

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



Bio Diversity Task Group

Agenda

**Monday, 15th April, 2024
at 4.00 pm**

in the

**Council Chamber
Town Hall
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn**

**Remote Meeting on Zoom and 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

4 April 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, 15th April, 2024 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. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes from the previous meeting** (Pages 4 - 9)
3. **Members present under standing order 34**
4. **Declarations of Interest** (Page 10)
5. **Items of urgent business**
6. **Biodiversity Competition - Councillor Devulapalli** (Pages 11 - 12)
7. **Pollinator Action Plans - Speaker - Helen Baczkowska (Norfolk Wildlife Trust)**
8. **Note on Pollinator Action Plans - Claire Wiggs** (Pages 13 - 15)
9. **Opportunities for Biodiversity - Speaker - Guest Speaker (Norfolk Wildlife Trust)**

10. Date of Next Meeting

14 May 2024 @ 4pm

25 June 2024 @4pm

To:

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

Officers

Geoff Hall, Executive Director

Stuart Ashworth, Assistant Director, Environment and Planning

Martin Chisholm, Assistant Director, Operations and Commercial

Matthew Henry, Assistant Director, Property and Projects

Claire Wiggs Ecology Officer

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

BIO DIVERSITY TASK GROUP

Minutes from the Meeting of the Bio Diversity Task Group held on Monday, 5th February, 2024 at 4.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillor M de Whalley (Chair)
Councillors A Bullen and S Dark

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bartrum and P Kunes

1 MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

2 MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

Councillors Devulapalli and Moriarty attended under standing order 34.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4 URGENT BUSINESS

None

5 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE URBAN WILDLIFE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Task Group was presented with a report which set out the recommendations of the Urban Wildlife Group:

Recommendations and associated comments from the Urban Wildlife Informal Working Group (UWIWG)

1. Encourage the use of bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog highways in new and existing Borough Council properties

To investigate the possibility of adopting a policy of giving the option of installing swift and bat boxes, bee bricks and hedgehog highways in new developments. The group acknowledge that it would be difficult to insist that this was

included in new developments, but feel that people should be given the option of having them provided. The group also encourage installation of items to promote urban wildlife in existing council facilities where appropriate.

2. The Council to investigate providing wildflower seeds for redundant allotments and community orchards/gardens and encourage the planting of wildlife seeds in the community

The Group would like the Council to give consideration to planting wildflower seeds in redundant areas such as unused allotments and community areas. They ask that the Council use pollinators and flowers that benefit wildlife where possible. Parishes could also be encouraged to plant redundant areas.

3. The Council to encourage bird feeding stations and nest boxes in schools

This could involve the Men's Shed who have indicated that they would be interested in assisting with the provision of nest boxes for schools.

4. Support of a Nest Box Trail in King's Lynn

This is an initiative by Julian Moulton and his idea is to locate a variety of nest boxes throughout King's Lynn with a map and guide. Boxes could be located at playgrounds, public spaces and various buildings. This could be publicised by having a stand at town centre events.

5. Produce literature advising how residents can help support their urban wildlife and promoting the nest box trail in King's Lynn.

This could include links to local organisations who are interested in promoting Urban Wildlife along with links to useful websites, details of the best types of plants to encourage urban wildlife and helpful hints and tips to support urban wildlife in their own gardens.

6. Engage with local groups to participate in urban wildlife

Organisations such as Men's Shed, In Bloom and schools could be engaged to promote urban wildlife. Stands at events could promote the nest box trail and provide literature as mentioned in recommendation 5 above. Linking with recommendation 3 above, schools could be encouraged to become involved by promoting what they have done for urban wildlife, with the possibility of a competition. The Informal Working Group have also been approached by NVN (Nature Volunteer Network) who have offered to collect wild bird seed for bee highways in the Borough. They are careful only to collect 10-20% of the seed on any given wild plant. This is an example of a local organisation who wants to contribute and also a demonstration of the cooperation the Borough can encourage and develop between outside bodies interested in local wildlife.

7. Encourage Councillors to promote Urban Wildlife in their Wards and Parishes where appropriate.

This could include promoting the benefits of Urban Wildlife and signposting to relevant organisations. Councillors could suggest ideas to their Parishes such as bulk buying wild flower seed,

which would bring the cost down to residents, and then could be sold at cost by Parish Councils. Councillors could also provide detail of good work in their Wards which could be circulated to other Councillors via the Members Bulletin and then cascaded down to Parish Councils as appropriate.

