

2019/22 Biodiversity Duty: Action spreadsheet		main contact	on-going or project	started	progress 2019/20	progress 20/21	progress 21/22	progress 22/23	Comments and Wales Nature Recovery Plan (NRAP) objective objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels. Objective 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management, Objective 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation, Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats, Objective 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring, Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.	completed
1. Biodiversity and the local community										
1.1	Local Nature Partnership (formerly LBAP partnership)	Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on-going	1997	Partnership meetings held April, July, Oct and Jan. Slow progress with LBAP review due to delay in WG funding. Some consultation events held in summer. Flood/Covid delay in early 2020. Appointment of LNP co-ordinator 1.5 days per week with WG funding via WCVA Jan 20 to Mar 2022.	covid disruption to planned meetings and events programme, on line meetings re-established from Oct, Partnership quarterly and Action for Nature review meetings monthly commencing with species reviews	covid disruption to planned meetings and events programme, on line meetings continued, Partnership quarterly and Action for Nature review meetings monthly completing species reviews then looking at habitat groups. Co-production of website to replace former paper documents. Communities in Action evening meetings instigated quarterly between Partnership meetings. Draft of Action for Nature website consultation 29th Jan to 11th March 2022. Loss of LNP co-ordinator when WG funding ceased end of March 22	Amendments made to Action for Nature website, report of consultation completed and circulated to Partnership and respondents. 'Under construction' banner removed by Partnership. On line Partnership meetings held in April and July, with an site visit to Cefn yr hendy Living Landscape site in September and an in-person partnership meeting in October.	1,2,3,4,5,6	
1.2	Recorders' Newsletter	Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on-going	1997	summary for 2018 produced and distributed Sept 19	no progress due to covid disruption and pressure of work	no progress due to pressure of work, but highlighted as a priority in Action for Nature draft	no progress to end Oct due to pressure of work, but retained as a priority in the final 'Action for Nature'. Discussions with Partnership proposed with regard to a new digital format.	Recorders' Newsletter summarises wildlife reports from members of the public sent to the Council's Ecologist	1,2,5
1.3	council sites and community groups	Liz Dean/ Richard Wistow/Kate Stock/Marie Fowler (to Oct 21)	on going	1997	Pontyclun wildflower walk, Beddau Biodiversity Ramble, Aberdare Park moth and bat events, Dare Valley Country Park bird and student events, monthly summer childrens events at Dare Valley and Ynysangharad Park (Magnificent minibeasts, muddy masterpieces, beautiful butterflies, den building)	Plans for community engagement work on RCT 'Countryside' sites with the Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales disrupted due to COVID. Limited opportunities for other practical community engagement. Some 'socially distanced' Devil's Bit scabious planting with Buglife at Y Pant school, Parc Nant Celyn and Ynysddu field in November	continuing disruption due to COVID but socially distanced 'grab a rake' events at St Dyfrigs, Park Lane, Blaenrhondda Park, Hendreforgan, Talgarn Road Verge in sept, liaison with community and friends groups in parks, Community garden project in Ynysangharad Park, Wilder Health events at Clydach Vale jan-mar 22	Some COVID disruption but a gradual return of community events at various sites. LNP visit to Cefn Yr Hendy Living Landscape site in Sept. Loss of staff and pressures of routine and grant funded work has severely limited community engagement. 'Grab a rake' a casualty	1	
1.4	Living Landscapes	Liz Dean/ Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on-going	formally 2020	initial discussions and mapping undertaken by the Wildlife Trust during the period 2016-19 led to the development of a project outline by the Local Nature Partnership	Initially raised in Natures Assets report, prepared pre-covid but approved by CCCSG and cabinet late in 2020. Continued project development, including bids for graduate ecologist and 2 biodiversity apprentices to support delivery.	Project included in Action for Nature review by Partnership, graduate and apprentices in post from Sept, Living Landscape report approved by Cabinet in October. Grant bid to WG submitted via WCVA in Jan, approved in principle in February. Practical on site works Oct-March (staff only/socially distanced initially due to COVID restrictions)	Welsh Government Capital grant Local Places for Nature (LPFN) of (£373k) grant confirmed April, plus revenue for posts (to Mar23). Appointment following advertisement and interview of the 2 former Biodiversity Apprentices in late Sept. Works in hand to progress capital spend on 29 Living Landscape sites (fencing, water, geo-collars, woodland management, interpretation etc.) by March 23	2,3,4,6	
