

**APPENDIX ONE: RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation	Response
<p><b>Recommendation 1 – Declare Biodiversity &amp; Climate Change Emergency</b></p> <p>Many of the actions linked to the cause of climate change relate directly to habitat and biodiversity loss, therefore, protecting, supporting and enhancing biodiversity will help in addressing climate change. Organisations like Natural Resources Wales have declared joint climate change and biodiversity emergencies, therefore, the task group recommends that the Council declares a biodiversity emergency to sit alongside the climate change emergency. When declaring the joint emergency, the Council should publish a list of actions that it proposes to take to deliver the aims of the joint declaration.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>One Planet Cardiff Launched October 2020.</p> <p>The climate emergency and biodiversity crisis are inextricably linked, and many other cities and organisations have declared climate and biodiversity emergency/crises. Climate change is just one of the pressures facing our ecosystems, and there are others such as habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive non-native species and pollution. These latter factors are not captured by the declaration of a climate emergency, so it is considered necessary to differentiate between these two areas of threat to our environment.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2 - Additional Ecologist / Section 6 Officer</b></p> <p>The Council needs to employ an additional Ecologist or Section 6 Officer. He or she should work across all service areas to ensure that the Council is doing what is needed to meet the requirements of the Section 6 Duty of the Environment Act Wales. This would support the work of the current Ecologist who spends the majority of his time dealing with planning related work. Tasks to be covered by this post should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To co-ordinate, support and promote a range of environmental projects across Cardiff being delivered to meet the requirements of the Section 6 Duty.</li> <li>• To provide support for volunteer groups that are engaged in work that relates to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment Act Wales.</li> <li>• Liaison with partner organisations and other third party groups that are working with or supporting the Council to deliver projects that relate to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment Act Wales</li> </ul>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>A temporary part-time Local Nature Partnership Officer has recently been appointed, however this role does not directly contribute to Cardiff Council’s Section 6 duty under the Environment Act, nor to the role of the Planning Ecologist. Therefore, the promotion and implementation of the S6 duty is dependent upon the availability and capacity of existing staff resources across the Council.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3 - Cardiff Ranger Team Apprentice</b></p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance and value that apprenticeships and traineeships</p>

<p>The Council should employ, train and develop an apprentice to work with the Cardiff Ranger Service. Given the current age profile of the Cardiff Ranger Service, the post would help preserve the extensive knowledge and experience of the team within the Council. The length and structure of the apprenticeship scheme should reflect the amount of knowledge and skill that the apprentice would need to become a fully trained member of staff.</p>	<p>bring. A Trainee Community Ranger post has been created over a three year term linked to day release study and the award of the a Higher National Certificate in Environmental Conservation Management. The opportunity will be advertised in the spring of 2021.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4 - Biological Engineering – River Rhymney</b></p> <p>Where possible, the Council should use the biological engineering techniques similar to those applied on the banks of the River Usk when undertaking remediation work on sections of the River Rhymney as a part of the new flood defence scheme. Taking this approach would provide biodiversity and reduced carbon footprint benefits when compared against hard engineering alternatives.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Council supports the principle of implementation of biological engineering techniques within the River Rhymney, where engineering design permits. The use of harder engineering proposals cannot be discounted due to the high erosion rates associated with the River. The approved design will be determined based on engineering requirements, environmental setting, longevity of the proposals and cost.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 5 - Herbicides &amp; Pesticides - Glyphosate</b></p> <p>Where practically possible, the Council should limit the use of pesticides such as glyphosate across its estate. Local authorities such as the Vale of Glamorgan have managed to become herbicide free in a number of parks by using alternative weed control and management practices. The Council should look to learn from this and publish details of how, where and why herbicides and pesticides will be applied across the Council estate.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted. .</p> <p>The Council implements a range of cultural and biological methods of control methods across its estate as an alternative to the use of pesticides. Where there are no economically viable alternatives, the use of pesticides is limited to those approved by the regulatory bodies for use in the public realm.</p> <p>The benefits of alternative products will be further explored, including the potential for an initial and affordable financial outlay to support a small pilot. Findings will inform more detailed exploration of options and their potential costs.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 6 – Volunteer Support</b></p> <p>The Council does a good job in providing support to volunteer groups who carry out lots of work to help enhance Cardiff’s natural environment; this is evidenced by the 16,278 volunteer hours that were supported by the Cardiff Ranger Service in 2018/19. However, Members feel that if more resource were invested into volunteering then volunteer contributions would be even greater.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted. .</p> <p>The Council fully recognises the value provided by and benefits derived from Friends of, other stakeholder groups and individual volunteers. The Park Ranger Service currently supports a wide range of groups who make a positive contribution to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment Act and wider environmental, social, and health agendas. Similarly, the</p>

<p>On this basis, task group recommends that the Council should invest additional resources to encourage, recognise and expand support from volunteer groups for work that relates to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment Act Wales. Specifically, they believe that this resource would be maximised if it focused on volunteer co-ordination and in applying for grant funding.</p>	<p>Council continues to be active in pursuit of grant funding and will continue to seek opportunities for such.</p> <p>Any investment in additional resource will need to be secured through the Councils' budgetary framework.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 (a) – The Council should build a biodiversity wellbeing commitment into Capital Ambition, alongside the other well-being objectives. This would ensure that biodiversity becomes a corporate responsibility and policy objective.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>The Council's Corporate Plan, Delivering Capital Ambition, contains 7 wellbeing objectives, which are required in statute under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. These are reviewed each year as part of the Council's corporate planning process.</p> <p>In preparing the Corporate Plan 2021-23 the Council will ensure that its commitment to biodiversity is properly reflected in the existing 'Cardiff Grows in a Resilient Way' wellbeing objective.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 (b) - Ask the Cardiff Partnership Board adopt a biodiversity well-being objective into its Well-Being Plan. This would help provide consistency in approach for all of Cardiff's public sector organisations who are, by definition, subject to the new responsibilities created by Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>Under the WCFG Act 2015, the Cardiff Public Services Board has a duty to make a well-being assessment and produce a Local Well-being Plan. This Well-being Plan must include objectives, which are designed to maximise the PSB's contribution to the seven Well-being Goals. The present 2018-2023 Cardiff Well-being Plan does not make specific reference to the biodiverse natural environment and healthy functioning ecosystems which are at the heart of the 'A Resilient Wales' Goal. In preparation of subsequent editions of the Local Well-being Plan, we will ask the PSB to more closely reflect the intention of the 'A Resilient Wales' goal.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 (c) - Build biodiversity and climate change into the Council's decision-making process so that it is considered when all decisions are taken. This should include a Well Being, Climate Change, Biodiversity &amp; Natural Environment Implications section in all Council, Cabinet and Committee reports / papers.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty (BRED) Forward Plan for Cardiff was approved by Cabinet in September 2019.</p> <p>This establishes the Council's wider duties for Green Infrastructure when considering biodiversity in decision making.</p>

	In addition, we are seeking to review reporting arrangements as part of the One Planet Cardiff consultation.
Recommendation 7 (d) - Build responsibility for biodiversity into the key Council business planning documents, for example, Directorate Delivery Plan and Personal Review Documents. This should place biodiversity on a similar footing to Equalities and the Welsh language.	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>The proposal to include consideration of biodiversity in the PPDR process is not supported, as there are other means of raising awareness among staff of the biodiversity duty.</p> <p>We are reviewing how Biodiversity can be further embedded into Directory Delivery Plans</p>
Recommendation 7 (e) - Ensure the Green Infrastructure Plan (including the Biodiversity Forward Plan) links into the new well-being biodiversity objective, and other relevant cross organisational policies at a strategic level, for example, the Local Well-being Plan and Area Statements.	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>See 7(a) above</p> <p>This has partly been achieved as the former draft Green Infrastructure Plan has been co-opted to form the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Forward Plan, which has been approved. Other strategic policies should refer to and inform future versions of the BRED Forward Plan.</p>
Recommendation 7 (f) - Appoint a dedicated biodiversity and climate change champion to represent the Council. The task group felt that the title should be clear enough for the public to instantly understand the purpose of the role, for example, the 'Champion for Nature' was suggested. The task group felt that the champion should: i) become the Council spokesperson for biodiversity and climate change announcements; ii) act as Chair for a re-established Cardiff Biodiversity Partnership; iii) have sufficient status within the Council to ensure that he or she has regular access to the Cabinet and Senior Management; iv) have the support and responsibility to deliver an annual biodiversity and climate change report to Cabinet or Full Council setting out the progress achieved during the year against a set of agreed targets.	<p>The recommendation is not accepted.</p> <p>The Climate Emergency declaration and duties under Section 6 require a Council-wide approach to tackling Climate Change and promoting the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems.</p> <p>This is fundamental to the One Planet Cardiff Vision, which was launched in October 2020.</p>
Recommendation 7 (g) - The Council's biodiversity and climate change responsibilities should be built into one Cabinet portfolio to ensure clear lines of responsibility and accountability. The range of responsibilities are currently split across three	This recommendation is not accepted – see 7f(39) above

<p>Cabinet portfolios; Members felt that this division of responsibility created a barrier in terms of accountability and delivery.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 7 (h) - Develop a clear and enthusiastic vision for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity to ensure a consistent ‘buy-in’ from each service. Once established this should be circulated across the Council and if possible to all of the other partners on the Cardiff Partnership Board.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted</p> <p>This is fundamental to the One Planet Cardiff Vision, which was launched in October 2020. The delivery of the vision requires collaboration across Council Service Areas and working with delivery partners.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 (i) - The Council should identify and create a series of biodiversity and natural environment performance indicators that would sit alongside the Biodiversity Forward Plan and feature in the Council’s Performance Reporting. The indicators should be meaningful and directly relate to the positive outputs that support biodiversity in the city, and should be included in an annual biodiversity and climate change report.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted but effective delivery dependent upon additional resources.</p> <p>Current monitoring which is proposed or ongoing includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• i-tree repeat 10 years (requires additional resources)</li> <li>• ecosystem services mapping every 5 years (requires additional resources)</li> <li>• State of Natural Resources Report, published every 3 years by NRW</li> <li>• Land use classification annual quantitative reports (within existing resources)</li> <li>• LDP annual monitoring of Biodiversity Policies (Within existing resources)</li> <li>• A new “Evidence Base” will be created for the review of the Local Development Plan which will inform new polices and the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)</li> </ul>
<p>Recommendation 7 (j) - Identify funding for a dedicated officer to support the reincarnation of the Cardiff Biodiversity Partnership. This post could either be held within the Council or delivered by one of its partners. Tasks would include arranging meetings, collating information, producing reports and reporting on performance. Ideally the individual would work with the Council and all of its partner bodies.</p>	<p>This recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>This recommendation has been temporarily met with the creation of the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) post, funded by a Welsh Government grant. However, this post is temporary and part-time, therefore further funding would be required to sustain the LNP beyond March 2022.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 (a) - Planning &amp; Biodiversity Forum – To date Cardiff Council officers have not attended the Planning &amp; Biodiversity Forum. Members felt that this was a missed opportunity, particularly as the direction of travel for supporting the environment has shifted in the last twelve months under Planning Policy Wales</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>A representative from the Planning Department will be encouraged to attend the next meeting, subject to availability. Should the Forum seek attendance from Elected</p>

<p>Edition 10, the Environment (Wales) Act and the Well Being of Future Generations. The task group, therefore, recommends that an officer from Cardiff attends future meetings of the Planning &amp; Biodiversity Forum. They also feel that the profile and influence of the Planning &amp; Biodiversity Forum would benefit from Elected Member involvement, and so ask the Council to approach the group to ask if it could be expanded to include councillor representatives from each of the represented local authorities.</p>	<p>Members, this will require further dialogue regarding the intended role and requirements.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 (b) - Review of Cardiff's Local Development Plan – A review of Cardiff's Local Development Plan is due to begin in 2020. Given the importance of recent changes within Planning Policy Wales Edition 10, the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act and the Well Being of Future Generations legislation, the task group recommend that now is an excellent opportunity to enhance the environmental policies and goals of Cardiff's Local Development Plan. Strong and detailed environmental policy that link to the Council's main corporate objectives could be used as a 'hook' to develop stronger supplementary planning guidance, which in turn could provide greater protection for Cardiff's valuable green infrastructure.</p>	<p>The recommendation is noted</p> <p>The Cardiff LDP is currently under review. As part of this comprehensive process, <u>all</u> policies will be reviewed and assessed and it would be premature ahead of the Replacement LDP process to predetermine policy approaches. It is considered that the current environmental policy framework in the LDP and associated Supplementary Planning Guidance for Green Infrastructure, including the six supporting Technical Guidance Notes (TGNs), is an exemplary approach to promoting green infrastructure, biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 (c) - Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 – Greater Detail – Following the meeting with the representatives from the Planning &amp; Biodiversity Forum, the task group concluded that a lack of detail was the biggest weakness in environment related planning guidance, meaning that developers were consistently able to win on appeal and offer 'mitigating measures' to comply with planning conditions. The task group asks that the Council raises these concerns with Welsh Government, and asks them to increase the level of detail around the suite of planning guidance that is used to ensure environmental protection.</p>	<p>The recommendation is not accepted.</p> <p>PPW (ed. 10) was prepared and published following consultation with all Local Authorities. Any future review of PPW and Technical Advice Notes (TANs) is the appropriate forum to provide comments on their content.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 (d) - Measuring Tree Coverage – Members believe that the Council should focus on measuring tree coverage instead of the number of trees in the city. The environmental benefits of established tree coverage far outweigh that provided by newly planted trees, which are often provided as an environmental mitigating</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted</p> <p>The Council already holds data relating to tree coverage in Cardiff, following the I-Tree Eco Survey undertaken in 2017-18.</p>

