

# Forward Plan for Environment (Wales) Act 2016



Sandy Water Park, Llanelli



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Bee Orchid Berwick ©Kath Pryce

## **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 2015, and the 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 provides for us, and we take seriously our responsibilities to conserve this irreplaceable resource.



Cllr. Phillip Hughes



Burry Port

# 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.



Ruth Mullen, Director, Environment Department

# 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, stimulating both inward investment and tourism.
- It is well established now that our natural resources are coming under increasing pressure from a variety of causes such as development, agricultural intensification, pollution and climate change. A poorly managed natural environment increases the long-term risks to our well-being, e.g. increased severity of flooding, declining water quality in our rivers.
- 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 all the benefits they provide us. Any decisions we make 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 in a separate 'live' document..

## 2. CARMARTHENSHIRE'S NATURAL RESOURCES

### What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living organisms (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 a 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 communities in Wales. Wildlife and natural habitats provide us with pleasure, and contributes to a sense of place and contributes to a sense of place.

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:

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

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 is estimated that it would cost UK farmers £1.8 billion a year to pollinate their crops without bees (Welsh Government 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 coastal erosion.
- **Floodplains in the valleys** – help hold water after high rainfall events reducing flooding down river.
- **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 - Carmarthenshire is well known for its magnificent coastline, sandy beaches, 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. These include local, national and international designations. These special habitats support some nationally significant populations of species such as the marsh fritillary butterfly, water vole and red squirrel.

## 3. ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on 21st March 2016. It puts in place legislation to enable Wales' natural 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), ensuring 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 (aka 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:

1. 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.
2. Address biodiversity decline, through positive actions that will result in maintenance or enhancement of our biodiversity.
3. 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.

In Carmarthenshire we have many of these priority species – some are common and others much more scarce. Our native species have influenced the cultural identity of Carmarthenshire. Animals and plants have influenced many farm, house and street names in the county.

The species and habitats on this list that occur in Carmarthenshire can be found at [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/biodiversity](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/biodiversity).

## 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. The first draft of this plan was produced in January 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.

## 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.*

The Nature Recovery Action Plan links to and complements The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

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 3** 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

**In Carmarthenshire a Local Nature Recovery Plan will be developed based on the objectives of the national plan.**

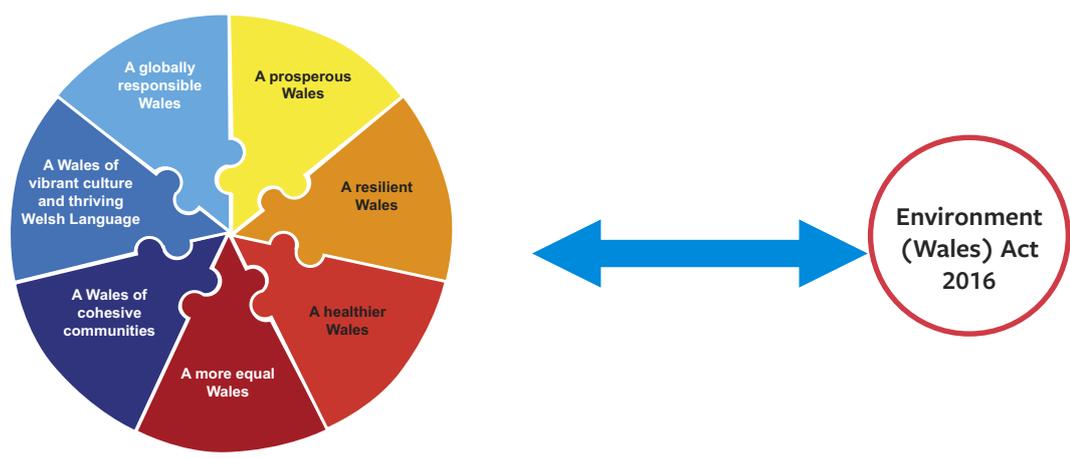


Over 400m of new ditch created on council land near the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Llanelli. This provides vital new habitat for the rare water vole and helped with water storage on coastal floodplain liable for flooding.

## 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 WFG Act individual Public Bodies had to have prepared and published well-being objectives based on the well-being goals alongside a statement about the well-being objectives by 31 March 2017. These can be found on the Council’s website.
- 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 requires an integrated approach across the well-being goals, i.e. the fact that biodiversity contributes to our economy and health and well-being, etc.



Dormouse ©J. Hartley

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

<p><b>A prosperous Wales</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b></p>	<p>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).</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b></p>	<p>Involving communities in the management of their local parks and woodlands has been shown to improve community cohesion and reduce anti-social behaviour.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales</b></p>	<p>The environment supplies all our material resources but we must ensure that we use only our fair share.</p>

## The Sustainable Development Principle and the Five Ways of Working

The WFG Act sets out five ways of working that 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

1. **The County of Carmarthenshire's Well-being Plan** – published May 2018. This Plan outlines how the Public Services Board will work in partnership to address some of the key issues affecting the well-being of the citizens and communities of the County.
2. **Corporate Strategy.** The 2018–2023 strategy sets out the direction for the local authority over the next five years, incorporating our improvement and well-being objectives as defined by legislation. The strategy outlines the council's vision for the future in 15 new objectives under four key themes – to support residents to start well, live well and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment. Objective 12 is to: Look after the environment now and for the future.
3. **The Environment Act supports the following Well-being objectives in Carmarthenshire County Council's Well-being Plan 2018:**
  2. Help children live healthy lifestyles
  3. Continue to improve learner attainment for all
  6. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county
  8. Help people live healthy lives
  9. Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities
  12. Look after the environment now and in the future
  13. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity
  14. Promote Welsh Language and Culture
  15. Building a Better Council and Making Better Use of Resources



