

Newport City Council's 'Biodiversity duty report' has been produced in response to the enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which requires that Public Authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.



Newport City Council

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2019

John Williams (Countryside Manager)

**Newport City Council
Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty
Report 2019**

**Name of Town or Community Council:
Newport City Council**

Introduction and Context:

Newport City Council's 'Biodiversity duty report' has been produced in response to the enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty **under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016** which requires that Public Authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems.

A public authority, in complying with the Section 6 duty, must have regard to: □ The Section 7 list of habitats and species of principle importance for Wales □ The State of Nature Report published by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) □ Any area statement which covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions, once these are produced.

Complying with the Section 6 duty will help Public Authorities subject to the Well-being of future generations (Wales) Act 2015 to maximise their contributions to the Well-being goals.

All major threats to biodiversity including over-exploitation, habitat loss, invasive species, can be addressed by living more sustainably.

Newport City Council like other Local Authorities are under extended and continued financial pressure. It is essential that environmental initiatives are viewed holistically, embraced as an opportunity to improve County wide well-being and contribute where possible towards financial resilience.

The planets natural resources are finite and are the life support for life on our planet on which human survival depends. The natural environment is the source of our food, water, air, materials (which have any number of uses) and landscape. The meaning of 'Biodiversity' is *'the number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area or in the world generally, or the problem of protecting it as a result of human impact, through habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation, pollution, climate change and invasive non-native species'*.

Welsh Government recognise all the benefits that are provided by plants, animals microorganisms and the places where they live and are aiming to reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales with a ground breaking new framework of legislation.

As a local authority we have a duty to function sustainably and lead by example when it comes to protecting and enhancing our natural environment. To meet the challenge of reversing the decline in biodiversity it is essential that we act now and ensure as a local authority we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This document is Newport City Councils biodiversity duty delivery report which outlines how, as an organisation, it has addressed its biodiversity duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2015 and consequently achieved its Well-being objectives and Nature Recovery Plan objectives over the period 2016-19.

Vision:

Newport City Council is dedicated to stopping the decline in biodiversity across our county and values the importance of conservation and enhancement across habitats for all our communities 'health and Wellbeing' and encourage attitude and behaviour change for sustainable futures.

Strategic context:

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Under the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) all public bodies in Wales are required to;

- Maintain and enhance biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems
 - Demonstrate an ecosystem approach by applying the principles set out in the Act
 - Prepare and publish a plan outlining how they intend to fulfil the duty
 - Publish a report, every three years, on the actions which they have taken to meet this duty.
- (This is the first report published in 2019 covering the period 2016-2019)

Action Report:

Action carried out to:	Description:	Monitored by:
<p>Embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement</p>	<p>Development Control and Policy: Ensuring the Council invests in Green Infrastructure via the planning process and that the Council complies with its statutory duties with regards to Biodiversity (NERC Act).</p> <p>Officers will continue to contribute to existing planning applications, SPGs, appropriate assessment work and continue to provide link for external parties on major infrastructure projects such as rail electrification, junction improvements to ensure the best outcome for biodiversity. Supplementary Planning guidance also includes consideration of biodiversity.</p> <p>Input into other reports and initiatives such as revision of the ROWIP and Active Travel Integrated Network Map to ensure compliance with NERC.</p>	<p>Provide concise comments on planning enquiries throughout the year including pre application advice, reserved matters, conditions and licence matters.</p> <p>Provide advice to all sections of the Council regarding the Council's statutory duty under NERC to include the provision of training.</p> <p>Ensure planning response consider the NEF to ensure Newport is resilient to environmental change specifically contributing to SPGs currently being developed on Renewable Energy, Wildlife and Development Sites and Outdoor Recreation.</p>

