



# **GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S BIODIVERSITY DUTY PLAN 2017-19**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

2. This plan has been published as part of Gwynedd Council's legal obligation, as set out in the Environment Act (Wales) 2016. The Environment Act enhances the previous Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 duty to require all public authorities, when carrying out their functions in Wales, to seek to "maintain and enhance biodiversity" where it is within the proper exercise of their functions. In doing so, public bodies must also seek to "promote the resilience of ecosystems". This duty applies to all public authorities such as the Welsh Ministers, local authorities, public bodies and statutory undertakers.
  
3. Gwynedd Council's Biodiversity Duty Plan aims to:
4. Outline why Gwynedd's biodiversity is so important
5. Explain the legislative background to this plan
6. What is required by Public Authorities to comply with the Duty
7. Set out an Action Plan containing the Council's current actions for biodiversity and proposed actions for 2017-19

## 8. GWYNEDD'S BIODIVERSITY

9. Gwynedd has a wealth of wildlife and a diversity of habitats. The beautiful coast of Pen Llŷn, with its soft cliffs and sandy beaches, is characterised by narrow lanes and distinctive cloddiau. In stark contrast are the windswept uplands and spectacular mountains of Snowdonia, which lead us dramatically down into green valleys and remnant ancient woodlands.
10. Our marine life is a rich variety of animals, including soft corals, sea anemones, fish, octopus and crabs, which populate the reefs and seabed around our coast. Gwynedd's coastal strip and abandoned slate quarries provide habitats for the chough, the rarest species of crow breeding in Britain. Approximately half of the Welsh chough population breeds in Gwynedd (including the Snowdonia National Park). Pen Llŷn, where mink numbers are still thought to be relatively low, is also an important area for the water vole. Gwynedd also has nine species of bat, including the critically endangered lesser horseshoe bat, which has disappeared from most of its northern range in Europe. It is no wonder that tourists flock to the area in their thousands during the year, and spill out into the countryside to marvel at our wildlife and spectacular landscape, or just to 'get away from it all'.
11. Our breath-taking landscapes and rich variety of wildlife are by no means secure however. Across Wales, and around the world, wildlife is being threatened by modern lifestyles. Threats include the dumping of waste on fragile habitats; new developments such as roads, houses, and shops for our ever-increasing population; changes within farming; and perhaps a lack of respect for something we all seem to take for granted.
12. In order to allow our children to inherit and enjoy Gwynedd's most prized asset we all have to take some responsibility for the welfare of our biodiversity, and play a small part in its conservation. Our two main industries in Gwynedd, namely agriculture and tourism, are inter-linked with our environment. It is essential that we all work together to promote a healthy local economy while at the same time protecting the wealth of spectacular local wildlife.
13. In 2005 the Natur Gwynedd Plan was published (Gwynedd's Local Biodiversity Action Plan) which aimed to provide a means of halting the decline in our biodiversity through the actions and efforts of the people who live and work here. Gwynedd Council's Biodiversity Duty Plan (2017) aims to build on the successes of the Natur Gwynedd Plan by taking a more holistic approach across the Council. The recent recession in the UK and Brexit creates new challenges for maintaining and enhancing our biodiversity. Therefore more than ever we need to ensure that we prioritise conserving our wildlife for generations to come in order to sustain healthy communities, environment and economy in the future.

