

# PSB Project Group Report

Prepared by: Teleri Elias & Sara Dafydd

<b>Well-being Plan Aim</b>	All place-based pilot projects will aim to address the well-being aims as outlined in the Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan. A place-based delivery framework will prioritise integration and will incorporate a deep-dive holistic approach to both community and individual resilience.
<b>Our Values</b>	Welsh Language, Tackling Inequalities, Involvement, Sustainability, Leading by Example
<b>Project Group Name</b>	Carbon Neutral Aberystwyth and Decarbonisation Strategy
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Rachel Jarvis</b> , Natural Resources Wales

<b>Project Group Membership</b> (Names in <b>bold</b> signify attendance at the meeting)			
Ceredigion County Council	<b>Timothy Bray, Sara Dafydd</b> , Lynne Walters, Lyndon Griffiths, Bethan Lloyd Davies, Cllr Alun Williams, Rhodri Llwyd, Dr Sarah Groves-Phillips, <b>Cllr Keith Henson</b> , Beti Gordon, Emily Edwards, <b>Anwen Thomas, Teleri Elias</b> , Bethan Howell	Aberystwyth University	Rhodri Llwyd Morgan <b>Dewi Day</b>
		Natural Resources Wales	Yvette Eley, Thomas Vetter, Peter Frost
Hywel Dda University Health Board	Paul Williams, Terri Shaw, Owen Harris <b>Sharon Hughes</b>	National Library of Wales	Mark Stevens
Welsh Government Energy Services	Rhys Horan, Huw Lewis, Brian Drysdale	Mid Wales Energy Plan	Thomas Yeo
		Coleg Sir Gar / Ceredigion	Vanessa Cashmore, Louis Dare
Mid & West Wales Fire Service	Neil Evans	CAVO	<b>Chesca Ross</b>

EcoDyfi	<b>Andy Rowland</b>	Co-Production Wales	Roxanne Treacy, Vikki Butler
Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)	Juliet Morris	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Kelly Williams, Daniel Priddy
Local Nature Partnership	<b>Rachel Auckland</b>		

## SYNOPSIS OF PROJECT GROUP MEETING

### Key Points discussed at Project Group meeting: 18/7/23

**11.1 Welcome, Introductions, and Apologies:** The Chair, Rachel Jarvis (RJ) welcomed members to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were noted for the following: *Rhodri Morgan, Bethan Lloyd Davies, Sarah Groves-Phillips, Cllr Alun Williams, Rhys Horan.*

### **11.2 Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 April 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **11.3 Standing Item: Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028:**

With the new Local Well-being Plan for 2023-2028 published in May, Tim Bray (TB) reported that a Governance and Delivery Structure is currently in progress which outlines how each objective and task included in the Well-being Plan will be delivered upon over the next 5 years. TB confirmed that a meeting was recently held with the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Public Services Board (PSB), Hazel Lloyd-Lubran (Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations) and Gavin Bown (Natural Resources Wales), to discuss and agree as to how best to proceed with delivery. As the Well-being Plan includes a number of tasks under each objective, it was agreed at this meeting that the tasks should be sequenced and prioritised to ensure that a smaller number of activities were carried out effectively and successfully. Hazel Lloyd-Lubran suggested holding 4 hybrid workshops, with each centred around the 4 objectives included in the Local Well-being Plan. TB confirmed that the workshops will be held between September and December, and contact will be made with PSB members to ascertain their availability to act as facilitators for each session. This proposed course of action will be presented at the next PSB meeting in September. TB reported that whilst discussions have been held at PSB with regards to the launch of the Local Well-being Plan, it was agreed that this should be progressed once the prioritisation of tasks has been confirmed.

**ACTION: The Partnerships Team to circulate the draft Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028 Governance and Delivery Structure.**

**11.4 Well-being Plan Delivery:**

See item 11.6 – Mapping of current initiatives and identification of gaps.

