



## **REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD**

*Immediately Following Scrutiny Committee on  
FRIDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2017*

**COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE**

### **PART 1**

1. Appointment of Chairperson
2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members.
3. Minutes of the previous Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board held on 27 October, 2017  
(Pages 5 - 10)
4. Minutes of the previous Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee held on 19 October, 2017 (Pages 11 - 18)

### **To receive the Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection**

5. Biodiversity Duty Plan (Pages 19 - 86)
6. Sky Lantern and Balloon Policy (Pages 87 - 92)

### **To receive the Joint Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection, the Head of Property and Regeneration and the Head of Commissioning and Support Services**

7. Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring (Pages 93 - 112)
8. Forward Work Programme 2017/18 (Pages 113 - 116)

9. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290 (as amended).
10. Access to Meetings - to resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4(3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

## **PART 2**

### **To receive the Private Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration**

11. Arwelfa Care Home (Exempt under Paragraph 14)  
*(Pages 117 - 120)*
12. Dan Y Bryn Care Home (Exempt under Paragraph 14)  
*(Pages 121 - 124)*
13. Land at Empire Avenue (Exempt under Paragraph 14)  
*(Pages 125 - 130)*
14. Gwaun Cae Gurwen School House (Exempt under Paragraph 14)  
*(Pages 131 - 134)*
15. Min Yr Afon Care Home (Exempt under Paragraph 14)  
*(Pages 135 - 138)*
16. Former Crown Foods, Carnaud Metal Box  
(Exempt under Paragraph 14) *(Pages 139 - 146)*
17. Neath Town Centre Redevelopment - Update  
(Exempt under Paragraphs 14 & 16) *(Pages 147 - 154)*

### **To receive the Private Joint Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration and the Head of Engineering and Transport**

18. Port Talbot Peripheral Distributor Road, Phase 2 (Exempt under Paragraph 14) *(Pages 155 - 158)*

**To receive the Private Joint Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration and the Head of Transformation**

19. Cwmllynfell Welfare Hall, Gwylim Road, Cwmllynfell, Pontardawe  
(Exempt under Paragraphs 14 & 16) (Pages 159 - 166)

**To receive the Private Joint Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration and the Head of Streetcare**

20. Civic Maintenance (Exempt under Paragraph 14)  
(Pages 167 - 172)

**S.Phillips**  
**Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre**  
**Port Talbot**

**30 November, 2017**

**Cabinet Board Members:**

**Councillors:** D.W.Davies and A.Wingrave

**Notes:**

- (1) *If any Cabinet Board Member is unable to attend, any other Cabinet Member may substitute as a voting Member on the Committee. Members are asked to make these arrangements direct and then to advise the committee Section.*
- (2) *The views of the earlier Scrutiny Committee are to be taken into account in arriving at decisions (pre decision scrutiny process).*

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## EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET BOARD - 27 OCTOBER, 2017

### REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

#### **Cabinet Board Members:**

Councillors: D.W.Davies and A.Wingrave (Chairperson)

#### **Officers in Attendance:**

S.Brennan, Mrs.N.Pearce and T.Davies

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#### 1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor A.Wingrave be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

#### 2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER, 2017**

Noted by the Committee.

#### 3. **PREVENT PLAN**

##### **Decisions:**

1. That the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be given authority to implement the Venue Policy for Neath Port Talbot buildings necessary to secure compliance by the local authority with s29 section E paragraph 45 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and associated statutory guidance issued by the Home Secretary in relation thereto;
2. That the Neath Port Talbot Prevent Action Plan be supported.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To provide the relevant officers with the delegated authority to implement the Council's venue hire policy and implement the requirement set out in Statutory guidance to have such a policy in place.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

4. **NEATH FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL 2017**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

5. **PRIMARY AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Decisions:**

1. That the Head of Planning and Public Protection be granted delegated authority to enter into any Primary Authority arrangements with organisations that meet the necessary criteria for entering such arrangements;
2. That the Head of Planning and Public Protection be designated to be the representative of this Authority for the purposes of the Primary Authority arrangement and to carry out on behalf of the Council all the delegated powers of such a Representative;
3. That the Head of Planning and Public Protection be authorised to appoint an alternate or deputy for the purposes of the Primary Authority arrangement.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To provide assured advice, promote consistency and to encourage business confidence within Neath Port Talbot, whilst also accessing a means of cost recovery for time spent with the business by the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Department.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

6. **PLANNING PERFORMANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017**

**Decision:**

That the Planning Performance Annual Report 2016-17 be formally submitted to the Welsh Government and also published on the Council's website.

**Reason for Decision:**

To comply with the requirements of the Welsh Government whereby each Local Planning Authority in Wales is required to produce, submit and publish an Annual Planning Performance Report by the 31 October 2017.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

7. **FOOD AND FEED SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2017-18 AND ENFORCEMENT REVIEW 2016-17**

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

8. **INTEGRATED NETWORK MAP - ACTIVE TRAVEL**

**Decisions:**

1. That the four additional Existing Route Maps routes presented at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be agreed and authorisation be given to submit to the Welsh Government for approval;

2. That the responses and recommendations to the representations received, as set out at Appendix 2 to the circulated report, be agreed;
3. That the Integrated Network Map presented at Appendix 3 to the circulated report be agreed, and authorisation be given to submit to the Welsh Government for approval.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

This item has been subject to external consultation.

9. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

**Decisions:**

1. That the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report as presented at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be noted;
2. That the submission and publication procedures, as set out in the circulated report, be implemented.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.



10. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

**Decision:**

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

11. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That pursuant to Regulation 4(3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

12. **WORKWAYS +**

**Decision:**

That the Offer of Grant from the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) in relation to the Workways+ project as detailed at Appendix 1 to the private circulated report, be accepted, and that the Neath Port Talbot Delivery Team be supported with match funding, as detailed in the private circulated report.

**Reason for Decision:**

To enable the Workways+ project to continue delivery in accordance with the business plan and WEFO Grant Offer letter.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

13. **DELEGATED POWER 2017**

**Decision:**

That the private report be noted.

14. **FORMER AFAN LIDO PROCUREMENT**

**Decision:**

That subject to the successful tenderer referenced in the private report passing the assessment set out in the tender exercise for the sale and development of the former Afan Lido site, delegated authority be granted to the Head of Property and Regeneration to award the tender to the successful tenderer and enter into a development agreement with the successful tenderer and any other documentation required as part of the development agreement.

**Reason for Decision:**

To enable the sale of a surplus property and attain a capital receipt, and to ensure the Authority complies with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

**Consultation:**

The Local Ward Members have been consulted on this item.

15. **PRIVATE URGENCY ACTION - 1385**

**Decision:**

That the following private urgency action taken by the Head of Property and Regeneration in consultation with the requisite Members, be noted:-

Officer Urgency Action No 1385 re: Proposed Acquisition of the property formerly known as Neath County Court, Forster Road, Neath, SA11 3BN.

**CHAIRPERSON**

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**19 October 2017**

**Chairperson:** Councillor S.K.Hunt

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor L.Jones

**Councillors:** D.M.Peters, A.J.Richards, O.S.Davies and R.W.Wood

**Officers In Attendance** Miss.C.Davies, J. Davies, Mrs.K.Jones, P.Lewis, Mrs.N.Pearce and M. Thomas

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors D.W.Davies and A.Wingrave

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1. **TO RESOLVE TO ACT AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN LINE WITH SECTION 19 OF THE POLICE AND JUSTICE ACT 2006**

Members resolved to act as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE 27 JULY 2017**

Members noted the minutes from the previous meeting.

3. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

Members noted the scrutiny forward programme for 2017/18.

4. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – PRESENTATION BY INSPECTOR DECLAN CAHILL / PAUL LEWIS**

Inspector Declan Cahill from South Wales Police gave a presentation to Members on Operation Grey Denver, which highlighted the partnership work that had been undertaken to tackle anti-social behaviour within the county borough. Inspector Cahill reported that between July and September 18 individuals had been identified in

Neath town centre as engaging in anti-social behaviour, and 12 in Port Talbot town centre. Where relevant, information regarding these individuals were shared with Housing Options and the Welsh Centre for Action on Dependency and Addiction (WCADA) to offer support.

Inspector Cahill listed the various locations where anti-social behaviour had frequently occurred. The areas that were identified were Victoria Gardens and Angel Square in Neath where instances of substance misuse had taken place, the Neath and Port Talbot town centre areas for begging, and the train stations in Neath and Port Talbot for begging and substance misuse incidents. Inspector Cahill informed Members of the preventative steps taken when attempting to tackle anti-social behaviour, such as intelligence and information sharing with 40 local businesses, effective CCTV analysis, and the presence of police officers, police community support officers and town rangers in various locations. Inspector Cahill added that maintaining the current level of police presence in the town centres was becoming challenging due to financial constraints.

Inspector Cahill informed Members that there had been reports of individuals begging in the town centres that were not considered destitute, and as a result could be committing fraudulent acts. Inspector Cahill continued by stating that it was difficult to prove if somebody was begging as it required a robust evidence base. Inspector Cahill added that the police would be unable to charge anybody who did not directly ask for money e.g. individuals sitting silently with receptacles for citizens to place money into. Members enquired whether a beggar could be charged if they were proven to be fraudulent and were witnessed by police requesting money from the public. Inspector Cahill confirmed that in this case they could be charged.

Inspector Cahill informed Members of the work that had been undertaken during Neath September Fair to address underage drinking. Inspector Cahill stated that police officers visited off licences in the town to ensure that they complied with licensing laws and found that there were no issues to report. Inspector Cahill informed the committee that despite numerous comments regarding anti-social behaviour on social media sites during Neath September Fair, the police only received one reported incident. Inspector Cahill added that the police were unable to act on comments made on social media and instead needed citizens to report incidents directly to the police. Inspector Cahill informed Members that South Wales Police were intending to purchase software in the near future that would allow citizens to report incidents via a mobile phone application.

Details of any incidents reported via this channel would then be received directly by police officers on patrol.

Inspector Cahill acknowledged that the 101 service for reporting crime had missed targets for answering calls, but 94.3% of those who used the service were satisfied with the experience. Inspector Cahill invited Members to visit the public service centre where the 101 calls were taken, and also offered Members the opportunity to join police officers on street patrols.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Case Co-ordinator for the council gave a presentation to Members on the function of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and its processes. The officer gave an overview of the unit's structure which is part of the Community Safety Team based in Neath Police Station, and resourced by staff from South Wales Police, Tai Tarian and the council.

The officer explained the role and purpose of the unit, which included the monitoring of reported incidents and the receipt of referrals. The officer stated that most referrals were received from South Wales Police, although a small quantity were also received directly by the unit itself and from other channels such as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).

The officer informed Members that the unit utilised software called ASBIT which identified anti-social behaviour "hot spots", repeat victims and provided an instant report which forecasted which streets were likely to encounter issues on certain days of the week based on historic information and trends. The officer added that the software could potentially be used as a management tool to ensure police officers on patrol were completing visits to properties and areas that they were called to.

The officer stated that the unit worked with other agencies to try to signpost individuals to relevant support services as a preventative step. The officer added that charging individuals for offences was a last resort and only done if necessary. The officer stated that there were various orders and notices to deal with anti-social behaviour such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's), Injunctions, Criminal Behaviour Orders (ASBO's), Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) and Community Protection Orders. The officer informed Members that the team had regular multi agency meetings to discuss local issues.

