

## Biodiversity Duty Questionnaire

## Summary of information from questionnaires from Service Areas within the Council November 2016

Service Area	Current Actions	Proposed Actions	Constraints to Delivery
<b>Communities Directorate</b>			
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	<p>Local Development Plan subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal as part of the preparation process, the key aim being to protect the environment whilst balancing the need for development</p> <p>LDP policies take account of appropriateness of development and its associated impact on biodiversity.</p> <p>Supplementary Planning guidance also includes consideration of biodiversity</p>	<p>Ongoing statutory duty as part of plan preparation.</p> <p>Preparation of a new piece of SPG in respect of Green Infrastructure.</p>	None
<b>Development Control</b>	<p>Biodiversity is already embedded into the planning application, process and opportunities for enhancements are sought when many consents are granted. Building control, Building Conservation and TPO consents, also consider biodiversity as part of the process.</p>	Continue existing commitments	Staffing levels, budgetary constraints, need to achieve efficiency targets

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<p><b>Countryside and Landscape Services</b></p>	<p>Provision of Ecological advice and support to all service areas.</p> <p>Management of country parks and other land in countryside's portfolio to benefit biodiversity, including country parks, Aberbargoed National Nature Reserve, conservation land provided through section 106 agreements.</p> <p>Provision of coordination and support for the Caerphilly Biodiversity Partnership.</p> <p>Raising awareness of biodiversity through events, provision of training, access to the countryside, environmental education delivered by countryside rangers and engagement with the public.</p> <p>Mangement of water bodies to benefit biodiversity.</p> <p>Delivery of and training in biosecurity measures and management of invasive species throughout the county borough, Delivery of biodiversity projects via RDP, NRW, WG funded initiatives</p>	<p>Continue delivery of existing biodiversity duties.</p> <p>Increase level of engagement with other service areas to assist them in embedding biodiversity into their day to day functions.</p> <p>Coordination and monitoring of the council's biodiversity Duty</p> <p>Identify and provide support to a Biodiversity Champion</p>	<p>Budget and capacity issues for existing staff</p>

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<p><b>Regeneration and Urban Renewal</b></p>	<p>Urban renewal and town centre enhancement projects (including demolitions) seek to be compliant with existing wildlife legislation undertaking appropriate surveys to inform projects and where appropriate reinstate biodiverse habitats in final landscapes. An example of a recently completed project includes the ERDF funded project achieved CEEQUAL excellent rating. Maintenance of natural and green areas around 13 industrial estates and business parks, and incorporating features that benefit wildlife Undertake sympathetic management of habitats and species in and around Llancaiach Fawr Manor</p>	<p>Continue to liaise with in-house ecologists on new projects Undertake a biodiversity audit of buildings and landholdings to identify the existing biodiversity assets</p> <p>Assess suitability of building portfolio to accommodate breeding boxes for protected and endangered species.</p> <p>Reduce carbon footprint of building portfolio through increased energy efficiency</p> <p>Assess suitability of watercourses and other underutilised land for sustainable energy generation and for biodiversity enhancement</p> <p>Specify products on new projects that have lower carbon footprints Subject to funding development of an adventure triangle taking in cycle routes and the canal, has the potential to enhance biodiversity as part of the scheme.</p> <p>Continue to monitor and maintain the biodiversity of Llancaiach Fawr</p>	<p>Procurement legislation and requirements Requirements of external funding organisations Affordability and potential increases in initial costs. Budget and staff availability to undertake biodiversity audits Enhanced maintenance costs and monitoring of sites, and the need to cost this at the design stage Availability of funds for investment in energy reduction and/or energy generation schemes</p>

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<p><b>Engineering Services (Transport Strategy and Road Safety, Highway Development Control, Integrated Transport and Traffic Management, Highway Operations)</b></p>	<p>Development of CCBC's transport policy with a key objective to encourage more sustainable travel</p> <p>Biodiversity considerations in the design and construction of transport schemes</p> <p>Ecology assessments undertaken during scheme development</p> <p>Timing of scheme to minimise impact. Liaison with external bodies and in house ecologists on major infrastructure schemes.</p> <p>Introduction of traffic management to reduce congestion and pollution levels. Consider flora and fauna when locating new installations.</p> <p>Use of natural filtration systems to treat gully waste. Use of techniques to reduce lorry journeys, and reducing CO2 burden.</p>	<p>One Active Travel Integrated Network Map will set out long term plans for improving the active travel network to encourage walking and cycling with wider environmental benefits.</p> <p>Biodiversity issues will be considered on a scheme by scheme basis</p> <p>Introduction of sustainable urban drainage systems on new development where appropriate</p> <p>Request increased use of recycled materials in road construction.</p> <p>Consider alternative fuels greener vehicles for the internal fleet, and promote this to external transport providers</p> <p>Use of solar powered equipment for traffic management</p> <p>Education, training of staff with appropriate application of biodiversity</p> <p>Seek to become and approval body for SUDS</p> <p>Replace street lighting with low energy equivalents</p>	<p>Individual schemes reliant on grant funding</p> <p>Welsh Government policy required on the use and adoption of SUDs systems.</p> <p>Increased resources required to administer Travel Planning</p> <p>Corporate Policies</p> <p>Procurement rules</p> <p>Cost and fleet management policy/options</p> <p>Financial constraints</p> <p>Lack of engagement by biodiversity centred council departments</p> <p>Lack of external organisation engagement</p> <p>Staff capacity issues</p>

