

	Action	Officer Responsible/ Lead Member	Timescale (month & year)	Funding	How to measure progress	Also cited in	Progress (February 2024)	Progress (red, amber, green)
1	Objective 1: Reduce sewage, phosphate and other chemical pollution in our rivers							
1.1	Ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on the conservation status of the Rivers Wye and Usk.	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor)	Ongoing. RLDP adoption July 2025	MCC core budget	Decisions are made in accordance with agreed WG, NRW and DCWW guidance		Planning applications and the development of the RLDP accord with WG and NRW guidance. Development in phosphate sensitive areas is screened and, if necessary, is subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017). Development is not approved if phosphate betterment or neutrality cannot be demonstrated.	green
1.2	Deliver dog fouling campaign which will reduce water pollution	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	Ongoing from June 2022	MCC core budget	2024/25 campaign is delivered by 31 st March 2025		Dog fouling campaign ongoing to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. Dog fouling awareness days are held twice a year, alternating between north and south of the County.	green
	Actions where MCC is part of a partnership							

	Action	Officer Responsible/ Lead Member	Timescale (month & year)	Funding	How to measure progress	Also cited in	Progress (February 2024)	Progress (red, amber, green)
1.3	Continue to play an active role in the Wye Nutrient Management Board in order to ensure the Wye phosphate issues are addressed	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor) Cllr Catrin Maby	Ongoing	n/a	MCC Attendance at all Wye Nutrient Management Board meetings.		We continue to attend meetings, influence outcomes and participate on key strategic issues, including attending WG summits and contributing to delivery of action plans where appropriate.	green
1.4	Continue involvement in the Wye Nutrient Management Board Technical Advice Group to identify and analyse options for delivering improvements for water quality	Biodiversity & Ecology Lead (Kate Stinchcombe)	Ongoing	n/a	MCC Attendance at all Wye Nutrient Management Board Technical Advice Group meetings		TAG has not met since June 2023. The Natural England Chair has moved on to a new role and will be replaced by an Environment Agency officer. Nutrient Management Board including the TAG is being redesigned. Monmouthshire CC officers will remain as part of the main TAG group as per recently published structure but will no longer sit on the 'Evidence' subgroup which has tightened membership.	amber
1.5	Play a key role in the development of the Usk Catchment Partnership to ensure the Usk phosphate issues are addressed	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor) Green Infrastructure Manager	Ongoing from June 2022	n/a	MCC Attendance at all Usk Catchment Partnership meetings		An Usk Catchment Partnership Core Group has been established, draft terms and conditions have been developed. MCC is represented by 1 member and 1 officer. Key outputs include completed Usk Catchment Farm Engagement Scoping Study,	green

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		(Colette Bosley) Cllr Catrin Maby					Coordination of high level response to SFS consultation, review of partners resources to inform the Action Plan. A Knowledge Hub has been established with two MCC Ecologists sitting on the group to ensure continuity of presence.	
1.6	Continue involvement with the Wye Catchment Partnership in order to protect water quality, water quantity and biodiversity	Environment & Culture Manager (Matthew Lewis) Wye Valley National Landscape (Andrew Blake)	Ongoing	n/a	Actively participate in the Wye Catchment Partnership sub-group when resources allow.		A Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) is being adopted with refreshed systems mapping and planning with subgroup formation. Herefordshire CC represent all Local Authorities on the Wye Catchment Partnership Steering Group. Wye Valley National Landscape are also represented on the steering group.	amber
1.7	Take part in a new cross-border working group of agencies, local authorities, MPs and other key parties to develop the first five-year integrated plan to cut pollution in the River Wye.	Cllr Catrin Maby	May 2022 – May 2027	n/a	Attend working group meetings when arranged.		This was to be initiated by the Secretary of State for the Environment, but has not happened. It is understood that there is not at present any appetite within DEFRA to proceed with this. The NMB intends nevertheless to update the nutrient management plan.	red