Members acknowledged the good work and efforts made by South Wales Police and the Community Safety Team when dealing with anti-social behaviour in the county borough. Members enquired

whether any work had been undertaken to identify where homeless individuals within the county borough had originated from. Inspector Cahill stated that the vast majority were from the area and that there were only two recent cases from outside the area. Officers added that one individual had come from Cardiff as a result of an ASBO that was then extended to Neath and Port Talbot, and another individual had come from the Swansea area. Officers confirmed that both had moved on.

Members queried the course of action that would be taken if a business contravened licensing laws by selling alcohol to individuals under the age of 18. Inspector Cahill stated that the Police would monitor the premises and return 24 hours after the first incident to check that the business was complying with licencing laws. Inspector Cahill continued by confirming that if they were found to have breached licencing laws on three separate occasions the police would give a recommendation to the council to close the premises.

Members acknowledged that the majority of homeless people in the area were between 30-50 years of age, and queried whether the reason for this was because younger people were being identified at an earlier stage and sign posted to the relevant support services. Inspector Cahill stated that it was not clear why.

Members queried whether there were any schemes in force in other parts of the county borough similar to the drinking ban in Victoria Gardens. Officers confirmed that there were public orders in force in other areas and they were due to be reviewed. Officers added that orders were only put in place when absolutely necessary, as each order required a consultation with residents and resources to enforce the orders. Officers continued by clarifying that the orders would be reviewed at multi agency meetings.

Members acknowledged that the current approach for dealing with anti-social behaviour was an example of good partnership working. Members added that a lot of work was being carried out that was not always seen by the public.

Officers made Members aware of an event being held by Superintendent Martin Jones regarding anti-social behaviour in Neath Town Centre. Officers added that Superintendent Martin Jones was keen to talk to Members regarding the issues that had been encountered.

Members discussed the possibility of reviewing the instances of anti-social behaviour that had occurred during Halloween, Bonfire Night and the Christmas period at the next committee meeting in January.

This would provide Members with an opportunity to look at what had taken place during this period and what had been done to address any issues.

Members queried whether any lessons could be learnt from the policing practices in the Swansea area when dealing with bars and clubs. Members reported that in Pontardawe some bars and clubs closed at three o'clock in the morning, resulting in people still wandering the streets at five o'clock in the morning, which was causing frustration amongst residents who were complaining about noise and disturbances. Members added that Pontardawe was being affected disproportionately as it was mainly a residential area. Members enquired whether the licenses granted to bars and clubs in Swansea differed to those granted in Neath Port Talbot. Inspector Cahill stated that the licenses granted in Swansea were the same as for Neath Port Talbot, as they were subject to the same licensing laws.

Members raised concerns that the 101 service was being underutilised particularly when reporting incidents in the Neath Town Centre. Members felt that the current statistics on reported crimes were not a true reflection of the problems being encountered. Members stated that there were incidents that the police were unaware of that were being shared on social media but not reported to the police. Members stated that they were urging residents to report crimes and obtain crime reference numbers. Members reported that businesses in the Neath Town Centre were concerned with the negative impact that anti-social behaviour was having on their trade. Members raised concerns regarding individuals who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal substances and were congregating in Victoria Gardens near the playground. Inspector Royston Portlock requested for Members to sign post residents to the 101 service. Inspector Cahill added that Members could also forward any reports of incidents directly to Inspector Cahill and Inspector Ward, stating the time and date the incident was reported. Inspector Cahill reiterated that social media was not the correct channel for reporting crime. Members queried whether there were any data protection considerations when forwarding reported incidents from the public on to the police. Inspector Cahill stated that consent must be obtained before passing the information on to the police.

The committee made a recommendation to the representatives of South Wales Police to develop a clear and accessible method of

incident reporting and information sharing that met the needs of the public and businesses.

The committee also made a recommendation to the representatives of South Wales Police to develop an effective means of providing timely updates to inform the public and businesses of progress being made.

## 5. **PREVENT PLAN**

Officers updated Members on the new legal duties and responsibilities placed on the local authority to prevent people from being drawn into extremist activities following the introduction of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Officers informed Members of the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST, which had four elements; pursue, prevent, protect and prepare. Officers informed Members of the Council's participation on the Western Bay CONTEST Board which aimed to prevent extremism threats. Officers reported that 800 members of staff and councillors from the current and previous administration had attended the Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training which highlighted potential signs to look out for if somebody was being drawn into extremist activity. Officers added that there were eight accredited trainers in place to deliver the WRAP training, and the next phase of the training would be carried out in the schools.

Officers presented the Prevent action plan to Members which outlined the work completed to date and the work to be undertaken next to deal with extremism and terrorist threats. Officers stated that the work was being carried out by the local multi agency Prevent action group. Officers reported positive feedback following a peer review and added that Neath Port Talbot were the first group in the UK to have the review. The review confirmed that the action group's approach was correct. Members noted the Prevent action plan.

Officers stated that they were seeking endorsement from the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board for delegated authority to be passed to relevant officers to implement the Venue Hire Policy. Officers informed Members that the policy would place responsibility on officers who take venue hire bookings to be vigilant and to take the relevant course of action if an enquiry raised suspicion. Members stated that it was important for town and community councils to be aware of the Venue Hire Policy. Members were supportive of the proposal to be considered by Cabinet Board.



## 6. **FOOD AND FEED LAW ENFORCEMENT PERFORMANCE**

Officers informed Members of their intention to inspect 100% of the premises for 2017-18. Officers reported that in 2016-17 the department did not achieve 100% inspections on premises classified as category D and E. Officers stated that the Food Standard Agency (FSA) were notified of this, and resources had been re-distributed in order to ensure that the target was met in 2017-18. Officers informed Members that they were considering charging new businesses for advice and coaching from the team. This service had been provided free of charge previously.

Members queried whether businesses were still fined if a food item was found out of date during an inspection. Officers stated that any businesses using items found to be passed their use by date would be committing an offence and would be dealt with accordingly. Officers added that businesses found to be using items that had exceeded their best before date would be advised that it was not good practice. Members queried whether the council received the money generated from the fines. Officers confirmed that the Home Office received the money from the fines. Officers added that if a business is taken to court and found guilty, the council will be reimbursed for the time spent on the case by the Trading Standards Officer and Legal Officer.

Members enquired whether there was information available which explained why a business had received a certain hygiene star rating. Officers informed Members that this information could be obtained on the FSA website.

Members queried whether it was a legal requirement for businesses to display the hygiene rating at all times. Officers stated that it was a legal requirement; however some businesses had been known to display incorrect hygiene ratings. Members enquired whether officers carried out unplanned visits to business premises. Officers confirmed that unplanned visits were carried out especially if complaints were received regarding a particular business premises.

Members queried whether new businesses were automatically inspected or did they need to submit an application to receive the inspection. Officers confirmed that the onus was on the new businesses to apply for their initial inspection.

Members acknowledged the good working carried out by the section. Members noted the report on Food And Feed Service Delivery Plan

2017-2018 And The Food And Feed Law Enforcement Review 2016-2017.

**CHAIRPERSON**

## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Regeneration & Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

Nicola Pearce

#### Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Consideration of the draft Biodiversity Duty Plan as required by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016; and the adoption / publication procedures to be implemented.**

#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the draft Biodiversity Duty Plan as required by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016; and the adoption / publication procedures to be implemented.

#### Executive Summary

- 2 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduces a duty (the S6 Duty) on public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity, thereby promoting the resilience of ecosystems, in the exercise of its functions.
- 3 The S6 Duty requires formal demonstration of compliance. The Council is therefore required by the Act to prepare and publish a plan setting out how it intends to comply with the duty.
- 4 This report therefore seeks endorsement of the Biodiversity Duty Plan and the adoption and publication procedures to be implemented.

#### Background

- 5 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduces a duty (the S6 Duty) on public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity, thereby

promoting the resilience of ecosystems, in the exercise of its functions.

- 6 This is a new and enhanced duty for public authorities and replaces the previous biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- 7 The S6 Duty requires formal demonstration of compliance. The Council is therefore required by the Act to prepare and publish a plan setting out how it intends to comply with the Duty.
- 8 Following the publishing of the Plan, the Act further requires that before the end of 2019, and every third year thereafter, all public authorities must publish a report on what they have done to comply with the S6 Duty.

### **NPTCBC Biodiversity Duty Plan**

- 9 The Biodiversity Duty Plan is presented in full in **Appendix 1**.
- 10 The Plan has been prepared by the Countryside and Wildlife Team, in consultation with departments across the Council. The document outlines actions already being undertaken by the Council and further actions that will be undertaken to ensure compliance with the Duty.
- 11 The Plan focuses on evaluating our existing work practices and assimilating the new statutory duty into wider Council functions. This will result in a more joined-up approach between services, fulfilling both the Environment (Wales) Act requirements and the sustainability ethos embedded in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- 12 Following Welsh Government guidance, the actions assigned to the Plan have been drawn up in line with the objectives of the Welsh Government's Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) for Wales.
- 13 The NRP, sets out the objectives needed in Wales to deliver its ambition to reverse the decline in biodiversity. It also sets out the actions needed to contribute to these objectives, which, where relevant to the Council, have been incorporated into the Plan.

- 14 The 6 objectives incorporated into the draft Plan, include requirements such as embedding biodiversity into decision making at all levels; managing and enhancing our habitats; improving our understanding and monitoring of biodiversity; and putting in place a framework for delivery.
- 15 Advice and guidance on implementation of the Duty, and reporting against the Plan, will be undertaken by the Countryside and Wildlife Team.
- 16 At each reporting round, a review of the Plan will be undertaken. The monitoring report and any changes to the Plan will be presented to Cabinet Board for further consideration.

### **Adoption and Publication Procedures**

- 17 Once approved, the Biodiversity Duty Plan will be made available on the Council's website and hard copies of the documentation will be made available for public inspection on request. In accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Standards Policy, the document will be made available in Welsh.
- 18 Hard copies of the Plan will also be available for purchase at a reasonable charge. In common with previous practice, it is suggested that the price be based on the cost of printing together with post and package at the prevailing cost. Electronic copies will be made available at no cost.

### **Consultation**

- 19 The Plan has been the subject of internal consultation and its final form reflects the outcome of that process.
- 20 There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

### **Financial Implications**

- 21 Given there is no additional funding being made available for the implementation of this Duty, the actions assigned to the Plan are intended to be achievable within current budgets, with a focus on making changes to work practices that can be achieved without placing a financial burden on the Council.

- 22 Improvement works requiring additional resources are intended to be delivered through the use of external grants or partnership working.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 23 In order to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Exercise has been carried out. The Screening Exercise concluded that there is no requirement to carry out an additional separate exercise.

### **Workforce Impacts**

- 24 There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

### **Legal Impacts**

- 25 There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

### **Risk Management**

- 26 The Council will be in breach of its requirement to prepare and publish a Biodiversity Duty Plan should there be a failure to implement the proposed recommendations, and as such will be in breach of its statutory duties.

### **Recommendation**

- 27 That having considered the report, it is resolved to make the following recommendation for approval:
1. The Biodiversity Duty Plan as presented in **Appendix 1** be agreed.
  2. The adoption and publication procedures as set out in the report are implemented.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

- 28 The recommendations are needed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

### **Implementation of Decision**

- 29 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **Appendices**

- 30 Appendix 1 – NPT CBC Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Biodiversity Duty Plan

## **List of Background Papers**

- 31 Environment (Wales) Act 2016.  
32 Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.  
33 Nature Recovery Plan for Wales 2015.

