Share information widely
6	Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery	

The seven Well-being goals of the Future Generations Act

<p><i>A prosperous Wales</i></p>	<p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change), and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p> <p>📞 Contact Stuart Walters 3241 or Helen Morgan 4902 / Contact Dave Astins 6426</p>
<p><i>A resilient Wales</i></p>	<p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p> <p>📞 Contact Rosie Carmichael 2727 or Isabel Macho 3390</p>
<p><i>A healthier Wales</i></p>	<p>A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p>📞 Contact Silvana Sauro 2897</p>
<p><i>A more equal Wales</i></p>	<p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p> <p>📞 Contact Llinos Evans 4914</p>
<p><i>A Wales of cohesive communities</i></p>	<p>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p> <p>📞 Contact Kate Thomas 4202</p>
<p><i>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</i></p>	<p>A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p> <p>📞 Contact Jane Davies 2180</p>
<p><i>A globally responsible Wales</i></p>	<p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing makes a positive contribution to global well-being</p>

Useful links