1.5	Let's Talk RCT	Chris Davies/Liz Dean/Marie Fowler (to oct 21)	project	2020		Let's Talk Wildflowers developed following adoption of wildflower grassland management policy by the Council in Jan 2020	Lets Talk Wildflowers informed revised grass cutting schedules for wildflower management. Commenced Lets Talk Trees, delayed due to loss of staff.	Let's Talk Trees launched in Oct to celebrate trees and woodland in RCT and to support the consultation on the Council's draft tree strategy	1,2,4,5 tbc	
Biodiversity and the Planning System										

2.1	implement current policy and guidance	Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock	on-going	2011	Ecological review has been undertaken of 1026 planning applications received by the local planning authority in 19/20, including the review of SEWBREC data searches	1359 planning applications reviewed in 20/21, including the review of SEWBREC data searches	Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21, 1459 planning applications reviewed 21/22, including the review of SEWBREC data searches	359 planning applications reviewed in q1 of 22/23 (to end of June), including the review of SEWBREC data searches. Full year data available in April 23	Ecological review covers the full range of ecological scrutiny in the planning process. From initial sifting and consideration of ecological potential of planning applications (ex. adverts and non material changes apps), through to site visits as necessary, scoping for required ecological assessments, review and scrutiny of submitted ecological assessments, negotiating proposed mitigation and ultimately ecological recommendations in accordance with adopted planning policy. From PPW10 in 2018, all development should protect and enhance biodiversity.	1,2,4,5,6		
2.2	monitor implementation of planning mitigation	Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock, Jen Wakeford/ Leanne Lott	on-going	2019	PPW10 includes reference (6.2.12). Using existing S106 quarterly meetings and monthly biodiversity meetings to establish procedures.	staff changes (JW replaced by LL) and covid disruption to meeting pattern and engagement with developers with approved mitigation schemes.	Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21, table of S106 relating to peat restoration prepared for Planning/Climate Change meetings. Continued COVID disruption	Further work with windfarm operators with S106 for on-going habitat restoration projects, to identify potential benefits of peatland restoration to Natural Floodrisk Management (NFM) in high risk catchments (led by Catrin Evans in drainage). Further work required to re-establish contacts with developers with approved mitigation schemes (see 2.4 below)	loss of regular meetings and contacts with developers/ changes in personel during COVID has impacted delivery	3		
2.3	monitor the impact of development on SINC	Richard Wistow/Clare Hewitt	on-going	2011	3 schemes directly affected designated SINC. All of these have mitigation schemes and management plans secured through a Section 106 agreement, over a total site area of 18.57ha. The zip line application in Rhigos accounts for 17ha of this.	3 schemes directly affected a designated SINC. Two of these have mitigation schemes and management plans secured through a Section 106 agreement, over a total site area of 2.28ha. The one application where there was no SINC mitigation scheme was due to existing damage to the SINC.	The 2021-2022 AMR is still in preparation, however two schemes directly affect a designated SINC. Both of these have mitigation schemes secured via a S106 agreement, over a total site area of 0.38ha.	This data will be available in May 2023	Data is published in the LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) available the following year	1,2,3,4,5,6		
2.4	management of S106 agreements	Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock	on-going	1998	Outline management plans prepared for 5 sites (Parc Eirin, Cefn yr Hendy, Danygraig Heights, Pant Marsh and Llanharan Quarry) where land and funding is vested with the Council. Works have been undertaken at Cefn yr Hendy, Pant Marsh and Parc Eirin. On-going work at Penycymoedd (including Heritage Lottery bid, approved in August). Annual monitoring of 14 (developer) management plans by ecologist/tree officer. 24 agreements under negotiation/awaiting trigger points.	Covid disruption to management works on site, in particular shortage of fencing contractors. Contractor works at Danygraig, and Parc Eirin. Three new mitigation scheme added from 19/20 consents (Zipworld/Tower, Blaenrhondda and Mynydd Bwlfa). Annual monitoring and recording of negotiations status disrupted by COVID.	