#### 4. **Council Plans and Strategies**

Corporate Strategy 2018–23

Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years

Transformations: Strategic Regeneration Plan for Carmarthenshire – 2015-2030

Local Development Plan

Flood Risk Strategy and Management Plan

Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016-2019

Service Asset Management Plans (SAMPs)

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2019

Highway Assets Management Plan

Active Travel - Carmarthenshire

Carmarthenshire Cycling Strategy 2017-27

Safe Routes to School

Draft Strategic Plan for Pollinators

Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan (in development)

## 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 ongoing workshops/discussions with both Heads of Service and colleagues within four of its divisions. These first started 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 actions agreed reflect these discussions, and have been circulated to Heads of Service and all those that attended the workshops prior to inclusion in this plan.

The action plan is a dynamic document. Actions are reviewed and revised regularly with officers and the action list is added to as discussion take place with other relevant divisions within the Council. The actions are entered on to the Council's Performance Improvement Management System and reported on by lead officers twice a year on this system.

The action plan is presented in a separate Word document so it can be updated regularly.

### What we are doing already

- Planning Service promotes the environmental policies set out within the Local Development Plan and relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership – provides regular liaison between environmental organisations 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. Pembrey Country 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.
- Caeau Mynydd Mawr Marsh Fritillary Project.
- Carmarthenshire Bogs Project.

## Environment (Wales) Act 2016 workshops/meetings 2017-March 2019

Department	Division	Meeting?	Goals agreed?	Comments
<b>Chief Executive</b>	Administration & Law			
	People Management			
	Regeneration & Policy			
	Information Technology			
<b>Communities</b>	Housing, Public Protection and Care and Support Services	✓	✓	Housing
	Leisure	✓	✓	Outdoor Recreation/ Countryside Access
	Mental Health, Learning Disability and Safeguarding Services			
	Integrated Services			
	Performance, Analysis and Systems Team			
<b>Corporate Services</b>	Audit and Procurement			
	Finance			
<b>Education &amp; Children</b>	Children's Services			
	Education Services		✓	Youth Support Services
	Curriculum Wellbeing	✓		
	School Effectiveness			
	Strategic Development			
<b>Environment</b>	Planning /Minerals	✓	✓	
	Property	✓	✓	
	Transport & Engineering	✓	✓	
	Waste & Environmental Services	✓	✓	

# APPENDIX 1

## 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’*.

1. **Biodiversity** – the variety of species and habitats found in the county.
2. **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?

1. **Diversity** - generally speaking, more diverse ecosystems are more resilient to external influences and their impacts. This includes biological, geological and physical diversity
2. **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 with water voles - so they are less likely to become extinct and the more genetically diverse they will be.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **Adaptability to change.** A vital part of resilience is allowing ecosystems to adapt to change, climate change.

## APPENDIX 2

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)** – has been produced by Welsh Government, which sets 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** – are being 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 by December 2019.

## APPENDIX 3

### Nature Recovery Action Plan objectives

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 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.</li><li>2. Encourage officers to think how their roles link with biodiversity and provide specialist training if needed.</li><li>3. Take account of the links between biodiversity and your organisations wider functions such as; land management, waste management, building maintenance and energy consumption.</li><li>4. Work with your partner organisations to promote biodiversity.</li><li>5. Increase access to, awareness of and involvement in biodiversity, e.g. involve local communities in your work.</li><li>6. Promote the benefits of access to biodiversity in the delivery of services to the public such as social care, community development, health, and recreation.</li></ol> |
|---|--|

2. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

1. Protect and enhance biodiversity on your own land and land that you manage.
2. Think about new site or new building designs that can provide benefits for biodiversity, e.g. are there opportunities to provide wildlife habitats / shelter, green walls and brown and green roofs, reduce energy consumption and improve drainage systems
3. 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.
4. 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 environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

1. Understand your local biodiversity you have and how it can be enhanced; undertake surveys, seek expert advice, use your Local Environment Record Centres etc.
2. 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.
3. 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.

1. 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)
2. Make the most of your existing resources; think about what you have and what can be achieved.
3. 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
4. Work with your partners to link natural areas across the wider countryside
5. 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Base decisions on the Best Available Evidence – from LERCs, the Atlas for Living Wales, Local expertise and your local nature partnership.</li> <li>2. Share information widely.</li> </ol>
6. Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery	

## APPENDIX 4

### The seven Well-being goals of the Future Generations Act

<b>A prosperous Wales</b>	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. <b>i</b> <i>Contact Stuart Walters 3241 or Helen Morgan 4902</i>
<b>A resilient Wales</b>	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). <b>i</b> <i>Contact Rosie Carmichael 2727 or Isabel Macho 3390</i>
<b>A healthier Wales</b>	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. <b>i</b> <i>Contact Silvana Sauro 2897</i>
<b>A more equal Wales</b>	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances). <b>i</b> <i>Contact Llinos Evans 4914</i>
<b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b>	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities. <b>i</b> <i>Contact Kate Thomas 4202</i>
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</b>	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. <b>i</b> <i>Contact Jane Davies 2180</i>
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b>	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.