

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Bio Diversity Task Group

Agenda

Monday, 18th December, 2023
at 4.00 pm

in the

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn

**Available for the public to view on [WestNorfolkBC on
You Tube](#)**



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX
Telephone: 01553 616200

7 December 2023

Dear Member

Bio Diversity Task Group

You are invited to attend a meeting of the above-mentioned Task Group which will be held on **Monday, 18th December, 2023 at 4.00 pm** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ** to discuss the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair

To appoint a Vice-Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

2. Apologies for absence

3. Members present under standing order 34

4. Declarations of interest (Page 4)

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the Members should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

These declarations apply to all Members present, whether the Member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local Member on an item or simply observing the meeting.

5. Urgent Business

To consider any business which, by reason of special circumstances, the

Chair proposes to accept as urgent under Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

6. **Proposed Terms of Reference** (Pages 5 - 6)
7. **Draft Work Programme** (Page 7)
8. **Future meetings**

To:

Bio Diversity Task Group: M Bartrum, A Bullen, S Dark, M de Whalley (Chair) and P Kunes

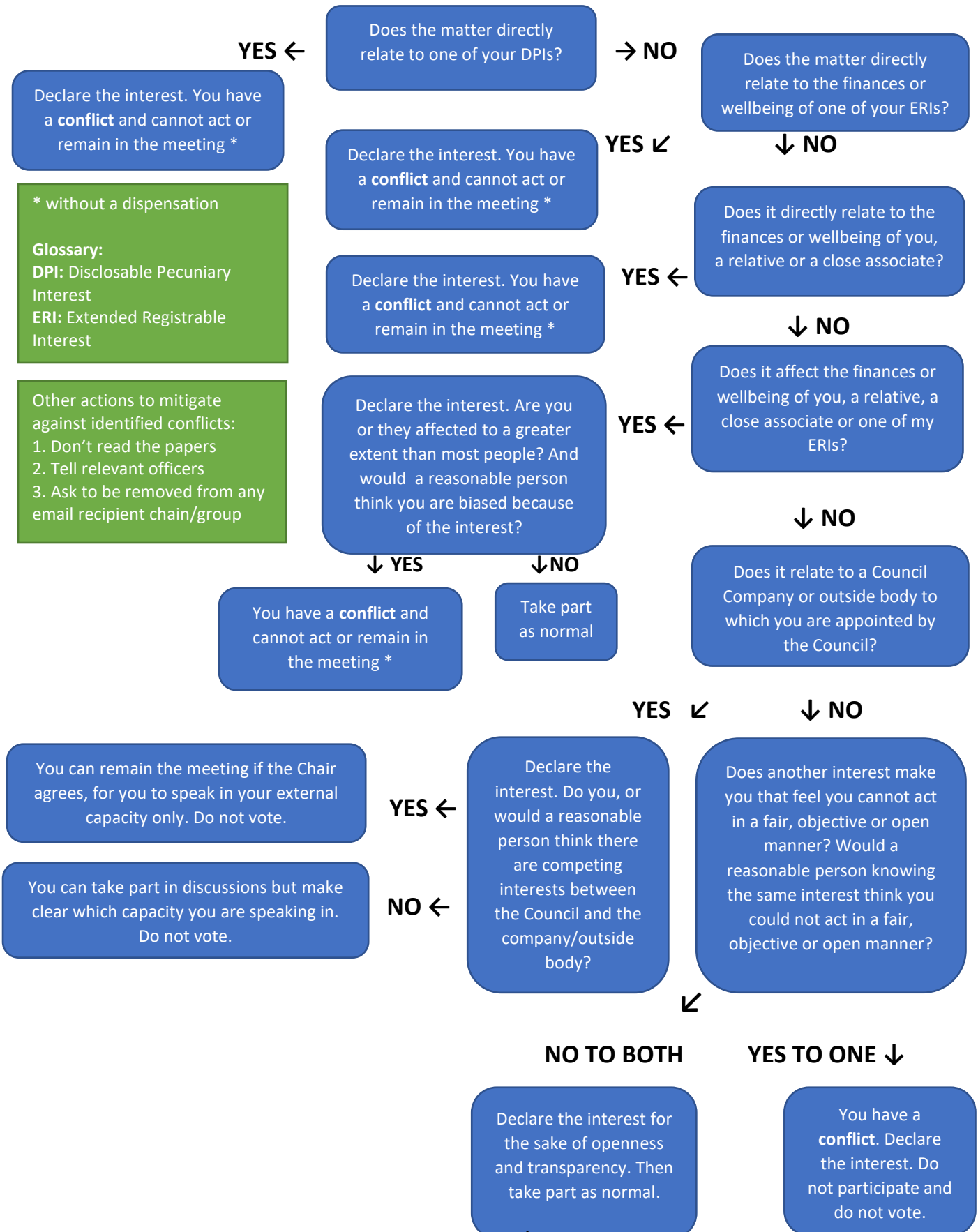
Officers

Stuart Ashworth, Assistant Director, Environment and Planning
Claire Wiggs, Ecology Officer

DECLARING AN INTEREST AND MANAGING ANY CONFLICTS FLOWCHART



START



Terms of Reference

Biodiversity Cabinet Working Group

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At the council meeting of 10 September 2020, council agreed the following Notice of Motion:

This Council acknowledges that climate change is not the only challenge facing our natural environment and has agreed to set up a Cabinet Task Group chaired by the appropriate portfolio holder to work with our partners including Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership.

Any recommendations on relevant issues such as habitat protection and creation, the creation of a pollinator action plan and the creation of wildflower verges will be brought to Cabinet via the Environment & Community Panel before consideration at Council.

- 1.2 At further cabinet meetings on the 15 March 2022, and 17 January 2023, it was agreed that the Biodiversity Task Group be set up to be politically proportionate, and that it should also consider the recommendations of the Environment & Community Panel's Urban Wildlife Informal working group.
- 1.3 The Task Group is therefore to be made up of FIVE members with political proportionality (2 Independent Partnership, 2 Conservative and 1 Labour) and Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity.
