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East Dunbartonshire Council

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**PLACE NEIGHBOURHOOD &
CORPORATE ASSETS
COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2023

PNCA/097/23/SG:

DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CONTACT OFFICER:

**SCOTT GALLOWAY, GREENSPACE AND
BIODIVERSITY POLICY OFFICER**

SUBJECT TITLE:

**STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT
2021-2023**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1** The purpose of this Report is to seek the approval of the Place Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Committee for the East Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Duty Report (**Appendix 1**), for the period January 2021 to October 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Place Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Committee:
- a) notes the contributions and achievements made across the Council to meet this statutory duty; and
 - b) approves the East Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Duty Delivery Report 2021-2023 for submission to Scottish Government and publication on the Council's website.

**ANN DAVIE
DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1** The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires the publication of a report, every three years, on how public bodies are meeting this duty.
- 3.2** The third East Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Duty Report was approved and published in March 2020, covering the period 2018 – 2020 (PNCA/007/21/JW). The fourth report, covering the next three year period (2021 – 2023) has been prepared and is now due to be published and submitted to the Scottish Government.
- 3.3** The East Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Duty Report 2021-2023 (Appendix 1) contains a summary of work carried out by the Council to comply with the statutory biodiversity duty, as required by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.
- 3.4** In complying with the statutory duty, public bodies must have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy which sets a framework for reducing biodiversity loss and incorporates targets to support internationally agreed goals to address the causes of biodiversity loss and enhance the benefits we gain from biodiversity and eco-system services.
- 3.5** The duty is a shared responsibility for the Council as a whole and information has been gathered across all Council service areas to complete the Report.
- 3.6** The Report structure follows a template issued by the Scottish Government and includes details of projects on the ground, how biodiversity has been mainstreamed through policies and plans, examples of partnership working, and a table showing how the Council's activities have contributed to delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.
- 3.7** The Report also sets out key future directions for furthering the conservation of biodiversity through Council services. This includes the development of the Greenspace Strategy in 2024.
- 3.8** Highlights from the Report include:
- The protection and enhancement of biodiversity through the now adopted Local Development Plan 2 policy.
 - Delivery of key projects which further the conservation of biodiversity in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Green Network Strategy and Open Space Strategy.
 - Successful creation of biodiversity features, such as meadows and ponds, in addition to the restoration of peatlands, and tree planting.
- 3.9** The Council is required to report on its compliance with the Biodiversity Duty on a triennial basis. However, at a Special meeting of Council on 18th January 2018 (PNCA/005/18/FP), Council agreed that data would be gathered across the Council on activities supporting delivery of the Duty on an annual basis, to ensure that the Duty is being fully met. For efficiency, this was to be undertaken jointly with data gathering to support the annual Climate Change Duties report to Scottish Government.

Progress on the implementation and monitoring of the Biodiversity Duty will be included in future reports on the delivery of the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Framework and Action Plan.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

4.1 Frontline Service to Customers – N/A

4.2 Workforce (including any significant resource implications) – N/A

4.3 Legal Implications – The report fulfils the statutory requirement to report on delivery of the Council's Biodiversity Duty, as required by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.

4.4 Financial Implications – None. The report is retrospective and does not include proposals for future projects.

4.5 Procurement – N/A

4.6 ICT – N/A

4.7 Corporate Assets – N/A

4.8 Equalities Implications – N/A

4.9 Corporate Parenting – N/A

4.10 Sustainability – None. The report records sustainability related initiatives carried out by Council staff during the recording period 2021 – 2023.

4.11 Other – N/A

5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risks and control measures relating to this Report are as follows: -

5.1 The Council would fail to comply with its statutory duties under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 should the Biodiversity Duty Report 2021 – 2023 not be completed, submitted to the Scottish Government and published online.

6.0 IMPACT

6.1 ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY – No direct impact from this Report.

6.2 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS – No direct impact from this Report.

6.3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE - No direct impact from this Report.

- 6.4 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES** - No direct impact from this Report.
- 6.5 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING** - No direct impact from this Report.
- 6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS** - No direct impact from this Report.
- 6.7 CLIMATE CHANGE** - No direct impact from this report.
- 6.8 STATUTORY DUTY** – This Report fulfils the statutory requirement to report on delivery of the Council's Biodiversity Duty, as required by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.

7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST

- 7.1** This Report has been assessed against the Policy Development Checklist and has been classified as being an operational report and not a new policy or change to an existing policy document.

8.0 APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix 1** - East Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Duty Delivery Report 2021 – 2023.