

# PLACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

## REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN 2020-2023

### Purpose:

The Forward plan sets out how CCC is delivering its Environment Act Duty 2020-2023

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

The progress the Council is making in delivering its January 2020 to December 2022 Environment Act Forward Plan and fulfilling its legal obligation with reference to the Act.

### Reasons:

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires that all public bodies in Wales, such as local authorities, publish and deliver an Environment Act Forward Plan. These plans set out how an organisation will deliver its Section 6 Biodiversity Duty which is placed on it by this Act. The plan covers a period of three years.

It is Council procedure that the progress in delivering its Forward Plan is reported to EPP Scrutiny Committee every year. The Covid pandemic and pressure of other work has interrupted this process.

It is also a statutory requirement that every three years Carmarthenshire County Council reports on the delivery of its Environment Act Forward Plan to Welsh Government. It will next report to Welsh Government in December 2022

The Council's first Environment Act Forward Plan was published in March 2017, and delivery of it was reported to Welsh Government in December 2019. The following report refers to the Council's second three-year plan which runs from Jan 2020 to Dec 2022. The actions it contains are monitored in June and December each year via the Council's Performance Improvement Management System.

### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Rhodri D Griffiths

Report Author:

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Designations:

Head of Place and Sustainability

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## REVIEW OF CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT ACT FORWARD PLAN 2020-2023

### 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report and the plan attached is to inform to Scrutiny Committee of the Council's Environment Act Forward Plan 2020-2023 and the progress the Council is making in delivering the Biodiversity Duty placed on it by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

This duty is as follows:

*'Section 6. Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty*

*(1)A public authority must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.'*

The actions set out in the Forward Plan are linked to the Council's Well-being Objectives (WBO10) and target dates for delivery of each action and the posts responsible are identified. Actions have been set out so as to be easily added to the relevant departmental business plans 2021/2022.

The Plan covers the period January 2020 to December 2022.

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: 

Rhodri 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>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 2. Legal

The delivery of the Environment Act Forward Plan 2020 – 2023 is consistent with the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty placed on all public bodies in Wales under the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. Delivery of the actions set out in the Report evidences the Council's commitment to fulfilling this duty and its compliance with this Act. It is also consistent with its responsibilities under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and in particular the Resilient Wales goal.

## 3. Finance

While the action plan identifies actions that will result in costs, these costs will be met by the budgets linked to these projects e.g., in Section 5 of the report all the site management works proposed are covered by existing budgets and grant aid. In both Section 6 Caeau Mynydd Mawr project and Section 7 Delivering Biodiversity on Development sites, all the actions proposed will be delivered via S106 agreements funded by developers.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

Failure to publish and deliver its Environment Act Forward Plan 2020-2023 places a reputational risk on the Council. It also risks its compliance with its S6 Biodiversity Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and fulfilling its legal duty.

## 6. Physical Assets

Delivery of the Environment Act Forward Plan will have an impact on how the Council manages some of the assets for which it is responsible e.g., Action 7.3 - the management of Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park will change as areas of scrub development is reverted to open mosaic habitats.

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:



Rhodri Griffiths    Head of Place and Sustainability

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

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**  
YES

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen is happy with content of the report and looks forward to the preparation of the Council's next Environment Act Forward Plan (Jan 2023- Dec 2025). Working with the new Advisory Panel, CCC will look to ways to address the Nature Emergency and opportunities for nature-based solutions that will provide for climate adaptation and mitigation.

## 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
<b>Carmarthenshire County Council Forward Plan for Environment Act (Wales) 2016</b> This is the previous 3year plan and provides additional background	N/A	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1218908/ccc-env-act-forward-plan.pdf?v=202001071151140000">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1218908/ccc-env-act-forward-plan.pdf?v=202001071151140000</a>
<b>Carmarthenshire County Council Environment Act Forward Plan Feb 2019 - Departmental Actions</b> These are the actions that were carried out in the first 3year plan	N/A	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1218907/ccc-env-act-forward-plan-actions-feb-2019.pdf?v=201906141427150000">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1218907/ccc-env-act-forward-plan-actions-feb-2019.pdf?v=201906141427150000</a>