Councillor Bullen spoke to the recommendations made by the Group as it's former Chair. In doing so he commented that recommendation 7 which referred to wild bird seed, should be wild flower seed. He encouraged the council to support the recommendations and actively work to achieve them and encourage residents to deliver them.

Councillor Dark spoke in support of the recommendations and made reference to funding required to allow the recommendations to be actioned. He proposed that a recommendation also be included to request the Cabinet to include a budget to facilitate this. Councillor Bullen seconded the proposal which was agreed.

In discussing the swift bricks, G Hall, Executive Director commented that on the Council's developments it went above what was expected or required of private developers on an environmental front. He advised that the property and grounds teams would need to look at how it could be achieved for Council properties and land. He suggested that there would be an action plan on how to move forward.

Councillor Dark commented that the Council was one of the largest developers in the borough at the moment so it was simpler to include the solutions whilst they were being built to lay down the marker for developers.

G Hall confirmed the Council's properties were a relatively easy win, and many were already being planned on the Parkway development. However at this stage until the Design Guidance for Bio Diversity was in place with the Local Plan, the Council could only encourage, provide guidance and make clear it was not costly to introduce things such as swift ricks and bat boxes.

Councillor Bullen considered the progress being made a good news story for developers as purchasers wanted to see an environmental element. He hoped the borough would get a reputation for promoting and delivering on the issue.

Councillor de Whalley thanked the Urban Wildlife Group for their work and officers for the ambition to make the recommendations work.

RECOMMENDED: That Cabinet be recommended to approve the following :

Recommendations and associated comments from the Urban Wildlife Informal Working Group (UWIWG)

1. Encourage the use of bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog highways in new and existing Borough Council properties
2. The Council to investigate providing wildflower seeds for redundant allotments and community orchards/gardens and encourage the planting of wildlife seeds in the community
3. The Council to encourage bird feeding stations and nest boxes in schools
4. Support of a Nest Box Trail in King's Lynn
5. Produce literature advising how residents can help support their urban wildlife and promoting the nest box trail in King's Lynn.
6. Engage with local groups to participate in urban wildlife
7. Encourage Councillors to promote Urban Wildlife in their Wards and Parishes where appropriate.
8. That Cabinet be requested to provide a budget to deliver the proposals.

6

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Claire Wiggs, Senior ecologist gave a presentation (copy attached) on Bio Diversity Net Gain.

In discussing the presentation it was confirmed that it would come into force for larger developments in February, and for smaller ones in April. It was not applicable for those which already had planning permission. There were exceptions to the requirements.

With regard to the anti trashing element Councillor Dark asked if there was any funding for the monitoring for the ongoing monitoring required. He suggested it needed Councillor involvement. Assistant Director S Ashworth suggested that future monitoring would have to be on a risk based approach and would also impact the Enforcement Team. There would be some funding available, but discussions were ongoing with other authorities on the approach to be taken.

C Wiggs informed members that developers were being invited to come forward with land as a habitat bank. Expressions of concern on the monitoring of those were raised. The Chair indicated the Council

would be looking at what of its own land could be used for that purpose.

Councillor Bullen asked how the public would be able to engage if they suspected breaches. C Wiggs explained that Natural England would have a net gain register with a map. She acknowledged that it was early days in the process and implications etc would emerge once up and running as no councils had the answers yet.

S Ashworth confirmed that the Planning Committee and planning agents were receiving training on the matter. Bio Diversity Net Gain had been referred to as one of the most ambitious biodiversity schemes in the world, by Harvard University.

The Chair thanked Senior Ecologist Claire Wiggs for the presentation. The Task Group conformed they would like an update before the close of their work.

7

BIODIVERSITY DUTY

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Senior Ecologist Claire Wiggs gave a presentation on Biodiversity Duty. She confirmed the Council had not met the 1 January deadline for this, which was the case with many local authorities. It was necessary to have the required policies in place to comply, although there was still information and guidance awaited in order to fully comply. She suggested that the Task Group could assist. Executive Director G Hall indicated that the council could produce a plan by the deadline without the guidance.

Councillor Dark referred to discussions that other public bodies were having on the subject and suggested finding out what others were doing.

Councillor Bullen drew attention to the ambition behind the plan, and acknowledged that there was little resistance to it, although information was needed. He hoped it would become the norm to embrace the ideals of bio diversity.

The Task Group noted the update.

8

SUGGESTED ITEM FROM COUNCILLOR DEVULAPALLI

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

Under standing order 34, Councillor Devulapalli asked to add a suggestion to the agenda for a bio diversity awareness raising project for west Norfolk. She suggested that the Council could sponsor a competition for private gardens, schools etc the council could issue

certificates of achievement. She informed members that she would be happy to bring forward volunteers to scope and organise it. She asked that the Council's communications team support its advertising to the public to raise awareness. She suggested that organisations such as the NWT could be involved.