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1.8	Use the Space for Local Production Programme pilot of four farms to understand how the farms look now and how they could look in the future if certain measures were taken. Use this learning to understand how land management can better protect waterways.	Sustainable Food Projects Manager (Marianne Fisher)	2022/23	RDF	Land mapped by appointed advisor by x Detailed report provided by each farmer by y		The RDF- funded project now referred to as Living Land Management Wales is in the process of recruiting and screening farmers to participate in the programme that will work with an externally procured agricultural advisor and researchers from Aberystwyth University to map current land use practices and consider water management and the impact of farming practices on water quality. With the aim to consider opportunities for improving water quality objectives. The work is linked to the outline proposals for the Sustainable Farming Scheme published last year by Welsh Government.	green
<p>Overarching actions for MCC to have a lobbying/influencing role in these key areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing phosphate stripping facilities at Llanfoist and Monmouth to improve water quality and facilitate new development in the Usk and Wye Catchment areas • Lobby Welsh Government to ensure Natural Resources Wales has the resources needed to protect our river and marine environment Maintain regular officer and Cabinet Member liaison meetings with NRW and broaden their scope to cover river water quality issues, with regular updates and information on sewage incidents and forward plans for improvements. • Lobby Welsh Government to ensure Natural Resources Wales has the resources needed to protect our river and marine environment 								

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2	Objective 2: Reduce plastic and other litter pollution in rivers and coast areas							
Actions where MCC is the lead body								
2.1	Deliver litter campaigns with a focus on the impact of litter entering rivers and sea	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	Ongoing	WG Brilliant Basics Fund	2024/25 campaign completed by 31 st March 2025		<p>Raglan depot Litter Free Zone; monthly litter picks and publicity.</p> <p>Funding achieved from Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics Fund was successful. New suite of colourful recycling litter bins and hubs to enable recycling on the go and increase bin capacity. The bins will also be provided with sensors to enable improved data capture and monitor use/over-use. A separate funding bid has been successful in achieving funds for provision of more limited recycling on the go/litter recycling in Chepstow. Both of these schemes will be in place by end of 2023-24.</p> <p>Education assemblies have been provided to primary schools on litter (Monmouth, Abergavenny and Chepstow schools).</p>	green

	Action	Officer Responsible/ Lead Member	Timescale (month & year)	Funding	How to measure progress	Also cited in	Progress (February 2024)	Progress (red, amber, green)
2.2	Work with schools to raise awareness of the impact litter has on Rivers and Oceans	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	2022/23	MCC core budget	2024/25 education programme completed by 31st March 2025		Assemblies and school lessons provided at primary schools In Monmouth Abergavenny and Chepstow (including Llanfoist, Cantref, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Ysgol Cymraeg Y Fenni, Cross Ash, Kymin View. Outlining harm it poses to wildlife and the environment, how litter travels from land to sea, and the time taken for different materials to decompose. We have worked with Monmouth Litter Group volunteers on a school poster competition related to litter and the artwork will appear on the new bins.	green
Actions where MCC is part of a partnership								
2.3	Input to the development of the SEP Resilient Communities application to NRW to expand the Discover the Severn and Litter Free Coast and Seas projects across Monmouthshire and neighbouring LAs	Hazel Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	2022/23	n/a	Coastal Capacity Building funding secured for 2024/25		n/a. Due to SEP team capacity we decided not to pursue this funding at this time. The current plan is to explore this next financial year through the Coastal Capacity Building fund	red

