

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Integrated Impact Assessment

(includes Equalities, Welsh Language, Sustainability and Biodiversity)



Before completing the Impact Assessment **PLEASE REFER TO THE CORRESPONDING GUIDANCE DOCUMENT** which provides essential background information.

An Integrated Impact Assessment **MUST** be completed for:

1. Any project (i.e. something that has a start and end date and is different from day to day business).
2. Where you are implementing significant change e.g. service provision.
3. For any Council / Cabinet report that is not part of an above mentioned project or significant change.

| | |
|--|---|
| Title of Project / Report: | Cynllun Adfer Natur Cymru Cyngnor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful (2019 – 2024) Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Nature Recovery Action Plan (2019 – 2024) |
| Officer completing Impact Assessment: | Matt Davies (Ecologist) |
| Lead Officer / Project Manager: | |
| Service: | |
| Impact Assessment completion date: | 11 th December 2019 |

Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal:

The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Nature Recovery Action Plan (MTNRAP) 2019-2024 will replace the Merthyr Tydfil Biodiversity Action Plan (MTBAP) 2014-2019 and also provide the framework for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to comply with their Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives

Does your proposal help to deliver any of the Council's Well-being Objectives identified below?

| Well-being Objectives | Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box | | | Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation | What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? |
|--|---|----------|-----|---|--|
| | Positive | Negative | N/A | | |
| <p><u>Best Start to Life</u> Children and young people get the best start to life and are equipped with the skills they need to be successful learners and confident individuals.</p> | X | | | <p>The trend for children spending less and less time in natural surroundings, threatens the development of environmentally aware attitudes and behaviour and can have negative effects on health. Many of the actions within the MTNRAP, include outdoor events that involve children (.e.g., nature/biodiversity events, tree planting etc). Positive outcomes from these types of actions include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of education and the gaining of knowledge about the natural world ○ Health benefits from being outdoors. Accessing natural spaces provides direct health benefits, for example, opportunities for physical activity, reduction of developmental disorders and improved mental health. | <p>The actions detailed within the MTNRAP include those already undertaken and those still to be carried out moving forward.</p> <p>The MTNRAP is designed to be a dynamic document and will be updated as and when required.</p> <p>The document will be therefore be amended to include additional actions that will continue to contribute to the positive impacts the document will bring about.</p> |
| <p><u>Working Life</u> People feel supported to develop the skills required to meet the needs of businesses with a developing, safe infrastructure making Merthyr Tydfil an attractive destination.</p> | X | | | <p>An overall improvement and increase in the attractiveness/aesthetics of habitat and environment within the County Borough is likely to increase inward investment and draw people into Merthyr to both live and work. Events that in some way promote biodiversity have the potential to</p> | See above |

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|---|---|----------|-----|---|---|
| | Positive | Negative | N/A | | |
| | | | | attract both residents and visitors from outside the area and offer skills development opportunities. | |
| <p><u>Environmental Well-being</u> Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.</p> | X | | | <p>There is a wealth of research that demonstrates that a healthy natural environment can provide many benefits (for people and wildlife). Biodiversity and resilient ecosystems across the County Borough (including areas in and around towns and urban spaces) provide ecosystem benefits and services that support the health of residents, including, for example, reducing the risk of flooding, filtering polluted air, and providing a reliable supply of clean drinking water.</p> <p>Examples of these benefits and services include helping to reduce the prevalence of infectious diseases and respiratory disorders, and assisting with adaptation to climate change. Accessible natural spaces also provide other, more direct health benefits, for example, opportunities for physical activity, reduction of developmental disorders and improved mental health. In theory, nature provides cost savings for health services by improving the health of the population.</p> <p>The Merthyr Tydfil Nature Recovery Action Plan (MTNRAP) describes the special habitats and species (both the natural environment and urban</p> | See above |

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|---|---|----------|-----|--|---|
| | Positive | Negative | N/A | | |
| | | | | environment) found within the County Borough and then details actions designed to protect / recover them. The Section 6 Plan sets out actions that will be taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and create resilient ecosystems. Not only do the actions attempt to protect the natural assets of Merthyr Tydfil, they try to involve residents and communities of Merthyr to achieve these aims through direct action, which will potentially provide new skills and offer educational opportunities. | |
| <p><u>Living Well</u> People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they feel safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.</p> | X | | | See previous section (Environmental Well-being), which demonstrates how the MTNRAP will promote healthy behavior and potentially increase levels of physical activity and promote good emotional well-being and improvements to mental health. | See above |
| <p>Sources of evidence to support the above:</p> <p>http://www.primarycareservices.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1150/CMO%20Report%202014-15.Eng.pdf https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4808994/ https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969718349751 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1618866717307628</p> | | | | | |

2. Sustainable Development Principles (The Five Ways of Working)

Does your proposal demonstrate you have met the sustainable development principles (five ways of working)?

| Five Ways of Working | How does your proposal demonstrate you have met the five ways of working? | Are there any additional actions to be taken to better contribute to the five ways of working and/or mitigate any negative impacts? |
|--|--|---|
| Long Term -Thinking and planning for the long term. | The MTNRAP is a plan for the long term. This new four year plan will then be superceded in 2025 with a new document to be adopted by MTCBC. | The MTNRAP will be updated dynamically as and when required, within each four year cycle, so that the new document is ready to be adopted in 2025. |
| Prevention - Preventing problems before they happen. | The MTNRAP is designed to promote the resilience of ecosystems. A resilient ecosystem has the ability to respond to disturbance by resisting damage and recovering quickly. Therefore, creating resilient ecosystems will help to prevent problems before they occur. | - |
| Integration - Integrating with other strategies. | The MTNRAP also represents the Section 6 Plan, which provides the framework for MTCBC to comply with their Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. As such, the document integrates with the well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. See Table 6 in the MTNRAP document for further details. | - |
| Collaboration - Collaborating with others. | MTCBC collaborate with numerous partner organisations, for example, on key environmental projects (e.g., Rural Development Programme, Healthy Hillside Initiative, Green Flag Awards, Eco-schools, Buglife B-lines etc). Further details can be seen in the MTNRAP document. | Be vigilant for new opportunities with current partner organisations or opportunities with organisations that MTCBC is not currently in partnership with. |
| Involvement - Involving people and communities. | Many of the actions set out in the MTNRAP include involvement from people and communities across the County Borough. | - |
| <p>Sources of evidence to support the above: The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Nature Recovery Action Plan (MTNRAP) 2019-2024</p> | | |

3. Protected Characteristics (including Welsh Language)

Does your proposal directly impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language as identified below?

| Protected Characteristics | Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on service users, employees and/or the wider community, including the nine protected characteristic groups and Welsh language? Please place an X in the relevant box | | | Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation | What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? |
|--|--|----------|-----|---|---|
| | Positive | Negative | N/A | | |
| Age | | | X | The MTNRAP does not discriminate against any protected characteristics. | - |
| Disability | | | X | As above | - |
| Gender Reassignment | | | X | As above | - |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | | | X | As above | - |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | | | X | As above | - |
| Race | | | X | As above | - |
| Religion or Belief | | | X | As above | - |
| Sex (Gender) | | | X | As above | - |
| Sexual Orientation | | | X | As above | - |
| Welsh Language | | | X | As above | - |
| Sources of evidence to support the above: | | | | | |

4. Biodiversity

Does your proposal directly impact on Biodiversity?

| Biodiversity | Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on Biodiversity? Please place an X in the relevant box | | | Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation | What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? |
|--|---|----------|-----|---|---|
| | Positive | Negative | N/A | | |
| Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience | X | | | The document is entirely designed around maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and creating resilient ecosystems | |
| Sources of evidence to support the above: The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Nature Recovery Action Plan (MTNRAP) 2019-2024 | | | | | |

5. Summary

As a result of completing this Impact Assessment, how many positive and negative impacts does your proposal have? This section should then be included in the related Council/Cabinet report.

Please see the example provided in the **guidance document**.

| | Positive Impacts | Negative Impacts | Not Applicable |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives | 4 of 4 | 0 of 4 | 0 of 4 |
| 2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement | 5 of 5 | 0 of 5 | 0 of 5 |
| 3. Protected Characteristics (<i>including Welsh Language</i>) | 0 of 10 | 0 of 10 | 0 of 10 |
| 4. Biodiversity | 1 of 1 | 0 of 1 | 0 of 1 |
| <p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>The main positive impacts are ... the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the promotion of resilient ecosystems in MTCB with all the knock-on benefits this brings both to wildlife in general and the residents of Merthyr.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p> | | | |

6. Actions

Based on the summary of your positive and negative impacts, identified in Section 5 above, will you need to make changes to your proposal to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? Please identify any further actions you will need to undertake to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts.

| What are you going to do? | Estimated completion date | Who will be responsible? | Timelines/Milestones e.g. 6 months/over a year, etc. | Progress |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

7. Version Control

The Impact Assessment should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. Please use the table below to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in the sustainable development principles where possible.

| Version No. | Decision making stage | Date considered | Brief description of any amendments made following consideration |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | | 11 th December 2019 | - |
| | | | |

8. Sign off section

Approved by: _____

Job Title: _____

Approval date: _____