Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Report
Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Report

Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 put in place a Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty for public authorities (the section 6 or s6 duty). To comply with the duty public authorities are required to embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their day-to-day activities, policies, plans, programmes, and projects. The duty introduced a new planning and reporting requirement. This requires that every public authority which is not a Minister of the Crown or government department must prepare and publish a plan. Every public authority must also prepare and publish a report as to what they have done to comply with the duty.

This document lays out the British Council Wales position for 2019 – 2022.

The British Council

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. In 2019-2020 we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive a 14.5 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. www.britishcouncil.org

British Council Wales

At British Council Wales we promote the best of Welsh culture and education internationally, through our programmes in education and the arts. We help Welsh students, teachers, artists and others connect with their counterparts around the world. In a globalised world, we
believe that Wales must be an outward-looking nation, as the most successful countries - both culturally and economically - are those that embrace an ethos of open sharing of experience and expertise. https://wales.britishcouncil.org/en

**British Council Wales Office**

The British Council opened its first office in Wales in 1944. Since 2008 British Council Wales has occupied one floor of the office block 1 Kingsway in Cardiff. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, since March 2020 the office has been closed with staff working from home.

In the future our Cardiff staff will not be returning to full-time office working and continue to mainly work from home. Our office space is being redesigned to be a flexible meeting space, which will occupy only half the current floor when reopened.

Our office energy supplier is Smartest Energy, who provide 100% Renewable Energy.

**British Council Environment Global Policy Statement**

All British Council offices are required to follow the organisation’s Environment Global Policy Statement:

Our activities have an impact on the environment and we are committed to managing and minimising that impact.

We track the management of our properties against procedures, objectives and targets developed to reduce our environmental impact. Through our Environmental Management Systems we are able to benchmark the performance of our estate.

The British Council is committed to:

- reviewing, understanding and controlling the range of environmental impacts arising from its activities
- ensuring that it complies with UK and relevant international environmental legislation
• improving the environmental performance of its properties globally, reducing energy, water and waste
• communicating its progress in reducing its environmental impact to internal and external stakeholders
• taking account of environmental and sustainability factors in its procurement
• monitoring and reducing the environmental impact of its business travel and exploring new ways of delivering its work sustainably.

We will provide adequate and appropriate resources to implement this global policy statement and will ensure it is communicated and understood.

The British Council will review this global policy statement annually to reflect new legal and regulatory developments and promote good practice.

The global policy statement was approved by Kate Ewart-Biggs OBE, Interim Chief Executive, in March 2021 and is due for review in March 2022.

Environment Strategy

In April 2021 the British Council launched its Environment Strategy. Our Strategic Objective is to provide an integrated approach to the British Council’s environmental impact covering both programme and operational solutions, to support delivery of the organisation’s environmental ambitions, to balance these against commercial and charitable objectives and to generate greater cultural relations impact worldwide.

In the UK

In 2021 we signed up to the Greening Government Commitments, which set out targets and actions UK government departments and their agencies will take to reduce environmental impact. We started reporting from April 2021 and will be reporting quarterly.
Globally

The Programmes strand of our activity focuses on how we'll bring the environment into our cultural relations work as a key content theme, as we're already doing through The Climate Connection, our global COP26 (the United Nations Climate Change Conference) programme.

For our Operations strand we have a set of environmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets to support change. They are grouped into 5 areas of focus: carbon emissions; green travel; recycling and waste; materials and suppliers; and water. Departments, regions and countries are setting firm actions that they can undertake to enable us to achieve our 2025 targets.

Please see appendix 1 for Wales targets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British Council KPI</th>
<th>17/18 baseline</th>
<th>2025 target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carbon emissions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce our total carbon footprint by 30%</td>
<td>32,744 tCO2e</td>
<td>22,920 tCO2e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Green travel</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce travel carbon footprint per person year on year</td>
<td>1.45 tCO2e</td>
<td>&gt;0.75 tCO2e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce annual distance travelled via flight by 50%</td>
<td>126m Km</td>
<td>63m Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recycling and waste</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce overall waste generated by 20%</td>
<td>1,317 tonnes</td>
<td>1,053 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase quantity recycled to at least 70% of overall waste</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>tbc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce number of premises using single use plastics to 0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materials and suppliers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce procurement from suppliers who do not comply with the environmentally sustainable procurement policy year on year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>tbc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce potable water consumption by 8%</td>
<td>593,000 cubic metres</td>
<td>545,000 cubic metres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supporting change

The Environment Framework is a network of staff who stay connected to our goals, supporting regions and countries in understanding and acting on those goals through their own local expertise and challenges. They provide information on our progress, ensuring we embed our targets into everyday business decisions. We track progress through quarterly environmental performance data submissions for reporting internally and to external stakeholders. We will soon be rolling out a new environmental management software system to improve visibility of our performance.