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<p><b>Engineering</b> <b>Engineering Projects Group</b></p>	<p>Undertake ecological surveys and implement mitigation measures on civil engineering projects</p> <p>Design schemes sympathetically with regard to biodiversity</p> <p>Be aware of biodiversity constraints and statutory requirements.</p> <p>Manage the Mon and Brecon Canal, a linear aquatic resource in with colleagues in other service areas</p>	<p>Follow a systematic process to continually improve by learning from the outcomes of previously employed policies and practices</p> <p>Introduction into QA system of sound ecological practices through the design phase</p> <p>Education/training of staff</p>	<p>Workload and financial constraints</p>
<p><b>Waste management</b></p>	<p>Removal and managing of waste to improve local environmental quality</p> <p>Delivery of environmental improvement projects that frequently include native planting schemes and pollinator friendly species.</p> <p>Engage with schools including the planting of trees native bulbs and wildflowers</p>	<p>Arrange more planting sessions with schools and community groups. Optimise social capital resource on environmental improvement projects</p> <p>Reduce the amount of litter and waste in our natural and built environments.</p> <p>Capture methane from landfill and recover energy from food wastes to reduce emissions to the atmosphere, and contributing positively to reducing climate change</p>	<p>Diminishing budgets, deduction in grant allocation, changing legislation and need to comply with new requirements, reductions in manpower, pressure to deliver a more diverse range of frontline services to meet a series of ever more stringent landfill diversion targets</p>

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<b>Parks and Bereavement Services</b>	<p>Reducing, reusing and recycling materials to help reduce pollution from waste, transport and landfill</p> <p>Reduction of cutting regimes to encourage native wildflowers and pollinators. Removal of cuttings to increase flowering species.</p> <p>Manage land to create wildflower corridors</p> <p>Provision of nesting site, and roost sites in and around municipal cemeteries and parks</p> <p>Use wood products from sustainable sources and peat free compost.</p> <p>Time and plan work to avoid impact on sensitive species.</p>	<p>Composting floral tributes from cemeteries</p> <p>Creation of more wildflower areas at certain locations – cemeteries, parks and highways to save money and enhance the local environment.</p> <p>Provision of additional bird and bat boxes within municipal cemeteries</p> <p>Continued sensitive management of existing hedgerow and trees</p> <p>Examine localised working to reduce travelling costs and impact on the environment</p> <p>Formal adoption of a tree strategy to manage Council’s tree stock</p> <p>Examination fo green credentials when developing new facilities</p> <p>Develop sensitive landscaping in and around new cemetery developments to encourage wildlife.</p>	Lack of resources (budget and staff)
<b>Fleet and Vehicle Maintenance</b>	Use of fuel efficient vehicles to reduce the amount of carbon emissions to the environment	Reduce the quantities of oils stored in depots, and identify the method of storage to reduce risk of potential impact on aquatic environments	None
<b>Building Cleaning Services</b>			

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<b>Sports and Leisure</b>	Education of pupils and adults with an emphasis on connecting with and appreciating the natural world including nature walks, species identification and building bird boxes.	Introduction of species logs to record wildlife. Identifying and reporting incidents that damage the environment such as fly tipping and wildlife crime	lack of identification skills within the service.
<b>Housing WHQS &amp; Infrastructure, Housing Maintenance, Private and public housing sectors</b>	Consider recycling within contract documentation, and construction.  Reduce paper use Consider alternative methods of works that are more environmentally friendly Obtain ecological surveys and associated advice and consideration of bats and birds in programming of works, support planting projects with tenants in sheltered housing and roundabouts	Increase site based/home working Review of new products that are more sustainable.  Consider further alternate energy sources (wind, solar, hydro etc.) Provision of bird boxes on work programme.  Establish what surveys have been undertaken to identify habitat and species in the local area.  Ensure new planting provides connectivity to nearby habitats.  Engage with residents through the Activities coordinator to take an active part in making bird and bat boxes. Raise awareness of biodiversity to tenants via key events and newsletters, consider reduction in grass cutting regimes to encourage wildflowers and pollinators	Authority policies on home/remote working. Changes to specifications that may impact on existing procurement arrangements. Timeframe to change thing within a heavily bureaucratic system. Financial and staff resources Willingness of partners to become actively involved. Level of interest expressed by tenants and communities Tenancy management and maintenance obligations

