



Report to: Cabinet Meeting; 4 June 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Emma Oldham – Biodiversity & Environmental Services

Director Lead: Matt Lamb – Planning & Growth

Lead Officer: Nick Law – Biodiversity & Ecology Lead Officer, Ext. 5333

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open report, key decision
Report Title	Biodiversity Report – First Consideration
Purpose of Report	To present proposed actions as a first consideration as to how NSDC might meet its statutory biodiversity duty as set in legislation.
Recommendations	That Cabinet approves publication of the presented <i>Biodiversity Report – First Consideration</i> with finalised agreed actions to then be brought back to Cabinet for approval within 3 months of publication of the First Consideration report.
Alternative Options Considered	There are no options available as publication of the First Consideration report is a statutory requirement.
Reason for Recommendations	<p>Publication of the <i>Biodiversity Report – First Consideration</i> is recommended as this is a statutory requirement.</p> <p>Publication of the report does not commit the Council to the proposed actions within the report. Government expects actions to be finalised and agreed as soon as possible after publication of the report.</p> <p>The proposed actions have been given careful consideration to ensure that they are sufficiently exhaustive, proportionate and realistically deliverable. Consequently, it is considered that finalising and agreeing proposed actions within the recommended 3 months from publication of the report is an appropriate time scale.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Report – First Consideration represents a framework for the Biodiversity Strategy which is a key objective of the Community Plan.</p>

1.0 **Background**

1.1 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 required that:

“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.”

1.2 The Environment Act 2021 subsequently amended Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to strengthen this ‘biodiversity duty’ which now places a legal obligation on public authorities to:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity;
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration; and
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

1.3 To meet its biodiversity duty public authorities should have completed a ‘first consideration’ of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024 and then agree policies and objectives as soon as possible after this date. Agreed actions should then be reconsidered within five years of completion of this ‘first consideration’ with subsequent rolling reconsiderations at a frequency of no longer than every five years.

1.4 Consequently, a ‘first consideration’ report has been drafted and forms **Appendix A** of this report. As 1 January 2024 deadline has passed, this is now overdue. Whilst there was an awareness of this deadline, the combination of the lead officer settling into post and then all matters relating to mandatory biodiversity net gain having to take priority led to this delay.

1.5 Following an introductory preamble, the report has a tabular structure:

- Theme
- Item
- First Consideration – Current State
- Proposed Future Actions
- Proposed Monitoring

1.6 The proposed future actions form the main area of consideration for Cabinet as these proposed actions will have impacts across the various functions of the Council.

1.7 However, it should be stressed that there is just a requirement to have published this Biodiversity Report - First Consideration and then for the Council to agree what policies and objectives will be created/adopted and implemented as soon as possible after 1 January 2024. Therefore, the recommendation is that Cabinet approves the publication of the Biodiversity Report – First Consideration document if it is satisfied that the content meets the Council’s obligations regarding this aspect of the biodiversity duty and that the proposed actions are proportionate, likely to be acceptable, realistically deliverable, and sufficiently exhaustive.

- 1.8 Because of the delay in publishing the first consideration it is recommended that Cabinet approve a suggested deadline for all actions to be finalised and approved by Cabinet within 3 months of any approval of the Biodiversity Report – First Consideration.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

- 2.1 Production of the biodiversity duty ‘first consideration’ is a legal requirement, consequently there is no alternative option to be considered.
- 2.2 The proposal is for the biodiversity duty ‘first consideration’ to be the document forming **Appendix A** of this report. As noted above, broad approval of the recommended proposed future actions forms the main consideration for Cabinet when deciding whether to approve the recommendation for the attached Biodiversity Report – First Consideration to be published. These actions are summarised here, with the most important ones in bold text. Some of the proposed actions are applicable to multiple themes, so for conciseness are only noted below under the first theme that they appear under in the report.

Council Strategies

- Community Plan 2023-2027
 - * Develop and implement a **‘Biodiversity Strategy’**;
 - * Continue to support development of ‘Habitat Banks’ within the District;
 - * Publish a local register of off-site and on-site biodiversity gains;
 - * Continue to engage with and contribute towards development of the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham;
 - * Complete initial **review of the Council’s own land holdings** to identify suitable areas for management for the purposes of biodiversity net gain; and
 - * Consider inclusion of reporting against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Green Infrastructure Strategy for Newark & Sherwood (2010)
 - * Review as part of the next review of the Amended Core Strategy.