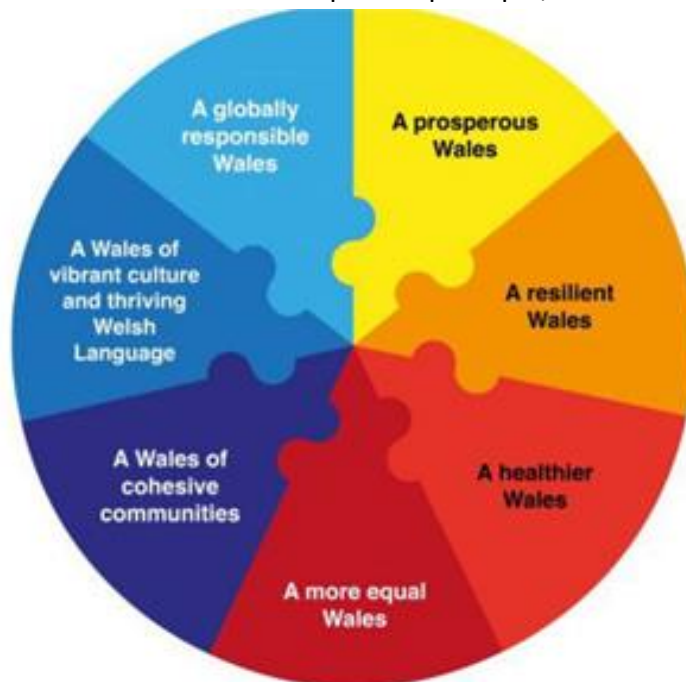
## 14.LEGISLATION

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

16. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act<sup>1</sup> is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a duty on public bodies listed in the Act to carry out sustainable development.

### 17. Well-being goals

18. The seven well-being goals show the kind of Wales we want to see. Together they provide a shared vision for the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards by working better with people and communities. They are a set of goals; the Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two. In the Act, sustainable development means 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.



## **19. The Council's Well-being Objectives**

20. The Council's day-to-day work and the improvement priorities are identified in the Council Plan 2018-23 and will contribute to the objectives below

21. Our well-being objectives for 2018 to 2023 are to ensure that Gwynedd residents can

- enjoy happy, healthy and safe lives.
- Live in quality homes within their communities
- Earn a sufficient salary to be able to support themselves and their families
- Receive education of the highest quality which will enable them to do what they want to do
- Live with dignity and independently for as long as possible Live in a natural Welsh society
- Take advantage of the beauty of the County's natural environment.

## **22. Sustainable Development Principle**

23. The Act puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act. The principle is made up of five ways of working that public bodies are required to take into account when applying sustainable development

The five ways of working are designed to help public bodies show they have applied the sustainable development principle.

### Long term



The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

### Prevention



How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

### Integration



Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

### Collaboration



Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

### Involvement



The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

#### **24. Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

25. The Environment (Wales) Act has been designed to complement the goals of Future Generations (Wales) Act by applying the principles of sustainable development to the management of Wales' natural resources. The Act puts the ecosystem approach into statute through a set of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) principles, which are based on the 12 principles (Ecosystem Approach principles) contained in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

#### **26. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) Delivery Framework**

27. The SMNR delivery framework is an interconnected framework delivered through the Environment Act and the publication and review of the following:

**28. State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR)** - produced by NRW and will report on status of Wales natural resources and *will underpin the*

**29. National Natural Resources Policy (NNRP)** produced by Welsh **Ministers** which will set out the priorities for sustainable management of natural resources at a national level. The priorities in the NNRP will be delivered at a **local level through**

**30. Area Statements** produced by NRW. These should involve local collaboration through the local partnerships.

#### **31. Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in Wales**

32. Welsh Ministers must prepare and publish a list for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales. A new list (Section 7 list) of species and habitats of principal importance in Wales will replace the existing list of species and habitats of principal importance identified under Section 42 of the NERC Act.



### **33.COMPLYING WITH THE BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY**

34. This new duty under Section 6 of the Environment Act replaces the biodiversity duty in the NERC Act which required that public authorities must have regard to conserving biodiversity. The Environment Act enhances the current NERC Act duty to require all public authorities, when carrying out their functions in Wales, to seek to:

**35. *“Maintain and enhance biodiversity” where it is within the proper exercise of their functions. In doing so, public authorities must also seek to “promote the resilience of ecosystems”.***

36. A new reporting duty enables public authorities to report on actions taken to improve biodiversity and to promote the resilience of ecosystems and also what actions have been taken to incorporate biodiversity measures into other areas of policy, strategies or initiatives. Subsection 6(5) requires that in complying with the duty public authorities must have regard to the set of living organisms and types of habitat published under Section 7, the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) and any Area Statement.

37. Public authorities must take account of relevant evidence as required under the Act and will be required to prepare and publish a plan on how they intend to comply with the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty. These public authorities must also review their forward plans in light of the findings in their report on their actions.

