

## APPENDIX 2

# Moorland Management and Wildfire Prevention Project

## 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:	700
Brief description:	Following a detailed investigation into the Llantysilio Moorland fire in summer 2018, Communities Scrutiny Committee recommended the appointment of an Upland/ Moorland Management Officer as a means of improving communication and coordination between stakeholders, reducing the risk of wildfires and improving the management and condition of the moorlands in the County.
Date Completed:	24/02/2020 13:25:02 Version: 2
Completed by:	Huw Rees
Responsible Service:	Planning & Public Protection
Localities affected by the proposal:	Dee Valley, Elwy, Llangollen,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Predominately rural residents of the County and those that manage, farm, graze or own moorland areas within the County.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

# 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 : 27 / 30.

## Implications of the score

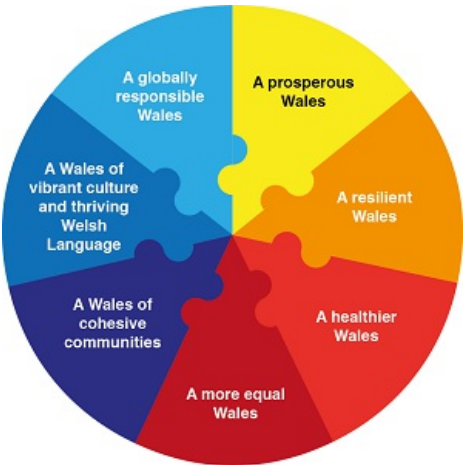
This proposal will encourage action over the longer term which is needed when dealing with moorland restoration, management and biodiversity. A resilience plan will be created, coordinated by the officer, to reduce the risk of and prevent, wildfires. The NRW, Fire Service and other key stakeholders are already involved and moving to common objectives. The Scrutiny investigation was inclusive and wide ranging in scope. Communities and individuals were involved in the process.

## 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
- Neutral
- Positive
- Neutral
- Positive



## Main conclusions

This proposal is essentially the appointment of an Upland/ Moorland Management Officer. The role will improve coordination and communication with all stakeholders; improve the health and management of moorland areas in the County; and reduce the risk of wildfires. Wildfires are emergencies. They disrupt normal life and processes, agricultural areas and farming land, destroy habitats and species and negatively influence soil quality, water catchment areas, biodiversity and rural activities. A healthy and well managed upland brings benefits to the rural economy, rural resilience, physical access and mental well-being as well as contributing to positive community cohesion.

The proposal follows an in depth report into the Llantysilio fire in Summer 2018 and was one of it's key recommendation. A recommendation considered by the Committee as a key way of unlocking the improvements required following the fire and in responding to the public and organisational consultation.

## 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

# THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

## A prosperous Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	Opportunities to improve rural skills, jobs, farming diversification and rural development are all increased by having a well managed and healthy moorland /upland area.
<b>Further actions required</b>	Ensure the project considers all aspects of the moorland users when implementing objectives. This will be part of the considerations of the Steering group which will be set up.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>A low carbon society</b>	Moorland stores carbon in its soils and this sequestration helps against climate change. Better managed moorland will increase the opportunity of this. A reduction in the risk of wildfires will help reduce the release of carbon into the atmosphere. This will contribute to Wales as a globally responsible nation.
<b>Quality communications, infrastructure and transport</b>	The appointment will coordinate communication between all stakeholders to create better responses to wildfire incidences and landscape management. Currently there is limited communication and resourcing of this issue.
<b>Economic development</b>	Improved moorland management will create better vegetation and grazing for livestock. The area will be able to support more grazing animals. Improved management of the landscape improves visual amenity and should have knock -on effects for the tourism sector.
<b>Quality skills for the long term</b>	The appointment will organise training for stakeholders in wildfire, moorland and animal management. These skills are disappearing from the sector.
<b>Quality jobs for the long term</b>	A healthy moorland will improve opportunities for jobs in farming, game industry and moorland management.
<b>Childcare</b>	

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>A low carbon society</b>	
<b>Quality communications, infrastructure and transport</b>	
<b>Economic development</b>	Managing the moorland to mitigate fire risk will not necessarily improve the landscape for other uses, but it should.
<b>Quality skills for the long term</b>	
<b>Quality jobs for the long term</b>	

Childcare	
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## A resilient Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	A healthy and well managed moorland improves resilience of that environment across all factors.
<b>Further actions required</b>	This project has an overwhelming positive impact on environmental resilience.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>Biodiversity and the natural environment</b>	A well managed and healthy moorland improves carbon sequestration, biodiversity, soil condition, positively helps species and habitats, reduces wildfires and therefore improves air quality and helps farmers to preserve landscape character and resilience
<b>Biodiversity in the built environment</b>	N/A
<b>Reducing waste, reusing and recycling</b>	N/A
<b>Reduced energy/fuel consumption</b>	Fighting wildfires uses resources- water, diesel, etc. Reduce the likelihood of wild fire reduces the use of resources.
<b>People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity</b>	This proposal will enable an increase in education and understanding across stakeholders and residents in Denbighshire
<b>Flood risk management</b>	The moorland areas in Denbighshire are upper catchment areas. Poor condition moorland will result in greater run off, soil erosion and could result in increased flooding further downstream.

