

LOCAL AUTHORITY AND CCW FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Vale of Glamorgan Council has a family of strategic documents that enable delivery of corporate and community objectives. Relevant objectives and actions are outlined below along with the work programmes that they relate to.

Corporate plan 2006-2010

Priority: to achieve a quality environment through promotion and use of sustainable practices, and by making the best use of current and future resources.

Actions: conservation and enhancement of the environment and protection of valuable urban and rural assets and biodiversity from intensive development, poor management and pollution. Improvement of footpaths and rights of way and implementation of a rights of way improvement plan (Rowip).

- A (Coed Cymru)** Promoting and delivering sustainable woodland management, an important rural asset
- B (Glamorgan heritage coast)** Protecting and enhancing of the Glamorgan heritage coast and conserving associated priority species and habitats
- C (Biodiversity)** Delivering UKbap and Lbap targets for species and habitats and increasing public awareness of environmental issues
- D (Access)** Physical improvement of footpaths and rights of way and implementing a Rowip

Community strategy 2003-2013

Priorities: improvement of local environmental quality and the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity of the Vale. Encourage sustainable agricultural practices.

Actions: implementation of a local biodiversity action plan (Lbap), increasing the number and area of designated sites and the retention of green corridors for connectivity.

- B (Glamorgan heritage coast)** Protecting and enhancing environmental quality on the Glamorgan heritage coast. Working with local farmers on management for biodiversity interests
- C (Biodiversity)** Delivering UKbap and Lbap species and habitat targets and increasing public awareness. Surveying for and enhancing connectivity for priority species

Adopted unitary development plan 1996-2011

Strategic policy 1 (environment): protect and enhance the Vale of Glamorgan's distinctive rural, urban and coastal character. Particularly emphasising the conservation of areas of importance for landscape, ecology and wildlife and the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Environment policies and proposals: including the conservation and enhancement of the Glamorgan heritage coast (ENV 5), conservation of the countryside and protection of landscape feature (ENV 10, 11), woodland management (ENV 12) and the protection of important sites (ENV 13, 14, 15) and protected species (ENV 16).

A (Coed Cymru) Promoting and delivering sustainable woodland management, an important rural asset

B (Glamorgan heritage coast) Protecting and enhancing of the Glamorgan heritage coast and conserving associated priority species and habitats

C (Biodiversity) Delivering UKbap and Lbap targets for species and habitats and increasing public awareness of environmental issues

D (Access) Physical improvement of footpaths and rights of way and implementing a Rowip

Other relevant objectives

- Attainment of green dragon level one across the whole of the council to raise awareness of environmental issues and reduce the council's environmental footprint (corporate plan action)
- Managing countryside sites and public rights of way and promoting environmental conservation, improvement and awareness (economic development and leisure service plan).
- Collaboration with other local authorities and/or public, private, voluntary agencies to provide services (economic development and leisure service plan)
- Implementation of the biodiversity improvement programme initiated in 2006 which aims to fulfil the council's corporate and community strategies (countryside and environmental projects team plan)

Resource requirements

Eighteen and a half members of staff within the countryside and environmental projects (CEP) team work to meet the objectives and actions described, with involvement from other teams including highways and parks and grounds maintenance. No staff posts are fully funded by CCW grant aid.

The grant contribution will be used to support volunteer and community groups in delivering environmental and ecological improvements, supporting infrastructure and access improvements at a local level, increasing public awareness of environmental issues and to fund environmental improvements on council owned and administered land.

Vale of Glamorgan Council provides 50% revenue match funding for the entire grant offered but in reality the value of additional work and support from volunteers, community groups and members of the public ensures that a greater value for money can be achieved.

It is important to note that the CCW grant is bottom-lined within the Heritage Coast budget (B/B2). Any loss of grant would lead to severe problems with maintaining staffing levels and service provision.

Programme expenditure

Programme	Estimated value yr 1	Estimated value yr 2	Estimated value yr 3	Estimated value yr 4	Total cost
A	39,500	40,000	40,500	41,000	161,000
B1	55,000	56,000	57,000	58,000	226,000
B2	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	16,000
C1	44,215	41,000	42,000	43,000	170,215
C2	10,986	16,500	8,900	7,400	43,786
D	29,500	30,000	30,000	30,000	119,500
TOTAL	183,201	187,500	182,400	183,400	736,501

CCW grant request

Programme	Estimated value yr 1	Estimated value yr 2	Estimated value yr 3	Estimated value yr 4	Total cost
A	10,500	10,500	10,750	11,000	42,750
B1	27,500	28,000	28,500	29,000	113,000
B2	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,000
C1	22,107	20,500	21,000	21,500	85,107
C2	5,493	8,250	4,450	3,700	21,893
D	14,750	15,000	15,000	15,000	59,750
TOTAL	82,350	84,250	81,700	82,200	330,500

Consultation

The council consults and works closely with a range of partners in the Vale that represent volunteer, local user, school and community groups as well as public and commercial partners.

The council consults these partners through mechanisms such as the Glamorgan Heritage Coast advisory group, which meets twice each year and the Vale Lbap partnership, which meets every two months to guide biodiversity actions. Footpaths and rights of way work closely with the local access forum and Valeways. Public consultation is achieved through regular customer satisfaction surveys to identify areas of potential improvement.

The council also has a high level of interaction with nearby local authorities through the Glamorgan and Gwent biodiversity advisory groups and Lbap officer forums. Cross-boundary working is also encouraged through the Rowip.

Programme summary and delivery of CCW outcomes

<p>A (Coed Cymru)</p>	<p>Promoting and delivering sustainable woodland management throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff</p>	<p>Wildlife, geology and landscape</p>	<p>A Work to halt the loss of biodiversity and aid recovery through management of appropriate habitat</p> <p>B Soil resources are conserved through appropriate woodland management</p> <p>C Planting and management schemes decrease habitat fragmentation and work towards increasing connectivity</p> <p>D The quality and diversity of the natural character of our landscape is maintained and enhanced</p> <p>E Through improved connectivity, increased soil stability and carbon fixation the natural environment has increased resilience to climate change</p> <p>F Environmental considerations are integrated</p>
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			<p>in all policies, programmes and service delivery at Coed Cymru level</p> <p>G Appropriate and sensitive development and use of resources in urban and rural areas that respect ecological and landscape distinctiveness</p> <p>H Engaging communities in the management of their local environments</p> <p>I Widespread and equitable access to the countryside and urban green spaces</p> <p>J Improving health and well-being of Wales' population through interaction with the environment</p> <p>L Publicity regarding Wales' key sites, species and landscapes to ensure they are highly valued by its citizens</p>
B1 (Glamorgan heritage coast)	Delivering heritage coast management plan aims and	Wildlife, geology and landscape	A Reverse loss of species and habitats on the GHC,

	<p>objectives, contributing to the protection, management and enhancement of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast</p>	<p>Access recreation and their benefits</p> <p>Promoting awareness and understanding</p>	<p>protecting genetic diversity, in line with Lbap targets</p> <p>C Increase extent and connectivity of habitats on GHC</p> <p>D Maintained and enhanced character and condition of our coast</p> <p>F Integrated environmental policies in all aspects of GHC</p> <p>G Sensitive development to enhance the local distinctive character of the GHC</p> <p>H Involving the local community and volunteer groups in managing the GHC</p> <p>I Improving coastal access through partnership</p> <p>K Improving awareness and appreciation of nationally important coastline</p> <p>L Raising awareness of</p>
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			<p>importance of key sites and species on the GHC</p> <p>M Stronger collaboration with user groups and landowners</p>
B2 (Glamorgan heritage coast)	Managing habitat on Ogmores Common, Old Castle Down and Alun Valley, for high brown fritillary and other priority habitats and species	Wildlife, geology and landscape	<p>A1 Halt the loss of high brown fritillary (an Lbap priority species) and stabilise the only Welsh population</p> <p>A2 Halt the loss of Lbap priority habitats on Ogmores Common and Old Castle Down</p> <p>C1 The project will create new habitat and interconnectivity for key species</p> <p>C2 The habitats for this key species needs a landscape scale approach, due to the species ecology</p>
C1 (Biodiversity)	Working with the Lbap partnership to implement practical environmental improvements targeting UKbap and Lbap priority habitats and	<p>Wildlife, geology and landscape</p> <p>Data sharing for conservation</p>	<p>A1 Identify key species and halt the loss of priority species and habitats</p> <p>A2 Aid recovery of number and</p>

