

APPENDIX 1 – Biodiversity Action Assessment*

| Item | Action | Preliminary Assessment |
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| 1 | Increase space for wildlife and commit to the long-term maintenance and expansion of the Nature Recovery Network. | <p>Parks Team already active in parks/gardens – areas for wildlife, planting of shrubs suitable for pollinators etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of nesting boxes through funded schemes (if applicable). |
| 2 | Develop a Nature Recovery Network map to prioritise sites within the ecological network to provide a strategic base for the creation of a Nature Recovery Network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Derbyshire County Council have responsibility for LNRS and their anticipated Network Map will be incorporated in LNRS. • County Council to lead; District Council to feed in as necessary. County Council to start winter 2023. |
| 3 | Maintain a commitment to achieve a net-gain to biodiversity across all development, meeting the Environment Act requirement of 10% biodiversity net-gain, ensuring compliance with the most up to date scheme from Defra | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •District Council refers to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) to assess planning applications, alongside support from the Biodiversity Officer. • Discussions ongoing with both DWT and DCC regarding an enhanced service from 2024. DWT have developed offer and put forward amended Service Level Agreement. • Propose to enter into agreement with either DWT or DCC to assess applications against BNG metric. • One-off New Burdens Grant of £10,040 provided by Government to fund this initially; two further funding grants announced 1st March 2023 |
| 4 | Carry out a carbon audit of SDDC countryside and open space sites to establish how carbon storage/sequestration could be improved. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Refer to Item 2 – Nature Recovery Network map will help identify any areas to be prioritised • Potential to undertake an internal review of District Council land assets in future years, should resources be made available, using current knowledge and available data sets e.g. DEFRA Magic Mapping, Natural England green infrastructure to provide new recommendations for improving biodiversity and sequestration potential |
| 5 | Develop greenspace management regimes to maximise potential for biodiversity, carbon storage and sequestration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Enhance biodiversity of green infrastructure such as verges where possible |
| 6 | Improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, employing nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the District, including carbon storage and sequestration, managing flood risk, improving water quality, and sustaining vital ecosystems. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify District Council-owned parcels of as having potential for Natural Flood Management schemes in partnership with DWT • Tree planting has taken place in certain areas • DWT seeking wider partnership agreements and funding to work in these areas under licence • DCC also have commitment to tree planting and review options for offsetting which includes sequestration • Also see Item 1 |
| 7 | Use the Nature Recovery Network map to inform the selection of Biodiversity Net Gain projects within the region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Item 2 |
| 8 | Aim to achieve 'favourable condition' on all council-managed protected and designated nature sites (e.g., SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion being held with DWT condition of Local Wildlife Sites they manage |

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| | Interest), LNRs (Local Nature Reserves), LWSs (Local Wildlife Sites) by 2030. | |
| 9 | <p>Improve access to nature by following the Natural England 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance. Regard will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas with high levels of physical health problems. • Areas with high levels of mental health problems. • Areas where the amount and quality of accessible natural greenspace is below Natural England's targets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several District Council sites have achieved accessible green space |
| 10 | <p>Embed nature's recovery into all strategic plans, including the Local Plan, and all policy areas, not just those directly related to the environment. Ensure the LNRS is well understood across the authority and complements other relevant plans and strategies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already embedded in Local Plan but review will extend to address BNG requirements • Potential for a briefing on the future LNRS, linked to the wider training. Delivered by DCC or author of LNRS (subject to cost) • Potential for Staff Briefing on Biodiversity Duty (nil cost) • Ongoing need to identify other plans & strategies when reviewed as opportunity to incorporate biodiversity where appropriate |
| 11 | <p>Integrate the targets, objectives, and outcomes of the biodiversity duty and related strategies and action plans, with those outlined in carbon reduction initiatives, to ensure measures to tackle climate issues do not contravene the principles of enhancing biodiversity. Wherever possible, the council will invest in nature-based solutions to climate change to tackle the nature crisis and climate emergency together.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity impacts of decisions taken by Council are not formally quantified; potential to incorporate high-level biodiversity impact assessments (where appropriate) into committee reports by modifying the environmental sustainability impact assessment. |
| 12 | <p>Provide training and resources for councillors and council employees about the ecological emergency</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for all staff and Members to complete online training courses such as 'Biodiversity for Councils' (nil cost) |
| 13 | <p>Identify a council employee as the designated lead for coordinating council operations in relation to the ecological emergency.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to refer to expertise of Biodiversity Officer (Ecologist) • Currently considered that a practical and affordable way forward is to join with other councils in a partnership service as proposed by DWT and DCC (where practicable) |
| 14 | <p>Tree Strategy & Management</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work by Tree Officers and other employees |

***Note: To avoid duplication, items contained in the Action Plan for Nature have not been listed in the Appendix.**