

Environment Act Biodiversity (section 6) Duty Delivery Plan

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	328
Brief description:	This proposal is Denbighshire County Council's biodiversity duty delivery plan which outlines how, as an organisation, it plans to address its biodiversity duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and consequently help achieve its Well-being and Nature Recovery Plan objectives over the period 2016-19.
Date Completed:	20/11/2017 11:10:37 Version: 1
Completed by:	Joel Walley
Responsible Service:	Highways & Environmental Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we 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."

Score for the sustainability of the approach



(3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 21 / 30.

Implications of the score

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire

A resilient Denbighshire

A healthier Denbighshire

A more equal Denbighshire

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Neutral



Main conclusions

As a local authority we now have a statutory duty to function sustainably and lead by example when it comes to protecting and enhancing our natural environment. To meet the challenge of reversing the decline in biodiversity it is essential that we act now and ensure as a local authority we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Denbighshire County Council's biodiversity duty delivery plan outlines how, as an organisation, it plans to address its biodiversity duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and consequently help achieve its Well-being and Nature Recovery Plan objectives over the period 2016-19.

The Wellbeing Impact Assessment has shown that the adoption of this document will align the council with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Although largely an internal document, the benefits will be felt by residents throughout the county.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

☐ We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal

- ☐ We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
 - ☐ We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal
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THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The Section 6 Duty Delivery Plan sets out new ways of thinking and working which will help to protect and enhance our environment. This shouldn't require excessive new investment, but more likely a change in the way we currently work.
Further actions required	Training and raising the profile so that all staff and residents understand the need for a healthy environment and the actions described above should become the norm.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	increased tree cover to sequester carbon. More sustainable management of DCC resources. Increased protection of habitats and restoration of degraded habitats. Low carbon goals are built in to the plan, with emphasis on working with housing and waste.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	a road verge network that works for wildlife and road users alike. watercourses and wetland habitats better managed to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion and act as a valuable habitat for wildlife. New developments required to carefully consider their impacts.
Economic development	greener and more attractive environments in both towns and villages. Increased tourism potential.
Quality skills for the long term	Increased opportunities to develop skills in the outdoor environment sector, with opportunities for staff throughout the authority to volunteer.
Quality jobs for the long term	A greener, more attractive county offers a more attractive place to work.
Childcare	

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	possible increased maintenance requirements.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	More steps to ensure that an ecologically sensitive approach is taken which protects the environment.
Economic development	More steps to ensure that an ecologically sensitive approach is taken which protects the environment
Quality skills for the long term	

Quality jobs for the long term	
Childcare	

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The aim of the plan is to protect biodiversity and the natural environment.
Further actions required	seeking opportunities to increase the profile of the plan and educate and inform staff to consider it early on in all projects.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	The entire focus of the Section 6 Duty Delivery Plan is to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment.
Biodiversity in the built environment	The focus of the Section 6 Duty Delivery Plan is to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment. Various sections of the plan relate specifically to biodiversity in the built environment.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	The focus of the Section 6 Duty Delivery Plan is to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment. Various sections of the plan relate specifically to reducing waste.
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment. Various sections of the plan relate specifically improving energy efficiency.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Objective 1 of the Section 6 Duty Delivery Plan is to Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.
Flood risk management	Restoring degraded habitats and planting trees within the water catchment areas will help to slow the flow of water and reduce the likelihood of flooding.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	
Biodiversity in the built environment	increased consideration of the natural environment may result in small time and cost implications until staff are sufficiently experienced in implementing it. Efforts to reduce carbon emissions and increase the energy efficiency of buildings could result in a less visually pleasing structure. Some methods to improve the energy efficiency of buildings (cavity wall insulation, cladding, warm roofs etc) can have a negative impact on rare and declining species which lose habitat, e.g., bats.
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	

Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Efforts to reduce carbon emissions and increase the energy efficiency of buildings could result in a less visually pleasing structure. Some methods to improve the energy efficiency of buildings (cavity wall insulation, cladding, warm roofs etc) can have a negative impact on rare and declining species which lose habitat, e.g., bats.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	
Flood risk management	

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	a more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Further actions required	Provide a range of opportunities for people to enjoy their local environment, rather than travelling to honeypots to access the countryside.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	a more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	a more attractive, greener environment encourages people to spend time outdoors, and has known benefits to mental and physical health.
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	a greener, more attractive environment will encourage more people to get outdoors and complete exercise to benefit their health.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	possible increased visitor pressure on countryside sites.
Access to good quality, healthy food	
People's emotional and mental well-being	
Access to healthcare	

Participation in leisure opportunities	
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A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The plan will be implemented throughout the authority, and will be implemented equally throughout. Steps to improve the carbon emissions and increase the efficiency of homes, should reduce the costs for vulnerable residents.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	
People in poverty	Increased energy efficiency should help to tackle fuel poverty, by reducing the cost of heating housing.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	
People in poverty	

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	a greener more attractive environment will help the cohesiveness of communities. Greener urban settings have been shown to reduce the rates of crime.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	A greener environment should have a positive impact on the resilience of the environment in local communities.
The attractiveness of the area	The plan will result in a greener, more attractive environment. Steps will be taken to increase the tree cover in urban areas such as Rhyl and Denbigh, which currently have some of the lowest tree cover in Europe.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	
Community participation and resilience	
The attractiveness of the area	

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The landscape of Denbighshire is iconic, and an important part of the culture and heritage of the county. The measures set out in the Section 6 Duty Delivery Plan will help to protect and enhance this landscape.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	The plan includes aims to restore areas of degraded habitat and increase resilience of protected sites, which will be available for residents in perpetuity as a result.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	
Promoting the Welsh language	
Culture and heritage	

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	Adoption of this plan offers protection and enhancement locally, which contributes to improvements globally.
Further actions required	Training and improved understanding will help to address any issues when adopting new approaches.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	A change in the way service departments work should not result in a more onerous approach, but more a change in the way they approach their projects. This could include utilising new technology or the latest scientific research to ensure their actions are the best approach available.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	
Human rights	
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Adoption of the best approaches will require a change in practice for some, which may be considered onerous.

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