Planning Policy

- Amended Core Strategy Development Plan Document
 - * At the next round of plan making, undertake an appraisal to **consider whether development should provide more than the mandatory minimum 10% BNG**; and
 - * At the next round of plan making, include biodiversity with a Design Code.
- Local Wildlife Site system
 - * NSDC’s ecologist(s) to have a direct supporting involvement with the Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) system within the District, engaging with site owners to promote favourable management and undertaking surveys.

Planning Services

- Planning Applications
 - * Continue to consider the effects on biodiversity in relation to adopted planning policies during the determination process.
- Biodiversity Net Gain
 - * As set out under ‘Community Plan’.

- In-house Expertise
 - * Undertake a feasibility assessment for the creation of a new permanent post to support the current Biodiversity and Ecology Lead Officer.

Environmental Services

- Land Management
 - * Investigate where management options not related to biodiversity net gain could benefit biodiversity.

Housing Maintenance & Asset Management

- Housing Stock Management
 - * Produce biodiversity awareness information sheets to inform repairs and maintenance procedures.

Corporate Property

- Asset Management
 - * Produce biodiversity awareness information sheets to inform repairs and maintenance procedures.
 - * Undertake a **feasibility study** to appraise the potential to **purchase land** for the specific purpose of **creating and selling biodiversity units**.

Collective

- Working with Partner Organisations
 - * Continue to work positively and collaboratively with partner organisations;
 - * Undertake two high profile public engagement events per annum to raise additional awareness of biodiversity;
 - * Review the current provision of Local Nature Reserves within the District.
- Raising Awareness
 - * Create additional biodiversity content for the Council's website and regularly refresh this; and
 - * Investigate ways of raising general awareness of biodiversity issues amongst NSDC staff.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications REF FIN24-25/4738

- 3.1 A Revenue Budget has already been established and is now in the MTFP. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None



Biodiversity Report – First Consideration

May 2024



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1.0 Introduction Legislative Background

When originally enacted, Section 40 of the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities \(NERC\) Act 2006](#) required that “*Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.*” This extended to all public authorities the biodiversity duty of Section 74 of the [Countryside and Rights of Way \(CROW\) Act 2000](#) which placed such a duty on Government and Ministers.

The [Environment Act 2021](#) then amended Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to strengthen this ‘biodiversity duty’ which now places a legal obligation on public authorities to:

1. Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration.
3. Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.

To meet its biodiversity duty public authorities should have completed a ‘first consideration’ of what action to take for biodiversity by 01 January 2024 and then agree policies and objectives as soon as possible after this date. Agreed actions should then be reconsidered within five years of completion of this ‘first consideration’ with subsequent rolling reconsiderations at a frequency of no longer than every five years.

There is a requirement that a check should be made to consider how these actions/strategies will affect how the authority complies with the biodiversity duty in respect of:

- Local Nature Recovery Strategies;
- Species Conservation Strategies; and
- Protected Site Strategies.

The Purpose of the Biodiversity Duty

By complying with the biodiversity duty it is anticipated that Newark and Sherwood District Council (the Council) will contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets for biodiversity, particularly those within the [Environmental Improvement Plan \(2023\)](#) which sets out government plans for significantly improving the natural environment. Key targets the government has committed to are:

- By 2030:
 - * Halt the decline in species abundance; and
 - * Protect 30% of UK land.
- By 2042:
 - * Increase species abundance levels by at least 10% from 2030;
 - * Restore or create at least 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife-rich habitats;
 - * Reduce the risk of species extinction; and
 - * Restore 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition.



What Actions Can Be Taken

Government guidance for [complying with the biodiversity duty](#) highlights key themes where local authorities can take actions to ensure compliance with the biodiversity duty:

- Council Strategies and Policies;
- Development plans and decisions;
- Land and corporate estate management;
- Education and raising awareness;
- Review of internal policies and processes; and
- Preparing for biodiversity net gain.

Timelines

Following completion of the ‘first consideration’ there is a legal requirement for local authorities to publish a biodiversity report for the first reporting period and this should be no later than 01 January 2026. Thereafter, the end date of each subsequent reporting period must be within 5 years of the end date of the previous reporting period, but the reporting period can be more frequent than that if the authority wishes. Reports must be published within 12 weeks of the reporting period end date.

Biodiversity Report Content

Although there is no set template for the biodiversity report government has published some guidance for local authorities and local planning authorities on [reporting biodiversity duty actions](#) . The following must be included:

- A summary of the action that has been taken to comply with the biodiversity duty;
- How the Council plans to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period;
- Actions the Council has taken to meet its biodiversity net gain obligations;
- Details of the biodiversity net gains that have resulted, or are expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans that the Council has approved;
- How the Council plans to meet its biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period; and
- Any other information that the Council considers appropriate.

