

# **Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment**

(Includes Well-being of Future Generations, Protected Characteristics, Welsh Language, Socio-economic Disadvantage, Sustainability and Biodiversity, Consultation/Engagement and Data/Evidence)



Before completing this Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), please refer to the corresponding **guidance document**, which provides essential background information.

An IIA MUST be completed for:

- Any Council / Cabinet report.
- Any strategic decisions being taken where due regard is required to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.
- Any project (i.e. something that has a start and end date and is different from day to day business).
- Where you are implementing significant change e.g. service provision.

This IIA helps to support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation. This IIA must be completed at the start of any project or proposal.

<b>Title of Report / Project:</b>	Tree Officer appointment					
<b>Officer completing IIA:</b>	Robert Barnett					
<b>Lead Officer / Project Manager:</b>	Robert Barnett					
<b>Service:</b>	Neighbourhood Services-Parks					
<b>IIA completion date:</b>						
<b>Type of proposal: (please place an X in the relevant box)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procedure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please identify): To make a current secondment position a permanent one.				
<b>Give a brief description of the proposal including the aims, and any links to relevant reports or documents:</b>	<p>Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is responsible for the management of all trees growing on its land including street trees, trees on public open spaces and in woodlands. By law, the Council is required to manage and undertake work to any tree which constitutes a statutory nuisance and, to discharge this duty, has a programme of inspection and maintenance works aimed at keeping the population safe from harm and preserving the health and future wellbeing of its tree stock.</p> <p>With the situation with Ash Dieback disease and the amount of work associated with it there is a requirement for the council to have a dedicated tree officer.</p>					

**1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives**

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

How does your proposal help to deliver any or all of the Council's Well-being Objectives?

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? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Best Start to Life -</b> 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.	x			Safe and well maintained green spaces have a positive effect on physiological as well as psychological wellbeing. By ensuring that public spaces are safe to use will encourage more use for the benefit of all.	
<b>Working Life -</b> 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.	x			Well maintained green spaces have shown to be a major factor for attracting inward investment and influencing peoples choice on where they settle and choose to live and work.	
<b>Environmental Well-being -</b> Communities protect, enhance and promote our environment and countryside.	x			A dedicated tree officer will ensure that best practice is followed and will ensure that wildlife is protected when work is being carried out on our tree stock. Replanting schemes will ensure future generations benefit from our green environment.	
<b>Living Well -</b> People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they feel safe and enjoy good physical and mental health.	x			Promoting healthy behaviours and increased levels of physical activity. Promote good emotional well being and improved mental health.	

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<b>Well-being Objectives</b>	<b>Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on the Council's Well-being Objectives? Please place an X in the relevant box.</b>	<b>Why have you come to this decision? Please provide an explanation.</b>	<b>What actions have been/will be taken to better contribute to positive impacts and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?</b>
	<b>Positive</b>   <b>Negative</b>   <b>Neutral</b>		

**Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):**

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

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

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to consider how any proposals improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being, whilst also looking to the future, planning for the long term and ensuring that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Please consider the national well-being goals when completing this section.

Five Ways of Working	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met the five ways of working when developing the proposal?	Are there any additional actions to be taken to better contribute to the five ways of working and/or mitigate any negative impacts? How will you know when this has been achieved?
<b>Long Term</b> - Thinking and planning for the long term, balancing short term and long term needs.	A dedicated tree officer will ensure that replanting schemes are considered as part of any tree felling to offset the loss of trees to the borough. In order that we can be sure we will have a healthy tree stock within the county borough we have to plan and plant now, Trees take many years to mature and we'll be planting for the benefit of future generations. UK forests currently cover 12% of our land area. This is very low compared to some of our European neighbours the UK is seriously lagging behind and must improve.	
<b>Prevention</b> - Preventing problems occurring or getting worse.	The post will help ensure we are more proactive with inspections being scheduled on a regular basis and by doing so help prevent future accidents and insurance claims against the council.	
<b>Integration</b> - Impact on our well-being objectives, national well-being goals and the well-being objectives of other public bodies.	Better cross departmental working and links with the planning department dealing with Tree Preservation orders.	
<b>Collaboration</b> - Acting in collaboration with others inside and outside the Council.	The post will encompass all trees within the county borough. This includes trees in our schools, cemeteries, parks, care homes and open spaces. It will promote better links with other council departments e.g. education, as schools have obligations for health and safety and their management of trees too.	
<b>Involvement</b> - Involving people with an interest in achieving the	The post will be the council's expert on tree related matters and will be a point of contact for officers and	

well-being goals and who reflect the diversity of our communities.	elected members. The post holder will be a guide on queries and complaints and will advise on community projects, grant applications and working with 'friends of' groups to ensure sound environmental guidelines are adhered to.	
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**Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):**

