

Impact Assessment

Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan



18/02/2022

Reference: 6018-1722-3703-6860

Impact Assessments (IA) are a process of assessing how our proposals and decisions might impact upon different types of people and communities and developing proposals in line with relevant legislation.

This is a legal requirement, and ensures the Council considers key legislation, including Equalities, Welsh language, Future Generations, Socio-economic Duty and Risk when developing proposals.

It will also help the Council make the best possible decisions for the people of Powys.

1. Proposal Information

Author name	Holly Dillon, Biodiversity Officer
Head of service	Matthew Perry, Head of Highways, Transport and Recycling
Portfolio holder	Heulwen Hulme, portfolio holder for Portfolio Holder for Environment
Proposal title	Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan
Description of proposal	<p>The Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan (PNRAP) aims to reverse the declines in biodiversity in Powys by focussing on developing resilient ecological networks (also known as ‘nature recovery networks’). It is primarily intended to guide the work of the Powys Nature Partnership, a group of organisations and individuals committed to reversing the declines in biodiversity in Powys and of which Powys County Council is a part.</p> <p>It is proposed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Council adopts the PNRAP as in appendix A and continues its commitment to the Powys Nature Partnership to help the Council meet its duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;2. The actions within the plan (appendix B) be reviewed annually by the Powys Nature Partnership. This will allow the plan to evolve in response to changes in policies and legislation, resource availability and data; and3. Progress towards delivering the PNRAP is monitored through the production of an annual high-level report by the Powys Nature Partnership, until standardised Nature Recovery Action Plan reporting mechanisms have been agreed by Welsh Government.

2. Savings and Consultation requirements

Profile of savings delivery

Consultation requirements

Consultation required?	No
Justification	This is a Powys Nature Partnership plan that has been developed in consultation with members of the Powys Nature Partnership and will be used to guide the work of the partnership.

3. Impact on other service areas, geographical areas and data protection

3a. Impact on other service areas

- Digital Services
- Transformation and Communications Service
- Housing and Community Development
- Highways Transport & Recycling
- Finance (Section 151)
- Property Planning and Public Protection
- Education
- Schools (Primary Secondary and Special)

3b. Impact on geographical locations

The entire county

3c. Data protection impact assessment

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals?	No
Is Powys County Council the data controller?	No
Further information	No information about individuals is included in the plan; as such, the proposal does not require the processing of personal data in itself.

4. Impact on Vision 2025

4a. The economy

Impact	Healthy, functioning ecosystems provide a multiplicity of benefits and services to people, including the provision of food and products that sustain our economies. The plan includes actions for greenspace and biodiversity enhancement. This will help to promote Powys as a place to live and visit and increase sustainable tourism opportunities. The plan will also be used to apply for external grant funding to deliver many actions, this funding will be used to purchase local goods and services and create job opportunities in Powys.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	By ensuring that there is active promotion of the actions and outcomes of the plan to enhance biodiversity through the Council's actions and through partnership projects, residents and visitors will become more aware of the opportunities available to access to high quality greenspace and biodiversity.
Mitigated impact rating	Good

4b. Health and care

Impact	By taking action to reverse the declines in biodiversity, the Powys Nature Partnership will ensure that Powys has a high quality and biodiverse natural environment. Access to high quality greenspace is very important for the mental and physical wellbeing of residents of all ages; this has been strongly demonstrated during the COVID 19 outbreak. Many of the actions included within the plan include activities to help residents to experience the natural world through events and volunteering opportunities. Volunteering to support biodiversity initiatives can also make a significant contribution to the sense of fulfilment of residents.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	By ensuring that there is active promotion of the activities and outcomes of work to enhance biodiversity through the Council's activities and through partnership projects, residents will become more aware of the opportunities available to them to access high quality greenspace and biodiversity and to get involved in volunteering opportunities and/or events to help improve their health and wellbeing.
Mitigated impact rating	Good

4c. Learning and skills

Impact	Activities to enhance biodiversity may contribute directly to learning opportunities for children and young people, including events and activities at schools to teach children about the natural world, and the development of wildlife gardens at schools. Many of the actions within the Powys Nature Recovery Action plan will create volunteering opportunities for young people and adults, allowing them to learn environmental and land management skills, improving their employability.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

