



Basingstoke
and Deane

Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan for Basingstoke and Deane

2023 to 2029





Introduction

The Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan is a dynamic document that will be updated annually. The actions will be built into the work programmes of the teams working on them. It will capture the council's ongoing work on biodiversity and will be used to monitor progress of the strategy's delivery. Reporting will be delivered quarterly to the Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Group and annually to the Council's governance bodies. It will also contribute to reporting to Government on a five-year cycle, as per the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty.

The actions are grouped into similar themes (e.g., Partnerships, planning, organisation and people) and each action will either continue, develop or explore a prescribed task, as follows:

- Continue** – Business as usual, work is underway
- Develop** – project related to delivery of strategy
- Explore** – investigate options, requires increased resource or investment

The delivery time frames for actions are set out as follows;

- Short Term** – first year of delivery, by March 2025
- Medium Term** – First three years of delivery, by March 2027
- Long Term** – In the lifetime of the Strategy, by March 2030
- Ongoing** – no end date

Ref	Action	Who is involved	Time frame	Outputs	Objectives action supporting	Priorities action supporting
Partnerships						
PA1	Develop Borough-wide partnership for nature with key partners and local experts as well as member and officer representation. It will be key in supporting the priorities in the Strategy, wider landscape scale aspirations and delivering green investment in the borough.	Biodiversity Partners	Short	1. First partnership meeting hosted 2. Draft partnership agreement prepared	MD2 LEI13 LEI16	All
PA2	Continue to be an active participant in key partnerships and associated projects for the delivery of nature's recovery in the borough including North Wessex Downs National Landscape, Test and Itchen and Loddon Catchment partnerships, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, and engage in new partnerships that support to deliver nature's recovery including the Action for River Kennet or those created to serve nature's recovery.	Biodiversity Partners	Ongoing	1. Join Action for River Kennet partnership 2. Attendance of partnership meetings for each of our key partnerships (catchment partnerships, National Landscape, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre) 3. Support one project per annum from each partnership with resource or funding	MD2 MD5 MD6 DC4 LEI16	All
PA3	Continue to work in close partnership with community conservation groups, especially Natural Basingstoke and directly through the delivery of advice for projects and support of their activities on council owned land.	Biodiversity Ranger services Community Partners	Ongoing	1. Regular meetings between Natural Basingstoke and Ranger Services	DC2 LEI1 LEI14	All
PA4	Develop a partnership for our northern heathlands with other key landowners and stakeholders across the area and those directly adjoining in West Berkshire and Hart district.	Biodiversity Ranger services Community Partners	Short	1. First partnership meeting hosted 2. Draft partnership agreement prepared	MD2 LEI16	Northern Heathlands
Planning						
PL1	Develop proposals for nature networks within and adjacent to strategic allocation sites identified within the Updated Local Plan and for Strategic Gaps. Exploring the possibility of achieving above 10% Biodiversity net gain in these sites.	Biodiversity Planning Policy	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. Plans prepared 2. Plans included within the Updated Local Plan 3. Biodiversity audit completed 4. Paper exploring above 10% prepared	MD1 MD3 MD7	All
PL2	Continue to work closely with the planning policy team to ensure planning policy embeds the importance of biodiversity and the strategy and alignment with the Updated Local Plan.	Biodiversity Planning Policy	Ongoing	1. Local Plan Update with embedded environmental policies	MD1 MD3 MD7	All
PL4	Develop engagement with local landowners. Host a Rural forum to support landowners in accessing Biodiversity net gain, District level licensing and delivering biodiversity gains in the borough.	Biodiversity Planning Policy Partners	Short	1. Rural Forum hosted 2. Green sites list	MD3 LEI3 MD8	All
PL5	Continue to improve our ways of working in relation to biodiversity and how they inter-relate with: 1. Section 106, open space audits and our fees 2. Play replacement programme 3. Multi-functional greenspace guidance 4. Enforcement approach and identify improvements working with our Enforcement team	Biodiversity Landscape Planning Policy Development Control Legal	Ongoing	1. One updated process per annum	MD3 LEI3 MD8 DC1 DC2	All