38. The intention is that the plan will be produced within the first year of the Act coming into force (May 2016-May 2017). The first report on complying with the duty must be published by 2019 and then every three years. Public authorities must also review their forward plans in light of the findings in their report on their actions.

### **39. Nature Recovery Plan for Wales**

40. The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales (NRP) sets out how Wales’ will address the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The NRP has been produced by the Wales Biodiversity Strategy Board, members of which represent both land and sea managers, Natural Resources Wales, the environmental third sector, local authorities, Wales Biodiversity Partnership and Welsh Government. These objectives will be used to identify and take forward action within Gwynedd Council to meet the Duty

**41.** The objectives of the NRP are:

42. Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels

43. Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management

44. Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
45. Tackle key pressure on species and habitats
46. Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
47. Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

## **48.GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S BIODIVERSITY DUTY PLAN**

49. This plan has been produced to fulfil Gwynedd Council's legal obligation to the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 and is summarised below:
50. An enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty which replaces the existing duty under the NERC Act. Public Authorities **"must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems"**.
51. To assist in complying with the new duties public authorities must prepare and publish a forward plan on how they intend to comply with the new duty
52. Relevant evidence must include Section 7 list of habitats & species, SoNaRR and any relevant Area Statement
53. The consideration of biodiversity should be embedded into their business plans including policies, plans, programmes and projects as well as day to day activities
54. The Nature Recovery Plan contains six objectives in order to aid in developing biodiversity actions
55. The first plan should be published by May 2017 and first report on complying with the duty should be published by 2019
56. Forward or Biodiversity Duty Plans may be required as part of any submission to Welsh Government for funding and should also be linked to the relevant Well-being of Future Generations Act goals.
57. The following Biodiversity Duty Actions includes current actions by Gwynedd Council on maintaining biodiversity across all Departments within the ongoing constraints on budgets, resources and capacity as a result of the Financial Crisis
58. Future actions have also been included on how the Council aims to meet the new enhanced duty over the next two year. These actions will be monitored by the relevant Department over the next 2 years in order to review their progress and adjust

accordingly. The Biodiversity Team will be responsible for collating the outcomes of these actions in order to produce the report in 2019.

59. In order to guide action to comply with the Duty the actions have been categorised under the relevant National Recovery Plan (NRP) objectives.

## 60.BIODIVERSITY DUTY ACTIONS

### Countryside Champion, Council Members

Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>NRP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An elected Council Member as Biodiversity Champion since 2008</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-elect a Council member as a Countryside Champion</li> <li>• Raise awareness on complying with the new Biodiversity Duty</li> <li>• Adopt &amp; promote the new Biodiversity Duty Action Plan</li> </ul>

### All Departments

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>NRP Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b>	<b>Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystem Duty, Environment Act: Section 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous workshops/meetings held to raise awareness of the NERC Act across Departments</li> <li>• All Departments informed of the new Biodiversity Duty 2016</li> <li>• All Departments asked to prepare actions on how they are contributing towards maintaining &amp; enhancing biodiversity</li> <li>• All Departments consulted on current and proposed actions for 2017-19.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Department will be responsible for monitoring their actions over the next two years and reporting on their progress for the review in 2019</li> </ul>

<p><b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take account of the evidence provided in The State of Natural Resource Report (SoNaRR)</li> <li>• Review the report and identify key issues for Gwynedd</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant departments to feed into Area Statements</li> </ul>
<p><b>NRP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed into the Wales biodiversity indicators for the Well-Being &amp; Future Generations Act 2015 – Resilient Wales goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review how effectively Gwynedd Council is performing against the Resilient Wales goal</li> </ul>
<p><b>NRP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Officers attended NRW workshop in Nant Gwrtheyrn in 2016</li> <li>• Meet with other LA Ecologists &amp; NRW to discuss the way ahead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed into the Area Statement process</li> </ul>
<p><b>NRP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery</b></p>	<p>Gwynedd Wellbeing Plan</p> <p>Draft Welfare Plan published by the Gwynedd and Mon Public Services Board based on the assessments.</p> <p>Results included:</p> <p>People of Gwynedd say that there is a need to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the environment</li> <li>• improve the appearance of streets</li> <li>• increase recycling rates</li> <li>• Ensure that developments do not impair or have an impact on the environment</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A more detailed consultation is going ahead to feed back again into the Plan</li> <li>• Biodiversity Duty Plan should feed into Well-being Plan (A Resilient Wales goal)</li> </ul>
<p><b>NRP Objective 6: Put in</b></p>	<p><b>Biodiversity Duty Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to collate &amp;</li> </ul>