## **Officer Contact**

- 34 Ceri Morris – Planning Policy Manager [Tel: 01639 686320 / E-mail: [c.morris1@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.morris1@npt.gov.uk)]  
35 Catrin Evans – Countryside and Wildlife Team Leader [Tel: 01639 686056 / E-mail: [c.a.evans@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.a.evans@npt.gov.uk)]

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Neath Port Talbot CBC – Biodiversity Duty Plan**





# Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Environment (Wales) Act 2016—Biodiversity Duty Plan

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) has a legal duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. This plan demonstrates how we will fulfil that duty and will act as a driver for conservation activities throughout Neath Port Talbot (NPT).

There is a long tradition of environmental conservation in NPT with many groups involved. Whilst the Authority will still work with these groups, including facilitating the NPT Nature Partnership, this plan sets out what we, as an Authority, will be doing to meet this legal duty.

Over the last two years, the Welsh Government has introduced a number of new legislative requirements for public bodies and local authorities to comply with, which will change the way we plan and deliver services, putting sustainable development principles at the heart of all public bodies' decision making. The NPTCBC Corporate Plan 2017-2022 recognises this requirement for change and the preparatory work needed to ensure we discharge our statutory duties. The Biodiversity Duty Plan not only delivers our statutory duties with regards to biodiversity but also explains how, through meeting the Biodiversity Duty, we are delivering well-being objectives and the ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The plan can be revised at any time but must be formally reported on by the end of 2019 and every 3 years thereafter.



# INTRODUCTION

This plan has been published as part of the Authority's legal obligation, as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 "the Act". All public bodies must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. The Authority is required to prepare and publish a plan on how they intend to comply with this; the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty.

In this plan the Authority will:

- Outline what natural resources NPT has, why they are so special and some of the activities already underway to protect them
- Explain the legislative background to this plan and the multiple benefits resulting from the proposed actions
- Set out how the plan works and the mechanisms for delivery
- Give detailed actions to be achieved, with milestones for reporting

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# NATURAL RESOURCES IN NPT

Neath Port Talbot has traditionally been associated with heavy industry and mining communities; however this doesn't do justice to the incredible variety and quality of biodiversity that exists here. Our underlying geology, the geography and hydrology of the county borough allow many important ecosystem services to work and improve our lives. Some examples:

- Peatland and bogs – peat soils capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide which can be held in the soil permanently when the soil is in good condition.
- Saltmarsh on the coast – helps dissipate wave action and high tides to prevent flooding and erosion.
- Floodplains in the valleys – help dissipate water at high rainfall preventing flooding downriver.
- Species rich grasslands – provide essential habitat and connectivity for pollinators and food for livestock.
- Woodlands – help clean the air of pollutants, flood alleviation, reducing the heat island effect in urban environments, provide oxygen and timber products.

The varied habitats also bring job opportunities, particularly in the tourism sector where Neath Port Talbot is well known for its waterfalls, country parks, seafront and recreational activities such as glamping and mountain biking. The accessibility of these resources throughout the county borough provides opportunities to improve health and well-being, for example through walking and other outdoor activities.

There are a number of sites within Neath Port Talbot that have been designated for nature conservation including local, national and international designations<sup>1</sup>. These special habitats support some unique wildlife assemblages and nationally important species such as Honey buzzards, Great crested newt and the Fen raft spider. Even our brownfield sites support nationally important numbers of breeding Lapwing.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.npt.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4147>

# DEFINITIONS

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources are defined in the Act as:

- a) *Animals, plants and other organisms.*
- b) *Air, water and soil.*
- c) *Minerals.*
- d) *Geological features and processes.*
- e) *Physiographical features.*
- f) *Climatic features and processes.*

Individually and in combination these components provide benefits for us. As Human beings we are an element of these things and rely on them. Together they provide us with ecosystem services that enable us to live and prosper.

**Biodiversity** is defined in the Environment (Wales) 2016 Act as:

*“the diversity of living organisms, whether at the genetic, species or ecosystem level”*

Biodiversity drives the functioning and resilience of our ecosystems.<sup>2</sup>



The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defined **ecosystems** as:

*“a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organisms and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit”*<sup>3</sup>

The CBD describes the **ecosystem approach** as:

*“a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”*<sup>4</sup>

This is widely recognised as international best practice for addressing the decline in biodiversity



## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

**Supporting** – underpins all other services and includes nutrient cycling, soil formation and primary production

**Provisioning** – all our food, fresh water, wood and fibre, fuel

**Regulating** – cleaning air and water, flood control, carbon sequestration

**Cultural** – aesthetic, spiritual, educational, recreational

<sup>2</sup> <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/environment-act/?lang=en> <sup>3/4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem>

# LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

## ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act became law on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016. It puts in place legislation to enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined up manner and to establish the legislative framework necessary to tackle climate change. The Act supports the Welsh Government's wider remit under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, so that Wales benefits from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities.

Specifically, the Act places an enhanced biodiversity duty on public authorities (see appendix A).

Sct. 6(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 is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

The intention of this duty is to ensure biodiversity becomes an integral part of decision making in public authorities. The duty came into force in May 2016. As no further resources are available to deliver this legislation, the focus of the Plan will be to introduce changes in work practices that deliver change for biodiversity, without placing undue financial burden on the Authority.

Unlike the previous duty provision the new duty requires formal demonstration of compliance. The Authority is, therefore, required by the Act to prepare and publish a plan setting out how it intends to comply with the duty. Furthermore, by the end of 2019 the Authority is required to publish a report on what it has done to comply with the duty; this must then be reported every 3 years. If a public authority fails to meet its obligations under the Act it could ultimately be subject to judicial review and there is the potential for the Welsh Ministers to issue directions to a public body under Section 10 of the Act.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are required by the Act to publish a State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) setting out the current status of natural resources in Wales. The Authority is required to have regard to the findings of this report in exercising its functions. NRW also have a requirement to prepare and publish Area Statements, for the areas of Wales that it considers appropriate for the purpose of facilitating the national natural resources policy. Public bodies must provide information and assistance to NRW in preparing/delivering SoNaRR and Area Statements.

## WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (“the WCFG Act”) is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It sets out new ways of working that ensure all elements of well-being are considered together, and to facilitate collaborative working.

The WCFG Act places a duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development. This is defined as a process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. This is done by taking action in accordance with the sustainable development principle so that the well-being goals are achieved.

There are 7 well-being goals that have been identified by the WCFG Act (see appendix B). To meet statutory requirements contained within the Act, the Authority has recently published its Corporate Plan for the period 2017-2022, which contains 3 well-being objectives. For each of these objectives, steps have been identified to improve the well-being of people living in Neath Port Talbot with a particular focus, under the 3rd objective, on the contribution of the natural environment to improving people’s well-being. While this plan contributes to all of the goals set out in the legislation, compliance with the plan can, in particular, be used to demonstrate how the Authority is contributing to the A Resilient Wales goal.





## *Sustainable Development Principle*

The WCFG Act sets out 5 ways of working, that public bodies must adhere to in order to demonstrate how they are meeting their duty (see appendix C). Any plan / project must now demonstrate that they are following these ways of working.

These are set out below with an explanation of how this plan meets each one.

Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Through this plan the identification of areas for long term management and changes to policy will allow the safeguarding of long term needs of the people of NPT.</li><li>• The Development Management process allows us to ensure long term management of sites with mechanisms for enhancement.</li><li>• This plan is the starting point for identifying further improvements to the way we manage our land and resources which will have a long term benefit.</li></ul>
Integration	<p>NPTCBC have set and published our well-being objectives. It is envisaged that this plan will form a key part of the delivery of these objectives, and in maximising the Authority's contribution to the Well-being Goals.</p>
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Through supporting the NPT Nature Partnership, this plan allows engagement with residents of NPT in making decisions on the nature conservation priorities of the county borough.</li><li>• An internal consultation process was undertaken as part of this Plan's development. Early involvement and engagement will be sought for the next stage of the Plan.</li></ul>
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By assessing the policies and working practices of different service areas of the Authority we will identify further ways of working together.</li><li>• Through the Area Statements we will work with NRW and other partners to deliver actions on the ground.</li><li>• Supporting the NPT Nature Partnership will allow us to work in collaboration with a wide range of partners, particularly non-government organisations and community groups.</li></ul>
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early collaboration between service areas will help identify potential issues and allow them to be addressed at an early stage.</li><li>• Working with the NPT Nature Partnership provides an opportunity for us to benefit from expertise outside the Authority, to allow us to identify issues at an early stage before they escalate.</li><li>• SoNaRR will be used to identify issues within NPTCBC and to address them appropriately.</li></ul>

## NATURE RECOVERY PLAN FOR WALES

The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales (2015) (“NRP”) recognises the importance of biodiversity as underpinning healthy functioning ecosystems, human well-being and the economy. The NRP builds on the new legislative frameworks set out above and identifies how, in Wales, we can address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. Specifically by:

- Putting nature at the heart of decision making
- Increasing the resilience of our natural environment
- Taking specific action for habitats and species

It sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt the decline in our biodiversity by 2020 and then reverse that decline. The ambition of the plan is: *To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society.*

Part 1 of the NRP sets out the objectives needed in Wales to achieve the ambition. The objectives are set out below with full details in Appendix D

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NRP Objectives	
1	Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
2	Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
3	Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
4	Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
5	Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
6	Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

Part 2 of the NRP sets out an action plan. A number of actions are allocated to Local Authorities as key partners for delivery.

# THE NPTCBC BIODIVERSITY DUTY PLAN

This plan has been produced to fulfil NPTCBC's legal obligation, as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. All public bodies must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. The Authority is required to prepare and publish a plan on how it intends to comply with this; the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty.

Whilst the Welsh Government guidance on this plan has not been finalised, we are informed that the guidance will recommend that public authorities adopt and apply the NRP objectives in their plans. Therefore, the actions have been drawn up in line with those objectives. The actions allocated to the Authority in the NRP are incorporated into this plan.

## Key Features of the NPT Biodiversity Duty Plan:

- The first 12 months of this plan will largely consist of auditing our current practices and biodiversity resource. At the 2019 reporting stage, or earlier where appropriate, a revised plan will be produced to take forward actions to maintain and enhance biodiversity following the outcomes of the audits. The findings of SoNaRR will be taken into account as part of this process.
- All proposed actions will be reported on in 2019. as required by the Act.
- Where there are fundamental changes to terminology, or advancements in our understanding of ecosystems, this plan may be updated to reflect those changes.
- Whilst this is an Authority wide plan, the Countryside and Wildlife Team will coordinate the plan and be responsible for reporting on it.
- The plan applies to both terrestrial and marine equally.

The **Biodiversity Duty Actions** set out specifically what the Authority intends to do to meet its legal requirements. The actions are organised into the most appropriate NRP Objective, with recognition of other objectives they contribute towards in the coloured table below each action. The ways of reporting and first two year milestones are also set out against each action. The actions currently being undertaken by the Authority in order to comply with the previous biodiversity duty have been incorporated into the plan.

Current actions are titled in **Blue** and future actions in **Green**.

