



South Lanarkshire

Biodiversity

Duty Implementation Plan

2018 – 2022



Foreword

Biodiversity, the variety of life on earth, is of fundamental importance to us all. In South Lanarkshire we have a diverse landscape across rural and urban areas, which supports a variety of plants, animals and fungi. We all depend upon biodiversity and the services it provides. The provision of clean air and water are essential to our health and wellbeing but our ability to damage and disrupt these key life support systems has never been greater.

Biodiversity is resilient; with a little thought and understanding wildlife can thrive alongside business and growing communities. Our challenge is to understand how a healthy framework of natural habitats and species can be sustained as an integral part of future townscapes and an increasingly managed countryside. If this vital resource is to be maintained, everyone needs to know how to reduce their impact on the natural world and make improvements where possible.

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy reflects the growing international consensus that protecting biodiversity is not only important for individual species, habitats and ecosystems but is essential if we are to achieve healthy societies and sustainable economic growth. Councils have a key role to play in this, and South Lanarkshire Council fully recognises the contribution that a healthy and attractive natural environment makes to the quality of life of our communities.

The varied functions of the Council provide many opportunities to implement the statutory requirement placed on all public bodies to “conserve and enhance biodiversity”. South Lanarkshire Council have prepared this Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan as a clear statement of our commitment to the ongoing protection and improvement of our natural environment, landscapes and wildlife.

We can only deliver this plan if everyone in the Council recognises the important role that they can play, both as an individual and as an employee, manager or elected representative. By working together we can ensure that biodiversity, and the critical services it provides, will be conserved now and for future generations.

Councillor John Anderson

*Chair of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
South Lanarkshire Council*

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Front page photos:
Tiger moth and ringed plover
(photos: Malcolm Muir)

1: Introduction

Biodiversity, short for biological diversity, is the variety of life which inhabits planet Earth. It is every species of plant, animal, fungi and microbe, their genetic variation and the habitats upon which all living things depend. It encompasses the whole natural world, not just the rare or endangered and includes people. Biodiversity is important to us because it provides crucial resources like fresh air, clean water, food and medicine and has a major role in mitigating against and adapting to climate change. Without biodiversity, humans could not survive.

The distribution and diversity of the ecological resources within South Lanarkshire is influenced by the variation in geography and topography of the area. There are a series of distinct landscape character areas, each with varied and valuable biodiversity assets. Some of these assets are internationally important, with others of national or local significance. Although the region is mainly agricultural land, there are pockets of natural and semi-natural habitats, including ancient woodland, peatland and upland moorland.



Langlands Moss Local Nature Reserve

Environmental pressures having an adverse effect on biodiversity within South Lanarkshire include the invasion of non-native species, fragmentation of habitats affecting connectivity of systems and the inappropriate location of urban development or development that is insensitive to the local environment. Arguably the greatest pressure on ecosystem function is climate change, with habitat fragmentation restricting the ability of species to adapt.

The South Lanarkshire Council Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy states that:

“Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is a key factor in sustaining economic and social development, not just today but for future generations.”

The natural environment is an asset which can contribute to the economic growth of South Lanarkshire if it is managed and used in a sustainable manner. Many of our growth sectors, such as tourism and food provision rely on ecosystem services from a high quality natural environment. There are many other less tangible ways in which nature sustains us; contributing to our health, wellbeing, enjoyment, sense of place and cultural identity.



Society and biodiversity are interdependent; sustainable development requires the protection of biodiversity. Taking an ecosystem wide approach to conservation may help to sustainably develop and use resources while conserving biodiversity. The environment of South Lanarkshire is a valuable asset, providing the basis for services which are of direct benefit to our economy and communities. Implementation of the Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan and the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy will have direct impact in stemming the decline of biodiversity assets within South Lanarkshire. Both plans will help ensure the effective management of these assets which in turn will help to improve the quality and richness of the local environment across all ecosystems.