	<p>Area Statement: Officer input working with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the development of the South East Area Statement.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Assessments (GIA): Newport countryside team, planning team and Natural Resources Wales are developing the Newport City Council Green Infrastructure (GI) assessment that will form part of the planning process in conjunction with the local development plan (LDP) and assist the countryside team in assessing biodiversity issues around future project work.</p> <p>Development of the Green Infrastructure Strategy - A strategic overview for Newport.</p> <p>This will be a co-ordinated Strategy to bring together all 'Green' elements as both a high level strategic document with detailed management proposals This project will link Natural resource management and data with Accessible Natural Green Space, Outdoor Access and Recreation, ROWIP, Woodland management and other initiatives such as Living Levels Production of Green Sites Directory, management plans to guide and inform the creation, enhancement and protection of ANG in order to improve the quality of urban areas in and around Newport.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Sites management: Continue works on the development and management of key sites within the city and countryside. This will include works at Allt-Yr-Yn LNR, Julians LNR, Shafesbury Park, Monmouth/Brecon Canal, Monkey Island and Barrack Hill. Building on works undertaken in previous years to continue with knotweed control and fly tipping removal. These are key sites where improved environment and access will lead to greater usage and health benefits</p> <p>Officers will work with newly created 'Living Levels' partnership in the delivery of schemes identified within that programme</p> <p>Management plans will need to be produced and where possible management undertaken. Undertake management on 3 sites.</p>	<p>Development of Area Statements led by NRW</p> <p>Development of GI Assessments alongside updated LDP</p> <p>Biodiversity is already embedded into the planning application, process and opportunities for enhancements are sought when many consents are granted. Building control, Building Conservation and TPO consents, also consider biodiversity as part of the process.</p> <p>Creation of Green sites directory as an online resource that can be used for education and public healthy walks and activities.</p> <p>Identify 3 NCC woodland sites that require improvements in access and that require woodland management;</p> <p>ANG now recognised as supporting policy through LDP process. Information relating to ANG within Outdoor play and rec SPG.</p> <p>Ensure planning response consider the NEF to ensure Newport is resilient to environmental change;</p> <p>Develop method of determining ecosystem service;</p> <p>Development of volunteer group (linked with canal project);</p> <p>Deliver forest School sessions within the sites to minimum five schools;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - undertake grassland management and Coppicing works in woodland 3 sites -Erecting minimum 4 signs; -Installation of dog bins;
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	<p>Educational activities Work with a minimum of 40 local schools to deliver sustainability and environmental education. Coordinate recycling awareness and Forest School promotion across Newport.</p> <p>Development of Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) to work jointly & strategically across Gwent for the benefit of biodiversity, nature conservation, healthy living and coordinated approaches to conservation and land management.</p> <p>Newport City Council policy on 'Bee friendly City' status.</p> <p>Biodiversity is taken into account during commenting on planning application. In addition, a SAB process also examines application against Biodiversity standards which are set up by Welsh government.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor dormouse nest boxes at Park Wood (NRW owned site) and Slow worm -Remove fly-tipped material working in conjunction with Keep wales tidy</p> <p>Manage 1 reedbed (The Moorings) to allow more water to be held;</p> <p>-Organise Toad Patrol event</p> <p>-Dredge ponds x 2</p> <p>-Installation of reptile hibernaculas;</p> <p>Arrange 5 recycling days in local schools; Act as liaison person between school and NCC with regards to sustainability issues e.g. promoting energy efficiency, recycling, and using local supply chains; -Plant/maintain 3 living willow structures; -Install 2 log circles; -Arrange 21 nest box making sessions in schools; - Continue as Chair of Newport's Outdoor Learning Wales network group. Attend 9 OLW meetings and support group in OL projects and promotion Produce 2 editions of Grounds for Learning per year and distribute to SLA schools</p> <p>Establishment of the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP).</p> <p>Representatives from five Gwent local authorities attend project board meetings.</p> <p>Establishment of new 'Bee Friendly' flower meadows across Newport 2019 – 2022.</p> <p>Planning response to planning applications</p>
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	<p>Reflected the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in the Council's 2019 Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Bee policy - Plant life good verge guide working practices for grounds maintenance teams - Wildlife and Development SPG <p>Tree Numbers in Newport historical estimates of publicly owned trees were around two million trees. One million in NCC owned woodlands (approximately 185 hectares, over 25 woodlands) and another million spread over various Publicly Open Spaces such as parks, Highway Land etc.</p> <p>ITree – ITree study: (https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/itree-eco/) has been undertaken over 2019/2020 with the final draft due March 2020.</p> <p>This study is being undertaken in partnership with Forestry Research. The benefits of an ITree study for NCC will enable Newport to make better-informed decisions in regards to planting diversity to maximise the benefits that trees provide, disease control such as Ash Dieback etc.</p> <p>Tree Policy 2015 – The Policy dictates that we only carry out necessary works to trees for health and safety.</p> <p>Newport Local Development Plan 2011-26 and Supplementary Planning Guidance</p> <p>Help to regulate air temperature, reduce noise pollution and filter/absorb air pollution;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support a wide variety of animals and plants, thereby, maintaining and enhancing biodiversity e.g. a mature oak tree can host up to 5000 different invertebrate species forming the basis of a healthy ecosystem for birds and mammals; - Help counteract the harmful causes of global warming; <p>The Council has three general principles relating to trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the Local Authority boundary:</p>	<p>Increase in roadside verges managed for wildlife increasing biodiversity.</p> <p>Commitment to developing bee friendly sites across Newport</p> <p>Increased grounds managed in biodiversity friendly practices.</p> <p>Tree Officers, Countryside Manager, Management chain, Councillor for City Services review numbers and policy.</p> <p>Tree Officers, Countryside Manager will review findings once submitted in March 2020.</p> <p>The reported findings will enable officers to have a clear set of data when dealing with tree related issues. The net effect is hoped to reduce the need for tree works. Reducing its effect on Biodiversity</p> <p>Tree Officer and Planning Department. This effects how NCC approve planning applications in regards to their effect on trees and minimising that were possible.</p>
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I. **Manage:** To encourage tree owners and developers to look at their tree stock and ensure it is in a healthy and safe condition through. This will be achieved through site visits and proactive communication throughout the development process and one of the main aims is to avoid potential conflict between development and trees, woodland and hedges.