C&WT = Countryside and Wildlife Team

NRP Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels



## 1.1 BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY SERVICE

NPTCBC currently consider biodiversity in a wide range of functions, specifically through implementing the policies of the Local Development Plan when making decisions through the development management process

Reporting	C&WT Planning spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	Meet with development management to ensure recommendations are in an appropriate format and update on the latest legislation/policy/regulations
Milestone year 2	Continue to liaise with development management to ensure recommendations are in an appropriate format and update on the latest legislation/policy/regulations

## 1.2 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The NPT Natural Resources Management working group has been set up to consider opportunities to deliver sustainable natural resource management through the functions of the Environment Directorate

Reporting	Attendance at regular meetings
Milestone year 1	In line with the requirements of the group
Milestone year 2	In line with the requirements of the group

## 1.3 SERVICE ASSESSMENT

All services to be risk assessed to determine their potential impact on biodiversity and opportunities for best practice. Training provided as appropriate

Reporting	Standard reports by the C&WT for each service
Milestone year 1	Programme of assessment to be drawn up by C&WT. Assessments started.
Milestone year 2	Assessments progressing and actions put forward for the next stage of the plan

## 1.4 C&WT EARLY ENGAGEMENT

The C&WT will identify service areas and set up regular meetings as appropriate, to discuss work plans and identify early issues/opportunities for biodiversity/ecosystem enhancements

Reporting	Attendance at regular meetings
Milestone year 1	Programme of meetings to be agreed. Meetings started
Milestone year 2	Meetings continuing





## 1.5 DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Biodiversity will be integrated into the impact assessment toolkit being developed as part of the Council's decision making process.

Reporting	Standard section in reports
Milestone year 1	Proposals put forward for inclusion in the toolkit.
Milestone year 2	All committee reports to contain a report on outcomes of the impact assessment.

## 1.6 TRAINING

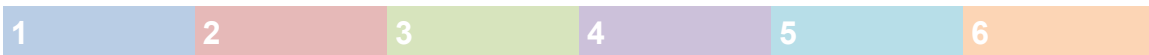
Integrate biodiversity into any Elected Member or officer training being delivered as part of the Well-being and Future Generations Act, 2015.

Reporting	In line with well-being objectives. Training provided
Milestone year 1	Agreement made to include biodiversity in training material being developed.
Milestone year 2	Biodiversity integrated into the training programme.

## 1.7 BIODIVERSITY SPG

Prepare, adopt and implement the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance in line with LDP policies

Reporting	SPG written
Milestone year 1	SPG draft June 2017
Milestone year 2	Implement SPG



## 1.8 WELL-BEING PROCESS

A healthy, functioning ecosystem is a vital component of our well-being, and the principles of the Biodiversity Plan will need to be integrated into the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015. Ensure that actions taken to deliver the Biodiversity Duty are part of the Council's Well-being objectives.

Reporting	Via Well-being objectives
Milestone year 1	TBC from Well-being objectives
Milestone year 2	TBC from Well-being objectives

NRP Objectives **1**

**3** **4**

**6**

## NRP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

### NPTCBC Actions

2.1 RE-VISIT CURRENT SCHEMES

2.2 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

2.3 WG ESD LA GRANT

2.4 WORKING WITH NATURE

2.5 NPT NATURE PARTNERSHIP

2.6 AWARENESS RAISING

2.7 BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

2.8 NATIONAL GUIDANCE

2.9 FUNDING

CURRENT ACTION

FUTURE ACTION

## 2.1 RE-VISIT CURRENT SCHEMES

Through a series of previous projects, including Conservation Areas and Verges, other service areas are aware of the importance of biodiversity. C&WT are reviewing these projects to assess their effectiveness, and if relevant, will seek amendments to existing schemes.

Reporting	Review report
Milestone year 1	The review will be complete
Milestone year 2	If necessary, an amended scheme will be put in place, incorporating the Local Authority land under management for biodiversity

NRP Objectives 1 2

5 6

## 2.2 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

NPTCBC currently consider biodiversity (including species and habitats of principal importance, designated sites, sites of importance for nature conservation (SINC), habitats and species that meet the SINC criteria, and important natural features) through the development management process, in line with the Local Development Plan. Losses of protected/priority habitat/species (where known) are recorded

Reporting	C&WT planning spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	No net loss and, where possible, net gain of S7 and SINC habitats/species through the planning process. No net loss of habitat / species that are designating features of a site.
Milestone year 2	No net loss and, where possible, net gain of S7 and SINC habitats/species through the planning process. No net loss of habitat / species that are designating features of a site.

NRP Objectives

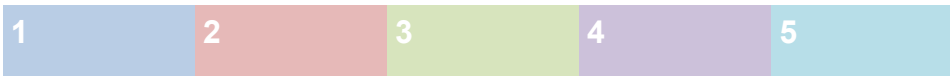


## 2.3 WG ESD LA GRANT

NPTCBC draw down funding from the WG Environment and Sustainable Development (ESD) Grant. This is partly allocated to the C&WT who utilise it to administer biodiversity enhancement and engagement projects

Reporting	As grant requirements
Milestone year 1	As grant requirements
Milestone year 2	As grant requirements

NRP Objectives





## 2.4 WORKING WITH NATURE

The grant funded Working with Nature Project undertakes conservation and community engagement activities at publicly accessible sites, focusing on the multiple benefits to be had from the natural environment

Reporting	As grant funded requirements, including RDP LEADER and WG ESD LA Grant.
Milestone year 1	As grant requirements
Milestone year 2	As grant requirements

## 2.5 NPT NATURE PARTNERSHIP

NPTCBC facilitates the NPT Nature Partnership which implements the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). This is a key mechanism for species and habitat conservation in the County Borough

Reporting	The NPT LBAP reporting spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	Continue to provide secretariat for the NPT Nature Partnership, providing support in the delivery of targeted action.
Milestone year 2	Continue to provide secretariat for the NPT Nature Partnership, providing support in the delivery of targeted action.

NRP Objectives



## 2.6 AWARENESS RAISING

The C&WT raise awareness of biodiversity through a variety of methods; training, public engagement (walks/talks), interpretation panels, leaflets, web pages, social media

Reporting	Project delivery and ongoing upkeep of the NPTCBC web pages and NPT Wildlife Facebook page
Milestone year 1	2 awareness raising projects per year and year on year increase in visitors to the web pages and likes on the Facebook page
Milestone year 2	2 awareness raising projects per year and year on year increase in visitors to the web pages and likes on the Facebook page

NRP Objectives **1**

**3** **4** **5**

## 2.7 BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

Undertake a biodiversity audit on land within our ownership and control, to identify where we have protected/S7 habitats and species on our land. Priority will then be given to those areas / sites where protected Section 7 habitats / species have been identified which offer the greatest benefit to biodiversity, considering one of the following options:

- 1) The status quo – with no further action being taken.
- 2) Be brought into appropriate management for the benefit of biodiversity. This may be through:
  - The Authority and, where necessary, suitable revenue sources can be secured by way of external funding to support and manage the identified sites.
  - Lease to external parties.

NB Any notional financial loss to the Authority needs to be reported and agreed before any lease is granted.
- 3) Any future disposal of a site will include relevant information from the audit so that the purchaser / tenant can comply with the relevant requirements.
- 4) In advance of undertaking any works and / or any material changes in land use on sites owned and controlled by the Authority, it will take into consideration the findings of the audit, taking steps to conserve and where possible enhance the biodiversity value.

Reporting	First report will be results of audit
Milestone year 1	Programme of assessment to be drawn up by C&WT. Assessments started
Milestone year 2	Assessments completed and actions put forward for the next stage of the plan

NRP Objectives



## 2.8 NATIONAL GUIDANCE

Implement any national/regional guidance on enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems resilience through the planning system. Any new guidance will be taken into account and integrated into the system

Reporting	C&WT Planning spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	All national/regional guidance to be integrated into the planning system within 3 months of its release
Milestone year 2	All national/regional guidance to be integrated into the planning system within 3 months of its release



## 2.9 FUNDING

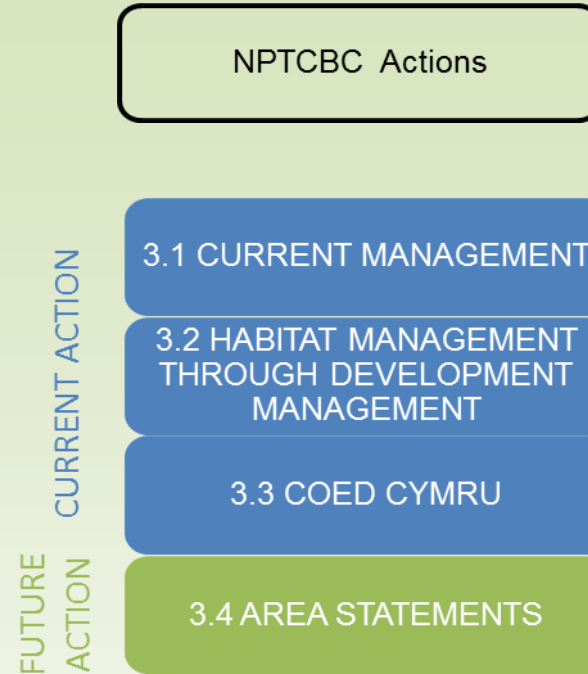
Apply for funding as opportunities arise, either specifically for biodiversity or as part of wider schemes delivering multiple benefits

Reporting	As funding requirements
Milestone year 1	As opportunities arise
Milestone year 2	As opportunities arise

NRP Objectives



NRP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation



### 3.1 CURRENT MANAGEMENT

NPTCBC areas are currently being managed to ensure their resilience

Reporting	GIS layer kept of areas under active management
Milestone year 1	Sites continue to be managed for the resilience of our natural environment
Milestone year 2	There is an increase in sites being managed for the resilience of our natural environment





## 3.2 HABITAT MANAGEMENT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Through the development management process habitat management plans are put in place increasing the resilience of our natural environment and improving the management of S7 habitats

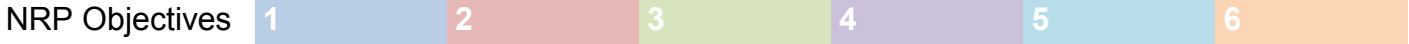
Reporting	C&WT Planning spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	Appropriate assessments of ecosystems resilience submitted through the planning process and appropriate measures to deliver improvements taken
Milestone year 2	Appropriate assessments of ecosystems resilience submitted through the planning process and appropriate measures to deliver improvements taken



### 3.3 COED CYMRU

NPTCBC are key partners in the Coed Cymru initiative, Wales' foremost woodland organisation. Coed Cymru aims to improve the condition of Welsh woodland and integrate new woodlands into the landscape, through the provision of advice, support, innovation and access to grant aid. They bring research about the role of trees in flooding, soils and water, agricultural productivity and wider ecosystem services into practice

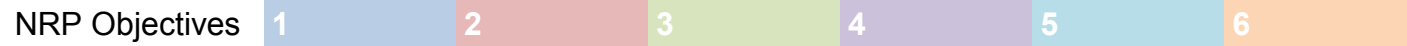
Reporting	Annual funding reports
Milestone year 1	As Coed Cymru objectives
Milestone year 2	As Coed Cymru objectives



### 3.4 AREA STATEMENTS

NPTCBC will assist NRW in writing and implementing Area Statements as required

Reporting	As required
Milestone year 1	As appropriate
Milestone year 2	As appropriate



# NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

NPTCBC Actions

CURRENT ACTION

4.1 INNS

4.2 AIR QUALITY

4.3 GLAMORGAN GRAZING

FUTURE ACTION

4.4 SoNaRR

## 4.1 INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES (INNS)

INNS are dealt with through the development management process by requesting surveys and conditioning remedial actions where appropriate

Reporting	Planning decision notices
Milestone year 1	Appropriate conditions applied where INNS are identified
Milestone year 2	Appropriate conditions applied where INNS are identified

## 4.2 AIR QUALITY

The air quality implications of development proposals are fully assessed for their potential effects on sensitive habitats and species through the HRA process

Reporting	C&WT Planning spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	All development proposals assessed as appropriate
Milestone year 2	All development proposals assessed as appropriate



## 4.3 GLAMORGAN GRAZING

NPTCBC is currently supporting PONT to set up a Glamorgan Grazing project which allows land to be managed in a sensitive way. Whilst the project continues to be led by PONT, we will input into the project through landowner and grazier engagement, and identification of sites.

