

Blaenau Gwent Equality Impact Assessment 2018

Statutory duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Name of Policy:	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-2022)	Person(s) completing this form:	Liz Hancocks
Department:	Regeneration & Community Services	Division:	Community Services / Technical Services / Green Infrastructure
Start Date of Assessment:	31/01/19	Tel No:	01495 355702

Q.1. Please outline the purpose of the policy or practice: (include the aims, objectives, expected outcomes and any key emerging themes from the policy; you may want to outline any key priorities / objectives outlined in the policy or practice)

In order to comply with the Environment (Wales) Act The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan.

To maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council by 2022 aims to:

- Reduce overall resource use; reuse where possible and recycle everything recyclable.
- Increase biodiversity and ecosystems understanding in the council staff and councillors through appropriate channels including Service Area Environment Champions and the Councillor Biodiversity Champion role.
- Embody the challenge of integrating the Active Travel, Well-being of Future Generations, Planning and Environment Acts to encourage sustainability in the ways we live, work and play.
- Promote responsible use of natural resources in Blaenau Gwent by working in partnership with others to initiate positive action and behaviour change.
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity and improve ecosystem resilience on council owned land, particularly with regard to priority species and habitats.
- Support the Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen Local Nature Partnership.

Service Area Action Plans have identified objectives that will be included in service area business plans from April 2019. It also includes a summary of legislative requirements and highlights links to well-being.

Q.2. Is the policy or practice new, existing, or under review:

Q.2.1. Is this policy or practice subject to any of the following processes:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>A Financial Efficiency Saving</i> | 2. <i>A Policy</i> |
| 3. <i>A Report</i> | 4. <i>Decision Making Process</i> |
| 5. <i>Business or service plan</i> | |

New

- 1. No
- 3. Yes
- 5. Yes

- 2. No
- 4. Yes

Q.3. Potential Positive, Adverse or Neutral effects on Protected Characteristics:

<u>Protected Characteristic</u>	<u>Positive, Negative, Neutral</u>	<u>Relevance of the Policy or Practice</u>
<i>Age</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners.
<i>Disability</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners. Adjustments will be made as necessary.
<i>Gender Reassignment</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners.
<i>Marriage & Civil Partnership</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners.
<i>Pregnancy & Maternity</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners. Adjustments will be made as necessary.
<i>Race</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners.
<i>Religion & Belief</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners. Adjustments will be made as necessary.
<i>Sex</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners.
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners.
<i>Welsh Language</i>	Neutral	Environment Champions will meet and any opportunities or actions would be open to council employees, councillors and perhaps wider partners. Welsh language materials will be produced as required.

Q.3.1. Overall evaluation on the potential impact on each protected characteristic:

No impact anticipated. Positives could be achieved by having a representative group of Environment Champions who may be willing to discuss their experiences, thus improving understanding in other Service Areas of barriers or challenges faced.

Q.4. Please outline the key stakeholders of this policy and identify who the policy is intended to benefit:

Q.5. Please outline any evidence and / or research you have collected which supports this policy or practice (*please consider both primary and secondary data sources such as quantitative data [Census] and qualitative data [journals and research reports]*):

Q.6. Please outline the consultation / engagement process: (*to include method of consultation, objectives and target audience*)

Q.7. Please outline any key responses and significant outcomes as a result of the consultation and engagement process:

Q.8. Please outline how this policy or practice will be communicated to the wider community and / or it's intended target group: