

# Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Duty Delivery Plan


Section 6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Flintshire County Council: Report Dec 2019

Progress overview	Code	Action	Progress	
Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	1.1	1.1.1	Blue	
		1.1.2	Orange	
	1.2	1.2.1	Green	
		1.2.2	Green	
		1.2.3	Orange	
	1.3	1.3.1	Red	
		1.3.2	Red	
		1.3.3	Red	
	1.4	1.4.1	Blue	
		1.4.2	Green	
		1.4.3	Blue	
		1.4.4	Red	
Safeguard species and habitats of principle importance and improve their management	2.1	2.1.1	Green	
	2.2	2.2.1	Green	
	2.3	2.3.1	Orange	
		2.3.2	Red	
		2.3.3	Orange	
Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	3.1	3.1.1	Blue	
		3.1.2	Orange	
	3.2	3.2.1	Blue	
	3.3	3.3.1	Green	
	3.4	3.4.1	Orange	
		3.4.2	Green	
Tackle key pressures (Climate change/invasive non-native species/Habitat loss) on species and habitats	4.1	4.1.1	Blue	
		4.1.2	Green	
		4.1.3	Blue	
	4.2	4.2.1	Green	
		4.2.2	Green	
	4.3	4.3.1	Green	
		4.3.2	Green	
	4.4	4.4.1	Blue	
	4.5	4.5.1	Blue	
	Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	5.1	5.1.1	Orange
		5.2	5.2.1	Green
5.3		5.3.1	Orange	
5.4		5.4.1	Green	
5.5		5.5.1	Green	
		5.5.2	Green	
Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery	6.1	6.6.1	Blue	
	6.2	6.2.1	Green	
	6.3	6.3.1	Green	
	6.4	6.4.1	Green	
		6.4.2	Orange	

 No Progress

 Poor Progress

 Good Progress:  
Further work needed

 Action complete

Nature Recovery Action Plan Objective 1	Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
--	---

				Depts	measure	Progress				
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete	
1.1	Achieve the Resilient Wales goal: Ensure biodiversity integration with Council Well-being work streams	1.1.1 Embed the consideration of biodiversity and sustainability throughout decision making	Corporate	All portfolios	Legislative and policy requirements included in council plans where appropriate			•		
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council plans since 2016 have included an environment section or greener council section. Council plan for 2019 – 23 commits to “Effective management of our natural environment and accessible green space networks to deliver health, well-being and resilience goals and Protecting the resilience of our natural environment by increasing the biodiversity value of council owned or managed land”</li> <li>• Biodiversity and sustainability questions are now included in the Internal Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)</li> <li>• Biodiversity officer sits on the IIA review group</li> <li>• Staff training to raise awareness of the duty and highlight the need for all staff to consider environmental impact</li> <li>• Duty guidance published on the FCC Website with the opportunity for public suggestions to create a greener council</li> </ul>							
		<b>Future opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental elements need to be strengthened in council plan and linked to key environmental legislation requirements</li> <li>• Further work within the IIA framework to produce guidelines, criteria and standard environmental recommendations.</li> </ul>							
		1.1.2 Ensure there are strong links between staff and the local nature partnership (Bionet) to ensure input into the PSB, well-being assessment objectives and auditing process.	Corporate and Biodiversity		Clear lines of communication established		•			
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal communication between corporate and natural environment dept has improved. A number of our LNP members sit on the PSB Environmental Subgroup, good links exist with this group.</li> </ul>							
<b>Future opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase general awareness and visibility of the Local Nature Partnership to compliment work</li> </ul>									