- 1.4 Since the original council motion, the Environment Act 2021 has come into force. In that legislation, it is of note that public authorities who operate in England, including councils and local planning authorities, must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' introduced by the Environment Act 2021. This means that, as a public authority, this Council must:
- Consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
 - Agree policies and specific objectives based on our consideration
 - Act to deliver our policies and achieve our objectives

- 1.5 According to the Environment Act the council must complete its first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024 and, as a local planning authority, must also publish a biodiversity report, no later than 1 January 2026.
- 1.6 Meetings of the group will take place monthly or less frequently as required. Deputies will only be allowed by agreement of the Chair.
- 1.7 There will be budget implications that need to be assessed when considering which recommendations to take forward.

2.0 Terms of Reference

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Urban Wildlife Informal working group.
- 2.2 To work with partners including Norfolk County Council and the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership on enhancing biodiversity.
- 2.3 To consider opportunities for habitat creation on the council's own open spaces and properties.
- 2.4 To review existing biodiversity work or funding on biodiversity projects provided by the borough council.
- 2.5 To consider the feasibility of a pollinator action plan.
- 2.6 To consider opportunities for habitat protection.
- 2.7 To consider the implications of relevant biodiversity issues affecting the borough council, for example the enhanced 'biodiversity duty', as set out in the Environment Act 2021, and Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 2.8 Make recommendations to the Environment & Community panel, and then to Cabinet and Council, on biodiversity enhancements. This shall include the budget/resource implications of any recommendations.

Future Work Programme – Biodiversity Task Group

Date of meeting	Topics	Comments/discussion points
TBA	1) Urban Wildlife Group (UWG) recommendations 2) Biodiversity Duty and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	To go through the 7 recommendations of the UWG Overview of what it is and review of where we are as a council.
TBA	1) Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership 2) Pollinator Action Plans 3) Habitat Protection	Subject to partner availability. Best Practice & current guidance. Resource implications and implementation of a plan.
TBA	1) Existing biodiversity activities carried out, and projects funded by the BCKLWN 2) Potential for habitat creation on BCKLWN buildings 3) Potential habitat creation on Public Open Space (POS)	Overview of what we do now. Investigation of what we can do on our estate.
TBA	1) Recommendations to be presented to Cabinet via E & C	Final summing up and recommendations to be forwarded to E & C and Cabinet, including budget implications.