II. **Plant:** To encourage appropriate replacement tree planting where there has been a requirement to fell trees on private land and development sites. This will include the provision of replacement tree(s) which will satisfactorily offset the impact of the loss, the quality of the existing tree and the choice of appropriate tree species.

III. **Protect:** Newport is fortunate to have a total urban tree cover of 18.9%, which is above the Welsh national average of 16.8% (Tree Cover in Wales 2014, Natural Resources Wales). One objective of the Council is to increase the tree cover within Newport to 25% within the next 15 years.

The three principles of design

There are 3 key design principles which should be considered by all applicants where their development affects trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

Design Principle 1: Retention

Wherever possible, trees, woodland and hedgerows should be retained on site.

Sufficient space should be afforded, so that there is no potential conflicts to the development in the future e.g. storm damage from trees are designed out from the outset. This is also important for ecological connectivity and meeting well-being goals

Design Principle 2: Mitigation

The design of a development should mitigate any potential negative impacts to trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

This can be achieved by engaging a Tree Consultant to carry out a full tree survey in accordance with BS5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and Construction-Recommendations'.

	<p>Design Principle 3: Compensation As stated in the Councils adopted Green Lung Policy 6; 'where trees are felled then replacement trees will be planted'. Where it is not possible to plant replacement trees on site, funding will be provided by the developer for off-site planting.</p> <p>Trees and Development The Council will seek the retention of trees on development sites by: - - Protecting suitable trees with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) - Ensuring planning applications have tree information submitted in accordance with the relevant British Standard (currently BS5837:2012) - Ensuring that potential conflicts between development and trees are minimised. The main tree issues that need to be considered by a developer include: -the size, height, maturity and species; - the avoidance of root severance and ground compaction; and -the siting of buildings to minimise shading, leaf fall and potential storm damage</p> <p>Protection of Woodland and Woodland edges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodlands are to be kept as an entity. - Woodlands will not be subdivided and apportioned within resident's gardens. - There should be a woodland buffer i.e. a strip of land between the woodland and the curtilage of the development, which is clearly demarcated. - There is to be a minimum distance of 5m between any part of the canopy and any part of the curtilage. - Details of the maintenance of the buffer must be provided by the developer. 	
<p>Raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance</p>	<p>Continuation of series of tasks and actions that have been generated by and contribute to the Newport City Council LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action plan).</p> <p>Tasks include Updating LBAP on Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS); Creation of general action plan regarding waste and recycling. Links to corporate service plan and SIP</p> <p>Creation of electronic LBAP</p>	<p>Continue to populate BARS with information regarding priority habitats in Newport based upon SINC surveys. Publicising BARS and the LBAP through website.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the Newport LBAP both internally and externally through update of web information and published information such as revised SPG.</p>