Reporting	Database will be held by PONT, with local contacts shared with C&WT
Milestone year 1	Project set up and initial lists of grazers and landowners available
Milestone year 2	List is being utilised to bring sites under our ownership into conservation grazing



## 4.4 STATE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT (SONARR)

Review the SoNaRR report and identify key pressures for NPT

Reporting	Report on key pressures identified via SoNaRR
Milestone year 1	Report written
Milestone year 2	Any additional actions identified and actioned, or built into the next review process



# NRP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring

## NPTCBC Actions

CURRENT ACTION

5.1 DATA CAPTURE

5.2 SINCS

5.3 SURVEYS

5.4 RECORD CENTRE SEARCHES

5.5 BIODIVERSITY COMPENSATION SCHEME

FUTURE ACTION

5.6 RESILIENT WALES GOAL

5.7 BIODIVERSITY PLAN EVIDENCE

## 5.1 DATA CAPTURE

NPT uses a range of data capture tools and techniques. This has led to a large number of species records which are passed on to the Local Records Centre and, therefore, shared with the wider community

Reporting	Metadata from MapMate
Milestone year 1	Maintenance of the MapMate database
Milestone year 2	Maintenance of the MapMate database

## 5.2 SITES OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

NPTCBC have a programme of identifying sites that qualify as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). This allows us to assess the quality of a site against national guidelines and each site will be reviewed within 10 years.

Within this reporting round, we will ensure that all SINCs have been reviewed within the 10 year timescale. Following this, we will introduce a programme of, on average, 10% of SINCs being reviewed annually and QGIS layer updated and shared with SEWBRcC

Reporting	Annual SINC report produced
Milestone year 1	Put together a programme of sites to be reviewed.
Milestone year 2	Carry out a review of all SINCs that are scheduled for review this year.

NRP Objectives



## 5.3 SURVEYS

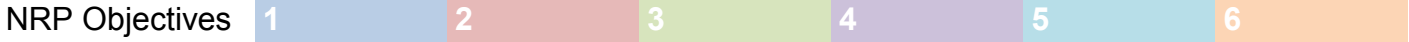
NPTCBC provides secretariat for the NPT Nature Partnership which includes a number of specialist surveyors and SEWBReC. We utilise this expertise by organising surveys for targeted sites and species

Reporting	Evidence based report by C&WT
Milestone year 1	Work with the Partnership to take forward specialist surveys where most appropriate.
Milestone year 2	Work with the Partnership to take forward specialist surveys where most appropriate.

# 5.4 RECORD CENTRE SEARCHES

All planning applications containing biodiversity information must be accompanied by a SEWBRc search undertaken by/on behalf of the applicant, unless agreement is reached with the C&WT that sufficient justification exists to negate this need.

Reporting	C&WT Planning spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	All biodiversity information contained in a planning application must be accompanied by a SEWBRc search, unless agreed otherwise.
Milestone year 2	All biodiversity information contained in a planning application must be accompanied by a SEWBRc search, unless agreed otherwise.



## 5.5 BIODIVERSITY COMPENSATION SCHEME

The grant funded Biodiversity Compensation Scheme is currently researching the potential for a compensation scheme that would allow development to move along quicker by banking compensation sites

Reporting	As grant funding reporting
Milestone year 1	Incorporate research findings into Biodiversity SPG
Milestone year 2	Implement SPG via the development management process



## 5.6 RESILIENT WALES GOAL

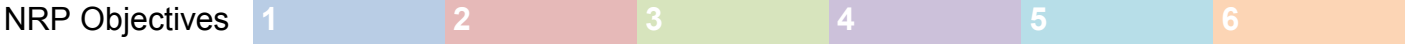
Contribute data towards the Wales biodiversity indicators for the Resilient Wales goal of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Reporting	Responses
Milestone year 1	As required
Milestone year 2	As required

# 5.7 BIODIVERSITY PLAN EVIDENCE

Evidence to be collected to ensure compliance with this plan

Reporting	All reporting to be gathered and collated to report on this plan
Milestone year 1	End of year report
Milestone year 2	End of year report





NRP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

NPTCBC Actions

CURRENT ACTION

6.1 C&WT RESOURCES

6.2 NPT NATURE PARTNERSHIP

6.3 BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION

6.4 LOCAL NATURE PLAN

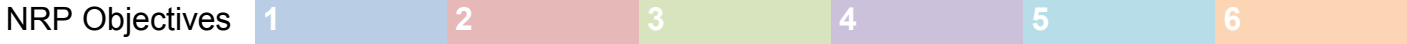
FUTURE ACTION

6.5 AREA STATEMENTS

# 6.1 COUNTRYSIDE AND WILDLIFE TEAM RESOURCES

There is currently enough skills and capacity in the Countryside and Wildlife Team to co-ordinate the work needed to comply with the legislation, however sustaining this in the long term will be a challenge given budgetary pressures.

Reporting	End of year report
Milestone year 1	Secure the temporary post on a permanent basis
Milestone year 2	Maintain current staffing levels



## 6.2 NPT NATURE PARTNERSHIP

Continue to support the NPT Nature Partnership, providing the secretariat, steering the objectives and collating information on member activities through the Biodiversity Officer post

Reporting	Partnership minutes
Milestone year 1	Continue to provide secretariat for the NPT Nature Partnership
Milestone year 2	Continue to provide secretariat for NPT Nature Partnership

NRP Objectives

6

## 6.3 BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION

A NPTCBC Councillor is appointed Biodiversity Champion and attends events/ meetings as appropriate

Reporting	Attendance at regular meetings
Milestone year 1	Continued engagement as appropriate.
Milestone year 2	Continued engagement as appropriate.

## 6.4 NPT NATURE PLAN

Through the NPT Nature Plan maximise opportunities to deliver priorities via volunteers and partners

Reporting	The NPT Nature Plan reporting spreadsheet
Milestone year 1	Spreadsheet is being updated with a continual process of new actions being added and delivered
Milestone year 2	Spreadsheet is being updated with a continual process of new actions being added and delivered

NRP Objectives



## 6.5 AREA STATEMENTS

Feed into the delivery of Area Statements where appropriate

Reporting	As appropriate
Milestone year 1	As appropriate
Milestone year 2	As appropriate

# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Abbreviations and acronyms which will be useful while reading this document

CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
C&WT	Countryside and Wildlife Team
DM	Development Management
GIS	Geographic Information System
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
INNS	Invasive non-native species
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
NPT	Neath Port Talbot
NRP	Nature Recovery Plan for Wales
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PONT	Pori, Natur a Threftadaeth
QGIS	Geographic Information System software
RDP	Rural Development Plan
S7	Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016
SEWBRcC	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SoNaRR	State of Natural Resources Report
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SRG	Single Revenue Grant
WCFG	Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
WG	Welsh Government

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# GLOSSARY

Terms and references which will be useful while reading this document

Area Statements	NRW are required by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to produce Area Statements which set out the priorities and opportunities for management of natural resources.
Biodiversity	The diversity of living organisms, whether at the genetic, species or ecosystem level
Coed Cymru	Welsh woodland organisation working to improve the condition of Welsh woodland.
Ecosystem Approach	A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way
Ecosystems	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organisms and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit
LEADER	A funding stream under the Rural Development Programme
Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Plan outlining how the NPT Nature Partnership propose to take forward biodiversity enhancement in NPT
Local Records Centre	Centres for the collation, management and dissemination of biodiversity data.
MapMate	Biological recording software
National Natural Resource Policy	Sets out the key risks, priorities and opportunities for the sustainable development of natural resources in Wales
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Animals, plants and other organisms.</li> <li>b) Air, water and soil.</li> <li>c) Minerals.</li> <li>d) Geological features and processes.</li> <li>e) Physiographical features.</li> <li>f) Climatic features and processes</li> </ul>



# GLOSSARY

Terms and references which will be useful while reading this document

Nature Recovery Plan for Wales	Sets out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity
NPT Nature Partnership	A group of individuals and organisations working collectively to enhance biodiversity in NPT
NPTCBC Improvement Plan 2017-2022	Sets out NPTCBCs key priorities for improvement
PONT	Not-for-profit organisation encouraging and facilitating grazing for the benefit of the wildlife, landscape and cultural heritage of Wales
Section 7 Habitats and Species	In line with Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, WG will publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitats in Wales, which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity
State of Natural Resources Report	The report sets out the state of Wales' natural resources
Sustainable development	The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.
Sustainable development principle	Acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
The Authority	NPTCBC
UN Convention on Biological Diversity	A multilateral treaty with three main goals: 1. conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); 2. sustainable use of its components; and 3. fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources

# Appendix A

## The Environment (Wales) Act duties

### 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

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.

In complying with subsection (1), a public authority must take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects—

- (a) diversity between and within ecosystems;
- (b) the connections between and within ecosystems;
- (c) the scale of ecosystems;
- (d) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);
- (e) the adaptability of ecosystems.

Subsection (1) does not apply to—

- (a) the exercise of a function by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, or
- (b) the exercise of a judicial function of a court or tribunal.

In complying with subsection (1)—

- (a) the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister for Wales, the Counsel General to the Welsh Government, a Minister of the Crown and a government department must have regard to the United Nations Environmental Programme Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992, and
- (b) any other public authority must have regard to any guidance given to it by the Welsh Ministers.

(5) In complying with subsection (1), a public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must have regard to—

- (a) the list published under section 7;
- (b) the state of natural resources report published under section 8;
- (c) any area statement published under section 11 for an area that includes all or part of an area in relation to which the authority exercises functions.

(6) A public authority other than a Minister of the Crown or government department must prepare and publish a plan setting out what it proposes to do to comply with subsection (1).

(7) A public authority must, before the end of 2019 and before the end of every third year after 2019, publish a report on what it has done to comply with subsection (1).

(8) A public authority that has published a plan under subsection (6)—

- (a) must review the plan in the light of each report that it publishes under subsection (7), and
- (b) may revise the plan at any time.

(9) In this section—

“Minister of the Crown” (“*Gweinidog y Goron*”) has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975 (c. 26);

“public authority” (“*awdurdod cyhoeddus*”) means—

- (a) the Welsh Ministers;
- (b) the First Minister for Wales;
- (c) the Counsel General to the Welsh Government;
- (d) a Minister of the Crown;

- (e) a public body (including a government department, a local authority, a local planning authority and a strategic planning panel);
- (f) a person holding an office—
  - (i) under the Crown,
  - (ii) created or continued in existence by a public general Act of the National Assembly for Wales or of Parliament, or
  - (iii) the remuneration in respect of which is paid out of money provided by the National Assembly for Wales or Parliament;
- (g) a statutory undertaker.