Councillor Moriarty suggested that launching it in January 2025 would be a good time line in order for people to get involved and organise their gardens etc.

RESOLVED: That the item come to the next meeting of the task group for discussion.

9

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

4 March @ 4pm – this was subsequently changed to 7 March due to long planning agenda.

15 April 2024 @4pm

14 May 2024 @ 4pm

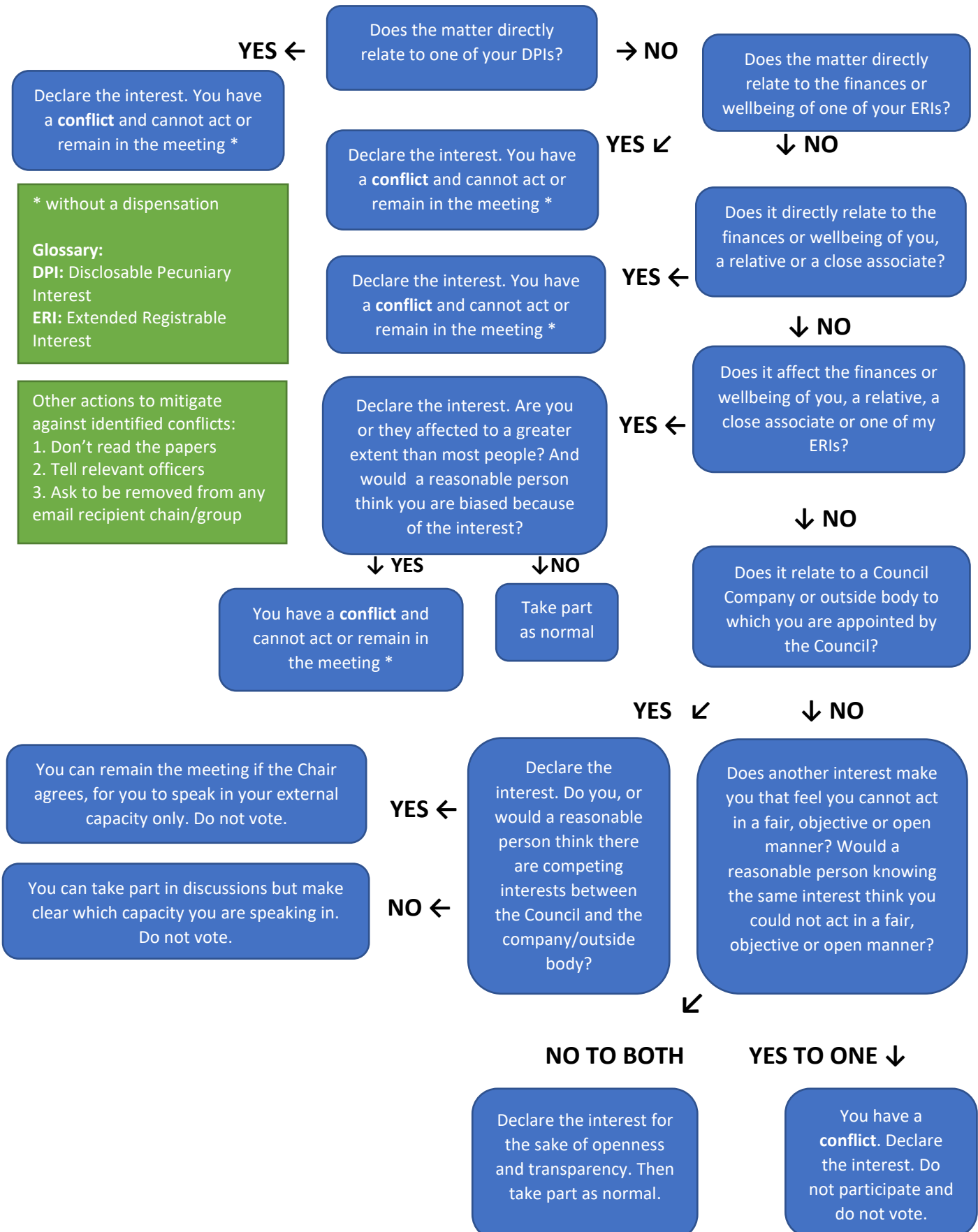
25 June 2024 @4pm

The meeting closed at 5.24 pm

DECLARING AN INTEREST AND MANAGING ANY CONFLICTS FLOWCHART



START



Declare the interest. You have a **conflict** and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

* without a dispensation

Glossary:

DPI: Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

ERI: Extended Registrable Interest

Other actions to mitigate against identified conflicts:

1. Don't read the papers
2. Tell relevant officers
3. Ask to be removed from any email recipient chain/group

YES ←

Does the matter directly relate to one of your DPIs?

