



## Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p><b>Name of the Officer</b> completing the evaluation Niamh Falconer / Hazel Clatworthy</p> <p><b>Phone no:</b> : 0776 889 8587 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:niamhfalconer@monmouthshire.gov.uk">niamhfalconer@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk">hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b></p> <p>To note the Motion for the Rivers and Oceans Action Plan and agree to the actions outlined in the plan (see Appendix 1).</p>
<p><b>Name of Service area</b></p> <p>Policy and Performance</p>	<p><b>Date</b></p> <p><b>23/8/22</b></p>

**1. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Delivering the actions outlined in the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean action plan will benefit everyone, by making our environment cleaner and healthier for all. There are no specific impacts on any particular group.	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Disability	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Marriage or civil partnership	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Pregnancy or maternity	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Race	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Religion or Belief	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Sex	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable
Sexual Orientation	As above	There are no negative impacts from the proposal on any particular group.	Not applicable

## 2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
<b>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</b>	Monmouthshire has attractive river and coastal walks that are free to use, so improvements to the river and ocean environments along these routes will benefit everyone who can access them. The proposal highlights the importance of ocean literacy for all. Thus the proposal will ensure people from all backgrounds are engaged with the oceans and recognise the importance of oceans and rivers.	No negative impacts.	Not applicable

### 3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<p><b>Policy Making</b></p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably</p>	<p>Any publicity, signage, leaflets or resources developed as part of the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean action plan will be bilingual in line with the Welsh Language Measure</p>	<p>This may be harder with cross border working with England with partners along the River Wye and across the Severn Estuary.</p>	<p>Ensure that any shared resources that are produced in partnership with English partners are bilingual or have a Welsh version available.</p>
<p><b>Operational</b></p> <p>Recruitment &amp; Training of workforce</p>	<p>Any new roles that may be advertised (e.g. a Nutrient Management Officer in Planning) will have Welsh Language as desirable.</p>	<p>No negative impacts</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p><b>Service delivery</b></p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>Services involved in delivering the actions in the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean action plan will comply with the Welsh Language measure.</p>	<p>No negative impacts</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

**4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive impacts: The ocean crisis not only affects our climate but also the fishing industry, aquaculture industry, tourism industry and the health, well being and prosperity of our communities. The proposal seeks to negate this. The proposal will be integral to ensure we protect our waterways for the benefit of tourism.</p> <p>Negative impacts: None</p>	<p>Maintain collaboration with existing partnerships to ensure resources are maximized and efforts are not duplicated.</p> <p>Ensure there is a significant opportunity for education and awareness about the importance of our rivers and coasts.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive impacts: The ocean absorbs more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system as well as absorbing around 20% of annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions generated by human activity. The proposal will help ocean health and increase the ocean's ability to reduce the effects of climate change. The actions work towards nature, river and ocean recovery and encourage partnership working to maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Negative impacts: None</p>	<p>Continue to work in partnership and regionally to ensure statutory biodiversity responsibilities are met and biodiversity and ecosystems are enhanced.</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive impacts: The proposal will seek to increase access to our rivers and coasts. Increased access to the Wales Coastal Path and riverside walks will improve wellbeing and improved active travel routes will maximise physical health. Water quality has deteriorated in the Rivers Wye and Usk and this can have negative impacts on health for people swimming and coming into contact with the water.</p>	<p>Working in partnership with others to improve water quality should have a positive impact on health.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Negative impacts: None	
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive impacts: The proposal provides an opportunity to engage with the waterways but also climate change issues more broadly. The proposal will allow people to have a more positive experience of the ocean and their local area.</p> <p>Negative impacts: None</p>	<p>Monmouthshire County Council will continue to support a range community groups working to look after the environment through the Community Climate Champions network.</p>
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Positive impacts: The proposal recognises the importance of rivers and oceans in negating the effects of climate change. Ocean health is a global issue and the action plan sets out measures to improve ocean health which will have positive impacts beyond Wales.</p> <p>Negative impacts: None</p>	<p>Monmouthshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, and when the Climate Emergency Action Plan was refreshed in 2021 it was decided that there needed to be an increased focus on addressing water quality and the nature emergency</p> <p>Motion for the Rivers and Ocean was declared in March 2022, and is the next step in addressing these issues.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>Positive impacts: One of the actions, the Diverse Values project, focuses on the important role that rivers and coasts have played in local history, culture and heritage, and uses creative methods to involve communities.</p> <p>Negative impacts: None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Positive impacts: As described previously, the actions will benefit everyone living in, working in or visiting Monmouthshire. Our rivers and coasts provide free opportunities to enjoy our local environment.</p>	<p>Some work will focus on schools, so that young people will be involved in learning more about our rivers and oceans and understanding how what they do can have an impact on them.</p>

