



The second of six key outcomes identified in this strategy is 'An Environmentally Sustainable Future'. This addresses the need to tackle climate change, engage with children and young people in environmental issues and protect biodiversity and open space.

### **3.2 Unitary Development Plan**

Haringey's Unitary Development plan (UDP) contains Council policies covering the environment and open space including areas such as biodiversity, ecologically valuable sites, green chains and ecological corridors.

Open Spaces objectives include:

"Ensure that the flora and fauna with nature conservation value, environmental value or amenity value in the borough is protected and encouraged and that the provision helps to meet the aims of the Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan..."

The forthcoming Local Development Framework will take over from the UDP and will continue to cover these planning issues.

### **3.3 The Greenest Borough Strategy**

'Protecting the Natural Environment' is one of seven priorities in LB Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy which states;

"We will protect Haringey's natural environment by working with local people and other partners to ensure that we preserve, improve, and increase, green spaces and their biodiversity through improved maintenance, accessibility and sustainable practices."

### **3.4 The Open Spaces Strategy**

As well as aiming to promote biodiversity and the conservation, protection and enrichment of species and habitats, it also identifies areas of deficiency in access to natural green space.

### **3.5 Environmental Education Strategy**

Key to raising awareness of environmental matters across the community the Environmental Education Strategy aims to encourage and support pupils, staff and parents to adopt and maintain behaviour changes which will promote their health and well being and help make Haringey a cleaner and healthier place in which to live and work.

By promoting the National Sustainable Schools Framework the strategy will support biodiversity through improvements to school buildings and grounds, and through the active participation of individuals.

## **4 Recommendations**

### **4.1 To adopt the proposed Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan.**

## 5 Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1 The proposed Biodiversity Action Plan will help to deliver and support a number of Council priorities.
- 5.2 The plan sets out how Haringey can meet its 'Biodiversity Duty' as set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- 5.3 The Plan provides a number of actions for improving figures for National Indicator 197.
- 5.4 Habitat and Species Action Plans in the 2004 BAP are now out of date and the proposed plan includes new and relevant targets and actions for delivery.

## 6. Other options considered

- 6.1 No adoption – By failing to adopt the plan and its actions there is likely to be a decline in biodiversity value across Haringey.
- 6.2 Partial adoption – Without full adoption of the plan, maintaining the current level of biodiversity value in Haringey is likely to be increasingly difficult due to habitat degradation and the threats posed by climate change.

## 7. Summary

- 7.1 The Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) aims to improve biodiversity value across the Borough and support the priorities and targets of both the London and UK plans as well as LB Haringey policies.
- 7.2 The plan makes reference to existing policies and actions but most importantly includes a programme of new action.
- 7.3 In addition to specific actions on selected habitats and species the document includes two new strands detailing how the London Borough of Haringey will meet its 'Biodiversity Duty' as set out in the 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006' and on how to improve performance figures for National Indicator 197 – 'active management of local sites'. **(see Appendix 2, BAP Structure)**. Examples of this are:

### 7.3.1 Homes for Haringey:

- 2 housing estates to be identified as flagship sites for national enhancement.
- Bird and bat boxes to be installed, where appropriate, on estates and 60 new trees to be planted every year.

### 7.3.2 Culture, Libraries and Learning

- 6 wildlife based walks and talks and 4 wildlife themed activities to be provided each year.

### 7.3.3 Street Lighting

- New, more appropriate lighting to be installed at key sites.

### 7.3.4 Better Haringey

- Promote biodiversity through Green Champions.

### 7.3.5 Corporate Procurement Group

- Ensuring that all timber sourced for construction, civil engineering and furniture is from a sustainable source.

### 7.3.6 Youth Offending

- To pilot a project within the ground of the Keston Centre to create a wildlife garden as a reparation activity for young offenders.

### 7.3.7 Children and Young People's Service

- To increase the number of schools achieving eco schools status.
- To develop and maintain a network of environmental education providers.

7.4 The Biodiversity Duty strand pulls together all of the work currently taking place across the Council which is beneficial to biodiversity and documents it in one place for the first time.

7.5 Delivery of Biodiversity Duty actions will be the responsibility of each individual service and the designated lead officer for each service who will report to the BAP working group at quarterly meetings. This information will be used to guide the choice of actions for the following year which should be complied as part of the Business Plan.

7.6 A timetable for these actions will be agreed with the Better Haringey Programme Board

7.7 It is anticipated that additional service contributions will be added as the plan is taken forward including actions from Planning, Highways, Property Services and Waste Management.

7.8 Delivery of National Indicator 197 improvements will be the responsibility of the Nature Conservation Project Officer and Head of Parks who will report back to the BAP working group.

7.9 Habitat and Species Action Plans (HAPs and SAPs) each have a lead organisation and working group representative who will present any progress at quarterly meetings. HAP and SAP objectives, actions and progress are also recorded on the national Biological Action Reporting System (BARS) which can generate reports as and when required. It is the responsibility of the Nature Conservation Project Officer to keep BARS up to date.

7.10 The formation of an overall BAP Working Group combining each of the three strands will meet quarterly to assess progress and update the plan on agreement of the Better Haringey Programme Board.

## **8. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

- 8.1 The Biodiversity Action Plan impacts not only ACCS but other Council Directorates. Each area has confirmed that expenditure required to achieve the outcomes in the plan can be met from within existing resources.

## **9. Head of Legal Services Comments**

- 9.1 Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is sometimes referred to as the “biodiversity duty” and will help embed consideration of biodiversity into the decision making of all relevant sectors. Defra has published a guidance to local authorities on implementing the duty.
- 9.2 The Defra website reports that a review to consider the impact of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act Section 40 biodiversity duty commenced in February 2009. It is expected to report its findings in early 2010.
- 9.3 “The study will investigate how public authorities have responded to the duty since it came into force in 2006, including the successes that they have had in applying the duty and the barriers that have hindered its application. The main focus for the research will be an extensive consultation exercise with over 1,000 public bodies in England, Wales and Scotland, using an on-line questionnaire. This will be followed by a more in-depth telephone survey of a limited random sample of these bodies. Additional information will be provided through a workshop with non-governmental organisations that have an active interest in the delivery of biodiversity conservation by public bodies.

Analysis of the findings will enable the impact of the duty to be assessed. A comparison will also be made with how Scottish authorities have responded to the similar duty which requires Scottish bodies to further biodiversity conservation in the exercise of their functions. Based on the findings, the study will suggest actions that can be adopted to improve the effectiveness of the duty and its delivery.”

## **10. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

- 10.1 The Biodiversity Action Plan proposes action to increase the number of Local Nature Reserves (LNR’s) in the borough in order to increase their catchment area making LNR’s more accessible to all Haringey residents.
- 10.2 Proposals within the plan include actions to reduce areas of deficiency in access to natural greenspace. By reducing these areas of deficiency there will be improved opportunity for a wider number of Haringey residents to experience wildlife and the educational, recreational and welfare benefits that this brings.

## **11. Consultation**

- 11.1 This plan has been developed through internal and external consultation with a wide number of organisations and Council services. The principal method for consultation is via the Project Working Group which is made up of representatives of several Council services but also both the Haringey and London Biodiversity Partnerships.
- 11.2 The Haringey Biodiversity Partnership (HBP) includes amongst its members local 'Friends Groups' with a special interest in particular sites within Haringey such as a wood or park, organisations from the voluntary sector, and concerned individuals. Those habitats and species selected for new action plans were chosen through consultation with the HBP.
- 11.3 The London Biodiversity Partnership is a regional body responsible for securing biodiversity objectives for London as part of the wider United Kingdom BAP. It has over 60 partnership members from the voluntary, statutory and commercial sectors and sits as an external review body on the project working group.

## **12. Service Financial Comments**

- 12.1 The proposals in the Biodiversity Action Plan specific to Recreation Services can be met through a combination of existing budgets and external funding.
- 12.2 Where proposals from other Council Services have been incorporated in the draft plan, these are as a result of actions identified by the relevant lead officers as being within existing service plans.

## **13. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs**

- 13.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Haringey Biodiversity Action Plan
- 13.2 Appendix 2 – Biodiversity Action Plan Structure

## **14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- 14.1 Not applicable.