

# SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE



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Dyddiad / Date: 01 March 2024

Councillor Owen Jones  
Chairperson, Environmental Scrutiny Committee  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Owen,

## Environmental Scrutiny - 16 November 2023 - Nature Emergency & Biodiversity Update

Thank you for the letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> November outlining the observations from the Environmental Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 regarding the Nature Emergency and Biodiversity Update. We welcome the observations and comments made following this meeting.

The Committee requested information regarding the number of planning application objections that the County Ecologist has submitted and how many of these were accepted/supported, since he has been in post. The Planning team have advised that they do not retain formal records of numbers of applications where an 'objection' is raised on individual applications by the County Ecologist, though these are considered to have been limited, given the positive and proactive approach adopted by officers on such matters.

The current County Ecologist was appointed in June 2023 and, during the last 10 months, has worked collaboratively with officers, agents, and developers to ensure that developments have no unacceptable impacts on biodiversity and, since recent changes in Welsh Government Policy, seek to achieve a net biodiversity enhancement. This approach means that officers have been able to secure improvements to schemes to address identified issues of concern, and to impose conditions (or legal agreements) requiring appropriate mitigation or compensation to be delivered to ensure development can proceed without causing unacceptable impacts on biodiversity.

Notwithstanding the above, the increasing focus on biodiversity and the nature emergency is such that there will inevitably be times when environmental impacts cannot be mitigated or are not outweighed by other identified benefits. In such cases, officers will seek to support the County Ecologist in resisting inappropriate proposals.

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Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedl.

### WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

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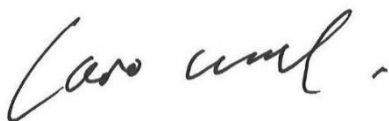
**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



In response to the recommendations raised by the Committee:

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Action Date
Any training in relation to duties under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is also delivered to Senior Council Officers, across all Directorates.	Accepted	The training currently being developed is intended to be delivered to members and across all Directorates at senior manager level and potentially wider to improve awareness of the duty and the role that all directorates have to play in meeting it.	Justin Groves (Principal Officer - County Ecologist)	June 2024
Consideration of identification of land use by communities to support biodiversity and nature for inclusion on the Cardiff App	Accepted	A review of how the Council can increase visibility of land use opportunities with an emphasis on how communities can get involved is being undertaken. This will involve utilising all current communication channels including Outdoor Cardiff, the Council's Website and C2C alongside consideration of utilising of the Cardiff App.	Jennie Judd (Operational Manager, Parks Services)	31/1/24

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Caro Wild**  
**Yr Aelod Cabinet dros y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd**  
**Cabinet Member for Climate Change**