Ref	Action	Who is involved	Time frame	Outputs	Objectives action supporting	Priorities action supporting
PL6	Continue to work with the wider Natural Environment team to prepare and deliver an updated Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Biodiversity Natural Environment Team Planning Policy	Ongoing	1. Updated GI Strategy	MD1 MD7 DC2 DC3	All
PL7	Develop projects with management companies. Work with Sovereign and Vivid to support nature enhancements of the land they manage in the borough.	Sovereign & Vivid Biodiversity Regeneration Landscape	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. One biodiversity related project for each Vivid and Sovereign developed.	MD5 DC1 DC2	All
PL8	Develop Guidance for Biodiversity net gain that clearly states what the council expects from developers with regards Biodiversity net gain. This should be ambitious and also contain aspirations for going above 10%.	Biodiversity Planning Policy Development Management Legal	Short	1. Guidance published	MD1 MD3	All
PL9	Continue to deliver a strategic licensing solution with our partners NatureSpace and Hampshire County council for Great Crested Newts.	Biodiversity Planning Policy Development Control NatureSpace	Ongoing	1. Number of ponds created 2. Hectarage of terrestrial habitats created/ enhanced 3. Certificates and reports by NatureSpace	MD1 MD3	Herpetofauna
PL10	Explore feasibility of delivery of a borough-led approach to strategic licensing for Great Crested Newts for when the existing partnership with NatureSpace comes to an end.	Biodiversity Planning Policy Development control	Long	1. Paper outlining Feasibility	MD1 MD3	Herpetofauna
PL11	Continue to deliver statutory duties regards hedgerow regulations	Trees Biodiversity	Ongoing	1. Number of permissions & notices issued	MD1	Hedgerows
P12	Continue to work closely with partners on the Manydown developments and explore opportunities to make the countrypark and exemplar site for people and nature.	Manydown partnership Biodiversity Development Control Landscape Trees	Ongoing	1. Plans for manydown countrypark approved 2. Exemplar project delivered	MD1 MD3 DC2 DC3	Rare arable flora Accessible Natural Greenspace
Organisation						
OG1	Continue to ensure the Ecological Emergency Checklist is employed wherever a report is presented to Cabinet or Committees	Biodiversity Communications & Marketing	Ongoing	1. No-of checklists complete	DC1	All

Ref	Action	Who is involved	Time frame	Outputs	Objectives action supporting	Priorities action supporting
OG2	Continue to submit Equality diversity and inclusion related targets to the Equality diversity and inclusion action plan annually.	Biodiversity	Ongoing	1, Equality diversity and inclusion actions submitted	LEI1	Accessible Natural Greenspaces
OG3	Continue to support the designation of Sites of Importance for Nature conservation through financially supporting Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre , identifying candidate sites and supporting decision making.	Biodiversity Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre	Ongoing	1. New SINCs designated annually 2. Area of land designated annually	MD6	Designated sites
OG4	Explore a review of the Local nature reserves priority list and continue to deliver the programme of declaration and protection using other means.	Biodiversity	Ongoing	1. Updated priority list in year 1 2. One newly declared Local nature reserve, or other protection, every two years	MD8	Accessible Natural Greenspace
OG5	Develop a Delivery Group to support the delivery of the Strategy and monitor its progress.	Biodiversity	Short	1. Inaugural meeting 2. Quarterly group meetings	All	All
People						
PE1	Develop garden assessments for nature. Green team to deliver garden assessments and advice for nature to help residents make enhancements for nature in their gardens. Work with Natural Basingstoke and the Wildlife Trust on a toolkit/guidance on supporting home owners to increase biodiversity in their gardens.	Climate emergency – Green Team Biodiversity Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Short	1. Training delivered 2. No. of gardens advised	LEI1 LEI5	All
PE2	Explore the creation of a scheme for free/subsidised native trees, artificial enhancements such as swift bricks and pond liners to residents and communities.	Biodiversity Trees Climate emergency Ranger services Partners	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. Paper outlining feasibility	LEI1 LEI5	Swifts Hedgehogs Herpetofauna Wooded features Bats
PE3	Develop an engagement plan including identifying priority people – some of those priority people will be those groups of people we will seek to empower and actively engage with and who have limited access to nature and their community leaders and champions such as Community Builders. We will prepare an engagement plan for external groups for the strategy's priorities that is aligned with and jointly utilises the Climate emergency team's and Ranger Services' engagement priorities and tools and helps realise co-benefits. Also work with other key community engagement via Sports & Wellbeing and Community Services.	Biodiversity Community Services Communications & Marketing Climate emergency Community Partners Sports and Wellbeing Natural Basingstoke	Short	1. Engagement Plan prepared	LEI1 DC6	All
PE4	Develop internal engagement plan. This plan will include approaches to ensure different departments start to consider biodiversity and engage for advice with the biodiversity team where appropriate.	Biodiversity Communications & Marketing	Short	1. Engagement Plan prepared	DC1 DC6 LEI1	All