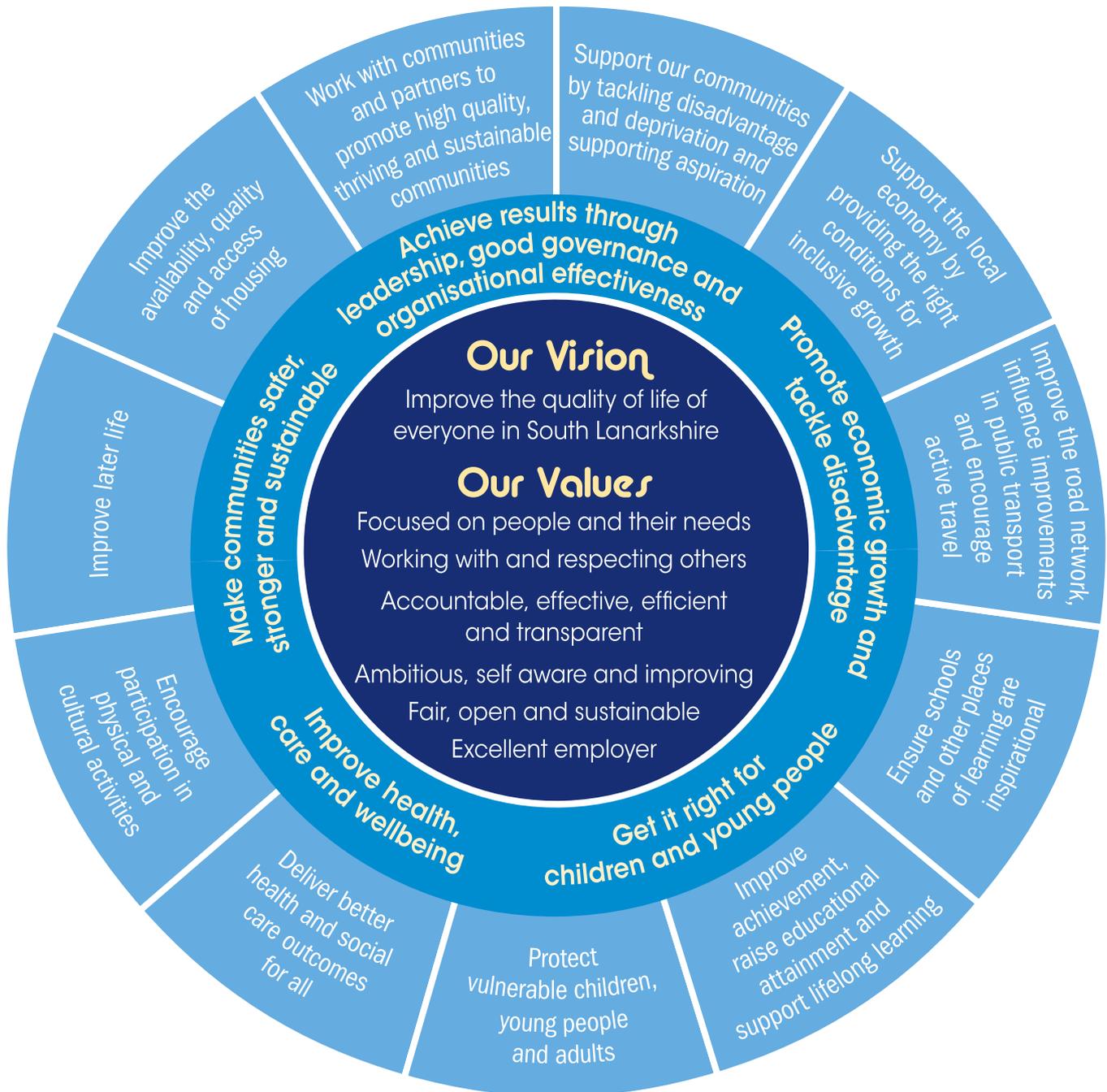
The Biodiversity Duty

South Lanarkshire Council has a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity as set out by the [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act \(2004\)](#). Our role is to support biodiversity from direct actions, through to educating others and raising awareness.

The [Wildlife and Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Act \(2011\)](#) requires the Council to make a report publicly available on our compliance with the Biodiversity Duty every three years. We published our first [Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan](#) in 2012 with the first round of reporting to the Scottish Government completed in 2014. Our second Report was available online from 1 January 2018.

Local Context

The Council Plan "[Connect](#)" sets out the services we will provide to local communities and residents. Biodiversity has a part to play within the integrated delivery of our vision, ambitions, values and objectives which are detailed in the diagram below.



The Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan (BDIP) reflects the priorities and outcomes set out within the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy and articulates how the Council will achieve its duty to conserve biodiversity.

The BDIP takes cognisance of the South Lanarkshire Sustainable Development Strategy which also emphasises the importance of achieving the Council's biodiversity duty.

The BDIP reflects guidance from the Scottish Government and includes sections on:

Governance: How we manage biodiversity and ensure compliance with the Duty.

Making progress: Examples of our key achievements.

Mainstreaming: How we incorporate biodiversity measures across a wide range of services, policies, plans and strategies.

Partnership working: How we continue to work with partners, including our communities and staff to promote and raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance.

Actions: Sets out our key planned actions for the next five years.

Monitoring and review: How we will monitor our actions and activities and meet our reporting commitments.

Statutory Assessments

The BDIP has been assessed in terms of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005 to determine potential environmental impacts. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out alongside the development of both the BDIP and the Biodiversity Strategy. The SEA Environmental Report has been subject to public consultation alongside the draft Plan.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out for the Plan. This complies with the duties set out in the Equalities Act, 2010, in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity (and marriage).



Calderglen Country Park
(Photo: Kerry Thomson)

2: Making progress

We have made considerable progress in our biodiversity activities since the first BDIP was published in 2012. In that time we have achieved various actions that have helped to secure real improvements to the area's biodiversity:

- 20 hectares of commercial conifer plantation has been removed from the banks of the River Avon at Chatelherault Country Park. Natural regeneration of native woodland will greatly improve the biodiversity of this site, which is part of the Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve. Restoration of conifer plantation sites to native woodland is a national conservation priority and a key objective of South Lanarkshire Council's long term management plans for various sites.