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
			<b>progressing under the LNP Cymru project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Future work with the Climate change programme board will support cross dept. working further</b></li> </ul>						
1.2	Implement the new biodiversity and ecosystems resilience duty:	1.2.1 Undertake an audit of council services, identify key departments and opportunities, and include recommended actions in the duty delivery plan	Biodiversity	All portfolios	Audit report				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>An audit across key departments was undertaken in 2016 and recommendations from this informed the S6 plan</b></li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The audit will be reviewed and new opportunities for collaborative work included in the forthcoming 2020 – 2023 S6 plan</b></li> <li><b>Increased input from other departments during review of the existing S6 plan and increased lead from non-environmental council depts. will be explored and encouraged.</b></li> </ul>						
		1.2.2 Produce a biodiversity and ecosystems resilience duty delivery plan for the council	Biodiversity		S6 Plan				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Section 6 duty delivery plan adopted and published online at <a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Countryside--Coast/Biodiversity/Biodiversity-and-Ecosystem-Resilience-Duty-Delivery-Plan.pdf">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Countryside--Coast/Biodiversity/Biodiversity-and-Ecosystem-Resilience-Duty-Delivery-Plan.pdf</a></b></li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Section 6 duty plan review and update Jan – March 2020</b></li> </ul>						
		1.2.3 Implement WG guidance on the duty and undertake specific dept meetings identified in the audit	Biodiversity		Guidance referenced and followed in S6 plan		●		
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Guidance implemented and referenced in S6 Plan</b></li> <li><b>Work has been progressed with specific departments' Collaborative work with the Energy dept, Education and Streetscene. Including, Climate emergency work, Sustainability schools programme and habitat management</b></li> </ul>						
<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Engage key departments in development of 2020-23 Section 6 duty plan particularly Procurement, Waste and Corporate</b></li> </ul>								

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
1.3	Legislative and policy requirements are reflected in council plans, reports and processes	1.3.1 Identify and assess council plans and policies for biodiversity impact and provide recommendations for amendments	Biodiversity		Report complete	•			
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although existing plans and policies have not been reviewed. The Biodiversity officers work under the Integrated Impact assessment has improved the consideration of Biodiversity and Sustainability within new plans or projects</li> </ul>						
		1.3.2 Ensure that the biodiversity and sustainability duty are considered within committee reports by including a standard consideration of the biodiversity and ecosystem resilience duty on all reports.	Governance		Amended report format	•			
		1.3.3 Review the sustainability test which is currently undertaken within council procurement rules	Governance		Report	•			
1.4	Improved understanding and awareness leads to behavioural change	1.4.1 Undertake an ambitious internal communication strategy to improve understanding of the duty and sustainability issues and responsibilities as a whole	Biodiversity and Energy	Waste and Recycling	a)Produce a staff advice note on the legislation b)Hold Staff and Member training c)Produce an e learning module/sustainability and biodiversity staff and member pack			•	

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and member training was held in 2017. Around 200 staff and councillors attended the 2 training sessions on 15<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018</li> <li>• Feedback responses demonstrated an 80% improved understanding of the duty and 80% would consider their impact on the environment more after the training</li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To follow the training with more specific dept. focussed workshops</li> <li>• Work with the WG task and finish group to produce an e learning module</li> <li>• Improve internal links with Waste and Recycling</li> </ul>						
		1.4.2. Continue and improve our outreach education and awareness programme through work with schools/training events/social media/interpretation/press releases	Countryside services, Biodiversity	Local Nature Partnership	Increase no of people engaged through events and no of schools engaged each year.				•
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Natural Environment and Access dept. continues to run a varied and popular education and events programme. Schools also visit various access and natural environment managed sites to undertake planned educational activities with staff.</li> <li>• Our Wepre Country Park Education Programme: 2017 and Pre 2017 –12 school visits a year on average. 2018 – 202 children from 4 schools over 4 visits. 2019 - 465 children from 6 schools over 13 visits.</li> <li>• Our Greenfield Vally Education Programme: 2017 – 1089 children, 2018 – 1050 children, 2019 - 1746 children</li> <li>• 2019 - Countryside Events (55 events, 15 cancelled) – Over 2000 beneficiaries - 2019 - GFV Events(25 events) – 5759 beneficiaries</li> <li>• In 2019 this included a Flagship Go wild BioBlitz event in Wales Nature Week and an intergenerational nature walk with FCC social services and rights of way departments.</li> <li>• The Biodiversity Officer undertakes school visits in connection with a wide range of projects and topics</li> <li>• The LNP runs a wide range of awareness and education events which are publicised through the LNP social media pages</li> <li>• The Biodiversity Officer has worked collaboratively with the Energy dept. to contract and develop an eco-schools programme Flintshire Eco Champions which delivers educational sessions on sustainability with primary schools.</li> <li>• LNP social media pages have built up 668 followers and the Biodiversity officer has established a LNP twitter account to help increase awareness of work streams.</li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of the Flintshire Eco Champions Programme</li> </ul>						
		1.4.3. Establish links	Biodiversity	Waste	Look into			•	

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
		between biodiversity projects and carbon and waste reduction initiatives	and Energy		possibility of a joint projects with Energy and Waste				
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joint work with the Energy dept. has been effective and has included: Training, Flintshire Eco Champions programme, Climate emergency commitments, Internal integrated impact assessment work and carbon sequestration.</b></li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved links with waste</b></li> </ul>						
		1.4.4 Encourage the development of corporate volunteering activities to promote environmental awareness and responsibility amongst staff and to enable individuals to develop values, skills and knowledge to contribute to sustainable development.	Biodiversity and corporate	Corporate	No. of corporate volunteer hours	•			

<b>Nature Recovery Action Plan Objective 2</b>	<b>Safeguard species and habitats of principle importance and improve their management</b>
--	--

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
2.1	Implement the suite of environmental legislation through our in house Ecological advisory service	2.1.1 Continue to provide ecological advice with regard to protected habitats and species, development control, licencing applications and protected site impact assessments, monitoring and enforcement action.	Ecologist	Access and Natural Environment	No. of applications responded to No. of licence applications No. TLSE				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Ecologist continues to provide advice for development control, licencing, protected sites and species and monitoring and enforcement action</b></li> </ul>						
2.2	Ensure best evidence to underpin development control and planning policy decision making and safeguard species and habitats	2.2.1 Continue funding service level agreement with Cofnod/LERC	Access and Natural Environment Manager	Access and Natural Environment	Service level agreement in place				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A service level agreement is in place with Cofnod/LERC and has been since pre 2016. The data has supported ongoing evaluation of planning applications and the LDP policy work.</b></li> </ul>						
2.3	Increased resilience of our ecosystems by improving the attributes of resilience:	2.3.1 Production of a local nature recovery plan which focusses on Diversity, extent, condition and connectivity of Sec 7 habitats and species.	Biodiversity Officer and Local Nature Partnership	Access and Natural Environment	Production of a Local nature recovery plan		●		



Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
	diversity, extent, condition and connectivity.	<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As an LNP we wanted the production of a LNRAP to work with the Area Statement work stream, due to delays in the Area statement process, work on the LNRAP has also had to be postponed</li> <li>A subgroup of the LNP will be meeting to progress the LNRAP development to compliment the emerging themes of the Area Statements 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> </ul>						
2.3.2 Develop actions in consultation with the local nature recovery partnership and evidence from the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR)		Biodiversity Officer and Local Nature Partnership	Access and Natural Environment	Evidence development of actions	•				
2.3.3 Incorporate local priorities into area statements and vice versa		Biodiversity Officer and Local Nature Partnership	Access and Natural Environment	Local priorities included in area statements		•			
<b>Progress</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCC and the LNP have provided and supported the development of priorities in Area Statements at every opportunity</li> <li>We support the emerging themes coming from the Area Statement process</li> <li>The process of developing Area Statements which is being led by NRW has been prolonged</li> </ul>							
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As we develop our Local Nature Recovery Plan we will ensure that it fits with the emerging themes of the Area statement</li> </ul>						

<b>Nature Recovery Action Plan Objective 3</b>	<b>Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation</b>
--	---

