

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: Local Biodiversity Action Plan Review and Statutory Report to Scottish Government
From:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT AND ESTATES	
Date:	21 APRIL 2015	

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek committee approval to publish the revised North Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 1.2 To seek committee approval to publish a report on delivery of the Biodiversity Duty 2011-2014 to Scottish Government in line with our duties under the the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 Act.

2 Background

- 2.1 The North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan was launched in 1999. This plan aims to conserve and enhance the biodiversity found in North Lanarkshire. To start doing this action plans were written for 17 habitats and species that were identified as being of particular local importance. The actions in these plans are being taken forward by many different organisations, individuals and community groups. This action is co-ordinated by the Senior Officer Biodiversity. The plans were updated in 2004 and 2008.
- 2.2 Since 2008 there have been several changes in national policy and legislation. The most relevant of these changes are:
 - The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands" which sets out a framework for conserving biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future, was published by the Scottish executive in May 2004. This has been supplemented by 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity, the Scottish Governments response to the Aichi Targets on the Convention for Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.
 - The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, which applies to Scotland only, received Royal Assent in June 2004, with the majority of its provisions coming into force on 29 November 2004. The Act places a duty on every public body to further the conservation of biodiversity consistent with the proper exercise of their functions.
 - The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 made a number of significant changes to legislation protecting wildlife. It came into force on 01 January 2012 and introduced a requirement for all public bodies to make publicly available a report on their compliance with the biodiversity duty. For public bodies already established on that date, the first reports are due to be prepared and published by 01 January 2015
- 2.3 The 2008 plan agreed actions up to 2013 and a revision is required to remove actions that have been completed, incorporate new plans as required and set out a new set of actions for the partnership for the next 5 years.

3 Progress to date

- 3.1 A revision of the Biodiversity Audit was undertaken during 2014 to identify changes in species and habitats and to highlight the requirement for any new plans.
- 3.2 The Biodiversity plan has been comprehensively reviewed by partners in the LBAP partnership. Several new plans have been included to reflect current priorities. The draft plans were open for consultation on the council website from the 26th September for two months and were also available on request from the Greenspace development office. Effort was also made through social media to encourage people to put forward their views on the plan. Comments received through this process have been included in the revised plan. A copy of the revised plan has been lodged in the members library
- 3.3 The LBAP will be launched in the spring and be available through the council website. A limited number of printed copies will be made and distributed on request and to key council departments.
- 3.4 A draft report of North Lanarkshire Councils delivery of the Biodiversity Duty 2011 – 2014 has been compiled seeking information from across the council. This covers actions undertaken directly in response to the LBAP but also more generic actions that benefit our biodiversity resource.
- 3.5 We are required to make this report publicly available. Following committee approval the report will be available on our website or from Greenspace Development on request.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of a limited print run of the revised LBAP will be met from the Countryside and Landscape budget.
- 4.2 The statutory report on Delivery of the Biodiversity duty 2011-14 will be available on our website and there are no financial implications.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 That the Committee approves publication of the revised North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 5.2 That the Committee approves publication of the draft report on our delivery of the Biodiversity duty between 2011 and 2014, in line with our statutory duties.
- 5.3 That this report be referred to Planning and Transportation Committee for information.



Kenneth Wilson
Head of Environment and Estates

Local Government Access to Information Act: For further information please contact Vicky Abernethy, Assistant Business Manager (Greenspace Development) 01236 780636.