Two new sites added from 20/21 consents at Penycymoedd and former Clairnant factory. Annual monitoring and recording of negotiations status disrupted by COVID. Graduate Ecologist and 2 Biodiversity Apprentices assisting from Sept 21. Practical management works undertaken in-house Sept-March at Parc Eirin, Pant Marsh and Llanharan Quarry. Contractor works at Danygraig, Cefn yr hendy and Llanharan Quarry. 5 council managed sites included in the Living Landscape project approved by cabinet in Oct	Two new sites added from 21/22 consents at Pantydraenen and CraigrAllt Nantgarw. Annual (or more frequent) monitoring of 9 developer management plans by Ecologist, negotiations regarding 13 agreements not currently being implemented post development, 14 agreements under negotiation or awaiting trigger. 2 agreements lost to SUDS development. Contractor works at Danygraig, Cefn yr hendy and Llanharan Quarry. Interpretation panels planned at Living Landscape sites (Parc Eirin, Llanharan Quarry, Pant Marsh and Cefn Yr hendy). In-house practical works at a number of sites.	Concern re COVID impact and the number of agreements where the developer is not providing the required information regarding the implementation of the mitigation or has failed to provide the mitigation.	1,2,3,4,5,6		
2.5	evidence relating to the multiple benefits of negotiated S106 agreements to inform the review of the LDP	Liz Dean / Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock	project	2015	Continued liason with Wildlife Trust towards the completion of the 'opportunity' mapping project in accordance with LDP review programme	covid disruption including furlough for staff/loss of staff at Wildlife Trust delayed mapping. Some data assembled for input to LDP background papers	Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21, table of S106 relating to peat restoration prepared for Planning/ Climate Change meetings. Site mapping being undertaken in house due to staff turnover at WTSWW and Grad appointment.	discussions of benefits of peatland restoration and Natural Flood Management initiated with some S106 windfarm developers (CE)		1,3,4,5,6		

2.6	Ensure the Biodiversity Duty is reflected in the review of the LDP	Owen Jones/Liz Dean / Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	project	2018	Report on LDP preparation to cabinet (18/06/19). Note prepared for the LDP Review Report (08/19). Welsh Government published the Development Plans Manual and the National Development Framework for consultation	Formal approval was given to begin the preparation of the Revised LDP 2020 – 2030 in September. Initial Green Infrastructure data report prepared for LDP, based on analysis of PPW10 and biodiversity duty. Review of SINC boundaries in relation to the regional selection criteria. Future Wales, The National Plan to 2040 published. Candidate sites procedure established. Integrated Sustainability Appraisal prepared by consultants with input from across the Council	Natures' Assets working group considered LDP and climate change themes. Council approval to cease work on the RLDP and begin work on a new RLDP with a plan period of 2022 – 2037.	New RLDP agreed by WG April 22, to begin a new timetable from then. The initial assessment of candidate sites previously submitted was completed. This included the consideration of sites against the existing and proposed SINC and higher level ecological designations. A 2nd call for sites was also opened. Update of ISA in preparation. Updating of SINC descriptions commenced		1,2,3,4,5,6	2025/2026.
2.7	and in the new Strategic Plan for the Cardiff City Region, City Deal and Metro proposals	Owen Jones/Liz Dean / Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock	project	2018	Strategic Development Plan (regional) reported to Cabinet (06/19). Issue of Biodiversity Duty and SDP raised at Wales meeting in June. Welsh Government published the Development Plans Manual and the National Development Framework for consultation.	covid disruption, capital region report to Cabinet Feb21	continued covid disruption, regional discussions continuing in advance of the formal Capital Region establishment.	Although no formal preparation of the SDP has begun, the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group continue to prepare pieces of joint evidence base, where possible, on a region wide basis. Consideration is also being given to options of how the funding of the preparation of the SDP could take place between member authorities. This is in advance of the formal set up of the necessary CJC committees. Ad hoc contacts re ecological surveys for metro works.		1,2,3,4,5,6	
