

SUBJECT: Enabling Natural Resources & Well-being in Wales (ENRaW) Funding and Rural Communities, Rural Development Programme: Gwent Green Grid Partnership; Fixed Term Appointments

MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member Decision

DATE: 22 May 2019

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Not Applicable

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To inform members of significant additional funding being made available to support the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) to deliver a collaborative framework for Green Infrastructure management across Gwent for which MCC is the lead partner and to approve the creation of new posts to deliver the 3 year programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To welcome the ENRaW and RDP funding for 2019 to 2022 to support the Gwent Green Grid Partnership to deliver a collaborative framework for Green Infrastructure management across Gwent and to support the associated Resilient Greater Gwent programme
- 2.2 To approve the creation of three new posts based within the Green Infrastructure and Countryside team; GGGP Collaboration Manager; Wellbeing Officer, and Finance Officer (0.5FTE)
- 2.3 To approve the creation of two new posts based within the Rural Programmes team; Nature Isn't Neat Coordinator (0.5FTE) and Nature Isn't Neat Implementation Officer
- 2.4 To note there are no additional revenue costs for the Authority from the creation of the additional posts. All activity will be funded through ENRaW and RDP funding with non cash match funding. Contracts will fall in line with the confirmed duration of the funding and not commence until the due diligence and eligibility checks are completed.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Welsh Government has provided "proceed at risk" approval in respect of linked collaborative bids: the Gwent Green Grid Partnership has a total value of £2.2M, with grant aid of £1.8M (with 20% in kind match funding) over 3 years (led by MCC) plus a further £562K to support biodiversity and resilient ecological networks under the Resilient Greater Gwent bid (led by Blaenau Gwent CBC). Delivery plans have now been submitted to Welsh Government for final approval.
- 3.2 The Gwent Green Grid submission is to deliver a consistent approach to Green Infrastructure management across Gwent and a collaborative framework for co-productive

development and delivery of the SE Wales Area Statement. It will act as a key delivery mechanism that enables strategic planning, ecosystem service assessment and planning, eco-connectivity and mechanisms that create healthier citizens, stimulates business opportunities and provides community benefits (cohesion, skills development and volunteering).

- 3.3 The core partners are Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Newport Councils, NRW and Aneurin Bevan Health Board, working with Groundwork Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Severn Wye Energy Agency, Bumblebee Conservation, Butterfly Conservation, GAVO, SEWBREC, Woodland Trust, Forest Research, Valleys Regional Park Team, Local Access Forums, Local Nature Partnerships and Wales Pollinator Taskforce.
- 3.4 The programme will be coordinated by a GGGP Collaboration Manager, with the support of a part time Finance Officer, hosted by MCC. It includes the following individual project streams:
- 1) GGG (MCC lead) - develop an overarching Gwent policy framework comprising; common GI vision and regional dataset, priorities, working themes; Regional Health Impact Assessment and Mental Well-being Impact Assessment. Appropriate partnership and delivery networks that support collaborative ways of working.
 - 2) Gwent Strategic Access Plan (TCBC lead) - a plan identifying missing links in the access network regionally and locally, develop a ranger training scheme and implement and deliver access projects in the region.
 - 3) Gwent i-Tree Eco Study (NCC lead) – Use of i-Tree Eco technology within pilot areas of high pollution in Gwent to inform effective GI policy and management decisions, particularly with regard to trees. Focus areas include settlements along the M4 corridor / Severnside.
 - 4) Gwent GI Projects (CCBC lead) - To enhance GI according to priorities identified through: the GGG framework, (informed by the Access plan, i- Tree Eco Study Pollinators project and the Greater Gwent Biodiversity Resilient projects) and local GI strategies whilst working with communities, seeking improvements across Gwent in green spaces, urban parks, country parks, along cycleways, PROWs, woodlands, and other land owned and managed by partner organisations, private businesses and individuals where feasible.
 - 5) Pollinator Friendly Gwent (MCC lead) - GI enhanced for pollinators to promote resilient ecological networks across south east Wales. Community ownership and empowerment regarding declining pollinators, acted upon and shared with others by extending the current MCC focussed RDP Nature Isn't Neat project, through the appointment of a Nature Isn't Neat Coordinator (0.5FTE) and a Nature Isn't Neat Implementation Officer.
- 3.5 The associated Resilient Greater Gwent programme work stream will create an evidence-based strategic plan to direct nature recovery action in Greater Gwent to support biodiversity and resilient ecological networks. The programme will support community and place based approach, with a focus on behaviour change and empowering communities through a Wellbeing Officer, who will be hosted by MCC with the core project team. Additional delivery capacity will be created with an Access Officer, based with BGBC;