4d. Residents and communities

Impact	The Powys Nature Recovery Action plan focuses on safeguarding and enhancing the natural environment for residents and communities. Many of the actions focus on enhancing the natural environment and will involve working with residents and communities to improve their local greenspaces for nature, such as creating community gardens and orchards. The Council will be able to make a direct contribution to this priority by delivering greenspace enhancements through grant funding, such as Local Places for Nature scheme. The plan also outlines how residents and communities can be directly involved in the delivery of the plan, providing ideas on how they can safeguard and enhance the natural environment.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

4e. Evidence

The sources of evidence to support the proposed approach are:

1. The Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan: <https://gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan>
2. The UK National Ecosystem Assessment - Economic Values from Ecosystems: <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>
3. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Wellbeing: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/sustainable-management-of-natural-resources-guide.pdf>
4. State of our Natural Resources Report: Ecosystem Services and Well-being: <https://naturalresources.wales/media/682045/chapter-5-wellbeing-final-for-publication.pdf>
5. How Connecting with Nature Benefits our Mental Health report: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/nature/nature-research>
6. 'Towards 2040', the Public Service Board plan: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/5789/Towards-2040---the-Powys-Well-being-Plan>
7. Media articles during the COVID 19 outbreak, including the call for increased access to greenspace for all homes in Wales: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56320917>

5. Impact on well-being goals including Welsh language and equalities

5a. A prosperous Wales

Impact	<p>The proposal will contribute to the national goal of 'A prosperous Wales' by helping to create resilient ecosystems that contribute to favourable conditions for economic activity. The actions set out in the plan will help ensure that ecosystems are resilient to climate change, providing a long-term contribution towards this goal. The proposal will bring a greater focus on working in ways that have a more positive impact on biodiversity when delivering the Council's Services. For example, road verge nature reserve activity delivered by the Council already allows for core highway maintenance that supports economic activity to be carried out in a way that also delivers benefits for biodiversity. Increasing the quality of greenspace through biodiversity enhancements on Council land will also deliver benefits in tackling climate change, for example by increasing tree cover that is sustained and managed.</p> <p>The proposal is intended to benefit nature and people. The partnership intends to apply for grant funding to deliver some of the actions. Through this funding there will be opportunities for local procurement, jobs (including traineeship positions), and community involvement through volunteering opportunities and creation of community greenspaces, for example.</p>
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

5b. A resilient Wales

Impact	<p>The proposal will help to maintain and enhance a biodiverse natural environment with healthy and functioning ecosystems. The proposal will directly help to protect and increase the local flora and fauna. The proposal will help to create more community greenspaces for play and business whilst enhancing biodiversity, through the creation of community orchards, for example.</p> <p>The proposal will allow us to create resilient ecological networks in Powys such as through the protection, creation, and restoration of priority habitats. The proposal will allow us to help tackle climate change by utilising nature-based solutions. For example, through the restoration of wetland habitats which store carbon and alleviate flooding.</p>
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	The proposal will also assist the Council in meeting its duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

5c. A healthier Wales

Impact	Spending time in nature helps to improve physical, mental and emotional health. The proposal will contribute positively to the opportunities for residents to access and engage with nature to improve their quality of life and wellbeing by creating and enhancing greenspaces. These spaces can be used for wellbeing activities to improve mental and emotional health, as well as for recreational activities to improve physical health. The proposal will also provide voluntary opportunities, and this can also make a significant contribution to the sense of fulfilment of residents.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

5d. A Wales of cohesive communities

Impact	By increasing the quality of greenspaces and opportunities to engage with nature, the proposal will maintain and increase the attractiveness of local communities. Communities will have the opportunity to get involved in delivering actions to improve biodiversity and their local greenspaces through events and voluntary opportunities. The plan also outlines how communities can get together to help enhance local biodiversity such as through the Bee Friendly scheme, for example. These will all help people to feel connected with their communities and with the place in which they live.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

