

Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan Jan 2023 – Dec 2025

Appendix 1

CCC's Environment Act Forward Plan Jan 23 to Dec 25. The following actions will be reported on via the PIMS system every 6 months. The Dec 23 update has been provided where this is available when this report was compiled.

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
RURAL CONSERVATION		
Progress adoption and delivery of CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy	Strategy to be published on CCC website 1/3/2024	To go to CMT in Jan 24
Continue to progress CCC's tree safety and Ash Dieback work, delivery net benefit for biodiversity and nature recovery	Annual report on progress presented in March each year as part of Divisional Business Plan and PIMS	Work progressing each year with surveys of trees affected on CCC land and arrangements made for their removal. Tree planting on CCC land helps to mitigate for the losses of ash.
Progress the review of Carmarthenshire's Tree Preservation Orders aiming to review at least 20 TPOs each year	6 monthly reports on progress presented in March and September each year as part of Divisional Business Plan and PIMS	In Qs 1,- 3 in 2023/24 15 TPOs in total have been reviewed
Continue to progress adoption and delivery of CCC's Strategy for grassland management for Pollinators	Action Plan to be published on CCC website 1/3/2024	Progress made with Grounds Maintenance throughout the year. CCC's Local Places for Nature grant has funded purchase of additional machinery required to deliver the management required
Continue to progress delivery of CCC's Caeau Mynydd Mawr Marsh fritillary project (CMM) in the Cross Hands area	Annual report on progress presented in March each year as part of Divisional Business Plan and PIMS Budget spend reported, no. of sites and ha of land in suitable condition for MF	The CMM project has continued to deliver biodiversity enhancements which will support the Marsh Fritillary butterfly in the project area and is working in partnership with others – inc. NRW, Wildlife trust Butterfly Conservation.
When opportunities arise secure S106 contributions from developers to deliver off site net benefit for biodiversity on land in the management control of CCC	Annual report on nos. S106 agreements signed which will deliver these benefits.	Opportunities have to be linked to suitable applications. While biodiversity enhancements are being requested for all applications, these are more usually delivered on or off site rather than by S106 agreement , an exception being development in the Caeau Mynydd Mawr Marsh Fritillary Project area.
Seek funding and continue to deliver the	Update mgm plans for sites and seek further	Funds identified for delivery of winter 23/24 work programme.

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
Carmarthenshire Bogs Project	funding for delivery of project work July 24	
Provide training for Elected Members and officers in Biodiversity Enhancement, Ash Dieback, the Nature Emergency etc.	Annual update via PIMS on training delivered by the Rural Conservation Section and partnership with others	Jan 24 Further training for Housing Maintenance staff on Protected Species will be delivered. Planning Committee completed training in delivering net benefit for biodiversity in April 23. April 2023 a mix of 53 officers, agents and developers attended a Nature based suds training session run by Robert Bray Associates funded by CCC's WG ENRAW grant. May 2023 EPP Scrutiny attended information session on CCC's draft action plan for pollinators
Continue to provide secretariat and facilitate 3 meeting each year for the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership (CNP)	Annual update via PIMS of meetings arranged etc. in March	Three meeting arrange during 2023, c. 16 partners attending each, plus online meeting to cover specific subject areas. CNP's State of Nature Report nearing completion. Headline and Key messages are planned for publication on CCC website
Deliver Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature grant in Carmarthenshire delivering project and administering the grant	Project Officer appointed by Sept 2023 Annual update via PIMS in March evidencing progress in delivery of the grant. Quarterly claims are made	Projects being delivered in winter 23/24 inc. tree planting on CCC land – e.g., on CCC Housing land in Pencader, on Education land at Neuadd Y Gwendreath and at Adult Day Care Centres in Carmarthen, Ammanford and Llanelli
STRATEGIC POLICY and PLACEMAKING		
Publish updated Supplementary Planning Guidance on Biodiversity and Nature Recovery	Update linked to preparation and adoption of Revised LDP – Delivery scheduled to coincide with adoption December 2024.	Monitor progress in line with the preparation towards adoption of the Revised LDP. Preparation to be in conjunction with Rural Conservation Team.
Publish updated Supplementary Planning Guidance and secure delivery of Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI)	Linked to preparation and adoption of Revised LDP – Delivery scheduled to coincide with adoption December 2024.	Project staff appointed Nov/ Dec 23, funded by Shared Prosperity Grant (SPF) The preparation of the SPG will be linked to strategic guidance and delivery of Green and Blue Infrastructure under the Greening Carmarthenshire Project. Opportunities to bring the SPG forward to support/frame current policies and proposals will be explored through the above project.
Publish master plans for allocated sites in the new Local Development Plan setting out the type and location of the where GBI that must be provided by developers.	Ongoing following the adoption of the Revised LDP. The masterplan programme will respond to and reflect the proposed trajectory for the delivery of sites.	Monitor implementation in line with the trajectory for site delivery post LDP adoption.
Develop and promote the use of S106 to provide for	Linked to preparation and adoption of Revised LDP – Delivery scheduled to	Meetings to frame opportunities have been held – current process allows for the use of s106 to secure funds where evidence of need is