**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?**  
 The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. Please note that an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

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? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Age</b> - People of all ages.			x	A dedicated post will ensure the correct implementation of the council's tree policy and will ensure equality and transparency for all tree related issues. Everyone will be treated equally	
<b>Disability</b> - People with disabilities/long term conditions.			x	No impact see above	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> - People whose gender identity or gender expression is			x	No impact see above	

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	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
different to the sex they were assigned at birth.					
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b> - People who are married or in a civil partnership.			x	No impact see above	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b> - Women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave.			x	No impact see above	
<b>Race</b> - People from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds.			x	No impact see above	
<b>Religion or Belief</b> - People with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs.			x	No impact see above	
<b>Sex (Gender)</b> - Women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender.			x	No impact see above	
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual.			x	No impact see above	

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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? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		

**Welsh Language**  
The Welsh Language Wales Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.

Welsh Language -	Positive	Negative	Neutral	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? How will you know when this has been achieved?
Opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh language, treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, compliance with Welsh Language Standards, links with internal and external Welsh Language strategies.			x	No impact see above	

**Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):**

Council's tree policy

#### 4. Socio-economic Disadvantage (Strategic Decisions)

##### Does your proposal impact/deliver better outcomes for those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

The Socio-economic Duty places a responsibility on the Council to have 'due regard' to how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage when making strategic decisions. This duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality at the heart of key decision-making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services.

Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Socio-economic Disadvantage	Does your proposal have a positive or negative impact on socio-economic disadvantage for service users, employees and/or the wider community? 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? What steps will be taken to reduce inequalities of outcome? How will you know when this has been achieved?
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Low Income/Income Poverty</b> - Unable to afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport, other essential items etc.			x	No impact see above	
<b>Low and/or No Wealth</b> - Enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.			x	No impact see above	

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	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
<b>Material Deprivation</b> - Unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies etc.	x			The council's parks and open spaces are free of charge and are open to all. Safe and well maintained open spaces have a positive effect on mental well being and provide valuable leisure space regardless of your ability to pay	
<b>Area Deprivation</b> - Where you live e.g. rural areas, and where you work e.g. accessibility of public transport.	x			Well maintained green spaces have shown to be a major factor for attracting inward investment and influencing peoples choice on where they settle and choose to live and work.	
<b>Socio-economic Background</b> - Social class i.e. parents' education, employment and income.			x	A dedicated post will ensure the correct implementation of the council's tree policy and will ensure equality and transparency for all tree related issues. Everyone will be treated equally	

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Please consider: Single parents and vulnerable families, pensioners, carers, looked after children, single adult households, armed forces community, people with low literacy/numeracy, people who are homeless, people who have experienced the asylum system, students, people of all ages leaving a care setting, people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, people misusing substances, people involved in the criminal justice system, people who are not in education, employment or training. Please see the guidance document for more information.

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	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Socio-economic Disadvantage - What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged?			x	No Impact see above	

**Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section ‘Data and Evidence’):**

## 5. Consultation and Engagement

### What consultation and/or engagement has been undertaken to inform the development of the proposal?

There may be a legal requirement to consult in some instances, or a legitimate expectation that consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, the Gunning Principles must be adhered to.

- The proposals are still at a formative stage.
- There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'.
- There is adequate time for consideration and response.
- 'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made.

Please consider: Protected Characteristic groups, those who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, communities and places of interest, other stakeholders, forums, community groups and community councils. Please see the guidance document for more information.