**11.5 Ceredigion Local Nature Partnership – Conserving biodiversity across Ceredigion and an overview of the ‘Local Places for Nature plan 2023-25’:**

Rachel Auckland (RA) gave a presentation on the Ceredigion Local Nature Partnership (LNP). Each Local Nature Partnership across Wales have their own objectives according to the density of the population and biodiversity within those areas, although their common purpose is to halt and reverse the decline in nature by 2030. The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) is an all-Wales plan for everybody involved in biodiversity action in Wales. A number of objectives have been identified to address the issues that are driving the decline in biodiversity, and to support recovery:

- Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels;
- Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management. Including the requirement on Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which are of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales;
- Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation;
- Tackle key pressures on species and habitats;
- Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring; and,
- Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

In addition to the 6 objectives, there are 5 cross-cutting themes of action which flow from the objectives. A Matrix is used to capture partners' offers and wants e.g., bringing together landowners with funders, or policy-makers with evidence-providers. RA reported that whilst there is currently no State of Nature report for Ceredigion, it's hoped that funding can be secured for this purpose in the future as it would inform the NRAP.



Local Nature  
Partnership Presentat

Local Places for Nature (LP4N) is a capital grant scheme jointly funded by the Welsh Government (WG) and The National Lottery Heritage Fund. It's part of Local Places for Nature, an initiative that aims to enhance and restore natural assets across Wales particularly in deprived areas. RA confirmed that a plan has been submitted to panel for 2023-2025 funding, which is currently pending approval. Utilising last year's funding, the LNP worked with elderly and disabled people and their housing providers to create gardens for care homes and sheltered accommodation. This year, it is hoped that this theme can be extended to a wider demographic and to bring in further work around wetlands creation and management. RA noted that the LNP will also be looking to partner with the University of Wales Trinity Saint Davis (UWTSD) in the future, with the aim of creating a growing area on campus.

With regards to reporting, RA noted that the LNP must report on biodiversity duties at 3 yearly intervals as part of the Section 6 reporting requirement. Under the LN4P scheme, reports must be made quarterly to funders, and the steering group meet on a fortnightly basis. RA also confirmed that Nature Service Wales are currently awaiting a response to a feasibility study and business plan submitted in March to WG by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) which looks to combine nature recovery, green skills and the economy more widely.

The Chair and RA noted that potential projects with the National Library of Wales (NLW) and Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) could be in the pipeline. As a result of consultancy work carried out for NLW regarding improving visitor experience, it was proposed that the grounds including grazing land to the front of the building, as well as the caves are utilised, with the potential for biodiversity projects. Consideration is also being given to potential projects at Bronglais Hospital, including a garden and therapeutic space for staff and patients. Several members of the project group confirmed that they would be attending a meeting of the Biosphere Partnership at NLW on 21.07.23.

**ACTION: The Partnerships Team to circulate the Ceredigion Local Nature Partnership presentation slides.**

#### **11.6 Mapping of current initiatives and identification of gaps:**

RJ reinforced the importance of the mapping work that is currently already being undertaken in order to ensure that there is no duplication. An action was agreed at the previous meeting for a spreadsheet to be circulated for members to populate on behalf of their organisations outlining initiatives and projects that are already delivering upon some of the tasks under Objective 3 of the Local Well-being Plan. It was hoped that this would allow identification of gaps and highlight where and how the project group could add value. RJ shared the spreadsheet and the updates by partners received to date on the screen.

Dewi Day (DD) expressed concern that some of the responses received so far do not fully deliver on the tasks within the Local Well-being Plan. It was proposed that the responses and evidence are scrutinised to ensure that the focus on the original objectives are

not lost. Sharon Hughes (SH) agreed that although decarbonisation is a priority for public services, that putting strategic aspirations into practice is proving difficult due to limited resources and lack of funding. These barriers will make it very difficult to achieve WG's ambition of a net-zero public sector by 2030. The importance of collaboration and working in partnership was reinforced, making the most of other public bodies' assets and maximising funding where possible. RJ agreed that it was important to highlight these issues and any barriers to delivery as these should be escalated to the PSB.