<p><b>place a framework of governance and support for delivery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate information on all biodiversity-related activities for the new Biodiversity Duty Plan across Gwynedd Council's Departments</li> </ul>	<p>report on biodiversity activities and include enhancement options where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining &amp; enhancing biodiversity should be embedded into all business plans including policies, plans, programmes and projects as well as day to day activities</li> </ul>
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## Learning & Development Service

### Corporate Support

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council staff – CETIS online questionnaire on biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council staff – update CETIS questionnaire to include the Environment Act 2016 and circulate online questionnaire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b></p>	<p><b>Sustainable Procurement Policy 2015.</b> Goods / services purchased should have the least damaging effect to the environment; consider whole life costs of purchases, recycling opportunities / alternatives and waste reduction opportunities. This also includes asking supply market about their own environmental</p>	<p>Continue to integrate Gwynedd's Sustainable Procurement Policy across all of the Authorities Departments</p>

	responsibilities, and in tender documentation what steps they are taking to address environmental factors.	
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## Education

### Schools

<b>NRP Objective</b>	<b>Previous/Current Actions</b>	<b>Actions for 2017-19</b>
<b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in Eco-Schools programme</li> <li>• Biodiversity included in the curriculum</li> <li>• Visits to Nature Reserves, habitats and landscapes</li> <li>• Activities – RSPB Garden Bird Survey, wildlife gardening</li> <li>• Visits by officers e.g. RSPB, National Trusts Wardens, Wildlife Trust, LA Ecologists</li> <li>• Reuse/Reduce/Recycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to encourage schools to participate in the Eco-Schools programme</li> <li>• Ensure curriculum includes biodiversity</li> <li>• Encourage visits to nature conservation sites and talks from practitioners</li> </ul>

## Adults, Health & Well-being

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b></p>	<p><b>Gwynedd Ageing Well Plan 17-18</b> Helping Gwynedd's older people to live a full &amp; independent life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping fit in the outdoors – walking/gardening, better access to public footpaths, easier recycling facilities</li> <li>• Learning new skills/training &amp; volunteering opportunities - environmental projects e.g. bird watching schemes, beach cleans, rubbish pick-ups, community gardening, volunteering to help manage sites for wildlife.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement the Gwynedd Ageing Well Plan and encourage Gwynedd's older generation to use the natural environment in order to live a full &amp; independent life</li> </ul>



## Children & Supporting Families

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children benefit from playing outside in green spaces – promote safe areas in our natural environment for children to play</li> <li>• Encourage participation in community projects e.g. community gardens, beach cleans, reduce/reuse/recycle schemes</li> <li>• Promote participation in outdoor activities for children e.g. walking, climbing, biking</li> <li>• Reducing carbon footprint in partnership with public bodies e.g. travel, energy/property, refuse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to include to promote the use the natural environment as a way of ensuring our children’s health &amp; well-being.</li> </ul>

## Economy & Community

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Outdoor/ Environmental Education</li> <li>• Support grant-aided Community Projects which also benefit the natural environment</li> <li>• Offer a variety of sport &amp; energetic activities within schools and the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Outdoor/ Environmental Education</li> <li>• Support grant-aided Community Projects which also benefit the natural environment</li> <li>• Offer a variety of sport &amp; energetic activities within schools and the</li> </ul>

	community for children & young people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Green Businesses where possible</li> <li>• Promote Green Tourism where possible</li> </ul>	community for children & young people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Green Businesses where possible</li> <li>• Promote Green Tourism where possible</li> </ul>
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## Economy & Community

### Marine & Country Parks Unit

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>NRP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of Country Parks &amp; beaches includes maintaining &amp; enhancing the local biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to maintain &amp; enhance biodiversity on Gwynedd's Rural Parks &amp; beaches</li> </ul>

