

**Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6****The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2025****Name of Town or Community Council:** St Davids City Council**Introduction and Context**

St Davids City Council serves a population of 1,751 residents across 46.4 square kilometres in Pembrokeshire. The Council's jurisdiction includes the urban core of St Davids and surrounding hamlets, much of which falls within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and overlaps with internationally important sites including the St Davids Peninsula Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsey Island.

**How the Council supports biodiversity:**

- Direct land management (Memorial Playing Field, Waunfawr Playing Field, Whitesands Car Park)
- Asset ownership (City Hall, Cross Square)
- Grant funding and donations in support of local environmental organisations
- Community leadership and partnership working
- Consultative planning responses

**Financial context:** The Council income is generated through Whitesands Car Park operations, and on a precept that increased from £0 (2023/24) to £60,000 (2025/26), reflecting non-domestic council tax increases.

**Legislative framework:** The Council operates under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

**Action Report**

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised formal Biodiversity Policy (first considered for adoption: December 2025)</li> <li>• Reformed governance procedures to prioritise biodiversity in agenda items</li> <li>• Council representatives appointed to environmental bodies (EcoDewi, Dawrog Management Committee, Pembrokeshire Peninsula Stakeholder Group)</li> <li>• Pesticide-free management regime adopted for public spaces</li> <li>• Support for Plastic Free Community Project</li> </ul>	Annual policy review Committee attendance records Procurement records
-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained Bee Friendly City status (first in Wales, achieved 2018)</li> </ul>	Website analytics Newsletter circulation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Relaunched Pollinator Trail with new signage (2024)</li> <li>• Monthly environmental updates through "Solva &amp; St Davids News"</li> <li>• Distribution of wildflower seed packs via "Pollinating the Peninsula" project</li> <li>• Partnership with Dr Beynon's Bug Farm and EcoDewi for community engagement</li> </ul>	Community feedback Seed pack distribution numbers
-safeguard principal species and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning consultations focused on environmental protection</li> <li>• Collaboration with National Trust and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority</li> <li>• Support for protection of maritime heathlands, sea cliffs and nesting sites for chough and peregrine falcon</li> </ul>	Planning response records Partnership meeting minutes
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Wildflower verge creation on Glasfryn Road</li> <li>• Wildflower planter maintenance in Cross Square</li> <li>• Reduced mowing regimes in designated areas</li> <li>• Use of native species of local provenance</li> </ul>	Site monitoring Photographic records Maintenance schedules
-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration of Porthclais Harbour Bathing Water Designation project, including assessment of feasibility for volunteer mobilisation in water quality surveys.</li> <li>• Pesticide-free public space management</li> <li>• Plastic Free Community Project partnership</li> </ul>	Welsh Government designation criteria Data submission
-use improve and share evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in Wales Biodiversity Partnership</li> <li>• Data sharing with Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership</li> <li>• Alignment with Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)</li> <li>• Feasibility assessment of bathing water designation requirements</li> </ul>	Partnership reports Data submission
-support capacity and/or other organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for EcoDewi</li> <li>• Partnership with Dr Beynon's Bug Farm</li> <li>• Collaboration with Together for Change on Community Well-being Action Plan</li> <li>• Support for volunteer-led conservation activities</li> </ul>	Partnership agreements Activity reports from partner organisations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of meeting spaces and administrative assistance</li> </ul>	
<b>Review of s6 duty</b>		
<b>What has worked well? What have the barriers been? What will you change?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful maintenance of Bee Friendly City status demonstrating sustained commitment to pollinator conservation</li> <li>• Effective partnership model leveraging expertise and resources beyond the Council's capacity</li> <li>• Formalisation of biodiversity governance through revised policy and committee structures</li> <li>• Strong community engagement, particularly through volunteer-led projects</li> <li>• Strategic use of planning consultations to protect internationally important habitats</li> </ul>		
<b>How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dramatic increase in Non-Domestic Rates (from £12,000 to £33,000) diverting funds from direct biodiversity work</li> <li>• Regulatory complexity in obtaining permissions for sustainable innovations (e.g. solar panels, community art)</li> <li>• Reliance on volunteer capacity for technical projects requiring sustained engagement</li> <li>• Rising energy and operational costs constraining budgets for "additional" environmental projects</li> </ul>		
<b>What will you change?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue renewable energy implementation (solar panels on City Hall) to reduce carbon footprint and operational costs</li> <li>• Strengthen integration of biodiversity considerations in all financial planning decisions</li> <li>• Seek additional grant funding to supplement precept-based income</li> <li>• Continue building capacity through partnerships to overcome resource limitations</li> <li>• Enhance monitoring and data collection to better demonstrate impact</li> </ul>		
<b>How and when will the Section 6 duty be monitored and the plan reviewed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annual review:</b> The Biodiversity Policy, once adopted will be reviewed annually as part of the Council's standard policy audit cycle</li> <li>• <b>Three-yearly reporting:</b> The next statutory Section 6 report will be published by December 2028</li> <li>• <b>Ongoing monitoring:</b> Partnership activities and project outcomes reviewed through quarterly committee meetings</li> <li>• <b>Community feedback:</b> Regular updates via newsletters and website with opportunities for public input</li> </ul>		

**Report prepared:** December 2025

**Next review due:** December 2028