	<p>Continuous input of information onto BARS. 3 projects that help deliver LBAP HAP/SAP targets</p> <p>Education Officer has worked with Newport schools actively encouraging children to learn about the environment.</p> <p>Warden service has organised & worked with volunteers on public rights of way & countryside projects</p> <p>Volunteer day activities: Bat surveys Litter pick Scrub management</p> <p>Interpretation and signage Websites</p> <p>Public consultations: specific questions about wildlife enhancements are considered. It will provide a good opportunity for people with good local knowledge to provide feedback which can be considered as part of the design.</p> <p>Biodiversity Partnerships, working with partners on a range of nature conservation projects and initiatives.</p> <p>Hedgehog awareness training organised for grounds maintenance teams to increase knowledge and awareness when cutting long grass areas.</p> <p>Signage and interpretation at wildlife sites</p> <p>Guided Walks -Newport City Council run regular 'guided walks' in Newport, taking in the sites of some of the allocated Pollinator Sites at Allt-Yr-Yn, the Mon and Brec Canal, Wentwood Meadow and the Gwent Levels.</p>	<p>European Protected species surveys of NRW managed sites;</p> <p>Manage 3 roadside verges for the sole purpose of encouraging pollinators and manage 2 verges specifically for Small ranunculus moth;</p> <p>Develop a series of simple symbols to inform public of 'hotspot' areas for pollinators and update Wildlife Walking symbols.</p> <p>Regular volunteer sessions undertaken by education officer and countryside warden service.</p> <p>Improved signage on site with future improvements planned in 2020 through the 'Living Levels Project'</p> <p>Comments on planning applications & conditions set</p> <p>Local Nature Partnership Officer post will be developed in 2020 as part of ENRaW grant funded project.</p> <p>Photos of events, log number of attendees. Walks planned for 2020 in areas of Newport City.</p> <p>Continue to Support Newport Bee Friendly Group, providing a space to meet on a regular basis.</p>
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	<p>The annual “Bluebell Walk” is amongst the most popular. Open to anyone, they generally attract 20-30 people who want to learn more about the wildlife on their doorstep.</p> <p>Community Engagement – Support and assist the Newport community groups with Bee Friendly activities (such as the Wild about Rogerstone Group and Newport Bee Friendly Group)</p> <p>The Canal and Countryside Volunteer Group have been running since October 2016 and with more than 20 on the books and 12-15 attending each week, they are learning about and contributing to the conservation of pollinator sites at Allt-Yr-Yn, the Mon and Brec Canal, Great Oaks, Wentwood and St.Woolos Cemetery.</p> <p>28 schools in Newport are part of the Biodiversity in Schools Service Level Agreement, which offers support to them for developing and using their grounds. This often includes provision of habitat for pollinators and activities surrounding pollinators. A seasonal newsletter with hints and tips of how to become Bee Friendly is circulated twice a year. Encourage and support schools who are not in the Service Level Agreement to become Bee Friendly accredited.</p> <p>Community Woodlands Groups</p> <p>Woodland Management Groups</p>	<p>Continue to Support other groups identify and manage new Pollinator Sites. (Monkey Island)</p> <p>Take part in local events such as 14 Locks Go Wild Event, delivering activities linked to pollinators.</p> <p>Continual photographic records of the weekly work party. Record numbers of attendees for Guided Walks.</p> <p>Encourage volunteers to report species sightings with the use of the LERC app.</p> <p>NCC is assisting with Duffryn Link project who are helping to manage Duffryn woods. They have regular volunteers along with corporate, school and children’s groups in the woodland to help and encourage people to spend time in woodlands and the biodiversity benefits they provide.</p> <p>With Cottage Coppicing, we have had traditional woodland management techniques shown to local schoolchildren. This involved horse logging, coppicing, and charcoal manufacture.</p>
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	Website information	Website updates to reflect policy change, highlight works and communicate information.
Safeguard principal species and habitat	<p>Green Infrastructure Sites management: Continue works on the development and management of key sites within the city and countryside. This will include works at Allt-Yr-Yn LNR, Julians LNR, Shafesbury Park, Mon brecc Canal, Monkey Island and Barrack Hill. Building on works undertaken in previous years to continue with knotweed control and fly tipping removal. These are key sites where improved environment and access will lead to greater usage and health benefits.</p> <p>Officers will work with newly created 'Living Levels' partnership in the delivery of schemes identified within that programme</p> <p>Management plans will need to be produced and where possible management undertaken.</p> <p>Installation of nest boxes by education & biodiversity officer with volunteer groups.</p> <p>Tree officers to establish woodland community group to manage community woodland</p> <p>Tree officers to place TPO on important trees across Newport to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Designated sites given consideration in planning process</p> <p>Refer to Local Biodiversity Action Plan for priority species in NCC: http://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Leisure-and-Tourism/Countryside/Newport-Local-Biodiversity-Action-Plan.pdf</p> <p>Pollinator areas managed proactively for pollinators specifically areas where shrill carder bee have been recorded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife and Development SPG 	<p>Development of volunteer group (linked with canal project);</p> <p>Deliver forest School sessions within the sites to minimum five schools;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - undertake grassland management and Coppicing works in woodland 3 sites -Erecting minimum 4 signs; -Installation of dog bins; <p>Continue to monitor dormouse nest boxes at Park Wood (NRW owned site) and Slow worm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Remove fly-tipped material working in conjunction with Keep wales tidy <p>Manage 1 reedbed (The Moorings) to allow more water to be held;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Organise Toad Patrol event -Dredge ponds x 2 -Installation of reptile hibernaculas; <p>A number of SINC's will be surveyed as part of a Gwent wide project (ENRaW RGG)</p> <p>State of Nature report will be produced for Gwent as part of the ENRaW RGG project in 2020</p>

