



**ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 PART 1 – SECTION 6
THE BIODIVERSITY & RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY REPORT 2023**

**REVIEWED, APPROVED & ADOPTED
BY FLINT TOWN COUNCIL
ON 16th FEBRAURY 2026**

1. Introduction and Context

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, public authorities must:

“Seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and, in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems.”

This duty requires biodiversity considerations to be embedded into the Council's decision-making processes, policies, procurement, projects, land management, grant funding, and day-to-day activities.

The reporting duty is proportionate to the size and functions of the organisation and reflects the action that can reasonably be undertaken.

Flint Town Council provides a range of services and works in partnership with other organisations whose activities impact biodiversity within the Town.

The Council is committed to promoting sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing environmentally responsible practices wherever possible.

Further information on national and local biodiversity priorities can be found at: Wales Biodiversity Partnership – www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

2. Local Context

Within Flint Town:

- There are five Primary Schools and three High Schools.
- There are twelve play areas supported financially by the Town Council on a match-funding basis with Flintshire County Council.
- The Council contributes annually to the Coastal Ranger Service.
- The Council works closely with Flintshire County Council and other statutory bodies.
- Hanging baskets are installed throughout the Town Centre in summer.
- The Council works with local schools, allotment holders, and residents to encourage home-grown fruit, vegetables, and flowers.
- Flint Town Hall supports sustainability through recycling facilities, energy monitoring, and hybrid meetings.
- A monthly Repair Café Wales is hosted to promote repair, reuse, and waste reduction.
- The Council-employed Caretaker maintains clean and safe public spaces, including litter picking, weed management, and environmental upkeep.

The town includes environmentally significant areas such as:

- Dee Estuary (Ramsar, SSSI, SAC)

- Flint Flushing Pools
- Saltmarsh and coastal habitats
- Brownfield coastal sites of ecological interest

3. Action Plan Under Section 6 Duty

3.1 Embed Biodiversity into Decision Making and Procurement

Actions:

- Support the Flintshire County Council Coastal Ranger Project to improve biodiversity within the Coast and Countryside of Flint.
- Reflect biodiversity commitments within the Council's Annual Report and strategic documents.
- Consider biodiversity impacts when reviewing planning applications and associated matters.
- Integrate biodiversity considerations into procurement and grant funding decisions where appropriate.

Monitoring:

- Evidence of biodiversity considerations in planning responses.
- Annual reporting references.
- Financial contributions supporting biodiversity projects.

3.2 Raise Awareness of Biodiversity

Actions:

- Work with local schools to encourage awareness of environmental and sustainability matters.
- Encourage community volunteering in green spaces and coastal areas.
- Publish biodiversity updates and achievements on the Council website and social media.
- Support the production and distribution of coastal and castle interpretation materials.
- Host a monthly Repair Café Wales event at Flint Town Hall to encourage repair, reuse, and waste reduction, supporting a circular economy and reducing environmental impact.
- Encourage efficient digital communication practices within the office, including reducing unnecessary "reply all" email use to minimise digital carbon footprint.
- Host bi-monthly Business Breakfast meetings to engage local businesses on sustainability and biodiversity awareness, encouraging environmentally responsible practices in the local economy.

Monitoring:

- Number of school engagements.
- Volunteer participation levels.
- Website and social media activity.
- Distribution of informational materials.
- Participation and feedback from Business Breakfast meetings.

3.3 Safeguard Principal Species and Habitats**Actions:**

- Contribute to management of protected coastal sites and locally designated wildlife sites (SINCs).
- Support protection of:
 - Dee Estuary (Ramsar, SSSI, SAC)
 - Flint Flushing Pools
 - Saltmarsh habitats

Monitoring:

- Records of sites supported.
- Evidence of habitat protection and management activity.

3.4 Restore and Create Habitats and Ecological Networks**Actions:**

- Provide annual financial support (£5,000) towards maintenance of the Coastal Path and biodiversity improvements.
- Support tree and shrub planting across coastal areas.
- Continue revised mowing regimes to reduce frequency of cuts
- Encourage wildflowers and support pollinators.
- Support hedge laying and hedgerow creation.
- Protect saltmarsh flushing pools.

Monitoring:

- Regular contact and collaboration with the Coastal Ranger regarding habitat management.
- Financial contributions supporting biodiversity projects (e.g., Coastal Path maintenance, tree/shrub planting).
- Support provided to community and partner-led habitat initiatives.
- Evidence of advice, encouragement, or promotion of biodiversity-friendly practices.

3.5 Tackle Negative Environmental Factors

Actions:

- Reduce pesticide use to essential applications only (e.g. control of invasive non-native species such as Japanese Knotweed).
- Work with FCC Coastal Ranger to manage invasive species.
- Support measures to prevent pollution entering Swinchiard Brook, Flint Dock, and the Dee Estuary.
- Encourage industrial organisations to maintain high environmental standards.
- Support enforcement and land management on FCC coastal landholdings.

Monitoring:

- Area of invasive species treated.
- Quantity of pesticide applied.
- Reports of pollution or preventative action.

3.6 Use, Improve and Share Evidence

Actions:

- Work with FCC Biodiversity Officer to ensure best practice.
- Seek expert ecological advice when necessary.
- Share information and good practice through partnerships.

Monitoring:

- Records of consultation with biodiversity professionals.
- Evidence-based improvements implemented.

3.7 Support Capacity and Partnership Working

Actions:

- Require organisations receiving Town Council grants (where appropriate) to demonstrate biodiversity benefit.
- Continue partnership working with FCC Coastal Ranger and Biodiversity Officer.
- Encourage additional volunteers to support wildlife areas.
- Support formation of working partnerships to deliver biodiversity improvements.

- Support the Repair Café initiative as a community education opportunity to promote sustainability and reduce waste.

Monitoring:

- Grant conditions including biodiversity considerations.
- Amount of funding delivering biodiversity benefit.
- Number of partnerships formed.

4. Review of Section 6 Duty

4.1 What Has Worked Well

- Continued partnership with FCC Coastal Ranger.
- Queen's Green Canopy planting at Flint Marsh Walk.
- Tree planting across coastal woodlands and brownfield sites.
- Managing off-road motorbike access on estuary saltmarsh.
- Restoration of wetland areas within SSSI flushing pools.

4.2 Barriers Identified

- Limited statutory powers – the Council can encourage but not enforce.
- Lack of in-house ecological expertise.
- Poor site access.
- Contaminated ground on former industrial land.
- Resource and funding constraints.

4.3 What Will Change / Future Improvements

- Increased collaboration with FCC Biodiversity Officer.
- More proactive promotion of biodiversity via Council website and social media.
- Direct engagement with statutory bodies (NRW, FCC) where environmental damage risks arise.
- Continued promotion and support of Flintshire Coast Park.
- Greater integration of biodiversity considerations into grant funding criteria.

5. Monitoring and Review

The Section 6 Duty will be:

- Monitored by Council Members.
- Reported periodically by the Town Clerk to the Finance & Policy Committee.
- Reviewed annually as part of the Council's governance and reporting cycle.