(10) In subsection (9)—

“local authority” (“*awdurdod lleol*”) means a council of a county, county borough or community in Wales;

“local planning authority” (“*awdurdod cynllunio lleol*”) has the meaning given by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (c. 8);

“statutory undertaker” (“*ymgymerwr statudol*”) means any of the following—

- (a) a person authorised by any enactment to carry on any railway, light railway, tramway, road transport, water transport, canal, inland navigation, dock, harbour, pier or lighthouse undertaking or any undertaking for the supply of hydraulic power;
- (b) an operator of an electronic communications code network (within the meaning of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 17 to the Communications Act 2003 (c. 21));
- (c) an airport operator (within the meaning of the Airports Act 1986 (c. 31)) operating an airport to which Part 5 of that Act applies;
- (d) a gas transporter (within the meaning of Part 1 of the Gas Act 1986 (c. 44));
- (e) a holder of a licence under section 6(1) of the Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29);
- (f) a water or sewerage undertaker;
- (g) the Civil Aviation Authority or a holder of a licence under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Transport Act 2000 (c. 38), to the extent that the person holding the licence is carrying out activities authorised by it;
- (h) a universal service provider within the meaning of Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011 (c. 5);

“strategic planning panel” (“*panel cynllunio strategol*”) means a strategic planning panel established under section 60D of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (c. 5).

### 7 Biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity

The Welsh Ministers must prepare and publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in their opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales.

Before publishing a list under this section the Welsh Ministers must consult the Natural Resources Body for Wales (“NRW”) as to the living organisms or types of habitat to be included in the list.

Without prejudice to section 6, the Welsh Ministers must—

- (a) take all reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section, and
- (b) encourage others to take such steps.

The Welsh Ministers must, in consultation with NRW—

- (a) keep under review any list published by them under this section,
- (b) make such revisions of any such list as appear to them appropriate, and
- (c) publish any list so revised as soon as is reasonably practicable after revising it.

# Appendix B

## Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals

GOAL	DESCRIPTION OF THE GOAL
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

# Appendix C

## Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 5 ways of working

### 5 The sustainable development principle

(1) In this Act, any reference to a public body doing something “in accordance with the sustainable development principle” means that the body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

(2) In order to act in that manner, a public body must take account of the following things—

(a) the importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs, especially where things done to meet short term needs may have detrimental long term effect;

(b) the need to take an integrated approach, by considering how—

(i) the body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals;

(ii) the body’s well-being objectives impact upon each other or upon other public bodies’ objectives, in particular where steps taken by the body may contribute to meeting one objective but may be detrimental to meeting another;

(c) the importance of involving other persons with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals and of ensuring those persons reflect the diversity of the population

(i) Wales (where the body exercises functions in relation to the whole of Wales), or

(ii) the part of Wales in relation to which the body exercises functions;

(d) how acting in collaboration with any other person (or how different parts of the body acting together) could assist the body to meet its well-being objectives, or assist another body to meet its objectives;

(e) how deploying resources to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may contribute to meeting the body’s well-being objectives, or another body’s objectives.

# Appendix D

## The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales objectives

### **Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.**

Placing nature at the centre of decision making is essential to address the underlying cause of biodiversity loss. In 2011, the UK National Ecosystems Assessment (UK NEA)<sup>7</sup> identified the underlying cause of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation:

*'The natural world, its biodiversity and its constituent ecosystems are critically important to our well-being and economic prosperity, but are consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and decision making.'*

A lack of awareness, and subsequent valuation of the critical contribution that our nature makes to our well-being and livelihoods, means we often do not account for that contribution in decision making, at all levels of society, from individuals, through local authorities, to businesses. This can lead to damage or overexploitation of our nature. There is also a lack of mechanisms to support this accounting. For example, 'income foregone' does not adequately account for the value of ecosystem services provided by a farm habitat.

### **Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management**

Species and habitats are wonderful and awe-inspiring and we have a moral obligation to protect them and their genetic variety for future generations. They are the building blocks of our ecosystems and their functioning from which we derive many services and benefits, and we need to ensure we have resilient populations of species to support these.

Sites designated for nature conservation play an important role: they are a key mechanism for maintaining natural diversity required for resilience, and disproportionately contribute to a wide range of ecosystem services and benefits.

Sites are designated for nature conservation purposes to protect and enhance our rarest habitats and species, and the best examples of our natural biodiversity and geo-diversity in Wales. These environments are complex, often ancient, systems with great richness and genetic reserves of plants and animals.

The traditional approaches to nature conservation based on designated sites and the protection of species and habitats have had notable successes and we will continue to use these approaches. Our protected sites and species are a core resource, but they can become isolated, and outside pressures on sites can make management challenging.

### **Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation**

Degraded habitats are ones which no longer support the full potential of our native wildlife. In order to safeguard our protected species and to improve the resilience of more widespread species and habitats, we need to restore networks of habitats to a healthy condition across Wales, both on land and in the sea.

Restoration of degraded habitats and habitat creation will build the resilience of our natural environment through taking action on the four attributes of resilience:

- Increasing diversity
- Increasing ecosystem extent through reducing fragmentation
- Increasing connectivity within and between ecosystems
- Improving habitat condition.

This resilience will also increase the ability of species and habitats to adapt to other pressures including climate change.

### **Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats**

The UK NEA identified changing land management practices, through agriculture and urbanisation, pollution and invasive non-native species as key pressures leading to habitat and species loss and fragmentation. This, together with acidification and eutrophication, has changed the quantity and quality of habitats and the species they can support.

In the marine environment key pressures include unsustainable human activity, climate change leading to the warming and acidification of the world's seas and oceans, and the introduction of invasive non-native species.

It is vital to anticipate, prevent and mitigate the causes of biodiversity loss at source, using both our legislation, and innovative and holistic nature-based solutions.

### **Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring**

To help nature to recover we need to inform the delivery of action by a better understanding of the ecology and science of our habitats and species, their status and trends, and the pressures and drivers leading to changes.

### **Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery**

Underpinning our action, we also need a governance structure that is fit for purpose to support and deliver action on the ground. We need to ensure we have the skills, expertise, personnel and functions in place to deliver.

This Biodiversity Duty Plan is Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's plan required under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

This Plan is available on the Council's website [www.npt.gov.uk](http://www.npt.gov.uk)

In order to promote sustainability this plan is available in electronic format only.

This Plan is also available in Welsh.

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## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Regeneration & Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

Nicola Pearce

#### Matter for Decision

**Wards Affected:** All

**Consideration of: the Council's policy for the release of Sky Lanterns and Balloons on Council Owned Land.**

#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider amendments required to the Council's existing policy on the release of sky lanterns on Council owned land.

#### Executive Summary

- 2 The existing 'Policy for Release of Sky Lanterns on Council Land' was approved by the Council's 'Environment and Highways Cabinet Board' on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014. This decision was based on the impact to wildlife, livestock and the public from the discarded material and subsequent fires.
- 3 Due to the increasing body of evidence of the detrimental impact of balloons being released into the environment, this report seeks approval to extend the existing policy which bans the release of sky lanterns, to include the intentional release of balloons as part of any event.

#### Background

- 4 The Council is one of the largest land owners in the County Borough and the activities within our green spaces can have a significant impact on the local environment.
- 5 The release of items such as sky lanterns or balloons is viewed as littering under the Environmental Protection Act (1990) and it is the

responsibility of the Council to ensure that public green open spaces remain free from litter.

## Policy Review

- 6 In the period since the existing policy was approved, further evidence has come to light on the impact of balloon releases. Balloons are often mistaken as food by many species, particularly in the marine environment. If eaten, balloons can block digestive systems and cause the animal to starve, whilst the string can cause entanglement.
- 7 The Marine Conservation Society is currently running the '*Don't Let Go*' campaign. They are campaigning for the adoption of a ban by all Local Authorities and have published a list of the Councils that already have a ban in place. Neath Port Talbot is currently identified as having a ban for sky lanterns, whilst some other Welsh Councils, such as Bridgend and Cardiff, have adopted bans for both balloons and sky lanterns.
- 8 In response to the increasing body of evidence of the detrimental impact of balloons being released into the environment, it is proposed to amend and extend the existing policy (which already bans the release of sky lanterns), to include the intentional release of balloons as part of any event.
- 9 There are a number of alternatives to balloon releases and these will be promoted should there be any requests to the Council to allow a balloon release event. These include virtual balloon releases, balloon sculptures or indoor 'pop a balloon' events. For memorial events, candle lighting or bubble blowing have proven to be popular as an alternative.
- 10 The amended policy is set out in **Appendix 1** and includes a commitment to refuse permission for any balloon release from any Council owned / controlled land.
- 11 Members should note that the implementation of the policy supports the Council's Enforcement Policy in regard to littering and ensures that Neath Port Talbot's communities and environment are sustainable and in this regard, the policy complements the Council's Single Integrated Plan.

## Financial Impact

- 12 There are no financial implications associated with this report.



## **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 13 In order to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Exercise has been carried out. The Screening Exercise concluded that there is no requirement to carry out an additional separate exercise.

## **Workforce Impacts**

- 14 There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

## **Legal Impacts**

- 15 There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

## **Risk Management**

- 16 There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

## **Consultation**

- 17 There is no requirement for consultation on this item.

## **Recommendation**

- 18 That having considered the report, it is resolved to make the following recommendation for approval:

1. That the amended Policy as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

- 19 To ensure that the existing policy reflects more recent evidence on the impact from the release of balloons into the environment.

## **Implementation of Decision**

- 20 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **Appendices**

- 21 Appendix 1 – Policy for the Release of Sky Lanterns or Balloons on Council Owned Land (July 2017)

## **List of Background Papers**

- 22 Marine Conservation Society's 'Don't Let Go' Campaign.  
[http://www.mcsuk.org/what\\_we\\_do/Clean+seas+and+beaches/campaigns+and+policy/Don%27t+let+go+-+balloons+and+sky+lanterns](http://www.mcsuk.org/what_we_do/Clean+seas+and+beaches/campaigns+and+policy/Don%27t+let+go+-+balloons+and+sky+lanterns)

## **Officer Contact**

- 23 Ceri Morris – Planning Policy Manager [Tel: 01639 686320 / E-mail: [c.morris1@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.morris1@npt.gov.uk)]
- 24 Catrin Evans – Countryside and Wildlife Team Leader [Tel: 01639 686056 / E-mail: [c.a.evans@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.a.evans@npt.gov.uk)]

## **Appendix 1 - Policy for the Release of Sky Lanterns or Balloons on Council Owned Land (July 2017)**

The Council is one of the largest land owners in the County Borough and is fortunate to be home to many parks, gardens and recreational areas. We recognise that activities within our green open spaces can have a significant impact on the local environment.

There is evidence of the harmful impacts of sky lantern or balloon litter to the environment and wildlife, in particular within the marine environment. Sky lanterns are also known to cause damage to farming and buildings.

The release of sky lanterns or balloons is viewed as littering under the Environmental Protection Act (1990), which makes it an offence to deposit litter in public places. It is the responsibility of this Council to ensure that public green open spaces remain free from litter and as such, the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties through the development of this policy. It would be against the spirit of the Act if the Council allowed activities on its land which had the effect of littering adjoining lands or the marine environment or causing personal injury.

