

EWC Statement on Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

The EWC recognises that biodiversity is under pressure from a range of influences. It is committed to meeting its duty under the *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*, to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity, so far as possible within the remit of its functions, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. The consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems is embedded into EWC business planning and day to day activities.

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership has published a [Nature Recovery Action Plan \(NRAP\)](#) which identifies six objectives to address the issues that are driving the decline in biodiversity in Wales, and to support recovery.

As an organisation that occupies an office building as a tenant only (i.e. it does not own or manage property or land) and whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management, the EWC is categorised by Welsh Government as a Group 1 organisation for the purposes of the duty. The EWC aims to support the following three NRAP objectives through the actions and measures outlined in the table below:

NRAP Objective 1

Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision-making at all levels

NRAP Objective 4

Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

NRAP Objective 6

Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

NRAP Objective	Actions	Measures
1	Embed biodiversity action across EWC functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commitments are made to reduce organisational impact on the environment and published in EWC Annual Report• Opportunities for biodiversity action at EWC are limited but where action is taken (as detailed below) it is delivered through the day-to-day business of the Corporate Services function
	Raise awareness across EWC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voluntary training opportunities on biodiversity are offered as part of the EWC all-staff training programme• EWC provides information highlighting the importance and value of biodiversity to staff as part of the health and wellbeing programme
4	Address key pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EWC reduces, reuses and recycles resources where possible e.g. through recycling waste, replacing disposable plastic cups with glassware, donating unwanted office equipment to charitable causes, using recycled products and encouraging minimal stationery consumption.• EWC attempts to mitigate climate change, reduce energy consumption and increase decarbonisation e.g. movement sensitive lighting is in use, external

		<p>communications are sent via email, teleconferencing is encouraged and where travel is necessary, public transport used wherever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppliers are required to use sustainable management practices and environmentally friendly products as part of the EWC procurement process
	Use biodiverse and native nature based solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not applicable to EWC office environment.
6	Ensure governance for biodiversity within EWC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EWC Office Manager is responsible for ensuring biodiversity actions and measures are taken as detailed, and developing additional measures wherever possible • EWC compliance with its biodiversity duty is monitored and reviewed annually by the Director for Finance & Corporate Services
	Provide capacity for biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff participation in action for biodiversity is encouraged and supported through <i>EWC Volunteering Policy</i>
	Support biodiversity action through partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWC cannot provide funding but supports action for biodiversity as it encourages staff participation through its <i>Volunteering Policy</i>

Review

The EWC will review and report on the measures it takes to support the NRAP objectives and meet its duty annually, as part of its strategic and operational planning programme. In so doing it will seek to develop additional measures it can take to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.