	Action	Officer Responsible/ Lead Member	Timescale (month & year)	Funding	How to measure progress	Also cited in	Progress (February 2024)	Progress (red, amber, green)
2.4	Work with community groups and Keep Wales Tidy to provide support for local litter picks and implement litter picking hubs.	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	Ongoing from September 2022	Marine Clean Cymru and Keep Wales Tidy	Ongoing		Support provided for Marine Clean Cymru, Keep Wales Tidy's autumn litter campaign in Sept 2022. Litter pick in partnership with Eurogarages to tackle litter from A40 service station.	green
2.5	Work with Keep Abergavenny Tidy (KAT) litter campaign targeting business in Abergavenny	Green Infrastructure & Litter Education Officer (Sue Parkinson)	2022/23	Keep Wales Tidy	Ongoing		Six retailers in Abergavenny's Lower Cross Street signed up as supporting a Keep Wales Tidy (KWT) Litter Free Zone in that area. General Improvements to street litter bins including cleaning of bins and making them more visible, provision of cigarette butt ballot bins, street chalking (KWT) and regular monitoring of result to measure effectiveness. A second litter free zone is being developed in St John Square Abergavenny by KAT We will provide kit, signage and window stickers. Launch is due Q4 24/25	green
<p>Overarching actions for MCC to have a lobbying/influencing role in these key areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue support of plastic-free towns in Monmouthshire • Engage with Welsh Government throughout the development of the Single Use Plastic Bill. 								

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3	Objective 3: Protect natural habitats along our rivers, estuaries and coast							
	Actions where MCC is part of a partnership							
3.1	Continue participation in ASERA partnership to discharge statutory duties to protect European Marine site in line with EU Habitats Directive	Environment & Culture Manager (Matthew Lewis)	Ongoing	n/a	An MCC representative is present at 100% of ASERA meetings		Continued to participate in ASERA meetings. ASERA progresses the implementation of the single management scheme for the Severn Estuary European Marine Site (EMS) which has recently been extended to 2025.	green
3.2	Through membership of the Severn Estuary Partnership, connect with, learn from and work in partnership with other estuary stakeholders	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Ongoing from September 2022	MCC core budget	An MCC representative is present at 100% of SEP meetings February 2024 lunchtime briefing is held		MCC is a member of SEP and sits on the SEP Management Group. MCC are part of a governance review of how SEP operates and can be most effective. SEP have organised a lunchtime learning briefing in Feb 2024 to make members more aware of the role and work of SEP.	green
3.3	Through membership of SEP, engage with the Welsh Government Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group (WMAAG) on the development of a	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Ongoing	n/a	15 th February 2024 workshop is held		Through membership of SEP, views of members are fed back to Welsh Government via the Wales Coasts and Seas Partnership meetings (was WMAAG).	green

	Action	Officer Responsible/ Lead Member	Timescale (month & year)	Funding	How to measure progress	Also cited in	Progress (February 2024)	Progress (red, amber, green)
	Blue Recovery Plan for Wales to support sustainable development actions to both help coastal communities to recover, and to achieve our vision of Welsh seas that are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse.						Biodiversity 30 by 30 workshop on the 15 th February.	
3.4	Work with partners over the next 12 months to secure longer term funding for the Living Levels partnership. The Living Levels aims to re-connect people and communities to the Gwent levels landscape and provide a sustainable future for this historic and unique area.	Environment & Culture Manager (Matthew Lewis) Green Infrastructure Officer (Colette Bosley) Cllr Catrin Maby Cllr Frances Taylor	2022/ - 2024	Coastal Capacity Funding	Funding secured		The partnership is in a transition phase funded to March 2024 and is exploring the options for ongoing funding. Coastal Capacity Funding has been secured for this financial year and next.	amber
3.5	Through membership of SEP, work with the Blue Marine Foundation and cross-border partners to	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	2023/24	Championing Coastal Coordination	Workshop held to discuss the Possibility of		Through membership of SEP, we will have an input into these discussions. This work is being taken forward by the Severn	green