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
provision and maintenance of GBI. Review opportunities for S106 agreements to fund the future management of LNRs	coincide with adoption December 2024.	available. Formal provision required through SPG. Monitor implementation in line with the trajectory for site delivery post LDP adoption.
Progress strategic guidance and delivery of Green and Blue Infrastructure	Project delivery and targets December 2024 in line with SPF funding.	Project staff appointed Nov/ Dec 23, funded by Shared Prosperity Grant
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND MINERALS		
Secure the resources required and develop a system to monitor compliance with biodiversity, landscape, and Green and Blue Infrastructure requirements of approved developments	Identify funding opportunities and mechanism for ensuring compliance is monitored.	Discussions regarding the need for additional resources to monitor compliance with biodiversity, landscape and green infrastructure requirements are on-going at a Divisional Level. We are mindful of the budget cuts local authorities are facing and we are investigating alternative ways of ensuring compliance with these planning requirements.
Minerals Section: identify minerals restoration projects across the 11 local authorities for which a minerals planning service is provided, and report on how these projects are delivering net benefit for biodiversity, and how this being monitored and reported	July 2024 agree sites which will be monitored in terms of habitat restoration Report annually on progress on these sites via PIMS December reporting round	Torcoed Quarry, Carmarthenshire: Early 2023 445 mixed native trees and shrubs planted. July Full ecological survey inc. dormouse, bats and other protected species October 1,000 dormouse tubes set up to monitor activity
GROUND MAINTENANCE AND CLEANSING		
Review SLAs with Grounds Maintenance clients and deliver pollinator friendly grass cutting regimes across CCC estate	No. of SLAs revised each year to incorporate nectar cuts ad meadow cuts for pollinators. Total area (ha) of CCC land managed with either nectar or meadow cuts. No. sites where new composting facilities for grass cuttings have been established	Machinery to deliver nectar and meadow cuts purchased in Nov 23 with WG funding
Work with Grounds Maintenance clients e.g. Housing, Education,	2023 – 2025 Local Places for Nature will fund this work. Make use of this grant and work with LP4N project officer to agree	See action above: Projects being delivered in winter 23/23 inc tree planting on CCC land – e.g on CCC Housing land in Pencader, on Education land at Neuadd

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
Property to identify and propose areas suitable for tree planting consistent with CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy. Work with Rural Conservation to progress tree planting and agree standard maintenance requirements.	sites for planting and on-going maintenance. Report on no. of sites selected for planting and sites planted, and no. trees planted.	Y Gwendreath and at Adult Day Care Centres in Carmarthen, Ammanford and Llanelli
PROPERTY		
As part of CCC's asset disposal programme consult Rural Conservation as to opportunities for biodiversity	Nos. of site and results of consultation where we are adopting this approach e.g., Pentremawr colliery, in Pontyberem,	Expression of interest in WG's Woodland improvement grant has been approved by WG for Pentremawr Colliery. This will assist in CCC making a decision to retain this site, which could deliver considerable benefits for biodiversity and public access if managed accordingly.
Review the tenancy agreements on CCC farms, when appropriate, to reflect CCC Cabinet vision of increasing biodiversity on all CCC owned land, and ensure tenants are eligible for WG's Sustainable Farming Scheme	Nos. new tenancy agreements reviewed with aim of increasing biodiversity on the farm.	Work is progressing at Bremenda Isaf , Llanarthne to investigate and introduce more sustainable farming practices on this CCC farm. Working in partnership with West Wales Rivers Trust Farmyard Infrastructure reports will be completed for 4 farms in Llanarthne, these reports will advise how water management of the farmyard will be improved. CCC's Woodland officer will review tree planting opportunities on these farms at the same time
In collaboration with Rural Conservation progress the delivery of CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy on CCC estate. Manage CCC's existing woodlands and progress the planting of new woodland areas. See Grounds Maintenance action above re delivering tree planting on sites managed by property	No. woodland management schemes in CCC woodlands etc progressed, no. areas planted with trees, ha planted	Plans submitted to WG for grant aid to support the planting of new woodlands a several sites across the county. Approval of grant aid by WG typically takes 2 years. New woodland planting of Cae Person in Llanddarog progressing Jan 24
FLOOD DEFENCE		
Develop and promote an integrated approach to the design of nature-based, low maintenance SUDS schemes that will contribute to landscaping requirements, and provide	Prepare/ adopt/promote guidance in design of nature- based SUDS to developers. Highlight exemplar schemes	WG funded a 1day training seminar for 50 delegates in Nature Friendly SUD solutions, CCC officers and consultants in April 23. Delivery by Robert Bray Associates, UK leaders in this field

