

Adroddiad i'r: Cabinet

Dyddiad y cyfarfod 15 Chwefror 2022

Aelod Arweiniol / Swyddog Y Cyng Brian Jones (Aelod Arweiniol Gwastraff, Cludiant a'r Amgylchedd), y Cyng Tony Thomas (Aelod Arweiniol Tai a Chymunedau), y Cyng Julian Thompson Hill (Aelod Arweiniol Eiddo a Chyllid) / Alan Smith (Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth Gwella Busnes a Moderneiddio ac Uwch Berchennog Cyfrifol y Rhaglen Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol), Steve Gadd (Pennaeth Cyllid ac Asedau)

Awdur yr Adroddiad Andrew Cutts (Rheolwr y Rhaglen Newid Hinsawdd)

Teitl Cynllun penderfyniadau dirprwyedig arfaethedig ar gyfer caffael tir (rhydd-ddaliadol a lesddaliadol) i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliannau ecolegol

1. Am beth mae'r adroddiad yn sôn?

1.1 Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ymwneud â chyflwyno cynllun newydd o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig ar gyfer caffael tir (rhydd-ddaliadol a lesddaliadol) i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliannau ecolegol fel y gellir caffael tir yn fwy cyflym ac effeithiol, yn arbennig mewn sefyllfa o arwerthiant, fel bod y Cyngor yn cyflawni ei ddatganiad Argyfwng Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol a'r targedau dilynol o fewn ei Strategaeth ar Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol (2021/22 – 2029/30).

2. Beth yw'r rheswm dros lunio'r adroddiad hwn?

2.1 Mae angen penderfyniad ynghylch a ddylid cyflwyno cynllun penderfyniadau dirprwyedig newydd yn unol â'r cynnig neu beidio.

3. Beth yw'r Argymhellion?

3.1 Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo cyflwyno'r cynllun newydd o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig ar gyfer caffael tir (rhydd-ddaliadol a lesddaliadol) i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliannau ecolegol fel y cynigir yn Atodiad 1.

- 3.2 Bod y Pwyllgor yn cadarnhau ei fod wedi darllen, deall ac ystyried yr Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Les (Atodiad 2) fel rhan o'i ystyriaethau.

4. Manylion yr adroddiad

- 4.1 Gweler Atodiad 3 am fanylion ar dargedau Di-garbon Net ac Ecolegol Gadarnhaol y Cyngor erbyn 2030 a'r rhesymeg dros gaffael i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliannau ecolegol.
- 4.2 Gweler Atodiad 4 am fanylion ar ymagwedd bresennol y Cyngor o ran caffael (rhydd-ddaliadol a lesddaliadol) i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliannau ecolegol a sut fyddai hynny o dan ei gynllun arfaethedig o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig

4.1 Y cynllun arfaethedig o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig

- 4.1.1 Mae risg a nodwyd (gweler Atodiad 6) mewn cyflawni ein targedau dal a storio carbon yn llwyddiannus yn ymwneud â chaffael tir a ddaw ar y farchnad agored yn llwyddiannus, yn aml mewn amgylchedd arwerthiant, gyda therfynau amser byr rhwng yr hysbysebu a'r cynigion terfynol. Cadarnhawyd hyn fel problem ym Medi 2021 pan roedd 2 safle ar gael i'w prynu drwy arwerthiant a fyddai wedi sgorio'n uchel gan ddefnyddio'r matrices asesu tir (Atodiad 5) ond na chawsant eu dilyn gan na lwyddwyd i gwblhau'r cynllun presennol o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig yn yr amser oedd ar gael rhwng yr hysbyseb a'r arwerthiant.
- 4.1.2 Er mwyn sicrhau safleoedd mewn dull cyflym ac effeithiol cynigir fod cynllun newydd o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig yn cael ei roi mewn grym ar gyfer caffael safleoedd penodol i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliannau ecolegol. Byddai hyn yn cynnwys yr agweddau ariannol o dan awdurdod y Grŵp Buddsoddi Strategol ac agweddau yn ymwneud â defnydd tir o dan awdurdod y Grŵp Rheoli Asedau fel yr amlinellir yng Nghyfansoddiad y Cyngor.
- 4.1.3 Caiff y cynllun newydd arfaethedig o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig ei ddarparu'n llawn yn Atodiad 1 a cheir disgrifiad isod.

Ar gyfer achosion o gaffael hyd at £1m mewn gwerth a gyda chostau o fewn y gyllideb y cytunwyd arni gan Fwrdd y Gyllideb ar gyfer Ffrwd Waith Defnydd Tir y Rhaglen Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol cynigir:

fod y Grŵp Buddsoddi Strategol yn dirprwyo'r penderfyniad dros wario'r cyfalaf ar gyfer caffael safleoedd penodol i / fod y Grŵp Rheoli Asedau yn dirprwyo'r penderfyniadau ar gynigion ar gyfer caffael safleoedd penodol i'r:

Pennaeth Cyllid ac Eiddo mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Swyddog Adran 151, y Swyddog Monitro a'r Aelod Arweiniol Eiddo a Chyllid, mewn cydweithrediad gyda'r Landlord Corfforaethol, yr Aelod Arweiniol Gwastraff, Cludiant a'r Amgylchedd (yn cynnwys Cyngor Di-garbon Net) a'r Aelod Arweiniol Tai a Chymunedau (yn cynnwys Cyngor Ecolegol Gadarnhaol), i drafod caffael tir i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliant ecolegol cyn belled ag nad yw'r tir dan sylw yn bodloni unrhyw rai o'r meini prawf y nodir eu bod yn anghymhwys.