## Highways & Municipal

### Tidy Towns Project

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b>	Core activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Clean-ups to tackle fly-tipping</li> <li>• Dog-fouling</li> <li>• Environmental Roadshow</li> </ul>	Continue core activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Clean-ups to tackle fly-tipping</li> <li>• Dog-fouling</li> <li>• Environmental Roadshow</li> </ul>

## Highways & Municipal

### Waste & Recycling Unit,

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b>	Solving waste issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerbside recycling</li> <li>• Food waste collection</li> <li>• Kerbside Nappy collection</li> <li>• Real nappy collection</li> <li>• Textile recycling</li> <li>• Mobile awareness raising project</li> </ul>	Continue with solving waste issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerbside recycling</li> <li>• Food waste collection</li> <li>• Kerbside Nappy collection</li> <li>• Real nappy collection</li> <li>• Textile recycling</li> <li>• Mobile awareness raising project</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Property Unit

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b>	1Manage/ Administer Council owned tenant farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Farm Tenants' are managing their hedges &amp; trees appropriately</li> <li>• Encourage Farm Tenants' to participate in Agri-Environment Schemes</li> <li>• Ensure Farm Tenants' are complying with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air for Wales 2011 in order to minimize the risk of pollution</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Integrated Transport Unit,

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory Quality Bus Partnership (SQBP) Scheme - the Snowdon Sherpa provides a high quality public transport service, which seeks to minimise environmental impact with new lower emission buses along a key tourist corridor</li> <li>• An adopted Active Travel Plan for Gwynedd which includes maintaining and enhancing their numerous multiuser paths for cyclists &amp; walkers</li> <li>• Gwynedd's Green Travel scheme for staff – free bike hire for 12 months with option to buy, car share scheme, Green Car Scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SQBP Scheme will continue until 2021</li> <li>• Publish an Active Travel Network Map which will be available to the public</li> <li>• continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists</li> <li>• Assess proposed new walking &amp; cycle routes for Gwynedd</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Biodiversity Team

Service Area	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p>Biodiversity Team, Environment <b>Objective 1: Engage &amp; support participation and understanding to</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides ecological advise on all biodiversity matters for Gwynedd Council</li> <li>• Established Natur Gwynedd/LBAP Partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure continuation of in-house specialist advice on ecology &amp; trees</li> <li>• Continue to work with Partnership organisations on joint projects</li> <li>• Continue to provide</li> </ul>

<p><b>embed biodiversity through decision making at all levels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual raising awareness activities</li> <li>• Presentations/talks to groups /schools/clubs</li> <li>• Provides Development Control training – European Protected Species &amp; European Sites</li> </ul>	<p>updates/raise awareness with Development Control on environmental legislation</p>
<p><b>Environment NRP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous Wales Priority Species list including Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006 used to provide the foundations for Gwynedd’s LBAP (Natur Gwynedd 2004)</li> <li>• Grant-funded conservation projects based actions from Natur Gwynedd Plan (LBAP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Section 7 Environment Act Species list to review current priority species listed in Natur Gwynedd &amp; Development Control work</li> <li>• Where possible participate in local conservation projects</li> </ul>
<p>Biodiversity Team, Environment</p> <p><b>Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environments by restoring degraded habitats &amp; habitat creation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollinators Project sites</li> <li>• Natur Gwynedd Implementation Project</li> <li>• Specialist advice on biodiversity &amp; trees provided by the Biodiversity Team to Development Control</li> <li>• Gwynedd’s Coed Cymru Officer provided advice to landowners to protect, use and enhance the woodland resource in Wales. The work supported by research and innovation, pioneered a range of projects to enhance land management practices and to add value to timber. The post ended in 2014</li> <li>• Draft Biodiversity SPG created for LDP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible participate in national projects on habitats &amp; species</li> <li>• Complete a new Supplementary Planning Guidance for Biodiversity for the LDP</li> <li>• Create a new Supplementary Planning Guidance on trees for the LDP</li> <li>• Work with the new Coed Cymru Officer located within the Snowdonia National Park authority (Summer 2017) on joint projects.</li> </ul>
<p>Biodiversity Team, Environment <b>NRP</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous Wales Priority Species list including Section 42 of the NERC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Section 7 Environment Act Species list to review current</li> </ul>

