

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6  
The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty  
Report 2020 – 2022  
Biodiversity Duty Forward Plan 2023 - 2025.  
Newport City Council**



**This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg**

## **Preamble**

Newport City Council is a Public Authority as defined by Sections 6(9) and 6(10) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and is therefore subject to the duties set out in Section 6 and other sections of that Act.

Those duties are that:-

### **Newport City Council must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems, in the exercise of its functions**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

1.01 The Unitary Authority of Newport covers an area of just over 73.5 square miles and stands at the gateway between England and Wales. It is a vibrant, multi-cultural city steeped in a rich industrial heritage, where traditional industries sit alongside new electronics and financial service sectors.

1.02 As a Local Authority, Newport City Council has responsibility for:-

- City Regeneration, Economic Development, Work & Skills, Planning, Building Control & Development Destination – Tourism, Culture, Museums, The Transporter Bridge, The Newport Ship, Newport Live.
- Strategic Housing, Housing Needs & Homelessness, HSG/Supporting People, Community Regeneration, Community Cohesion, VPRS.
- Waste & Cleansing, Grounds, Public Protection, Parks & Recreation, Cemetery & Crematorium, Climate Change, Biodiversity.
- Highways, Transport, Flooding, Fleet, Engineering Projects, Active Travel, SAB, Civil Contingencies.
- Legal, Insurance, Registration, Coroner, Democratic Services, Electoral Registration, - Supporting Major Economic Investment Project.
- HR & OD/ Health & Safety, Policy & Partnership, Intelligence Hub, Digital services & Complaints, Business Transformation, PR & Comms, Assets.
- Accountancy, Income & Tax, Benefits, Internal Audit, Procurement & Payments, Customer Services, - Supporting Major Economic Investment Projects.
- Children's' Social work teams, Youth Justice, Safeguarding, VAWDASV, Residential & Operations, Fostering & Adoption.
- Adult Social work teams, Residential & Day Services, SS Workforce Development, First Contact, Home First, Managed Care, Commissioning, Frailty.
- Families First, Flying Start, Youth Services, Children's' Prevention, Early years, FIS & Play, DFG's, Substance Misuse.

- School Improvement, Engagement & Learning, Inclusion/ALN, Resources & Planning, GEMS, Music Service.

## **1.1 Compliance**

1.1.1 In complying with this duty, Newport City Council must take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects:-

- The diversity between and within ecosystems;
- The connections between and within ecosystems;
- The scale of ecosystems;
- The condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);
- The adaptability of ecosystems.

1.1.2 Furthermore, in complying with this duty under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act, Newport City Council must also have regard to:-

- The list of habitats and species of principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales, published under Section 7 of the same Act;
- The state of natural resources report (the 'SoNaR Report') published by Natural Resources Wales under Section 8; and,
- Any area statement published under Section 11, in this case the South East Wales Area Statement.

1.1.3 To ensure compliance with these duties, each Public Body must prepare and publish a plan setting out how it intends to meet these duties, and every three years publish a report on what it has achieved, together with a review of that plan.

## **1.2 Section 7 list of habitats and species of principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales**

1.2.1 This section replaces the duty in section 42 of the NERC Act 2006. The Welsh Ministers will publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitat in Wales, which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales.

1.2.2 The Welsh Ministers must also take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section, and encourage others to take such steps. Part 1 of the Act, including Sections 6 and 7, came into force on May 21, 2016. Many of the habitats and species included in these lists occur in Newport.

[Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Section 7 \(biodiversitywales.org.uk\)](http://biodiversitywales.org.uk)

## **1.3 State of Natural Resources Report (the 'SoNaR Report') published by Natural Resources Wales**

1.3.1 This is the [second State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR\)](#), required under the Welsh Environment Act 2016. In 2016, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) published the first SoNaRR as our understanding of the implications of the Environment Act was being developed. Since then, the first natural resources policy has been published, as have the Area Statements, the world has recognised the nature and climate emergencies that we face and the Covid-19 pandemic has brought a new focus on well-being. This report is written within that context. SoNaRR2020 builds on a number of Welsh, UK and global assessments of the status and trends of natural resources. It looks at the risks those trends pose to our ecosystems and to the long-term social, cultural and economic well-being of Wales, in terms defined by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

1.3.2 SoNaRR2020 includes the traditional focus on management of natural resources within the eight broad ecosystems. It also proposes a transformational approach using the ecosystem, economic and social spheres as levers to redesign our society and economy. It identifies three areas for transformative change: the food, energy and transport systems. Wales has made significant progress in response to the global climate emergency and enhancing the natural environment. However, there is still much to do; Wales is not yet meeting the four long-term aims of sustainable management of natural resources, and it is vital that future policy decisions are rooted in achieving these aims. SoNaRR2020 sets out a range of opportunities for action to move towards a sustainable future and it is hoped that it acts as a catalyst for positive change and a green recovery across Wales.

1.3.3 The report explains how the well-being of both people and the planet are intertwined, setting out how Wales could deliver environmental change through transforming the systems we all use to support our lifestyles. It suggests that redesigning the energy, transport and food systems could help society to live within its environmental capacity and address the pressures causing the nature and climate emergencies.

1.3.4 By re-assessing the individual actions we take, making pro-environmental behaviours the easiest choice, and taking opportunities for systems change through policy development, SoNaRR2020 presents real opportunity for change.

1.3.5 These changes could include:

- Moving towards low carbon and renewable energy
- Redesigning the transport system as a whole, around sustainable options
- Reducing food waste
- Promoting sustainable agricultural and agro-ecological practices that work with nature
- Better urban design and planning such as connecting green spaces
- Setting aside more space for nature

## **1.4 The South East Wales Area Statement**

1.4.1 This [Area Statement](#), required under the Environment (Wales) Act, covers the LA's of Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly, Torfaen and Newport. It is centred around the broad ecosystems in this area as highlighted in the Future Wales National Plan 2040, namely:-

- The Gwent Levels
- Central Monmouthshire Agricultural Land
- Newport urban area
- Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains
- Wentwood and the Wye Valley
- The eastern South Wales valleys

1.4.2 The Statement is organised around four themes:-

- **Linking Our Landscapes**

This theme is about identifying local opportunities for protected sites and natural/built environments to contribute towards the resilience of wider priority habitat networks in the region. These opportunities for improving ecosystem resilience should support ecological connectivity between sites, across boundaries and at a landscape scale.

- **Climate Ready Gwent**

This theme is about identifying landscape and regional scale opportunities and collective interventions for climate adaptation and mitigation which enhance local ecosystem and community resilience.

- **Healthy Active Connected**

This theme is about identifying opportunities and collaborative interventions that protect and improve health and well-being; connecting people, communities and service delivery to nature for the benefit of both people and the environment.

- **Ways of Working**

This theme is about identifying the benefits of strategic regional collaboration and identifying what we need to do once, well, at a regional scale to maximise local delivery. This strategic theme adds value to the ways in which our natural resources are managed collaboratively, maximising the benefits they provide.

## 1.5 Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

1.5.1 Newport City Council is a Public Body subject to the WCFG Act, and as such is under a duty to set and publish objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the seven well-being goals.

1.5.2 The most relevant of those goals to this report is:-

**A Resilient Wales: A Nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment and healthy functioning ecosystems that support social economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).**

1.5.3 The triennial report and forward plan required under the Environment (Wales) Act will contribute towards achieving any objectives set by Newport City Council in relation to that goal.

1.5.4 Newport City Council's Well-being Objectives are:

- To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities
- To promote economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment
- To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient
- To build cohesive and sustainable communities

1.5.5 Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience can contribute to all of these objectives, but the '*...while protecting the environment*' element is most relevant to the present Section 6 duty plan.

## **1.6 Public Services Board**

1.6.1 Newport City Council is a member of One Newport Public Services Board, as well as of the Gwent PSB. Each PSB must produce a well-being plan, setting out its objectives and explaining how these contribute to achieving the well-being goals.

1.6.2 The five former PSB's across Gwent, including One Newport, which operated on a local authority footprint are now 'Local Delivery Groups' of the Gwent PSB. The main tasks of One Newport are:

- Continue to deliver and report on the current Local Well-being Plan for Newport until April 2023.
- Deliver local priorities in the future Gwent Well-being Plan, and contribute to regional projects.
- Provide update reports to Gwent PSB and contribute to the annual report.
- Report to local and regional Scrutiny Committees.

1.6.3 One Newport has agreed its additional functions, which are:

- Develop and deliver activity in Newport that would benefit from a strong partnership approach.
- Receive reports from, inform and support the work of the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Newport, "Safer Newport".

1.6.4 The Gwent PSB brings public bodies together to work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwent. They are responsible, under the WFG Act, for overseeing the development of a new Local Well-being Plan which is a long-term vision for the area.

1.6.5 The board has eight statutory member organisations responsible for carrying out their well-being duties under the Act including the five local authorities across Gwent; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board; Natural Resources Wales; and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

1.6.6 The PSB can also invite other bodies who share their aims and who can help to deliver the Local Well-being Plan. The other members of the Gwent PSB are: GAVO; Gwent Police; National Probation Service; PCC for Gwent; Public Health Wales; Tai Calon (representing RSL's); Torfaen Voluntary Alliance; University of South Wales; and Welsh Ministers.

1.6.7 The five PSB's in Gwent dissolved on the 1 October 2021, in favour of merging to form a Gwent PSB. The current Well-being Plans for each of the local authority areas still run until May 2023, with Local Delivery Groups ensuring the continued delivery of these plans.

1.6.8 The five-year local well-being plan was published on the 3 May 2018 and sets out the former PSB's priorities and actions until 2023 to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Newport. The plan sets out local well-being objectives, priorities and steps that the board proposes to take to meet the objectives and is the main work-plan and focus of One Newport.

1.6.9 The most recent Annual Report (2021 – 2022) of the Newport Well-being Plan can be found here:- [NEWPORT'S WELL-BEING PLAN 2018-23 - Annual Report 2021-22 \(office.com\)](#)

## **1.7 Newport City Council Corporate Plan Process**

1.7.1 The timeframe of the present Report covers two Corporate Plan periods, 2017 – 22 and 2022 – 27, the latter being currently in draft form. Both plans reflect, to some extent, the biodiversity duty under the Environment Act and the 'A Resilient Wales' Goal under the WBFG Act. However, it is important to recognise the real aim of the 'A Resilient Wales' Goal under the WBFG Act as set out above

1.7.2 This Goal recognises that a healthy natural environment, and the ecosystem services that arise from that environment, are the bedrock of social, economic and ecological resilience, and that the intention is to harness those ecosystem services to deliver that resilience, and not to simply to achieve social and economic resilience in the absence of ecological resilience.

## **1.8 Corporate Plan 2017- 2022**

1.8.1 This plan is based upon four themes, Resilient Communities leading to Thriving City, and Aspirational People leading to Modernised Council. Action on realising these themes comes in the form of a series of 20 Commitments. Reference to the duty to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity is limited to one of the steps under Well-being Objective 2 – 'To promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment', whereby

there is a duty to work with communities and schools on a range of countryside, biodiversity & recycling related matters.

