



<p><b>Name of the Officer</b> Matthew Lewis <b>Phone no: 01633 644850</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk">matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a></b></p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b></p> <p>Living Levels Landscape Partnership Scheme.</p> <p>To seek continued support for the Living Levels Partnership.</p>
<p><b>Name of Service area: MonLife</b></p>	<p><b>Date 17 December 2021</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	The programme has created learning, skills and volunteering opportunities for all ages which the planned transition phase will sustain	N/A	A continuation of a community engagement role is intended in the transition phase
Disability	The programme has adopted a least restrictive access approach to countryside access	N/A	N/A
Gender reassignment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marriage or civil partnership	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>Protected Characteristics</b>	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Pregnancy or maternity	N/A	N/A	N/A
Race	N/A	N/A	N/A
Religion or Belief	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sex	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sexual Orientation	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **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>	The outcomes of the programme have been considerable, reviving interest and enthusiasm in the Gwent Levels across a breadth of audiences from residents, landowners and farmers, visitors, business owners to volunteers. The programme of events, skills training and volunteering has had overwhelmingly positive feedback.		Most events have been free to attend, designed to engage the widest audiences both in physical and virtual events using a variety of approaches including arts based events, direct participation, academic talks, walks, volunteering and skills development.

## **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>Volunteering has included projects to explore the culture, history and naming of the Gwent Levels ("Levels Lingo") etc.</p>		
<p><b>Operational</b></p> <p>Recruitment &amp; Training of workforce</p>			
<p><b>Service delivery</b></p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Promoting use of the language</p>	<p>All material, interpretation, leaflets, website has been delivered bilingually.</p>		<p>The transition phase will continue to support Welsh language provision</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>The Living Levels programme has provided new opportunities for learning, developing skills, participation and investment; including heritage skill development, business opportunities through supporting sustainable farming, destination development and the tourism economy, including the training of ambassadors and creation of a toolkit. The programme has and will continue to support direct employment of delivery posts and training including collaboration with Coleg Gwent. Activities will be sustained through the transition phase.</p>	<p>Positive effects will be maximised by collaborative working with partners delivering common benefits as the transition / legacy phase is developed.</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>The Living Levels programme has directly enhanced the natural heritage and sustainable management of natural resources as a core aim of the partnership and specific outcomes relating to natural heritage restoration, non-native species etc. It contributes to delivery of the Biodiversity &amp; Ecosystem Resilience duty and Forward Plan; specifically Objective 6 to support landscape scale projects and partnerships to maximise delivery.</p>	<p>Positive effects to contribute to nature recovery and climate adaption will be maximised by collaborative working with partners delivering common benefits as the transition / legacy phase is developed. An Ecologist/Natural Heritage Officer is proposed as part of the transition stage to further develop these positive outcomes. A spatial nature recovery strategy to inform the development of future projects is proposed.</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>The Living Levels programme has adopted a Green Infrastructure (multiple benefit) approach to maximise the benefits of access to natural and historic built environment, volunteering and the wider community. A health impact assessment has been produced as part of the programme development.</p>	<p>Positive effects will be maximised by collaborative working with partners delivering common benefits as the transition / legacy phase is developed</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>The Living Levels programme has adopted a Green Infrastructure (multiple benefit) approach and specific outcomes relate to skills, learning and</p>	<p>Positive effects will be maximised by collaborative working with partners delivering common benefits as the transition / legacy phase is developed. A</p>

<b>Well Being Goal</b>	<b>Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.</b>	<b>What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
	community engagement. The outcomes of the programme have been considerable, reviving interest and enthusiasm in the Gwent Levels across a breadth of audiences from residents, landowners and farmers, visitors, business owners to volunteers and has had overwhelmingly positive feedback.	continuation of a community engagement role and refresh of the audience development plan is intended in the transition phase
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	The Living Levels programme recognises the importance and fragility of this landscape in a Welsh and global context has included research / test bed on payment for ecosystem services	Positive effects will be maximised by collaborative working with partners delivering common benefits as the transition / legacy phase is developed
<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	The Living Levels programme has celebrated local stories through oral history, research, interpretation, sculpture installations, community arts and events, promoted culture and heritage and increased countryside access and recreation.	Positive effects will be maximised by collaborative working with partners delivering common benefits as the transition / legacy phase is developed
<b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	The Living Levels programme has encouraged and provided access for all and a strong and inclusive community engagement programme.	Positive effects will be maximised by collaborative working with partners delivering common benefits as the transition / legacy phase is developed

**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 data-bbox="147 501 277 531">Long Term</p> <p data-bbox="327 285 510 512">Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p data-bbox="544 256 1305 483">The aim of the Living Levels Landscape Partnership scheme has been to reconnect people and communities to their landscape and provide a sustainable future for this historic and vibrant place - undertaking specific activities and programmes over its 4 year delivery period whilst building capacity and resilience for the long-term.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 256 2103 363">The Living Levels partners are committed to a long term partnership with a life beyond this current programme, which the transition and legacy planning will support.</p>
 <p data-bbox="125 868 293 898">Collaboration</p> <p data-bbox="327 660 510 887">Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p data-bbox="544 584 1305 962">The Living Levels partners have been working together informally on the Gwent Levels for a number of years. The Partnership includes RSPB Cymru (lead body), Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Newport City Council, Monmouthshire County Council, City of Cardiff Council, Gwent Archives, Cardiff Story Museum, Sustrans, National Trust, Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Bug Life. In addition to the core partners over the delivery period partnerships have grown with partnerships with Community Councils, Coleg Gwent and many others</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 584 2103 691">The Living Levels partners are continuing to involve additional bodies and potential further partners who will add to the positive outcomes of the scheme</p>
 <p data-bbox="136 1257 295 1287">Involvement</p> <p data-bbox="349 1043 510 1222">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p data-bbox="544 999 1305 1297">The Living Levels Partnership came together following a community conference in March 2014 held to discuss issues and potential solutions to the threats facing the historic landscape of the Gwent Levels. Since then community involvement has been sustained and in the development and delivery phase a significant community engagement programme has been undertaken across the levels communities and beyond through a dedicated officer.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 999 2103 1185">Positive effects will be maximised by collaborative working with partners as the transition / legacy phase is developed. A continuation of a community engagement role and refresh of the audience development plan is intended in the transition phase</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="152 560 293 587"><b>Prevention</b></p> <p data-bbox="344 320 506 624">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="546 256 1301 323">The core justification for the Living Levels programme has been to address the two main threats to the landscape:</p> <p data-bbox="546 360 1301 547">An increasing disconnection by growing sections of the community leading to the reduction in traditional management and loss of knowledge and skills from within the community; and an under-developed “vision” and “sense of place” for the long-term future of this landscape.</p> <p data-bbox="546 584 1301 691">The programme has sought to strategically address these issues including for example coordinated action on fly tipping</p>	<p data-bbox="1352 256 2085 483">The core aim is to reconnect people and communities to their landscape and provide a sustainable future for this historic and vibrant place. The transition phase is intended to further development this activity and to focus the future programme towards climate adaption and mitigation nature recovery and sustainable management.</p>
 <p data-bbox="152 1038 293 1066"><b>Integration</b></p> <p data-bbox="344 799 517 1066">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="546 730 1256 798">The scheme was designed to address the issues in an integrated way so that as a result:</p> <ul data-bbox="595 834 1301 1137" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="595 834 1301 901">• The Living Levels Landscape will be better managed; in better condition and better recorded;</li> <li data-bbox="595 914 1301 981">• People will have developed skills; and learnt about the landscape and its heritage</li> <li data-bbox="595 994 1301 1061">• A greater diversity and number of people will be getting involved; and</li> <li data-bbox="595 1074 1301 1137">• The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="1352 730 2085 866">The transition plan and draft management plan have at their core a continuation of this fully integrated approach to seek to ensure a sustainable future for the levels and its communities.</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	Appropriate safeguarding measures have been incorporated into volunteering and learning programmes following established procedures etc. and will be sustained in future delivery	N/A	N/A
Corporate Parenting	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

- Widespread consultation including the Living Levels community conference in March 2014
- The development and rejection of an initial bid to Heritage Lottery Fund in 2014
- Consultations and partnership development including topic workshops, consultations on the development of a landscape character study, green infrastructure study, destination management study etc.
- The results of a dedicated community engagement programme during 2016 and 2017
- Experience from programme delivery 2018 to 2021, including ongoing community engagement
- Mid-term evaluation for National Lottery Heritage Fund (Resources for Change)
- Gwent Levels Working Group considerations
- Legacy Planning, Draft Management Plan, Planning and Governance Review (2021 and ongoing by Red Kite Environment and Craggatak Consulting)

**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 Living Levels programme has had a positive effects on all well-being goals and meets all of the sustainable development principles and has a strong correlation with the well-being objectives and the corporate plan; promoting the benefits of the natural & built environment; providing opportunities for children and young people; providing opportunities for businesses and communities and for people's well-being through participation in volunteering etc.. It also contributes to delivery of the Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience duty and Forward Plan; specifically Objective 6 to support landscape scale projects and partnerships to maximise delivery, the Climate Emergency Action Plan and nature recovery plans.



**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>
Seek approval of continued participation in the Living Levels Partnership transition phase	ICMD 12 January 2022	Environment & Culture Manager

**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.	ICMD		