	<p>species and designated sites; promoting awareness and giving advice about biodiversity enhancement</p>	<p>Promoting awareness and understanding</p>	<p>range of priority species</p> <p>B Management and enhancement of water resources that support diverse, productive ecosystems and healthy people</p> <p>C Manage and enhance important sites and the wider environment for biodiversity interest through appropriate management and increased connectivity</p> <p>E Through survey and increased management of important connectivity resilience to the impacts of climate change are improved</p> <p>J/Q An improvement in health and well-being of Wales' population can be achieved by improving the living environment</p> <p>L Raising awareness of priority habitats and species in Wales encourages citizens to value it</p>
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			<p>more highly</p> <p>M Stronger collaboration and integration between public private and voluntary sector organisations leading to more efficient and effective delivery of outcomes</p>
<p>C 2 (Biodiversity - access work programme)</p>	<p>Work in partnership with the National Health Service (return to work scheme) and volunteers</p> <p>a. to safeguard and protect endangered species</p> <p>b. recover species population/range/diversity for priority species (purple Gromwell, true service tree)</p> <p>c. create new habitat and increase interconnectivity of habitats</p> <p>d. encourage active involvement in the conservation of wildlife and its surroundings to all members of</p>	<p>Wildlife, geology and landscape</p> <p>Access recreation and their benefits</p> <p>Promoting awareness and understanding</p>	<p>A1 The project seeks to halt the loss of species</p> <p>A2 The project will help recover species population / range/diversity</p> <p>C1 The project creates new habitat or increase the interconnectivity of habitats</p> <p>C2 These important sites (including a SSSI) and the wider environment are more favourable to biodiversity through appropriate management and increased interconnectivity of habitats</p> <p>H The project will indirectly contribute to strong, vibrant</p>

	society.		<p>communities through the engagement of local people with their local environments</p> <p>J The project will indirectly contribute to the health and well being of local and visiting populations</p> <p>K The project will lead to all sectors of society regularly accessing and benefiting from Wales' environment leading to better "lifestyles choices"</p> <p>L The project leads to specific audience gaining a higher understanding of the environment in general</p> <p>M Stronger collaboration and integration between public private and voluntary sector organisations leading to more efficient and effective delivery of outcomes</p>
D (Access)	<p>Complete and publish Rowip</p> <p>Carry out additional 5%</p>	Access recreation and their benefits	H The project will indirectly contribute to strong, vibrant communities engaged in the

	<p>sample survey for the “ease of use” performance indicator using volunteer surveyors from the Local access forum</p> <p>Work in partnership with Valeways using Rowip principles to carry out improvement of the public rights of way network and promote a greater general awareness of access issues, specifically to;</p> <p>a. carry out improvement to infrastructure of 15 km of public access each year</p> <p>b. publish 3 new circular walks leaflets each year</p> <p>c. publish 3 Welsh language walks leaflets each year</p> <p>d. prepare content for two information boards and place along access routes each year.</p>	<p>Promoting awareness and understanding</p>	<p>management of their local environments</p> <p>I The project provides greater access to the countryside, coast and urban green spaces through improved public rights of way infrastructure</p> <p>J The project will indirectly contribute to the health and well being of local and visiting populations</p> <p>K The project will lead to all sectors of society regularly accessing and benefiting from Wales’ environment leading to better “lifestyles choices”</p> <p>L The project leads to specific audience gaining a higher understanding of the environment in general</p> <p>M Stronger collaboration and integration between public private and voluntary sector organisations leading to more efficient and effective delivery</p>
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