	<p>Tree Policy:</p> <p>Tree Policy 2015 – NCC will only carry out works to trees as a matter of health and safety</p> <p>Tree Re/planting – Newport tree section has planted 2019/20 Proposed:</p> <p>Standards -100 whips 2000</p> <p>2018/19 – Standards 19</p> <p>2017/18 – No Data Available</p> <p>2016/17 - Standards 70</p>	<p>Tree Officers - Trees are only removed as a matter of health and safety this is shown by NCC removing around 300 trees per year, which is under 0.02% of the population per year.</p> <p>Tree planting numbers are set to increase considerably in 2019/20 with an aim to increase this further in 2020/21 subject to funding.</p>
<p>Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological network</p>	<p>Maes Glas Landfill Restoration project. Essentially to continue with agreed work programme to secure biodiversity benefits and improvements through the progressive restoration of Maes Glas. Project will create a wildlife haven on the capped area of Maes Glas landfill so that when the site is decommissioned the public will have an established area to use for recreational pursuits.</p> <p>As part of ENRaW projects; Newport City Council will improve public rights of way, improve car parking facilities and introduce additional flower meadow management works.</p> <p>Tree officers have and continue to identify opportunities for tree planting</p> <p>Reduced grounds maintenance to encourage more opportunities for wildlife across Newport by reducing number of cuts on identified locations.</p> <p>A number of areas within Riverside Park and Money Island have been seeded and managed for wildflower with further areas due to be developed in 2020 to support local biodiversity.</p> <p>Newport City Council has worked with partner organisations to increase pollinator sites</p> <p>St. Woolos Cemetery – Have identified two long grass areas that will be managed for nature within the cemetery where the grass</p>	<p>Manage and monitor translocated slow worm population;</p> <p>Manage 3 hectares of grassland as wildflower meadow measures will include increase in species diversity;</p> <p>1 'wildlife walks' around site;</p> <p>Monitor kestrel box installed on site</p> <p>Flower meadow creation works</p> <p>Pollinator sites</p> <p>Tree planting</p> <p>Clearance of fly tip from ditches etc</p> <p>Pollinator sites creation</p> <p>Bee banks/hedging works</p> <p>Support given to community woodland projects</p> <p>Support partnerships with Gwent Wildlife Trust and neighbouring local authorities through GGGP projects.</p>