Ref	Action	Who is involved	Time frame	Outputs	Objectives action supporting	Priorities action supporting
PE5	Continue training for internal teams and Councillors on biodiversity in general and on relevant topic areas, especially planning related matters.	Biodiversity Development control Communications & Marketing	Ongoing	1. Training plan incorporated into internal engagement plan 2. planning teams trained on Biodiversity net gain 3. All staff to have access to biodiversity related training 4. Relevant committees to have Biodiversity net gain training 5. All members to have access to Biodiversity net gain related training	DC1	All
PE6	Explore feasibility of providing advice and facilitation with communities to create green plans, nature projects.	Biodiversity Climate emergency Planning Policy Community Partners	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. Paper outlining feasibility	MD7 LEI4	All
PE7	Continue to support corporate volunteering of groups from the organisation and from other local businesses.	Ranger services Biodiversity Communications & Marketing Sports and Wellbeing Partners	Ongoing	1. Group days hosted 2. Volunteer hours	DC1 DC2 LEI1	All
PE8	Explore options for enhancing accessibility of our sites. Pilot these approaches and aim to roll out the successful ones across our entire portfolio of sites.	Ranger services Biodiversity Community Services Communications & Marketing Partners Sports and Wellbeing Partners	Long	1. Paper outlining feasibility	DC3	Accessible Natural Greenspace
PE9	Develop school engagement. The Nature Engagement Officer to develop proposals for engaging schools and pre-schools and other young people.	Ranger services Biodiversity Community Partners	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. School engagement plan	LEI1	All
PE10	Develop community champions. Help our environment engagement teams and local community group volunteer leaders become champions for nature in the communities.	Biodiversity Ranger services Climate emergency Community Partners Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Short	1. Training delivered	LEI4 LEI5	All
PE11	Develop a public portal with Climate emergency team for all appropriate green space, sustainability related information across the borough, and nature sites data.	Biodiversity Climate Emergency GIS	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. Biodiversity net gain monitoring map created 2. External portal created	DC5	All