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
3.1	Habitat creation for pollinators with wider environmental benefits.	3.1.1 FCC to achieve national accreditation under the Bee friendly Wales scheme.	Biodiversity	Access and Natural Environment	Bee friendly accreditation			●	
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bee friendly application drafted – further work needed</b></li> <li>• <b>Grant funded projects have installed wildflower turf, planted areas up with bulbs, tree planting projects have installed pollinator friendly trees in urban areas, amenity grass has received reduced cutting.</b></li> <li>• <b>Coronation meadow has been established at County Hall and is managed for nature</b></li> </ul>						
		<b>Future opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exploring options to invest in cut and collect equipment with Streetscene which would enable improved grass management for pollinators</b></li> </ul>						
		3.1.2 Submit Expression of interest and bee friendly plan to Welsh government and work towards accreditation.	Biodiversity	Access and Natural Environment			●		
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bee friendly application drafted – further work needed</b></li> </ul>						
3.2	Restoring degraded habitat and improving wider landscape connectivity.	3.2.1 Maintain and enhance our wildflower road verges	Streetscene	Access and Natural Environment	Increase number of wildflower verges			●	
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Changes in grass cutting policy</b></li> <li>• <b>Trial areas for reduced cutting</b></li> <li>• <b>Wildflower campaign begun working with Streetscene involving pilot sites for perennial seeding, undertaking the correct management on our identified diverse verges and reducing grass cutting on a number of additional amenity grassland areas</b></li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Minimise use of Glyphosate – alternatives being explored</b></li> </ul>						

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
3.3	Habitat creation, maintenance and enhancement.	3.3.1 Produce and implement a tree strategy and planting plan	Tree Officer	Access and Natural Environment	Strategy and plan in place				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban tree and woodland plan adopted by FCC in 2018.</li> <li>Launch event held at Wepre Park Visitor Centre and Local councils invited and encouraged to consider tree planting in their areas</li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased tree planting</li> </ul>						
3.4	Restore areas of degraded habitat and increase resilience of protected sites	3.4.1 Draw on evidence from the landholding biodiversity audit to create /enhance further council estate.	Ecologist and Biodiversity	Assets	Establish criteria for prioritisation		●		
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information from the audit informed the Green infrastructure mapping project</li> <li>Areas across the Council estate have been enhanced with tree planting, pond creation, hedgerow planting and wildflower areas.</li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved use of GIS to target action, this will be achieved through planned work under the LNP Cymru project</li> </ul>						
		3.4.2 Assess landholdings and prioritise habitat improvements near protected sites			Improve 1 site per annum				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat improvement has been completed at FCC owned/managed sites and working in partnership E.g. ARC, NWWT, Groundwork. Including sympathetic grassland management and hibernacula creation in Buckley, adjacent to protected sites. Tree planting and hedgerow creation along the Dee estuary protected sites, pond creation and maintenance at a number of FCC sites within protected sites.</li> </ul>						

Nature Recovery Action Plan Objective 4	Tackle key pressures (Climate change/Invasive non native species/Habitat loss) on species and habitats
--	--

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress				
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete	
4.1	Climate change	4.1.1 Ongoing Carbon reduction and energy efficient initiatives	Energy	All				●		
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative work includes: Training, Flintshire Eco Champions programme, Climate emergency commitments and report, internal impact assessment work and carbon sequestration.</li> </ul>							
		4.1.2 Follow best practice guidelines in terms of biodiversity enhancement on council owned renewable energy sites.	Energy	Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer						●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ecologist works closely with the Energy dept. to ensure that best practice and management plans are followed and protected species and site legislation is followed.</li> </ul>							
		4.1.3 Reducing waste production and promoting resource efficiency	Waste and Recycling	All					●	
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FCC have ongoing commitments to reducing waste and recycling</li> </ul>							
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability event to be hosted in 2020</li> </ul>							
4.2	Reduction in invasive species	4.2.1 Coordinate and support projects which control Invasive Non Native species	Biodiversity Officer	Access and Natural Environment / Streetscene	Project reports/documentation				●	
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity Officer provides ongoing support for the Alyn Valley Himalayan balsam project coordinating effort and seeking funding.</li> <li>• Flintshire Countryside Service worked with NRW to purchase Azolla weevils for 2 sites in Connahs quay where ponds important for Great Crested Newts are infested. The biological control has been effective and there has been 100% reduction in Azolla</li> <li>• Biodiversity Officer works with Streetscene to respond to invasive non-native enquiries and requests for control.</li> </ul>							