An example report structure provided by the government is set out below, with the first three sections and their content mandatory, and subsequent ones optional.

- Section 1: The Council’s policies, objectives and actions.
 - * The policies and objectives the Council has set to meet its biodiversity duty;
 - * The actions the Council has completed, either alone or in partnership with others that benefit biodiversity; and
 - * Biodiversity net gain information.
- Section 2: How the Council has considered other strategies and has taken into account.
 - * Local nature recovery strategies;
 - * Protected site strategies; and
 - * Species conservation strategies.



- Section 3: The Council’s future actions.
 - * How the Council plans to fulfil its biodiversity duty over the 5 years following the end of the period being reported.

Optional sections are:

- Information about the Council;
- The Council’s top achievements;
- Information detailing how the Council’s policies and actions have helped biodiversity;
- How the Council has raised awareness and educated the community about biodiversity;
- How the Council has monitored and evaluated its actions; and
- The biodiversity highlights and challenges over the reporting period.

First Consideration Process

As there is no set guidance as to what should be included within the ‘first consideration’ the process used has been guided by the detail within the ‘Legislative Background’ and ‘Biodiversity Report Content’ sections of this Introduction.

A tabular format has been used for ease of reference and conciseness. This is structured as follows:

- **Theme** - Mostly based on Council Directorates;
- **Item** - Plans, policies, specific work areas;
- **Current State** – the current situation/position for the item;
- **Proposed Future Actions** – for each item, with the most important ones requiring consideration highlighted by bold text; and
- **Proposed monitoring** – initial consideration as to how, and how frequently the proposed action (if approved) would be monitored for progression and success. It is considered that monitoring should be achieved by identifying a small number of indicators but ensuring these are effective for their purpose by basing them on the S.M.A.R.T goal setting principle, i.e., they should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed.



2.0 First Consideration: Current State/Proposed Future Actions/Proposed Monitoring

Theme	Item	Current state	Proposed Future actions	Proposed Monitoring
Council Strategies	Community Plan 2023-2027	<p>A strong theme within the plan is to enhance and protect biodiversity. Key points are some of the actions identified within Objective 5 of the Community Plan:</p> <p>“Understand the biodiversity baseline within the district, allowing the development and implementation of a Biodiversity Strategy, 2024-2028.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This ‘first consideration’ effectively forms the starting point for development of the Strategy. <p>“Undertake environmental protection activities to reduce levels of littering and fly tipping across the district, whilst also focussing on improving the quality of natural habitats”.</p> <p>“Deliver on the Council’s Tree Strategy”</p> <p>“Plan an active role in biodiversity net gain [BNG] for the district, including the potential to own our own biodiversity offset sites, as well as looking at how our own developments can contribute”.</p> <p>The Council has been proactive to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has employed its first ecology officer; Two BNG specific local policies have been approved and adopted; A Habitat Bank – Call for Sites exercise has been launched; The Council is applying for Responsible Body status; A review of the Council’s own landholding is ongoing; The local planning application validation checklist has been updated to incorporate BNG; and An initial 12-month subscription to a software package to assist with the administrative burden of BNG has been taken out. <p>“Declare a ‘Motion for the Ocean’ to champion good stewardship by the relevant authorities of the River Trent and its tributaries. To encourage addressing pollution and litter at source, contributing significantly to the preservation and restoration of the ocean”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The motion has been declared. <p>Within Objective 2 consideration is given to sustainable development and ensuring sustainability frequently has positive benefits for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Continue to stimulate and where feasible, support the development of Biodiversity Gain Sites (Habitat Banks) within the District and publish a local register of such sites and record the delivery of BNG within the District, both on and off site.</p> <p>Continue current ongoing engagement with the development of the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and the Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham.</p> <p>Complete initial review of the Council’s own land holding to identify potential, suitable areas to be managed for the purposes of BNG, either to support our own development proposals or to sell biodiversity units to other developments. Initial scoping review to be completed by end of April 2024 (in advance of the habitat survey season and habitat surveys needed for the second phase). Second phase of more detailed assessments completed by the end of September 2024.</p> <p>Reporting against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provides a potential opportunity to monitor some aspects of how well the Council is meeting its biodiversity duty, along with other measures that have wider environmental benefits. Therefore, a proposed action is to consider inclusion of reporting against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as part of the Council’s wider corporate recording functions.</p>	<p>Via existing ongoing quarterly reporting structure for the Community Plan.</p>
	Climate Emergency Declaration – “Greening Newark and Sherwood Action Plan”	<p>Item 11 Biodiversity of the Greening Newark and Sherwood Action Plan states: “Promote opportunities for biodiversity net gains where appropriate within the planning system and process”.</p>	<p>Covered by actions relating to planning policy.</p>	<p>Covered elsewhere</p>



Theme	Item	Current state	Proposed Future actions	Proposed Monitoring
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Planning Policy</p>	<p>Green Infrastructure Strategy for Newark and Sherwood (2010)</p>	<p>The objective of the Green Infrastructure Strategy was to provide a reference document that would then “...form the basis for conserving, enhancing and extending the green infrastructure of the District and provide an evidence baseline for incorporating into the Draft Core Strategy. This would then be an integral element of planning for the sustainable development of the District”. Because biodiversity is an inherent, integral aspect of green infrastructure this formed a key document for informing the development of local planning policies with regards to biodiversity matters.</p>	<p>Fourteen years on it is still of relevance, but should be considered for review given the many changes that have inevitably taken place in the intervening period. If a review is considered necessary, the timing should align with the next round of plan making as discussed below.</p>	<p>To align with the agreed timescales for the next round of plan making.</p>
	<p>Amended Allocations & Development Management Plan Document (AADMPDP)</p>	<p>Currently under review and at the early stages of independent examination following submission to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity within the District forms a key theme through the Plan policies, but with the focal point being Policy DM7 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure which considers the designated sites network, priority habitats at national and local level, protected and priority species, measurable biodiversity net gain and the green infrastructure that contains the varied habitats needed to support species.</p>	<p>Because the AADMPDP is at an advanced stage of review there is little scope for any significant amendment other than amendments following the independent examination, before the first Biodiversity Duty Report in 2026.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
	<p>Amended Core Strategy Development Plan Document (ACSDPD)</p>	<p>Adopted in March 2019 the Amended Core Strategy sets out the main issues that the Council and its associated partners need to address and sets out a Vision and series of Objectives and associated Policies to deliver these. Like the AADMPDP, the protection and enhancement of biodiversity is a key theme.</p> <p>The Vision includes the statement: “<i>The natural environment will be safeguarded and enhanced, green infrastructure will be strengthened, new green and woodland spaces will increase ecology, biodiversity and nature conservation, providing a resource for local people and encouraging personal wellbeing and health.</i>”</p> <p>This vision is then translated into the following objective, “<i>To protect and enhance the built and natural environment, heritage, biodiversity and landscape, giving additional protection to those areas and buildings of recognised importance.</i>”</p> <p>Like the AADMPDP, protection and enhancement of biodiversity features in many of the policies but Core Policy 12 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure forms the focus.</p>	<p>During the period before the first Biodiversity Duty Report is due (which is no later than 01 January 2026), the early stages of next round of plan making will have started. This will provide an opportunity to review and if necessary, amend/update how biodiversity should be considered. Understandably there is currently considerable focus on mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the biodiversity benefits this should deliver across development proposals.</p> <p>The emerging Biodiversity Net Gain Framework for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham has an aspiration for more than the mandatory minimum 10% BNG to be delivered by developments - aspirations that are shared by some Council members. This can only be secured via an adopted local plan policy, so the next round of plan making will provide the first opportunity to consider this in detail and provide the necessary evidence base as required by the Government. This review to include an informed appraisal to consider whether development should provide more than the mandatory minimum 10% BNG.</p> <p>Biodiversity net gain is not a panacea for biodiversity issues within the District and like any scheme it has its strengths and weaknesses. It is habitat based and acts as a proxy for species and there is a risk of opportunities for innovative habitat creation/enhancement schemes being lost if they don’t fall into the ‘box’ structure of the statutory Biodiversity Metric used to calculate net gain. Until recently a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) would have been the obvious vehicle to ensure delivery of biodiversity enhancements that fall outside the scope of mandatory BNG, but current national planning reforms will see SPDs phased out. Consequently, the most appropriate mechanism for securing these wider biodiversity benefits within the development process will be inclusion of biodiversity within a Design Code and the development of such a code will form a key part of the next round of plan making.</p>	<p>To align with agreed timescales for the next round of plan making.</p>