## **1.9 Draft Corporate Plan 2022 – 27**

1.9.1 The Draft Corporate Plan 2022 – 27 has four draft well-being objectives which will be prioritised as a focus over the next five years and will support a longer-term vision for Newport:

- Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.
- A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.
- Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.
- Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

1.9.2 One of the ways in which the objective to protect and enhance our environment will be achieved is listed, among others, as *'To protect and enhance the biodiversity and environment of Newport's urban and rural communities, improving well-being and health.'*, under the 'Some ways that we will achieve this' section.

## **1.10 Monitoring and Reporting against the Corporate Plan**

1.10.1 To ensure that we are progressing against our objectives in the Corporate Plan, we will be undertaking regular monitoring and reporting which is supported through the Council's Planning, Performance and Risk Management Framework. This will be embedded throughout all levels of the organisation to ensure that we promote and champion where we are doing well and take action where we need to improve. Some of our monitoring and reporting includes:-

- Annual Corporate Well-being & Self-Assessment Report. Every year we will publish our Annual Corporate Well-being & Self-Assessment Report. This report provides an overview of the Council's progress against the Corporate Plan Objectives, our performance and the improvements that we are going to make in future years. We will also conduct an independent peer review. This will provide assurance on the effectiveness and robustness of our governance and performance arrangements in place to deliver our Well-being Objectives and the council services.
- Transformation Plan. The Transformation Plan and Reporting will oversee the delivery of our key programmes and projects set in this Corporate Plan that will change how we deliver our services and improve the communities of Newport.
- Service Plans. The Council's 11 service areas will have a service plan which will outline how they will contribute and deliver the Corporate Plan, and improve the services they provide. Each service area will provide six monthly (Mid-Year and End of Year) updates



on the progress of their service plans to the Council's performance scrutiny committees.

- **Strategy and Statutory Monitoring and Reporting.** The Council has several strategic plans and statutory requirements which it reports annually. Some of these include Strategic Equality Plan, Welsh Language Strategy, Climate Change Plan, Welsh Education Strategic Plan, Digital Strategy. The performance against these strategies and statutory requirements are reported to the Council's scrutiny, regulatory and cabinet meetings through our democratic process.
- **Staff Performance Management.** The Council's staff undertake regular staff performance and wellbeing meetings in the form of Check-ins. Checking-in with our staff on their performance and health and wellbeing enables our staff to contribute effectively towards the achievement of this Plan and to ensure we provide the best possible services to our residents, businesses and visitors in Newport.

## 2.0 Highlights, Key Outcomes and Issues

2.0.1 The reporting period has seen Newport City Council working in collaboration with local and regional partners in initiatives such as Resilient Greater Gwent, the Local Nature Partnership, the Gwent Green Grid Partnership and Local Places for Nature. Grant funding associated with these collaborations has enabled a series of successful projects, which are set out in the Action Report below.

2.0.2 More recently, acknowledgement of the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, has been strengthened by the publication of the Newport City Council Organisational Climate Change Plan 2022-27.

2.0.3 The Countryside & Countryside team has developed over the plan period, allowing more projects to be taken forward and greater collaboration with other teams within the Council. This in turn has allowed greater capacity to take advantage of grant-funded opportunities, and to continue our work around biodiversity and schools. Working with volunteers, voluntary groups and partners has enabled us to leverage greater capacity to achieve our objectives and deliver our work programme.

2.0.4 In the final year of the reporting period alone, over 300 planning applications received advice on how impacts upon biodiversity could be avoided, mitigated and compensated for. The requirements to consider impacts upon ecosystem resilience, and also to seek enhancements or net biodiversity benefit, in line with Welsh Government guidance, have been promoted as part of this advice.



### **3.0 Action Report**

3.0.1 The Action Report is set out in accordance with the Six Objectives which are common to both the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Report and the Nature Recovery Action Plan process.

#### **3.1 Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.**

3.1.1 Newport City Council's response to the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty is led by the Countryside and Conservation Team, within the Environment & Public Protection section of the Environment & Sustainability Directorate. The Countryside & Conservation Team include an Ecology Officer (1.0 FTE), a Biodiversity and Education Officer / LNP Support Coordinator, and a Temporary Biodiversity Projects Officer.

3.1.2 In addition, three officers provide advice on Trees and Woodlands, together with a Landscape Architect, Rights of Way Access Development Officer, and a series of Countryside Wardens.

3.1.3 Details of what these colleagues have achieved are set out under further Objective headings below, but the following looks at how biodiversity has been embedded within the organisation.

#### **3.2 Embedding biodiversity action across Newport City Council's functions - Environment & Public Protection.**

3.2.1 The Countryside & Conservation Team work efficiently and effectively with the other teams within the Environment and Leisure section, including the Grounds Maintenance Team, the Parks and Recreation Team, and the Bereavement Team who manage the City's cemeteries.

3.2.2 In this way, the requirement to maintain and enhance biodiversity is communicated to staff responsible for the management of Newport City Council's parks, gardens, public open spaces, Local Nature Reserves, and trees. For example, these teams within the Environment & Leisure section have cooperated in initiatives such as No Mow May and Nature Isn't Neat, aimed at enhancing grassland areas for pollinators such as insects.

3.2.3 In addition, these teams leverage practical action for biodiversity through a series of volunteer groups, which greatly increase their capacity to manage and enhance green infrastructure in the City.

3.2.4 The Climate Change Plan 2022- 27 has been produced, and the Ecology Officer and other members of the Countryside & Conservation Team provided comment on consultation drafts of this document. The 'Our Land' theme of the Climate Change Plan includes a series of priorities as follows:-

1. Ecosystem Resilience. Sustainably restore, create and connect biodiversity and habitats by improving Council owned land and public realm

2. Trees & Woodland. Improve human health, environmental quality, carbon reduction and capture by sustainably managing and increasing Newport's trees and woodland.

3. Urban Greenspace. Increase green infrastructure in the urban/public realm to reduce environmental inequalities, for the multiple benefits of nature's recovery, human health and wellbeing, climate adaptation, cooling and flood alleviation, providing carbon reduction and clean air.

4. Council Owned Leased Land. Support the nature recovery whilst reducing carbon emissions from Council owned farmland and any other leased land.

3.2.5 The Ecology Officer is represented on the 'Our Land' Thematic Working Group, and through input of ecological advice to addressing these priorities, many of the actions proposed will serve to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.



### 3.3 Regeneration and Economic Development

3.3.1 The Local Development Plan 2011 – 26 contains policies aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment, for example:

#### GP5 Natural Environment

Development will be permitted where, as applicable:

- i) The proposals are designed and managed to protect and encourage biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including through the incorporation of new features on or off site to further the UK, Welsh and/or Newport biodiversity action plans;
- ii) The proposals demonstrate how they avoid, or mitigate and compensate negative impacts to biodiversity, ensuring that there are no significant adverse effects on areas of nature conservation interest including international, European, National, Welsh Section 42 and local protected habitats and species, and protecting features of importance for ecology;
- iii) The proposal will not result in an unacceptable impact on water quality;
- iv) The proposal should not result in the loss or reduction in quality of high quality agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a);
- v) There would be no unacceptable impact on landscape quality;
- vi) The proposal includes an appropriate landscape scheme, which enhances the site and the wider context including green infrastructure and biodiversity networks;
- vii) The proposal includes appropriate tree planting or retention where appropriate and does not result in the unacceptable loss of or harm to trees, woodland or hedgerows that have wildlife or amenity value.

### **CE3 Environmental Spaces and Corridors**

In and adjoining the urban and village areas, and in areas identified for comprehensive development, sites having existing importance for their visual qualities, as wildlife habitats or for recreational or amenity purposes, will be safeguarded as “Environmental Spaces and Corridors”. Development in these spaces will be permitted only where:

- i) The existing or potential environmental qualities of the site will be improved or complemented;
- ii) There is no adverse impact on international, European, national, regional or local nature conservation interest;
- iii) There is not a loss, without appropriate replacement, of a recreational, open space, or amenity resource for the immediate locality unless it can be demonstrated that there is an excess of provision or facilities can be enhanced through development of a small part of the site.

Proposals to enhance or improve existing environmental space provision will be encouraged where practicable. Additional provision will be sought in areas where a deficit has been identified.

### **CE8 Locally Designated Sites**

Proposals affecting locally designated sites will only be permitted where:

- i) There would be no overall loss of the nature conservation resource for which the site has been designated;
- ii) There would be no significant adverse effect on the geological interest of the site;
- iii) Appropriate mitigation or compensatory measures can be achieved.

3.3.2 These policies are implemented by the advice that the Ecology Officer provides to the Case Officer in relation to any given pre/application. However, in most cases the Planning Officers within Newport City Council are aware of the policy and legislation which protects our species, habitats and ecosystems.

3.3.3 Ongoing guidance on the implementation of the policies listed above is provided by the [Wildlife & Development Supplementary Planning Guidance 2015](#), whereas guidance on policies relating to tree protection are provided by [Trees, Woodland, Hedgerows and Development Sites SPG 2017](#).

3.3.4 A Replacement LDP is currently being developed, and the Countryside & Conservation Team have been involved in the Candidate Sites Assessment phase of this process.

### **3.4 City Services**

3.4.1 City Services incorporates the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB), and in respect of SAB applications, the Ecology Officer provides advice, principally in relation to the implementation of the six Standards, one of which is that biodiversity is maintained and enhanced as part of any Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS).

3.4.2 Highways services have also participated in schemes to reduce mowing as a means to promote floristic diversity and therefore pollinators.

### **3.5 Education**

3.5.1 Through Service Level Agreements, certain schools within Newport receive practical support and educational activities designed to improve the biodiversity of school grounds and educate children in the importance of our natural environment. A Services to Schools brochure is available here [Streetscene Services Schools Brochure \(newport.gov.uk\)](#).

**3.5.2 Biodiversity in Schools.** More than 80% of the schools in Newport are part of the Biodiversity in Schools Service Level Agreement (SLA) and receive advice and support to develop school grounds, creating butterfly areas, planting trees, hedges and orchards, installing outdoor classrooms and creating allotments.

**3.5.3 Eco schools.** The Biodiversity in Schools Project can help schools with their eco schools programme and healthy schools initiatives as well as helping to develop a stimulating outdoor environment for the Foundation Phase, ages 3 to 7 years.

**3.5.4 Allt-yr-yn Local Nature Reserve.** With log circles installed for use as an outdoor classroom and open all day, every day, [Allt-yr-yn Nature Reserve](#) is a fantastic place for school groups to visit. Schools are welcome to make use of the reserve whenever they want, by themselves, and can arrange for their class to visit the reserve with the biodiversity in schools officer for a guided, two-hour environmental education session. This service is free to those schools in the SLA.



**3.5.5 Forest school.** Forest school is a Scandinavian method of education outside in a natural environment where children learn and develop motivational, emotional and social skills. It gives children a chance to learn how to handle risks and use their own initiative, as well as a chance to use tools and to light fires. Ideally, forest school takes place in small groups and on a regular basis. Many Newport schools have a Forest School Leader (Agored Cymru Level 3 qualification) and 2 council officers are also fully qualified Forest School Leaders able to run regular or forest school programmes, deliver one-off sessions on tool or fire use and assist school leaders where required. Forest school sessions are charged at £150 a day, per member of staff.