5. Sut mae'r penderfyniad yn cyfrannu at y Blaenoriaethau Corfforaethol?

- 5.1 Fe fydd yr ymagwedd a amlinellir yn gwneud cyfraniad uniongyrchol at gyflawni datganiad Argyfwng Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol y Cyngor a oedd yn ymrwmo'r Cyngor i ddod yn Gyngor Di-garbon Net erbyn 2030, a'r Strategaeth ar Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol a fabwysiadwyd yn dilyn hynny, drwy gefnogi'r cynnydd yn nhunelledd y carbon a gaiff ei ddal a'i storio gan diroedd sy'n eiddo i'r Cyngor neu'n cael eu gweithredu gan y Cyngor yn y categorïau gyda'r cyfoeth uchaf o ran rhywogaethau.
- 5.2 Fe fydd yr ymagwedd a amlinellir yn cefnogi'r Cyngor i wneud ei gyfraniad at bolisi Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y sector cyhoeddus i fod yn garbon niwtral erbyn 2030, er mwyn i Gymru fodloni ei darged sydd wedi ei rwymo mewn cyfraith ar gyfer lleihau allyriadau i Sero Net erbyn 2050 ac mae'n cefnogi dyletswydd statudol y Cyngor o dan Adran 6 Deddf Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016 i "geisio cynnal a hybu bioamrywiaeth".

6. Faint fydd hyn yn ei gostio a sut y bydd yn effeithio ar wasanaethau eraill?

- 6.1 Mae costau cyfalaf yn cynnwys unrhyw gostau sy'n ymwneud â chaffael tir e.e. cost prynu ac unrhyw gostau sy'n ymwneud â throï'r tir yn goetir e.e. plannu coed ac ymyriadau i greu gwelliannau ecolegol e.e. creu cynefin, ffensio da byw. Fe geisir cael grantiau allanol lle bynnag fo hynny'n bosibl i ddarparu cymysgedd o ran cyllido ochr yn ochr â chyfalaf wedi ei ddyrannu i'r Rhaglen Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol bob blwyddyn fel rhan o'r broses o osod y gyllideb.
- 6.2 Mae costau referniw yn cynnwys ffioedd a thaliadau yn ymwneud â chaffael y tir na ellir ei gyfalafu a chostau yn ymwneud â rheoli'r ased wedi hynny. Ar gyfer creu coetir ar raddfa, yr ymagwedd a gaiff ei chymryd yw un yn ymwneud ag aildyfiant naturiol pryd bynnag fo'n bosibl. Ar gyfer creu coetir o fewn cymunedau yr ymagwedd a gaiff ei chymryd yw un yn ymwneud â'r 'goeden iawn, y lle iawn' i osgoi cynnal a chadw coed yn ddiangen neu fethiant.

Mae safleoedd a gaiff eu caffael yn debygol o gael eu hychwanegu at bortffolio asedau'r Gwasanaethau Cefn Gwlad a byddant yn cael eu hadolygu o safbwynt rheolaeth barhaus. Fe all costau referniw gael ei nodi ac fe geisir cael grant allanol i ychwanegu at gyllidebau rheoli ar draws yr holl safleoedd.

6.3 Mae'r effaith debygol ar feysydd gwasanaeth eraill fel a ganlyn:

- Asedau Strategol a Chyfreithiol – mewn perthynas â thrafodaethau caffael tir.
- Y Tîm Newid Hinsawdd – yn darparu swyddogaeth rheoli prosiect i asesu tiroedd a allai o bosibl gael eu caffael a chyflawni unrhyw weithgaredd o ran creu coetir a hybu cynefinoedd o ganlyniad.
- Y Gwasanaethau Cefn Gwlad – yn darparu cyngor arbenigol yn ymwneud â dal a storio carbon a chynlluniau gwelliant ecolegol; ymgymryd â rheoli gweithredol a chynnal a chadw.
- Y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd – i reoli proses hysbysiad o benderfyniad i alluogi ymwybyddiaeth ddigonol, rhag ofn fod Aelodau yn dymuno galw'r penderfyniad dirprwyedig gweithredol i mewn.

7. Beth yw prif gasgliadau'r Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Les?

7.1 Gweler Atodiad 2 am yr Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Les llawn.

8. Pa ymgynghoriadau sydd wedi'u cynnal gyda Chraffu ac eraill?

8.1 Ymgynghorwyd yn eang yn ystod 2020 ar y Strategaeth ar Newid Hinsawdd a Newid Ecolegol a'r targedau ynddi, gan gynnwys y gofyniad i gynyddu faint o garbon a gaiff ei ddal a'i storio, a chafodd ymateb cadarnhaol. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys 2 gyfnod o ymgysylltu cyhoeddus yn Ionawr/Chwefror a Tachwedd/Rhagfyr 2020 yn ogystal ag ymgysylltu gyda holl Grwpiau Ardal yr Aelodau, y Cabinet ac Aelodau Arweiniol. Cafodd y Strategaeth ei chyflwyno a'i mabwysiadu gan y Cyngor, yn dilyn pleidlais unfrydol, yn Chwefror 2021. Gweler [Cyngor Sir Ddinbych - Dydd Mawrth, 23 Chwefror 2021](#) i gael rhagor o wybodaeth.