	Action	Officer Responsible/ Lead Member	Timescale (month & year)	Funding	How to measure progress	Also cited in	Progress (February 2024)	Progress (red, amber, green)
	scope the potential for a National Marine Park for the Severn Estuary	and colleagues		tion DEFRA funding	a National Marine Park		Vision project (currently funded until 2023). A workshop to gather views and discuss the possibility of a National Marine Park will be held this financial year.	
3.6	Through membership of SEP work to explore options for the development of the Severn Vision work into a deliverable framework for action; one which maximises nature restoration, climate mitigation and adaptation benefits for the whole Severn Estuary and outer reaches area	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy) and colleagues	2022/23	Coastal Capacities Building Fund	Costed Delivery Plan by 31 st March 2025		This year the project aims to gather information on current and planned projects being delivered in the Severn Vision area (action mapping) to measure progress against the actions highlighted in last year’s Severn Vision report. This will inform the development of a costed delivery plan to take the Severn Vision work forward over the next few years. ASERA have re-launched the Good Practice Guidelines (available via “Wales Coast Explorer” app). These guidelines encourage the sustainable use of the estuary and its coastline for recreational users and visitors to enjoy. ASERA partners also continue to have discussions about the potential for a wider “Severn Aware” approach.	green

	Action	Officer Responsible/ Lead Member	Timescale (month & year)	Funding	How to measure progress	Also cited in	Progress (February 2024)	Progress (red, amber, green)
3.7	Through membership of ASERA and SEP engage with coastal disturbance through behaviour change.	Environment & Culture Manager (Matthew Lewis) Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor)	2023/24	MCC core budget	Ongoing		<p>The ASERA officer and ASERA members continue to discuss and share information on coastal disturbance. National projects like Operation Seabird, Wild Seas Wales, Wales Coastal Explorer App and the Welsh Partnership of MPA disturbance project outputs are shared through SEP and ASERA. Messaging on disturbance and behaviour change is regularly distributed via the SEP social media channels and shared with partners.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the RLDP has highlighted the need to consider mechanisms for reducing coastal disturbance in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Further work is needed on the mechanisms to address this, learning from experience in Stroud, Strategic Mitigation Measures are likely to be needed. This could take the form of a recreation mitigation</p>	green

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							and management strategy and could include a mixture of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) measures.	
3.8	Continue to lead the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) and explore ways to sustain the partnership beyond the end of current funding in 2026 in order to maintain a regional approach to green infrastructure (GI) and nature recovery, including river and ocean recovery.	Green Infrastructure Manager (Colette Bosley) Environment & Culture Manager (Matthew Lewis)	2022/23	Shared Prosperity Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund	Ongoing		GGGP RDP in its last 6 months of delivery has delivered £1.4 million work – including development of Regional GI Strategy/Spatial Plan, Regional Access Strategy, GI Project delivery work across whole of Gwent, Nature recovery videos and training sessions. GGGP Shared Prosperity Fund has secured £544,541 across Gwent enabling two staff posts to be extended and the programme or work to be delivered starting April 2023- 2025. GGGP HLF Nature Networks funding secured £999,000 regionally for expansion of the project with focus on protected sites and intervening land matrices including area such as	green

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							Gwent Levels. SPF and capital used as match funding. Extending funding of SPF posts and allowing appointment /extension of a further 9 regional posts, 3 of which sit in MCC - including the GGGP Collaboration Manager, Nature isn't Neat Officer and the Nature and Climate Awareness Officer. Project outputs will include a range of nature-based solutions across protected sites, climate and nature awareness raising events, community health and wellbeing initiatives and development of green skills.	
3.9	Continue to lead Monmouthshire and Newport Local Nature Partnership (LNP) to share best practice and resources to maximise benefits for people and wildlife	Biodiversity & Ecology Lead (Kate Stinchcombe)	Ongoing	Coastal Capacity Building Fund	Ongoing		LNP promotion and outputs continued during 2023. 2023 Coastal Capacity Building initial project complete (53k). Delivery partners included GWT together with key stakeholders NRW, Living Levels Partnership RSPB and Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, and Swansea LNP's.	green

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							<p>Development of a delivery plan to deliver the recommendations of the Championing Coastal Coordination Delivering a Vision for the Bristol Channel and Severn report. (action mapping, coastal habitat and enhancement workshops, development of a Gwent Levels Seascape assessment brief, scoping exercises to fit with Wales Marine plan and support Motion for the Ocean webinar, development for implementation stage 23/24).</p> <p>2023-2025 Delivering the Vision for Môr Hafren (Severn Estuary & Bristol Channel)</p> <p>Coastal Capacity Building Fund approved (£121,000) to build upon the work undertaken in early 2023. Delivery partners include SEP, Becky MacDonald Lofts, Living Levels Partnership RSPB & GWT together with key stakeholders NRW, and Cardiff City Council, Newport City Council. Three workstreams:</p>	

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							1.Vision Project Support Officer (SEP) 2.Pilot Beyond the seawall citizen science project (RSPB + GWT) 3. Seascape Assessment (MCC)	
3.10	Develop the Monmouthshire and Newport Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) with the Local Nature Partnership to include river and marine environments	Biodiversity & Ecology Lead (Kate Stinchcombe)	2023	MCC core budget	Habitat and Species Action Plans developed from Spring 2024.		Consultation Draft of Part One (Strategy) of the Monmouthshire Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) complete December 2023.Habitat and Species Action Plans shall be developed from Spring 2024. For marine habitats, the Severn Vision shall be the key action plan to coordinate action and prevent duplication.	green
4	Objective 4: Protect communities from flooding (rivers and coastal areas)							
	Actions where MCC is the lead body							
4.1	Complete Local Flood Management Strategy	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	2024/25	MCC core budget and WG flood revenue grant	Political approval of Local Flood Risk Management Strategy by 31 st October 2024		MCC’s new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is currently being drafted (Dec 2023) and will replace the current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013 and Flood Risk Management Plan 2016. The new Strategy will meet the requirements of the Flood	green

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							and Water Management Act 2010 which requires all 22 LLFAs in Wales to produce, develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for their administrative area. It is anticipated the new Strategy will be published in Spring/Summer 2024.	
4.2	Support catchment-wide action, nature-based solutions and natural flood management and seek to develop partnerships and funding to deliver these.	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	2022/23	WG NFM Accelerator or funding	Installation at sites in Mitchel Troy, Dingestow, Monmouth and Llantilio Crossenny by 31 st March 2025 NFM assessment at some County Farms and Norton Brook, Skenfrith by 31 st March 2025		MCC has received £70k (2023-25) through WG’s NFM Accelerator grant to promote and implement NFM. Building on previous works which identified NFM opportunities across Monmouthshire, liaison with landowners is ongoing, previous interest low due to lack of financial incentive. It is hoped the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme will improve take up in future. Currently focussed on progressing sites with positive landowner engagement, installation works planned in 2024 at sites in Mitchel Troy, Dingestow, Monmouth and Llantilio Crossenny.	amber

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							<p>Landowner engagement has been limited while farmers MCC now sits on the Welsh Water (Brecon Beacons Mega Catchment) NFM sub-working group. We will use this forum and the new regional NRW liaison meetings to initiating discussion with NRW and other LAs/WG/National Infrastructure Commission on more major upstream works, seeking a more fundamental approach to adaptation to climate change on a whole catchment basis. NFM assessment at some County Farms and Norton Brook, Skenfrith planned in 2024. NFM also considered as part of all capital flood schemes.</p>	
4.3	<p>Use our powers as a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Approving Body to ensure new developments manage on site surface water in a sustainable way in accordance with WG’s National SuDS Standards.</p>	<p>Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>MCC core budget and WG Flood Revenue Grant</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>Our role as SuDS Approving Body (SAB) is an ongoing statutory function. SuDS proposals associated with new developments requiring SAB approval continue to be assessed against Welsh Government’s National SuDS Standards.</p>	green

