

Cabinet
29 Gorffennaf 2024

**STRATEGAETH AR GYFER RHEOLI GLASWELLTIR I BRYFED
PEILLIO AR YSTÂD CYNGOR SIR CAERFYRDDIN 2024-29**

Y Pwrpas:

Ystyried mabwysiadu'r Strategaeth ar gyfer Rheoli Glaswelltir i Bryfed Peillio 2024-29 ar ystâd Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin.

Yr argymhellion / penderfyniadau allweddol sydd eu hangen:

Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo mabwysiadu'r Strategaeth ar gyfer Rheoli Glaswelltir i Bryfed Peillio 2024-29 ar ystâd Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin

Y rhesymau:

Mae Datganiad Gweledigaeth 2022–27 y Cabinet yn cynnwys:

“Cynyddu bioamrywiaeth yr holl dir sy'n eiddo i'r Cyngor, a chydabod y gydberthynas gref rhwng newid yn yr hinsawdd, colli bioamrywiaeth a llesiant pobl. Ystyried defnyddio tir Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin i greu cynefinoedd blodau gwyllt a phryfed peillio, gan gynnwys ochrau ac ymylon ffyrdd. Ni allwn ddatrys bygythiadau newid hinsawdd wedi'u peri gan fodau dynol a cholli bioamrywiaeth ar eu pen eu hunain. Rydyn ni naill ai'n datrys y ddau neu ddim un ohonynt.”

Mae mabwysiadu'r Strategaeth ar gyfer Rheoli Glaswelltir i Bryfed Peillio 2024-29 yn cyflawni ymrwymiad o ran gweledigaeth y Cabinet i gydnabod y gydberthynas rhwng newid hinsawdd, colli bioamrywiaeth a llesiant pobl wrth newid y ffordd yr ydym yn rheoli ein hystâd glaswelltir. Mae'r strategaeth hefyd yn cefnogi'r gofyniad statudol sydd ar y Cyngor o dan Ddeddf yr Amgylchedd i gynnal a gwella bioamrywiaeth a hyrwyddo cydnerthedd ecosystemau ac Amcan Llesiant 10: Gofalu am yr amgylchedd nawr ac ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Angen i'r Cabinet wneud penderfyniad

OES

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad

NAC OES

YR AELOD CABINET SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO:-

Y Cynghorydd Aled Vaughan Owen: Newid Hinsawdd, Datgarboneiddio a Chynaliadwyedd

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth:

Lle a Seilwaith

Enw Pennaeth y

Gwasanaeth:

Rhodri Griffiths

Awduron yr Adroddiad:

Isabel Macho

Rosie Carmichael

Swyddi:

Pennaeth Lle a
Chynaliadwyedd

Swyddog Bioamrywiaeth

Rheolwr Cadwraeth
Wledig

E-bost:

RDGriffiths@sirgar.gov.uk

IMacho@sirgar.gov.uk

RACarmichael@sirgar.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strategy for Grassland Management for Pollinators on the CCC Estate 2024-29

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The Strategy for Grassland Management for Pollinators on the CCC Estate 2023–28 sets out the Council's recommended commitment to the adoption of pollinator-friendly land management practices on Council-managed land where there is no conflict between these and the existing land use. This reflects action being carried out across Wales to address the decline in pollinators.

The Strategy sets out a change in approach to managing amenity grassland, for which the Council is responsible supporting our role in mitigating against both the declared Nature and the Climate Change Emergencies.

The proposal supports the enhancement of biodiversity by adapting our cutting regimes and removing the arisings to reduce fertility and over time, maximise the area and extent of wildflower-rich grassland habitat managed by the Council on amenity grassland which will support pollinating insects.

Successful delivery of the strategy will also deliver the other benefits which good-quality amenity grassland provides such as the development of local environments to support community wellbeing, making the places in which people live, work and play more attractive.

The adoption of the strategy will provide leadership to other member organisations of the Public Service Board to manage their land for the same objectives and we are committed to supporting those organisations through the sharing of best practice and learning.

2. OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS

The “do nothing” approach does not deliver biodiversity enhancement and does not support the Cabinets vision statement.

The strategy represents a change in approach in delivering operational services for grassland management to achieve its vision statement objectives.

The Strategy sets a clear direction for the management of grassland areas and a coordinated approach which engages land managers and owners and user. In changing the approach it is recognised that it requires to be tailored to meet the requirements of the land-user and operational constraints i.e topography. The approach allows the Authority to better evidence our duty to take action under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and also help meet well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Rhodri Griffiths**

Head of Place and Sustainability

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES

2. Legal

The delivery of the strategy and the actions it contains is consistent with the S6 Biodiversity Duty placed on all public bodies in Wales under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

Delivery of the actions set out in the Report evidences the Council's delivery and commitment of this duty and its compliance with this Act. It is also consistent with its responsibilities under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in particular the Resilient Wales goal.

3. Finance

The pilot approach set out in the paper indicates that the overall impact should be cost neutral to the Council over time. While land managers may want the grass areas for which they are responsible cut less frequently to enhance areas for pollinators, and which may result in some operational savings, e.g. labour and fuel, cost of removal of arisings and costs of moving machinery from site to site may constrain that cost saving. While financial savings should not be seen as the driver for this change of practice the implantation of the strategy will be monitored against delivery. Grant funding secured to support the specific strategy via their Local Places for Nature programme fund for use by Grounds Maintenance has in itself represented a considerable operational cost saving.

5. Risk Management Issues

Failure to deliver land management practices that are beneficial to pollinators places a reputational risk on the Council and risks its compliance with its S6 Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

6. Physical Assets

Delivery of the Strategy for Pollinators will have an impact on how the Council manages some of the assets for which it is responsible, e.g. grassland management at amenity sites, around property and housing.

8. Biodiversity and Climate Change

Changing the way we manage our amenity grass is a key contribution that we can make to help tackle the **Nature and Climate Emergencies** declared by both Welsh Government and Carmarthenshire County Council.

It is a statutory requirement that Carmarthenshire County Council prepares, and reports on the delivery of its **Environment Act duty** to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. The delivery of this Strategy for Grassland Management for Pollinators on the CCC Estate will evidence the Council's commitment to managing its land for pollinators, which is consistent with its biodiversity duty and Well-Being Objective 10 on the Corporate Strategy: Look after the environment now and for the future.

Cabinet's [Vision Statement for 2022–27](#), which outlines the starting point of the Council's ambitions over the next 5 years. This includes a vision to:

Increase the biodiversity of all council-owned land, and recognise the strong interrelationship between climate change, the loss of biodiversity and human wellbeing. Consider the use of CCC land for creating havens of wildflowers and pollinators, including roadsides and verges. We cannot solve the threats of human induced climate change and loss of biodiversity in isolation. We either solve both or we solve neither.

Regularly cut, closely mown grass has little benefit for wildlife. Grass cut with longer intervals will still be quite short but will allow plants to flower provide food for pollinating insects such as butterflies, hoverflies, beetles and bees. Grass that is managed as a meadow provides food and shelter for a range of wildlife.

Climate Change: Plants absorb carbon from the atmosphere. Reducing mowing allows plants to grow bigger root systems, storing more carbon in the soil. Better root systems increase soil aeration, which increases water storage and so helps reduce flooding.

Reducing the cutting intervals should reduce fuel use, especially if arisings can be left on site.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Rhodri Griffiths

Head of Place and Sustainability

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	YES
Scrutiny Committee	Place Sustainability & Climate Changes
Date the report was considered:-	3rd October 2022
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:- UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Draft Strategy for Grassland Management for Pollinators be received.	

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	The policy is a key component of our Environment Act action plan to enhance biodiversity and support the action the council is taking in respect of the nature emergency
YES	

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan		Legislation and Guidance (gov.wales) (in the downloads section)