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
		4.2.2 Continue support for specific projects including Living landscapes/Alyn valley Himalayan balsam project/Dee INNs project	Biodiversity Officer	Access and Natural Environment	Project reports/documentation				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Biodiversity Officer continues to work with Dee Inns staff and coordinate the Alyn Valley Himalayan balsam project Himalayan balsam</b></li> <li>• <b>The Biodiversity Officer supports work under the North Wales Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes project and sits on the project steering group.</b></li> </ul>						
4.3	Reduce key pressures on habitats and species of principle importance for conservation	4.3.1 Coordinate and support Section 7 species/habitat specific project work	Biodiversity Officer and Ecologist	Access and Natural Environment	Project reports/data records				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Species work: Monitoring and habitat management/creation for Dormouse/Sand Lizard/Great Crested Newt/Natterjack toad</b></li> <li>• <b>Ongoing woodland management at FCC owned and managed sites: 16 ancient woodland within management plans, 4 new licences, 4,500 m3 of timber, 12ha of conifers converted to broadleaves.</b></li> </ul>						
		4.3.2 Undertake practical management to benefit section 7 species or habitats	Biodiversity Officer and Ecologist	Access and Natural Environment	Habitat management recorded				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sympathetic grassland management and hibernacula creation, Tree planting and hedgerow creation, pond creation and maintenance, woodland management.</b></li> </ul>						
4.4	Reduce pressures on habitats and species related to reduced habitat options in new builds and building maintenance.	4.4.1 Review processes and consider opportunities for improvements for wildlife. in our New homes/buildings schemes and when maintaining our local authority housing	Biodiversity Officer and Ecologist	Planning	Checklist? Best practice guidance?			●	

		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Ecologist is consulted on planning applications and provides pre-application advice. The ecologist also advises housing regarding maintenance requirements.</b></li> <li>• <b>In addition the Biodiversity Officer works to support and promote green infrastructure in urban environments.</b></li> </ul>						
4.5	Reduce development pressures through continued ecologist advice and guidance notes	4.5.1 Improve process to enhance biodiversity by producing local Section 7 guidance note.	Ecologist	Access and Natural Environment	Complete advice note			•	
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 7 Guidance included within the Special Planning Guidance</b></li> </ul>						

<b>Nature Recovery Action Plan Objective 5</b>	<b>Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring</b>
--	---

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
5.1	Improved use of evidence in decision making	5.1.1 Use SoNaRR to help guide local action for ecosystems	Local nature partnership	Access and Natural Environment		•			
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SoNaRR data has been used for LNP consultation responses</b></li> </ul>						
		<b>Future opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SoNaRR will be used at the forthcoming work to develop a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan</b></li> </ul>						