8.2 Mae'r ymagwedd arfaethedig ar gyfer defnydd tir a chaffael tir i ddibenion amlwg dal a storio carbon a gwelliant ecolegol wedi ei datblygu ar y cyd gyda chefnogaeth swyddogion o'r: Tîm Asedau Strategol, Prasio ac Ystadau, y Gwasanaethau Cefn Gwlad, AHNE a'r Tîm Newid Hinsawdd. Mae'r grŵp swyddogion yn gefnogol i'r ymagwedd arfaethedig.

- 8.3 Adolygodd y Grŵp Rheoli Asedau bapur ar y cynllun dirprwyo arfaethedig ar 19 Gorffennaf 2021 a chymeradwyodd yr argymhelliad i gyflwyno'r cynllun. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys datganiad gan y Landlord Corfforaethol a oedd yn cefnogi'r argymhellion (Atodiad 7).
- 8.4 Adolygodd y Grŵp Buddsoddi Strategol bapur ar y cynllun dirprwyo arfaethedig ar 27 Gorffennaf 2021 a chymeradwyodd yr argymhelliad i gyflwyno'r cynllun, ond dim ond o ychydig. O dan argymhelliad y Swyddog Monitro cytunwyd i fynd â'r penderfyniad, o p'run ai i gyflwyno'r cynllun newydd hwn o benderfyniadau dirprwyedig ai peidio, i'r Cabinet.
- 8.5 Ymgymrwyd â gwaith ymgysylltu penodol gyda rhanddeiliaid amaethyddol Sir Dinbych ym mis Ionawr 2022, gan gynnwys gyda: Coleg Cambria – Llysfasi, Jones Peckover, Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru. Cafwyd sgysiau cadarnhaol gyda phawb a gymrodd ran yn y trafodaethau.
- 8.6 Mae'r Swyddog Monitro wedi cadarnhau fod y broses ddirprwyo a'r geiriad yn ddigonol.

9. Datganiad y Prif Swyddog Cyllid

- 9.1 Mae'n amlwg fod defnydd a chaffael tir i ddibenion dal a storio carbon a gwelliant ecolegol yn ffurfio rhan allweddol o'r Rhaglen Darged Di-garbon Net a gytunwyd. Mae'n bwysig nodi y bydd dyraniad y gyllideb flynyddol yn parhau i fod yn destun adroddiadau i Fwrdd y Gyllideb ac yn y pen draw cymeradwyaeth gan y Cabinet a'r Cyngor ac y bydd angen i brosiectau unigol dros £1m barhau i gael cymeradwyaeth gan y Cabinet. Barn broffesiynol uwch swyddogion o fewn yr adran eiddo a'r rhaglen yw y bydd y cynigion hyn yn helpu i sicrhau safleoedd mewn dull cyflym ac effeithiol a helpu'r Cyngor i gyflawni'r targed 2030. Ar sail hynny caiff y cynigion eu cefnogi. Os nad ydynt yn cael eu cymeradwyo, yna dylai arfarniad gonest o allu'r Cyngor i fodloni'r targed y cytunwyd arno gael ei ddwyn ymlaen.

10. Pa risgiau sydd ac a oes unrhyw beth y gallwn ei wneud i'w lleihau?

- 10.1 Caiff risgiau perthnasol eu darparu yn Atodiad 6.

11. Pŵer i wneud y penderfyniad

- 11.1 Gweler Atodiad 8.

Appendix 1- Proposed New Scheme of Delegated Decision Making

CURRENT	PROPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per the Officer Scheme of Delegation section of the Council's Constitution (page 128 onward). <p>To the Head of Finance and Property:</p> <p>a) In consultation with the Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm, to negotiate the acquisition and/or disposal of land for all purposes, in conjunction with the Councils Asset Management Group and/or the Strategic Investment Group and subject to the results thereof being reported to all Members for information, where appropriate.</p> <p>b) To authorise investment decisions following recommendations from Strategic Investment Group and their terms of reference.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to secure sites for purposes of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement in a prompt and effective manner, it is proposed the following, within the Officer Scheme of Delegation section of the Council's Constitution the following wording added: <p>For acquisitions for purposes of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement the delegation is as follows:</p> <p>To the Head of Finance and Property</p> <p>a) In consultation with the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Lead Member for Property & Finance, in conjunction with the Corporate Landlord, Lead Member for Waste, Transport and the Environment (covering Net Carbon Zero Council) and Lead Member for Housing and Communities (covering Ecologically Positive Council)*, to negotiate the acquisition of land for purposes of carbon</p>