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>Although the actions in the plan are generally short to medium term actions, they aim to secure the long term health and vitality of our rivers and oceans. The plan recognizes the impact that oceans have on climate change, and aims to help restore ocean health in order to help mitigate the impact of future climate change.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Improving the state of rivers and oceans is a complex process and can only be delivered through collaboration with a wide range of partners. The proposal involves working with a number of partnerships in order to do this, as well as key stakeholders such as Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The Motion for the Rivers and Ocean has been discussed at Monmouthshire Community Climate Champions and the views expressed there have helped to inform the action plan. In addition, the views of partners such as Severn Estuary Partnership have also fed into the plan. Involving communities in taking action to protect rivers and oceans is a key part of the action plan.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p data-bbox="152 496 293 523"><b>Prevention</b></p> <p data-bbox="344 256 506 555">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="546 256 1308 456">The action plan aims to prevent ocean and river health from getting worse and to prevent further negative impacts on water quality, the local economy and human health and wellbeing. It seeks to ensure that oceans and rivers are able to reduce the impact of climate change and be resilient to a changing climate.</p>	<p data-bbox="1352 256 1525 284">Not applicable</p>
 <p data-bbox="152 932 293 959"><b>Integration</b></p> <p data-bbox="344 687 517 951">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="546 600 1294 1038">An ocean in crisis, and likewise rivers in crisis are not only bad news for our climate, but also for our fishing industry, aquaculture industry, tourism industry and for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our coastal and river communities. Delivering the pledges set out in the Motion for the Rivers and Ocean could yield new jobs and opportunities, more resilient coastal and riverside economies, and happier, healthier people; as well as a cleaner, healthier and more productive natural environment. It is essential that all of these impacts are considered in a joined up way and that actions are delivered in partnership with others.</p>	<p data-bbox="1352 600 1525 627">Not applicable</p>

**6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?**

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Safeguarding	No impact	Not applicable	Any work involving schools or young people as part of the action plan will undertake appropriate safeguarding measures.
Corporate Parenting	No impact	Not applicable	Not applicable

**7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

Monmouthshire well-being assessment

There is detailed data on river water quality on NRW's website, specifically:

<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/river-wye-compliance-report/>

<https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/693025/compliance-assessment-of-welsh-sacs-against-phosphorus-targets-final-v10.pdf>

Also from NRW research on potential for restoring marine and coastal habitats:

[https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/694065/final\\_pdf\\_nrw-restoration-opportunities.pdf](https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/694065/final_pdf_nrw-restoration-opportunities.pdf)

NRW research on the carbon sink potential of the Welsh marine environment:

[https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/692035/nrw-evidence-report-428\\_blue-carbon\\_v11-002.pdf](https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/692035/nrw-evidence-report-428_blue-carbon_v11-002.pdf)

UNESCO State of the Ocean report 2022:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381921>

**8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

The actions outlined in the action plan will have significant positive impacts on all the wellbeing goals, but in particular on a Prosperous Wales (valuing the role rivers and coasts play in tourism and enabling development to happen in a way that does not have a negative impact on the environment), a Resilient Wales (helping with nature and ocean recovery), a Healthier Wales (by improving water quality, as well as encouraging more people to enjoy rivers and coasts for recreation). There are no negative impacts on the Wellbeing Goals. The action plan will benefit everyone and will not negatively impact on people with any particular protected characteristic.

**9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.**

<b>What are you going to do</b>	<b>When are you going to do it?</b>	<b>Who is responsible</b>
Plan a reporting framework to report progress against action plan back to Council every six months	As soon as report is agreed by Council	Sustainability Policy Officer

**10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.**

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Decision making stage</b>	<b>Date considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following consideration</b>
1	Place Scrutiny	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	