

REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	18 JANUARY 2024	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	SEAN MCBURNEY – HEAD OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – sean.mcburney@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	MEMBERSHIP OF THE ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the establishment of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan Working Group with a membership of four councillors.
- 1.2 To receive and confirm nominations for appointments to the Ecological Emergency Action Plan Working Group from each of the political Groups.

2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To outline the purpose and importance of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan Working Group and establish membership of the group.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 An ecological emergency was declared at full council meeting on Thursday 14 September 2023
- 3.2 The working group is an information sharing group and does not make decisions on policy, this remains a matter for Committees.

4 Detail

- 4.1 The Ecological Emergency Action Plan Group is to establish a forum for Members and Officers to discuss themes and projects emerging from the Action Plan. The Group provides the opportunity to discuss Ecological issues such as the Biodiversity Net Gain, on-going work with key stakeholders

including neighbouring authorities, The National Forest Company, Forestry England, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Also have oversight of the project plan and consultations

4.2 Establishing strong working relationships between Officers, Members and Management is key for the Action Plan production. The Action Plan will help to deliver the Council objectives set out and assist the Council in meeting other environmental targets such as Net Zero and Biodiversity Net Gain.

4.3 Declaring the ecological emergency and forming this working group brings together several key commitments to help restore the natural world highlighting unsustainable practices and the attention to avert these for future generations.

4.4 The council has adopted a nature recovery strategy in partnership with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust & Derbyshire County Council. This group will build on this work and take themes from this and the Action Plan for Nature into this new forum and Action Plan.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

6.1 None as a direct result of this report.

Legal Implications

6.2 None as a direct result of this report.

Corporate Plan Implications

6.3 The Action Plan and this working group will support the delivery of key environmental targets set out in the Corporate Plan, and enhancement of the natural environment.

Risk Impact

6.4 Delivery of the Action Plan will support Biodiversity Net Gain for the district. Not having a fit for purpose Action Plan could be hindered the ability to achieve this new legislation.

7.0 Community Impact

7.1 The outcomes and impact of the work included in the Action Plan will further enhance the natural environment. Which will improve overall community wellbeing.

Consultation

7.2 None.

Equality and Diversity Impact

7.3 None as a direct result of this report.

Social Value Impact

7.4 None as a direct result of this report.

Environmental Sustainability

7.5 None as a direct result of this report. However outcomes achieved through delivering on the action plan will improve overall environmental sustainability for the district.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The Ecological Emergency Action Plan and the formation of the working group will be critical in reversing the downward trend of biodiversity decline in the region.

9.0 Background Papers

None