In implementing this policy, this Council will:

- Refuse permission for any sky lantern or balloon release from any Council owned, and controlled, land regardless of the purpose(s) for the release.
- Refuse a street trading consent to any person wishing to sell sky lanterns within the County Borough.
- Refuse a permit for any street vendor wishing to sell sky lanterns at the Neath September Fair.
- Require Council 'Standard Conditions of Contract' relating to outdoor events and organised displays on Council owned land / controlled green space to ban the release of any sky lantern or balloon, regardless of purpose.
- Consider the potential to instigate enforcement proceedings against any person responsible for creating litter by releasing or allowing the release of sky lanterns or balloons.

This policy includes all flying lanterns or balloons, including those that are biodegradable.

There are a number of alternatives to balloon releases and these will be promoted should there be any requests to the Council to allow a balloon release event. These include virtual balloon releases, balloon sculptures or

indoor 'pop a balloon' events. For memorial events, candle lighting or bubble blowing have proven to be popular as an alternative.

This policy will be monitored over the course of its lifetime and will be reviewed in light of other Council policies and changing legislation as required.

## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

8 December 2017

**JOINT REPORT OF  
THE HEAD OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION – N. PEARCE  
THE HEAD OF PROPERTY AND REGENERATION – S. BRENNAN  
THE HEAD OF COMMISSIONING AND SUPPORT SERVICES -  
ANGELA THOMAS**

**Matter for Monitoring**

**Wards Affected: ALL**

### **REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2017/18**

- 1 Quarterly Performance Management Data 2017-2018 – Quarter 2 Performance (1st April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 2 To report quarter 2 performance management data for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 for Environment. This will enable the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board and Scrutiny Members to discharge their functions in relation to performance management.

#### **Executive Summary**

- 3 In line with the Council's six improvement priorities embedded within the Corporate Improvement Plan, Environment scrutinise performance within Economic Development, Planning, Building Control and Asset Management. On the whole performance demonstrates improvement in line with what we planned to deliver, with statutory deadlines being met.

## **Background**

4 The role of Scrutiny Committees was amended at the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2010 to reflect the changes introduced by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009; Environment will:

- Scrutinise the performance of all services and the extent to which services are continuously improving.
- Ensure performance measures are in place for each service and that the measures reflect what matters to local citizens.
- Promote innovation by challenging the status quo and encourage different ways of thinking and options for service delivery

Failure to produce a compliant report within the timescales can lead to non-compliance with our Constitution. Furthermore failure to have robust performance monitoring arrangements could result in poor performance going undetected.

## **Financial Impact**

5 The performance described in the report is being delivered against a challenging financial background.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

6 None required.

## **Workforce Impacts**

7 During 2016/17, the Environment Directorate saw a further downsizing of its workforce (by 7 employees) as it sought to deliver savings of 1.6 million in the year.

## **Legal Impacts**

8 This progress report is prepared under:

1. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and discharges the Council's duties to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions".

2. The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Constitution requires each cabinet committee to monitor quarterly budgets and performance in securing continuous improvement of all the functions within its purview.

## **Risk Management**

- 9 Failure to produce a compliant report within the timescales can lead to non – compliance with our Constitution. Also failure to have robust performance monitoring arrangements could result in poor performance going undetected.

## **Consultation**

- 10 No requirement to consult

## **Recommendations**

- 11 Members monitor performance contained within this report.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

- 12 Matter for monitoring. No decision required.

## **Implementation of Decision**

- 13 Matter for monitoring. No decision required.

## **Appendices**

- 14 Appendix 1 - Quarterly Performance Management Data 2017-2018– Quarter 2 Performance (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017) – APPENDIX 1

## **List of Background Papers**

- 15 The Neath Port Talbot [Corporate Improvement Plan - 2015/2018](#) “Rising to the Challenge”;

## **Officer Contact**

- 16 Joy Smith, Road Safety and Business Performance Manager  
Tel. 01639 686581  
Email: j.smith@npt.gov.uk



**Quarterly Performance Management Data 2017-2018– Quarter 2  
Performance (1st April to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017)**

**Report Contents:**

**Section 1: Key Points**

**Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and Performance Key**

**Section 3: Compliments & Complaints Data**

**Section 1: Key Points**

**Planning**

With the exception of indicators - average time taken from receipt of application to validation of application – days and average time taken from receipt of application to date decision is issued – days – most of the half year figures show improvement in all performance indicators compared against the same period in 2016/17.

While it will remain essential to focus on PLA/M001 and PLA/M002, as indicated in the report for Q1 these figures have been skewed by a number of applications where applications have been “re-registered” for procedural reasons (thus significantly increasing the receipt – valid time) along with a number of very old applications having been “cleared out”, having taken a number of years to determine. While necessary to include these in the overall average, omitting such applications significantly reduces the number of days, indicating that the service continues to register and determine applications expeditiously in the majority of cases, albeit there remains work to do to clear old cases from the system.



As indicated above, the overall picture of determination of applications is shown to be very positive compared with the same period last year. The increased focus, following the recent appointment of a new Senior Planner, on improving performance on major applications (PLA/M004) has also started to pay dividends in incrementally improved performance with half of major applications in the half year determined inside 8 weeks.

## **Building Control**

Both performance indicators show improvement from Q1 2017/18 and from the same quarter in 2016/17.

Whilst BCT007 falls short of that achieved in 2015/16 there is positive and continued improvement.

It must be stressed that at no time have any statutory deadlines been missed.

## **Housing – Private Sector Renewal**

Largely properties that are brought back into use are outside of the control of the service, for example, they are affected by external factors such as the local housing market. Performance indicator PSR/004 has been replaced by PAM/013 and guidance has clarified that only direct action taken by Local Authorities that results in long term empty properties being brought back into use is recorded.

The number of licenced Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) remains the same. However, the percentage has dropped slightly due to an increase in the number of HMO's that do not require a licence.

## **Public Protection**

94.99% of food establishments were “broadly” compliant with food hygiene standards, an increase on last year’s performance within the same period which was 92.84%. The percentage of high risk businesses inspected for food hygiene is in line with the same period last year.

The percentage of high risk businesses that have been inspected by Trading Standards is higher than the same time last year. The team that largely deals with the inspection programme is currently working to achieve its proactive obligations whilst reactive demand is lower. Some investigations have begun as a result of these inspections, reflecting the

risk of the business. This should not affect the section meeting the 100% target.

The percentage of significant breaches that were rectified by intervention has dropped for Trading Standards (42.68% in comparison to 56.8%). This reflects the longer, more complex investigations that the department is undertaking. It is anticipated that this percentage will improve as the year progresses.

The majority of significant breaches associated with animal health have been rectified, but this has meant that there has been a drop in the number of high risk premises being inspected as resources have been allocated to complaints and investigations. It is anticipated that both figures will improve by the end of the financial year.

The percentage of identified new businesses which were subject to a food hygiene risk assessment visit is similar to that of last year. All businesses are coached and advised prior to the commencement of trading to help raise standards and attain legal compliance. The risk assessment inspection can only take place when the business is trading, therefore, there is always a lag period between food businesses becoming registered and actually having an unannounced inspection.

## **Economic Development**

During the first quarter of the year the Team has dealt with a higher volume of enquiries in comparison to the previous year from existing businesses looking for support to enable them to expand and grow. Many of these investments, once completed, will attract new private sector investment and support the creation and safeguarding of jobs which will have a positive effect on the local economy and the figures reported for the L(ED) 1 KPI.

The Team are also working closely with Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone Board to provide support to the many local businesses within the Tata supply chain that have to deal with staff losses or look for new markets. There is also an emphasis on attracting new investment and jobs to the area. Collectively, this approach is bringing many benefits to businesses while helping to further promote economic growth and job creation in the area. Consequently, when outputs are confirmed and reported they will again have a positive effect on the figures reported above.

Through the South West Workways+ project, the Team is delivering training and paid work experience opportunities to long-term unemployed across

the region to help them get their lives and those of their families back on track.

In addition, referrals from partners such as the Department of Works and Pensions and Welsh Government, is ensuring that individuals considering self-employment are being referred to the Council's Enterprise Club for valuable advice and guidance.

### **Asset Management**

Local Authority buildings conditions and maintenance are annual indicators and will be reported during the quarter 4 period of 2017/18.

## Section 2: Quarterly Performance Management Data and Performance Key








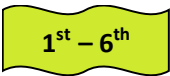
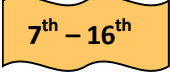
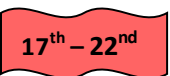
### 2017/2018 – Quarter 2 Performance (1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017)

**Note: The following references are included in the table. Explanations for these are as follows:**

**(PAM) Public Accountability Measures** – a revised set of national indicators for 2017/18. Following feedback from authorities the revised performance measurement framework was ratified at the WLGA (Welsh Local Government Association) Council on 31 March 2017. These measures provide an overview of local government performance and how it contributes to the national well-being goals. This information is required and reported nationally, validated, and published annually.

**All Wales** - The data shown in this column is the figure calculated using the base data supplied by all authorities for 2015/2016 i.e. an overall performance indicator value for Wales.

**(Local)** Local Performance Indicator set by the Council and also includes former national data sets (such as former National Strategic Indicators or Service Improvement Data – SID's) that continue to be collected and reported locally.

	<b>Performance Key</b>
	Maximum Performance
	Performance has improved
	Performance has been maintained
	Performance is within 5% of previous year's performance
	Performance has declined by 5% or more on previous year's performance - Where performance has declined by 5% or more for the period in comparison to the previous year, an explanation is provided directly below the relevant performance indicator.
	No comparable data (data not suitable for comparison /no data available for comparison)
	No All Wales data available for comparison.
	2016/17 NPT performance in upper quartile (top six of 22 local authorities) in comparison with All Wales national published measures (NSI & PAM's).
	2016/17 NPT performance in mid quartiles (7th – 16th) in comparison with All Wales national published measures (NSI & PAM's).
	2016/17 NPT performance in lower quartile (17th – 22nd) in comparison with All Wales national published measures (NSI & PAM's).