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<b>Education Directorate</b>			
<b>Education</b>	<p>BREEAM excellent requirement for new school builds</p> <p>Recycling targets in build contracts</p> <p>Energy efficiency in school designs</p> <p>Pre-build surveys undertaken for wildlife species</p> <p>Reduce travel to school through safe routes provision and school travel plans</p> <p>Forest School and eco school encouraged</p>	<p>Band B proposals for 21<sup>st</sup> century schools (2019-2024)</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel when appropriate</p> <p>Reduce, reuse and recycle waste at the Service's own locations of delivery</p> <p>Ensure biodiversity issues are explored as part of the curriculum</p> <p>Ensure procurement processes includes consideration of the impact on biodiversity</p>	<p>Funding is limited to 50% of costs.</p> <p>IT technology provision is required to enable officers to work remotely and reduce travel requirements.</p>
<b>Social Services</b>			
<b>Children and Adult Services</b>	<p>Plan work to reduce amount of travel</p> <p>Promote recycling across offices</p>	<p>Solar panels on all establishments</p> <p>Consider wildlife nesting boxes and grounds maintenance at all establishments.</p> <p>Anticipated future capital projects will consider biodiversity, carbon footprint and transport factors in their design</p>	<p>Potential resource constraints and MTFP priorities in the future</p> <p>IT technology provision is required to enable officers to work remotely and reduce travel requirements</p>



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<p><b>Public Protection</b></p>	<p>Enforce in relation to fly tipping, littering and dog fouling – to minimise impacts on biodiversity            Reduce pollution/local air quality management to minimise the impact of pollution on biodiversity            Plan journeys to reduce the need to travel reducing impact on climate change.</p>	<p>Introduce electric vehicles            Emergency planning – minimise the impact were possible on biodiversity during the control and mitigation of emergencies.            Procurement decisions should have regard for biodiversity implications.            Environmental monitoring should also include consideration of impact on biodiversity            Consider engaging staff in biodiversity projects as part of team building exercises            Pest control – consider impact of chemicals on biodiversity, and consider alternatives            Health Education – link benefits of a healthy lifestyle to biodiversity            Undertake a biodiversity audit on external buildings to identify existing biodiversity assets and opportunities to support and enhance biodiversity.</p>	<p>Finance, technical, culture, knowledge and understanding, behaviour change, time constraints</p>

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<b>Catering</b>	<p>Working towards the introduction of electric vehicles to reduce climate change impacts, pollution and noise</p> <p>Recycle food waste and introducing new waste collection systems to reduce pollution from waste transport and landfill.</p> <p>Work in partnership with procurement to consider impact on biodiversity on procurement processes</p>	<p>Introduction of electric vehicles and introducing new waste collection systems</p> <p>Introduce IT solutions to school kitchens to reduce the requirement of the courier service and paper consumables</p>	<p>Budget implications for installing recharging points for electric vehicles</p> <p>BIP board refusal for introduction of IT solutions to school kitchen sites.</p>
<b>Corporate Services</b>			
<b>Property Building Consultancy</b>	<p>Routinely check the impact of work to council properties on nesting birds/bats and other wildlife prior to commissioning work</p> <p>Design Schools to BREEAM excellent standard which includes ecology and biodiversity elements, including green roofs planting to maintain species diversity and use of renewable energies.</p> <p>Routinely arrange ecological surveys for smaller schemes</p>	<p>When disposing of property we need to have more regard to the diversity implications of any sale than we currently do.</p> <p>Continue delivery of existing biodiversity duties.</p>	<p>The pursuit of maximising income from sales of property could be a greater incentive than diversity considerations</p> <p>Programme and cost challenges will remain</p>
<b>Legal</b>	Does not arise in day to day work	N/A	N/A
<b>Finance</b>	<p>Financial information leaflets for council tax and business rates are now available on line reducing printing and paper costs. Issue text messages to council tax payers to minimise letters issued by post</p>	<p>The financial obligations by its nature mean that opportunities to enhance biodiversity are limited. However we are mindful of the need to maintain and enhance biodiversity should future opportunities arise.</p>	

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<b>ICT</b>	Tendering and procurement of software consider reducing energy use, and reducing travelling need between sites (provision of teleconference facilities , remote support of users etc.	The work of ICT Service has only an indirect contribution to our biodiversity duty. The division will continue to make services available to enhance way that staff can undertake their duties and limit their carbon footprint	Availability of and competing demands on finances and staff resources
<b>Corporate Customer Services</b>		Provision of advice to customers about issues relating to biodiversity Sign posting customers to on-line information about biodiversity where available	
<b>Occupational Health</b>		Enhance area outside office where employees could sit and wait for appointments in an area that attracts wildlife and provide a contemplation area, which may help their health and well-being by reducing stress and mental health issues.	Budgetary constraints