→ NO

Does the matter directly relate to the finances or wellbeing of one of your ERIs?

↓ NO

Declare the interest. You have a **conflict** and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

YES ↙

Does it directly relate to the finances or wellbeing of you, a relative or a close associate?

↓ NO

Declare the interest. You have a **conflict** and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

YES ←

Does it affect the finances or wellbeing of you, a relative, a close associate or one of my ERIs?

↓ NO

Declare the interest. Are you or they affected to a greater extent than most people? And would a reasonable person think you are biased because of the interest?

YES ←

↓ YES

↓ NO

You have a **conflict** and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

Take part as normal

Does it relate to a Council Company or outside body to which you are appointed by the Council?

YES ↙

↓ NO

You can remain the meeting if the Chair agrees, for you to speak in your external capacity only. Do not vote.

YES ←

Declare the interest. Do you, or would a reasonable person think there are competing interests between the Council and the company/outside body?

Does another interest make you that feel you cannot act in a fair, objective or open manner? Would a reasonable person knowing the same interest think you could not act in a fair, objective or open manner?

You can take part in discussions but make clear which capacity you are speaking in. Do not vote.

NO ←

↙

NO TO BOTH

YES TO ONE ↓

Declare the interest for the sake of openness and transparency. Then take part as normal.

You have a **conflict**. Declare the interest. Do not participate and do not vote.

REPORT TO BIODIVERSITY TASK GROUP

Open		Would any recommendations proposed from the Group:			
Any especially affected Wards	Discretionary	Be for cabinet to consider and decide		YES	
		Need to be recommendations to Council			NO
		Is it a Key Decision			NO
Lead Member: Cllr Devulapalli/Cllr de Whalley					
Lead Officer: Geoff Hall E-mail: geoff.hall@west-norfolk.gov.uk					
Financial Implications YES	Policy/ Personnel Implications YES	Statutory Implications YES	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre- screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications NO	Environmental Considerations YES

Date of meeting: 15 April 2024

BIODIVERSITY COMPETITION – SUGGESTION FROM CLLR DEVULAPALLI

Introduction

To consider a proposal put forward by Cllr Devulapalli for the Council to support the introduction of an annual biodiversity competition intended to promote and encourage greater awareness of biodiversity across the Borough

Proposal

Cllr Devulapalli intends that this competition will be community led relying on community volunteers. She is asking that the Council support the introduction of an annual biodiversity competition by:

1. Publicly supporting and endorsing the proposal
2. Providing support and guidance to the group on how to run the competition through preparation of a project plan.
3. Provision of Comms support to highlight the importance of biodiversity and the competition.

Options

Officers are currently exploring different options to help support and encourage biodiversity prior to putting forward a recommendation to Cabinet. Options include:

1. The Council hosting and running a competition to promote biodiversity along the same lines as the mayors design or business awards. – This is not likely to be feasible within existing resources without reprioritising. This would also have the appearance of a Council rather than community initiative.

2. The Council providing support to a community initiative along the lines set out above. This is the preferred option.

(RHS) In Bloom Initiative

Anglia in Bloom forms part of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society's) Britain in Bloom competition. This is a campaign set up to help get the best out of the village, town or city in which we live, both environmentally and florally.

The Britain in Bloom campaign is organised by The Royal Horticultural Society, and more information on the RHS can be obtained from their website

One of the criteria under which schemes are assessed under Environmental Sustainability is NI 197 'Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites'

The introduction of a biodiversity competition alongside In Bloom could be complementary and might provide an opportunity where the In Bloom Committees could be involved in supporting this competition.

Next Steps

That a recommendation go to Cabinet from this working group that Officers explore Option 2 as set out above aimed at supporting a community-based biodiversity competition. Links with InBloom can also be considered as part of developing the project plan.

REPORT TO BIODIVERSITY TASK GROUP

Open		Would any recommendations proposed from the Group:	
Any especially affected Wards	Discretionary /	Be for cabinet to consider and decide	YES
		Need to be recommendations to Council	NO
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision	NO
Lead Member: Cllr de Whalley			
Lead Officer: Claire Wiggs E-mail: Claire.wiggs@west-norfolk.gov.uk			

Date of meeting: 15 April 2024

DEVELOPING A LOCAL POLLINATOR STRATEGY

Developing a Local Pollinator Strategy or Plan does not need to be a massive undertaking, however it is important that it seeks commitment and involvement from across the local authority, so that awareness and subsequent actions for pollinators are enshrined into all parts of local authority work. **Local Nature Partnerships and wildlife organisations** should all be in a position to provide further advice and information on local habitats and species, and to help to join up work on the ground.