**ACTION: RJ to update the mapping spreadsheet to include a column for 'Barriers to Delivery / Issues'. The Partnerships Team to circulate the updated spreadsheet for members to populate and return to the Partnerships inbox.**

#### **11.7 Review of sub-group membership and links with other relevant groups:**

It was agreed that the project group's membership should be kept under review, especially as workstreams develop and the involvement of specific representatives will become particularly important. The project group agreed that there is a need to engage more effectively with WG's Energy Service, and it was noted that contact should be made with Rhys Horan to ensure representation at the next meeting.

**ACTION: The Partnerships Team to make contact with Rhys Horan to ensure representation from the Energy Service at the next meeting.**

#### **11.8 Partner updates:**

Sarah Groves-Phillips (SGP) sent her apologies for the meeting but an update was shared on her behalf by RJ: To date, no further guidance has been issued by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in relation to Marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) nutrient issues, and they continue to await the release of marine data. In the interim, commitment to partnership working remains through the Nutrient Management Board to restore the Afon Teifi water quality. A Nutrient Management Plan is currently being prepared based on the collective evidence base of NRW, the Local Authority and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) to outline strategic nature-based mitigation solutions whilst mindful of the difficult viability in the affected area. The Phosphate Reduction and Mitigation project (PRAM) continues to be delivered upon by installing riparian fencing along the River Teifi catchment, introducing SuDs schemes in 5 towns along the river, undertaking 10 farm management plans and developing two wetland sites up to planning stage within the catchment to fulfil the Section 6 duty to river restoration. Work is ongoing in a range of Teifi based projects, and SPF funding has recently been awarded to install SONDES (water quality monitors) along the length of the river (the first in Wales) and recruit a Nutrient Management Officer to monitor water quality and undertake partnership working and dissemination.

On behalf of Bethan Lloyd Davies, Keith Henson (KH) reported that consideration is being given to a new strategy which will enable every service to propose potential ideas as to how emissions can be reduced and offer a chance to consider different projects.

DD reported that Aberystwyth University had published their Net Zero Strategy, which includes an Action Plan for delivery of the priorities. The University are currently procuring consultants to consider a Biodiversity Enhancement Action Plan across the estate. DD also provided an update on the District Heat Network project – There is currently no funding available on the scale required to implement the project, however alternative options are being considered and discussions are being held with WG around support schemes.

SH confirmed HDdUHB's current Decarbonisation Plan continues until 2025, and it's currently being worked through with activity based upon funding and resources available. WG will be reviewing the Decarbonisation Delivery Plan for Health at the end of 2023. SH also reported that the Health Board's emissions are likely to go up this year as a result of factors such as the impact of Covid-19, increase in patient demand and business mileage. It's anticipated that spend will have also increased, however consideration is being given to initiatives such as medical management whereby expired medication can be distributed to veterinary practices.

Chesca Ross (CR) noted that Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations (CAVO) are hoping to work with RA and the Local Authority on a small grants scheme related to the environment. CAVO are also looking to work with Severn Wye Energy Agency on their project on community facilities and energy efficiency.

It was noted that it was now timely for a review of members' language preferences when contributing at project group meetings, and so it was agreed that an email would be circulated to members to request this information. In line with Welsh Government policy, at least 10% of members will need to indicate that they wish to use the Welsh language at meetings in order for simultaneous translation (from Welsh to English) to be made available. Should this threshold be met, the relevant arrangements will be made.

**ACTION: The Partnerships Team to contact project group members to ascertain their language preferences when contributing at project group meetings.**

**11.9 Standing item: Do we need to liaise with Co-production Network for Wales on any of the matters raised?**

It was agreed that this standing item would be considered further at the next meeting following the Local Well-being Plan workshops.

**10.10 Any Other Business:**

Due to time constraints, it was proposed that information on NRW's Sustainable Drainage Grant would be circulated to members following the meeting.

**ACTION: The Partnerships Team to circulate details on NRW's Sustainable Drainage Grant.**

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and drew the meeting to a close.

**Next Meeting:** 26.10.2023 at 10:00-12:00, Lampeter Well-being Centre

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