Theme	Item	Current state	Proposed Future actions	Proposed Monitoring
Planning Policy	Supporting studies	<p>Other strategies undertaken as part of the Local Development Framework which have consideration of biodiversity matters, or which provide important evidence bases for future decision making regarding biodiversity matters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Flood Risk Assessments • Newark & Sherwood Water Cycle Study • Habitats Regulations Assessments 	To review and update where appropriate as part of the next round of plan making.	To align with agreed timescales for the next round of plan making.
	Local Wildlife Sites System	<p>Sites within the National Site Network (i.e., Special Conservation Areas (SCA), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)) are afforded legal protection that extends to the way they can and cannot be managed. In contrast the next tier of nature conservation designation Local Sites (which in Nottinghamshire are Local Wildlife Sites) is non-statutory, and whilst they are a material consideration in the planning processes, the designation infers no management obligation on the owners of such sites.</p> <p>Within Nottinghamshire the system is managed by the Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC) with the Council providing funding for its district via an annual service level agreement (SLA) payment. Whilst the annual information received by the Council demonstrates that a rolling re-survey of the LWS in the district is being undertaken, there is no evidence of proactive engagement with LWS owners promoting sympathetic management of their sites. This runs the risk of the process simply recording decline on some sites and potential opportunities to establish favourable management of LWS being missed.</p>	The evolution of the management regime for the LWS system within Nottinghamshire mirrors similar practice across much of the country (i.e., a single system operating on a county basis). This evolved at a time when the Council had no in-house ecological expertise, this situation has now changed, and the Council has an experienced in-house ecologist, and it is anticipated that a small team of ecologists will be developed to support the Planning Development and Planning Policy teams. The current and future level of expertise within this team provides an opportunity to support operation of the LWS within our District, particularly in respect of the all-important engagement with LWS owners and increasing the number of sites surveyed each year. It is therefore proposed that a proposal for NSDC’s ecologist(s) to have a direct supporting involvement with the LWS system is discussed with NBGRC and subsequently implemented.	6-weekly internal review of progress of agreed actions
Planning Services	Planning Applications	Planning services deal with many different types of development proposals. Implementation of policies DM7 and Core Policy 12 ensure due consideration is given to protected sites, protected species, and priority habitats and species, in the planning decision process.	<p>Continue to consider effects on biodiversity in relation to adopted planning policies during the determination process.</p> <p>Planning committee members to receive biodiversity net gain (BNG) training to improve their understanding of BNG and inform their considerations in their decision making process.</p>	Existing line-management system.
	Biodiversity Net Gain	Preparations for readiness for mandatory BNG have been outlined above (Community Plan).	As detailed in the Community Plan future actions section.	6-weekly internal review of progress of agreed actions
	In-house expertise	The Council appointed its first in-house ecologist in 2023. Whilst the primary driver for creation of this post was getting ready for, and subsequently managing mandatory biodiversity net gain, the advantages of having this in-house expertise has been acknowledged across many aspects of the Council’s work.	Mindful of the impending workload for planning services to discharge its legal obligation regarding mandatory net gain and to encourage and support the availability of off-site locations for biodiversity gain, it is proposed that a feasibility assessment for the creation of a new permanent post to support the current Biodiversity and Ecology Lead Officer will be undertaken. The intention will be to maximise funding of the post through charged services, review of existing ecological work contracted out, and potential underpinning of the first year utilising the government biodiversity net gain funding for local authorities for the financial year 2024-2025.	6-weekly internal review of progress of agreed actions