Embedding change

Alongside the Environment Framework, our global network of Green Champions plays a key role in the success of our Environment Strategy, supporting and advocating the strategy and working with other stakeholders to help us achieve our environmental targets.

Changing our ways of working in Wales

Our work in Education in Wales

In line with the British Council’s Environment global policy statement, we have been reducing the amount of travel undertaken by our team. During the pandemic our work has moved online, including online meetings, digital conferences and collaborations.

For example, since March 2020 these major education events have been delivered online, reducing travel around Wales:

- Language Trends Wales 2020 launch
- Further Education Skills Seminar
- International Education Programme webinars
- School Modern Foreign Languages Conferences – previously we would have travelled around Wales to deliver these events.

In the future we see ourselves moving to a blended model of online work with some face-to-face where this is necessary.
Our work with the Welsh cultural sector

We are reducing travel now and will continue to do so in the future. There will always be some in-person international arts showcasing, but we are working to ensure every event is as productive as possible and ensuring there is always a strategic reason to travel to an event.

Our Go Digital programme is funding digital collaborations between artists and art organisations in Wales and Sub-Saharan Africa. As part of this project we have produced a report examining the process of collaborating digitally.

Since March 2020 we have delivered major cultural events digitally, reducing travel around Wales and internationally:

- British Council Literature Seminar, which would normally have taken place as part of the German literature festival Literaturhaus Stuttgart. The series of events ‘We are Wales: disparate voices, landscapes and stories’ took place online
- Two sports diplomacy events
- Celtic Connections – a two-week festival
- Cerdd Iaith teacher training programme

Summary and plan

- British Council Wales works to the British Council’s Environment Global Policy Statement as detailed above.
- Moving to a smaller office, with staff working from home will reduce our corporate global footprint, but of course some of this footprint will now be made at the homes or other workspace belonging to our staff. We will consider ways of continuing to encourage our staff to be environmentally friendly, while not intruding on their private spaces.
- We will continue to use digital means of collaboration to reduce Wales, UK and international travel.
- We will continue to encourage the Welsh cultural sector to minimise international travel for showcasing, while maximising any face-to-face overseas opportunities that go ahead.
## Appendix 1

### Environmental Performance - Wales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Baseline 2017/18</th>
<th>Actual 2020/21</th>
<th>Q1 2021/22</th>
<th>2025 target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon emissions</td>
<td>Reduce our total carbon footprint by 56%</td>
<td>tCO2e</td>
<td>64.49</td>
<td>56.37</td>
<td>13.16</td>
<td>28.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td></td>
<td>tCO2e</td>
<td>13.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td></td>
<td>tCO2e</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green travel</td>
<td>Reduce travel carbon footprint per person year on year</td>
<td>tCO2e</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduce annual distance travelled via flight by 50%</td>
<td>km</td>
<td>2,232,331</td>
<td>105,741</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,116,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling and waste</td>
<td>Reduce overall waste generated by 20%</td>
<td>tonnes</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase quantity recycled to at least 70% of overall waste</td>
<td>tonnes</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reduce number of premises using single use plastics to 0%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials and suppliers</td>
<td>Reduce procurement from suppliers who do not comply with the environmentally sustainable procurement policy year on year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Reduce potable water consumption by 8%</td>
<td>cubic metres</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Carbon emissions - buildings and all travel

- Baseline 2017/18
- Actual 2020/21
- Q1 2021/22
- 2025 target

Green travel - annual distance travelled by air

- Baseline 2017/18
- Actual 2020/21
- Q1 2021/22
- 2025 target
Water consumption

- Baseline 2017/18
- Actual 2020/21
- Q1 2021/22
- 2025 target

British Council Wales September 2021