

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by Chief Executive**

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:  
3 March 2010**

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**Subject: Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report presents the final draft of the Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (DLBAP) for approval. The pre-consultative draft was lodged to the HEED Committee in April 2009 and has since undergone public consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** The Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been written following the creation of a formal agreement with West Dunbartonshire Council, East Dunbartonshire Council and Scottish Natural Heritage. The plan is divided into 4 main parts: part 1, gives an overview of biodiversity, the reasoning behind the DLBAP, funding schemes and implementation mechanisms. Part 2 gives a summary of key wildlife features in Dunbartonshire, Part 3 lists the four main groups that will form the basis of the implementation of partnership work, focusing on Urban, Rural, Woodland and Wetland (including Coastal). Part 4 advises local residents on how they can help improve biodiversity in their area.
- 2.2** West Dunbartonshire Council is currently the only local authority area in Scotland not covered by a formalised Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The publication of the approved plan will represent full Biodiversity Partnership coverage in Scotland.
- 2.3** Following the HEED Committee's decision to approve the document subject to consultation in April 2009, the Plan has undergone full public consultation. A Strategic Environmental Assessment has also been carried out on the Plan, which has undergone full consultation. As a result, the Plan is deemed to have a wholly positive impact on the environment, with the Plan well received by statutory groups, non-government organisations as well as local community councils. No objections have been lodged.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The DLBAP has identified actions that could be implemented at the habitat or ecosystem level, with additional attention paid to indicator or flagship species of interest. Priority Habitat Groups are: Urban, Rural, Woodland and Wetland (including Coastal).
- 3.2** The DLBAP sets objectives to target the loss of biodiversity through:
- conservation action for identified species and habitats
  - increasing awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity
  - engaging more people in conservation and enhancement
  - restoring and enhancing biodiversity in all urban, rural, woodland and marine environments through better planning, design and practice
  - developing an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making
  - ensuring that the best new and existing knowledge on biodiversity is available to all policy makers and practitioners
- 3.3** Specific projects of note that will form the delivery of the actions identified include:
- the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (Integrated Habitat Network Project)
  - major woodland management projects funded from the Forestry Commission's "Woodlands in and around towns" initiative (WIAT) which has recently been awarded to the Council (£150,000 awarded)
  - revision of management of amenity grassland and verges specifically for biodiversity
  - working with local landowners on habitat enhancement projects
  - conservation restoration work relating to watercourses
  - dealing with non-native invasive species
- 3.4** To allow successful implementation of the DLBAP, officer support and expertise will be required from various council services to ensure effective progress of the action plans. In West Dunbartonshire, implementation of the plans will be delivered through actions led by Forward Planning (Countryside Ranger), Policy Unit (Biodiversity Officer) and Grounds Maintenance.
- 3.5** The plan has undergone full public consultation, with no objections lodged. Comments raised during the consultation have been incorporated and addressed into the revised draft. A Strategic Environment Assessment was carried out to assess the impacts of the plan on the natural environment, and has undergone public and statutory consultation.

### **4. Personnel Issues**

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

## **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** There are no financial implications at this stage.

## **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** Due to the nature of the DLBAP being a shared plan with East Dunbartonshire Council, agreement by both councils will represent a successful example of shared service.

## **7. Equalities Impact**

**7.1** No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of the DLBAP.

## **8. Conclusions and Recommendations**

**8.1** Priorities and actions as listed in the DLBAP will help fulfil objectives included in the Single Outcome Agreement, Corporate Plan, Local Plan, Sustainable Development Strategy and Transport Plan along with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, Scottish Forestry Strategy, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan, National Planning Policy Guideline 14 (Natural Heritage), and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, where there is provision for all public bodies to meet their new obligations to further the conservation of biodiversity.

**8.2** It is recommended Committee approval the final draft of the DLBAP.

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 12 February 2010**

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<b>Appendix:</b>	Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>Background Papers:</b>	Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan HEED Committee, 8 April 2009
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards