

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29TH JUNE 2018

UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN DELIVERING CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That Committee note the progress made in delivering the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan 2017.

Reasons:

- To update the Committee on the progress that has been made in delivering Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment Act Forward plan published in March 2017.
- In addition to publishing an Environment Act Forward Plan, in 2019, public bodies are required to report on how they have met the Biodiversity and Resilient Ecosystem Duty.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:

Cllr. Hazel Evans (Environment)

| Directorates: | Designations: | Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses: |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Environment | | |
| Name of Head of Service: Llinos Quelch | Head of Planning | 01267 228918 LQuelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Report Author: Rosie Carmichael | Rural Conservation Manager | 01267 228727 RACarmichael@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29TH JUNE 2018

UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN DELIVERING CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN

In addition to publishing an Environment Act Forward Plan, in 2019, public bodies are required to report on how they have met the Biodiversity and Resilient Ecosystem Duty.

To assist in the 2019 reporting that will be required by Welsh Government, it is advised that the Council review its progress in delivering its Environment Act Forward Plan each year. The intention in the legislation is that the duty to forward plan will ensure that biodiversity is considered at the decision making level, that it becomes embedded into the Council's ways of working, and the reporting duty will make public authorities more responsible for showing how their actions have helped enhance biodiversity and ecosystems.

This detailed report on progress delivering the 35 actions set out in the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan 2017 should be read with the understanding that while the PIMS actions it contains were all circulated to the relevant Heads of Service (HoS) when they were drafted, the HoS did not necessarily see the first PIMS reporting round. As a result some of the actions were not reported on in the March 2018 PIMS reporting round, although progress in their delivery had nonetheless been achieved. This is now being addressed.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS:

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Llinos Quelch Head of Planning

| Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities | Legal | Finance | ICT | Risk Management Issues | Staffing Implications | Physical Assets |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| YES | YES | YES | NONE | YES | NONE | YES |

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The plan is consistent with the Council's Community Strategy, and its Corporate Strategy, as it sets out how the Council will demonstrate, through its actions, that it is maintaining and enhancing the natural environment.

The Biodiversity Duty set out in the Environment Act is consistent with Sustainable Development. The Act states that the Councils has a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience where it is within the proper exercise of its functions.

2. Legal

The preparation of an Environment Act Forward Plan is a requirement placed on public bodies by the Part 1 Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Council's Environment Act Forward Plan must be submitted to the Welsh Government by 31st March 2017.

3. Finance

At this stage the financial implications of delivering the goals set out within the plan have not been calculated as the details of each action remains to be considered.

4. ICT

None

5. Risk Management

Failing to publish the Forward Plan would result in the authority being non-compliant with the duty placed on public bodies by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

6. Staffing Implications

None, however, the commitments of staff time in the Forward Plan are expected to be met within existing workloads.

7. Physical Assets

As a result of implementing goals set out in the Forward Plan there may well be implications for the way in which some Council owned properties are managed, in that greater emphasis may be placed on management that will maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Llinos Quelch Title Head of Planning

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Councils – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|--|--------------|--|
| Environment Act Forward Work Plan:- Minutes and Reports for EB held on 27 th March 2017 [Agenda Item 10] | | http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=698&Ver=4 |
| Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty | | http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/160321-biodiversity-and-resilience-of-ecosystems-duty-en.pdf |