



GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD CLIMATE & NATURE PRIORITIES WORKSHOP NOTE

1. This document provides a summary of a discussion from a workshop held at University South Wales in Newport, Gwent on 11th March 2025. The aim of the workshop was to identify what collaborative work was needed Gwent -wide, at a Public Services Board level, to enhance current activities from individual partners and existing partnerships on nature, climate risk management and decarbonisation. The session was facilitated by Netherwood Sustainable Futures and Well-being Planner – experienced consultants on environmental governance.
2. During the workshop representatives of Public Services Board partners were provided with a critical friend 'think piece' from Dr. Alan Netherwood on the current public service delivery context; current partnership and corporate activity on climate risk, nature and decarbonisation; and a critical challenge on work undertaken so far by PSB partners and opportunities going forward. The intention of this was to stimulate discussion on reflective exercises, the outputs of which are summarised in this note. The slide set is available from Juliet Michael, Natural Resources Wales and should be read alongside this note juliet.michael@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
3. The following sections provide a synthesis of the discussions from the workshops, with additional analysis and input from NSF and WBP. There are, we believe, the key messages to the PSB from the experts in the room from partner organisations.
 - Climate Risk Management 2025-30
 - Nature Recovery 2020-30
 - Decarbonisation 2025-30
4. NSF and WBP suggest a next step is for a senior working group from PSB partners to explore the key messages from this paper and to (if appropriate) develop a simple theory of change for specific work items over the next five years.
5. NSF and WBP are able to help to facilitate this discussion during Summer 2025. Questions to explore in this working group (amongst others) are:

is there appetite from a senior level to respond to these insights – have they the time and influence to make these things happen within current working contexts?
whether these activities would happen without PSB intervention at a senior level and a coordinated effort with regular reporting and scrutiny from the PSB?
what approach to governance within the PSB could help to achieve these outcomes?

Dr. Alan Netherwood, Netherwood Sustainable Futures
Dafydd Thomas, Well-being Planner
28.04.25

6. **Climate Risk Management 2025-30** – attendees suggested additional work was required the following, *over and above* existing and planned work by individual PSB partners and current partnerships.

Strategic - *collective shaping, feeding in, responding, reporting, challenging, lobbying on strategy and policy that affects climate resilience in Gwent.*

- shared aims, goals and outcomes on climate adaptation
- a joint climate risk assessment for the whole of Gwent
- Gwent Climate Adaptation Plan and localised delivery plans.
- insights into key combined, cumulative and locational risks
- insight into infrastructural resilience
- leadership training and engagement

Operational - *collaborative interventions on the ground for climate adaptation outcomes.*

- share intelligence to focus on ripple effects of multiple climate impacts – not single issue – e.g. coal tip stability/ vegetation management/ community safety/ water quality
- establishing approaches to service risk assessments across the PSB (within operational services) to multiple climate risks; undertaking and communicating results.

Inter-Institutional - *collective evidence gathering, programmes, projects, funding bids to supporting climate adaptation outcomes.*

- understanding resource costs for effective climate adaptation – to influence financial planning
- insights into key interdependencies at risk and climate adaptation solutions
- establish joint approach to climate risk management through corporate and community risk registers
- internalising key messages from a Gwent-wide climate change risk assessment into business and operational planning
- shift to proactive climate risk management across organisations from current reactive management climate impacts
- Lobby Welsh Government to route funding to address climate risk through PSB rather than through individual agencies.

Community - *collaborative engagement, information provision and delivery to politicians, businesses, community groups and residents*

- communication of location specific climate risk to key audiences; businesses; town and community councils; local members and land managers (as well as the general public)

7. **Nature Recovery** – attendees suggested additional work was required the following , *over and above* existing and planned work by individual PSB partners and current partnerships

Strategic - *collective shaping, feeding in, responding, reporting, challenging, lobbying on strategy and policy that affects nature recovery in Gwent.*

- undertake critical analysis of activity and funding for nature recovery in Gwent and lobby WG and other funders to establish coordinated , functional for medium term activity – what would work better?
- to include a regional approach to green finance for nature recovery – from multiple sources including the private sector
- strategic assessment of what land is used for in Gwent and where (locationally) nature recovery and nature-based solutions should/could be targeted – to inform the work of the Corporate Joint Committee's Strategic Development Plan, Transport Plan and approach to economic regeneration. This should include an evaluation of who has agency over land -use and how they can be engage on nature recovery
- establishing nature recovery as a valued outcome of senior-decision making through effective training and continued engagement with leaders

Inter-Institutional - *collective evidence gathering, programmes, projects, funding bids to supporting nature recovery outcomes.*

- maximising efforts for biodiversity gain through asset/property management across the PSB partnership – collective approach and reporting
- utilising the existing work on green Infrastructure and Green Grid Partnership to target nature recovery funding at specific locations
- continued funding to update the Gwent State of Nature Report
- Deliver on the Regional Nature Recovery Action Plan.

Operational - *collaborative interventions on the ground for nature recovery outcomes*

No indication of additional work needed

Community - *collaborative engagement, information provision and delivery to politicians, businesses, community groups and residents*

No indication of additional work needed

8. **Decarbonisation** – attendees suggested additional work was required the following , *over and above* existing and planned work by individual PSB partners and current partnerships

Strategic - *collective shaping, feeding in, responding, reporting, challenging, lobbying on strategy and policy that affects decarbonisation in Gwent.*

- A Gwent -wide approach to decarbonisation to 2050 to inform strategic direction – in addition to Local Area Energy plans and the work of CCR which is LAS only) This needs to inform the work of the Strategic Development, Transport and Economic Development Plans of the CJC; and Net Zero plans of individual organisations.

Operational - *collaborative interventions on the ground for decarbonisation outcomes.*

- Collaborate on Fleet Replacement Plans to access better efficiencies and timing of vehicle deliveries.

Inter-Institutional - *collective evidence gathering, programmes, projects, funding bids to supporting decarbonisation outcomes.*

- maximising efforts for decarbonisation through asset/property management across the PSB partnership – collaboration beyond organisational and LA borders - collective reporting as part of a Gwent 2050 Decarbonisation approach
- Collaborative and wider fleet / transport review to identify technology, infrastructure requirements and opportunities for sharing and developing a critical mass business case.

Community - *collaborative engagement, information provision and delivery to politicians, businesses, community groups and residents*

- Gwent wide awareness campaign and local engagement - targeting public and groups that work with the public