

APPENDIX 1 – Biodiversity resolution assessment (work in progress, not finalised)

NATURE & CLIMATE

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT
NC1	Develop a Nature Recovery Network map to prioritise sites within the ecological network to provide a strategic base for the creation of a Nature Recovery Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derbyshire County Council have responsibility for LNRS and their anticipated Network Map will be incorporated in LNRS. County Council to lead; District Council to feed in as necessary. County Council to start 2023 but timescale not yet clear.
NC2	Increase space for wildlife and commit to the long-term maintenance and expansion of the Nature Recovery Network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and Green Team already active in parks/gardens – areas for wildlife, planting of shrubs suitable for pollinators etc. Installation of universal nesting boxes through home energy efficiency grant funded schemes e.g. homes in Matlock. Reduction in annual bedding by 75% over three years. Replaced by perennials Liaison with Trent Rivers Trust in Ashbourne recreation ground re Henmore Brook; potential further work with AshCom Hurst Farm Housing Estate Regeneration Scheme
NC3	Use the Nature Recovery Network map to inform the selection of Biodiversity Net Gain projects within the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See NC1
NC4	Maintain a commitment to achieve a net-gain to biodiversity across all development, meeting the Environment Act requirement of 10% biodiversity net-gain, ensuring compliance with the most up to date scheme from Defra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council pays Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) to assess planning applications Discussions ongoing with both DWT and DCC regarding an enhanced service from Nov 2023. DWT have developed offer and put forward amended Service Level Agreement. DCC unclear about potential offer Propose to enter into agreement with either DWT or DCC to assess applications against BNG metric. All relevant applications to be treated according to Regulations One-off New Burdens Grant of £10,040 provided by Government to fund this initially; two further funding grants announced 1st March 2023
NC5	Improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, employing nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the District, including carbon storage and sequestration, managing flood risk, improving water quality, and sustaining vital ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Council-owned parcels of land along the Derwent have been identified as having potential for Natural Flood Management schemes in partnership with DWT Tree planting has taken place in certain areas – Ashbourne (Feb 2023) – 170 trees planted on Fishpond Meadow (approx. 1,400 sqm) Hurst Farm Housing Estate Regeneration Scheme DWT seeking wider partnership agreements and funding to work in these areas under licence DCC also have commitment to tree planting and are undertaking review of options for offsetting which includes sequestration Also see NC2
NC6	After satisfying safety and visibility priorities, and building on the work of our Biodiversity Project, develop greenspace management regimes to maximise potential for biodiversity, carbon storage and sequestration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Biodiversity Verge Project – Ongoing, 48 sites in 2023 Working with DCC on Pathfinder project with a proposed target of 50km of road verges managed for biodiversity Linking with Natural England Wye Valley nature recovery project looking for verges that will form links to their wildlife sites
NC7	Carry out a carbon audit of DDDC countryside and open space sites to establish how carbon storage/sequestration could be improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See NC1 – Nature Recovery Network map will help identify any areas to be prioritised Vision Derbyshire Sequestration Project is exploring options for 'offsetting' through sequestration Potential to undertake an internal review of District Council land assets in future years, should resources be made available, using current knowledge and available data sets e.g. DEFRA Magic Mapping, Natural England green infrastructure to provide new recommendations for improving biodiversity and sequestration potential

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to investigate the potential of the District Council becoming involved in the DWT Wild Peak project as a landowner, should resources be made available
NC8	Adopt a peat-free policy for all council contracts and suppliers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Procurement Policy already includes statement to this effect: We will ‘not purchase products for soil enrichment purposes that contain peat’ Contractor for annual bedding plants plant currently uses 70% peat free compost Potential for guidance and training on use of policy and to commit to update relevant contracts at point of review
NC9	Aim to achieve ‘favourable condition’ on all council-managed protected and designated nature sites (e.g., SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest), LNRs (Local Nature Reserves), LWSs (Local Wildlife Sites)) by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rangers fully expect Natural England will give High Tor & Pic Tor a ‘favourable condition’ status following feedback from recent visit but Natural England hasn’t been updated their information yet. Discussion being held with DWT condition of Local Wildlife Sites they manage

PEOPLE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT
PH1	<p>Improve access to nature by following the Natural England ‘Nature Nearby’ Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance</p> <p>Regard will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas with high levels of physical health problems. Areas with high levels of mental health problems. Areas where the amount and quality of accessible natural greenspace is below Natural England’s targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of District Council sites already achieve ‘Green Flag’ award for accessible green space Work as part of Hurst Farm Housing Estate Regeneration Project is likely to be key in supporting areas with highest levels of physical and mental health problems and where access to greenspace is more difficult

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT
SP1	Embed nature’s recovery into all strategic plans, including the Local Plan, and all policy areas, not just those directly related to the environment. Ensure the LNRS is well understood across the authority and complements other relevant plans and strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already embedded in Local Plan but review will extend to address BNG requirements Potential for a briefing on the future LNRS, linked to the wider training in SP3. Delivered by DCC or author of LNRS (subject to cost) Potential for Staff Briefing on Biodiversity Duty (nil cost) Ongoing need to identify other plans & strategies when reviewed as opportunity to incorporate biodiversity where appropriate
SP2	Integrate the targets, objectives, and outcomes of this motion, i.e. the biodiversity strategy and action plan, with those outlined in the Derbyshire Dales Carbon Reduction Plan, to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged that the approved ‘Climate change strategy and action plan’ does not take a nature-based approach; its pathway to net zero is largely technology-led At Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan review point (2025?) – ensure nature-based solutions are reviewed and considered, including role of offsetting/sequestration in meeting net zero commitments

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	ensure measures to tackle climate issues do not contravene the principles of enhancing biodiversity. Wherever possible, the council will invest in nature-based solutions to climate change to tackle the nature crisis and climate emergency together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity impacts of decisions taken by Council are not formally considered; potential to incorporate high-level biodiversity impact assessments (where appropriate) into committee reports by modifying the climate change impact assessment
SP3	Provide training and resources for councillors and council employees about the ecological emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of ecological emergency (links to climate emergency) are touched upon in carbon literacy course that senior leaders and some Councillors have undertaken Potential for all Councillors/Senior Leaders to complete Local Government Association e-Learning module 'Biodiversity for Councils' (nil cost)

COLLABORATION, MONITORING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT
CM1	Identify a council employee as the designated lead for coordinating council operations in relation to the ecological emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Derbyshire District Council advertised for an ecology officer at £38K plus on costs; were unable to recruit as ecologists are in demand from private practice at higher salaries Currently considered that the only practical and affordable way forward is to join with other councils in a partnership service as proposed by DWT and DCC

OTHER ACTIVITIES

REF No.	ACTION	INITIAL ASSESSMENT
OT1	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust SLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently costs £14,823 each year. Is this cost sustainable given MTFP?
OT2	High Tor, Pic Tor, Lovers Walk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing role of Clean and Green Team
OT3	Tree Strategy & Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work by Tree Officer and contractors
OT4	Glyphosate reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject of separate report to Members