<p><b>Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</b></p>	<p>Act 2006 used to provide the foundations for Gwynedd's LBAP (Natur Gwynedd 2004)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant-funded conservation projects based actions from Natur Gwynedd Plan (LBAP)</li> </ul>	<p>priority species listed in Natur Gwynedd &amp; Development Control work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible participate in local conservation projects</li> </ul>
<p>Biodiversity Team, Environment</p> <p><b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Team provides advice on managing invasive species</li> <li>• Gwynedd Council as a landowner required by law to manage invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed</li> <li>• Initiatives by PLAS SAC to tackle marine invasive species e.g. Chinese Mitten Crab</li> <li>• Conditions imposed on Planning Permission to ensure management of invasive plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide advice on invasive species</li> </ul>
<p>Biodiversity Team, Environment</p> <p><b>NRP Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in local &amp; national surveys e.g. water voles, otters, waxcaps, great northern diver</li> <li>• Species data is passed on to Cofnod (north Wales Local Record Centre)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible continue to participate in survey work and raising awareness</li> </ul>
<p>Biodiversity Team, Environment</p> <p><b>NRP Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently the Biodiversity Team has 2 x PT Ecologists, 1 x PT Temporary Tree Officer, 1 x FT SAC Officer, 1 x FT project Officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is adequate capacity within Biodiversity Team to comply with our Biodiversity Duty.</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation PLAS SAC

Service Area	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>NRP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLAS SAC Management Plan reviewed &amp; implemented</li> <li>• Grant-funding sourced for conservation action e.g. Porthdinllaen Seagrass, Morfa Gwylt Project, Dolphin Watch</li> <li>• Marine expertise sought from PLAS SAC Officer for Planning &amp; Policy consultations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLAS SAC Management Plan continuously reviewed &amp; implemented</li> <li>• Grant-funding sourced for conservation action eg Porthdinllaen Seagrass, Morfa Gwylt Project, Dolphin Watch</li> <li>• Trial an integrated catchment project on the Llŷn</li> <li>• Marine expertise sought from PLAS SAC Officer for Planning &amp; Policy consultations</li> </ul>
<p><b>NRP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Marine Ecosystem Project is trialling the Ecosystems Approach on the Llŷn</li> <li>• A Code of Conduct for Gwynedd has been launched – raising awareness amongst boat-users of marine wildlife such as dolphins</li> <li>• A Fishing for Litter project is being trialled in Criccieth by reducing litter in the marine environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source funding in order to continue to implement the Ecosystems Approach on the Llŷn</li> <li>• Continue to roll-out the Code of Conduct across Wales</li> <li>• Look into the possibility of rolling out the Fishing for Litter project in other towns</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Countryside Unit

<p><b>NRP Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of Local Nature Reserves</li> <li>• Management of Recreational Routes (Lonydd Las) which offer safe routes for cycling &amp; walking but embedded in the countryside and surrounded by wildlife</li> <li>• Gwynedd's Coastal Path</li> <li>• Llŷn Landscape Partnership – protecting Llŷn's habitats</li> <li>• Manage Llŷn's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of Local Nature Reserves</li> <li>• Management of Recreational Routes (Lonydd Las) which offer safe routes for cycling &amp; walking but embedded in the countryside and surrounded by wildlife</li> <li>• Gwynedd's Coastal Path</li> <li>• Llŷn Landscape Partnership – protecting Llŷn's habitats</li> <li>• Manage Llŷn's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</li> </ul>
<p><b>NRP Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environments by restoring degraded habitats &amp; habitat creation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding sourced mainly via Natural Resource Wales &amp; Welsh Government to manage sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify funding to manage sites eg Single Revenue Grant</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Development Control Unit,

Service Area	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>NRP Objective 3: Increase the resilience</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist in-house ecology &amp; tree advice sought on all relevant planning matters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to ensure adequate Habitat Management Plans are in place and implemented</li> </ul>