Trainee Wardens, based with Torfaen CBC and a Regional Health Coordinator based with Caerphilly CBC.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 The programme will develop regional and local collaborative working to deliver a consistent approach to Green Infrastructure management across Gwent and establish co-productive development and delivery of the SE Wales Area Statement. As such it is long term and collaborative. The programme of works will improve the health and well-being and resilience of communities, natural resources and ecosystems. This will improve overall resilience and sustainable development within the South East Wales region. The programme contributes across well-being goals and applies the principles of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR). The programme provides a number of opportunities for people to learn in, about and enjoy the natural environment by supporting volunteering and encouraging skills development. (See Appendix 1)

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Do Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No access to grant, resulting in loss of grant as previous programmes now incorporated within ENRaW Undermine partnership Makes it difficult to progress the acknowledged priority areas from regional well being assessments / objectives 	Additional staff capacity is essential to deliver the collaborative agenda
Deliver the ENRaW programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports existing relationships and partnership work Maintains potential access to future funding Progresses the acknowledged priority areas from regional well being assessments / objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners do not engage sufficiently (being addressed through a formal agreement) 	Supports the most effective collaborative approach

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 Outputs, outcomes and associated benefits, metrics and a monitoring and evaluation plan are identified in the delivery plans and will be agreed with Welsh Government prior to the commencement of programme delivery.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 Public Services Boards across Gwent are working together on a series of priorities that have been developed on a regional basis by the Gwent Strategic Well-being Assessment Group, as part of the Local Well-being Planning process (including reflecting the Monmouthshire wellbeing objective to maximise the potential of the natural and built environment). The agreed priorities include delivery of the Gwent Green Grid and the opportunity arose to bid as a result of the new Welsh Government funding stream, which has combined previous grant programmes. The collaborative framework is intended to deliver the programme in the most efficient and sustainable way for communities across Gwent

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Delivery of the programme will require five additional members of staff. Three new posts based within the Green Infrastructure and Countryside team; GGGP Collaboration Manager (subject to JE Band I); Wellbeing Officer (subject to JE Band G), and Finance Officer (subject to JE Band D) (0.5FTE) and two new posts based within the Rural Programmes team; Nature Isn't Neat Coordinator (subject to JE Band G) (0.5FTE), Nature Isn't Neat Implementation Officer (subject to JE Band F). Outline role responsibilities are appended (Appendix 2) and job descriptions are under development with the delivery partners
- 7.3 All activity will be funded through ENRaW and RDP funding with non cash match funding. Contracts will fall in line with the confirmed duration of the funding and not commence until final approval is given. A partnership agreement will ensure the grant obligations are passed on to the delivery partners. There is the potential for redundancy costs at the end of the programme should follow on funding not be available but these cannot be estimated at this stage. Measures to reduce this risk will be explored as discussions are on going with Welsh Government and partners.

9. CONSULTEES:

SLT
Enterprise DMT
Cabinet member for TLCY
Head of TLCY

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Equality and Future Generations Evaluation
Appendix 2: Post Roles and Responsibilities
Appendix 3: Lines of reporting

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Appendix 2

Role of Posts

Full job descriptions are to be developed. The table below outlines the roles and responsibilities:

