

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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New Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 - 2024

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet approves the new Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the period 2020 – 2024, as detailed in Appendix 1.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2000, the Council produced its first Local Biodiversity Action Plan “A Wealth of Wildlife”. The principle aim of the plan was the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within Chichester District. The document outlined the key biodiversity landscape features in the District and included a separate action plan detailing how the Council would aid biodiversity projects over the following 3 years.
- 3.2 The LBAP was subsequently revised in 2003, 2007 and 2010.
- 3.3 In 2015, the action plan was again updated to produce the most recent LBAP covering the period, 2015 - 2019. It brought together the Council’s actions to demonstrate compliance with the statutory Biodiversity Duty on Local Authorities as required by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Section 40 of the Act sets out a general duty for local authorities to have regard to conserving biodiversity in all their functions and decision-making.
- 3.4 Progress on the delivery of actions within the 2015-2019 LBAP was monitored and the monitoring report is included in Appendix 2. Key successes of the 2015- 2019 LBAP include:
- Supporting £39,000 of biodiversity projects through the Grants and Concessions Scheme;
 - Supporting the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group in delivering the Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands (FLOW) Project on the Manhood Peninsula, including securing over £500k from the Heritage Lottery Fund;
 - Supporting the schemes to mitigate the increased recreational disturbance at Chichester and Pagham Harbours;
 - Delivering a £50K biodiversity enhancement scheme along the River Lavant, funded by Community Infrastructure Levy;

- Coordinating the delivery of biodiversity enhancements at Brandy Hole Copse Local Nature Reserve, including coppicing, installation of an accessibility path and smaller bi-monthly management tasks through the Green Gym;
- Drafting policies and supporting information on natural environment; biodiversity; trees and hedgerows and strategic wildlife corridors for the Local Plan Review.

4. New Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 - 2024

4.1 The new LBAP, which will run from 2020 until 2024, is included in Appendix 1. Key actions proposed under the updated LBAP include:

- Strategic Wildlife Corridors Project – secure funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund for delivering a project which will provide biodiversity enhancement to the proposed Strategic Wildlife Corridors within Chichester District;
- Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands (FLOW) Project – oversee the completion of the FLOW project on the manhood peninsula;
- Naturalising Chichester’s Green/Blue Spaces – identify sites within Chichester’s parks to be wilded to create biodiversity rich spaces;
- Local Plan Review Policies – support the wildlife policies through the Local Plan Review Examination.

4.2 Cabinet is asked to approve the updated LBAP for the period, 2020 – 2024.

5. Resource and Legal Implications

5.1 The LBAP will be overseen by the Environmental Strategy team but it includes actions from services across the Council. Once it has been approved by Cabinet it will be published.

5.2 Resourcing to deliver the actions within the LBAP will generally come from the existing budget and staffing allocation, in combination with relevant services across the Council and partner organisations. External funding of over £1 million over 5 years is being sought through the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the Strategic Wildlife Corridors Project, which will be match funded by £50,000 from Council reserves, as agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 January 2020.

6. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity Positive impacts from the replacement of the current action plan	X	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing Increasing access to natural green space and outdoor activity, such as the Green Gym, has benefits to health and wellbeing	X	

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – New Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 – 2024

7.2 Appendix 2 – Monitoring report for LBAP 2014 – 2019.