<p>measure. As a consequence, the task group recommends that the Council should identify a way of accurately measuring Cardiff's tree coverage, and then report on this annually.</p>	<p>There remains a need to record and report information numerically for management / operational purposes.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 (e) - Supporting Nature in new Developments</p> <p>The task group was provided with information on a range of features that can be built into new developments to support biodiversity, for example, bat bricks and hedgehog holes. The cost of these features is relatively small; for example, a single bat brick costs less than £20. On this basis the task groups recommends that the Council asks developers to install nature supporting features on all new build properties as standard, and if necessary identify a policy 'hook' within the new or revised Local Development Plan to use to create supplementary planning guidance to support this aim.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>The Council is seeking to go beyond policy requirements when considering new residential developments. Officers will continue to negotiate with developers to provide nature supporting features as part of new developments.</p> <p>The promotion of biodiversity is a legal requirement of the SAB (Sustainable Drainage Adoption Body) process which is a requirement upon all new development of more than 1 dwelling and 100m<sup>2</sup></p>
<p>Recommendation 9 - Embed New Biodiversity Well Being Objective</p> <p>The Council should embed the new biodiversity well-being objective into the organisation by developing and delivering relevant training to all Council staff. Suggested examples of how to do this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the use of e-learning, various staff communications and staff questionnaires;</li> <li>• Building the new biodiversity well-being objective into the Personal Development Review (PDR) process;</li> <li>• Targeted research and group discussions – particular functions.</li> </ul> <p>It should also encourage other public organisations to roll out similar training within their organisations.</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>See responses to Recommendation 7 above regarding wellbeing objectives</p> <p>There is a wider initiative among Local Authority Ecologists in Wales to produce a corporate training module around the Section 6 biodiversity duty. However, in the meantime the approved Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Forward Plan advocates holding workshops with service areas to introduce the duty and look at ways of implementing service-area action plans. This is the approach taken by other LAs, though buy-in at Director level is required in order to secure engagement. However, this is a resource-intensive exercise, and so contingent upon additional staff resources.</p> <p>Please also refer to response to 7d.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10 - Promote the Council's Drive to Support Biodiversity</p> <p>Make information available to the public to encourage participation and understanding, for example, by publishing information on the Council webpages; sharing information with partner organisations and other key stakeholders;</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted. Please refer to the response for recommendation 9.</p> <p>The Council, through the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Forward Plan, along with the ITree Study and the Ecosystem Services Mapping project, to raise awareness of these initiatives throughout the Council.</p>

<p>communicating the message through social media and running wider communications promotions.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 11 - Regular Liaison Meetings</p> <p>Invite environmental voluntary groups and Community Council representatives to attend regular liaison meetings – these could link into Cardiff Biodiversity Partnership meetings to ensure that all parties are kept informed. The meetings would allow them to access additional support to specialist advice from relevant officers.</p>	<p>This recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Council already supports a quarterly Friends Forum network meeting and works closely with other organisations including Innovate Trust, Buglife, Plant Life, RSPB, Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. The re-launch of Cardiff Biodiversity Partnership as Cardiff Local Nature Partnership will include wider community representation from Friends of groups.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12 - Schools &amp; Governors</p> <p>Create environmental link Governors on school governing bodies who can take relevant information and projects to their school. Encourage better use of school grounds and local wildlife sites for biodiversity.</p>	<p>This recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>Schools and the Council estate in general are captured by the s6 duty so will be included in the requirement to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Ways of achieving this will be explored, but additional resources would be required to support links with schools.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13 - Mandatory Biodiversity Training for Members</p> <p>The Council should introduce mandatory Member training to improve knowledge on biodiversity and the natural environment.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>This needs to be integrated with raising awareness across the council of s6 duty and of the role of the GI group.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14 - Dedicated Outdoor Learning Officer – The Council should either employ a dedicated outdoor learning officer, or identify funding to deliver this role and designate responsibility to a third party with existing experience to deliver this work. This would provide tailored support, training and delivery to enable Cardiff schools to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully realise the potential of outdoor learning;</li> <li>• Deliver educational and wellbeing benefits from the varied natural resources that Cardiff possesses</li> </ul>	<p>This recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>The Council recognises the benefit of outdoor learning to schoolchildren in Cardiff, funding to support this activity will need to be secured through the Councils’ budgetary framework.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15 – SEWBReC Service Level Agreement</p> <p>The Council should enter into a service level agreement with the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) for 2019/20 and beyond. This would provide the Council with the best available data on local biodiversity, so that</p>	<p>The recommendation is partially accepted, but requires additional resources to implement which are currently not in place.</p> <p>A service-level agreement with SEWBReC may have benefits but whilst data will be available for one year via the Local Development Plan process, in the longer term additional</p>