### **3.6 People, Policy & Transformation**

3.6.1 Awareness of the Section 6 duty and its requirements has been raised in relation to the forthcoming Corporate Plan through the Performance & Research Business Partner. The draft Corporate Plan includes the objective *'2. A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.'* One of the ways in which the objective to protect and enhance our environment will be achieved, among others, is *'To protect and enhance the biodiversity and environment of Newport's urban and rural communities, improving well-being and health.'*

3.6.1 The PR & Communications Team continue to support [biodiversity web pages](#) and issue press releases where notable events in relation to the natural environment take place.



### **3.7 Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management**

3.7.1 Newport City Council has been involved in a number of projects to safeguard protected species and designated sites, and to improve the management of the habitats that underpin them. The following are some examples of such action.

#### **3.8 Sand Martin Hotel**

3.8.1 During the flooding in February 2020, part of the riverbank on the River Ebbw going through Tredegar Park Old Golf Course (now Council owned) was badly affected. One side of the bank of the Ebbw was sandy and was home to a large number of Sand Martins. When the river flooded, the sand part of this bank was washed away. This meant that the natural habitat for this area was damaged and now the Sand Martins aren't able to nest here.

3.8.2 NCC arranged for a new structure to be custom built as a Sand Martin Hotel, to provide housing for up to 50 nesting pairs of Sand Martins. We have worked with our Structural Engineer, our Ecologist, the Gwent Ornithological Society and Natural Resources Wales over the past 18 months to find the best placement and the best design for the Hotel. Work began in Autumn 2021 and was completed in May 2022.

3.8.3 The Hotel is made of concrete and has a steel roof, finished in a natural colour with textured paint to blend into the landscape. After this was built, we also built a secure fence around the hotel to protect the birds. This fence has new planting next to it to hide it from view and to help this blend into the environment also.

3.8.4 The cost of this hotel was covered by a grant from The Heritage Fund from the National Lottery, so there will be no cost to the Council or the taxpayer, but the ecological benefits will be priceless when the Sand Martins return to the area.

Sand Martin Hotel in situ:-



Interior of Sand Martin hotel showing nest boxes:-



Interpretation Board for Sand Martin hotel:-



### **3.9 Newport Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) Review.**

3.9.1 A review of SINCs is ongoing, partly so that the suite of sites is up to date in order to inform the Replacement LDP, and partly to ensure that their features and boundaries are accurate and under positive management.

3.9.2 Gwent Wildlife Trust (GWT) have looked at the boundaries of all SINC Sites in Newport in relation to aerials to make sure they're still valid and have undertaken walkovers but not full surveys on a few sites to ascertain their value. This has been undertaken on the following 19 sites:-

- Craig y Perthi wood
- Bettws Empoundment
- Canal Fields
- Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal adj. Canal fields SINC
- Bettws West
- Wilcrick Fort West
- Bumble Field, Bowden's Lane
- Coed y Mynydd
- Llandeud Common
- A48 (Llandeud Court)
- Foresters Oaks Field
- Llandeud Mill Grasslands
- Coed y Caerau Fields North and South
- Kemeys Graig
- Delbury Grasslands
- Underwood Fields
- Stocks Wood (east and west)
- Pant yr Eos wood

### 3.10 Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation

3.10.1 Habitat creation and restoration projects have been taking place across the plan period, mostly on land in the ownership of Newport City Council and its partners. The following projects have aimed to achieve this objective.

#### 3.11 Tree Planting, including compensation for Ash Die-back Loss

3.11.1 Considerable effort has been made over the last three years to maintain, restore and enhance our woodland, urban trees, hedgerows and associated habitats. This has been coordinated by the Trees and Woodland Officer, together with the Arboricultural Officer and the Arboricultural Assistant, in partnership with Grounds Maintenance, Parks and Recreation, and the Local Nature Partnership Officer.

3.11.2 Much of this work has been directed toward compensating for the loss of trees due to Ash Die-back disease, which has affected much of Newport. The list below summarises the numbers of trees, bushes and hedgerow plants either planted or sourced ready for planting over the 2019 – 2022 (inclusive) period.

Table 1. Trees planted in Newport during the reporting period.

Plant Group	Number	Plant Group	Number
Maple & Sycamore	438	Apple & Crab Apple	500
Horse chestnut	19	Spruce & Pine	18
Alder	80	London Plane	15
Birch	85	Aspen	27
Hornbeam	29	Cherry	421
Sweet Chestnut	67	Blackthorn	1075
Quince	19	Pear	47
Dogwood	153	Oak	300
Hazel	840	Dog Rose	350
Hawthorn	2089	Willow	55
Spindle	200	Elder	200
Beech	110	Whitebeam & Rowan	120
Ginkgo	10	Elm	113
Holly	455	Others	339
		<b>Total</b>	<b>8174</b>

3.11.3 Some highlights of this tree planting include:-

- A new avenue of trees at Tredegar Park, with 70 large trees planted to represent the 70 years of the platinum jubilee
- Ringland Primary, NP19 - 10 trees
- St Gabriel's School, NP19 9PQ - 5 trees

- Celtic Horizons Estate NP10 8UP - 10 trees
- Barrackswood NP20 5HG - 10 trees
- Pilton Vale NP18 3QZ up to - 10 trees
- Beechwood Park NP19 8AJ - up to 10 trees
- Belle Vue Park NP20 4FP - up to 10 trees
- Ysgol Bryn Derw NP20 3FP - 5 trees
- Glan Usk Primary NP197HF - 10 trees
- Glebelands Park NP19 7HJ - up to 10 trees
- Allt-Yr-Yn LNR NP20 5DN - up to 10 trees

### 3.12 Trees for Cities

3.12.1 Newport is officially a Bee Friendly City, accredited by Welsh Government in 2020. Bee Friendly is a Wales wide accreditation scheme formed jointly by Friends of the Earth Wales and Welsh Government to form part of their Action Plan for Pollinators. As a Council, we have been working to improve how we manage areas for the benefit of pollinators. Ensuring the needs of pollinators are represented in local plans, policy and guidance, changing how we work to protect and enhance the amount of quality pollinator habitats.

3.12.2 In recent years we have undertaken changes in mowing regimes, reinstated meadow management techniques in open green spaces and increased planting for pollinators throughout the whole of the authority area. Our aim is to reverse the decline in pollinator species across Gwent, increasing connectivity for wildlife and giving people access to nature on their doorstep where they live and work.

3.12.3 As part of this initiative, 55 trees have been planted in areas that fall within the top 10% most deprived areas on the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation (Ringland Primary, St.Gabriels Primary, Duffryn , Belle Vue Park and Barrackswood). This not only increases access to nature, but also increases tree canopy cover, and provides communities with the benefits of the fruits that these trees will provide in years to come. Furthermore, the remaining trees have been planted in close proximity to the M4 or high traffic areas, increasing tree canopy and the opportunity for carbon capture, whilst also boosting biodiversity, and increasing and connecting habitat for pollinators (Pilton Vale, Glan Usk Primary, Glebelands Park, Ysgol Bryn Derw, Allt -Yr-Yn, Beechwood and Belle Vue park).

3.12.4 Trees were sourced from Applewise Fruit Tree Nursery, Carmarthenshire (Welsh Specimen specialist). Maintenance will be on a 5 year schedule to include checking, adjusting tree ties, repairing stakes, pruning, replacement trees if necessary and watering for the first 2 years after planting.

3.12.5 Existing volunteer groups established at Allt-yr-yn, Pilton Vale, Duffryn and Barrackswood continue to be involved in the future management of the fruit trees, whilst trees planted in schools will provide many learning opportunities for pupils for years to come.

3.12.6 The trees that were *not* planted in schools were planted across 5 different Council Wards (Allt-Yr-Yn, Malpas, Coedkernew, Pillgwenlly and St. Julians) with a combined total of

36,000 residents. The four schools in which trees have been planted have a combined total of 1500 pupils, who benefit from them daily.

3.12.7 All volunteers were taught the basics of planting fruit trees, the need for clearing the site, mulching, staking and considerations given to specimens, siting and location. Site meetings and discussions took place with community groups and volunteers, who helped decide upon the planting location, types of trees planted and their future management.

3.12.8 Resident and Chair of the Sorrel Drive and Harlequin Residents Group (Barrackswood) Julia Crosbie stated:-

*“The fruit trees are a lovely addition to our area. We already have an abundance of blackberries available for free and now a mini orchard!! Free fruit for ALL, brilliant, thank you Trees for Cities!”*

3.12.9 Resident and Chair of the Celtic Horizons Litter Pickers Group (Duffryn/Coedkernew) Sue Colwill stated:-

*“It was great to get the community involved with planting native species in this valued little green space. For the older people it was a chance to spend an enjoyable hour catching up with neighbours. For the younger families, it was great to see them involved in nature in a positive activity with their young children! Communities like ours are working together to support biodiversity and our own mental and physical wellbeing, so supported activities like this are invaluable to us!”*

3.12.10 Ellie De Lima, Teacher at St Gabriel’s Primary School:-

*“Thank you so much for the fruit trees, the children were so excited about receiving and planting them! They can’t wait to see them blossom and for the fruit to start to grow!”*

### **3.13 Resilient Greater Gwent Sustainable Communities Project 2021/2022 - Community Orchard and Wildlife Pack Allotments Project**

3.13.1 The Sustainable Communities Grant received this year enabled us to increase habitat for pollinators through the creation of 3 Orchards at key community growing locations in Newport.

### **3.14 The Paddock in Graig.**

3.14.1 Situated in the Bassaleg area of Newport, the Paddock is used by the community for various events and meet-ups including a mid-summer community picnic and an end of summer hog roast event. The 1 hectare field runs parallel with the A467 and has a large established hedgerow. The 20 mixed variety fruit trees were a welcome addition with 26 volunteers of all ages joining in to plant them.

3.14.2 Alastair Church, the Chairperson for The Paddock Committee said *“Thanks so much for your support for our orchard. We very much hope the orchard will further help to bring the community together with the on-going maintenance/ harvesting / fruit eating and drinking!”*

Orchard at the Paddock in Graig:-



### **3.15 Cae Perllan Community Allotment**

3.15.1 Situated within the Gaer ward of Newport, adjacent to the rail line. Cae Perllan provides traditional allotment plots to a large number of residents. The site has recently expanded to allow room for a large community growing plot that will provide food for the local food bank and a community food box scheme. 30 mixed variety of fruit trees have been planted, creating an Orchard Avenue which once established will also help to screen the rail line. The fruit from the trees will also be used in the community food box scheme. The trees were planted over a number of consecutive days with up to 6 volunteers turning up daily to help. This particular site has a very “nature friendly” ethos. All plot holders are actively encouraged to be as considerate to wildlife as possible. Margins are left to grow, selected plots are left for nature to grow wild, areas of dense scrub house the local fox family. The allotment committee are keen to support biodiversity in any way they can. Cae Perllan Community Allotment was the inspiration for the Wildlife Packs that we developed as part of this project.

### **3.16 Ladyhill Allotments**

3.16.1 Ladyhill Allotment is one of Newport's largest allotment sites located in the Alway ward of Newport. This site also benefitted from the installation of an Orchard. This large site is a mixture of traditional allotment plots and community growing spaces, and is also home to the Veterans Garden. Twenty mixed variety fruit trees were planted in groups in split locations throughout the site, with tenplot holders volunteering to plant them, boosting biodiversity and providing local people with free fruit.

3.16.2 The allotments in Newport are often green oases situated in amongst some of our most urban areas providing vital habitat and connectivity for local wildlife, and opportunities for people to engage with nature within their communities. The diversity of the communities and plot holders ranges from traditional allotmenters, community foodbank growing, Veterans plots and community payback schemes all of which have directly benefitted from this project.

3.16.3 Gardening and growing practices vary from site to site. We visited each site assessing its value for nature and spent time with a number of allotment holders, service users and various allotment committee members, talking to them about small changes or biodiversity enhancements that could make a big difference for nature and for people. Such as encouraging them to allocate at least one plot within their site for nature, leaving margins to grow and installing bird boxes, each site has its very own story....a particular Robin that appears at the sound of a packet being rustled or a fox that appears out of the undergrowth at the same time every evening. With this in mind we developed 22 wildlife packs. The packs contained everything needed to spark a deeper interest in nature with allotment holders and encourage a more holistic nature-friendly approach to growing.

Allotment wildlife pack:-





3.16.4 Seven x 1 kilo bags of Butterfly and Bee Wildflower seed mix and 6 x 1 kilo bags of Wild Bird Wildflower mix, both specially formulated to include 20 species from the RHS Plants for Pollinators list which contains species such as borage, yellow rattle, ragged robin, scabious etc., were purchased and distributed in smaller amounts to share across 18 of the allotment sites, to be sown in appropriate locations and plots that are unsuitable for food production. Combined, this will create around 700 square metres of wildflower habitat.

3.16.5 Each pack contained:

- 2 Fruit trees or bushes (depending on the size of the allotment site) to attract pollinators
- 2 Bird Boxes suitable for Great Tit, Blue Tit and Coal tits
- 2 Bird Boxes suitable for Robins and Blackbirds
- 2 Bug Hotels suitable for lacewings, solitary bees and ladybirds
- Wildflower seed to attract pollinators
- Reptile sheets to provide shelter for slow worms, frogs and toads.

3.16.6 In summary, 114 fruit trees were planted across 3 main Orchard sites at Graig, Cae Perllan and Ladyhill with the help of 42 volunteers.

3.16.7 Wildlife packs containing 2 Fruit trees or bushes, 44 bird boxes suitable for Great Tit/Blue Tit/Coal Tit, 44 bird boxes suitable for Robin and Blackbird, along with 44 bee barns

and 11 Kilos of wildflower mix, were distributed across the 22 sites and a number of reptile mats provided to each of the sites.

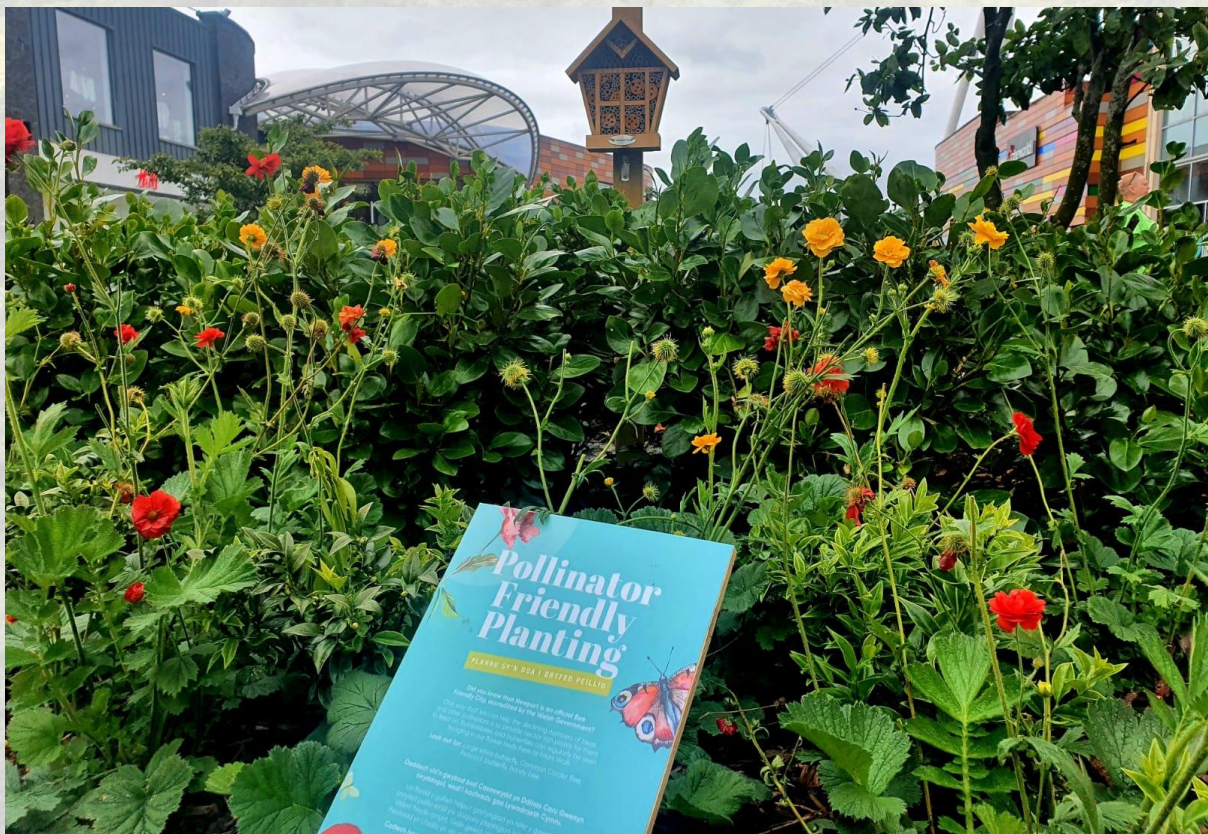
3.16.8 Large group engagement activities across the project were limited due to Covid Restrictions however we were able to carry out one large planting activity at Graig. Smaller planting sessions took place at Cae Perllan and Ladyhill.

3.16.9 A total of 18 informal visits took place to engage with allotment holders, discussing nature friendly gardening practises, assessing the needs and opportunities for nature at each site and distributing the packs.

### 3.17 Newport Pollinator Project

3.17.1 The Newport Pollinator Project is ongoing, and aims to:-

- Bring communities together to explore nature and celebrate local pollinators through an engaging, inclusive activity programme
- Restore pollinator habitats to improve the resilience of ecological networks, and
- Raise awareness and inspire people to take action for pollinators in their community including some of Wales' most rare and threatened species.



3.17.2 Through this project, we aim to change the mowing regimes of areas of grassland across the City, in order to encourage native wildflowers to flourish. This will include meadows, roadside verges and various sites throughout the county such as cemeteries and parks. Overall, the ongoing project aims to achieve:-

- Restoration/enhancement/creation of 5ha of habitat benefitting both pollinators, and the people that live, work in and visit the area. Habitats will be better managed and in better condition
- Improved resilience of ecological networks including B-Lines
- Increased resilience of pollinator populations in Newport
- Establishment of 3 BeeWalk transects
- Development of peoples' knowledge and skills to record pollinators and share data
- 100 new pollinator records submitted to SEWBReC
- Improved knowledge among Project partners of how to manage habitats for pollinators
- Local communities better informed of the decline in our pollinators and how they can create and better manage habitat that will benefit wildlife and people
- Improved well-being of those engaged with the project

3.17.3 The Project Outputs, many of which have been achieved or are in the process of being delivered, include:-

- [Newport Pollinator Project webpage \(hosted by Buglife\)](#)
- 2 x articles for local newsletters/papers
- 4 x Conservation task days. Approx. 6 volunteers per session
- 1 x Pollinator identification workshops (on-line)
- 2 x Pollinator identification workshops (field sessions). 8 people per workshop
- 1 x Introduction to Pollinators talk (on-line)
- 2 x Pollinator 'Blitz' days
- 2 x Guided pollinator walk.
- BeeWalk training (Bumblebee Conservation Trust)
- 1 x on-line bumblebee beginner identification workshop
- 1 x Beewalk training session (field based)
- 2 x Bumblebee Blitz sessions providing field based support and guidance for BeeWalk Volunteers. Volunteer recorder on-line support session x 6 people per session
- 3 x Beewalk transects established
- Introduction to Bumblebees talk x1 (open to all). (BBCT)
- Introduction to bumblebees (site based) x 2 (open to all) (BBCT)
- 2 x Insect photography workshop (site based)
- 8 x 'Get close to Nature' walks
- 16 x half day 'Outdoor art' workshops
- 4 x Habitat management advice report
- Habitat management advice briefing report x 4
- Pollinator spotter sheet x 1
- Social media infographic x 1
- Animated video x 1

3.17.4 Key sites for improved management continue to be selected throughout the project, but will include various roadside verges, grasslands at Allt-yr-yn, St. Julians, Gaer Fort, Riverside Park, Wentwood Meadow, Great Oaks, Duffryn and St Woolos.

3.17.5 Some of the key sites are often illegally accessed by a number of ATV and motorbikes, which not only cause significant damage to the areas supporting biodiversity and nature but also present a danger to responsible users of the site. We will look to install inhibition measures at some of the key sites to prevent damage to valuable habitat and encouraging responsible use.

3.17.6 Where possible we will use native perennial seed mixes in areas rather than non-native annual mixes, and we will continue to commit to identifying new pollinator sites throughout Newport and changing their management for the benefit of pollinators.

#### 3.17.7 Key Activities

- Purchase cut-and-collect machine
- Purchase pedestrian brush cutters, hand held machinery and PPE
- Purchase and install inhibition measures for key sites
- Purchase wildflower seed mixes

### 3.18 Project Name: Barrack Hill

3.18.1 Barrack Hill is a SINC designated for its large mosaic of semi-improved wet and dry natural grassland, scrub, bracken and woodland. Neighbouring a small open space which boundaries a large housing estate managed and owned by Housing Associations. The understorey comprises of ash, hazel, hawthorn and holly which are widely spread throughout the woodland. Tree and shrub regeneration is often sparse, although more prolific within the open sections of canopy and comprises Ash, Goat Willow, localised Beech, Holly and Hawthorn. The ground layer is predominately bramble which has taken over wherever gaps in the canopy occur. The open grassland is extensively covered with invasive non-native species which is currently undergoing an existing treatment programme.

3.18.2 The project will enhance the area's ability to support nature recovery, through increased active conservation management, communication and engagement with local residents. This will increase their accessibility to quality natural green space, providing opportunities to improve and support health and wellbeing, which will lead to positive and responsible use by the community.