2.8	and in the new Strategic Opportunity Area proposals	Liz Dean/Sarah Mee/Pete Mortimer	project	2018	nominated officers and a project board in Regeneration to lead on each. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cynon Gateway – Energizing the Region: Sarah Mee The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, Heart of the Region: Debbie Pike Pontypridd Town – Pivotal in the Region: Andrea Vlrgo A4119 Corridor: Regional Rhondda Gateway: Rhian Jones Llanilid on the M4: Driving the Regional Economy: Rhian Jones 	https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s22294/Report.pdf?LLL=0, cabinet report Cynon gateway Sep 2020, A4119 dualing report to cabinet Dec20 https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s23953/Report.pdf?LLL=0, covid disruption	covid disruption, Levelling up proposals cabinet June 21 https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s29034/Report.pdf?LLL=0 Llanlid cabinet report Dec 21 https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32612/Report.pdf?LLL=0 Pontypridd cabinet report autumn 21: https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s31967/Report.pdf?LLL=0, Pontypridd Placemaking plan Feb22 cabinet report https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34015/Report.pdf?LLL=0/ published Mar22.	The Pontypridd Placemaking Plan has undergone a range of consultation and has been approved for use subject to the inclusion of amendments following consultation. PONTYPRIDD PLACEMAKING PLAN CABINET JUNE 22 PONTYPRIDD PLACEMAKING PLAN CABINET JUNE 22 APPENDIX The A4119 Dualling project has been successful in securing UK Government Levelling Up Funding and the main construction contract is in place and work on delivery has commenced on site in 2022/23. Work to prepare a new Town Centre Strategy for Aberdare is in preparation and the draft will be subject to a programme of engagement and consultation with the public, key stakeholders and organisations.	The Strategic Opportunity Areas provide a framework to inform the focus of regeneration and development opportunities. In this way priorities will be informed and detailed plans and strategies will consider how best the Biodiversity duty is reflected.	1,2,3,4,5,6	
2.9	use of sewbrec data	Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock, Bethan Jenkins	on-going	2009	Planning have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBREC	Planning have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBREC, format of data supply changed.	Planning have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBREC, includes access to Aderyn dataset but this requires specialist interpretation. Ongoing issues with planning application data arising after the ecologists observations have been submitted to the planning officer.	Planning have a Service Level Agreement with SEWBREC. Ongoing issues with planning application data arising after the ecologists observations have been submitted to planning officers, and with the staff time required for in house searches of the database.	Unresolved staff time issues relating to planning application checks and ad hoc departmental enquiries.	5	
2.10	Green Infrastructure Assessment	Liz Dean/ Clare Hewitt	on going	2019	brief note prepared, discussions with LDP team	Initial report prepared, Nov meeting NRW re draft guidance.	good practice examples collated and training events attended. NRW published guidance June 21	good practice examples collated and training events attended.		1,2,3,4,5,6	
2.11	Ensure new statutory nature conservation designations are mapped onto Corporate GIS systems - responsible body ITC	Michael Brutsch/Gillian Hobbs	project	2019	SSSI layer updated 30/04/19		SSSI data uploaded again Feb 22		RCT Ecologist is the most likely consultee that NRW will contact when new SSSI are designated.	5	2019, but new errors subsequently found, corrected 2022
3. Biodiversity and land /estate management											

3.1	cut and collect	Steve Owen/Gareth Henson/ Richard Wistow/Marie Fowler/ Kate Stock	on-going	2016	Meetings and training sessions with Streetcare, following the transfer of grasscutting. Visits, lists and mapping of additional sites in Cynon, Rhondda and Taf for 2020. Grassland notices for Cemeteries. Countyside cut and collect of key Countryside grassland sites with the sofrak.	Capital funding from WG 'Local Places for Nature' purchase Amazone cut and collect machine, training materials provided as COVID restricted in-person training, also affected cutting schedules and resulted in many 'unintentional' flowery verges, generally welcomed by the public. Countryside cut and collect of key Countryside grassland sites with the sofrak.	Capital funding from WG 'Local Places for Nature' to purchase a further Amazone cut and collect machine. RCT Lets Talk Wildflowers above, allows public to nominate sites to add to the schedule. Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21, MF left Oct. Additional sites reviewed for additon in 22/23, Countyside cut and collect of key Countryside grassland sites with the sofrak.	Mapping of operational and proposed sites, additional equipment (Rytec and trailer) ordered with LPfN funding, A total of 1,360,490sqm in cut and collect management this year. Discussion with cemeteries to bring 5 Living Landscape sites into cut and collect management from spring 23. Countyside cut and collect of key Countryside grassland sites with the sofrak.	Re-organisation of service provision has seen the road verge 'Cut and Collect' machine operation moved to the Streetcare Department. A number of the larger Key Countryside and Living Landscape sites continue to be cut by Countryside with the original 'sofrak' machine which is better able to cope with wet conditions	1,2,3,4,6		