<p>the Council is better informed about the natural resources that it has, and at the same time is in a good position to allocate its limited resources into the area of most need.</p>	<p>resources would be required to enter into a full service level agreement.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 16 – Ward Based Mapping</b></p> <p>Complete and publicise a ward mapping exercise. This would provide each ward and the Councillors with information specific to that ward. It would include information about important species, protected sites and other relevant ecological information as well as potential opportunities for improving biodiversity within the ward. This could be developed using information from the SEWBReC database.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>Ward sheets showing designated sites and listing protected species in wards were produced in 2012. These will be updated in the light of recent mapping exercises.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 17 (a) - Adopt a landscape-scale approach to pollinator conservation, i.e. to look at the challenges that biodiversity and supporting ecosystems face across a wide area. This should involve working with partner organisations and volunteers to map nature connectivity so that it can identify how best to improve connectivity across the city. A good starting point would be to use the Cardiff ‘B-Lines’ data that was established in 2012, and to map out disused space, for example, abandoned railway lines.</b></p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Pollinator Action Plan will be used to encourage landowners, including the council, to manage land for the benefit of wildflowers and insects. Cardiff Council is collaborating with organisations such as Buglife, Plantlife and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to bring forward projects to enhance habitats for pollinators.</p> <p>Habitat connectivity survey information will be used to inform decisions about pollinator planting on a citywide basis.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 17 (b) - Where connectivity gaps are identified, the Council should work with partners and volunteer groups to establish localised projects to bridge the gaps. Suggested projects or approaches include promoting the growth of wildflower verges and building wildlife friendly measures into new and renovated building developments.</b></p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted. Connectivity gaps identified through a recent ecosystems services mapping exercise will act as a focus for pro-active habitat creation.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 17 (c) - The Council should work with property developers and the wider community to better support hedgehog highways. This would involve cutting 13cm x 13cm holes in garden walls and fences to allow hedgehogs to travel, feed and mate</b></p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>Most major developments consider impacts upon hedgehogs, and many already have a condition requiring a hedgehog movement plan, which requires the applicant to demonstrate how hedgehogs can move freely around built development.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 18 (a) - Create Accessible New Habitats – The Council should support the creation of new habitats, such as local orchards,</b></p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>Accessibility and recreation are all factors in an integrated GI approach and this is integrated</p>

<p>native hedges, wildflower meadows or other areas of wildlife-friendly green space that is accessible to local communities. This can either be done on Council land or in partnership with other organisations. This approach should be built into Cardiff's Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p>	<p>within the current GI SPG and BRED forward plan.</p>
<p>Recommendation 18 (b) - Community Managed Spaces – The Council should provide support for the development of community managed spaces. If the Council did this then CLAS Cymru could provide policy perspective and a link to the type of tools that can be accessed to develop such schemes. 90% of community managed spaces that are supported by CLAS Cymru rely on and support wildlife. Features that are common to community managed spaces include rain water harvesting; composting; healthy no dig soil; mulch; plants for pollinators; bees; insect hotels; compost toilets; ponds; forest garden planting; wild edges; fresh organic local food and natural predators for controlling pests</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Council continues to work with community groups and CLAS to support community growing initiatives where these can be delivered within the Council's open space and other land holdings.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19 - Community Growing</p> <p>The 'Monmouthshire Community Growing Policy' was cited to Members as an example of good practice in terms of getting the community to grow more produce while supporting nature. It was created to allow the Council to make underutilised land in its ownership available for the community to grow food. This demand has been created through the lack of available allotment space, prevailing economic conditions and the need to develop more resilient communities. Monmouthshire County Council developed a policy and license that allows the use of small bits of Council owned land to grow food on. The creation and roll out of this policy has supported the 'Incredible Edible' movement, i.e. where groups of people get together to grow produce on easily accessible land and the produce can be taken away freely by anyone not just those who have worked to make the produce grow. The task group like this policy, and feel that the community growing approach produces added benefits for local biodiversity. They recommend that Cardiff follows suit by creating and publishing a community growing policy.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Council will work with the Cardiff Food Network to develop a community growing policy that addresses all areas of community growing.</p> <p>The policy should ensure that land which is otherwise low in biodiversity, such as brought into a more biodiverse use.</p>

<p>Recommendation 20 (a) - Highway Verge Cutting Process – Plant Life explained that they have been asked by the Council to re-write its Highway verge cutting process. This has worked well in Dorset where they have stopped cutting verges as intensively, and has benefited local biodiversity. The task group recommends that the Council follows this approach, ensuring that service areas and contractors are made to follow the new process.</p>	<p>This recommendation is partially accepted.</p> <p>The Council possess the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding required to specify processes for all areas of grassland management including highway verges and will lead any review process. The Council has, over time, worked closely with a wide range of stakeholder organisations, including Plant Life, when modifying mowing regimes that contribute to promoting and enhancing biodiversity. The Council will continue to adopt this consultative approach moving forward.</p>
<p>Recommendation 20 (b) - Highway Verge &amp; Wildflower Areas Connectivity – In conjunction with Recommendation 17, the task group recommend that highway verges and wildflower areas should be included into connectivity mapping. Where possible, the Council should also identify new pieces of land that are suitable for wildflower planting and work with volunteer or community groups to develop these areas, for example, in a similar way to the scheme that is being developed with the Cardiff Civic Society.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>A remote-sensing mapping exercise has already been completed, which includes mapping green infrastructure on roadside verges and in private gardens. This mapping will be used going forward to identify suitable areas for biodiversity enhancement.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21 - Biodiversity Friendly Buildings</p> <p>During the task &amp; finish exercise witnesses emphasised the importance of biodiversity friendly buildings in urban areas. They provide a valuable habitat for nature, are able to act as a carbon sink, help buildings adapt to seasonal weather changes and are generally cost effective to deliver. It is also felt that they can make cities feel more pleasant and innovative. Examples of features included in biodiversity friendly buildings include green roofs, green walls, sustainable urban drainage and planted trees. Given the wider decline in natural habitats, Members recommend that the Council should do more to encourage the development of biodiversity friendly buildings in Cardiff. This could be done by:</p> <p>Talking to developers, local architects and surveyors about the benefits of the features of biodiversity friendly buildings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the approach and providing advice through the planning process;</li> </ul>	<p>This recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancements are always sought as part of major developments, and the GI group work closely with Project, Design and Development teams to incorporate GI features such as green roofs on buildings such as new schools.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documenting good practice and advice on delivering such schemes into planning guidance or policy, for example, including relevant information into supplementary planning guidance;</li> <li>• Taking a lead in developing biodiversity friendly features on Council buildings and promoting the benefits of this approach.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Recommendation 22 - Tree Planting</b></p> <p>Tacking climate change means that we will have to find effective ways of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The simplest and most effective way to do this is to plant trees, as they store carbon dioxide naturally. When Councillor Peter Jones from Swansea addressed the task group in July, he explained that he and a few colleagues had decided to knock some doors in the ward that he represented to find out if local residents would like the opportunity to have a mature tree planted outside their property for £56. He was staggered by the response, with a large number of people agreeing to pay for a tree. Members were encouraged by this proactive approach, and felt that there was merit to replicating a similar scheme in Cardiff. The task group recommends that the Council works with Elected Members, partner organisations, volunteer groups and the public to develop a 'Plant a Tree Scheme'. The scheme could encourage the public to buy trees, and help to identify funding to pay for or offset the cost of the trees. In turn this would reduce Cardiff's carbon footprint, contribute to Cardiff's climate change emergency agenda and help increase tree coverage across the city.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted.</p> <p>The Council works with a wide range of organisations, on a mainstream and project basis with aim of increasing tree cover across the city.</p> <p>The Coed Caerdydd project submitted under the Enabling Natural Resources &amp; Well-being funding stream is part of the Council's response to the declared climate emergency. Subject to approval, the project has the potential to increase tree canopy further.</p>