

Children's Commissioner for Wales: Plan to meet the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty

Section 6 of Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act puts in place a Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty for public authorities. Public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.

Biodiversity underpins ecosystem resilience and the sustainable management of natural resources, the S6 duty aims to ensure that biodiversity becomes an integral part of the decisions and actions that public authorities take in relation to Wales.

This document lays out the Commissioner's plan for 2019-22 and is structured according to our performance framework, which covers 4 areas: Children and Young people; CCFW People (staff); organisational processes; financial stability and value for money.

In 2017 we invited a school eco-committee (Glyncollen primary school) to audit our office's practices in relation to environmental actions. They produced 5 recommendations including more shared lifts, biodegradable art materials for events, use of recycled paper, low energy light bulbs and more recycling. While we have made progress with all of their recommendations, the only one we have fully completed is to change to recycled printing and photocopying paper. We continue to work on the other recommendations and they are included below.

Progress against this plan will be reported in our annual reports from 2020 onwards.

Children and young people

	Person responsible	Timescale	Progress May 2020
Work in partnership with eco-schools Cymru to deliver our recycling and reuse of school uniforms, prom dresses and other clothes Revolve project	Head of Practice	March 2020	Successful special mission with excellent take-up all over Wales. Flintshire adopted it as one of key goals for local authority.
Continue to support children to be listened to by local and national governments when expressing their views on climate change, reducing plastic waste and recycling.	Head of Practice	Ongoing	Published activism toolkit with environmental activism one of the key themes. Wrote to key organisations offering to work in partnership on this issue.
Develop activism toolkit for schools.	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	March 2020	Complete

Support the Youth parliament committees working on reducing plastic waste and climate change	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	Feb 2021	Ongoing; we've shared details of consultations and events with our advisory panel members.
Publish a case study as part of our Children's Rights Approach series that demonstrates the links between biodiversity and children's human rights.	Head of Policy and Public Affairs	December 2020	On track

CCFW people and accommodation

	Person responsible	Timescale	Progress
Ensure all staff adhere to use of public transport while on business in line with CCfW policies (except where exempted for health, disability or caring responsibilities)	Head of Finance	Ongoing	This is checked as part of the authorisation of T&S by line managers. Due to COVID19 no business travel occurred in Quarter 1 2020.
Continue to encourage lift sharing in the office by setting up car pool lists for all events and training days	Head of Practice	Ongoing	Staff routinely share cars for Participation Events. There have been no staff training days since the inception of this action plan partly as a result of COVID19.
Ensure that new staff receive information about our green car and bike purchase support scheme during induction	Head of Human Resources	Ongoing	Complete. Incorporated into induction checklist.
Explore and if appropriate invest in measures to encourage diversity outside our office, including potentially planters with bee-friendly plants, nesting boxes and/or 'bug homes'. NB: The woodland to the NNE of Oystermouth House building is a key habitat for rare moss and lichen. Any siting of such measures will need careful consideration.	Head of Finance	December 2020	Incorporated into accommodate project planning

Ensure that as much office waste is recycled as possible	Head of Finance	March 2020	We have changed our waste disposal supplier to enable recycling of most office waste from April 2020 onwards. Currently all waste disposal on hold due to Covid 19.
Ensure that we continue to use recycled paper for all printing and photocopying and ensure that printed reports similarly are 100% recycled, when printing deemed necessary.	Head of Performance and Communications	March 2020 and ongoing	Completed and ongoing
Include sustainability as a key component of the ongoing accommodation project	Head of Practice	March 2020	Ongoing. Delays to project due to COVID 19
Accommodation project team to audit lighting in the office to ensure that low-energy bulbs being used throughout.	Head of Practice	June 2020	Ongoing. Delays to project due to COVID 19
Accommodation project team to review use of water coolers in office (currently refilled from a local spring source).	Head of Practice	June 2020	Ongoing. Delays to project due to COVID 19
Accommodation project team to audit use of lighting within and external to building at night time. Light pollution is a key driver for insect decline, plus potential energy wastage.	Head of Practice	June 2020	Ongoing. Delays to project due to COVID 19

Organisational processes

	Person responsible	Timescale	Progress
Include biodiversity as an essential consideration in our Procurement Policy	Head of Finance	March 2020	This will be included in the procurement policy when reviewed in 3 rd quarter 2020-21.
Include biodiversity duty in our performance evaluation framework	Head of Performance and Communications	March 2020 and annually	Completed
Review progress on this plan on a 6-monthly basis in management team	Commissioner	Ongoing. June 2020/Dec 2020/June 2021/Dec	Timetabled into MT meetings and supervisions

		2021/June 2022	
Report on our adherence to the biodiversity duty in our annual report	Head of Performance and Communications	October each year.	On track for October 2020

Financial stability and value for money

	Person responsible	Timescale	Progress
Ensure that our Events Guide includes accessibility from public transport as an essential criterion when booking venues for events that we organise	AW and all project sponsors	March 2020	Complete. Events guide includes section on location and specifically references accessibility from public transport.
Ensure that recycled, organic or biodegradable materials actively considered when ordering office supplies including cleaning materials, stationery, 'freebies' and art materials. (Research availability of 'freebies' that encourage biodiversity such as flower seeds or ideas packs for biodiversity such as building bug homes.)	Head of Performance and Communications	Initially by March 2020 and then ongoing	On track
Review our bank's policies on ethical and sustainable investments and consider a switch if justified following review	Head of Finance	December 2020	On track
Research sustainability of investment plans by pension providers and explore options depending on results.	Head of Finance	December 2020	To be actioned as part of ethical review of contract.
Continue to seek 100% renewable sources when conducting annual review of electricity supplier	Head of Finance	Ongoing	We will include this a review of energy providers prior to contract review.
Carbon off setting for flights taken for business purposes as part of Finance policies. Flights to be taken only when other forms of transport are not available/practical.	Head of Finance	Ongoing	Noted, this will be monitored.