3.2	Transfer of management works from Parks and Countryside section to Streetcare to identify biodiversity training/information provision (as raised in 2017SSE), in particular with regard to the Wildlife Law aspects, such as protocols for nesting birds, sensitive areas (e.g. dormouse priority areas, SSSI) etc.	Richard Wistow/ Nigel Wheeler/Steve Owen	project	2018	meetings with team leaders held, site signs, notices etc. supplied, social media proposal for 2020 season in preparation.	training for operatives and supervisors carried out prior to the grass cutting season, some limitations re on-site training due to COVID restrictions. Nesting bird advice for website. Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21	training for operatives and supervisors carried out prior to the grass cutting season, some limitations re on site training due to COVID restrictions. Nesting bird advice for website. Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21		grass verge management transferred from Parks to Streetcare in April 2018. Parks supervisors transferred from April 2019.	1,2,3		2022
3.3	Corporate Estates Department liaise with Council's Countryside section regarding occasional third party requests for positive biodiversity land management licences on Council owned land	Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock/ Richard Skinner/Kelly Daniels	on-going	2017	ecological advisory role continued as opportunities and issues arise, including advice on potential grazing opportunities for 'rented' grazing sites.	ecological advisory role continued as opportunities and issues arise, including advice on potential grazing opportunities for 'rented' grazing sites.	ecological advisory role continued as opportunities and issues arise, including advice on potential grazing opportunities for 'rented' grazing sites. Healthy Hillside project (see below) Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21	ecological advisory role continued as opportunities and issues arise, including advice on potential grazing opportunities for 'rented' grazing sites. Healthy Hillside project (see below), increasing enquiries re community uses (see 3.6 below)		1,2,4		
3.4	Japanese Knotweed management on Council land	Gareth Henson / David Brown	on going		Wildlife Trust grant bid approved. Council treatment of 231 sites, area 2,231m ²	Council treatment of 262 sites, area 2,262m ²	Council treatment of 448 sites, area 4,480m ² . Knotweed officer David Brown appointed Sept 21, report to Scrutiny Feb 22	treatment undertaken in autumn 22, data available April 2023		2,4		
3.5	Fly Tipping control/removal	Steve Owen/ Tim Jones	on going		2945 tips cleared	3146 flytips cleared	3293 flytips cleared	q1 843 fly tipping incidents, final data available end of April 2023		2,4		
3.6	Corporate estates department liaise with Council's Countryside section regarding biodiversity implications of land disposal, and building refurbishments, demolitions and new developments	various/Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on going		adhoc advice given for example Cwmbach school roof collapse and bat issues	covid disruption, limited input this year, work with Welcome to Our Woods re Council owned land at Corbett Street	increasing demand for observations on proposals for community use of Council owned land. Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21	Ensure continuity with Countryside transfer to Planning. Continuing enquires for community use of Council owned land, including Corbett Street agro forestry project with Welcome to our Woods. Corporate Estates review of the grazing portfolio this year may allow biodiversity considerations in Council licencing.	See also Nature's Assets below. The Council's land portfolio is increasingly being seen as an important contributor to community well-being and ecosystem resilience and this has resource implications, in particular for ecological expertise.	1,2,3,4,5,6		
3.7	Healthy Hillside/Grazing site work	Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock/Kelly Daniels	on going	2013	In accordance with a new timetable for WG EnRaW grant submission, the Health Hillside partnership is preparing a submission. 5 RCT Conservation Grazing sites on-going and preparation works to deliver 2 more sites through planning mitigation/gain in preparation.	Healthy Hillside delay due to COVID, NRW progressed negotiations with WG, agreed input from RCT and other partners. Council site at Tylorstown tip on hold due to landslip remediation.	Healthy Hillside Project commenced, led by NRW, with staff from Wildlife Trust (Tara Daniels) progressing works on Council owned sites at Clydach Vale and Penrhys. Works include habitat mapping, bracken rolling, balsam bashing, vegetation clearance for fire breaks and fencelines, Wilder Health sessions, purchase of management machinery for Fire Service and support for MSc student. Additional sites in Llantrisant and in neighbouring LAs. Conservation grazing continuing on a number of Council owned sites.	Conservation grazing licences which cover 7 RCT owned sites, some of which were not grazed this season due to drought conditions. Living Landscapes project funding will allow the installation of water troughs at some sites) Healthy Hillside project continues.	Health Hillside project identified in RCT and Merthyr Community Safety plan as a multiple partnership project delivering best practice for grass fire prevention	1,2,3,4,5	Healthy Hillside due to complete grant aid spend by July 23	

3.8	Highways Infrastructure Programme	Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on-going		Further development of schemes and issues, including closeworking with Highways engineers in development of species specific bat mitigation measures.	llanharan bypass, cynon gateway, a4119 dualling major projects plus liaison re minor projects	llanharan bypass, cynon gateway, a4119 dualling major projects plus liaison re minor engineering projects.	A4119 dualling under construction,including mitigation and enhancement works. Cynon gateway received planning consent, mitigation and enhancement package agreed. Llanharan bypass still in design and negotiation of mitigation and enhancement measures. Tylorstown tip reclamation proposals under discussion in addition to minor engineering projects		1,2,3,4,5,6		
4. Biodiversity and water management												
4.1	ordinary water course consents	Anthony Chorley/Liam Swanwick/ Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on going	2012	44 ordinary watercourse applications.	70 ordinary watercourse applications.	115 ordinary watercourse applications.	55 ordinary watercourse applications (to end of Aug).	Numbers rising year on year with implications for ecologist's workload	1,2,4		
4.2	introduction and operation of sustainable drainage (SUDS) regulations	Owen Griffiths/Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on going	2015	24 full applications received, 18 validated	51 full applications received of which 46 validated	69 full applications received of which 60 validated	to end Sept 29 full applications received of which 23 validated. Ecologist not consulted routinely, except in relation to Planning applications (to end Sept) but procedures in place for future consultation on all validated schemes.	see Park Lane School below. Numbers rising and new consultation procedures have implications for the Ecologist's workload. Concern also that 'natural solutions' can be very damaging for biodiversity and can conflict with agreed planning mitigation/enhancement for biodiversity if not considered at the same time.	1,2,4		
4.3	Park Lane School SUDS	Richard Wistow / Darren Miller / Mark Powell	project	2019	discussion of biodiversity opportunity, design and negotiation re space for pitch and SUDS suitable for 'cut and collect', design in progress, text for Corporate Performance Report May19.	Multi year funding from WG flood branch capital programme 2019-2022. Works commenced on site.	Major works completed, cut and collect autumn 21, 'grab a rake' community event on steep banks Sept. Devils bit scabious planting winter. Included in Living Landscape pilot project of 29 sites (cabinet Oct 2021)	Funding from Welsh Government (Local Places for Nature) for interpretation panel to be completed by March23	objective to achieve flood risk reduction for the school, utilizing space between Aberdare Park and a redundant pitch. A marshy grassland site, which can be 'cut and collect', provide outdoor education space for the school and contribute to the rhos pasture network for the marsh fritillary butterfly.	1,2,3,4		2022, on-going maintenance and community engagement via Living Landscape project (see above)
4.4	Pontypridd Raingarden/ Pretty Ponty	Owen Griffiths /Marie Fowler to Oct 21	project	2020	grant bid to WG Natural Floodrisk management fund	successful grant bid implemented	Replacement tree planted			1,3		2021
4.5	Ely Catchment Partnership	Owen Jones/Andy Stone/Liz Dean/ Becky Davies NRW	currently project	2022			NRW initiated investigation of catchment wide partnership for the river Ely (Cardiff/Vale/RCT/WW/NRW and voluntary sector), to address the Water Framework Directive failures. Fortnightly meetings Jan-Mar 22 to identify issues, interrelationships, responsibilities and potential solutions.	further occasional meetings co-ordinated by NRW to develop and share natural capital studies commissioned from consultants and progress the Partnership	Ely is Wales' worst river with regard to the Water Framework Directive, with the Clun classified as 'bad' and a programme of remedial works is required.	1,2,3,4,5,6		
5. Biodiversity and education												
5.1	walk to the wild	Liz Dean	was on going, funding now ceased	2014	Grant funding ceased. Regional funding bid for outdoor learning failed. Training meeting and AGM of the RCT and Merthyr Outdoor Learning Group held at Ynysangharad Park Pontypridd, 4th July. Activities led by Rhian Vale, 12 mostly teachers attended. New chair elected (Ian Timbrell Cwmbach Community School).				Ambition to continue 'Walk to the Wild' if funding can be identified and to publish the resources generated to date on the website.			2019