5e. A globally responsible Wales

Impact	Biodiversity loss is a global issue. Biodiversity provides the life support systems enabling all organisms, including humans, to survive. It is essential to economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being across the globe. By taking action to reverse the biodiversity declines in Powys and to create healthy, resilient ecosystems, we will contribute positively to the quality of global ecosystems, as local and global ecosystems are interconnected. In addition, using nature-based solutions
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	to tackle issues like climate change will contribute to the goal of 'A globally responsible Wales'.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

5f. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Using Welsh

Impact	None
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Promoting Welsh

Impact	A Welsh version of the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan will be available. The plan and any actions relating to the plan will be promoted through the medium of English and Welsh.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Some actions will provide additional opportunities to promote the Welsh language, for example, if they involve elements of interpretation such as the creation of signs or educational resources.
Mitigated impact rating	Good

Sports, Art & Recreation

Impact	Enhancing biodiversity will increase the quality and enjoyment of greenspace, which will encourage residents and visitors to make use of it for physical activity and other recreation. The creation of community /wildlife gardens associated with community centres and libraries may encourage greater use of the associated facilities and therefore engagement in cultural activities.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

5g. A more equal Wales

Age

	Enhancing biodiversity engages and provide opportunities for all age groups. Children may be able to take advantage of biodiverse greenspace
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Impact	for play and it can be used for environmental educational and nature-based activities. Adults may contribute to the enhancements through voluntary activity and will also be able to use the greenspace.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

Disability

Impact	Enhancing biodiversity and greenspaces engages and provides opportunities for people to connect with nature on their doorstep. Grant funding to support biodiversity action may also support accessibility and sensory enhancements to create inclusive greenspaces, for example through assets developed through the Local Places for Nature funding.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

Gender Reassignment

Impact	None
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Marriage or Civil Partnership

Impact	None
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Race

Impact	None
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Religion or Belief

Impact	None
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Sex

Impact	None
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Sexual Orientation

Impact	None
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Impact	None
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Socio-economic Duty

Impact	The proposal will benefit the whole community, irrespective of income, by enhancing greenspaces across the county. There is generally no charge for access to these areas and many are within a short distance of residential areas. Some of the grant funding streams which will be utilised to enhance biodiversity targets areas of deprivation e.g., the Local Places for Nature funding. In doing so, the enhancements make a pro-active contribution to the opportunities for access to and enjoyment of greenspace for those living on a low income.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

5h. Evidence

The sources of evidence to support judgements:

1. The Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan: <https://gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan>
2. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Wellbeing: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/sustainable-management-of-natural-resources-guide.pdf>
3. State of our Natural Resources Report: Ecosystem Services and Well-being: <https://naturalresources.wales/media/682045/chapter-5-wellbeing-final-for-publication.pdf>
4. How Connecting with Nature Benefits our Mental Health report: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/nature/nature-research>
5. 'Towards 2040', the Public Service Board plan: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/5789/Towards-2040---the-Powys-Well-being-Plan>

6. Impact on key guiding principles & workforce

6a. Sustainable development principles

Long-term

Impact	The proposal will contribute proactively to addressing the decline of biodiversity and increasing the resilience of ecosystems for future generations. Activities to enhance biodiversity and greenspaces led by the Council will have both short term and long-term outcomes and interventions will need to continue in the long term i.e., they will need to
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	become part of business-as-usual Service delivery and community activity.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

Collaboration

Impact	The plan is a collaborative effort produced by the Powys Nature Partnership to allow skills, knowledge, and resources to be shared to help reverse the declines in biodiversity and create resilient ecosystems. Many activities to enhance biodiversity and greenspaces are already or will be delivered through collaborative activities with Partnership organisations and with communities. Many of the actions within the plan will be delivered by Partnership organisations and they will continue to play an active role in the delivery of the plan.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

Involvement (including Communication and Engagement)

Impact	The proposal is a partnership plan; therefore, all members of the Powys Nature Partnership were consulted to develop the plan. All members of the partnership were able to directly feed into the plan through a series of meetings and all provided with copies of the draft plan to read and provide comments on. This feedback was incorporated into the plan. We will continue to involve the partnership in all future reviews of the plan. Will continuously engage with them through regular email updates, quarterly partnership meetings and through the annual progress reporting. In addition, the partnership will also consult with communities for any community-focused actions or projects delivered through the plan, such as creating community orchards, to ensure their views and voices are heard and used to inform decision making.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

