

DRAFT

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Biodiversity Policies and Objectives

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Public authorities operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces. This means that a public authority must:

1. Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and specific objectives based on its consideration.
3. Act to deliver the policies and achieve the objectives.

1.2 Through a Biodiversity Task Group the Council has been considering various options to improve biodiversity. Set out below are the initial biodiversity policies and objectives. It is envisaged that they will be refined as they become embedded into business as normal and represent a first attempt at this.

1.3 It is important to note that the policies and objectives will need suitable resources to be carried out to a suitable standard.

1.4 Overarching policies and objectives

1. Seek to protect habitats and promote biodiversity.
2. Use our ability to influence others and encourage all partners to operate in the most sustainable way they can.
3. Continue to implement biodiversity policies through planning.
4. Implement recommendations from the Biodiversity Task Group (subject to Council agreement).
5. Create a Pollinator Action Plan.

1.5 A) Managing Council Land

- Review to prioritise those sites where intervention to enhance biodiversity can generate benefits for nature conservation by taking into account current condition and potential.

- Review Public Open Space (POS) function to prioritise those where intervention to enhance biodiversity can generate the most benefits for nature conservation taking into account other requirements of that POS.
- Review of maintenance regimes of grass areas maintained by the Council in order to increase biodiversity. Consider whether additional interventions would be beneficial and monitor as appropriate.
- Review to consider whether there are opportunities to encourage enhancements for biodiversity on Council owned development sites.

1.6 **B) Partnership and education**

- Continue to work with partners, and take all opportunities to improve the environment and biodiversity across Kings Lynn and West Norfolk as appropriate.
- Continue to support Friends Groups and seek to extend volunteer opportunities in nature conservation across the borough.
- Consider a programme of member and officer training, disseminating knowledge about local biodiversity (species locations and habitat conditions).
 - Review how this can be expanded using:
 - website
 - infrastructure (signage)
 - social media

1.7 **C) Reporting and risks**

- Develop future monitoring and reporting for BNG secured through the planning service.
- Review biodiversity reporting.