

South Derbyshire Biodiversity Working Group

Terms of Reference - DRAFT

14.5.19

Background

What is a Biodiversity Plan?

Biodiversity is the amazing variety of life on earth which is commonly measured through the genetic diversity, species (animals & plants) and ecosystems. One of the largest risks to the globe and to SDDC is the loss of biodiversity through development, the way we work and manage assets.

A biodiversity plan is to put together a package of measures to help develop district biodiversity culture and understand how we can enhance biodiversity through a set of measures for leadership review and commitment.

Purpose

The purpose of setting up a working group is to understand our current biodiversity levels in SDDC, enhancement of biodiversity on land we own, support the enhancement of biodiversity on land we manage on others behalf and ensure compliance to legal requirements to enhance biodiversity within our planning policies and DDC biodiversity plans.

The Biodiversity Working Group has been formed under the membership of the Corporate Sustainability Group.

Aim

To develop a Biodiversity including SMART objectives / KPI's that deliver against the Corporate Plan Outcome O.3 "Deliver Environmental Standards" through the development of a range of biodiversity measures using good practice from other public bodies.

Objectives

Produce a Biodiversity Plan for the Council that:

1. Identify potential of biodiversity enhancement pilots – own land opportunities
2. Work towards commissioning a biodiversity plan which will inform negotiations with developers and will help SDDC manage land better

In Scope

The Working Group will explore the following:

1. Review existing policies, practices and compare these with good practice in other authorities, as well as identifying options for improvement to inform practical concepts around the biodiversity options to be applied locally

- National guidance
 - Local areas of good practice
 - Good practice in other authorities
2. Work with Planning to help develop biodiversity report through commissioning piece of work for committee meeting and support Section 106
 - Understand levels of biodiversity in land management asset mapping.
 - Evidence to support development biodiversity enhancement
 3. Collate evidence - Biodiversity enhancement opportunities. Link to communities who are interested and prioritise actions. Report to be provided to committee
 4. A package of biodiversity measures further to the biodiversity report being commissioned

Out of Scope

Grass verges & Highways

Approach

The Working Group will undertake the following activities to gather information:

1. Research
 - Understanding levels of biodiversity
 - Investigation of other authorities' approach to Biodiversity Plans including a review of best practice
 - Possible contributor session for the Working Group to hear from other local authorities, and other key stakeholders
 - Better Online / web page
 - Gathering of any relevant national guidance and good practice guidelines
2. Planning
 - Development of biodiversity strategy through commissioning biodiversity report to influence the right green land for developments – Section 106 budget
 - Developers – How this can be managed/ measured – net gain 2020
 - Understanding impact – Environment Agency, Natural England Consultation etc
 - Wildlife trust – SLA - Ecology
3. Our Own land
 - Land owned – linked to land asset mapping
 - Lessons learnt from biodiversity enhancement already in place
 - Pilots that can take place in SDDC
4. Developers
 - Using commissioned report to influence the right options for biodiversity enhancement for the project / area – Already being done/ just need to be measured – net gain 2020
 - Utilising commercial aspects to enhance environment – e.g. sponsorship of roundabouts, landscaping etc - Broxtowe

Outcomes -

- Commissioning of Biodiversity report to support biodiversity enhancement and action plan through our Planning process, as part of Section 106 work – Committee report to be submitted
- Biodiversity report to be used to create a biodiversity action plan, for review of the biodiversity working group
- Recommendations to be reviewed by CESG