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
5.2	Improve baseline evidence for decision making	5.2.1 Support and undertake Surveys of S7 habitat and species	Biodiversity, Ecology, Countryside Services, Local Nature Partnership	Access and natural Environment	Survey results				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular surveys of Great Crested Newts, Dormice, Sand Lizards, Barn Owls, Natterjack toads</li> </ul>						
		<b>Future opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with volunteers to undertake strategic water vole surveys around known populations</li> </ul>						
5.3	Improved understanding and monitoring	5.3.1 Monitor results of historical habitat improvement schemes to guide future projects	Biodiversity	Access and natural environment	Report		●		
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road verge surveys are undertaken by the Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer to monitor impact of reduced cutting regime</li> <li>Biodiversity Officer undertakes floral surveys of grassland with reduced cuts</li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include post project monitoring and maintenance in funding opportunities</li> <li>Potential to include volunteers and/or students in monitoring projects</li> </ul>						
5.4	Improved evidence, understanding and monitoring	5.4.1 Maximise use of volunteers particularly in survey and monitoring roles	Biodiversity Officer and Countryside staff	Access and Natural Environment	A volunteer group is established and maintained				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Biodiversity officer and Countryside service work regularly with volunteers. We have long term volunteers who are licenced for protected species survey in particular for Sand Lizards, Great Crested Newts and Dormouse survey. We run training for volunteers and work with partner organisations including the Wildlife trust and Groundwork undertaking tasks with volunteer support.</li> </ul>						
5.5	Standardised data capture and action reporting	5.5.1 Use of LERC for evidence and data gathering	Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer		Planning list reports				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All planning applications are checked against LERC data and reports returned to the Ecologist</li> </ul>						
		5.5.2 Report biodiversity action through agreed national database/process	Biodiversity Officer		Records submitted				●
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed for survey programmes where appropriate for example the National Dormouse Monitoring programme and survey events.</li> </ul>						





Nature Recovery Action Plan Objective 6	Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery
--	---

			Depts	measure	Progress				
					No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete	
6.1	A council who is fully compliant with legislative and policy requirements and proactive in biodiversity conservation.	6.1.1 Ensure there is sufficient capacity to comply with legislative requirements and enable proactive action for biodiversity conservation.	Access and Natural Environment		Sufficient staff and resources in place			•	
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCC employs 1 Biodiversity Officer part time, recent grant funding from WG has enabled the Biodiversity officer to increase to full time on a temporary basis for 2.5 years.</li> </ul>						
		<b>Future opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek and apply for additional grant funding to increase capacity further and on a permanent basis</li> </ul>						
6.2	Support is provided for local biodiversity action delivery	6.2.1 Ensure that funding is secured through the Single Revenue Grant which supports and delivers biodiversity projects.	Biodiversity Officer		Funding bid and report				•
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SRG Funding was obtained each year while the fund was active. The grant fund is now closed. The Biodiversity Officer has ongoing work streams to secure future funding from a range of sources for various biodiversity projects.</li> </ul>						
		<b>Future opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applications for alternative grant funding</li> </ul>						
6.3	A framework is in place to support and govern local biodiversity action	6.3.1 Coordinate the Local Nature Partnership/North East Wales Biodiversity Network	Biodiversity Officer	Access and Natural Environment and LNP	A functioning LNP				•
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LNP (BioNet) is functioning across Flintshire, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Conwy. Coordinated by the Biodiversity Officer. It is a strong group with on average 20 attendees per meeting, an email circulation list of approx. 80 and over 650 followers on social media.</li> </ul>						
		<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCC has received additional resources to fund increased capacity and project work through the WG LNP Cymru project which provides opportunities to strengthen the LNP further.</li> </ul>						
6.4	Establish a framework of governance	6.4.1 Produce a council sustainability policy which will replace the	Biodiversity Officer	Access and Natural Environment	An adopted policy which is available online				•

Code	Outcome	Action	Lead	Key Depts	Performance measure	Progress			
						No Progress	Poor Progress	Good Progress: Further work needed	Action complete
	internally for council projects which focus on biodiversity or sustainability	environmental policy and build in links with the new legislation.		t / Energy					
		6.4.2 Create a cross departmental sustainability working group to implement the policy					●		
		<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment and Sustainability policy was adopted and is available online at <a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Countryside--Coast/Biodiversity/Flintshire-County-Council-Sustainability-Policy.pdf">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Countryside--Coast/Biodiversity/Flintshire-County-Council-Sustainability-Policy.pdf</a></li> <li>• A number of staff from a range of depts. have expressed an interest in being part of this work</li> </ul>						
	<b>Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work with the climate change programme board</li> </ul>							