#### 3.18.3 Key Activities

- Site Survey and development of Management Plan
- Fly Tip Removal
- Interpretation boards
- Path improvements
- Nature Conservation Management

### 3.19 Bee-Friendly Bus Stops

3.19.1 Five bus stops with green roofs have been installed, and a further 11 are planned or in progress. These features will serve not only to provide habitat for invertebrates, but will also be highly visible and serve to raise awareness of the importance of these habitats for biodiversity

Example of bee-friendly bus stop, courtesy of [www.externiture.com](http://www.externiture.com):-



**Retrospectively fitted and refurbished** green roof shelter

### 3.20 Nature Isn't Neat

3.20.1 The aim of Nature isn't neat (NIN) is to stimulate behavioural change resulting in widespread local action to address the decline of pollinators. The objectives are to:-

- Enhance green infrastructure for pollinators
- Promote resilient ecological networks across South East Wales
- Promote community ownership and empowerment regarding declining pollinators, acted upon and shared with others through a Nature Isn't Neat project.

3.20.2 Project Governance. The Nature Isn't Neat project sits as a part of the Pollinator Friendly Gwent work stream of the ENRaW-funded Gwent Green Grid (GGG) project which is led by a Collaboration Manager. Coordination of the project will be undertaken by the Nature isn't Neat Project Officer, with delivery supported by the Nature isn't Neat Implementation Officer. The Biodiversity & Ecology Lead at Monmouthshire CC is the GGG delivery lead for the scheme. As a partner organisation, all partner authorities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding affirming their commitment to the Partnership and project delivery.

3.20.3 Individual Local Authorities within this Gwent-wide partnership will administer the ‘GI projects application’ to Welsh Government to draw down these funds. Projects continue to be developed, but include:

- Grassland restoration activity
- Pollinator plants and planting
- Seed and seeding
- Trees & hedge plants and planting
- Signage design and production

3.20.4 The outputs and leads for NiN are set out in table 2 below.

Table 2.

<b>Outcome: An integrated approach to policy development within public bodies and other relevant organisations</b>	<b>Delivery Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Outputs:</b>		
Initial Meetings with individual LA’s	NiN P	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Meeting / workshop with working group to establish output*	NiN P	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Subsequent development and progress meetings	NiN P	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Establish a pollinator forum for Gwent for the sharing of best practice	NiN P	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC, NRW, HA’s Pollinator Taskforce, Bee Friendly Monmouthshire, FoE, Buglife, Monmouthshire Meadows, LNP, others as identified by working group
Pollinator Policies or similar developed for Public Bodies to include review of pesticide use  (Integrated Pollinator Policies (minimum 5))	NiN P & LA partners, HA’s, interest groups, town/community councils	Pollinator Forum members
<b>Outcome: To bring NiN to an additional 5 communities across SE Wales</b>	<b>Delivery lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Outputs</b>		
Initial Meeting with individual LA’s	NiN P	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC

Meeting / workshop with working group to establish output*	NiN P & NiN I	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
To identify and support the delivery of actions that individuals and other stakeholders can adopt to help reverse the decline of pollinators.	NiN P & NiN I	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Establish 5 communities to target for engagement events/activities – 1 per authority area.	NiN P & NiN I & LA partners	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Develop and deliver engagement events which will: Increase the level of knowledge of the decline of pollinators through activities and resources. (5 events)	NiN P & NiN I & LA partners	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Develop partnerships with local interest groups e.g. Friends of the Earth, town and community councils to develop a “campaign” style approach to raising awareness and education to the need of pollinators. (3-5 interest groups)	NiN P & NiN I & LA Partners	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Encourage and animate stakeholders, including public bodies, within communities to participate in pollinator action.	NiN P & NiN I	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC & stakeholders as identified within LA’s
Offer advice and guidance provided under the Welsh Government Caru Gwenyn Bee Friendly Initiative to all stakeholders. Minimum. 5 new Caru Gwenyn status	NiN P & NiN I	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC & stakeholders as identified within LA’s
<b>Outcome: Shared learning and best practice including monitoring techniques</b>	<b>Delivery lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Outputs</b>		
Initial Meeting with individual LA’s	NiN P	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Meeting / workshop with working group to establish output*	NiN P & NiN I	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Establishment of a code of action that can be referred to by operatives to enable management for pollinators.	NiN P & NiN I	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Providing information and training for public body staff who have responsibility for maintenance of green infrastructure	NiN P & NiN I	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
Work closely with other stakeholders such as National Botanic Garden of Wales, Buglife and BBCT to develop monitoring e.g. citizen science.	NiN P & NiN I	Key stakeholders, TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC

Promotion of 1no citizen science scheme in each community (5 as per NiN)**	NiN P & NiN I & stakeholders as identified within LA's	TCBC, CCBC, NCC, BGCBC, MCC
*an output that meets the needs and aspirations of the LA for pollinator management which may be different for different LA's across the region. **using established NiN monitoring adopted by MCC or alternative following consultation with LA		

NiN P = Nature isn't Neat Project Officer

NiN I = Nature isn't Neat Implementation Officer

LA's = Local Authorities (All relevant operatives including Grounds Maintenance / Countryside / Street Services etc.).

3.20.5 The NiN project is not intended to replace any pollinator initiatives that are currently active in any of the partner Local Authority areas. It is the aim that the project will complement our work and particularly help to support and drive pollinator friendly action, and raise the level of understanding and knowledge within the public towards the importance of all pollinators.

3.20.6 Communications from the general public relating to any changes of site management remain the responsibility of the individual Local Authorities. However, the project does facilitate in the sharing of best practice in dealing with negative feedback including the development of any resources / publicity to reduce complaints.

3.20.7 Delivery of the ENRAW project is measured by Welsh Government against the timetable of delivery submitted with the grant Delivery Plan, set out in table 3 below.

Table 3.

Ongoing work	Year 2 (2021-2022)				Year 3 (2022-2023)			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Key Milestone								
<b>Project Delivery</b>								
Appointment of posts		Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Establishment of Pollinator forum		Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Establishment of local interest groups		Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
Community engagement by novel means		Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
Info & Training for land managers including code of action		Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
Work with partners to develop monitoring e.g. Citizen science		Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
-Commencement of monitoring		Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Development of pollinator policies		Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red



### 3.21 Road to Nature

3.21.1 An abandoned dual carriageway near Coedkernew, known locally as the 'Road to Nowhere', was subject to more than 20 years of illegal dumping of waste such as fly-tipping. Over the last few years Newport City Council has worked in partnership with Fly-tipping Action Wales and members of the local community to tackle the fly-tipping, and about 650 tonnes of waste has been removed from the area. Much of the waste - about 85% - was able to be recycled, including about 1800 car tyres.



3.21.2 Subsequently the site has been referred to the 'Road to Nature' and a Friends of Road to Nature voluntary group has been set up. The hope is that the site will give the public increased opportunities to benefit from access and interaction with nature in this proposed new green space. By engaging with Newport City Council, local Nature Conservation Agencies and the local community, there is an aspiration to improve habitat and to help support increased biodiversity in area. To this end a series of community based activities have taken place in this area, including a 'bioblitz', in collaboration with Buglife, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Keep Wales Tidy and others.

### 3.22 Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

#### 3.23 Invasive Non-native Species

3.23.1 One of the key pressures on our ecosystems is the presence of invasive non-native plant species (INNS), which out-compete native species and reduce plant diversity. This has subsequent impacts upon species diversity within the wider ecosystem. However, some INNS have more direct impacts upon human well-being, and in many cases it is the direct impact upon residents that provides the motivation for the treatment of INNS that NCC deploys. For example, Japanese Knotweed can cause subsidence to built structures and damage to tarmac, Himalayan Balsam can cause river bank erosion as it displaces native species which would otherwise ensure bank stability, and Giant Hogweed can cause rashes and burns on contact, causing phytophotodermatitis.

3.23.2 Over the period of this report, all of these species and more have been the subject of treatment programmes, often involving careful use of chemical herbicides where unavoidable, but also by voluntary groups pulling up INNS plants; so-called 'balsam bashing'.

3.23.3 Where chemical treatment is used, trained operatives are employed and details of the site and the quantities used are carefully recorded. Data are not available as to the extent in hectares of the INNS species which have been treated, though in 2021 some 25 hectares were surveyed and 38 sites treated. An example of a log setting out the spraying regime for one species, Japanese Knotweed, is set out below in Table 4, but **over the course of the reporting period an estimated 169 individual sites were treated for all INNS.**

Table 4.

<b>Grounds Maintenance Spraying Log for Countryside 2020</b>				
<b>Site Location</b>	<b>Invasive Species Treated</b>	<b>Reason for treatment</b>	<b>Date of Spraying</b>	<b>Man hours @£25 per hour</b>
Brickyard Lane	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	17/08/2020	2.5
Brynglas Woods	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	17/08/2020	3.5
New Grove Park Mile Walk	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	18/08/2020	2
Cefn Wood Area	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	19/08/2020	2
Greenfield Nursey Site	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	19/08/2020	2
Pontymason (end of canal)	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	20/08/2020	2.5
Pontymason to Golf Course (via canal)	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	20/08/2020	2

Afon Mead Riverbank	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	25/08/2020	3.5
Bassaleg Riverbank	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	26/08/2020	2
Tregwilym Road Railway Station	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	01/09/2020	2
Grove Park Waterfront	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	01/09/2020	2.5
Walkway to Shaftesbury Park	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	01/09/2020	2
Duffryn Muga area	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	03/09/2020	2
Lysaghts Park	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	03/09/2020	2
Brecon Park @Radnor Road	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	03/09/2020	2.5
Woodland Park Forest Glade	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	03/09/2020	2
Marshfield area	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	04/09/2020	3
Clifton Park Gem Park	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	04/09/2020	2
Liswerry Rec	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	04/09/2020	3
Wentwood Gilvach	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	04/09/2020	3
Glebelands	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	04/09/2020	2
Harlequin Drive	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	07/09/2020	4.5
Lliswerry Pond (Spion Cop)	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	07/09/2020	3.5
Chapel Park	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	07/09/2020	2
Church Crescent Duffryn	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	08/09/2020	4
Coed Kernew	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	08/09/2020	4
Allt Yr Yn Lane	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	14/09/2020	2
St Woolos Cemetary	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	14/09/2020	4
Tredegarr Park	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	23/09/2020	5.5
Tredegarr Park Old Golf Course Site	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	23/09/2020 24/09/2020	18

			25/09/2020	
Riverbank along Whiteheads	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	29/09/2020	3
Household Waste and Recycling Centre (covered wild areas)	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	29/09/2020	6
Friars Walk (RIVERSIDE)	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	02/10/2020	2
Riverside Walk	Knotweed	Removal of invasive species	02/10/2020	2.5
		<b>Total Hours</b>		111 HOURS

### 3.24 Climate Change

3.24.1 Climate change is of course a key pressure on our ecosystems, and reduction of carbon emissions and increasing carbon sequestration and storage will eventually serve to mitigate impacts of climate change upon these ecosystems. Similarly, enhancement of our green infrastructure will aid with adaptation to the effects of climate change upon our lives. More detailed consideration of the relationship between the Climate Change Plan and biodiversity is given above, but going forward there will be a constructive interaction between the Climate Change Plan and the Section 6 duty process. For example, raingardens to attenuate rain water in the city centre have been created, with more in progress.

