

**ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
15TH NOVEMBER 2019**

**REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT FORWARD PLAN 2016-2019**

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To consider the review of Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment (Wales) Act Forward Plan 2016-2019.

Reasons

It is a statutory requirement that Carmarthenshire County Council prepares and reports on the delivery of its Environment Act Forward Plan. The legislation requires that the first review on the Forward Plan delivery is published by December 2019 and that the Forward Plan is review every 3 years thereafter.

First review of the Forward Plan - for the Committee's information

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Philip Hughes

Directorate: Environment	Designations:	
Name of Head of Service: Llinos Quelch	Head of Planning	lquelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk 01267 228918
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REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT FORWARD PLAN 2016-2019

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the review of the Council's progress in delivering its 2016-2019 Environment Act Forward Plan and so inform the committee of the progress being made. The review demonstrates how the Council is meeting its legal obligation with reference to the Act.

In order to evidence delivery of this duty, under the Environment Act, it is a statutory duty that all public bodies in Wales must have prepared and published a plan on how they intended to comply with the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty by March 2017. The legislation also requires them by the end of December 2019, and every 3 years thereafter, to review their plan and publish that review. With reference to Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC), it is requested by Welsh Government that the Forward Plan and the reviews of it are published on the Council's web site. Carmarthenshire County Council published its first Environment Act Forward Plan in 2017, and this is the first review of that plan.

2. OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS

Publishing a review of the delivery of the Environment Act Forward Plan is a legal obligation set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. There are no options other than complying with this requirement.

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
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES

Legal

The preparation, delivery and review of the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan is legal requirement set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Finance

In order to deliver the S6 Biodiversity Duty set out in the legislation the Council has employed an Ecologist to provide guidance to officers as to how they must develop their plans and projects consistent with this legal obligations. This is a permanent post accounted for in the annual budget available to the Rural Conservation Team.

In addition the funding of the Conservation and Green Infrastructure Ranger post (Communities Department) is critical to the delivery this duty across the Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves. This post simultaneously delivers some of the Council's Well-Being objectives, and at present is temporary as it is funded by Welsh Government grant aid which runs out in March 2020.

Risk Management Issues

Failure to comply with the legislative requirement of preparing, delivering and reporting on its Forward Plan would put the Council at risk of investigation and prosecution.

Physical Assets

Delivery of the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan does have an impact on how it manages some of the assets for which it is responsible, e.g. heathland habitats are being restored at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park.

Staffing Implications

As set out in Financial Implications above CCC has employed an additional permanent member of staff to deliver its S6 duties with respect to new projects and plan. Funding is also required for the Conservation and Green Infrastructure Ranger if this is to be carried on post March 2020.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Llinos Quelch

Head of Planning

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Local Member(s) N/A

2. Community / Town Council 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
Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan		\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Planning & Building Control\Biodiversity\Environment Act 2016\CCC Env Act FORWARD PLAN