

R021: Phosphate levels

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Select Risk to Update	
R021: Phosphate levels	Corporate
R10_05_Impact of regulatory changes on economic growth (SAC, TAN15)	Service

My Risks Description		
Description	Evidence of Risk	Potential Consequences
<p>In Jan 21 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) published evidence of phosphate levels for riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Wales, (including the Afon Teifi) accompanied by interim planning position guidance (updated May 21, June 23, June 24). The Council is the competent authority as defined in the Habitats Regulations and is required to have regard for advice when making planning decisions both for developments and the Local Development Plan (LDP). There is a phosphate impact on 50% of Urban Service Centre's and 14% of Local Service Centre's designated in the LDP. The total land affected of Ceredigion equates to 806 km<sup>2</sup> / 44.6% of the county. 14 allocated housing sites are constrained delivering potentially 572 homes of which 114 were expected to be affordable. There are significant issues relating to bringing development forward in this area. The area affected is expected to increase when further information and guidance is released in relation to the Marine SACs.</p>	<p>Nutrient monitoring by NRW has established that 8 of the 16 monitoring stations on the Afon Teifi are failing to meet their targets as set by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). Therefore, they are failing to meet the requirements of their conservation favourable status, potentially damaging the delicate eco systems which warranted its designation as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Such targets are also being monitored for other nutrients both on the Teifi SAC and on the marine SACs that encompass our coastline.</p>	<p>It is very likely that development across the County will be significantly constrained until measures can be implemented to mitigate the impacts of nutrients on riverine and marine environments. This could restrict the ability of the Council to deliver major elements of its Corporate Strategy, the Economic Strategy, the Local Development Plan and key health and social care facilities. The situation is expected to worsen when data relating to Marine SAC assessments are released in 2024 which will have significant implications for the rest of the County.</p>

My Risks - Risk Score Entry (Quarterly)	
	Value
RM01 Ardrwiad/Impact	4 Mawr/Major
RM02 Tebygolrwydd/Prob	3 Posib/Possibly

  

Risk Target
12

  

Last reviewed by
This report does not contain any data

Comments (Quarterly progress against mitigating actions)
<p><b>Comments (Quarterly progress against mitigating actions)</b></p> <p>We expect the Marine Nutrient Release to be in May 2025, we are developing a marine monitoring project and have had early discussions with funders. We are mapping the region we expect to be affected and undertaking a risk assessment of planning applications and allocated sites. We continue to lobby on the issue of NRW policy on Integrated Constructed Wetlands</p> <p>Work through the NMB and planning service remains ongoing with development capacity having been released across the catchment, and in water monitoring stations deployed, alongside citizen science testing. However progress is frustrated at a national level by NRW policy on Integrated Constructed Wetlands and delays over decision making on Habitats Regulations Assessments by PEDW. Furthermore we still await a marine nutrient release with no updates as to timescales from NRW.</p>

My Mitigating Actions Quarterly Progress					
Mitigating Action	Due Date	03/24	06/24	09/24	12/24
Consider local solutions such as Private Treatment Plants and working with Dw^r Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) to remedy the impact of the Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) contributing 685 of the phosphates in the Afon Teifi	31 Mar 2025	★	★	★	★
Continue to lobby for a 'Team Wales' approach including a national mitigation list and database	31 Mar 2025	★	★	★	★
Ensure all applications, plans and projects are screened in accordance with NRW guidance and a Test of Likely Significant Effect is undertaken followed by an Appropriate Assessment	31 Mar 2025	★	★	★	★

My Mitigating Actions Overall Status		
Mitigating Action	Due Date	Stage
Consider local solutions such as Private Treatment Plants and working with Dw^r Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) to remedy the impact of the Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) contributing 685 of the phosphates in the Afon Teifi	31/03/2025	In Progress
Continue to lobby for a 'Team Wales' approach including a national mitigation list and database	31/03/2025	In Progress
Ensure all applications, plans and projects are screened in accordance with NRW guidance and a Test of Likely Significant Effect is undertaken followed by an Appropriate Assessment where required before issuing a decision	31/03/2025	In Progress
Raise awareness locally and nationally on this issue and identify ways to refine the guidance	31/03/2025	In Progress
Seek local solutions - learning form best practice elsewhere - utilizing council owned assets where possible	31/03/2025	In Progress
Work at a sub national and national level through the working groups to identify solutions and mitigations and work collaboratively across catchments	31/03/2025	In Progress