

2. The Legislative context of the Forward Plan

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems forward plan has been produced in relation to two key pieces of legislation:

2.1 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 - The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a duty on public authorities to **seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity** where it is within the proper exercise of their functions. In doing so, public authorities must **seek to promote the resilience of ecosystems**.

This means that Monmouthshire County Council must take a pro-active approach to improve and not reduce biodiversity when carrying out functions.

The duty came into force on 21st May 2016 and replaces the earlier Biodiversity duty in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The preparation of this Forward Plan assists in complying with the new duties and is a requirement on all public authorities. There is a requirement to report on the plan in 2019 and every 3 years following this. The plan can be subsequently reviewed.

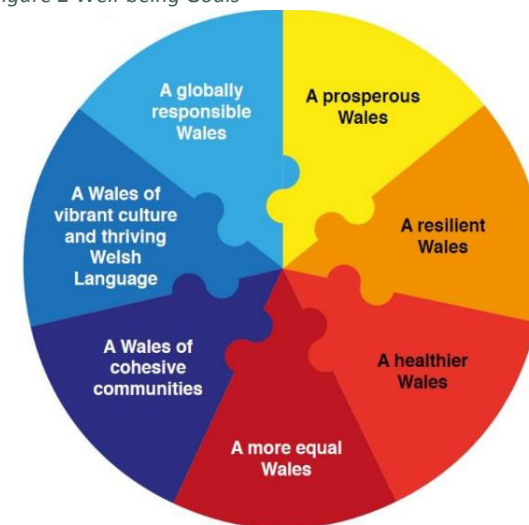
2.2 Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 - A Resilient Wales

The work undertaken to meet the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems duty will assist Monmouthshire County Council to maximise contributions to Well-being Goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Public Service Board for Monmouthshire which includes Monmouthshire County Council is preparing a Well-being Assessment, Well-being Objectives and a Well-being Plan to outline how the authority and other public services in the County will meet the 7 well-being goals which explicitly includes: **A Resilient Wales**.

This goal is to ensure Wales is a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

Figure 2 Well-being Goals



A summary of the duty published by Welsh Government can be found at: <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150512-biodiversity-and-resilience-of-ecosystems-duty-en.pdf>

The full text of the Environment (Wales) Act and Explanatory notes can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents>

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 <http://www.thewaleswewant.co.uk/about/well-being-future-generations-wales-act-2015/well-being-future-generations-wales-act-2015>

More information on the Resilient Wales goal can be found at: <http://www.thewaleswewant.co.uk/goals/resilient>