

## Appendix 1 Action Plan Report

Milestones and Measures achieved during the reporting period 2024 / 2025					
Milestone	2024 Progress		2025 Progress	Status	
Milestone: RLDP adopted with relevant policies and planning guidance in place	Policies developed. Public Consultation Underway until 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024.		Severn Estuary Recreation Strategy developed. Submission to Welsh Government.	Underway on track	
Milestone: Asset Management Strategy adopted with relevant policies in place	Adopted January 2024 inclusive of consideration for asset management as good role models for climate and nature practices.				Complete
Milestone: Nature Recovery Action Plan Adopted	Public Consultation for Part 1 Strategy complete.		Adopted June 2025	Complete	
Milestone: Green Infrastructure Action Plan Adopted	Public Consultation complete.		Adopted June 2025	Complete	
Milestone: Nature Networks mapping portal goes live	Final development of mapping portal underway.		Website launched in 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 with supporting introduction training workshop undertaken on 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	Complete	
Milestone: Access to Food Growing process in place	Task and Finish Group established. Template to be produced.		Template produced and process established.	Complete	
Milestone: Pilot Tree Warden Scheme launched	Funding for pilot secured via TWIG		Project commenced with training for MCC Staff and first session in Magor with Undy community.	Underway on track	
Measure	2024 Actual	2024 Progress	2025 Progress	2025 Target	2025 Actual
Number of MCC officers completed Nature Recovery training via Thinqi	N/A	eLearn Module under development. To be available from April 2025.	Launched July 2025. Promoted via staff e-newsletter The Compass and twice via the Thinqi training newsletter. Needs further promotion with Planning, Highways and operational services in 2026	50	14
Number of MCC officers receiving bespoke operational training	20	Planning training 2024 on Planning Policy Wales 12.	Aderyn (biological records) training given to eight Development Management Officers.	0	8
Number of young people / teachers / support staff engaged	771	Gwent Green Grid Shared Prosperity Fund & Nature Networks Pollinator workshops	Gwent Green Grid Shared Prosperity Fund & Nature Networks Biotapestry Work	700	752
Number of MCC sites with National Forest Accreditation	1	Friends of Castle Meadows achieved accreditation Mill Common to be included on completion of TWIG works	Application underway for Mill Common, Undy. TWIG funding secured for Goytre Hall Wood which will be the second site.	2	Underway
Service Level Agreement with SEWBReC	1	Continued by Development Management for 2024/5	Continued by Development Management for 2025/6 plus SLA for Biodiversity work	1	2

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Number of Natural Flood Management schemes supported by MCC	3	MCC Flooding team supported 3 schemes in Dingestow, Llantilio Crossenny and Mitchel Troy.	No funding this financial year. Preparing for 2026/7	0	Planned for 2026/7
Number of Town & Community Councils engaged	12	Green Infrastructure Projects, Local Nature Partnership	Green Infrastructure Projects, Local Nature Partnership and Nature Isn't Neat initiatives	10	10

**Objective 1 Embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress	Progress (red, amber, green)
1.1 Ensure RLDP allocations where delivery of Net Benefit for biodiversity will be possible. Ensure RLDP Development Management policies are robust and associated Supplementary Planning Guidance for Nature Recovery is developed.	Planning Policy Green Infrastructure	2024/25 Ongoing	Part, Core	Replacement Local Development Plan	RLDP adopted with relevant policies and planning guidance in place	<p>Site allocation &amp; Development Management policies developed with Green Infrastructure Team.</p> <p>Topics for SPG have been developed through policy drafting including Dark Skies, Nature Recovery and Severn Estuary Recreation Mitigation Strategy. The latter has been developed with expert consultants through a workshop.</p> <p>Deposit Plan submitted to Welsh Government for consideration by PEDW. Process paused during further information gathering relating to SAC rivers.</p> <p><b>See case study for more information.</b></p>	Yellow
1.2 Continue to identify services & operations that have potential to deliver a net benefit for biodiversity and incorporate action into business plans including Highways & Flooding and Landlord Services.	Highways Landlord Services Green Infrastructure	2024/5 Ongoing	Full, Core, Local Places for Nature Revenue	-	<p>Audits undertaken and further actions identified</p> <p><b>New: Ecologist (Highways &amp; Operations) in post.</b></p>	<p>Reactive support to highways projects continues with limited resource to proactively plan work programmes with net benefit for biodiversity.</p> <p>No resource available to explore property services work and provide the required support.</p> <p>Ecologist (Highways &amp; Operations) role approved and will be advertised in early 2026.</p>	Yellow
1.3 Ensure that the review and implementation of the Council's Asset Management Strategy considers Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience through consultation.	Landlord Services	2024/5 Ongoing	Full, Core, Local Places for Nature Revenue	Asset Management Strategy	Biodiversity & Ecosystem Resilience considered during asset management strategy implementation	<p>Landlord services acknowledge ecological value as a consideration in adopted Asset Management Strategy 2023-27.</p> <p>Alternative use of a former development site in Abergavenny (adjacent to Morrisons) was secured and enhancements funded through Local Places for Nature.</p>	Green

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						Continuing dialogue on plans and projects e.g. Food growing initiatives and County Farms.	
1.4 Improve the consideration of biodiversity through Highways Operations and Suds Approving Body (SAB) process through use of checklists and consultation.	Highways Flooding Risk Management	2024/5 Ongoing	Full, Core	-	All schemes minimising conflicts and delivering biodiversity net benefit.	SAB team attending GI DM meetings to ensure ecology has early consideration.  No formal process in place yet. Ecologist (Highways & Operations) role approved and will be advertised in early 2026.	
1.5 Rollout the use of the new procurement guidelines to limit effects on climate and nature	Procurement All Procuring Services	2024/5 Ongoing	Full, Core	Carbon Emissions plan	More procurement considers climate & nature	Ardal guidelines available for use.  <i>Action to be updated to Continue to promote the Ardal procurement guidance.</i>	
1.6 Seek ongoing adherence to the PROW Biodiversity Action Plan	Countryside Access	2024/5 Ongoing	Full, Core	Countryside Access Improvement Plan	All schemes minimising conflicts and delivering biodiversity net benefit.	Consultation undertaken and advice sought where restricted byways need re-opening or new paths being made e.g. protected species.  Ongoing use of the PROW BAP - sent several out to landowners and user groups and all volunteer groups receive training on it and are aware of it. (20 Volunteer groups presently)	

**Objective 2 Provide nature-based opportunities to raise awareness, support health and well-being and encourage action for nature**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress 2024 - 2025	Progress (red, amber, green)
2.1 Continue to deliver nature-based opportunities to raise awareness, support health and well-being and encourage action for nature through the Gwent Green Grid	Green Infrastructure	2024/25 Ongoing	Full, Nature Networks, SPF  <b>CURRENT FUNDING ENDS March 2026</b> <b>Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</b>	-	Grant relevant Key Performance Indicators	Development of the Bio Tapestry project. GGGP attended Usk Show, Nature & Food event and Greener Abergavenny with Bio Tapestry activities.  79 sessions delivered across Gwent (27 of those in Monmouthshire) reaching 752 participants (261 of those in Monmouthshire).  <b>See case study for more information.</b>	Green
2.2 Work with young people to enable them to take positive action on nature recovery and climate change	Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing  Leisure Services  Heritage Attractions  Sustainable Food  Outdoor Education	2024/25 Ongoing	Full, Core, Nature Networks, SPF, Food Partnership  <b>CURRENT FUNDING ENDS March 2026.</b> <b>Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</b>	Community Climate Action Plan	Number of individuals engaged through nature-based activity New meals on primary school menu. Number of high schools engaged.	GGGP - 31 Climate and Nature Awareness Sessions delivered in schools to 771 children/teachers/support staff across Monmouthshire.  Sustainable Food - Ongoing work with Size Of Wales, to promote deforestation champions, and support for the creation of deforestation free meal, for the primary school menu.  Work within schools to promote cooking and growing skills, comprehensives to be included for 2025/2026.  Began to look at plate waste in primary schools, to reduce and begin to minimise.	Green

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<p>2.3 Continue with work on the E Learning module and seek to make it compulsory corporate training.</p>	<p>Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Full, SPF/Local Places for Nature</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Completion of learning module. Number of officers completed training.</p>	<p>Co production of E-Learn module with Cynnal Cymru, Tantrwm, Comms and Corporate Training.  Training available on Thinqi platform which is available to all staff and elected members however, training is not compulsory. Uptake has been slow despite advertisement in the all-staff e-newsletter and promotion through the corporate training e-newsletter.  Number completed training between July and end December 2025: 14. Further promotion to planning and highways needed in 2026.</p>	<p><b>Action to be updated to Continue to promote the Nature Recovery eLearning module.</b></p>
<p>2.4 Work collaboratively to seek alternative funding models including Green Finance to ensure long term sustainable delivery of awareness raising and encouraging action.</p>	<p>Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>2024/25 Ongoing</p>	<p>Part, Nature Networks  <b>CURRENT FUNDING ENDS March 2026</b> <b>Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</b></p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Opportunities identified.</p>	<p>Partnership working e.g. with Usk Catchment Partnership and Marches Partnership seeking to identify opportunities.  Gwent Green Grid Green Finance Commission to be awarded in early 2026. This is an opportunity for a consultant to provide Support the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP) in co-designing Green Finance Plan that delivers a legacy for nature, communities, and partner organisations across Gwent.</p>	
<p>2.5 Explore opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh Award voluntary work to aid nature recovery.</p>	<p>Outdoor Education Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Opportunities identified.</p>	<p>No update currently.</p>	

