

Cabinet

Wednesday, 5th July, 2023, 6.00 pm

Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

Agenda

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to indicate at this stage in the proceedings any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that if the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined in the Members' Code of Conduct) they must leave the room for the whole of that item. If the interest is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but is such that a member of the public could reasonably regard it as being so significant that it is likely that it would prejudice their judgment of the public interest (as explained in the Code of Conduct) then they may make representations, but then must leave the meeting for the remainder of the item.

3 Cabinet Forward Plan

The [Notice of Executive Decisions and Cabinet Forward Plan](#) is available on the website.

4 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 21 June 2023 of Cabinet

(Pages 5 - 10)

Minutes of the last meeting held Wednesday, 21 June 2023 are attached to be agreed as a correct record for signing by the Chair.

Items of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Policy, Reform and Communications)

5 Key Contracts and Partnerships Update 2023

(Pages 11 - 18)

Report of the Director of Change and Delivery.

Items of the Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services)

6 Adoption of the Biodiversity Action Plan

(Pages 19 - 76)

Report of the Director of Communities attached.

Items of the Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital)

7 Content Management System

(Pages 77 - 82)

Report of the Director of Customer and Digital.

Items of the Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development)

8 Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble - Response to Recommendations

(Pages 83 - 102)

Report of the Chief Executive.

9 Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

By Virtue of Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Condition:

Information is not exempt if it is required to be registered under-
The Companies Act 1985

The Friendly Societies Act 1974

The Friendly Societies Act 1992

The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978

The Building Societies Act 1986 (recorded in the public file of any building society, within the meaning of the Act)

The Charities Act 1993

Information is exempt to the extent that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Items of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Policy, Reform and Communications)

10 Key Contract and Partnerships Update 2023 (confidential appendices to Item 5)

(Pages 103 - 114)

Report of the Director of Change and Delivery.

Items of the Cabinet Member (Customer Services and Digital)

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| 11 Content Management System (confidential appendices to Item 7) | (Pages 115 - 122) |
| Report of the Director of Customer and Digital. | |
| 12 Property and Assets Management System - Contract Award | (Pages 123 - 128) |
| Report of the Director of Customer and Digital. | |

Chris Sinnott
Chief Executive

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Cabinet Councillors Paul Foster (Chair), Aniela Bylinski Gelder (Vice-Chair), Jacky Alty, Deborah Ashton, James Flannery, Clare Hunter, Matthew Tomlinson and Ian Watkinson

The minutes of this meeting will be available on the internet at www.southribble.gov.uk

Forthcoming Meetings

6.00 pm Wednesday, 13 September 2023 - Shield Room, Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1DH

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Agenda Item 4



Minutes of	Cabinet
Meeting date	Wednesday, 21 June 2023
Committee members present:	Councillors Paul Foster (Chair), Aniela Bylinski Gelder (Vice-Chair), Jacky Alty, Deborah Ashton, James Flannery, Clare Hunter, Matthew Tomlinson and Ian Watkinson
Officers present:	Chris Sinnott (Chief Executive), Asim Khan (Director of Customer and Digital), Jennifer Mullin (Director of Communities), Neil Halton (Principal Management Accountant), Dave Whelan (Head of Legal and Procurement) and Coral Astbury (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
Other attendees:	Councillors James Gleeson, Lou Jackson, Keith Martin, Pete Pillinger, Colin Sharples, Elaine Stringfellow, Kath Unsworth, Paul Wharton-Hardman and Haydn Williams and Emma Stevens, Will Adams, Jane Bell, Mathew Forshaw, Lesley Pritchard, Caleb Tomlinson and Karen Walton (attended virtually)
Public:	0

A video recording of the public session of this meeting is available to view on [YouTube here](#)

1 Minutes Silence

A minute's silence was observed for former Councillor, Sue Prynn, who had passed away on 31 May 2023.

2 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

4 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 15 March 2023 of Cabinet

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That the minutes of the last meeting held Wednesday, 15 March are agreed as a correct record for signing by the Chair.

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5 Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved: (Unanimously)

The Cabinet Forward Plan was noted.

6 South Ribble Tourism Strategy

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster, presented a report of the Chief Executive that presented the South Ribble Tourism Strategy for consideration.

Councillor Foster explained a vision had been created for the borough and by 2028 it was expected that South Ribble would thrive as a popular tourist destination with a recognised events programme that collectively supports the local economy.

The strategy contained a delivery plan on how this vision would be delivered and managed for success through the three-year period.

Members of Cabinet thanked the officers for a clear and accessible report and celebrated recent successes such as Music in the Park and Leyland Festival.

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Bylinski Gelder, advised that she would like to see links to local accommodations included which would encourage people to stop off on their travels to major cities. Councillor Foster explained that the website would be enhanced with links to local accommodations and when the strategy comes forward for refresh those parameters would be analysed further.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. To approve the tourism strategy.

Reasons for recommendations:

It was a Corporate Strategy project to create a tourism strategy and so to complete this a draft strategy needing approving.