CURRENT	PROPOSED
<p>c) Acquisitions of land by freehold or leasehold, up to a market value or rental commitment for the term of the lease up to £30,000 if funding is available.</p> <p>d) Acquisitions of land by freehold or leasehold, up to a market value or rental commitment for the term of the lease from £30,001 and £1,000,000; if funding is available and in consultation with the Lead Member, S.151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.</p>	<p>sequestration and ecological improvement as long the land in question does not meet any of the stated disqualifying criteria**.</p> <p>b) Acquisitions of land by freehold or leasehold, up to a market value or rental commitment for the term of the lease up to £30,000 if funding is available.</p> <p>c) Acquisitions of land by freehold or leasehold, up to a market value or rental commitment for the term of the lease from £30,001 and £1,000,000; if funding is available and in consultation with the Lead Member, S.151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>e) Subject to the results thereof being reported to the Councils Asset Management Group and/or the Strategic Investment Group at the next nearest meeting, and being reported to all Members for information, where appropriate.</p> <p>*or the relevant successor role/s</p>

CURRENT	PROPOSED
	<p data-bbox="1133 322 1630 354">**disqualifying criteria is as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="1133 408 2020 494">Property that is classed in the following LDP classifications will not be considered:</p> <ul data-bbox="1182 555 1944 676" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1182 555 1944 587">• BSC1 Housing Allocation or Housing Commitment<li data-bbox="1182 644 1594 676">• PSE2 Employment Areas



Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes :

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: 957

Brief description: In order to help achieve the Council's ambition to become Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030.... - The concept of woodland creation on land in Council ownership - The concept of acquiring land for the purpose of carbon sequestration and biodiversity

Date Completed: 01/02/2022 08:32:53 Version: 1

Completed by: Andrew Cutts

Responsible Service: Business Improvement & Modernisation

Localities affected by the proposal: Whole County,

Who will be affected by the proposal? Positively - Residents - Tourism industry - Visitors - Flora and fauna (plants and animals) - Council staff Negatively - Tenants of land we own but currently lease out - Other potential buyers of land

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? Yes

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 : 31 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

Progressing land use for the purpose of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement has long term thinking at its heart. To deliver immediate benefit of reduced flood risk, recreational value, urban cooling, health and wellbeing. And over time increase its benefit in carbon sequestration and air quality improvement. To continue to score highly in this principal need to ensure maintenance and management is appropriately addressed.

Prevention

Woodland creation is for the purpose of increasing carbon sequestration and ecological improvement and thus reduce climate change and nature's decline. Each site will be considered on an individual basis and in relation to the wider landscape - if appropriate, tree planting will be chosen for increasing canopy coverage. However, natural regeneration of trees and woodland will be the preferred option. Added benefits around increasing wellbeing through access to nature on peoples doorsteps.

Integration

Multiple benefits involved in woodland creation hitting other well-being goals and corporate priorities. Other public body objectives would be- NRW for flooding; Betsi Cadwaladr for health. Compatibility of carbon sequestration and ecology goals with the LDP is an interesting one and being actively

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes explored in the developing new LDP. Main compatibility focus would be how land is classified in the county.

Collaboration

Wide collaboration internally across multiple services and departments, including the AONB Partnership. More limited externally, but early collaboration discussions with NRW. Stakeholder engagement has taken place with members of the agricultural community.

Involvement

Engagement has been limited with residents on woodland creation and done currently on a site by site basis e.g. the public consultation day at Maes Gwilym (Rhyl) in June 2021. This will need to be ramped up throughout the 9 years. Proposal is that a lot of engagement is done via the Member Area Groups, Lead Members and Ward Members. This could be extended to C,T&CC's too as well as direct to residents.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
A prosperous Denbighshire	Positive
A resilient Denbighshire	Positive
A healthier Denbighshire	Positive
A more equal Denbighshire	Neutral
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Neutral
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Positive

Main conclusions

The proposal has a strong positive impact to the delivery of 4 out of the 7 wellbeing goals and no negative contribution (remaining 3 goals neutral impact), particularly for the delivery of a resilient Denbighshire and a globally responsible Denbighshire. It also scores high (31/36) on the sustainable development principals with "long term" and "prevention" being at the proposals heart.

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Proposal has the potential to provide additional social, environmental and economic value to Denbighshire increasing its prosperity, particular in the areas of access to green space and boosting the visitor economy.

Further actions required

Ensuring Countryside Services fleet vehicles transition early to ULEV early in the 9 year decarbonisation of fleet programme leading up to 2030.

Ensuring land use allocation in LDP is actively considered in site selection for woodland creation plus considerations around grading of agricultural land. Unproductive land prioritised for woodland creation wherever possible.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Woodland creation and nature areas will be done by natural regeneration wherever possible and by utilising wildflower seed harvested locally or/and trees grown by our Council Tree Nursery

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

Proposal is both safeguarding and creating new green space for the benefit of recreation, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity.

Economic development

Proposal has benefits for the tourism industry/ visitor economy as more nature sites for people to visit and enjoy.

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

Quality skills for the long term

Proposal opens up opportunities for skill development in green industries.

Quality jobs for the long term

No direct jobs are suggested to be created by this proposal currently but likely to support the developing green industry in North Wales.

Childcare

n/a

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Increasing the number of woodland sites the Council owns will require staff to travel to these sites to periodically check up on them. However, Countryside Services fleet will be transitioning to EV's by 2030 reducing carbon impact.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

n/a

Economic development

Potential competing demands on land needing to be used for woodland creation. Land allocated for employment in LDP will not be utilised.

Quality skills for the long term

n/a

Quality jobs for the long term

n/a

Childcare

n/a

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

This workstream is all about creating woodland and spaces for nature to the benefit of increasing the County's resilience to climate change and its impacts such as flooding.