	Post	Role & Responsibilities
GGGP Team(based in MCC working across Gwent)	GGGP Collaboration Manager (FTE 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordination and oversight of the overall programme of projects – ensuring they deliver on time, within scope and within budget ○ Budget setting and monitoring for both Projects and overall Programme ○ Develop monitor and amend an annual work programme and associated budget for presentation to the Delivery Group and Board ○ Responsibility for delivery of policy framework /GI Strategy/Area Statement Co-production ○ Oversee monitoring & evaluation ○ Coordination/ delivery and oversight of Communications strategy ○ Delivery of Legacy Plan ○ Reporting to Delivery Group /Partnership Board/ G10 ○ Delivery and oversight of the risk register ○ Responsible for preparation of reporting to WG
	Behaviour Change for Well-being officer (FTE 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responsibility for delivery of Monitoring & Evaluation Framework including: ○ Development of health and well-being monitoring in Gwent including HIA & MWIA ○ Development of Ecosystem Restoration & Resilience monitoring in Gwent ○ Support the delivery Legacy Plan ○ Support the delivery of risk register ○ Support the delivery of communication strategy <p>Note this post is funded through the Resilient Greater Gwent Bid but included here for clarity of the cross collaboration.</p>
	Finance Officer (FTE 0.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To provide comprehensive & administration support ○ To manage financial procedures raising purchase orders, processing invoices, monitoring transaction reports and raising income notifications ○ Collation of partner claim forms and other supporting documents to ensure timely submission of financial claims to ○ To support the Collaboration Manager by collating and filing the key reporting documents needed to monitor the programme (highlight reports, output data sheets, budget trackers)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To assist with arrangements for Partnership governance meetings
MCC	Nature Isn't Neat Coordinator (FTE 0.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To coordinate a Nature Isn't Neat (NiN) project across the SE Wales area ○ Establish a pollinator forum for Gwent to ensure sharing of best practice ○ Support the delivery of pollinator policies or similar for Public Bodies ○ Develop partnerships with local interest groups ○ Development of a work programme ○
	Nature Isn't Neat Implementation Officer (FTE 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To deliver the practical actions of a Nature Isn't Neat project across the SE Wales area ○ Provide support to the NiN Coordinator ○ To identify and support the delivery of actions that individuals and other stakeholders can adopt to help reverse the decline of pollinators

Supported by the following posts hosted and employed by partners:

BGCBC	<i>Access Officer (1)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>To ensure a coordinated approach to access delivery including Public Rights of Way, Active Travel, sustainable transport delivery and access to green network sites.</i> ○ <i>To establish a Gwent Access Forum and provide the Chair for the group to ensure the sharing of best practice collaboration and review the status of ROWIPs across Gwent.</i> ○ <i>To develop a local work program for access improvements</i> ○ <i>Support the delivery of access improvement projects within budgetary constraints to maximise the public use of sustainable transport networks for Health and Wellbeing benefits.</i> ○ <i>Develop a local network of voluntary action for access improvements.</i>
TCBC	<i>Trainee wardens (x4)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Undertaking seasonal countryside management work to the required standard set by Trainee Co-ordinator</i> ○ <i>Working effectively as part of a team to deliver the above</i> ○ <i>Completion of the objectives and tasks as specified in an Individual Training Plan to be agreed with the Trainee Co-ordinator</i> ○ <i>Undertaking appropriate training to improve skills and knowledge in relation to practical countryside management.</i> ○ <i>Registration and commitment to completing formal qualification</i> ○ <i>Be accountable for your own development by undertaking and completing the project's reviewing and reporting procedures</i> ○ <i>Completing the placement satisfactorily with a view to increasing employability</i> ○ <i>To work with the Training Co-ordinator to implement and complete cross boundary projects</i> ○ <i>To participate in improving opportunities and facilities for leisure, recreation and green transport network</i>

CCBC	<i>Regional health coordinator (1)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Work in partnership with Aneurin Bevan Health Board including Public Health Wales</i>○ <i>Encourage the use of Green Infrastructure for mental and physical health and well-being benefits</i>○ <i>Develop and implement a work programme across the whole region</i>○ <i>Target health related groups and hard to reach communities</i>○ <i>Monitor and evaluate the work programme continually throughout the project</i>○ <i>Develop training programme for volunteers</i>○ <i>Develop health initiatives particularly for country parks</i>
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Appendix 3

Proposed Lines of reporting