### 3.25 Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

3.25.1 The growth of a city such as Newport may lead to loss and fragmentation of habitats, where greenfield sites are allocated to development. However, the Newport City Council Local Development Plan contains a series of policies designed to ensure that harm to the natural environment is avoided, mitigated and if necessary compensated for when development takes place. These policies, and the Wildlife and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) which supports them, are implemented by Planning Officers under advice from the Ecology Officer. In this respect, in the past year the Ecology Officer has commented on over 300 planning applications, seeking to implement these policies and secure enhancements, or net biodiversity benefit, to counteract habitat loss and fragmentation.

3.25.2 In addition, NCC and Natural Resources Wales are working in partnership with individuals and organisations to identify a number of green infrastructure (GI) interventions and nature-based solutions for the heart of the City, which will also counteract habitat fragmentation. The study area is the city centre as defined in the Newport City Centre Masterplan (2018) and the first of many practical projects such as rain gardens in the City Centre are in the process of being implemented.

### **3.26 Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring**

3.26.1 Newport City Council makes use of a range of sources of evidence, data and information in order to inform decisions relating to the natural environment. Data sources are available on Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales web pages, for example in relation to [Nature-based Solutions](#), [Current Relative Value of Ecosystem Resilience \(CURVE\)](#), and [Data Map Wales](#). Other sources of information that we use are as follows:-

#### **3.27 South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC)**

3.27.1 Newport City Council maintains a service-level agreement with SEWBReC, the Local Records Centre, giving the whole Authority access to up-to-date biodiversity records. These data are frequently used to inform advice in relation to planning applications, and to guide practical nature conservation activities. Particular attention is paid to the occurrence of species listed on [section 7 lists of species and habitats](#).

#### **3.28 Green Infrastructure Assessment**

3.28.1 To provide a more comprehensive analysis of the green infrastructure resource in Newport, together with the most effective locations to direct efforts to enhance that resource, a Green Infrastructure Assessment was commissioned and produced. In addition to informing the Replacement Local Development Plan, replacement supplementary planning guidance and other relevant strategic initiatives, the study provides a framework for informing more detailed site assessments of Green Infrastructure on development sites as part of the planning process.

3.28.2 It is also intended to inform One Newport PSB's approach to improving well-being outcomes for the City by maximising the social, environmental and cultural, and economic, benefits of Green Infrastructure in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the national well-being goals.

3.28.3 Developed in accordance with Natural Resources Wales' guidance, the Green Infrastructure Assessment identifies the type and extent of existing Green Infrastructure assets and networks in Newport at a strategic level, and highlights the functions these provide. It identifies the main socio-economic and environmental challenges for Newport, and highlights how Green Infrastructure can help address these through the multiple benefits it provides, including:

- Health and well-being
- Biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
- Climate change and sustainability
- Social cohesion
- Economy
- Sense of place

3.28.4 The study also identifies, at a strategic level, places with needs and opportunities for improving the condition or extent of existing Green Infrastructure assets and networks, or

creating new Green Infrastructure. The findings should be read in conjunction with the Newport City Centre Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study, which identifies site-specific Green Infrastructure opportunities and nature-based solutions within the heart of the City.

3.28.5 The Green Infrastructure Assessment provides a basis for developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Newport, including a project delivery plan with priorities for action identified in consultation with local stakeholders.

### **3.29 Newport City Centre Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study May 2022**

3.29.1 Newport City Council and Natural Resources Wales, are working in partnership with individuals and organisations to identify a number of green infrastructure (GI) interventions and nature-based solutions for the heart of the City. The study area is the city centre as defined in the Newport City Centre Masterplan (2018,) which includes the Northern Gateway, City Core and Riverside wards (to the east of the River Usk). Reference has also been made to the Newport Green Infrastructure Assessment (CBA 2022), which looks at the strategic planning of GI across the whole of the City.

3.29.2 The intention is to identify multi-functional, cost-effective, nature-based solutions that maximise environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits. Green infrastructure is an important element of climate change adaptation and nature recovery and helps the City to meet the requirements of the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

3.29.3 The process of identifying projects involved two day-long site visits in January 2022 and several video calls with Newport City Council and NRW officers. GIS maps, using data supplied by the authorities describing the environment, were also prepared. A Long List of suggested schemes was presented to stakeholders during two on-line consultation events on the 8th and 10th of February 2022. Two meetings were arranged to give people more opportunities to participate. Participants included residents, councillors, council officers as well as representatives of businesses and Newport Now, the local Business Improvement District.

3.29.4 Following the receipt of feedback from stakeholders on the Long List, this report includes a consolidated list of projects, which are outlined in subsequent pages in that report. Each project includes a brief description, the rationale for the project, predicted benefits and indicative costs. The intention is for projects to be taken forward, with more detailed planning and design, by the appropriate organisations and partnerships, once agreement in principle is secured, and funding is available. It should be noted that the list of potential projects in this report is not exhaustive, and it is hoped that as the benefits of GI become more widely known, people will come forward with other suitable schemes.

### **3.30 Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery**

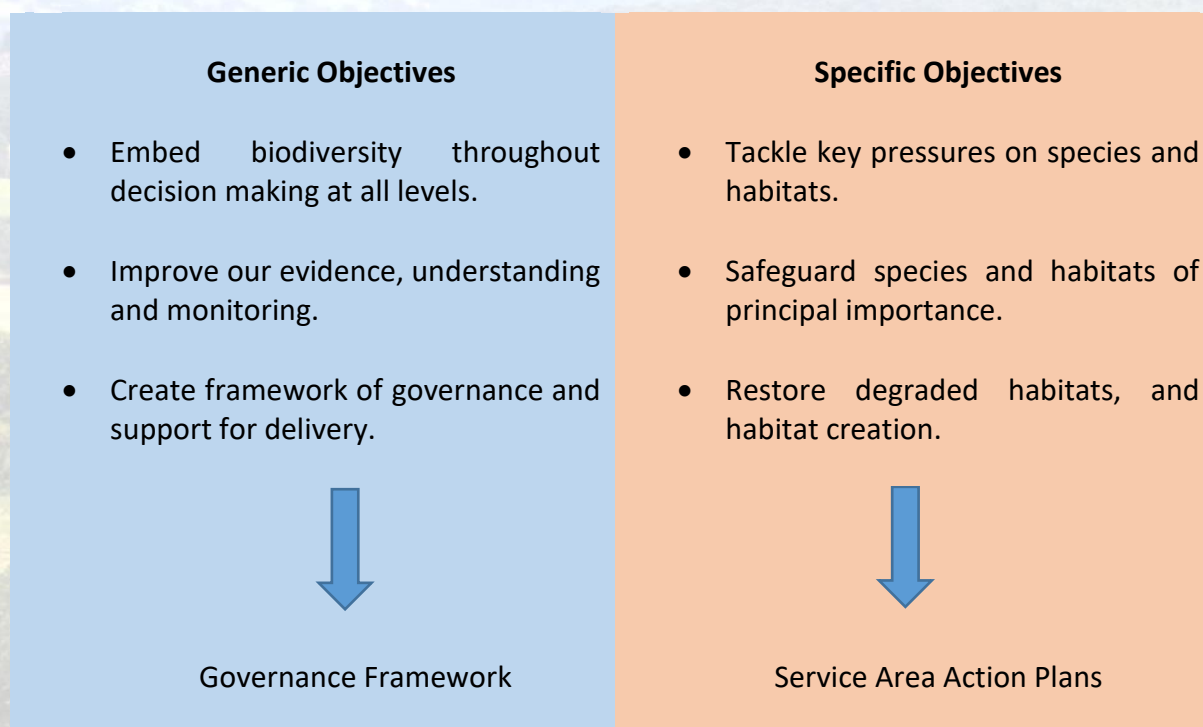
3.30.1 The Countryside and Conservation Team work closely together, and relationships with many other teams within Newport City Council have been well established. However, there

remains work to do in strengthening existing working arrangements and forging new links with other departments which traditionally have not made use of advice available from this Team. Three different Ecology Officers have been in place over the reporting period, and this has inevitably had an impact upon progress in this respect. Similarly, the absence of a forward plan has led to a more ad-hoc approach to the biodiversity duty, perhaps influenced by previous NERC duty and Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

3.30.2 As Newport City Council does not have a Biodiversity Duty Forward Plan in place, the forward plan will evolve over the next three-year reporting period in accordance with the Framework for Governance and Delivery, as set out below. This will constitute the triennial review, and allow more coordinated progress and more accurate reporting leading up to 2025.

#### 4.0 Newport City Council Biodiversity Duty Forward Plan 2023 - 2025.

4.0.1 The Biodiversity Duty Forward Plan will be based upon the same six objectives as the current report, and consists of a Governance Framework and an Action Plan. The six objectives will be grouped into three generic objectives which are common to all parts of the authority, and three specific objectives which each of the 11 service areas will need to address individually.



4.02 The Biodiversity Duty Forward Plan will also relate closely to the Organisational Climate Change Plan, and in particular the ‘Our Land’ objective of that plan. A Climate Change Project Board was set up to lead on the development of the plan, and Staff and managers from across the Council were involved in writing of a consultation draft of the Plan using the Route Map for Decarbonisation as a framework. Going forward, integration of the biodiversity duty into the Council’s functions will closely align with the Organisational Climate Change Plan, such that biodiversity, green infrastructure and ecological resilience will maximise their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

4.03 The same six objectives in the Section 6 Duty Plan will be used for the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan (LNRAP), currently in development, which sets out how Newport City Council works with volunteers and partners to deliver community-based nature conservation projects. The LNRAP relates more closely to the ‘Our Wider Role’ element of the Climate Change Plan, and the relationship between the Biodiversity Duty Forward Plan, the Climate Change Plan and the LNRAP is set out in the diagram below.