Further actions required

Need to ensure only suitable tree species are incorporated on wetlands or marsh land which would impair that habitat in retaining water.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

This workstream is all about creating woodland and spaces for nature. The definition for woodland will be maximised on (i.e. 20% of square meter with tree cover) to allow for a matrix of habitat to be created to support a great species diversity. Mixed broadleaf and yew native planting progressed.

Biodiversity in the built environment

n/a

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

n/a

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

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n/a

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

By having more green spaces and spaces for nature accessible to people will increase peoples awareness and appreciation of environment and biodiversity. Also the wider communication on why the Council is doing this i.e. to increase the capture of carbon emissions to prevent worsening climate change.

Flood risk management

Mutual benefits between carbon sequestration, ecological improvement and reducing flood risk will be maximised upon e.g. through planting of upstream catchment areas to trap more water upstream for longer.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

n/a

Biodiversity in the built environment

n/a

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

n/a

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

n/a

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

n/a

Flood risk management

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

Need to ensure only suitable tree species are incorporated on wetlands or marsh land which would impair that habitat in retaining water.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

The improvement of existing green spaces into woodland and creation of new woodlands and places for nature provide greater interest and opportunities to promote health and mental wellbeing goals as well as leisure and activity pursuits.

Further actions required

Need to be careful where woodland created to avoid any feelings of 'loss' for how the land used previously.

Need to take community with us and engender a feeling of joint ownership with local people so to avoid issues of vandalism/anti social behaviour.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

The improvement of existing green spaces into woodland and creation of new woodlands and places for nature provide greater interest and opportunities to promote health and wellbeing goals. Such as volunteering, connecting to the signs and sounds of nature, access to enjoy the open air.

Access to good quality, healthy food

n/a

People's emotional and mental well-being

There is a much researched and evidenced link between being outdoors amongst nature and the

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes improvement of mental well-being. The improvement of existing green spaces into woodland and creation of new woodlands and places for nature provide increased and geographically spread access.

Access to healthcare

n/a

Participation in leisure opportunities

The improvement of existing green spaces into woodland and creation of new woodlands and places for nature provide increased and geographically spread access to increase availability of these places for leisure.

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

Increased opportunity for vandalism and/or places for anti social activities to take place. However, such concerns would be addressed prior to site alterations to aim for a focus on the positive opportunity overall.

Access to good quality, healthy food

n/a

People's emotional and mental well-being

Need to be careful where woodland created to avoid any feelings of 'loss' for how the land was used previously.

Access to healthcare

n/a

Participation in leisure opportunities

Need to be careful where woodland created to avoid any feelings of 'loss' for how the land used

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes previously.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

A more equal Denbighshire isn't a core objective of this project but has a contribution to play and at the very least is being planned in a way that doesn't exacerbate inequalities.

Further actions required

Ensure any access requirements addressed when creating woodland and spaces for nature which are open to public. Maximise on opportunities for woodland creation and spaces for nature in or close to areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage.

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

This activity is being delivered to tackle climate change and nature's decline which impacts everyone.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

If existing green spaces are improved or new woodland created which includes public access that access requirements to enable all people to contribute will be pursued.

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

Woodland creation could be in locations of socio-economic disadvantage. Some external grants for woodland creation have this as a prerequisite for access to grant. This could provide volunteering opportunities to people with socio-economic disadvantage on their doorstep.

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

Woodland creation could be in locations of socio-economic disadvantage. Some external grants for woodland creation have this as a prerequisite for access to grant.

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

n/a

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

n/a

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

n/a

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

Location of sites for woodland creation will be led on land availability and the site's appropriateness (for various environmental factors) for woodland creation, it won't be led in the first instance by where areas of socio-economic disadvantage are.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities isn't a core objective of this project but has contribution to play particularly around resilience.

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

Further actions required

Need to take community with us and engender a feeling of joint ownership for woodland created with the community so to avoid issues of vandalism/anti social behaviour. Need to think about how visitors get to sites created which are more rural if they have public access.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

n/a

Community participation and resilience

Woodland creation on sites close to where people live, we will engage the local population on plans for the site- seeking their views on what they want to see and seeking their views for design of the sites.

Mutual benefit of using woodland to reduce flood risk will also be maximised upon where possible and thus increase community resilience to impacts of climate change.

The attractiveness of the area

This project is about safeguarding and increasing green space for the benefit carbon absorption and biodiversity and thus increases attractiveness of area and opportunities for recreation.

Connected communities

Some people prefer to travel on foot/bike and will have greater opportunity to move through accessible and connected green spaces.

Rural resilience

Work to improve biodiversity, including diversity and abundance of insect pollinators, supports the farming industry through crop pollination. Woodland creation on non productive land gives formally low value land a higher value. Increasing woodland creation and spaces for nature could increase footfall into rural areas and opportunities for rural assets like pubs, shops, cafes.

Negative impacts identified:

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

Safe communities and individuals

Increased opportunity for vandalism and/or places for anti social activities to take place.

Community participation and resilience

n/a

The attractiveness of the area

n/a

Connected communities

n/a

Rural resilience

n/a

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language isn't a core objective of this project but has contribution to play particularly around use of any information board or incorporation of any art/sculpture into sites created.

Further actions required

Ensure site selection for woodland creation is considerate to any sites of cultural and heritage significance - particularly relevant for any woodland creation within the AONB area of Denbighshire.

