

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Council

Date of meeting: 23rd September 2021

Title: **Edinburgh Declaration: the greater inclusion of the role of local authorities and cities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - ensuring transformative change for nature over the coming decade.**

Purpose of the report: **To seek approval for Ceredigion County Council to sign up to the Edinburgh Declaration and to support its principles.**

For: Decision

**Cabinet Portfolio and Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member:**

The Leader of the Council has received a letter from Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change (see Appendix A) inviting Local Authorities to join the Welsh Government in supporting the 'Edinburgh Declaration: the greater inclusion of the role of local authorities and cities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - ensuring transformative change for nature over the coming decade'.

The Edinburgh Declaration is a political statement setting out commitments to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework locally. It will ensure people who live in local authorities across Wales can live in harmony with nature and protect valuable local ecosystems for future generations.

Through the Edinburgh Declaration we support the call upon UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Parties to:

- Take the transformative action required to halt biodiversity loss
- Recognise the vital role of subnational and local governments
- Support a dedicated decision on a new Plan of Action for subnational governments, city and local authorities. A decision to be taken at COP15: the Conference of Parties, who signed the UN Convention on Climate Change, and are meeting in China in Autumn 2021 ; and
- Develop a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the post-2020 framework.

The Minister recognises the key role of Local Authorities in taking forward local level actions for nature and is requesting all Councils to support the principles as set out in the Edinburgh Declaration. This will demonstrate the global will for a dedicated decision and renewed plan of action for subnational governments and local authorities to be adopted within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15.

Council is therefore requested to consider signing up to pledge its support for the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?

If, not, please state why

Summary:

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Long term: It will ensure people who live in local authorities across Wales can live in harmony with nature and protect valuable local ecosystems for future generations.

Integration:

Collaboration: Work with partner organisations to protect valuable local ecosystems.

Involvement: Communicating, educating and raising public awareness.

Prevention: Protection of valuable local ecosystems for future generations.

Recommendation(s): **To approve that the Council's signs up to pledge its support for the Edinburgh Process and Declaration.**

Reasons for decision: **To recognise the key role of Local Authorities in taking forward local level actions for nature and to demonstrate the global will for a dedicated decision and renewed plan of action for subnational governments and local authorities to be adopted within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15.**

Overview and Scrutiny: N/A

Policy Framework: Carbon Management Plan 2019

Corporate Priorities:

- Investing in People's Futures
- Promoting Environmental and Community Resilience

Finance and Procurement implications: None relating to the supporting the Edinburgh Declaration.

Legal Implications: N/A

Staffing implications: N/A

Property / asset implications: None relating to the supporting the Edinburgh Declaration.

Risk(s): N/A

Statutory Powers: N/A

Background Papers: [Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Information/About-us/Edinburgh-Declaration-on-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework)

Motion to Council 5th March 2020 – Declaration of a global climate emergency.

Appendices: Appendix A – Letter from Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change, Welsh Government

Corporate Officer: **Lead** N/A

Reporting Officer: N/A

Date: 16th September 2021

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
 Ein cyf/Our ref

September 2021

Dear

I am writing to invite you to join me in supporting the Edinburgh Declaration: the greater inclusion of the role of local authorities and cities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - ensuring transformative change for nature over the coming decade.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is currently developing a post-2020 framework for global biodiversity and new global targets. We are moving into the next decade with a stepped up ambition to deliver for nature, and there is increasing recognition of the role of local authorities and cities in translating global targets into local delivery.

On behalf of the CBD, the Scottish Government has been leading the “Edinburgh Process” – an online, global engagement and consultation for subnational, regional and local players – with the aim of securing greater reference to the role of subnational and Local Authorities, including cities, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Welsh Government supports the Edinburgh Process for biodiversity, and in particular the Edinburgh Declaration, a political statement setting out commitments to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework locally. It will ensure people who live in local authorities across Wales can live in harmony with nature and protect valuable local ecosystems for future generations.

Now, more than ever, it is essential to have a healthy and safe natural environment and Welsh Government recognises the vital role local authorities are playing in addressing the impacts of climate change and habitat loss. This framework recognises the increasingly valuable role of subnational governments and local authorities in translating global targets into local delivery.

Through the Edinburgh Declaration we support the call upon CBD Parties to:

- Take the transformative action required to halt biodiversity loss
- Recognise the vital role of subnational and local governments
- Support a dedicated decision on a new Plan of Action for subnational governments, city and local authorities. A decision to be taken at COP15: the Conference of Parties, who signed the UN Convention on Climate Change, and are meeting in China in Autumn 2021 ; and

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Develop a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the post-2020 framework.

I recognise the key role of local authorities in taking forward local level actions for nature and am writing to request your backing for the principles set out in the Edinburgh Declaration. This will demonstrate the global will for a dedicated decision and renewed plan of action for subnational governments and local authorities to be adopted within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15.

Further information about how to sign up to pledge your support for the Edinburgh Process and Edinburgh Declaration is available at [Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Edinburgh-Declaration-on-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework)

I believe that it is important to encourage a greater involvement of subnational and local authorities internationally within the new framework. I would therefore very much welcome your support.

Yours sincerely

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change