5.2	school grounds for biodiversity	Richard Wistow/ Richard Bowen/Marie Fowler to nov 21	project	2019	visits to 7 schools (Ysgol Llanhari, Ynysboeth, YGG Tonyrefail, Trealaw, Oaklands primary, Llanharan primary, Glenboi) with education officers and production of reports for proposed biodiversity management of school grounds	covid disruption to original programme. Visit to Gwauncelyn (Nov) and recommendations for replacement of felled trees	Advice to University of S Wales re grassland 'cut and collect' management. As a result of schools interest, Education identify staff to support school grounds projects	Ysgol Llanhari are exploring options for creating a wildflower meadow on an embankment, YGG Tonyrefail are cultivating a wildflower meadow (as per the report). The remaining sites are predominantly 'hard yard' sites and thus the changes there have been focused on the wildlife accomodation and planting up raised beds etc. Some of this work is paused as Learning Curve space is repurposed for Ukrainian refugees.	Funding of school grounds management is delegated to the school	1,2,3	2022 but on-going via Education support
5.3	green-roofed outdoor classrooms	Richard Bowen	project	2021		grant bid to WG Local Places for Nature for 6 outdoor classrooms with green roofs-successful.	7 classrooms completed, 6 funded via the grant and an additional classroom funded by the council	video of project in preparation, on going maintenance to be managed jointly by RCT and the respective schools.	Local Places for Nature funding from Welsh Government. Sites with limited access to green-space selected	1,2,3	2022
5.4	swifts in schools	Liz Dean/ Richard Bowen	project	2022			the reported decline in swift nesting (and house martins and swallows) in Ferndale prompted a repeat of the 2004 'Is Martin at home?' school survey in the northern Rhondda Fach (zero nests reported!) and proposals for nest sites on school buildings	Local Places for Nature funding being explored for a wider project across RCT. Some schools installing nest boxes provided by Learning Curve projects	swifts, swallows and house martins rely on buildings for their nest sites and were once common and widespread across RCT. Populations have crashed in recent years and providing nest sites may help to reverse this decline	1,2,3,4,5	funding available til march 23
6. Biodiversity and advice to the public											
		Richard Wistow/Kate Stock	on-going	1997	advice/queries received on an ad hoc and on-going basis covering a wide range of ecological issues	advice/queries received on an ad hoc and on-going basis covering a wide range of ecological issues	advice/queries received on an ad hoc and on-going basis covering a wide range of ecological issues. Graduate Ecologist assisting from Sept 21	advice/queries received on an ad hoc and on-going basis covering a wide range of ecological issues. LNP co-ordination returned to RCT apr 22, facebook page requires monitoring by KS		2,3,4,5	
7. Biodiversity and corporate planning											
7.1	Service Self Evaluation of Biodiversity	Lesley Lawson/ Liz Dean	on going	2017	Action plan updated, Input to corporate performance report for 18/19	floods and covid disruption, revised SSE process	SSE process and Biodiversity Q reinstated autumn 2021, The RCT approach has been commended and featured in a good practice presentation by Welsh Government to the LG Environmental Directors (Nov). 20 service evaluations considered	action plan updated. SSE for 22/23 to be completed by 9th Dec 22		1,6	
7.2	Biodiversity Duty Plan	Richard Wistow/ Kate Stock/Liz Dean	on going	2016	Action plan updated, report to scrutiny 10th Oct and Cabinet 21st Nov to allow submission to Welsh Government by December 2019. https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s18906/Report%201.pdf?LLL=0	Action Plan on hold although actions continued	action plan updated , actions continued	report to scrutiny Nov and Climate Change cabinet sub-Committee Dec for submission to WG by end of 2022	Environment (Wales) Act 2016 S6. Legal duty to report to WG every 3 years (Dec 2019 and Dec 2022)	1,6	
7.3	Procurement Services continue to address biodiversity within its service provision and consider in policy reviews and associated documentation and processes.	Liz Dean/ Steve Vaughan/ Marc Cumbie	on-going	2018	Through consultation with relevant service areas and suppliers, the Council's Procurement Service is in the process of implementing a robust approach to the reduction of single use plastics. The approach adopted to date, aligns itself with the 'Plastics Recycling Route Map' for Wales.	report to Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group Nov 20 and update Mar 21	update report to Climate Change cabinet steering Group March 22 draft procurement strategy21/24 Cabinet 21/03/22 https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34512/Procurement%20Strategy%20Report.pdf?LLL=0	The Procurement Service use the Welsh Government Sustainability Risk Assessment in our Invitations to Tender. Unless otherwise agreed, any products or services procured under this Contract shall (where possible) meet the minimum mandatory Government Buying Standards (https://www.gov.uk/government/collecti- ons/sustainable-procurement-the-government-buying-standards-gbs) In respect of single use plastics, we've widened the scope of this to 'single use items'		1,6	