<p><b>of our natural environments by restoring degraded habitats &amp; habitat creation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Habitat Management Plans are in place and implemented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with the Biodiversity Team, introduce a range of optional simple enhancements that Planning Applicants can incorporate into their developments. This would help fulfil the additional 'enhancement' element of the new Biodiversity Duty.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All relevant Planning Applications &amp; Developments are screened by the Biodiversity Team for any detrimental environmental effects. Significant environmental effects can result in the refusal of planning permission unless effects can be adequately mitigated for</li> <li>• The Tree Preservation Order process safeguards trees &amp; woodlands important for their amenity &amp; biodiversity value</li> <li>• Local Service Agreement between Cofnod and Planning – all planning application are screened by Cofnod for notable species/habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All relevant Planning Applications &amp; Developments are screened by the Biodiversity Team for any detrimental environmental effects. Significant environmental effects can result in the refusal of planning permission unless effects can be adequately mitigated for</li> <li>• The Tree Preservation Order process safeguards trees &amp; woodlands important for their amenity &amp; biodiversity value</li> <li>• Local Service Agreement between Cofnod and Planning – all planning application are screened by Cofnod for notable species/habitats</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Planning Policy Unit, Environment

Nia Haf Davies –

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan (UDP) contains Environmental Policies in order to protect &amp; enhance locally important habitats &amp; species</li> <li>• Natur Gwynedd Supplementary Planning Guidance written by the Biodiversity Team included in the UDP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gwynedd &amp; Môn Joint Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in spring 2017 and contains new Environmental Policies which will protect &amp; enhance locally important habitats &amp; species</li> <li>• Update UDP Supplementary Planning Guidance on Biodiversity &amp; Planning for Gwynedd's LDP</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Environmental Health Unit,

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwynedd Council implements Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) through a network of diffusion tube monitoring locations at sensitive areas. The Council also operates a dust (PM10) monitor eg in properties close to quarries</li> <li>• The air quality implications of plans &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement LAQM</li> <li>• Continue to assess air quality implications through the Development Control process</li> </ul>

	<p>projects are fully assessed for their potential effects on sensitive habitats &amp; species through the HRA process</p>	
<p><b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Contamination is dealt with via the Development Control process. Many sites are likely to be brownfield sites (previously developed) often for commercial or industrial use. Historical mining may also have some contamination present.</li> <li>• Potential of 'contaminated land' is assessed to ensure they are not causing unacceptable risks to human health/ environment. Action is taken in accordance with the legislation</li> <li>• Industries require a permit to carry out authorised activities under LAPPC and industrial premises are inspected to check for compliance through a range of Environmental Protection legislation e.g. emissions control, best practice use and equipment.</li> <li>• Enforcement action will be taken against industries and residential properties e.g. uncontrolled releases to air</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to control &amp; assess contaminated land</li> </ul>

## Environment

### Energy Conservation Unit

Service Area	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gwynedd Council's Carbon Management Plan 2015 (CMP1) aimed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated from its' service provision activities by 30% by 2015. A first step in ensuring that Gwynedd plays its' part to combat the effects of climate change and ensure a sustainable County.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gwynedd Council's next Carbon Management Plan (CMP2) aims to achieve a very ambitious 60% reduction by 2021. This aspirational target has been set against a 2005/06 baseline by achieving continual improvements to meet Welsh Government Targets for annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions of 3%.</li></ul>

## YGC/Consultancy

NRP Objective	Previous/Current Actions	Actions for 2017-19
<p><b>NRP Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead on Ordinary Water Course Consent – ecology advice sought from Biodiversity Team</li> <li>• Acts as Lead Flooding Authority – catchment/ecosystem approach used to try and solve flooding issues</li> <li>• Responsible for the Shoreline Management Plan (includes priority habitats &amp; designations)</li> <li>• Responsible for maintenance &amp; improvement of bridges – biodiversity enhancement options considered eg dipper boxes, enhancement for otters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead on Ordinary Water Course Consent – ecology advice sought from Biodiversity Team</li> <li>• Acts as Lead Flooding Authority – catchment/ecosystem approach used to try and solve flooding issues</li> <li>• Responsible for the Shoreline Management Plan (includes priority habitats &amp; designations)</li> <li>• Responsible for maintenance &amp; improvement of bridges – biodiversity enhancement options considered eg dipper boxes, enhancement for otters</li> </ul>