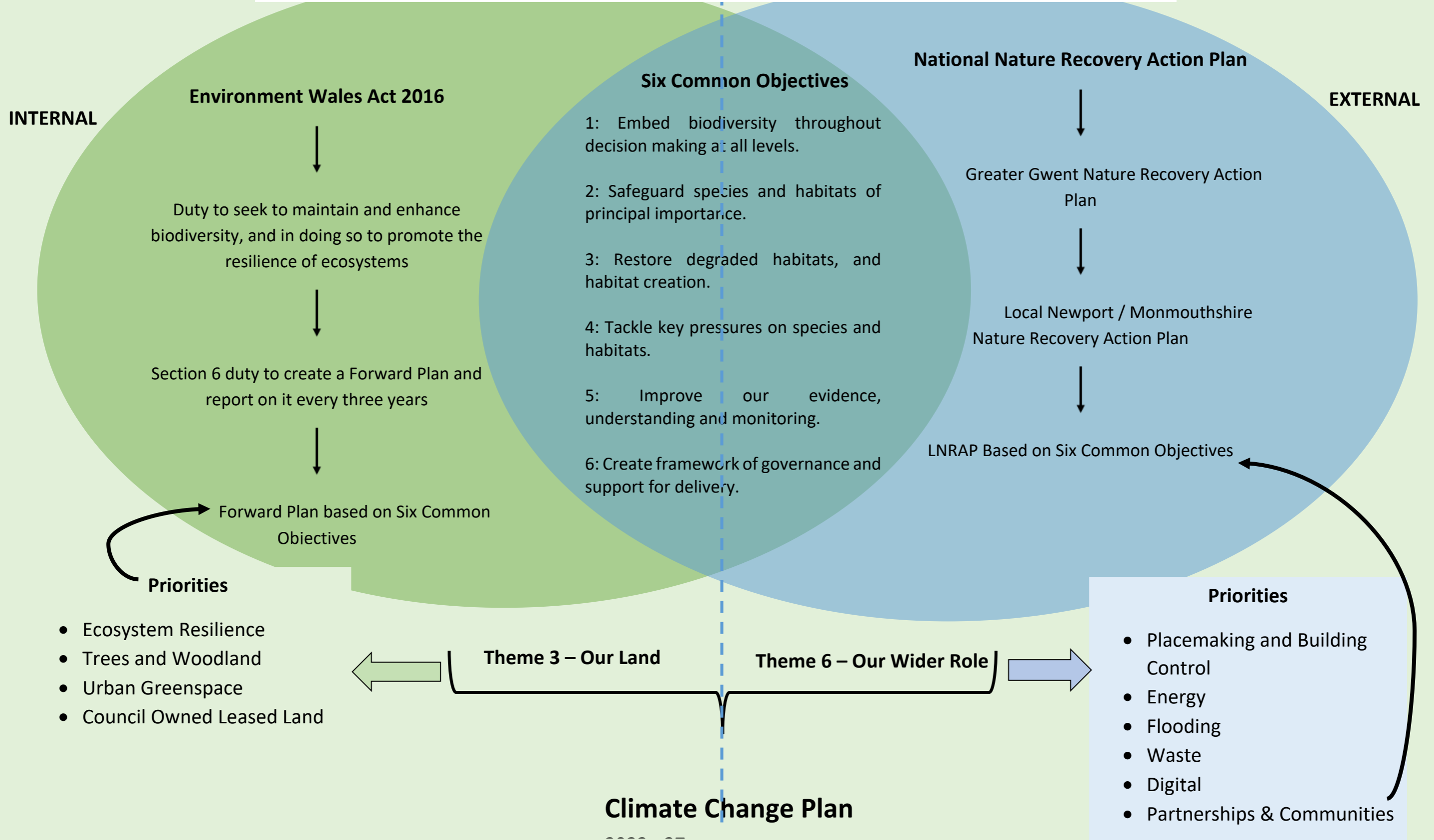
4.04 Addressing the Biodiversity Duty Forward Plan and the Local Nature Recovery Action plan in this way, developing and implementing both strategies in parallel based on the same



timescales and the six common objectives, will allow a more coherent input into the Organisational Climate Change Plan process.



# Section 6 Duty, Nature Recovery Action Plan, & Climate Change Strategy



#### 4.1 Governance Framework - Embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

4.1.1 Newport City Council's response to the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty is led by the Countryside and Conservation Team, within the Environment & Public Protection section of the Environment & Sustainability Directorate. The Countryside & Conservation Team include an Ecology Officer, who will continue to provide advice and lead on the production and reporting of the biodiversity duty.

4.1.2 Guidance tells us that public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities. Each function of a public authority should consider where and how they can maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. In some cases action across the organisation as a whole is more appropriate.

4.1.3 Best practice would be that the S6 plan forms part of the Corporate Plan, and, where that is published, will fulfil the requirement to publish the S6 plan. The plan may additionally or separately be published in any chosen format which is publicly accessible, including on the public authority's website. Best practice would be that this is on the corporate section of the website.

4.1.4 Therefore the Countryside and Conservation Team will continue to seek to ensure that biodiversity and the s6 duty are incorporated into performance management, Local Well-being Plans, Well-being Statements, business planning and budget monitoring, performance management systems, internal consultations and audits.

4.1.5 As a result of these actions, in 2025 we should be in a position to report on:-

- Commitments made in the corporate plan
- Steps to incorporate biodiversity and the s6 duty into performance management, through Environmental Statements, Local Well-being Plans, Well-being Statements, a standalone s6 Plan, Business planning and budget monitoring, Performance management systems, Internal consultations or audits
- How Biodiversity has been valued more effectively and for the longer term in decision making
- How we have ensured that functions across the organisation deliver biodiversity action as business as usual
- Awareness raised across the organisation, for example by providing mandatory or voluntary training modules, running seminars or providing information to highlight the importance and value of biodiversity and how we are contributing to action as an organisation
- A List of published policies changed to incorporate biodiversity
- Biodiversity valuation methods or techniques trialled
- A List of biodiversity training/awareness raising initiatives and further details
- The number of staff receiving training

## 4.2 Governance Framework - Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring.

4.2.1 The service-level agreement with the Local Records Centre – SEWBReC – should be maintained, as this will ensure that all advice and decisions relating to biodiversity are made in the light of up-to-date evidence in the form of biodiversity records. We will continue to make use of a range of sources of evidence, data and information in order to inform decisions relating to the natural environment. Data sources are available on Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales web pages, for example in relation to [Nature-based Solutions](#), [Current Relative Value of Ecosystem Resilience \(CURVE\)](#), and [Data Map Wales](#). In addition, the Green Infrastructure Assessment for Newport, as required by Section 6.2.6 of Planning Policy Wales, will be further developed as the locations of the most opportune areas for improving green infrastructure will be examined and mapped in more detail.

4.2.2 In 2025 we should be in a position to report on:-

- Gathering and sharing evidence
- Using the best available evidence for decision making, for example using Local Environment Record Centre data in planning decisions
- Having regard to the section 7 lists of species and habitats, the State of Natural Resources Report, and Area Statements when they are available
- Making data available through Local Environment Records Centres
- Ensuring our environmental evidence is accessible to local communities
- Data sources created or enhanced in relation to safeguarding species/habitats of principal importance
- Data sources created or enhanced in relation to resilient ecological networks
- Planning decisions made using biodiversity evidence e.g. Number of planning applications which impacted local or national designated sites, European Protected Species (EPS) or S7 species, numbers rejected because of local or national designated sites, EPS or S7 habitats or species

## 4.3 Governance Framework - Create framework of governance and support for delivery.

4.3.1 The Countryside and Conservation Team will continue to work closely together, and relationships with other Service Areas within Newport City Council and NORSE will be strengthened or established. However there remains work to do in strengthening existing working arrangements and forging new links with other departments which traditionally have not made use of advice available from this Team.

4.3.2 As above, statutory guidance advises that it is the intention of the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty that it is embedded into early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects as well as day to day activities. The Countryside and Conservation Team will continue to engage with the Corporate Plan process where consulted on draft documents, but more a formal mechanism for integrating the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty into the elements of the corporate plan process listed in 4.1.4 above should be developed over the next three-yearly cycle.

4.3.3 In particular, coordination is required between plan-making and reporting for the Biodiversity Duty, the Well-being Plan and the Climate Change Plan, in order to minimise duplication and to strengthen the connections between these initiatives. For example, actions to promote biodiversity and ecosystem resilience are proposed and reported in all three of these documents, and this is welcomed in the context of raising awareness of the Ecological and Climate Emergency. However, going forward an appraisal should be made of the most efficient way of communicating how we plan and report on actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

4.3. In 2025 we should be in a position to report on:-

- Accountability for ensuring biodiversity action is taken – ultimately this should be the chief executive or Biodiversity Champion
- How it has been ensured that where needed, ecological expertise can be drawn upon, either internally or externally
- How volunteer participation in action for biodiversity by staff or local communities has been encouraged and supported
- Grant aiding or funding biodiversity projects
- Partnership working with Local Nature Partnerships and Local Nature Recovery Action Plans
- Support for other environmental organisations and projects for example relevant volunteer days undertaken, grant and investment schemes, relevant Capacity improvements, funding sources directed towards biodiversity, local/national environmental groups actively or substantially engaged and/or supported

## 5.0 Service Area Action Plans

5.1 For the remaining objectives of this Forward Plan, listed below, technical advice will be provided to individual service areas and departments by the Countryside & Conservation Team, specifically the Ecology Officer and Biodiversity Officers. Those objectives are:-

- Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

5.2 Species and habitats of principal importance are those listed in accordance with Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act, but within this objective we should include all species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. These and other pieces of legislation confer certain protections and responsibilities in relation to designated sites and protected species, and it is of paramount importance that these statutory duties are observed in the exercise of any of the functions of Newport City Council.

5.3 Other aspects of the Biodiversity Duty relate to proactive and practical measures that Newport City Council can introduce to maintain and enhance biodiversity, rather than simply reacting to the legal protection afforded to a species or a site. Opportunities for such measures may not always be obvious to staff not involved directly in nature conservation, so it is important that the Countryside & Conservation Team engages with all service areas to establish what potential impacts their functions have upon the natural environment, and to develop approaches to counteracting any negative impacts and to seeking improvements.

5.4 Broadly speaking the process for this engagement would be as follows, and is analogous to that previously used in Newport in relation to the NERC Act biodiversity duty, which the present Environment Act duty has replaced:-

- Raise awareness of the biodiversity duty and its implications
- Identify lead officer(s) in each service
- Establish clear lines of communication with the Countryside & Conservation Team
- Hold workshops to identify impacts and develop a delivery plan
- Implement delivery plan as part of daily business
- Record actions in a format which can be easily included in a report
- Monitor, report and review the delivery plan on an annual basis

5.5 Examples of how the biodiversity duty relates to different services, and of how these services could contribute to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, are set out in Table 6 below.

Table 6.