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>Biodiversity and the natural environment</b>	
<b>Biodiversity in the built environment</b>	
<b>Reducing waste, reusing and recycling</b>	
<b>Reduced energy/fuel consumption</b>	
<b>People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity</b>	
<b>Flood risk management</b>	

## A healthier Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
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<b>Justification for impact</b>	A healthier, more accessible landscape will lead to a healthier population due to increased usage.
<b>Further actions required</b>	Access restrictions will be short term and minimal during moorland restoration.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</b>	Moorland improvement will create a better landscape for all, which in turn will improve opportunities for access and enjoyment. The majority of the moorland in the area is 'open access' so people can enjoy it without restriction.
<b>Access to good quality, healthy food</b>	Better, more resilient grazing for livestock should result in better local food stocks.
<b>People's emotional and mental well-being</b>	A quality external environment has well documented emotional and mental wellbeing benefits. An improved upland landscape will provide better health benefits.
<b>Access to healthcare</b>	N/A
<b>Participation in leisure opportunities</b>	Improved management of the moorland will include better access opportunities as this will manage wildfire risk and erosion.

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</b>	Access to some areas of moorland may be prevented while restoration or improvement is carried out. However this should not affect the overall access provision.
<b>Access to good quality, healthy food</b>	Local food networks need to be developed but is beyond the scope of the project.
<b>People's emotional and mental well-being</b>	Providing access to the local natural environment is beyond the scope of the proposal but should be a consideration.
<b>Access to healthcare</b>	
<b>Participation in leisure opportunities</b>	Access to some areas of moorland may be prevented while restoration or improvement is carried out. However this should not affect the overall access provision.

## A more equal Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Neutral
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The proposal would not necessarily improve or reduce equality. The main focus is on environmental improvement rather than human wellbeing but it is hard to see where the proposal will impact negatively.
<b>Further actions required</b>	The project will consider a legacy approach. Improving the moorland is a long term project and will ultimately benefit the farming community.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>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</b>	
<b>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</b>	
<b>Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes</b>	The proposal might improve farmer economic outcomes and access to the uplands would help health outcomes.
<b>People in poverty</b>	

#### Negative impacts identified:

<b>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</b>	
<b>People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage</b>	
<b>Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes</b>	
<b>People in poverty</b>	

### A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
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<b>Justification for impact</b>	The consultation as part of the Scrutiny investigation highlighted the local interest and support for the proposal as a way of supporting the rural economy and community over the longer term.
<b>Further actions required</b>	The local community and stakeholders have been involved in the information gathering for this project.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>Safe communities and individuals</b>	The proposal should reduce the risk of wildfires. This makes individuals and rural communities who live on or adjacent to the upland areas more safe.
<b>Community participation and resilience</b>	The appointment of an Upland management officer will improve inclusiveness for rural communities and people. Part of the role will be to agree decision making and actions with stakeholders. A long term management regime for the moorland will improve resilience in the landscape and within the farming/ game industry that it supports
<b>The attractiveness of the area</b>	A better managed moorland/ upland will be more visually attractive.
<b>Connected communities</b>	N/A
<b>Rural resilience</b>	This proposal directly influences rural areas and improves an agricultural landscape.

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>Safe communities and individuals</b>	
<b>Community participation and resilience</b>	
<b>The attractiveness of the area</b>	
<b>Connected communities</b>	
<b>Rural resilience</b>	

## A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Neutral
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The rural areas of Denbighshire have a large proportion of welsh speakers. The proposal's benefits should help improve the cohesion of rural communities and local farming industries, maintaining people in the rural areas.
<b>Further actions required</b>	Implementation of this project will be through DCC mechanisms. Welsh language standards will apply and materials produced by the project will be bilingual.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>People using Welsh</b>	
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<b>Promoting the Welsh language</b>	
<b>Culture and heritage</b>	The upland/moorland areas of the County are iconic, both visually and culturally. Their improvement and protection is obviously beneficial to the rural community and landscapes.

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>People using Welsh</b>	
<b>Promoting the Welsh language</b>	
<b>Culture and heritage</b>	

## A globally responsible Denbighshire

<b>Overall Impact</b>	Positive
<b>Justification for impact</b>	The proposal has limited impact on supply chains and the actual influence will be unknown and is beyond the scope of the project. Fire prevention is key to the proposal and if successful, will mean emergency services can be otherwise employed. The peatlands of Denbighshire's uplands contribute to carbon storage and their maintenance is a vital part of Wales's response to climate change.
<b>Further actions required</b>	The carbon sequestration benefits of this project will ensure resilience is maximised.

### Positive impacts identified:

<b>Local, national, international supply chains</b>	Better local livestock supplies could result in better local food chains. However this is beyond the scope of the proposal.
<b>Human rights</b>	The peatlands of Denbighshire's uplands contribute to carbon storage and their maintenance is a vital part of Wales's response to climate change.
<b>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</b>	Reducing the risk of wildfires and logically, therefore, their occurrence will enable emergency services to direct resources to other incidents.

### Negative impacts identified:

<b>Local, national, international supply chains</b>	
<b>Human rights</b>	
<b>Broader service provision in the local area or the region</b>	