Removal of conifer plantation from Chatelherault
(Photo: Malcolm Muir)

- On the River Avon, two abandoned weirs: Ferniegair (Chatelherault Country Park) and Millheugh (Larkhall) were high impact obstacles to the movement of species such as salmon. South Lanarkshire Council was one of a number of partners involved in constructing fish passes at these weirs, creating a navigable pathway. The completion of this project allows fish to migrate upstream and access an additional 200km of waterways for spawning.
- We have been working with volunteers and community groups for many years, supporting various types of work. Since 2010 the average time spent volunteering each year is 2,751 days, which equates (based on £50 per day) to £137,550 annually. This is an under-representation of the work carried out in South Lanarkshire by volunteers as we do not receive information from all our groups every year.

- The Countryside Ranger Service directly supports communities to improve biodiversity. There are regular conservation sessions at South Haugh which anyone can attend. Outdoor Play Groups run activities at various locations throughout the year. "Branching Out" programmes (conservation therapy for clients with mental health issues) have been run in conjunction with Forestry Commission Scotland.



Volunteers clearing the path at South Haugh
(Photo: Melanie Craig)

- We work with partners to run projects which engage communities such as "[Badgers in the Landscape](#)" which is run by Scottish Badgers and supported by the Council to protect South Lanarkshire's badgers by providing training and raising awareness. Working with Froglife, 13 ponds were created or improved in 2016/17 as part of the [Living Waters](#) project; we aim to continue habitat management and community involvement at these sites.
- The draft Biodiversity Assets approach was published in 2015 as part of Supplementary Guidance ([9: Natural and Historic Environment](#)) for the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. This process can be used to assess the biodiversity value of a site and the potential impact of changes.
- Three parks in South Lanarkshire have Green Flag Awards which recognise and reward well managed parks and greenspaces. There are biodiversity elements of this, including reducing the use of chemicals and peat, and appropriately managing natural features and wildlife.

- › We have worked with the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) and other partners to improve the path network in the Clyde Valley, giving people safe access to explore the countryside. The [Community Links](#) project upgraded and improved paths linking the communities of Rosebank, Ashgill, Dalserf, Larkhall, Law, Crossford, Nemphlar and Braidwood with the Clyde Walkway.
- › The Countryside Ranger Service continues to support schools to connect with their local greenspaces, provide advice and signpost to available resources. In 2015 the team worked with CAVLP and Impact Arts to carry out environmental surveys and create art works with six schools in the Carluke learning community.



Carluke Creepy Crawlies art exhibition
(Photo: Archibald Photography)

- › Urban sites have been improved using various external funding streams including Forestry Commission's Woodlands In and Around Towns programme. Sites with improved, safe access include Backmuir (2009), Udston and Glenlee (2009), Neilsland and Earnock (2012), Redlees (2013) and Millheugh/Greenhall/Barnhill (2017).
- › Central Scotland Green Network Trust and South Lanarkshire Council have produced a suite of ten [pocket guides](#) which can be used to assess the quality of various habitats including ponds, woodlands and school grounds. Funding was provided by the Renewable Energy Fund.
- › Cathkin Relief Road: This new road was opened in 2017 and was constructed by South Lanarkshire Council as part of the Glasgow City Region City Deal. Opportunities were taken throughout the project to contribute to biodiversity enhancement: the creation of new woodland shelterbelts and hedges using native species; areas of wildflower meadow created using existing top soil and native species mix; acoustic barriers created using woven and live willow screening fences with native climbing plants including ivy, honeysuckle and climbing rose.

- › Schools Modernisation: as part of this programme, the Council supports schools in shaping the external environment by providing basics such as planters, undeveloped grassed areas, and allowing the schools to develop natural play areas over time. Examples of further development:
 - › Neilsland Primary School was opened as a Centre of Excellence for Natural Outdoor Play in 2016. The aim of this was to promote outdoor learning and showcase how schools could develop their grounds to provide a stimulating, external environment to enhance play and provide unique and varied learning experiences. This facility includes insect hotels, fruit trees, bulb planting, and native species within hedges, trees and planting beds.
 - › First Step Nursery (opened April 2016) has an insect hotel in their play area and plan to develop the grassed area over time.
 - › Auchengray Primary School (opened January 2016) has a wildflower area and plan to further develop an eco garden.
 - › Machanhill Primary School (opened November 2015) has a nature trail through new trees plus planters to develop as the school wishes.
 - › New Lanark Primary School has a sedum roof on the flat roof extension to promote biodiversity.