## 1. Planning and Regulatory Services – Planning

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2015/16	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
1	PLA/M002 (Local)	Average time taken from receipt of application to date decision is issued - days	96.1 days	85.8 days (69,442 over 809 applications)		85.5 days (34,893 total days – 408 determined applications)	88.7 days (38,783 total days over 437 applications)	v
2	PLA/M001 (Local)	Average time taken from receipt of application to validation of application - days	31.5 days	14.2 days (11,509 over 809 applications)		15.8 days (6,432 total days – 408 determined applications)	18.1 days (7,921 total days over 437 applications)	↓
Page 102	Although increasing from the previous year's figures, the receipt to validation figures (PLA/M001) together with the receipt to decision issued figures (PLA/M002) are both skewed by a number of very old applications, including a number where applications have been "re-registered" for procedural reasons (thus significantly increasing the receipt – valid time), which have distorted the overall figures and unfairly reflect the overall day to day performance. Consideration is to be given to the possibility of changing this to exclude re-registered applications going forward given that they distort overall performance							
3	PLA/004d (Local)	The percentage of all other planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	79%	77.5% (224 of 289 applications)		74.8% (107 of 143 applications)	82.6% (119 of 144 applications)	↑
4	PLA/M004 (Local)	The percentage of major planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	16%	14.8% (4 of 27 applications)		14.3% (1 of 7 applications)	50% (4 of 8 applications)	↑
5	PLA/004c (Local)	The percentage of householder planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	95.1%	95.3% (284 of 289 applications)		94.2% (145 of 154 applications)	97.5% (156 of 160 applications)	↑
6	PLA/004b (Local)	The percentage of minor planning applications determined during the year within 8 weeks.	66.1%	63.1% (123 of 195 applications)		57.7% (60 of 104 applications)	79.2% (99 of 125 applications)	↑
7	PLA/002 (Local)	The percentage of applications for development determined during the year that were approved	96.3%	97.3% (787 of 809 applications)		96.6% (394 of 408 applications)	94.7% (414 of 437 applications)	v

## 1. Planning and Regulatory Services – Planning (Cont.)

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2015/16	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
8	PAM/018	Percentage of all planning applications determined in time				New Indicator	97.3% (425 of 437 applications)	—
9	PAM/019	Percentage of planning appeals dismissed				New Indicator	63.6% (7 of 11 appeals)	—

## 2. Planning and Regulatory Services – Building Control

Page No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2015/16	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
103	BCT/007 (Local)	The percentage of 'full plan' applications approved first time.	99.02%	96.62% (143 of 148)		95.12%	97.44% (76 of 78)	↑
11	BCT/004 (Local)	Percentage of Building Control 'full plan' applications checked within 15 working days during the year.	95.12%	95.95% (142 of 148)		93.9%	98.71% (77 of 78)	↑

### 3. Planning and Regulatory Services – Private Sector Renewal

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
12	PAM/013	The percentage of empty private properties brought back into use			8.79% 1st	Reported Annually		—
13	PAM/014	Number of new homes created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use				Reported Annually		—
Page 104	PSR/007a	Of the 455 houses in multiple occupation known to the Local Authority, the percentage that: Have a full licence	1.35%	1.36%		1.34%	1.10% (5 of 455)	v

### 3. Planning and Regulatory Services – Private Sector Renewal

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
15	PSR/007b	Of the 455 houses in multiple occupation known to the Local Authority, the percentage that: Have been issued with a licence with conditions attached	0%	0%		0%	0%	—
16	PSR/007c	Of the 455 houses in multiple occupation known to the Local Authority, the percentage that: Are subject to enforcement activity	0%	0%		0%	0%	—



#### 4. Housing - Private Sector Renewal

No.	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
17	PAM/015	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant.	228	232	224 11th	222	231	↓
The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant has increased during this period. This is attributed to an increase in more complex adaptations completed during this period.								
Page 105	PSR/009a (Local)	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant for: Children and young people.	354	451		404	435	↓
	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants for Children and young people has increased during this period. This is attributed to an increase in more complex adaptations completed during this period.							
19	PSR/009b (Local)	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant for: Adults.	220	219		213	221	↓
The average number of calendar days taken to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants for Adults has increased during this period. This is attributed to an increase in more complex adaptations completed during this period.								

## 5. Planning and Regulatory Services – Public Protection

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
20	PPN/001ii (Local)	The percentage of high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection that were inspected for Food Hygiene	100%	100%		47%	44% (152 of 346)	v
21	PPN/001iii (Local)	The percentage of high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection that were inspected for Animal Health	100%	100%		60%	33.33% (2 of 6)	↓
Page 108	The majority of animal health significant breaches have been rectified, but this has meant that there has been a drop in the number of high risk premises being inspected as resources have been allocated to complaints and investigations. It is anticipated that both figures will improve by the end of the financial year.							
22	PPN/007i (Local)	The percentage of significant breaches that were rectified by intervention during the year for Trading Standards	73.5%	79.2%		56.8%	42.86% (9 of 21)	↓
	The percentage of significant breaches that were rectified by intervention has dropped for Trading Standards (42.68% in comparison to 56.8%). This reflects the longer, more complex investigations that the department is undertaking. It is anticipated that this proportion will increase by the end of the year.							
23	PAM/023 (formerly PPN/009)	The percentage of food establishments that meet food hygiene standards	92.7%	94.92%	95.16% 13th	92.84%	94.99% (1061 of 1117)	↑

## 5. Planning and Regulatory Services – Public Protection (Cont.)

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
24	PPN/008ii (Local)	The percentage of new businesses identified which were subject to a risk assessment visit or returned a self-assessment questionnaire during the year: Food Hygiene	92%	97%		87%	82% (33 of 40)	↓
Page 107	PPN/001i (Local)	The percentage of high risk businesses that were liable to a programmed inspection that were inspected for Trading Standards	100%	95.6%		50%	66.67% (12 of 18)	↑
	The percentage of high risk businesses that have been inspected by Trading Standards is higher than the same time last year. The team that largely deals with the inspection programme is currently working to achieve its proactive obligations whilst reactive demand is lower. Some investigations have begun as a result of these inspections, reflecting the risk of the business. This should not affect the section meeting the 100% target							
26	PPN/007ii (Local)	The percentage of significant breaches that were rectified by intervention during the year for Animal Health	100%	81.8%		66.7%	85.71% (6 of 7)	↑

## 6. Economic Development

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
27	L(ED) 2 (Local)	Number of new business start-up enquiries assisted through Business Services	271	341		173	119	↓
<p>The number of people attending the Council's Enterprise Club, which provides advice and guidance on self-employment, was slower than anticipated during the first 3 months of the year. However in this quarter have risen significantly and we anticipate outputs will be more in line with expectations by the end of the next quarter.</p>								
28	L(ED) 1 (Local)	Number of jobs created as a result of financial support by the Local Authority.	184	131		119	21	↓
Page 108	<p>Even though outputs are down on the same period last year, the Team are currently working on a number of funding applications from local businesses to support investments in areas such as capital equipment, website development, accreditations, training and general marketing activities. It is anticipated therefore that performance will increase significantly by the end of the financial year.</p>							
208	L(ED) 3 (Local)	Number of business enquiries resulting in advice, information or financial support being given to existing companies through Business Services.	584	628		225	256	↑

## 7. Corporate Health – Asset Management

No	PI Reference	PI Description	NPT Actual 2015/16	NPT Actual 2016/17	All Wales 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2016/17	NPT Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
30	CAM/001ai (Local)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: A – Good	7.68%	15.02%		Reported Annually		—
31	CAM/001aiii (Local)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: C – Poor	38.22%	32.26%				—
32	CAM/001bii (Local)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 2 – Essential work	50.76%	50.03%				—
Page 109	CAM/001biii (Local)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 3 – Desirable work	27.29%	30.53%				—
34	CAM/001aii (local)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: B – Satisfactory	43.33%					—
35	CAM/001aiv (Local)	The percentage of the gross internal area of the local authority's buildings in condition categories: D – Bad	11.27%	9.39%				—
36	CAM/037 (Local)	The percentage change in the average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score within local authority public buildings over 1,000 square metres.	4.4%	2.8%	1.9% 11th	Reported Annually	—	
37	CAM//001bi (Local)	The percentage of the total value of required maintenance for the local authority's buildings assigned to works of priority level: 1 – Urgent work	21.95%	19.44%			—	

## Section 3: Compliments and Complaints

### 2017/2018 – Quarter 2 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017) – Cumulative Data for Regeneration & Sustainable Development Board

	Performance Key
↑	Improvement : Reduction in Complaints/ Increase in Compliments
↔	No change in the number of Complaints/Compliments
v	Increase in Complaints but within 5% / Reduction in Compliments but within 5% of previous year.
↓	Increase in Complaints by 5% or more / Reduction in Compliments by 5% or more of previous year.

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	PI Description	Full Year 2015/16	Full Year 2016/17	Quarter 2 2016/17	Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
1	<b><u>Total Complaints - Stage 1</u></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	↓
	a - Complaints - Stage 1 upheld	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
	b -Complaints - Stage 1 <u>not</u> upheld	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	
	c -Complaints - Stage 1 partially upheld	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	

No	PI Description	Full Year 2015/16	Full Year 2016/17	Quarter 2 2016/17	Quarter 2 2017/18	Direction of Improvement
2	<b><u>Total Complaints - Stage 2</u></b>	15	7	4	0	↑
	a - Complaints - Stage 2 upheld	0	0	0	0	
	b - Complaints - Stage 2 <u>not</u> upheld	15	7	4	0	
	c- Complaints - Stage 2 partially upheld	0	0	0	0	
3	<b><u>Total - Ombudsman investigations</u></b>	0	1	0	1	↓
	a - Complaints - Ombudsman investigations upheld	0	0	0	0	
	b - Complaints - Ombudsman investigations <u>not</u> upheld	0	1	0	1	
4	<b>Number of Compliments</b>	5	10	4	6	↑
<p><b>Complaints</b> – There has been a slight increase in the number of Stage 1 complaints compared to Quarter 2 last year. There have been no Stage 2 investigations undertaken compared to the same period last year.</p> <p><b>Compliments</b> – There has been a slight increase compared to Quarter 2 last year.</p> <p><b>Welsh Language</b> - There were no complaints in relation to the Welsh Language</p>						

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# REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

## 2017/2018 FORWARD WORK PLAN (DRAFT)

### REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

DATE	Agenda Items	Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information)	Rotation (Topical, Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee	Contact Officer/Head of Service
26 Jan 2017	Energy Performance Report	Info	Annual	-	Simon Brennan/Chris Jones
	Property Performance Report	Info	Annual	-	Simon Brennan
	Aberavon Seafront	Info	Topical	-	Simon Brennan
	Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Decision	Topical	-	Nicola Pearce
	Biodiversity & Geodiversity SPG & Landscape and Seascape SPG (Pre Consultation)	Decision	Topical	-	Nicola Pearce/ Lana Beynon
	Housing Renewal and Adaptation Service (HRAS) Financial Allocations 17/18	Decision	Annual	-	Angela Thomas/ Rob Davies
	Surplus Land	Decision	Topical	-	Angela Thomas/ Leighton Jones

## REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

DATE	Agenda Items	Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information)	Rotation (Topical, Annual, Biannual, Quarterly, Monthly)	Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee	Contact Officer/Head of Service
<b>9 March 2018</b>	Minutes of Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee from 17 Jan 2018	Monitor	Quarterly	-	Scrutiny Officer/ Scrutiny Chair
	Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring (17/18) (Community Safety & Public Protection Data to Sub)	Monitor	Quarterly	19 April 2018	Shaun Davies
	Valleys Regeneration Report	Info	Topical	-	Simon Brennan
	Rural Development Plan	Info	Topical	-	Angeline Spooner Cleverly/ Ben Riseborough
	NPT Homes Progress Report	Monitor	Biannual	-	Linda Whittaker/ Caroline Davies

## REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CABINET BOARD

DATE	Agenda Items	Type (Decision, Monitoring or Information)	Rotation (Topical, Annual, Biannual, Quarterly Monthly)	Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee	Contact Officer/Head of Service
	Minutes of Community Safety & Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee from 19 April 2018 (TBC)	Monitor	Quarterly	-	Scrutiny Officer/ Scrutiny Chair
	Historic Environment SPG & Minerals SPG (Pre Consultation)	Decision	Topical	-	Nicola Pearce/ Lana Beynon

To be programmed into first meeting of new cycle (May 2018):

Page 115 SPG (x2) Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Landscape and Seascape (Post Consultation) Decision Topical Nicola Pearce

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