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2.6 Explore funding to update interpretation and materials at the One Planet Centre, strengthen links with partners and increase the use of the centre.	Grounds and Cleansing	End of April 2025	No	-	Static display updated Touch Screen content updated	Interactive Globe - 11 questions on interactive consoles updated to reflect current data.	
2.7 Support schools to utilise the opportunity provided by the new curriculum to ensure nature recovery & climate change education is embedded into young people's learning	Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing  Heritage Attractions  Leisure Services  Sustainable Food	2024/25  Ongoing	Part, Nature Networks, SPF  Food Partnership  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026</b> <b>Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</b>	-  Local Food Strategy.	Number of schools engaged.  Work on school meals promoting pulses, and vegetables.	GGGP - in school delivery of workshops. Production and promotion of the GGGP Digital Resource. Pollinator Packs produced and distributed. Production of <i>Helping Nature to Help Us</i> Interactive Board Resource.  Sustainable Food - Continued to work with primary schools supporting access to the curriculum through growing and cooking skills. Ensuring delivery of pollinators/soil health/soil regeneration. Working across departments for complete delivery.	
2.8 Encourage public understanding of food systems – including production, processing, cooking, nutrition, and waste – to encourage planet-friendly food choices and informed decision-making	Sustainable Food	2024/25  Ongoing	Part, Food Partnership, SPF Funding  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026</b> <b>Partnerships to continue (additional funding</b>	Local Food Strategy	Businesses signed up to green growth pledge.  Amount of local vegetables on primary school plates.  Tender contracts with climate, sustainability and nutrition.	Apple pilot project with Welsh Veg in Schools which will include a curriculum Apple Resource Kit.  We have continued to promote regenerative farming, networking and communications with the residents of Monmouthshire and its borders. We have strengthened partnerships with farmers continuing to support their vision of collaborative working through consortia level provision.  We have continued to work including mentoring schools supported by Size of Wales to help to improve knowledge and understanding of planet friendly food choices and helping to create positive change within embedded practices.	

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			grants being pursued).		Events booked and engaged with partners.  Community projects supported through grant funding.  Marches Partnership work.	Bokashi project led by young people supported by the Monmouthshire Food Partnership with the intention of reducing cooked food waste and creating living compost.  We sit on the Steering group for the Healthy Weight Healthy Wales ABUHB. This provides support to the community with projects and events which promote the above, working with NHS and other health care professionals to begin preventative health care education.  We are working cross border with The Marches Project, working with partners on Food Resilience, access to food and climate.	
2.9 Deliver Nature & Climate awareness raising to groups	Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing  Heritage Attractions	2024/5  Ongoing	Core, Local Places for Nature  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026</b>  <b>Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</b>	-	Final M&E report for the NLHF GGGP project (March 2026) will include an analysis of this work.	GGGP Nature & Climate presentation to Community Climate Champions.  Focus has been on Schools in 2024/5 financial year.  The development of the BioTapestry has been our focus for nature & climate awareness. Community groups and public events have used art of various mediums as a mechanism for learning about nature & climate and understanding the special value of our local environments.  <b>See case study for more information.</b>	
2.10 Assess the need and aspirations for schools in Monmouthshire to have an environmental charter and improve sharing of best practice on projects such as school grounds improvements to enhance ecosystem services.	Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing  Active Travel  Sustainable Food	2024/5  Ongoing	Core, Local Places for Nature, Food Partnership  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March</b>	-	Support required by schools in place	Green Infrastructure - Survey sent to all schools with 12 responses received. Loss of resource to take this forward as Biodiversity and Ecology Officer left. MCC and Keep Wales Tidy <i>Eco schools</i> network established to improve information sharing. Challenge to maintain this with current staffing resource levels.  MCC Road Safety School Travel Plan - Officer working with schools to think about sustainable travel to school. MCC AT	

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	Children and Young People		2026 and 2027 Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).			using ATF and SRiC funding to improve sustainable transport connections to schools. Scheme development and construction include routes to Caldicot School/ Durand School, King Henry VIII School Abergavenny and Monmouth Overmonnow school.	
2.11 Continue with a programme of training for site managers, operatives & development management officers as need arises e.g. protected species, construction, and management of GI assets e.g. Rain Gardens.	Highways  Grounds and Cleansing  MonLife Attractions  Green Infrastructure  Heritage Attractions	2024/5  Ongoing	Part, SPF  -  Number of members/ officers/ operatives trained		20 officers from Development Management and Heritage teams trained on PPW 12 updates: Net Benefit for Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure and Trees during February 2024.  Total of seven elected members taken on a Climate and Nature Steering Group best practice field trip to Abergavenny sites in 2024 and Magor with Undy in 2025.  One Grounds officer attended a training session on Leaky Dams.		
2.12 Nature & Climate Comms campaign	Communications  Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing	2024/5  Ongoing	Part, Core, Nature Networks, Local Places for Nature  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026</b>  Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).	-  TBC alongside LNP comms plan.	Ongoing Nature & Climate Comms work including Local Places for Nature project delivery, Mill Common Restoration, Nature and Food Celebration, River Gavenny Project.  Presentation on Nature Actions to UK Climate Action Scorecard group.		

**Objective 3 Undertake land management for biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress	Progress (red, amber, green)
3.1 Develop the management of green infrastructure to improve climate & ecosystem resilience	Grounds and Cleansing  Countryside Access  Heritage Attractions  MonLife Attractions	2024/5  Ongoing	Part, Local Places for Nature, Brilliant Basics, Nature Networks, SPF  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS</b>  March 2026  Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).	-	Area of NiN land maintained at 38Ha  <b>NEW: Sites Managed in accordance with a GI Management Plan</b>	Ongoing management using Nature isn't Neat (NiN) principles across approx. 38Ha of Grounds managed estate with a further 9Ha on Countryside / attractions sites.  Local Places for Nature funding utilised to procure appropriate machinery / kit for management of grassland areas.  Correct machinery in place for use at Caldicot Castle and Country Park and Old Station Tintern.  PROW Tracks and Trails – ensure all projects improving /maintaining highways take account of our duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity. PROW Projects – Including assessing ecology and biodiversity in road surveys and communicating to User Groups, Locals etc what needs to be protected and improved.	Green
3.2 Continue to deliver green infrastructure improvements and changes to management practices through the Gwent Green Grid Partnership	Green Infrastructure	2024/5  End March 2026	Full, Nature Networks, SPF  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS</b>	-	Grant relevant Key Performance Indicators	River Gavenny Community Action Plan and Healthy Rivers Project. <b>See Relevant Case Study.</b>  Green Infrastructure designs for 20 Green Corridors sites, delivery of GI enhancements at 'Morrisons' site, Abergavenny and grassland enhancement at Goytre Playing Field.	Green

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			March 2026 Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).			Continued support and development of Nature Isn't Neat including specific projects at Gilwern Common.	
3.3 Maintain Nature Isn't Neat Management at 38Ha and increase sustainable disposal / utilisation of grass cutting arisings	Grounds and Cleansing Highways	2024/5 Ongoing	Full, Core, Local Places for Nature	-	Management Maintained at 38Ha	38Ha Maintained through a NiN approach.	
3.4 Implement the River Gavenny project via the Local Nature Partnership	Green Infrastructure	2024/5 End March 2026	Part, Section 106, Nature Networks  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026 Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</b>	-	Project Underway	<p>Public Consultation workshop July 2024 with key partnership organisations. Community Engagement Plan developed by Groundwork Wales. Litter picking event with Groundwork Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, Abergavenny Town Council.</p> <p>During 2025 the GI Team worked with Ground Work Wales using Nature Networks funding to deliver a Healthy Rivers Project.</p> <p><b>See Case study.</b></p>	

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3.5 Develop Green Infrastructure Management Plans for Mill Common, Breezy Bank and the new Countryside Park at Nant y Castell.	Green Infrastructure	Ongoing	Full, Section 106, TWIG	-	Plans completed	TWIG Funding secured to be used to develop the GI Management Plan for Mill Common to UK Forestry Standards.  S106 funds received for Nant y Castell Green Infrastructure Plan.	
3.6 Continue with the development and implementation of the Neddern Brook Strategy and monitor effectiveness	MonLife Attractions  Green Infrastructure  Flood Risk Management	2024/5  Ongoing	Part, Local Places for Nature 2025-7	-	Strategy in place.  Management undertaken.	Strategy complete and scope of works discussed with NRW through FRAP pre-app process.  Restoration works to include vegetation cutting to be undertaken in early 2026 with new machinery being funded through Local Places for Nature.	
3.7 Seek TWIG funding for woodland management plans and future woodland management	Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing	2024/5	Full, TWIG	-	Funding secured.	£250,000 awarded by NHLF for implementation of capital project and awareness raising 2024-26 at Mill Common.  <b>See Case study.</b>  £117,000 awarded by NHLF for implementation of capital project and community engagement for 2025-2027 at Goytre Hall Wood.	
3.8 Secure National Forest Accreditation for priority woodland sites	Green Infrastructure  Countryside Access  Grounds and Cleansing	2024/5  Ongoing	Full, TWIG	-	Number of MCC sites with National Forest Accreditation	Castle Meadows Copse accredited National Forest status following an application by the Friends of Castle Meadows.  Development of the Forest Management Plan and National Forest application are underway for Mill Common as part of the associated TWIG funding.	

**Objective 4 Influence land management to improve ecosystem resilience**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress	Progress (red, amber, green)
4.1 Promote and, as opportunities arise, use our county farms as exemplars for nature friendly, sustainable, and regenerative agriculture	Sustainable Food Landlord Services Flood Risk Management	Ongoing	Part, Food Partnership SPF funding.	Food Strategy	Number of farmers/farms taking part.	Regen Ben project complete, with County farmers having finished their mentoring programme on regenerative farming. As well as other individually owned farms. The cluster farming project is still ongoing with a regenerative farming event planned for January 2026. Work within this area will potentially be shared through The Marches Project.	
4.2 Promote sustainable land management and agricultural practices, including nutrient/soil management and natural flood management	Flood Risk Management Sustainable Food	Ongoing	Part, Food Partnership SPF Funding	Food Strategy.	Number of Events and People attending	Regen Ben project promoted learning and education with agricultural practices, The farming cluster have been looking at cover crops for soil retention and to minimise water run-off.  The Marches Real Food and Farming Convergence was held in October 2025. The event showcased best practice and new and innovative ideas such as regenerative farming. Peer support and future workstream development were key to the event's success which reached 190 people over the two-day event.	
4.3 Work with partners to understand potential for and implement natural flood management for climate adaption	Flood Risk Management	Ongoing	Part, NFM, SPF, Food Partnership	-	Number of schemes underway	A NFM Opportunity Assessment for Monmouthshire has been completed and several potential schemes identified. Three of those schemes have been delivered in 2023/24 funded through Welsh Government's NFM Accelerator Grant. Delivery of future schemes will be dependent on further WG grant funding. Through this work we continue to liaise with partners such as Wye & Usk Foundation, Welsh Water, Wye Valley National Landscape Team & Natural Resources Wales on NFM matters.  Two further NFM schemes are currently being considered for 2026/27, including the installation of NFM features near	

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						Dingestow and landowner engagement/feasibility work in the River Monnow catchment in collaboration with the Wye & Usk Foundation.	
4.4 Work with Landlord Services to develop an access to growing template to include requirement of no pesticides / harmful chemicals.	Sustainable Food Landlord Services	2025	Full, Food Partnership	-	Process in Plane	Task and Finish group has been established; a process is now in place to ensure all relevant parts of the authority are involved at the correct stage in project development.  Action Complete.	
4.5 Work with Town and Community Councils to deliver Section 6	Green Infrastructure Grounds and Cleansing	2024/5 Ongoing	Part, Local Places for Nature	-	Number of Community Councils engaged	Close working on GI and Local Places for Nature projects design and consultation. Attendance of cc at LNP meetings and promotion of NRAP consultation on a CC website.  Extensive work with Llanelli Hill CC on Gilwern Common grass cutting.  Town and Community Council councils were invited to the Nature & Food Celebration event in October 2024.	
4.6 Continue to work with Gwent Wildlife Trust, Monmouthshire Meadows Group and Natural Resources Wales to identify sites that meet the Local Wildlife Sites / Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation criteria.	Green Infrastructure	2024/5 Ongoing	Full, Core	-	Number of Local Wildlife Sites / Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	LWS Panel attended by MCC in March 2024. 18 sites approved for inclusion as Local Wildlife Sites.  2025 LWS panel attended by MCC in January 2025. 24 sites approved for inclusion as Site of Importance for nature Conservation / Local Wildlife Site in 2025. Total number of Site of Importance for nature Conservation / Local Wildlife Site = 833 total	
4.7 Protect and enhance green infrastructure through new and existing development	Planning Policy and Development Management Green Infrastructure	2024/5 Ongoing	Part, Core	-	TBC	Ongoing work in this area with additional guidance prepared for householder applicants in the preparation of Green Infrastructure Statements.  Ongoing fortnightly team roundtable to discuss applications with relevant MCC GI stakeholders and ensure GI approach undertaken. Landscape officer post is vacant with resultant lack of resource.	
4.8 Promote community access to land for growing food	Sustainable Food	2024/5 Ongoing	Part, SPF, Food Partnership	-Food strategy, planned	Number of individuals/groups accessing land to grow on.	Attendance to a working group looking at securing land to grow on, working with Abergavenny town council.	

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	Planning Policy and Development Management			LDP document.		Attendance on a planning group looking forward at new developments and potential areas for new projects.	
4.9 Signpost businesses to support, advice and information to help them to contribute to Nature Recovery	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Enterprise and Community Animation</p> <p>Destination Management</p> <p>Green Infrastructure</p>	Part, Core	Desti-nation Management Plan	Number of businesses engaged.	<p>Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan is the plan which guides tourism development, management and marketing of the county. The revised Plan for the period 2025-30 aims to drive sustainable tourism growth through a more regenerative approach which balances social, economic and environmental interests for the benefit of everyone in Monmouthshire. Environmental protection is a key objective within the Plan, with sustainable practices encouraged, including boosting visitor awareness of environmental issues, and inspiring positive behavioural changes such as increased use of public and active transport and responsible access to nature. While the development of the Plan has been led by MCC, it's been designed to provide a common direction for all public, private and third sector organisations with an interest in nurturing tourism in the county. This promotes guided walks and quiet enjoyment of the seasonal nature spectacles in Monmouthshire.</p> <p>We encourage all those involved in the visitor economy in Monmouthshire to embed responsible, sustainable and environmentally friendly practices into their businesses (and organisations) and to evidence their commitment to sustainability through initiatives such as Green Tourism certification. As well as improving biodiversity, eliminating single-use items, supporting your local community, embracing the circular economy and implementing measures to reduce your carbon footprint, environmental accreditation will also give your business competitive advantage.</p>		

**Objective 5 Tackle key pressures on species and habitats**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress	Progress (red, amber, green)
5.1 Continue to develop the Nature Recovery Action Plan and support and encourage delivery	Green Infrastructure	Ongoing	Part, Local Places for Nature	NRAP	NRAP published.	NRAP Part 1 adopted June 2025 and published during Wales Nature Week July 2025 following public consultation, MCC Scrutiny and Cabinet approval.  Subsequent delay with the development Habitat and Species action plans but development expected 2026-7.  <a href="#">See NRAP Case Study.</a>	Yellow
5.2 Continue to identify and promote new Green Infrastructure projects through the Green Infrastructure Strategy	Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing  Sustainable Food  Flood Risk Management	Ongoing	Part, Nature Networks, SPF, Local Places for Nature  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026 and 2027. Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</b>	GI STRATEGY	No of green infrastructure projects delivered.	GI strategy refreshed with public consultation alongside the NRAP as above.  GI projects currently being developed are guided by the GI Strategy via the Community Nature Spaces and Green Corridors project and River Gavenny Healthy Rivers project.  <a href="#">See case studies.</a>	Green

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5.3 Develop a Dark skies policy and explore a street lighting charter which consider reducing and limiting impacts on nature	Street Lighting Green Infrastructure Planning Policy and Development Management	Ongoing	Part, Local Places for Nature	RLDP	Policy and charter formulated.	Policy included in Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan.  <b>See RLDP Case Study.</b>	
5.4 Delivery of Net Benefit for biodiversity through Active Travel and other sustainable travel infrastructure projects	Active Travel Green Infrastructure	Ongoing	Full, Active Travel Fund	-	TBC	<p>Through all Active Travel (AT) schemes where planning is required, net benefit of biodiversity is delivered through the planning system and a guarantee of a net benefit from any interventions. Where opportunities allow in other schemes, the integration of green space, including planting, rain gardens and planters is included for the benefit of all.</p> <p>MCC AT discusses planning applications and scheme plans with MCC GI colleagues. MCC Ecology Officers are consultees on AT scheme details such as specified planting for swales within AT schemes.</p> <p>Sustainable transport choices - modal shift, behaviour change and trip reduction can have significant impact on the reduction of carbon emissions and the biodiversity benefits this provides. The use of active travel can give people a more personal connection to their local green infrastructure and environment, encouraging protection of vital green spaces.</p>	
5.5 Work with partners to support and promote actions to improve river water quality	Green Infrastructure Planning Policy and Development Management Flood Risk Management	Ongoing	Part, Core, SPF, Food Partnership	Rivers & Ocean	TBC	<p>Gavenny Catchment Partnership refreshed using S106 and SPF. Working with Groundwork Wales to produce a community engagement plan. Workshop in July with stakeholders including NRW, WUF, KWT, Abergavenny Town Council, Civic Society, GWT. Litter pick coordinated in November 2024.</p> <p>During 2025 the project delivered engagement days including actions to consider water quality.</p>	

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	Sustainable Food					<b>See Healthy Rivers Case study</b>	
5.6 Development of a voluntary Tree Warden scheme to encourage residents to monitor and maintain existing and new tree planting.	Grounds and Cleansing Green Infrastructure Countryside Access	TBC	TWIG Funding Application Underway	-	Pilot scheme in place.	Funding in place to deliver a pilot project in 2025/6 at Mill Common Magor with Undy.  <b>See Mill Common Case Study.</b>	
5.7 Work in partnership to plant more trees, increase area of woodland, improve woodland management, and retain and protect existing woodland and trees	Green Infrastructure Grounds and Cleansing	Ongoing	Part, Nature Networks, SPF, Section 106 <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026</b> Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).	-	TBC	GGGP facilitated the TWIG applications in Newport and Monmouthshire through the GGG Regional Woodland Priority Plan.  Continued TWIG Steering Group support by GGG Collaboration Lead and NIN project officer.  As per Monmouthshire Housing Association contract, every tree felled is replaced with two trees. 38 trees to be planted this planting season.	
5.8 Explore and establish a target for an increase in the percentage of urban and rural tree cover	TBC	TBC	Part, Core	-	TBC	Loss of key officer in Grounds & Cleansing has impacted this area of work.	
5.9 Provide information to encourage new tree planting	Grounds and Cleansing	TBC	Part, Core, Nature Networks	-	TBC	To be progressed.	

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and protect existing trees in private gardens	Green Infrastructure						
5.10 Work with Stump Up for Trees and other similar local organisations to evaluate benefits of biochar for tree plant health and locking up carbon	Grounds and Cleansing	TBC	No	-	TBC	Stump Up for Trees have been supported by providing waste wood chip for mulching their tree nursery.  Biochar not currently feasible due to lack of kiln resource	
5.11 Eliminate the use of peat-based compost from our supply chain	Procurement  Grounds and Cleansing  Green Infrastructure  Highways  Active Travel	Ongoing	No	Council Emissions	Peat use eliminated from supply chain	MCC do not purchase peat compost but there is uncertainty that all suppliers are using peat free sources e.g. in pollinator plant stock. Further work needed in this area to be stimulated by the new procurement guidelines.	
5.12 Increase urban tree canopy including new street trees and in car parks to increase carbon capture, water storage, ecosystem resilience, and provide a cooling effect	Green Infrastructure  Planning Policy and Development Management  Highways	Ongoing	Local Places for Nature, SPF, Nature Networks  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026 and 2027</b>	-	TBC	Total tree planting winter 24/25 – 4527 whips, 126 trees and 39 orchard/fruit trees. This includes non-MCC planting for Monmouthshire Housing Association.	
5.13 Work with partners to ensure Wales Coast Path improvements deliver net benefit for biodiversity	Countryside Access	2025	Potential Shared Outcomes funding		TBC	Funding application made for two schemes 1. Links and Loops -Consultant to undertake feasibility study of connecting Caldicot Links to WCP at Caldicot, WT site at Magor to WCP and Magor Pill to WCP.	

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	Green Infrastructure					2. Access Improvements for All from Rogiet CP to Black Rock – this is looking at improving access for disabled but will include biodiversity improvements as well. There will be public consultation so opportunity to advise LAF and public about the environment. The feasibility studies are to gather all evidence and information, so we are in the position to bid for further implementation funding in next financial year.	
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**Objective 6 Support landscape scale projects and partnerships to maximise delivery**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress	Progress (red, amber, green)
6.1 Continue to lead on the Gwent Green Grid through Nature Networks and SPF funding	Green Infrastructure	Ongoing	Nature Networks, SPF  <span style="color: red;">CURRENT FUNDING ENDS March 2026 Partnerships to continue (additional funding grants being pursued).</span>	-	Continued leadership of GGGP	Nature Networks in place until March 2026. Additional funding bid submitted to continue the partnership and its work to deliver Resilient Ecological Networks through the Nature Networks funding programme. Grant Awards to be announced in March 2026.	Yellow
6.2 Continue to take active roles in the Usk Catchment Partnership and Wye Catchment Partnership	Elected Members  Chief Officer Communities and Place  Green Infrastructure  Head of Planning	Ongoing	Full, Core	Rivers & Ocean Action Plan	Continued involvement with partnerships	Continued involvement in Partnerships at all levels. Usk Catchment partnership – Agreement of priorities For Draft Integrated Catchment Plan, Appointment of Nature Guardian, Task and finish groups to establish shared outcomes for catchment. Usk Knowledge Hub – Review of State of the Usk  Wye Nutrient Management Board/ Commission/ Senior Officers Group – Attendance by Elected Member, Chief Officer and Head of Planning.  Wye Catchment partnership – Attendance at all possible meetings Systems mapping undertaken, NRW's Upper Wye project welcomed.	Green

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6.3 Continue to support Living Levels Landscape Partnership	Elected Members Green Infrastructure	Ongoing	Full, Core	-	Continued involvement with partnership	<p>Development funding secured and preparation for submission for Living Levels 2 to the National Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <p>Two new officers have been recruited with MCC Countryside providing support for the interview process.</p> <p>Welsh Government Coastal Capacity Funding has supported Living Levels delivery during 2024/25 FY to deliver the <a href="#">Beyond the Seawall</a> citizen science project.</p>	
6.4 Continue to work on the coast and the wider estuary through Coastal Capacity, ASERA, Severn Estuary Partnership and Severn Estuary Coastal Group.	Elected Members Chief officer Communities and Place Green Infrastructure Sustainability Planning, Placemaking and Flooding	Ongoing	Part, Core and WG Challenge Fund	-	Continued involvement with partnerships	<p>Continued Severn Estuary Partnership, Severn Estuary Group and ASERA membership.</p> <p>Coastal Capacity grant coordination for Delivery of the Vision for Mor Hafren Severn Estuary in partnership with SEP, GWT, RSPB Cymru, Beccy MacDonald Lofts.</p> <p>Seascape Assessment developed for Marine Character Area 29.</p> <p>Sustainable Food – involvement in group to identify priorities for food systems on the Gwent Levels.</p>	
6.5 Continue to host and maintain the Monmouthshire Local Nature Partnership	Green Infrastructure	2024/25 Ongoing	Part, Local Places for Nature  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2027 Partnerships to continue</b>	Nature Recovery Action Plan	Continued hosting of Local Nature Partnership	<p>Independently Chaired Local Nature Partnership Maintained with two meetings in 2024 and 2025, Nature &amp; Food Celebration event, Spring and autumn Newsletters.</p>	

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			(additional funding grants being pursued).					
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**Objective 7 Use improved evidence, understanding and monitoring to inform action**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress	Progress (red, amber, green)
7.1 Continue to monitor grassland diversity and pollinators (through POMS) to provide evidence to our Nature isn't Neat management	Green Infrastructure Grounds and Cleansing	Ongoing	Full, Nature Networks, Core	-	TBC	<p>Surveying of Nature isn't Neat grasslands was established in 2023 and will continue rotation to monitor grassland diversity. An average of 17 grassland species were found across MCC grassland sites. Surveys will be undertaken in 2026.</p> <p>UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (POMS) monitoring will continue to be promoted through Nature isn't Neat. In July 2024 a POMS FIT count workshop was held with expert entomologist Richard Dawson and King Henry School pupils (25 pupils).</p>	Green
7.2 Continue to secure the Service Level Agreement with the South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre (SEWBReC)	Planning Policy and Development Management	Ongoing	Full, Core	-	Continuation of SLA.	<p>2024/5 SLA secured for planning.</p> <p>2025/6 secured for planning. A new SLA secured for work relating to the Local Nature Partnership was also secured.</p>	Green
7.3 Development of Nature Networks Mapping and continue to work with NRW to develop Resilient Ecological Networks	Green Infrastructure	Ongoing	Part, Nature Networks  <b>MAJORITY OF FUNDING ENDS March 2026 AND 2027. Partnerships to continue</b>	-	Nature Networks and Resilient Ecological Networks complete.	<p>The Gwent Green Grid and Monmouthshire CC are collaborating with NRW to develop Resilient Ecological Networks across Gwent's six Landscape Profile areas.</p> <p>The Gwent Levels is the first part of Wales to have fully published RENs maps which were published in April 2025. This followed three workshops in 2024 with a wide array of stakeholders which explored ecological networks, ecosystem services, and nature recovery priorities. The spatial maps developed by GGGP and MCC are directly contributing to Welsh Government's Future Wales Planning Policy 9 Guidance.</p>	Green

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			(additional funding grants being pursued).			Work has begun on the remaining Landscape Profile areas, including Central Monmouthshire, Wye Valley and Wentwood and Bannau Brycheiniog. The first workshops were held in late 2025 and will continue into 2026.  This work is supported by the Nature Networks Gwent Green Grid's Resilient Ecological Network Mapper a new open access ecological network and opportunity mapper, developed with Environment Systems. The mapper is designed for a range of users including professionals and community groups. The mapper went live in February 2025 and was accompanied by an online training webinar. The mapper has already been successfully used across Gwent to develop projects and secure funding.	
7.4 Use of Nature Networks mapping in project design and to inform delivery of Net Benefit for Biodiversity through development using Supplementary Planning Guidance	Planning Policy and Development Management  Green Infrastructure	TBC	Part, Core	-	TBC	The Nature Networks funded Gwent Green Grid mapper is now live and available to be used by ecologists and developers for project design and inform Net Benefit for Biodiversity.  The development of Resilient Ecological Networks is part of a Wales wide strategy and provides further refinement of Nature Networks mapping through the development of core and nature recovery zones, where proposed nature recovery projects will have the greatest benefit, this can be used to guide development design and target resources effectively. The Gwent Levels RENs maps are being used by Welsh Government's Future Wales Planning Policy 9 Guidance which is due to be published in 2026.	
7.5 Seek funding to explore opportunities / methods for monitoring carbon and water storage on Council land and in Green Infrastructure assets	Green Infrastructure  Grounds and Cleansing  Landlord Services	Ongoing	No	-	TBC	Enquiries made into a soil bioacoustics project with Warwick University. Funding to be sought.  Nature Networks 5 Application submitted to include Nature Based activity on Council owned land. Funding to be confirmed early 2026.	

**Objective 8 Monitor the effectiveness of the plan and review**

Action	Responsible Service Area(s)	Timescale	Funding	Also cited in	How to measure progress	Progress	Progress (red, amber, green)
8.1 Review the plan in 2025 in line with the Section 6 reporting requirement	Green Infrastructure	2025	Full, Core	-	Plan Reviewed.	Actions identified to be updated.  See Review section of Section 6 report.	Green
8.2 Assess the need to review the refreshed forward plan in 2026	Green Infrastructure	2026	Full, Core		Assessment undertaken.	This will be undertaken in line with the Climate and Nature Strategy Reporting.  See Review section of Section 6 report.	Green