



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## CABINET

### 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

#### Carmarthenshire County Council's signing of the Edinburgh Declaration

- **BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

The purpose of this report is to request:

- Advise Cabinet of the process required for the Council, in line with Welsh Government's request, to sign the Edinburgh Declaration on global biodiversity and that cabinet advise whom should sign the Declaration on behalf of the Council. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Decarbonisation Climate Change and Sustainability do this.
- Requests that officers ensure the due process for signing the Declaration is implemented and that the signing of the Edinburgh Declaration is publicised by CCC's marketing and Communications team.

On 15 September 2021 a letter was sent from Julie James ( WG Minister for Climate Change) to all LA's, seeking pledges of support from LA's in Wales for the Edinburgh Declaration which supports the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The declaration states that the pledge '*recognises the important role that sub-national governments play in supporting nature and biodiversity.....*'

All details on the Declaration, including how to sign it, can be accessed via this link.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/>

The Edinburgh Declaration is complementary to our existing biodiversity duties:

- Environment (Wales) Act 2016, namely the Section 6 (S.6) duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and improve ecosystem resilience, a duty placed on all public bodies in Wales. Under this act all public bodies in Wales are required to publish and keep updated and report to WG on the delivery of its Environment Act Forward Plan.
- Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015 (especially the Resilient Wales Goal) and delivery of Carmarthenshire's own Well-being Objectives, in particular Objective 12.
- the work of the Carmarthenshire Local Nature Partnership, facilitated by CCC.

Signing the Edinburgh Declaration will strengthen CCC's commitment to supporting urgent action on these duties and responsibilities: it would also support Welsh Government's position on these matters. Signatories of the Declaration to date can be seen via the link above and include Chief Executives, and Cabinet Members, or equivalent

Bold action to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Carmarthenshire will not only deliver benefits in terms of ecological resilience and human wellbeing, but it will also safeguard and strengthen the local economy.

- **OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS**

There appears to be no reason for not signing the Edinburgh Declaration. Several other LA's across Wales have signed the declaration. Failure to sign the declaration, may suggest that CCC does not recognise the critical links between the Nature and the Climate Emergencies as set out by WG, nor the need for more and stronger actions which will address both of these global issues.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**NO**

## 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: **R D Griffiths**

Head of Place and Sustainability

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **R D Griffiths**

Head of Place and Sustainability

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

<b>1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination</b>	N/A
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date the report was considered: -</b>	
<b>Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations: -</b>	

**2. Local Member(s)**

N/A

**3. Community / Town Council**

N/A

**4. Relevant Partners**

N/A

**5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

N/A

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED</b> YES/NO * Delete as appropriate		<b>Include any observations here</b>
<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b>		
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
<b>Edinburgh Declaration</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-framework/</a>