Prevention

Impact	The proposal will result in pro-active action being taken by the Powys Nature Partnership, including the Council through core service delivery and collaborative projects, and people to prevent further declines in biodiversity. The Powys Nature Recovery Action plan takes the six national objectives from the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales and sets these in a local context, looking at the issues which need to be addressed and the actions needed to reverse biodiversity declines and
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	create healthy, functioning ecosystems in Powys. On top of guiding the work of the partnership, the plan also empowers people to take action themselves by providing suggestions on how individuals, communities, schools, and businesses can take action to prevent further declines in biodiversity in their area.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

Integration

Impact	The proposal contributes positively to integrating the wellbeing goals through pro-actively enhancing biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in Powys. Biodiversity is essential to economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being because each organism has a role to play and contributes to the health, productivity, and resilience of our ecosystems. Ecosystems provide many services to people, including the provision of food and products that support economic wellbeing. They also provide cultural services by providing recreational experiences, improving our physical and mental wellbeing, and giving us a sense of place.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

6b. Impact on the workforce

Impact	Individual activities or changes made to business-as-usual Service delivery to enhance biodiversity may have an impact on the way in which the staff concerned carry out their duties, or the skills that they require. However, this will be dependent on individual activities and will need to be assessed for each piece of work when proposed.
Impact rating	Neutral
Mitigation	Not specified

6c. Impact on payroll

Impact	None
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6d. Welsh language impact on staff

Impact	None
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6e. Impact on apprenticeships

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6f. Evidence

The sources of evidence to support judgements:

1. The Wales Nature Recovery Action Plan: <https://gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan>
2. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Wellbeing: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/sustainable-management-of-natural-resources-guide.pdf>
3. State of our Natural Resources Report: Ecosystem Services and Well-being: <https://naturalresources.wales/media/682045/chapter-5-wellbeing-final-for-publication.pdf>
4. How Connecting with Nature Benefits our Mental Health report: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/nature/nature-research>
5. 'Towards 2040', the Public Service Board plan: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/5789/Towards-2040---the-Powys-Well-being-Plan>

7. Likelihood and risks

No risks documented

8. Overall summary and judgement

Outline assessment

The proposals will have a positive impact if implemented, as the Council will be able to demonstrate and monitor the way in which it is meeting its responsibility to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its duties. Taking pro-active steps to enhance biodiversity and greenspaces will have a positive effect on the natural environment of Powys, it will address the decline in biodiversity and help to create healthy, resilient ecosystems. Through increasing the quality of the natural environment, the proposals will enhance the opportunities for access to greenspace for physical and mental wellbeing. The Council's activities will contribute to the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan and adopting the plan will assist the Council to meet its duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

It is expected that individual Services will consider the resource implications of each activity that they propose to carry out to enhance biodiversity and greenspaces to ensure that the activity and its benefits are sustainable in the light of current and likely future resource levels. It is proposed that the activities be monitored annually by the Powys Nature Partnership. The Biodiversity Officer will collate this information as coordinating the partnership and Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan is part of this role.

Cabinet reference

9. Additional evidence

1. Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services 2019: <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>
2. UN Global Biodiversity Outlook 2020: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo/gbo5/publication/gbo-5-en.pdf>
3. Living Planet Report 2020 - Bending the curve of biodiversity loss: <https://www.zsl.org/sites/default/files/LPR%202020%20Full%20report.pdf>
4. The State of Nature Report 2019: <https://nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-Nature-2019-UK-full-report.pdf>
5. State of our Natural Resources Report 2020: <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/state-of-natural-resources-report-sonarr-for-wales-2020/?lang=en>

10. Ongoing monitoring arrangements and governance

Monitoring arrangements

There is currently no standardised mechanism for monitoring the progress of the Local Nature Recovery Action Plans. To monitor progress, a list of projects and activities taking place in Powys which contribute to the delivery of the plan will be compiled and updated annually by the Powys Nature Partnership, until standardised reporting mechanisms have been agreed by Welsh Government.

Review date	08/03/2023
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