	<p>has been left to grow long. The grass will be cut and collected once a year at the end of each summer. A commitment has been made to change the management of these areas within the cemetery for the benefit of pollinators.</p> <p>Roadside Verges – Newport City Council are committed to adopting the practises from the Plantlife Good Verge Guide where possible using a phased approach. Already designated Pollinator sites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Street Roundabout • Sorrel Drive/ Allt-Yr-Yn Roundabout • Raised beds at the bottom of Brynglas Hill • Raised beds at the bottom of Waterloo Road • Riverside walk/Castle bingo Car park • Parc Seymour entrance Penhow • Approach to Harlequin Roundabout <p>New site designated in Machen along the A468</p> <p>Invasive species removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knotweed is treated annually across all NCC owned sites Invasive woodland understory plants such as lorrel removed by hand <p>Lady Hill Wood, Newport City Council began a pilot project with Cottage Coppicing since 2015 to help manage Lady Hill Wood. Since working with the group to manage the lapsed coppiced hazel with standards woodland.</p> <p>Willow coppicing on the levels</p>	<p>Increase in natural grassland for pollinators.</p> <p>Area of habitat increased.</p> <p>Numbers of nesting sites provided</p> <p>20 acres of additional area managed as pollinator sites (percoed reen and Tip site) working in partnership with Living Levels, Bug Life and Bumble Bee conservation trust will create long term management plans to ensures future management.</p> <p>We will build up a Grounds Maintenance management plan of roadside verges/roundabouts for the benefit of pollinators. With a view to adding in more verges/sites each year. Due to the difficult access of these areas we will visually monitor these sites and listen for feedback from Newport residents</p> <p>The project has transformed parts of the woodland with a number of old coppice coups being cut each year on rotation to sustainably manage the woodland and improve biodiversity across the woodland.</p> <p>Newport city Council are working with groups in order to carryout coppicing works on the Newport levels. This will lead to the health benefits to the old coppice stands and improve biodiversity in the areas.</p> <p>Tree Officers – Since the beginning of the project, there has been a notable increase in the verity of Fauna and Flora showing the effect of management on woodlands with the aim of increasing biodiversity.</p>
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<p>Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>As part of GGGP INNS project Newport City Council has been mapping and implementing an invasive species treatment plan.</p> <p>Newport City Council has implemented a recycling scheme for office waste throughout the Civic building.</p> <p>Newport City Council is looking at options around our FLEET vehicles and machinery especially around grounds maintenance.</p> <p>For non-invasives - Newport City Councils Grounds Maintenance teams apply herbicide on hard surfaces only, but in lower frequency and lower concentrations than those in previous years. Bracken and bramble encroachment of the meadows on the Local Nature Reserves is tackled by hand with volunteers, using scythes, slashers, mowers and rakes. Cuttings are then built up in to habitat piles on site.</p> <p>Spot applications are made in invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and Giant hogweed as the need arises.</p> <p>Belle Vue Park – is already a pesticide free park.</p> <p>Working with housing associations to enhance and protect countryside sites in urban areas</p>	<p>Invasive species tackled</p> <p>Recycling now in place for: paper, card, plastic, metal, batteries and plastic rappers.</p> <p>Options to increase battery operated machinery and vehicles during 2020 to 2023.</p> <p>Use of fuel efficient vehicles to reduce the amount of carbon emissions to the environment.</p> <p>Less expenditure on pesticides. We remain committed in using less and less pesticides and only use on hard surfaces if and when we really have to.</p> <p>Less noticeable encroachment year on year, the meadow areas increase, increased spread of flora and fauna.</p> <p>We will continue to be a pesticide free park and lead the way as an example for other parks to follow.</p>

	<p>Pollution, as part of the ITree study a focus was put on the areas in Newport defined as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)</p> <p>Planning process aiming to keep as many trees on development sights as possible.</p> <p>Tree Protection Orders (TPO's)</p>	<p>Tree Officers</p> <p>Tree Officers, Planning section.</p>
<p>Use improve and share evidence</p>	<p>Newport City Council countryside team ensure best practice for biodiversity options and increase local issues knowledge.</p> <p>Work through the countryside team is linked to South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBREC) to ensure best practice and increase knowledge of local issues & sites.</p> <p>Working in partnership with other authorities and organisations, sharing information and best working practices.</p> <p>Updated information on NCC website pages</p> <p>Use of social media to share information</p> <p>Events such as bioblitz to record wildlife information on specific sites.</p>	<p>Access to SEWBREC's substantial records for biodiversity and environmental data.</p> <p>New survey data & ecological information is shared with SEWBREC to keep records up to date and provide survey continuity across Gwent.</p>
<p>Support capacity and/or other organisations</p>	<p>Support to establish the Newport & Monmouthshire Local Nature Partnership.</p> <p>ENRaW grant to recruit a LNP Coordinator to work with the Local Nature Partnership across Newport & Monmouthshire.</p> <p>Work with Newport schools to support and deliver 'Forest School' actives.</p> <p>Work with five local authorities across Gwent and partner organisations such as NRW, Gwent Wildlife Trust to deliver ENRaW projects across Gwent.</p> <p>Community Engagement – Support and assist the Newport community groups with Bee Friendly activities (such as the Wild about Rogerstone Group and Newport Bee Friendly Group)</p> <p>28 schools in Newport are part of the Biodiversity in Schools Service Level Agreement, which offers support to them for</p>	<p>ENRaW funded projects will allow for a number of benefits during 2019 to 2021</p> <p>Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit include: Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP), Local Nature Partnership Project</p> <p>Photos of events, log number of attendees. Repeat the walks in 2020 in other areas of the City.</p> <p>Continue to Support Newport Bee Friendly Group, providing a space to meet on a regular basis.</p>

	<p>developing and using their grounds. This often includes provision of habitat for pollinators and activities surrounding pollinators. A seasonal newsletter with hints and tips of how to become Bee Friendly is circulated twice a year. Encourage and support schools who are not in the Service Level Agreement to become Bee Friendly accredited.</p>	<p>Continue to Support other groups identify and manage new Pollinator Sites. (Monkey Island)</p> <p>Take part in local events such as 14 Locks Go Wild Event, delivering activities linked to pollinators</p> <p>Continual photographic records of the weekly work party. Record numbers of attendees for Guided Walks.</p> <p>Encourage volunteers to report species sightings with the use of the LERC app.</p>
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Review of S6 duty

What has worked well?

A more joined up approach between countryside, parks, cemeteries and ground maintenance teams has enabled changes in practice on the ground to benefit biodiversity

Utilising in house biodiversity knowledge to ensure appropriate mitigation works when implement large schemes such as those for active travel (cycleway)

Continued support of volunteers to increase amount of work that can be carried out on NCC sites

Working with Newport’s Green and safer network (PSB – fire service etc)

The creation of wildflower and plant areas has been a success, especially as it has proved attractive to residents in addition to helping biodiversity. Also, there have been some cost savings through the reduction in mowing.

The development of regional networking and link through the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) has allowed for considerable networking & sharing of best practice across Gwent.

The two woodlands that NCC has been able to help establish community group and coppicing group have shown a remarkable improvement. In Duffryn woods, the Duffryn Community Link project have made a staggering difference removing nearly 100 tons of rubbish and opened up a large area of open ground (previously bracken) that shows a marked improvement in ground flora. The coppicing group have greatly improved the biodiversity in lady hill wood through there management in a short period of time.

What have the barriers been?