Ref	Action	Who is involved	Time frame	Outputs	Objectives action supporting	Priorities action supporting
PE12	Explore how we can support local businesses to understand impacts and potential actions to promote biodiversity and climate.	Climate Emergency Biodiversity Economy Culture and Place Marketing	Long	1. Feasibility paper prepared with climate team with recommendations outlined	LEI1 LEI3	All
PE13	Develop a bioblitz plan and deliver it in partnership with Natural Basingstoke and other community conservation groups and residents on council owned land	Biodiversity Ranger Services Natural Basingstoke	Short	1. Bioblitz plan integrated in monitoring plan 2. One bioblitz annually	LEI1 MD4	All
Strategic Priorities						
SP1	Develop priority species and features and prepare summary sheets for them to enable their recovery and monitoring.	Biodiversity GIS Partners	Short	1. Summary sheets prepared for all species and features	MD2 MD3 LE12	All
SP2	Develop spatial priorities and input into these into Local Nature Recovery Strategy to ensure there are clear priority areas in the Borough to guide green investment.	Biodiversity Planning Policy GIS	Short	1. Summary sheets for all spatial priorities prepared 2. Spatial priorities submitted to the Responsible Authority 3. Officers attend Local nature reserves workshops	MD2 MD3 LE12	All
SP3	Develop input to Species Conservation & Protected Sites Strategies	Biodiversity Planning Policy	Long	1. Input provided into Species Conservation & Protected Sites Strategies	MD2 MD3 LE12	All
Monitoring & Reporting						
MR1	Develop our understanding of nature in the Borough. Commission a biodiversity audit of the borough which will include the feasibility of the case for going above 10% with Biodiversity Net Gain.	Biodiversity Planning Policy Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Short	1. Audit published	MD3 MD4	All
MR2	Develop a monitoring plan for our estate, Biodiversity net gain, state of nature within the borough and this strategy outlining our commitments and approaches in regards monitoring and reporting. This will include survey data collected by officers and through the empowerment of volunteers undertaking citizen science as well as utilising data from other sources. To include supporting Natural Basingstoke and other local groups in ad-hoc species recording and data submission.	Biodiversity Ranger Services Natural Basingstoke Community experts	Short	1. Monitoring plan published	MD4	All
Estate Management						
EM1	Develop an audit of all our green estate to identify where and how it would be suitable to undertake interventions associated with Countryside Stewardship, Biodiversity net gain units and verges and other green spaces. Compliment with an audit of our woodland sites. Saunders Field is a top priority site that is likely to be a candidate for enhancements.	Biodiversity Property & Assets Regeneration Grounds Maintenance Climate emergency Ranger services Community Partners	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. Green audit complete 2. CS agreement application complete 3. Proposals including for Saunders Field drafted	MD3 MD8 DC2 LEI3 LEI4	All
EM2	Develop grazing implementation plan for our nature sites and part fund using Countryside Stewardship.	Ranger services Biodiversity	Short	1. Fencing installed 2. CS application completed	DC2	Meadows Heathlands

Ref	Action	Who is involved	Time frame	Outputs	Objectives action supporting	Priorities action supporting
EM3	Explore feasibility of appropriate uses of arisings from land management activities. An assessment of options will be included and a recommendation on the best options to proceed that maximises the benefits of energy expenditure reduction, reduced fuel consumption, increased soil organic matter, promotion of local food and plant growing and potentially energy production.	Climate Emergency Biodiversity Grounds Maintenance Waste services	Long	1. Feasibility group meeting 2. Feasibility paper prepared	LEI3	All
EM4	Continue to develop innovative green space interventions, installations and enhancements for the public realm that promote biodiversity, sequester carbon, increase water holding capacity, increase climate resilience and adaptability. Options will be assessed based on the resource requirement, budget implications, equipment availability and suitability and plans drafted to outline what will be required to adapt to the proposals. Other factors such as open space requirement and safe by design must also be considered.	Biodiversity Property & Assets Regeneration Grounds Maintenance Climate emergency Ranger services Landscape Trees	Ongoing	1. Proposals outlined in paper	DC2	Verges and open spaces
EM5	Continue to support local community groups to deliver effective management in partnership with the Ranger team of our sites for nature.	Ranger services Biodiversity Community Partners	Ongoing	1. Management plans produced annually	LEI4	Accessible natural greenspace
EM6	Continue to access opportunities for our estate. With Property Services develop policies that enshrine opportunities for biodiversity enhancements.	Property & Assets Biodiversity Landscape Trees	Ongoing	1. Policies reviewed, one annually	DC1 DC2	All
EM7	Explore scheme for community centre enhancements.w	Biodiversity Communications & Marketing Community Services Ranger Services Community Partners	Long	1. Paper exploring feasibility	DC1 DC2	All
EM8	Develop Allotment Strategy seeking to increase biodiversity and support of local food growing.	Grounds Maintenance Biodiversity Community Partners Ranger Services	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. Allotment strategy published	DC1 DC2	All
EM9	Explore opportunities for enhancements to council owned woodland for biodiversity, climate and people. Assessing potential for harvesting stock and appropriate replacement planting and other management activities.	Grounds Maintenance Trees Ranger Services Biodiversity	Mequality diversity and inclusionum	1. Paper exploring feasibility	DC2 LEI3	Wooded features

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