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

Any signage or information relating to sites created will be bilingual.

Promoting the Welsh language

Any signage or information relating to sites created will be bilingual.

Culture and heritage

Any signage or information relating to sites which could also tell a local story about the wider place could be maximised upon e.g. Pengwern can translate to 'head of the alder (a species of tree) swamp'.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

n/a

Promoting the Welsh language

n/a

Culture and heritage

Ensure site selection for woodland creation is considerate to any sites of cultural and heritage significance - particularly relevant for any woodland creation within the AONB area of Denbighshire.

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

This proposal is all about increasing woodland for carbon sequestration purposes whilst improving biodiversity and thus specifically about preventing the problem of climate and nature's decline from getting worse.

Further actions required

No negatives of note. Opportunities for mutual benefit in tackling the impact of climate and ecological change already being felt will be maximised upon e.g. woodland creation to reduce flood risk, tree cover to reduce air pollution and urban heating etc.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

Trees, plants, seeds will be of native provenance and sourced as locally as possible, if not grown internally at the Council's Tree Nursery.

Projects for woodland creation could provide activity for contractors working for the Council on other contracts to contribute to via Community Benefits process.

Human rights

n/a

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

n/a

Reducing climate change

This proposal is all about increasing woodland for carbon sequestration purposes whilst improving biodiversity and thus specifically about preventing the problem of climate and nature's decline from getting worse.

Opportunities for mutual benefit in tackling the impact of climate and ecological change already being felt will be maximised upon e.g. woodland creation to reduce flood risk, tree cover to reduce air pollution and urban heating etc. Thus the proposal is likely to better prepare Denbighshire and beyond for a future with climate change.

Land use and acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

An active 'grow your own' or buy local approach will be undertaken thus national and international supply chains will 'miss out'

Human rights

n/a

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

n/a

Reducing climate change

n/a

Appendix 3 - The Council's Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive 2030 targets

1. The Council declared a Climate Change and Ecological Emergency in July 2019 which committed the Council to become Net Carbon Zero by 2030. Subsequently the [Climate and Ecological Change Strategy](#) (CECS) was approved in February 2021 with the Net Carbon Zero by 2030 Goal and what that means in terms of carbon emission reduction and carbon sequestration increase.
2. Net Carbon Zero means the total carbon emissions (from Council buildings, fleet, waste generated in operations, business travel, staff commuting, street lighting) being equal to the total carbon absorbed by the land owned/leased in and managed by the Council by 31st March 2030. In 2019/20 the Council's carbon emissions were: 16,448 tonnes. In 2019/20 the Council's carbon sequestration was: 2,418 tonnes. Therefore, Net Carbon Zero position is: 14,030 tonnes. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon sequestration to get that Net Carbon Zero position to zero.
3. Whilst the Council is committed to going as far and as fast as we can to reduce the Council's carbon emissions, it is not possible to reduce the Council's carbon emissions to zero (from Council buildings, fleet, waste generated in operations, business travel, staff commuting, street lighting). Therefore, we need to increase carbon sequestration to offset the emissions we are unable to reduce/remove. The achievement pathway estimates carbon sequestration will need to increase by 4,911 tonnes to a figure of 7,329 tonnes by 2030 to meet our Net Carbon Zero goal.
4. Land eligible to be counted within the Council's carbon sequestration figures includes: land the Council owns and manages and land the Council leases from others and manages. Note: land the Council owns but then leases out to others to manage e.g. tenanted agricultural estate, cannot be included.
5. The Council is pursuing a multifaceted approach to achieving that additional carbon sequestration tonnage required including:
 - a) Improving the accuracy of our carbon sequestration data including the accounting of carbon from Council owned urban trees;
 - b) Increasing the carbon sequestration value of our existing freehold/leasehold land that we manage;

- c) Protecting our existing green spaces as much as we can from development where appropriate;
- d) Maximising on opportunities to convert brown field sites where appropriate into woodland and/or grassland (depending on suitability);
- e) Maximising on opportunities to bring land leased out back into Council management where appropriate and convert to woodland (if not already) or keep as grassland (depending on suitability); and
- f) Seeking acquisition opportunities, freehold and leasehold, and convert to woodland (if not already) or keep as grassland (depending on suitability).

6. Approaches a to e listed above will not be enough to meet our carbon sequestration target of 7,329 tonnes by 2030; acquisition, freehold or leasehold, is required and due to the nature of the market and the time window in which to achieve target means that options for acquisition will need to be considered every year for the 9 years up to 2030.

7. In addition, to achieve Ecologically Positive Council by 2030 requires the Council to increase the amount of land it owns/leases and manages that is in the highest categories of species richness by at least 13% compared to 2019/20 baseline.

8. The carbon sequestration target and the species richness target as part of the Ecologically Positive Council goal are complementary. Mixed broadleaved and yew woodland is the second highest species richness category and this woodland can be created in a way that contains a mosaic of grassland and scrub patches increasing the diversity of species and ecological niches these sites contain, whilst complying with the UK Land Inventory Definition for land to be classified as forestland as follows:

a. the land parcel must be

- i. minimum area of 0.1 hectares;
- ii. minimum width of 20 metres;
- iii. tree crown cover of at least 20 per cent, or the potential to achieve it; and
- iv. minimum height of 2 metres, or the potential to achieve it.

Appendix 4 - The Council's approach for acquisition (freehold/leasehold) for purposes of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement.

1. A scoring matrix based on various categories has been developed to assess sites for acquisition (freehold/leasehold) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and ecological enhancement (see appendix 5).
2. Land is scored for its potential to do the following:
 - a) The potential to sequester carbon – to meet our Net Carbon Zero target;
 - b) The potential to enhance biodiversity – to meet our Ecologically Positive target;
 - c) The potential to reduce flooding through planting or different management regimes;
 - d) The potential to be manageable.
3. If the land scores well at assessment and there are no immediate legal concerns discovered in the early negotiations with the seller/land agent, the current process for any land acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes is as follows:
 - a) Ward Member notified
 - b) MAG consulted
 - c) Independent valuation sought
 - d) Paper to Asset Management Group (AMG), to gain approval for any acquisition (if site over £1m then requires Cabinet approval)
 - e) Paper to Strategic Investment Group (SIG), to gain approval to spend the capital.
4. Under the proposed scheme of delegated decision making and if the land scores well at assessment and there are no immediate legal concerns discovered in the early negotiations with the seller/land agent, the process for any land acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes is as follows:

- a) Ward Member notified
- b) MAG consulted (if MAG meeting not scheduled, MAG chair notified)
- c) Independent valuation sought
- d) Request to the Head of Finance and Property to acquire the land under delegated authority (see appendix 1)
- e) Offer on land and negotiations concluded.
- f) Paper to Asset Management Group (AMG) at soonest opportunity to let them know about acquisition.
- g) Paper to Strategic Investment Group (SIG) at soonest opportunity to let them know about budget used.

Appendix 5 - Land Assessment Criteria

As part of the Climate & Ecological Strategy, the matrix has been developed to assess sites:

- For consideration for acquisition for either carbon sequestration or ecological enhancement; OR
- Before disposal of existing DCC sites.

Only property that is exclusively or partly within the county of Denbighshire will be considered.

Property that is classed in the following LDP classifications will not be considered:

- BSC1 Housing Allocation or Housing Commitment
- PSE2 Employment Areas

The matrix is to be used as a guide only – not the definitive mechanism for deciding whether or not a particular property should be acquired, as other factors outside the matrix criteria may have a bearing on the suitability of a property for purchase (e.g. value of the site for curlew habitat). The matrix tries to achieve a reasonable balance between the following factors in relation to identified properties:

1. The potential to sequester carbon – to meet our Net Carbon Zero target;
2. The potential to enhance biodiversity – to meet our Ecologically Positive target;
3. The potential to reduce flooding through planting or different management regimes;

4. The potential to be manageable e.g. proximity to existing DCC sites, building liabilities, etc.
5. The occurrence of key risks/ issues e.g. presence of ash trees, ability to attract external funding, etc.

	Criteria	Scores 0	Scores 1	Scores 2	Scores 3	Scores 4	Scores 5
1	Site Size	Less than 0.5 acres	0.5 to 1 acres	1 to 50 acres	50 - 200 acres	200 - 1,000 acres	More than 1,000 acres
2	Agricultural Classification	Grade 1- Excellent, Grade 2- Very Good, Grade 3a - Good	Grade 3b - Moderate	Grade 4 – Poor	Grade 5 – Very Poor	No agricultural designation	Brownfield site
3	Carbon sequestration value (current)	Less than 20% existing tree crown cover. Less than 2 meters' height and not the	Less than 20% existing tree crown cover. Less than 2 meters' height but with the	Less than 20% existing tree crown cover. 2 meters' height.	Less than 20% existing tree crown cover. At least 2 meters' height with under 50%	20% + existing tree crown cover. At least 2 meters' height with under 50% being examples	20%+ existing cover. At least 2 meters' height with 50%+ being examples of older trees.

	Criteria	Scores 0	Scores 1	Scores 2	Scores 3	Scores 4	Scores 5
		potential to achieve it	potential to achieve it		being examples of older trees.	of older trees. Under 50% Broadleaved or Yew specimens.	50% + Broadleaved or Yew specimens.
4	Carbon sequestration (potential)	Unsuitable for tree planting	No potential for natural regeneration. Significant tree planting required.	Potential for some natural regeneration with significant additional planting.	Potential for natural regeneration with limited additional planting.	Potential for natural regeneration without planting. Some non-native rectification required.	Potential for natural regeneration without planting or non-native rectification.
5	Habitat potential (connections)	Connected forestland of	Connected forestland – 0.5 to 1 acres	Connected forestland – 1 to 50 acres	Connected forestland – 50 to 20 acres	Connected forestland –	Connected forestland of

	Criteria	Scores 0	Scores 1	Scores 2	Scores 3	Scores 4	Scores 5
		less than 0.5 acres				200 to 1,000 acres	more than 1,000 acres
6	Habitat potential (water)	No watercourses or water bodies. Land unsuitable to create water bodies	No watercourses or water bodies. Land suitable to create water bodies	No watercourses. Water bodies present.	Watercourses present. No water bodies.	Watercourses and water bodies present. Low density/ Low quality	Watercourses and water bodies present. High density/ High quality
7	Habitat potential (biodiversity enhancement potential)	Species/habitats of conservation concern present, on or adjacent to site, which would be harmed by	No species or habitats of conservation concern present on or adjacent to site.	Species or habitats of conservation concern present on site. No species or habitats of conservation	No species or habitats of conservation concern present on site. Species or habitats of conservation	Species or habitats of conservation concern present on and adjacent to site (poor condition)	Species or habitats of conservation concern present on and adjacent to site (good condition)