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
green infrastructure, and net benefit for biodiversity for larger/major developments		
Develop, promote and evidence delivery of an integrated approach to the design of nature-based flood defence schemes that will contribute to landscaping requirements, and provide green infrastructure, and net benefit for biodiversity	Evidence delivery of low maintenance nature-based flood defence systems, which will offer multiple benefits	
Pembrey Canal - progress the preparation of a management plan for this site and manage it to deliver flood defence, biodiversity, control of invasive species and amenity benefits, consistent with the legislation	Management plan prepared by P and S by March 2024 Annual report via PIMS of actions completed	Work has been completed to remove invasive species that have an adverse impact on the biodiversity associated with the canal in the Pembrey area
PROPERTY DESIGN		
Evidence that CCC projects deliver CCC's S6 Biodiversity duty, and its Tree and Woodland strategy. Adopt low maintenance nature-friendly design solutions. Reflect in briefs for consultants and contractors. Ensure these requirements are delivered, that long term maintenance requirements have been addressed and funding solutions agreed	Evidence of discussions with clients highlighting this approach to design throughout the design process, and reference to it in briefs prepared for consultants/ contractors. Names of projects where this approach is being adopted, and e.gs of designs proposed	Several discussions throughout the year re incorporating enhancements for biodiversity and green infrastructure in CCC projects, e.g., plans for the refurbishment of Wood's Row in Carmarthen
HIGHWAYS and TRANSPORTATION Professional Design and Active Travel		
Evidence that projects deliver CCC's S6	Provide e.gs., of projects where this approach is being adopted with design	Where space permits biodiversity enhancement is included in the design wherever possible and appropriate, this is easier on new schemes

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
<p>Biodiversity duty, and where space permits its Tree and Woodland strategy. Deliver biodiversity enhancement as part of smaller road improvement schemes. Build these requirements in at the concept stage. Adopt low maintenance nature-friendly design solution where appropriate</p>	<p>details, and where projects demonstrating this are being delivered.</p>	<p>which require planning permission (e.g., Tywi Valley Path) than on schemes that fall within permitted development.</p>
<p>Monitor the delivery of projects to ensure compliance with briefs, and delivery of biodiversity and landscape requirements</p>	<p>Evidence that maintenance of landscaping/ tree planting on new schemes is completed, maintained, and monitored</p>	<p>Where contractors completed works, the design team monitor the contract for the first 12 months. This responsibility is then passed on to the adopting service.</p>
<p>Evidence projects deliver CCC's S6 Biodiversity duty, and its Tree and Woodland strategy. Build these requirements in at the concept stage. Adopt low maintenance nature-friendly design solution where appropriate. Ensure delivery and maintenance of landscape and biodiversity enhancements as per project design</p>	<p>New schemes where this approach is being delivered, e.g., areas of habitat created alongside active travel routes, nos. trees and shrubs planted etc</p>	<p>Small area of tree planting (300 trees and shrubs) will be completed at the St Clears Wetland site through which the active travel path runs, local school and community will be involved in the planting. Progress concept of the areas Local Nature Reserve in 2024</p>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS and REGENERATION		
<p>Evidence that projects deliver CCC's S6 Biodiversity duty, and where space permits its Tree and Woodland strategy. Deliver biodiversity enhancement</p>	<p>Identify projects that have capacity to deliver GI etc. Evidence requirement for GI to be delivered by these projects at the concept stage. Identify CCC schemes that are progressing and evidence that landscaping/ ecology/GI requirements</p>	<p>Regen actively involved in progressing management of Kidwelly Quay where WG grants have been used to enhance wildlife habitats and where some further tree planting is proposed</p>