Theme	Item	Current state	Proposed Future actions	Proposed Monitoring
Environmental Services	Land Management	<p>The Council owns land, or manages land on behalf of others, across a diverse portfolio of land types, ranging from Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation (and Site of Special Scientific Interest) which is of international nature conservation importance for its old acidic woodland and which supports a rich invertebrate fauna, to areas of species-poor regularly mown amenity grassland which are of low biodiversity value.</p> <p>Management of key sites like the SSSI and other important nature reserves are guided by management plans.</p> <p>As part of its work associated with biodiversity net gain, the Council has started an initial audit of land within its management control to see where there might be opportunities to create biodiversity net gain.</p>	<p>To use the results of the initial audit of land within the Council’s management control to not only highlight opportunities for specific biodiversity net gain, but to highlight areas where other management options would have the potential to provide biodiversity benefits, like specific actions to benefit specific species or species groups.</p>	<p>6-monthly internal review of progress of agreed actions</p>
Housing Maintenance and Asset Management	Housing Stock Management	<p>The Council has a large housing stock. Management of this resource includes general maintenance, repairs and refurbishment. Where such work falls outside the requirement for planning permission, there is the potential for adverse impacts on protected species like bats and their roosts, and nesting birds like swallow, swift and house martin. In these circumstances ensuring there are no negative effects on biodiversity is dependent on awareness of these potential impacts.</p>	<p>Ensuring there are no negative impacts on biodiversity where work is subject to planning permission will continue to be achieved via planning services as part of the application validation and determination process.</p> <p>For all other works a series of ‘information sheets’ to be produced to raise awareness of biodiversity issues for the Council’s housing stock maintenance staff and appointed sub-contractors.</p>	<p>6-monthly internal review of progress of agreed actions</p>
Corporate Property	Asset Management	<p>Management of this resource includes general maintenance, repairs and refurbishment. Where such work falls outside the requirement for planning permission, there is the potential for adverse impacts on protected species like bats and their roosts, and nesting birds like swallow, swift and house martin. In these circumstances ensuring there are no negative effects on biodiversity is dependent on awareness of these potential impacts.</p>	<p>In addition to land currently within the Council’s ownership and/or management, land could be purchased for the specific objective to enhance and/or create habitats for the purpose of selling biodiversity units as part of the mandatory biodiversity net gain process. A feasibility study will therefore be undertaken to appraise the potential to purchase land for the specific purpose of selling biodiversity units.</p> <p>Ensuring there are no negative impacts on biodiversity where work is subject to planning permission will continue to be achieved via planning services as part of the application validation and determination process.</p> <p>For all other works a series of ‘information sheets’ to be produced to raise awareness of biodiversity issues for the Council’s housing stock maintenance staff and appointed sub-contractors.</p>	<p>6-monthly internal review of progress of agreed actions</p>



Theme	Item	Current state	Proposed Future actions	Proposed Monitoring
Collective	Working with Partner Organisations	<p>The Council has long-standing collaborative working relationships concerning biodiversity matters with a wide range of partner organisations. This encompasses charitable organisations like the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, private estates like Thoresby Estate and many others.</p> <p>The Council’s Park Rangers provide a Forest School service enabling children between the ages of 5 and 12 to experience nature in a woodland setting.</p>	<p>To continue to work positively and collaboratively with partner organisations (examples include; meetings with Nottinghamshire biodiversity stakeholders, engagement with development of the Nottinghamshire LNRS, engagement with Severn Trent and the Environment Agency re- the Motion for the Ocean), but to consider raising additional awareness through one or two high profile public engagement events per annum in conjunction with partner organisations, like hosting a Bioblitz¹ on one of the Council’s managed sites, or a ‘gardening for wildlife’ event.</p> <p>The benefits of having accessible access to nature to the well-being of members of communities is well-documented. Local Nature Reserve status helps to highlight importance of some areas of greenspace, and provides a focal point for community involvement in terms of voluntary activities assisting with management and custodianship of these areas. There are currently 9 LNRS within the district covering 207ha but 78% of that area is formed by four large LNRS; consequently, a significant part of this resource may not be accessible to many people. Therefore, it is proposed that a review of the provision of Local Nature Reserves within the district is undertaken.</p>	6-monthly internal review of progress of agreed actions
Collective	Raising Awareness	<p>(i) There are many sections within the Council’s website that raise awareness to biodiversity matters; examples are sections on Trees, Biodiversity, and Gardening for Wildlife. However, there is scope to refresh and developer further the theme of biodiversity.</p> <p>(ii) Our individual actions have the potential to impact biodiversity in both positive and negative ways, both in and outside of the working environment.</p>	<p>(i) (a) To create additional biodiversity content for the Council’s website and regularly refresh content.</p> <p>(i) (b) To use the Council’s website and other communication channels to provide updates on the recovery of our rivers, and signpost to opportunities and guidance that enable residents to become more ocean literate and to get involved with river and marine citizenship activities and to stop pollution at its source.</p> <p>(ii) To investigate ways of raising general awareness of biodiversity issues amongst NSDC staff</p>	6-monthly internal review of progress of agreed actions

¹ A Bioblitz is a community event involving members of the public and local naturalists and scientists who attempt to identify as many different species of plants, animals and lower plants (i.e., fungi and mosses and liverworts) within a set location and a set time period which is normally 24 hours. The resulting biological records are then shared with the local Biological Records Centre and the site managers. They are now an established and popular way of highlighting biodiversity and engaging the public with biological recording, which forms a fundamental element of site management.