Projects and initiatives have been very well received and enthusiasm has been excellent in helping deliver projects, schemes and community opportunities on the ground. The main barriers have been availability of expertise in ecological areas, gaps in knowledge within teams, delays in funding through grants, changing behaviours is taking time, perception that nature sites are untidy and need clearance works, balancing the needs of multiple species on sites, level of staff resources available is limited due

to previous budget reduction and austerity. Newport City Council are looking for innovation and looking for new ways of delivering services that will enhance biodiversity along the ecological principles.

Financial pressures present a special challenge due to austerity with further pressures on budgets yet to come. There are serious challenges around managing budgets when considering global warming, changes to weather patterns, diseases such as 'Ash Die back' and the need for considerable tree works and replanting budgets.

Ash Dieback- Ash dieback poses a major threat to Newport City Councils

(<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/>) biodiversity with estimates of up to 200,000 ash trees in Newport. This will require a great deal of management in regards to replanting, making safe, assessing how to minimise the effect on biodiversity whilst ensuring the safety of people in Newport. Land availability for replanting: Newport City Council does not have large areas of available land for tree planting on a large scale.

What will you change?

Newport City Council are looking at options to increase our capacity around ecological expertise and resource available going forward. The creation of an ecology officer within the countryside service has been tabled subject to funding availability.

During the period of 2019 to 2023 a number of projects will be delivered through the ENRaW grant schemes, these will be monitored for lessons learned so to enable successful projects to be emulated in other areas of the City.

Newport City Council will continue to work closely with the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBREC) to seek advice and keep records up to date for Newport.

Newport city Council will:

Continue to promote wildlife and biodiversity within all aspects of maintenance and development.

Ensuring the needs of pollinators are represented in local plans, policy and guidance;

Protecting and enhancing the amount of quality habitats in Newport to prevent extinction and improve the status of local species;

Increasing awareness of pollinators and their habitat needs;

Improving knowledge and understanding of pollinators in our local area.

We will also aim to reduce the cuts to areas of grassland across the City in the future, in order to encourage native wildflowers to flourish. This will include roadside verges and adopting the Plantlife Good Verge Guide.

We will where possible use native perennial seed mixes in areas, rather than non-native annual mixes.

We will continue to commit to identifying sites throughout Newport and managing them for the benefit of wildlife. We will also collaborate with the Local Biodiversity Partnership, businesses and other organisations to identify sites that are not owned by the Council but that we can potentially support with the management of.

We will improve tree-planting numbers in Newport – This will involve advocating for tree planting where possible, encouraging more community groups where possible to manage and take ownership of local woodlands.

Planting species

Better information on NCC's website – this will cover a range of things in regards to trees to provide more/better information for the public in regards to the benefits of trees.

How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

The duty will be monitored through the City Services Management Committee and individual officers reporting back to the council on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through the usual monthly and annual inspections.

The s6 plan will be reviewed in light of these reports and any other evidence or information that is made available to the Council.

At the time of this report's publication, there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed, but this will be done within the next twelve months.

Glossary of terms

Biodiversity: The variety of life found on earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, their abundance and genetic diversity.

Ecosystem: An ecosystem is made up of living organisms (plants, animals and microorganisms) in conjunction with their non-living environment (air, water, minerals and soil) and all the diverse and complex interactions that take place between them Sustainable development Ensuring that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

NRW: Natural Resources Wales is the largest Welsh Government Sponsored Body. NRW were formed in April 2013, largely taking over the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, as well as certain Welsh Government functions.

GGGP: The Gwent Green Grid Partnership was formed in October 2016. It brought together five local authorities & partner organisations. List LA's

The broad aim of the partnership is to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity for current and future generations. Coordination and collaboration are seen as being important to the partnership alongside other objectives that include raising awareness and the promotion of biodiversity and identifying local priorities to deliver local and regional biodiversity improvements.

SAC: Special Area of Conservation, international designation

SPA: Special Protected Area, international designation

SSSI: Special Site of Scientific Interest, national designation

RAMSAR: Designation for wetlands of international importance, named after the place in Iran where the conference was held.

WG: Welsh Government

INNs: Invasive Non Native species

GI /GIA: Green Infrastructure/ Green Infrastructure Assessment