An insect hotel (Photo: Louisa Maddison)

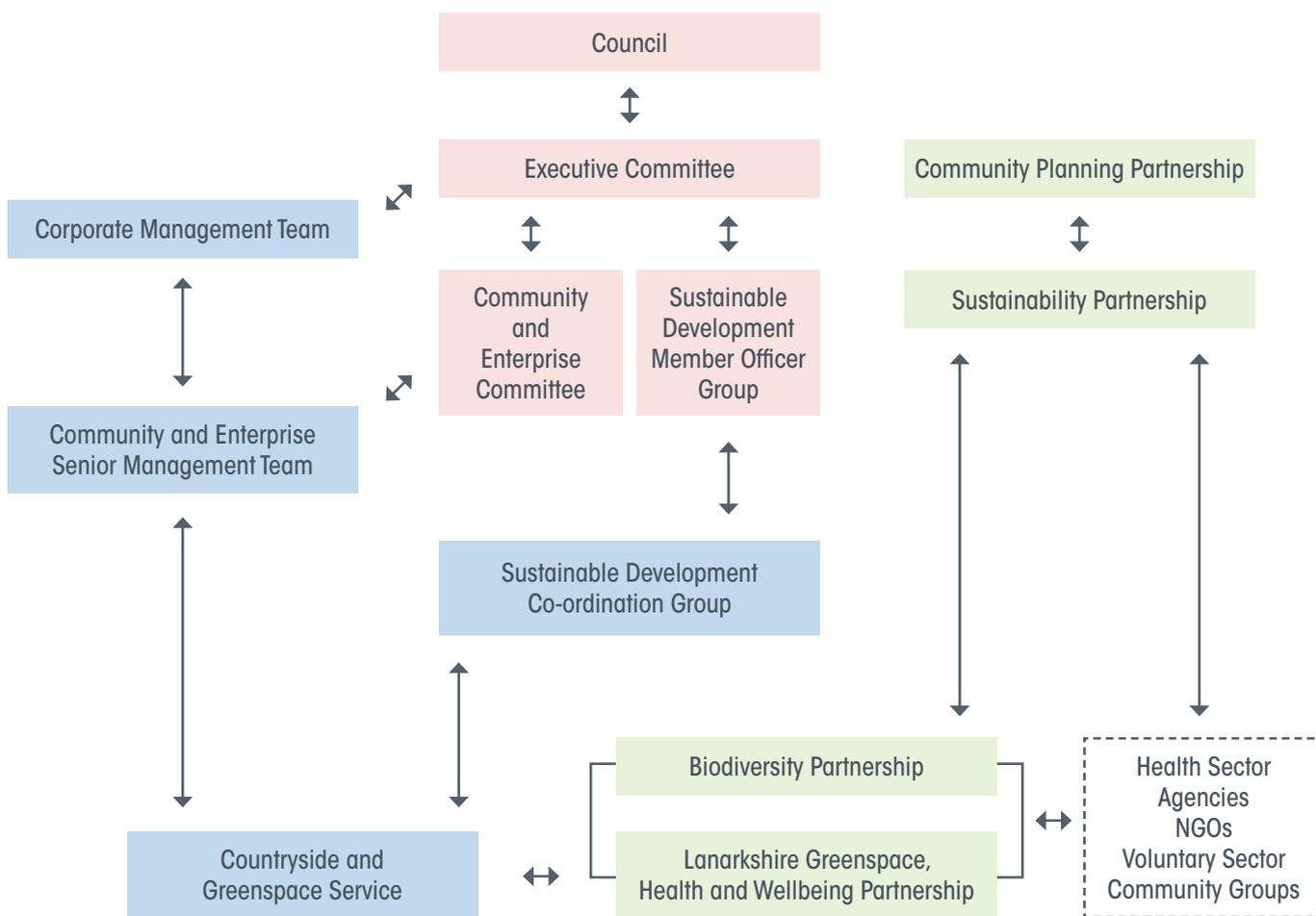
We will build on these successes and be informed from the lessons learned when we set out our actions for the next five years.

3: Governance

In South Lanarkshire, biodiversity is managed by the Countryside and Greenspace Service within Community and Enterprise Resources. We provide regular updates to the Community and Enterprise Senior Management Team, which comprises the Executive Director and the department's Heads of Service. We also report to our Corporate Management Team (CMT) on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty. The CMT is chaired by our Chief Executive and its members include all Executive Directors within the Council.

Regular reports about biodiversity activities and issues are made to the Sustainable Development Member/Officer Group, which comprises elected members, our Chief Executive, the Executive Directors of Community and Enterprise Resources and Housing and Technical Resources, and managers and officers from across the Council.

We present an annual report to the Council's Executive Committee on progress in delivering our biodiversity actions and provide information on activities in relation to promoting biodiversity.



Reporting structure for biodiversity activity within the Council

It is recognised that some Resources will be best placed to deliver the Biodiversity Duty through strategic mechanisms such as policy assessment and implementation, whilst other Resources will contribute through the delivery of practical projects, as part of frontline services.

All Council Services are expected to demonstrate compliance with the Duty in some way; we welcome the opportunity to continually develop work which benefits biodiversity. Biodiversity action will not be confined to those stated in this Plan; additional actions will be recorded and reported.

Environmental data is collated and presented in the [South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report](#) which is updated every two years. This data informs the SEA process, which itself generates biodiversity measures and monitoring data.

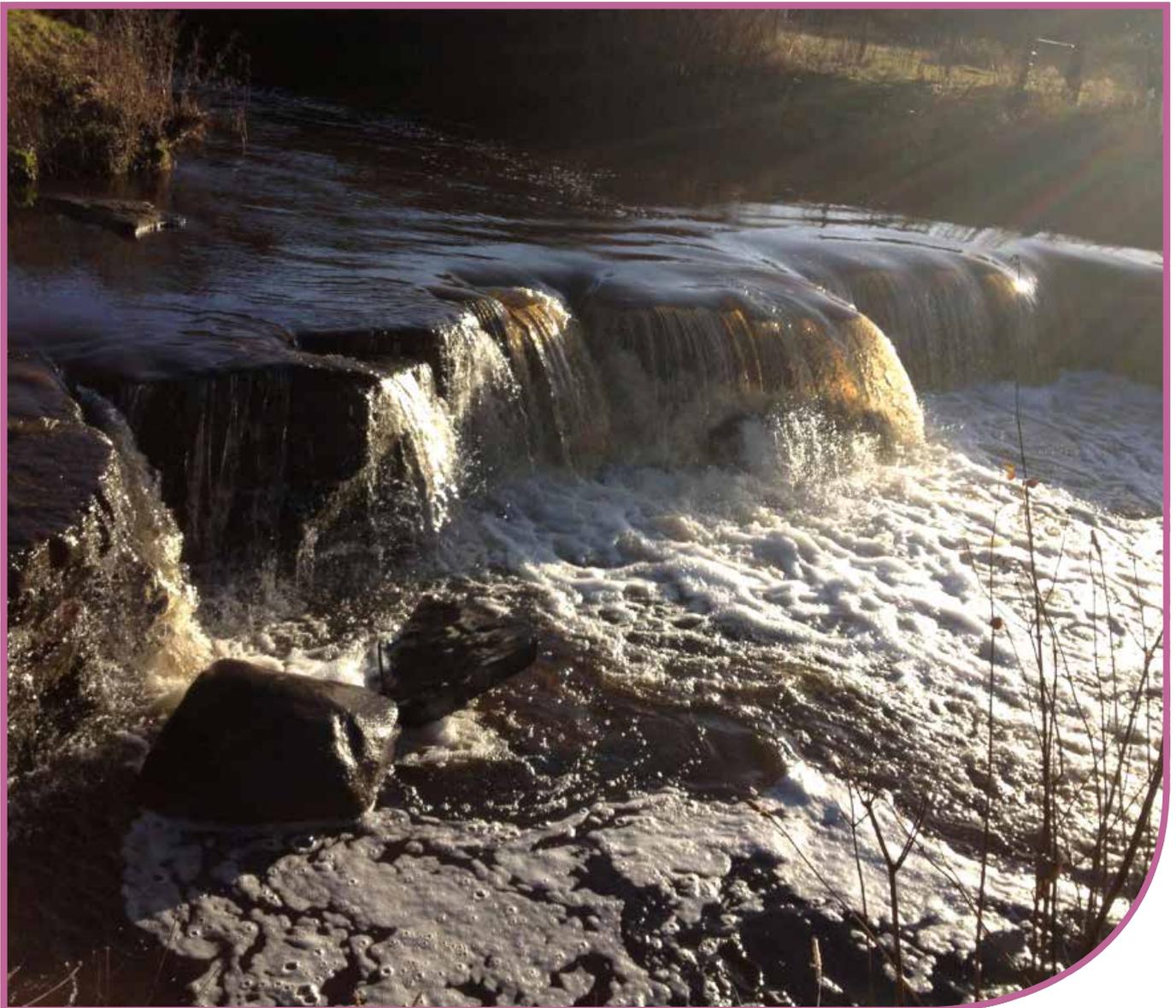
Monitoring and reporting

In order to ensure that the Biodiversity Duty is being met across the Council, the Corporate Management Team, supported by the Sustainability Partnership, has tasked the Sustainable Development Coordination Group with taking forward the development, implementation and monitoring of the Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan.

Representatives from each of the Council's Resources sit on this group and are able to act as coordinators for the purposes of monitoring compliance with the Biodiversity Duty through the implementation of Action Plans.

Managers and officers from the Countryside and Greenspace Service meet with colleagues from all services on at least an annual basis to discuss current and potential biodiversity activities and actions. The outputs from these meetings are reflected within the action plan. Out-with these formal arrangements, members of the team regularly meet with colleagues to discuss biodiversity related issues and give presentations and reports to other groups within the Council, on request.

Reporting will be in line with the Scottish Government's [Guidance for Biodiversity Duty Reporting](#).



The Rotten Calder flowing through Millheugh and Greenhall
(Photo: Louisa Maddison)

4: Mainstreaming

We continue to work closely with all Resources within the Council to mainstream consideration of biodiversity across our services. Managers and officers from the Countryside and Greenspace Service are members of various corporate groups and forums where they actively promote consideration of biodiversity. These include:

Sustainable Development Co-ordination Group

The Group comprises representatives from all Resources within the Council. Its main remit is to oversee the preparation and delivery of the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy. Regular reports and presentations on biodiversity within South Lanarkshire are given to the Group. This is the main platform for overseeing the preparation and implementation of the BDIP.

Corporate SEA Working Group

The Group brings together representatives from all key Services and Resources to oversee the SEA process within the Council. Representatives give information, advice and assistance on biodiversity to members who are responsible for preparing Council led policies, plans, programmes and strategies (PPPS) and their SEA. Many of the Council's plans have been strengthened by the SEA process and the actions of the Group. This has proved to be one of the most effective ways of mainstreaming biodiversity into the strategic planning process.

SEA Scoping Workshops

These workshops are held for all our PPPS which are determined to require SEA. These are attended by staff from the Countryside and Greenspace Service who provide invaluable input about likely positive and negative impacts from the proposed PPPS on the area's biodiversity. This helps to ensure that biodiversity is given early and effective consideration and often leads to further discussion between services, which helps to reinforce the delivery of our Biodiversity Duty.

Corporate Improvement Advisory Board

The Board issues Resource Planning Guidance to all Resources on an annual basis outlining standard content to be included within each of the Council's Resource Plans. This content includes text on sustainable development generally and specifically the Council's statutory requirement under the Biodiversity Duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. Resources are expected to set out within their Resource Plans the Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan actions which they will be undertaking in the year ahead.



SEA Working Group site visit to Broken Cross open cast restoration site (Photo: Louisa Maddison)

5: Partnership working

There is a strong track record of partnership working in South Lanarkshire in which biodiversity has a role.

[The South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership](#)

was established in 1997 to bring together partners with an interest in conserving and promoting biodiversity. The partnership is supported and facilitated by the Council and has members from organisations including the Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). It is responsible for the preparation and monitoring of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy.

The Sustainability Partnership comprises elected members and officers from the Council, community planning partners and third sector organisations. Representatives from Countryside and Greenspace regularly present on biodiversity activities to the Partnership and explore ways in which we can achieve more value from our activities in collaboration with partners.

[South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum](#)

(SLOAF): The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 requires all access authorities in Scotland to set up at least one Local Access Forum. SLOAF advises the Council and any other person or body on issues that arise in relation to outdoor access. Our Forum consists of representatives from a wide range of interests including land managers (farmers, estate owners, agencies such as the Scottish Wildlife Trust, FCS and Historic Environment Scotland), walkers, cyclists, equestrians, disabled people, anglers and communities.

[Lanarkshire Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing Partnership \(LGHWP\)](#)

This multi agency partnership provides a platform to maximise the use of greenspaces for community health and wellbeing. Originally established by South and North Lanarkshire Councils and NHS Lanarkshire, LGHWP has expanded to include the two local Leisure Trusts, volunteer agencies, SNH, FCS and Paths for All. Projects including "Get Walking Lanarkshire" are supported by this partnership.



Health Walk at Chatelherault Country Park
(Photo: Paula Hubens, Get Walking Lanarkshire)

The Council works with external partners to further its biodiversity duty, including:

- › [Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership](#)
- › [The Central Scotland Green Network Trust](#)
- › [Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network](#)
- › [Community Planning Partnership](#)
- › [Greenspace Scotland](#)

We also work with communities and volunteers, some of which are:

- › [Friends of Cadzow Glen](#)
- › [New Roots - Neilson and Earnock Heritage Group](#)
- › [The Cadzow Crew](#)
- › [The Friends of Holmhill Wood Community Park](#)
- › [The Friends of Langlands Moss](#)
- › The Friends of Morgan Glen
- › [The Friends of Stonehouse Park](#)
- › [The Friends of the Calder](#)
- › [The Friends of Udston and Glenlee Woods](#)

6: Action, monitoring and review

Following a detailed internal consultation process with all Council Services a plan has been prepared in which we set out our key actions for the five years of the BDIP.

Key to abbreviations used in Action Plan

Council Resources

ER	Education Resources	FCT	Finance and Corporate Resources
HTR	Housing and Technical Resources	SWR	Social Work Resources

Services within Community and Enterprise Resources

CAG	Countryside and Greenspace
ES	Environmental Services
GS	Grounds Services
PED	Planning and Economic Development
RT	Roads and Transportation

Groups

CSWG	Corporate SEA Working Group
LASS	Learning about Sustainability in Schools
SDCG	Sustainable Development Co-ordination Group

Mainstreaming: The Council has incorporated biodiversity measures into various policy areas. There are strong links between biodiversity and a range of council activities and services.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
1.	SEAs are carried out for all qualifying PPPS	Ongoing	CSWG
2.	The Biodiversity Duty is reflected in Resource and Service Plans	Ongoing	FCT
3.	Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy for South Lanarkshire	From 2018	CAG
4.	Review and update Supplementary Guidance which supports the Local Development Plan	From 2018	PED, CAG
5.	Ensure biodiversity is a key consideration of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and reporting	Ongoing	SDCG
6	Identify and consult on proposed Local Nature Reserves through the Local Development Plan process	From 2018	PED, CAG
7.	Designate proposed Local Nature Reserves as agreed through the planning process	From 2019	PED, CAG
8.	Investigate development of framework for the designation and monitoring of Local Nature Conservation Sites, in collaboration with landowners	From 2018	CAG, PED
9.	Finalise and implement an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) strategy	From 2018	GS
10.	Develop and implement a Tree Policy and Action Plan	2022	GS

Conserving and enhancing biodiversity: The Council takes action to conserve and enhance biodiversity in South Lanarkshire.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
11.	Review current grass management practice, particularly for sites with actual or potential biodiversity value	From 2018	GS
12.	Review application of herbicides on council land with the aim to reduce use as much as possible	From 2018	GS
13.	Continue to cut road verges outside settlements once a year during the growing season, except where safety requires otherwise	Ongoing	GS
14.	Investigate opportunities to maximise the use of native and pollinator friendly plants on Council owned land	From 2018	GS, RT, PED
15.	Review practice of strimming and use of herbicide at base of trees	From 2018	GS
16.	Investigate the use of green infrastructure to improve air quality, particularly that which favours native and pollinator friendly species	From 2018	ES, PED
17.	Develop assessment of biodiversity assets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Location and biodiversity value of Sustainable Drainage Systems ➤ Changes to native woodland cover ➤ Land under Habitat Management Plan framework 	2022	PED, CAG
18.	Carry out Flood Studies which may allow for Natural Flood Management measures	2022	RT
19.	Investigate and control the impacts of increasing deer populations within the urban environment, particularly woodlands	2022	CAG
20.	Investigate the inclusion of biodiversity value habitat within the restoration of mineral extraction sites	2022	PED
21.	Remove sites from the Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) Register where they have attained a habitat that contributes to biodiversity	Ongoing	ES, PED, CAG
22.	Record, monitor and control INNS	Ongoing	GS, RT
23.	Ensure Habitat Management Plans related to windfarm developments are prepared and implemented where required	Ongoing	PED, CAG
24.	Develop an agreement with the Biological Records Centre at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre to digitise and mobilise records	From 2018	CAG
25.	Conduct a Learning for Sustainability audit in schools which includes information on outdoor learning	2018	ER
26.	Investigate the potential to carry out a forest canopy cover assessment and set canopy targets	2022	GS
27.	For non-woodland trees within our control, investigate replacement planting standards	2022	GS
28.	For woodlands in our control, review the Woodland Trusts woodland Access Standards	2022	GS
29.	Progress a variety of projects that benefit species or habitats of importance within South Lanarkshire	Ongoing	CAG
30.	Community Payback carries out practical work on sites including the Clyde Walkway, Langlands Moss LNR and Holmhill Wood Community Park.	Ongoing	SWR

Partnership Working: The Council works in partnership with external bodies and communities to deliver biodiversity outcomes.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
31.	Co-ordinate and provide officer support for the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership (SLBP)	Ongoing	CAG
32.	Facilitate and chair meetings of the SLBP and sub-groups	Ongoing	CAG
33.	Implement and report progress on SLC led actions set out in the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy to partners	Ongoing	CAG
34.	The Countryside Ranger Service continues to provide training, events and information to volunteers and communities	Ongoing	CAG
35.	The Countryside Ranger Service provides regular opportunities for volunteers and community groups to be involved with improving greenspaces for people and biodiversity	Ongoing	CAG
36.	The Council continues to work with external partners including the Central Scotland Green Network, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership to further the conservation of biodiversity	Ongoing	SLC wide
37.	The Council continues to further the conservation of biodiversity through initiatives such as City Deal and Clyde Gateway	Ongoing	SLC wide
38.	Taking Learning Outdoors project with Scottish Natural Heritage connects schools with local greenspaces	To 2020	ER
39.	CAG staff meet with Resource colleagues annually to review BDIP actions and progress	Ongoing	SDCG
40.	Investigate the development of a Geodiversity Plan and site designations that identify locally important sites	2022	PED
41.	Create areas of wildflower meadow, in partnership with Buglife	2019	CAG, GS
42.	Survey relevant Vacant and Derelict Land sites and deliver site projects, in partnership with Central Scotland Green Network Trust	2022	CAG
43.	Investigate the development of a project to improve lowland raised bogs, taking advantage of the Peatland ACTION Fund	2022	CAG

Communications: The Council make use of their daily contact with the general public to communicate, educate and promote biodiversity. Within the Council, staff are kept aware of and up to date with biodiversity issues, changes and opportunities.

No.	Action	Timescale	Lead
44.	The importance of biodiversity and its place in South Lanarkshire is promoted to staff and the public	Ongoing	SDCG
45.	Staff and contractors are made aware of protected or important species and habitats	2018 onwards	CAG, ES
46.	The importance of biodiversity in mitigating against the effects of climate change is promoted, as well as the need for biodiversity to be capable of adaptation	Ongoing	SDCG
47.	Teachers are able to access GLOW (the educational intranet platform) for regularly updated State of the Environment information and other biodiversity materials	2018 onwards	CSWG, LASS
48.	Staff, partners and communities are made aware of INNS and encouraged to report their location	Ongoing	GS, RT, ES
49.	Volunteering opportunities related to biodiversity are promoted to staff and communities	Ongoing	CAG



Holmhills Wood Community Park
 (Photo: Louisa Maddison)

Monitoring and review: actions within the BDIP will be reviewed annually to reflect the ongoing work within the Council to meet our Biodiversity Duty. The findings of the review will be reported through our governance structures to the Council's Executive Committee.

Measure	Baseline	Target	Target	Source
Number of schools registered as Eco-Schools	100%	Maintain	Annually	ER
Number of schools achieving and retaining the Eco-Schools Green Flag award	76 (in 2015)	Increase	Two years	ER
Number of Local Nature Reserves identified and designated	1	Increase	Annually from 2019	CAG, PED
Number of Local Nature Conservation Sites identified and assessed	-	Increase	Annually	CAG, PED
Number of parks which have attained Green Flag status	3	Maintain	Annually	GS
Number of sites where INNS are controlled; species cover has reduced in size or been eradicated	2015: 256 sites 2017: 287 sites	Continue to treat when reported	Annually	GS
Report on SLC progress on Biodiversity Duty submitted to the Scottish Government	2018 and 2021	Maintain	Three years	SDCG
SLC Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan reviewed every five years	2022	Maintain	Five years	SDCG
Produce a State of the Environment Report for South Lanarkshire every two years	2017, 2019 and 2021	Maintain	Two years	PED
Number of schools and pupils achieving a John Muir Award	2015/16: 11 schools; 547 awards 2016/17: 15 schools, 641 awards	Maintain	Annually	ER
Number of teachers completing Forest School training	2015/16: 2 2016/17: 2	Maintain	Annually	CAG, ER
Time spent by volunteers and community groups on activities that benefit biodiversity	Annual average: 2,751 days	Maintain	Annually	CAG
Area of VDL in the category "uneconomic to develop/soft end use"	28 sites, 116.51ha (2017)	Decrease	Annually	PED
Area of land used for allotments	123 plots (two sites)	Maintain	Annually	GS
Number of grassland sites improved or managed for biodiversity	-	Increase	Two years	GS
Area of land under habitat management framework	-	Increase to 500ha	2022	GS
Quantity of herbicide purchased	-	Decrease	Annually	GS
Area of land managed to benefit biodiversity, related to windfarm works	Approx. 11,157ha	Maintain*	Annually	CAG
Number of schools using their local greenspace as part of Taking Learning Outdoors project	-	12 schools	Annually, to 2020	ER

*This would be expected to increase if new windfarm developments are approved which require habitat management

Appendix 1: Acronyms

BDIP	Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan
CAG	Countryside and Greenspace
CAVLP	Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership
CMT	Corporate Management Team
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
Ha	Hectare
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
LGHWP	Lanarkshire Greenspace, Health and Wellbeing Partnership
NHS	National Health Service
PPPS	Policies, Plan, Programmes and Strategies
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SLBP	South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership
SLC	South Lanarkshire Council
SLOAF	South Lanarkshire Outdoor Access Forum
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
VDL	Vacant and Derelict Land

Appendix 2: Glossary

- › **Canopy cover:** the area covered by the crown of an individual tree or plant when viewed from above
- › **Eco-Schools - Green Flag:** a global programme to help schools improve the environment; the Green Flag is the highest level of award.
- › **Ecosystem services:** the benefits that biodiversity brings to people such as clean water and waste decomposition.
- › **Forest School:** a long term approach to education that maximises time spent in the outdoors.
- › **Green infrastructure:** a network of natural components in urban areas such as green roofs, trees and water drainage methods.
- › **Greenspace:** grass, trees and woodland in urban areas that are used for recreation
- › **Invasive Non-Native Species:** species that do not naturally belong in Scotland and are causing a problem.
- › **John Muir Award:** an environmental award scheme to encourage people to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.
- › **Landscape character areas;** identified areas that recognise the topography, land use, history, settlement and development of the landscape.
- › **Local Nature Conservation Sites:** a non-statutory designation for locally important nature and landscapes.
- › **Local Nature Reserves:** places to enjoy and learn about nature which are easily accessible to a wide range of people.
- › **Natural regeneration:** woodland is allowed to grow naturally from seeds rather than planted trees.
- › **State of the Environment Report:** evaluates a range of environmental issues, identifies trends and provides an overall picture of the condition of South Lanarkshire's environment.
- › **Topography:** the shapes and features of the land surface.
- › **Vacant and Derelict Land:** previously developed land



If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

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