	Criteria	Scores 0	Scores 1	Scores 2	Scores 3	Scores 4	Scores 5
		creation of “forestland”		concern adjacent to site.	concern adjacent to site.		
8	Flood Management Potential	No potential	Very poor potential	Poor potential	Good potential	Very Good potential	Excellent potential
9	Manageability – Buildings	Multiple buildings on the site which present immediate maintenance liabilities	Single building on site which presents immediate maintenance liabilities	Buildings on site but low confidence of productive use or straightforward disposal	Buildings on site but medium confidence of productive use or straightforward disposal	Buildings on site but high confidence of productive use or straightforward disposal	No buildings on the site
10	Manageability – adjacent sites	No existing DCC “countryside”	Within 3 to 10 miles of existing DCC	Within 3 miles of existing DCC	Connects to existing DCC “countryside”	Connects to existing DCC “countryside”	Connects two or more “countryside” sites currently

	Criteria	Scores 0	Scores 1	Scores 2	Scores 3	Scores 4	Scores 5
		site within 10 miles	“countryside” site	“countryside” site	sites of less than 5 acres	sites of more than 5 acres	in DCC ownership
11	Manageability - use of naturalistic grazing animals as the primary management tool	No access from the roadside to load/unload livestock	Difficult access from the roadside to load/unload livestock, no current presence of stock proof fencing/hedging	Difficult access from the roadside to load/unload livestock, there is presence of stock proof fencing/hedging but incomplete and requires attention	Workable access from the roadside to load/unload livestock, there is presence of stock proof fencing/hedging but incomplete or requires attention	Easy access from the roadside to load/unload livestock, stock proof fencing/hedging surrounding site	Adjacent access from the roadside to load/unload livestock, stock proof fencing/hedging surrounding site

Appendix 6 – Risks and Mitigation

Title	Inherent Risk	Mitigating Action	Residual Risk
Availability of the type of land we want to purchase for increasing carbon sequestration	2C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively monitor the market and also word of mouth for potential opportunities • Keep abreast on the new policies post Brexit and maximise on any opportunities that might ensue • Ensure pathway to purchase is as smooth as possible in readiness for opportunities e.g. delegated approvals in place etc. • Ensure budget available to jump on opportunities when they come up. 	2D
Another buyer offers on the sites we are targeting before us and the offer is accepted	1C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizon scan and maximise on word of mouth for potential purchases 	1D

Title	Inherent Risk	Mitigating Action	Residual Risk
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the assessment on potential sites asap on discovering an opportunity • Seek ward member and MAG engagement on the potential purchase asap • Seek independent valuation asap on potential purchase • Attend AMG asap in the negotiation process • Develop business case as quickly as possible for SIG. • Seek a new delegated authority to enable purchases for the purposes of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement to happen quicker. 	
The asking price for the sites is higher than the independent valuation	1D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a- accept risk 	1D

Title	Inherent Risk	Mitigating Action	Residual Risk
<p>Management and maintenance of additional nature sites become a financial and operational burden</p>	<p>2D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that initial procurement has strong focus on efficiency and low running costs for all equipment and facilities. • Maximise on opportunities for grant funding in future years. • Forecast additional revenue pressures and flag early through budget setting cycle. • Maximise on land purchase opportunities (large and few) to keep management burden low, to be able to manage the land through natural regeneration and use of static livestock. • Consider location of additional nature sites, being close to existing sites in Countryside Services portfolio wherever possible. 	<p>4E</p>

	A - Almost Certain					
	B - Highly Likely					
Likelihood	C - Probable					
	D - Possible					
	E - Rare					
		5 - Very Low	4 - Low	3 - Medium	2 - High	1 - Very High
		Impact				

Appendix 7- Corporate Landlord Statement

It is clear that the council can only achieve its target to become Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030 through a very significant increase in the amount of carbon sequestered on land it manages, and in turn that can only be achieved through a programme of land acquisition. The amount of additional land required is substantial, and our ability to deliver on this will be constrained by the amount of land that will actually come onto the market in the programme period, the cost of the land and the available budget for acquisition. A further constraint may be our ability to manage such an increased land holding, which has been referenced in the report. These constraints are recognised and are reflected in the Risk Register. In order to optimise the opportunity to purchase land as it comes onto the market, the proposed delegation process is also supported (rather than a requirement to take a Business Case to SIG for each acquisition).

Appendix 8 - Power to make the decision

LEGISLATION / POLICY / DUTY	POWER
Local Government Act 1972	General powers and consents to acquire and dispose of land.
Section 2, Local Government Act 2000	The power to do anything which DCC consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.
Section 111, Local Government Act 1972	The power to do anything which is conducive to, or calculated to facilitate, the discharge of the Council's functions.
Section 6, Environment (Wales) Act 2016	Statutory duty to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity.
Section 13.2, DCC Constitution	All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles: 13.2.8 having regard to tackling climate and ecological change.