Service	Potential Impacts and Opportunities
<p>City Regeneration, Economic Development, Work &amp; Skills, Planning, Building Control &amp; Development Destination – Tourism, Culture, Museums, The Transporter Bridge, The Newport Ship, Newport Live.</p>	<p>UK Natural Environment Assessment (UK NEA) found that if the UK’s ecosystems are properly cared for, they could add an extra £30bn a year to the UK’s economy but if they are neglected, the economic cost would be more than £20bn a year. In more detail, green infrastructure contributes to the city’s economy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inward investment: Well-designed and maintained green infrastructure makes an area more attractive. More people move into attractive areas which increases spending in those areas, boosts the local economy and encourages further investment in the surrounding areas. Improved attractiveness means more businesses are interested in moving to an area, and they find it easier to attract and retain workforce and customer base.</li> <li>• Property Values: Figures from the Commission for Architecture &amp; the Built Environment (CABE) show that property values increase near green spaces, with houses close to parks averaging 8% higher prices than similar properties further away CABE (2005). Research has shown that the trees add 15% to 25% to the total value of property, depending on size, condition, location and species.</li> <li>• Visitor spending: The attractiveness of an area and the quality of its parks impacts on the number of visitors attracted to, and spending in, that area. The direct and indirect expenditure for and during such visits contributes to the local and regional economy. Direct expenditure accrues to those businesses operating on the green infrastructure (e.g. events, cafes in parks) and indirect expenditure accrues to others in the vicinity (e.g. shops, hotels, taxis etc.).</li> <li>• Environmental cost-saving: GI provides important regulatory services such as pollution filtration, flood risk reduction and the mitigation of temperature extremes. There is good evidence that GI can therefore reduce damage costs and is often a more cost-effective way to meet environmental targets than mechanical solutions. The sheltering effect of trees could save 3 to 9% of energy bills, and cost savings at around 18% of heating bills have been estimated due to the sheltering effect of trees. (Cardiff Council BRED Forward Plan 2019)</li> </ul> <p>These contributions are often referred to as ‘Ecosystem Services’, and a more resilient ecosystem is more likely to deliver these services. More biodiverse ecosystems are more resilient, so maintaining and enhancing this biodiversity is a key component of harnessing these ecosystem services.</p> <p>Planning policies aimed at delivering the biodiversity duty through the planning system will be drafted for the RLDP as they were for the existing LDP, and subsequently Supplementary Planning Guidance will be produced to replace the existing Wildlife and Development SPG, which is out of date.</p> <p>Through the planning system the extent of biodiversity enhancements in new development will need to be determined, such as the proportion of new houses with bat and bird boxes installed.</p> <p>A process has been developed to integrate green infrastructure into planning policy, and to produce an effective GI Policy. Consideration should be given to including a Green Infrastructure Policy in the RLDP which integrates ecology, biodiversity, trees, soils, landscaping, sustainable drainage, public open spaces and active travel.</p>



<p>Strategic Housing, Housing Needs &amp; Homelessness, HSG/Supporting People, Community Regeneration, Community Cohesion, VPRS.</p>	<p>The visual appearance and attractiveness of towns and cities has been found to be strongly influenced by the provision of green space. The concept of local environmental quality is broad and can encompass many elements including environmental pollution and cleanliness, and visual quality and personal security, but green infrastructure can improve the current situation. (Forest Research (2010)).</p> <p><i>'As towns increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of attractive parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool. Companies are attracted to locations that offer well designed, well managed public places. These in turn attract and retain customers and happy, healthy, skilled employees as well as providing a company with a positive and dynamic image. Therefore, GI should be seen as an essential part of any successful business or regeneration strategy including City Regions, Business Improvement Districts (BID) and Enterprise Zones.'</i> Wildlife Trusts Wales (2016).</p> <p>Planting for biodiversity, including soft landscaping, tree planting and the use of wildflower meadows can all contribute to the regeneration of an area.</p>
<p>Waste &amp; Cleansing, Grounds, Public Protection, Parks &amp; Recreation, Cemetery &amp; Crematorium, Climate Change, Biodiversity.</p>	<p>The Countryside &amp; Conservation Team will continue to work with the other teams within the Environment and Leisure section, including the Grounds Maintenance Team, the Parks and Recreation Team, and the Bereavement Team who manage the City's cemeteries. In this way, the requirement to maintain and enhance biodiversity is communicated to staff responsible for the management of Newport City Council's parks, gardens, public open spaces, Local Nature Reserves, and trees. For example, these teams within the Environment &amp; Leisure section have cooperated in initiatives such as No Mow May and Nature Isn't Neat, aimed at enhancing grassland areas for pollinators such as insects, and these and other initiatives will continue. These teams will also continue to leverage practical action for biodiversity through a series of volunteer groups, which greatly increase their capacity to manage and enhance green infrastructure in the City.</p> <p>The exact extent of biodiversity interventions, such as the area and location of land devoted to reduced mowing regimes and cut-and-collect will be the subject of ongoing discussion, taking into account the wants and needs of local residents, and the need for public safety including fire safety.</p>
<p>Highways, Transport, Flooding, Fleet, Engineering Projects, Active Travel, SAB, Civil Contingencies.</p>	<p>Highways schemes including the introduction of segregated active travel routes have the potential to increase habitat fragmentation, a major cause of biodiversity decline. Therefore early consideration of potential impacts upon biodiversity and ecosystem resilience is critical as these schemes are planned. Advice to the SuDS Approval Body will continue to be provided by the Ecology Officer, in particular to ensure that the six standards for SuDS, including the Biodiversity Standard, are implemented in sustainable drainage schemes.</p>
<p>Legal, Insurance, Registration, Coroner, Democratic Services, Electoral Registration, - Supporting Major Economic Investment Project.</p>	<p>These services should all be aware of statutory duties in relation to biodiversity, and the protection afforded to certain sites and species, so that they can support other services in delivering the biodiversity duty.</p>
<p>HR &amp; OD/ Health &amp; Safety, Policy &amp; Partnership, Intelligence Hub, Digital services &amp; Complaints, Business Transformation, PR &amp; Comms, Assets.</p>	<p>Communication of the biodiversity duty and engagement with staff will require input from Communications teams, and involvement of the public in nature conservation schemes will prove an opportunity for PR staff to contribute to this duty. Internal training and awareness-raising will need to be developed in collaboration with HR, and Business Transformation have a role in embedding the biodiversity duty throughout the organisation.</p>
<p>Accountancy, Income &amp; Tax, Benefits, Internal Audit, Procurement &amp; Payments, Customer Services, - Supporting Major Economic Investment Projects.</p>	<p>Procurement such as ensuring office supplies are sustainably sourced (e.g. locally and/or made from recycled material). The Auditor General for Wales advises that sustainability considerations should be firmly embedded in procurement practices, which includes providing training for procurement staff in sustainable procurement principles, undertaking sustainability risk assessments for higher value procurement and considering whole life costs.</p>
<p>Childrens' Social work teams, Youth Justice, Safeguarding, VAWDASV, Residential &amp; Operations, Fostering &amp; Adoption.  Adult Social work teams, Residential &amp; Day Services, SS Workforce Development, First Contact, Home First, Managed Care, Commissioning, Frailty.  Families First, Flying Start, Youth Services, Childrens' Prevention, Early years, FIS &amp; Play, DFG's, Substance Misuse.</p>	<p>Green space offers possibilities in terms of increasing social activity, improving community cohesion, developing local attachment and lowering crime levels, particularly in deprived communities (Bell <i>et al.</i>, 2008; Weldon <i>et al.</i>, 2007). The mere presence and local availability of green spaces and natural features have been shown to encourage people to use their outside spaces more and, once outside, these green spaces help to promote positive social interactions. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83% more individuals engaged in social activity in green spaces Sullivan <i>et al.</i> (2004) as opposed to sparsely vegetated/concreted ones.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A study by found there is a positive association between neighbourhood features such as parks and the ability of residents to interact positively. Cohen <i>et al.</i> (2008).</li> <li>• In a survey of 750 people who took part in the Walking the Way to Health Initiative, Dawson <i>et al.</i> (2006) found that for many participants the walks were not just about providing physical activity; equally important was the increased opportunity for social interaction and contact.</li> </ul> <p>There is growing evidence to suggest that physical and mental health can be improved with greater access to green space:-</p> <p><b>Physical Activity:</b> Being physically active for 30 minutes a day can directly reduce the risk of strokes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, some cancers and type 2 diabetes. At a national level, levels of physical activity are higher in areas with more green space with people living near the greenest areas achieving the recommended amount of physical activity. Those living closer to green space are more likely to use it, and more frequently. Studies outside the UK suggest that people living closer to good-quality green space are more likely to have higher levels of physical activity.</p> <p><b>Mental Health and Wellbeing:</b> Psychosis and depression occur at higher rates in urbanised areas and in the UK 1 in 4 people now experience mental health issues. Local green spaces may provide important areas for social interaction and integration that can indirectly increase public wellbeing. Access to green spaces may also have more direct and immediate benefits for mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Therapeutic Use of Contact with Nature:</b> Patients and hospital staff report feeling happier and more relaxed after spending time in a garden or outdoor space, suggesting that hospitals could incorporate green spaces to improve the wellbeing of healthcare staff, and patients. Some indicators of psychological stress, including blood pressure and heart rate, are reduced in participants exposed to visual and auditory stimuli associated with nature. Cortisol levels in saliva (also linked to stress) decrease upon entering a natural environment.</p> <p><b>Indirect health effects:</b> Urbanisation damages the environment and has a range of implications for human health. Increasing urban vegetation could help reduce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding – 10,000 trees can retain approximately 35m litres of water per year, reducing flood risk</li> <li>• Noise pollution – a border of trees and shrubs 30 metres wide can reduce noise levels by 5-10 decibels.</li> <li>• Air pollution – doubling tree cover across the West Midlands could reduce the concentration of fine particulate matter by 25%, preventing 140 premature air pollution-related deaths in the region.</li> <li>• The urban ‘heat island’ (UHI) effect – vegetation creates shade, which reduces the risk of heat stroke and exhaustion.</li> </ul>
<p>School Improvement, Engagement &amp; Learning, Inclusion/ALN, Resources &amp; Planning, GEMS, Music Service.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity and Education officer will continue to develop learning programmes with primary schools, and to encourage more schools to take part in the service-level agreement</p>
<p>Newport Norse.</p>	<p>Maintenance of buildings and structures may have impacts upon protected species such as bats and nesting birds, and maintenance of open spaces including trees and hedgerows may also affect these and other species. Open spaces present opportunities for tree planting, wildflower meadows and other biodiversity enhancements. Similarly, use of bat and bird boxes on buildings can help these species, along with measures such as gaps for wildlife under fences and more diverse landscaping schemes which offer more habitat variety than mown amenity grassland. Such measures need to be reconciled with other pressures on open space, such as the need for access and recreation, visibility, fire safety and tidiness.</p>

5.5 At this point it is worth re-iterating the compliance requirements of the Biodiversity Duty, which will need to be reflected in any Service Area Action Plans. Any Action Plan should demonstrate contribution to the aims, objectives and targets set out in these compliance drivers.

Table 7.

<b>Compliance Driver</b>	<b>Aims/objectives/targets</b>
The list of habitats and species of principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales, published under Section 7 of the Environment Act.	Habitats and Species lists
The State of Natural Resources Report (the 'SoNaR Report') published by Natural Resources Wales under Section 8 of the Environment Act	Aim 1 assessment: Stocks of natural resources safeguarded and enhanced
	Aim 2 assessment: Resilient ecosystems
	Aim 3 assessment: Healthy places for people
	Aim 4 assessment: A regenerative economy
Any Area Statement published under Section 11 of the Environment Act, in this case the South East Wales Area Statement.	Linking Our Landscapes
	Climate Ready Gwent
	Healthy Active Connected
	Ways of Working
Climate change plan objectives Delivery Theme: Our Land	Ecosystem Resilience
	Trees and Woodland
	Urban Greenspace
	Council Owned Leased Land
Climate change plan objectives Delivery Theme: Our Wider Role	Placemaking and Building Control
	Energy
	Flooding
	Waste
	Digital
Well-being objectives One Newport	Partnerships & Communities
	To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities
	To promote economic growth and regeneration while protecting the environment
	To enable people to be healthy, independent and resilient
Draft Objectives Gwent PSB	To build cohesive and sustainable communities
	We want to create a fair and equitable Gwent for all
	We want to create a Gwent that has friendly, safe and confident communities
	We want to create a Gwent where the natural environment is protected and enhanced

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