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4.4	Use our powers as Land Drainage Authority to ensure works undertaken within ordinary watercourses do not have a negative impact on water quality or on the local environment.	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	Ongoing	MCC Core Budget	Ongoing		As Land Drainage Authority we continue to respond to complaints and queries on ordinary watercourses and liaise with riparian owners and/or relative organisations to resolve issues as they occur. This work includes processing Ordinary Watercourse Consent applications to ensure compliance with the Land Drainage Act 1991.	green
Actions where MCC is part of a partnership								
4.5	Continue as an active member of the Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) to be responsible for the implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan.	Flood Risk Manager (Ross Price)	Ongoing	n/a	MCC Attendance at all of Severn Estuary Coastal Group meetings		Attendance at the SECG meetings is an ongoing action.	green
4.6	Work with NRW to identify improvements to the Caldicot sea wall to reinstate its function as a defence against future tidal flooding.	Head of Planning (Craig O'Connor)	2022/24	n/a	Understand framework of the work by 31 st March 2025		Delayed pending SFCA work by JBA and the WG review of TAN15 (now expected Summer 2024).	red

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	Overarching actions for MCC to have a lobbying/influencing role in these key areas:-							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend NRW Internal Drainage District meetings to lobby for change 							
5	Objective 5: Raise awareness of the importance of our rivers and coasts							
	Actions where MCC is the lead body							
5.1	Use the One Planet Centre as a focus for education about marine and river pollution	Reuse and Recycling Officer (Rebecca Blount)	Ongoing	MCC core budget	Ongoing		Provision of education at One Planet Centre on climate change, circular economy, marine and river pollution. For example, 56 pupils visited in January 2023.	green
5.2	Facilitate ongoing discussion between MCC and community groups on river and coastal issues through Community Climate Champions network	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Ongoing	n/a	Ongoing		Discussions with community groups on rivers and coasts continues, with information about events, research etc regularly shared through the network at quarterly meetings and through email.	green
5.3	Develop information and resources on rivers and oceans to put on MCC website.	Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	Autumn/ Winter 2022	MCC core budget	Website live by 31 st March 2024		Draft information for website has been prepared. Turnover of staff has delayed completion of this action.	amber
	Actions where MCC is part of a partnership							

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5.4	Target socially and environmentally responsible visitor segments in our destination marketing	Destination Manager (Nicola Edwards)	Ongoing	n/a	Ongoing		New green holiday content developed and promoted https://www.visitmonmouthshire.com/plan-your-visit/green-holidays	green
5.5	Participate in the Diverse Marine Values research project with Cardiff University and other research partners to help understand how diverse values can influence marine policy and decision making.	Hazel Sustainability Policy Officer (Hazel Clatworthy)	2022/24	n/a	Ongoing		Regular meetings with Cardiff University and partners to help inform their research project. Diverse Marine Values survey went out late February 2023.	green
5.6	Encourage local action, community awareness initiatives, demonstration projects and encourage participation in volunteer monitoring and data collection	Environment & Culture Manager (Matthew Lewis) and Head of Neighbourhood Services (Carl Touhig)	Ongoing	Coastal Capacity Building Fund	Ongoing		Discussions with the Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre around installation of CoastSnap citizen science project fixed photography points at Black Rock picnic site are underway. Engagement and awareness through Nature Isn't Neat GGGP project work. GGGP sustainable communities and health and wellbeing projects The Monmouthshire NRAP is being developed as a tool to motivate communities to actively	green

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							contribute to the effective restoration and protection of nature in Monmouthshire. Current application for Coastal Capacity Building application which has incorporated community engagement and workshops and starting discussions with Groundwork through their Healthy Rivers Project for potential roll out across Gwent.	
<p>Overarching actions for MCC to have a lobbying/influencing role in these key areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Visit Wales addo (promise to care for Wales’ communities and environment) • Play a role in the development of an Ocean Literacy action plan in Wales 								