A Local Pollinator Strategy or Plan should sit alongside other **Local Biodiversity Action Plans, greenspace and green infrastructure strategies**, and link into existing Local Development Plans or policies. It should outline a range of positive principles and associated actions which can be applied across the management of local authority projects, assets and decision-making processes. At its core, it should be about providing pollinator food and shelter across all types of land so that our pollinators can survive and thrive.

There are many ways local authorities can take action for pollinators. [Bugslife](#) recommend that a good Strategy should include objectives and actions under the following themes:

1. Helping pollinators through regulatory functions - Local Planning/ Development control
2. Using land for the benefit of pollinators (land management)
3. Raising awareness in the wider community
4. Wider opportunities on the local authority estate
5. Monitoring actions and publicising success Further information on these themes along with some suggested actions are given on the following pages

Bugslife offer quite detailed information to help inform pollinator action plan - [Helping pollinators locally.pdf \(friendsoftheearth.uk\)](#)

What difference can a plan make:

- Ensure pollinators' needs are taken into account across a local authority's work;
- Raise the awareness of pollinators' needs across all of a local authority's staf, contracts and networks;
- Do the same in local communities through its staf and elected members who represent those communities;
- Help to identify previously unrecognised ways to help pollinators;
- Ensure the wellbeing of pollinators is a principal consideration in land management;
- Help pollinator populations to recover to the benefit of farming and food production;

Content to consider:

- What are pollinators
- What are the threats / issues
 - Habitat loss (loss and degradation of habitats)
 - Habitat fragmentation
 - Climate Change
 - Pesticides
 - Diseases and Invasive species

Consider splitting these threats into key themes hen looking at actions to take.

- What do pollinators need?
 - Shelter (habitat features, such as bare ground, old masonry, dense grassy tussocks, standing deadwood, stone piles, where our pollinators can nest, hibernate and shelter.)
 - Forage (nectar and pollen, food plants. A range of habitats provide food sources, from wildflower rich grasslands, road verges, trees and wetlands to brownfield sites and our urban parks and gardens.)
- What's being done?
 - How can we address these issues
 - Wider benefits
 - Advertise government initiatives (bee lines, UK pollinator monitoring Scheme, National Pollinator Strategy, National pollinator week (22-28 June))
- Action already taking place in KLWNBC?

Authority / Location	✓ Things Done Well	X Not so well
North Norfolk Helping%20pollinators%20locally.pdf (north-norfolk.gov.uk)	Use of Pilot Sites In order to assess the feasibility of delivering a project of this nature across the district,	
Kent BEE (kent.gov.uk)	Reader friendly Good clear information	

	and targets	
Stirling draft_stirling_pollinator_action_plan.pdf	Good use of themes to target actions	
South Gloucestershire South Gloucestershire Council Pollinator Action Plan 2022 (southglos.gov.uk)	Good use of themes	
Dorset b0e518b5-5bd7-8e2c-48e3-b85fd9031887 (dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)	Good use of themes Further splits actions into areas i.e. schools, farms, offices ect	
York Annex 6 CYC Pollinator Strategy Draft v2.pdf (york.gov.uk)	Good definition of what pollinators needs `York Urban buzz project` a good case study	Quite dense text Strategy and objectives section not very detailed in terms of actual actions to take
St Ives town cornwalls_pollinator_action_plan_web.pdf	Sets out what is being done well; nationally, in Cornwall and by individuals Good case study examples Good tips for individuals Reader friendly	Not much strategic level action
Glasgow chttpandler.ashx (glasgow.gov.uk)	Link to biodiversity duty Specific targets with accountable parties	Dense text / not reader friendly
Wales action-plan-for-pollinators-review-and-future-actions-en.pdf (gov.wales)	Leaflets for crews who carry out cutting Pollinators guide to seasonal plants leaflets	Lengthy documents
North Lanarkshire N (northlanarkshire.gov.uk)	Good outline of threats and current actions Good targets	Not reader friendly

Natural Scot offers good advice on specific management - [Guidance - Pollinators in Planning and Construction guide | NatureScot](#)

Good blog post on types of pollinators: [Pollinators – Norfolk Botanical Garden](#)