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
<p>as part of smaller schemes. Build these requirements in at the concept stage. Adopt low maintenance nature-friendly design solution where appropriate</p>	<p>are being delivered as required, and that there are mechanisms in place to ensure their maintenance</p>	
<p>COMMUNITIES OUTDOOR RECREATION</p>		
<p>Secure funding for a permanent post that will ensure CCC has the capacity to manage its Local Nature Reserves and similar sites in ways that will conserve and enhance their biodiversity and enable people to enjoy nature.</p>	<p>Funding for the post has been secured in 2023</p>	<p>Post secured and post holder is managing CCC's LNRs and other sites on behalf of Outdoor Recreation</p>
<p>Progress designation of Ynys Dawela in Brynaman, and consideration of Kidwelly Fields (nr Kidwelly Quay) St Clears Wetland as a Local Nature Reserves (LNR) with the Rural Conservation Section. Review opportunities for S106 agreements to fund the future management of LNRs</p>	<p>Management plan prepared by CCC for each LNR proposed. Letter of support received NRW for each LNR proposed. Agreements and declaration for LNRs forwarded to CCC Legal for sign off.</p>	<p>Ynys Dawela-Cabinet signoff required before CCC can make legal declaration</p>
<p>Working with Natural Resources Wales to finalise Section16 management agreement for 44 ha of Llyn Llech Owain Country Park</p>	<p>Completion of agreement (date), delivery of agreed works, and receipt of payment</p>	<p>First "final draft" of the agreement due January 2024</p>
<p>NEW HOUSING PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING HOUSING AND SURROUNDING AREAS</p>		

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
Draft, adopt and promote CCC's Housing Development, Ecology and Biodiversity Guidance	Date of adoption Date of any training/ briefing delivered	Guidance drafted and in final stages
Ensure the Housing Development and Ecology and Biodiversity Guidance is included in all project briefs and remains incorporated at all stages of project development and implementation. Ensure Project Ecology is aware of ecology issues within each scheme it is progress.	For each PIMS reporting round in progress identify projects on which Project Ecology and Housing are working collaboratively to ensure housing schemes deliver benefits for biodiversity and Green Infrastructure etc. Consider referencing expected biodiversity benefits to be delivered at appropriate stages. This could just be a list of sites where collaborative work is progressing, with brief details when appropriate	On-going work at Bryn Mefis, Llanelli, to deliver habitat enhancements for European Protected Species (bats, and dormice)
Work with CCC Project Ecology to train housing officers in Protected Species issues	Provide dates of training events and numbers attending	Second CCC Project Ecologist recruited in Dec 23 to work, in particular, with Housing on maintenance issues. Training of 40 Housing officers in wider ecology issues planned for early 2024
ON LAND MANAGED BY HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES		
In collaboration with Rural Conservation, identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity on land managed by Housing E.g., managing amenity grassland for pollinators and tree planting consistent with CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy	No. of SLAs revised each year to incorporate nectar cuts and meadow cuts for pollinators. Total area (ha) of CCC land managed with either nectar or meadow cuts. No. sites where new composting facilities for grass cuttings have been established. No. sites where trees will be planted with Local Places for Nature grant, or similar	There will be a presumption in 2024 that all amenity grassland will be managed for pollinators with less frequent cutting unless there is a particular reason for this management regime not to be adopted. Tree planting being progressed on housing land in Pencader, and at 3 adult day care centres (Carmarthen, Ammanford and Llanelli)
EDUCATION		
Evidence that projects deliver CCC's S6 Biodiversity duty, and where space permits its Tree and Woodland strategy. Deliver biodiversity enhancement as part of smaller schemes.	Identify projects that have capacity to deliver GI etc. Evidence requirement for GI to be delivered by these projects at the concept stage. Identify CCC schemes that are progressing and evidence that landscaping/ ecology/GI requirements are being delivered as required, and that there are mechanisms in place	Biodiversity enhancements will be delivered at Ysgol Gwenllian Kidwelly in line with planning permission granted and Natural Resources Wales species licencing requirements.

ACTIONS Description	Agreed milestones	Progress report Dec 23 where available
Build these requirements in at the concept stage. Adopt low maintenance nature-friendly design solution where appropriate	to ensure their maintenance	
On land managed by Education and CCC schools, identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity e.g., managing some areas of amenity grassland for pollinators, and areas suitable for tree planting, consistent with CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy	No. of SLAs revised each year to incorporate nectar cuts and meadow cuts for pollinators. Total area (ha) of CCC land managed with either nectar or meadow cuts . No. sites where new composting facilities for grass cuttings have been established. No. sites where trees will be planted with Local Places for Nature grant, or similar	Tree planting will take place at Neuadd y Gwendraeth (managed by Education) in winter 23/24, funded by CCC's Local Places for Nature grant
PROCUREMENT		
Seek opportunities to progress procurement of phosphate free or low phosphate cleaning products (this action builds on an action in the previous EAFP)	Report on progress in purchasing phosphate free or low phosphate cleaning products	Considerable problems with the procurement of all cleaning products have hindered delivery of this action
CORPORATE POLICY		
Evidence reference to CCC's S6 duty in other policy areas		As of 08/01/24 Committee report templates now include a Biodiversity and Climate change implication box for report authors to complete