7.4	Climate Change Strategy	Lesley Lawson	on-going	2019	Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group (CCCSG) established, received Biodiversity Duty report at first meeting	Draft strategy to Cabinet Mar21 https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s25810/Report.pdf?LLL=0 , public consultation including Let's Talk Climate Change	Climate Change Officer Working Group established with the primary aim of supporting the practical implementation of the policies and strategic direction determined by the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee (CCSC), including actions relating to Net Zero and becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.	Following consultation, the Strategy adopted by Cabinet in June 2022 https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s35286/Climate%20Change%20Report%20-%20Cabinet%2022%20June%202022.pdf?LLL=0 , Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee with decision making powers established. Decarbonisation dashboard launched for internal pilot.		1,6		
7.5	Natures' Assets Group	Jon Arroyo/Ffion Edwards/Liz Dean/Richard Wistow	on-going	2021	Nature's Assets report prepared for Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Group, but consideration delayed due to COVID	Following report, and a further report on the Councils proposed wildflower grassland management policy, officer working group proposed to develop the work programme	The Nature's Assets officer group established April 2021 (sub-group of Climate Change officer Working Group see above). Work programme includes ancient woodland and the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) platinum Jubilee celebrations (report 140621), the Edinburgh Declaration (report 020322) which considers the LA role in implementing the UN Convention on Biodiversity. Commissioned work on peatlands in RCT.	May announcement of Glyncornel Woods, Llwynypia as one of the 70 Ancient Woodlands selected to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth. Draft Tree Strategy (Cabinet June, consultation Sept-Oct), Let's Talk Trees from Oct, NRW Peatland Restoration Grant submitted Jul, approved Sept for investigative project in Cwmparc, to be completed by Mar23, Living Landscape project (see above), input to landuse and land-use change element of Net Zero reporting including proposals for a baseline survey of regenerating woodland on Council owned land. Solar farm proposals (report 031022)		1,2,3,4,5,6		
8. Working with neighbouring authorities and other statutory bodies												
8.1	Input to area statements	Liz Dean / Richard Wistow	on-going?	2017	attended workshop on 8 May, submitted paperwork. Submission re data gaps (natural regeneration of woodland, soil carbon). Area Statement for South Central (RCT/ Merthyr/ Bridgend/ Cardiff/ Vale) published March 2020	COVID disruption, continuing input on-line. Proposals for Ecosystem profiles for South Central, discussions in Oct /Nov and re grasslands and valleys profiles in Feb. input to the NRW Forest Resource Plan for Penycymoedd, in conjunction with NPT.	Response to draft ecosystem profiles for freshwater, peatland, woodland, grasslands, the valleys and urban. Regional meeting oct re progress. Ely Valley initiative (see above) resulting from AS work. Input to NRW Forest Resource Plans for the upper Rhondda, including meetings in Treherbert with Welcome to Our Woods and contributions relating to water management as well as biodiversity.	Profiles to be published on NRW website. Input to initial work by NRW on resilient ecosystems and networks across South Central. Input to NRW Forest Resource Plans for the southern part of the County Borough	the NRW South Central area includes RCT, Bridgend, Merthyr, Cardiff and the Vale	1,2,3,4,5,6		
8.2	WG ENRaW grant bids	Richard Wistow/ Liz Dean	project	2018	Successful bids for Rhos Pasture (Butterfly Conservation), Healthy Hillside (Wildlife Trust), LNP partnerships (WCVA/WBP), Hirwaun Ind Estate (RCT), KWT, Pollinators and freshwater Invertebrates (Buglife), bridleways (Vale).	Healthy Hillside (NRW/Wildlife Trust): see 3.7 above, LNP partnerships (WCVA/WBP); see 1.1 above	Healthy Hillside (NRW/WildlifeTrust) see 3.7 above. Nature Networks led by Bridgend approved, staff appointed Feb, sites in RCT identified. LNP partnership see 1.1 above.project funding ends Mar 22	Healthy Hillside (NRW/WildlifeTrust) see 3.7 above. CwmTaf Nature Networks (BCBC) works planned for Barry Sidings, Gelliwion, Glyncornel, Aberdare Park and Cefn yr Hendy		1,2,3,4,5	all projects end by June 23	
9. Other												

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