Consultation and Engagement	Has consultation and/or engagement been undertaken on the proposal? Please place an X in the relevant box.			Briefly describe any recent or planned consultation and/or engagement exercises, paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles. Please identify when the consultation and/or engagement took place or will take place, or why it is not required.	Who was consulted/engaged with? Was sufficient information provided to allow an informed decision on the proposal to be made? What were the key findings of the consultation and/or engagement? Have these findings been taken into account? Is further consultation and/or engagement required?
	Undertaken	Due to be undertaken	Not required		
Requirement for consultation and/or engagement to be undertaken, or a legitimate expectation that it will take place.	x			CMT meeting. Portfolio councilor updates.	CMT meeting. Portfolio councilor updates.

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

**6. Data and Evidence**

**What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal?**

Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultation or engagement exercises, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and reports, future trends, horizon scanning, business plans etc. Consider the sources of evidence from all of the sections in your explanation.

Data and Evidence	Has data and evidence been used in order to inform the proposal? Please place an X in the relevant box.		What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? What have been the key findings of this data and evidence? Has this data and evidence helped to inform the proposal?	How has the data and evidence helped to inform the proposal? If the data and evidence did not support the proposal, why was this? Have there been any gaps identified? If so, what steps will be taken to cover the identified gaps?
	Yes	No		
Data and evidence used in order to inform the proposal.		X		

**Sources of evidence to support the above:**

**7. Biodiversity and resilience of Ecosystems**

**How does your proposal impact on Biodiversity and therefore the resilience of Ecosystems?**

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 we must seek to maintain and enhance Biodiversity within the proper exercise of our functions. In doing so, we must also seek to promote the resilience of Ecosystems.

Biodiversity and resilience of Ecosystems	What is the expected 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 the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity? How do you know when this has been achieved?
	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral		
To maintain and enhance Biodiversity (and therefore promote the resilience of Ecosystems).		X			Environmental Act (Wales) 2016_has a statutory obligation to enhance and protect our environment	Completion of the Ash Dieback Action Plan (ADAP), various re-planting schemes completed.

Sources of evidence to support the above (please use this information when completing the section 'Data and Evidence'):

## 8. Summary

As a result of completing this IIA, please identify below;

- The number of positive, negative or neutral scores for the Council's Well-being objectives, the sustainable development principles, protected characteristics including Welsh Language and Socio-economic disadvantage.
- If consultation and/or engagement has been undertaken, is due to take place or is not required.
- If data and evidence has been used in order to inform the proposal.
- If the proposal maintains, enhances or reduces the resilience of ecosystems.

The table below should then be included in the related Council/Cabinet report.

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable	
<b>1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives</b>	4 of 4	0 of 4	0 of 4	
<b>2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul>	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5	
<b>3. Protected Characteristics</b> (including Welsh Language)	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10	
<b>4. Socio-economic Disadvantage</b>	2 of 6	0 of 6	4 of 6	
<b>5. Consultation and Engagement</b>	<b>Undertaken</b>	<b>Due to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Not Required</b>	
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	
<b>6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
	0 of 1		1 of 1	
<b>7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems</b>	<b>Maintained</b>	<b>Enhanced</b>	<b>Reduced</b>	<b>Neutral/Not Applicable</b>
	0 of 1	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>The main positive impacts are:</b>	Safer public open spaces, the council is protected from litigation			
<b>The main negative impacts are:</b>	None			

**9. Actions**

**Based on the summary of your positive and negative impacts identified in the Summary section 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 inform this proposal e.g. whether further consultation is required or more data and evidence is required to better inform the proposal.

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

**10. Version Control**

**The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of the development of the proposal and decision making process, and then honed and refined throughout to strengthen and shape the proposal. This section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time.**

Please use the table below to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have delivered the sustainable development principles.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1			

**11. Monitoring and Review**

**The implementation and the impact of the proposal should be monitored and reviewed throughout the development of the proposal.**  
Please identify how the proposal will be monitored and reviewed as it progresses, including the implementation of any amendments identified.

**How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal and any amendments be monitored?**

**When will the proposal be reviewed? How frequently will this take place?**

**Who is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the proposal?**

Robert Barnett

**12. IIA Approval**

**IIA Approved by:**

**Job Title:**

**IIA Approval date:**