

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by Chief Executive

Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:  
8 April 2009

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**Subject: Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report presents a draft of the new Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (DLBAP)

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Since signing the *Convention of Biological Diversity* at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992), the UK Government has committed itself at both the national and local level to halting the loss of biodiversity through the targeted action of species and habitats.
- 2.2** In 1994 the Government produced the *UK Biodiversity Action Plan* (UK BAP) which identified our rarest and most threatened species and habitats. The action plan comprised of 391 UK Species Action Plans and 45 UK Habitat Action Plans. On a local level, some plans were to be implemented through Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) delivery.
- 2.3** West Dunbartonshire Council represents the only local authority area in Scotland not covered by a formalised Local Biodiversity Action Plan. In 2007, a joint Biodiversity Officer was appointed by East Dunbartonshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Council, with the support of funding from Scottish Natural Heritage. The main purpose of this appointment was to form the Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Partnership, to write a Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan encompassing both East and West Dunbartonshire, and to co-ordinate the implementation of the actions identified.

### **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 presents objectives relating to targeting the loss of biodiversity and continuation to reverse previous losses through action for species and habitats; to increase awareness, understanding and

- enjoyment of biodiversity, engage more people in conservation and enhancement; to restore and enhance biodiversity in all urban, rural, woodland and marine environments through better planning, design and practice; to develop an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making and to ensure 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 applications made to the Forestry Commission's "Woodlands in and around towns" initiative (WIAT), 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, and dealing with non-native invasive species.
- 3.4** In order to facilitate successful implementation of the DLBAP, officer support and expertise would be required from various council services to ensure effective progress of the action plans. In West Dunbartonshire, implementation of the plans will be specifically delivered through actions led by Forward Planning (West Dunbartonshire Greenspace and Countryside Ranger), Policy Unit (Biodiversity Officer) and Grounds Maintenance.

#### **4. Conclusions**

- 4.1** Priorities and actions as listed in the DLBAP will help fulfil objectives included in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the Council's Local Plan, Corporate Plan, Sustainable Development Strategy Plan and Transport Plan, 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.

#### **5. Personnel Issues**

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1** There are no financial implications at this stage.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** 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.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1** Members of the Committee are requested to approve the draft which will then go out to public consultation.

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 3 March 2009**

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**Appendix:** Draft Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (v1)

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All Wards