Other options considered and rejected:

The alternative option would have been not to produce a strategy for approval, but this was rejected because it was a Corporate Strategy project.

7 Quarter Four Performance Monitoring Report 2022-2023

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Foster presented a report of the Director of Change and Delivery that sought to provide Cabinet with a position statement for the Corporate Strategy for quarter four (January – March) 2022/23.

Councillor Foster explained the authority was continuing to deliver services well. It was noted that the Credit Union had not met its key performance indicator's due to other factors such as the cost of living crisis, but there was more to be done with the union and overall, it was performing well.

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Councillor Foster referred to the recommendations from the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee and stated that he accepted the comments and recommendations; however, the Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital) would attend a future meeting when sufficiently settled in his role.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. To note the report.
2. Cabinet accepts the recommendations from the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee, explaining that the new Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital) would attend a future meeting when sufficiently settled in his role.

Reasons for recommendations:

The Council's performance framework sets out the process for reporting progress against the objectives of the Corporate Strategy. Robust monitoring ensures that the Council continues to deliver its priorities and achieves the best outcomes for residents.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered.

8 Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2022-23

The Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, presented a report of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer that outlined the financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 31 March 2023. Highlighting key issues and explaining key variances, providing an overview of various elements of the Council's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023.

Councillor Tomlinson explained the authority had spent less than expected due to delays in high profile projects. However, assurances were given that the funds would be spent, and investments placed into local communities. Since the report had been written, work was already beginning on Worden Park and the Leisure Centre refurbishment programme.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. To approve the revised capital programme as attached at **Appendix A**, which includes amendments to the programme, as detailed in the report, since the last Capital Monitoring report for the nine months to 31 December 2022 was approved by Cabinet in February 2023.
2. To note the variations to the programme.
3. To note the position in the Balance Sheet Monitoring section of the report in respect of cash, investment and loan balances and debtors as at 31 March 2023.

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4. Cabinet accepts the recommendations from the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons for recommendations:

To ensure the Council's Capital Programme is monitored effectively.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered.

9 Revenue Budget Outturn 2022-23

The Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection), Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, presented a report of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer that set out the revenue and reserves provisional outturn for 2022/23 for the Council, based on the position as at 31 March 2023.

Councillor Tomlinson explained that despite the current economic climate the authority had slightly underspent on the budget. It was intended that the underspend be used to boost the general reserve fund which was currently at £4.53 million which would emphasise the Council's reputation as a fiscally responsible and financially healthy authority.

The Leader of the Council asked for confirmation of the Council's debt position and Councillor Tomlinson explained that short term and long-term borrowing was nil. The council's authorities total borrowing was also nil.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. To note the 2022/23 provisional outturn for revenue and the level of reserves based on the position as at 31 March 2023.
2. To note the virements made to and from the revenue budget during the year, as detailed in **Appendix 2** of the report.
3. Cabinet accepts the recommendations from the Corporate, Performance and Budget Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons for recommendations:

To ensure the Council's budgetary targets are achieved.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered.

10 Enhancement of the Community Hub Structures

The Cabinet Member (Communities, Leisure and Wellbeing), Councillor Clare Hunter, presented a report of the Director of Communities that brought forward a proposed enhancement to the boundaries of the Community Hubs. It also recommended the appointment of the new Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the hubs.

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Councillor Hunter advised that members had listened to comments from residents and fellow members and proposed to reverse the decision taken on 15 May 2019 to change the boundaries of the Community Hubs. The proposal to re-establish the previous boundaries is made in order to strengthen communications with members of the local community and to increase their involvement in Council decisions about services which affect them.

Councillor Hunter outlined the arrangements would be as follows:

1. **Western Parishes** – Hoole, Longton and Hutton West, New Longton and Hutton East
2. **Penwortham** – Broad Oak, Charnock, Howick and Priory, Middleforth
3. **Central Villages** – Farington East, Farington West and Lostock Hall
4. **Leyland** – Broadfield, Buckshaw and Worden, Earnshaw Bridge, Leyland Central, Moss Side, Seven Stars, St Ambrose
5. **Bamber Bridge, Walton-le-Dale and Eastern** – Bamber Bridge East, Bamber Bridge West, Coupe Green and Gregson Lane, Samlesbury and Walton, Walton-le-Dale East, Walton-le-Dale West

The following Chairs and Vice-Chairs were recommended for appointment:

Community Hub Area	Chair	Vice-Chair
Leyland	Councillor Colin Sharples	Councillor Jane Bell
Penwortham	Councillor Will Adams	Councillor David Howarth
Western	Councillor Margaret Smith	Councillor Will King
Bamber Bridge, Walton-le-Dale and Eastern	Councillor James Gleeson	Councillor Emma Stevens
Central Villages	Councillor Paul Wharton-Hardman	Councillor Lesley Pritchard

Members of the Cabinet welcomed the report and acknowledged that the decision was being taken due to comments and concerns raised by residents and fellow members.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

1. Cabinet recommends to Council the proposed amendments to the Community Hub boundaries as outlined in the report.
2. Cabinet recommends to Council the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the period of twelve months until the first business meeting of the Council in May 2024.

Reasons for recommendations:

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To ensure we continue to enhance the Community Hubs by amending the boundaries of the Hubs and appointments are made to the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered.

Chair

Date

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Change and Delivery (Introduced by Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Policy, Reform and Communications))	Cabinet	Wednesday, 5 July 2023

Key Contracts and Partnerships Update 2023

Is this report confidential?	Partly Appendix 1 and 2 are confidential By virtue of paragraph 3, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.
Is this decision key?	No

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on the performance of the council's key contracts and partnership arrangements.

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. That the report be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

3. To ensure effective monitoring of the council's key contracts and partnerships.

Other options considered and rejected

4. No other options considered as the report is for information only.

Executive summary

5. The key contract and partnerships update report is produced in accordance with the requirements of the council's Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework. It informs members of:
 - i. The performance of the council's key partnerships against targets set for the current year;
 - ii. Any emerging issues
 - iii. An assessment of the key partner's financial strength and stability.

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6. Overall, the performance of the council's and partnerships are progressing well. The financial assessment of the partnerships is also positive with the financial standing of all key partnerships remaining strong.
7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

8. The Key Contracts and Partnerships Framework was approved in July 2021, setting out the Council's definitions and monitoring arrangements for key strategic contracts and partnerships. This report forms part of the monitoring arrangements, with reports to be presented to Cabinet annually in July.
9. Key Contracts and Partnerships are those which may involve any of the following:
 - a. Significant impact on the delivery of the Council's strategic objectives
 - b. Large reliance on the proposed partner to deliver core services
 - c. Significant financial value
 - d. Scale of human and other resources involved is large
 - e. Length/timescales of the commitment are significant
 - f. Significant degree of risk

Key Contracts and Partnerships' Performance

10. This section of the report provides a summary of each of the Key Contracts and Partnerships. Appendix 1 includes the updates that are confidential due to commercial sensitivities and appendix 2 details the full information for each contract or partnership including contract term, value and financial stability

Shared Services	
Purpose	Shared Services is the partnership between Chorley Council and South Ribble Borough Council, two sovereign councils working together with shared functions to deliver excellent and efficient council services.
Objectives 2022/23	Objectives set out for 2022/23 included embedding the Phase 2 Services (ICT and Customer Services & Revenues and Benefits), and to work with Members to identify future opportunities for Shared Services.
Progress and benefits realised	Future opportunities for shared services have been progressed with phase 3 of shared services (Property and Development) being implemented on the 1 February, delivering improved resilience to these service areas. Work has also continued to embed Phase 2 of shared services including the recruitment to vacant posts within the service which will improve capacity in addition to the design and delivery of a training and development programme for Customer Services and Revenues and Benefits which will improve skills and knowledge.
Risks	No new risks or issues have been identified in this update, although work continues to monitor staff morale through the council's pulse surveys and People Strategy programme, alongside ensuring full engagement during any shared service review process.

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Objectives 2023/24	Objectives for 2023/24 are to continue exploring opportunities for sharing and to continue to embed the phase 2 and 3 services.
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Blackpool Council	
Purpose	Blackpool Council provides the payroll and expenses service for all employees and elected members.
Objectives 2022/23	The key objectives for this contract in 2022/23 included the implementation of the new time management system (HFX) across all sites and to explore phase 2 modules for the HR Hub system including recruitment, onboarding and back office systems.
Progress and benefits realised	HFX has now been implemented across all sites aside from South Ribble Leisure which will be in progress shortly. This means the same system is now used across Chorley and South Ribble meaning managers only need to use one system to manage staff leave, clockings and sickness, ensuring consistency in the recording of payments and quicker and efficient processes. The further development of the HR Hub has now also been scoped out into four main workstreams including personal files, DBS recording and reporting, driver information and manager dashboards. This will help to automate processes in these areas, enable manager self-service and provide more information to managers and the organisations.
Risks	Capacity was identified as an issue to deliver the phase 2 work, however specified resources have been allocated including recruitment to a Senior HR Consultant role.
Objectives 2023/24	Objectives for 2023/24 are to develop the functionality of the HR Hub to ensure that we are making best use of the system, develop manager understanding of responsibilities within the system and remove barriers to self-service.

Select Move	
Purpose	Select Move provides a choice-based lettings allocation scheme, operating across Chorley, South Ribble and Preston. Part of this partnership is commissioning Civica as the software provider for the housing register and homeless database.
Objectives 2022/23	Objectives for 2022/23 including implementing system improvements to the Civica system and agreeing and updating the new allocations policy.
Progress and benefits	The system improvements have now been implemented, enabling customers to use mobile devices to access the Select Move website and offering greater transparency within the system through a function that allows users to access waiting lists for houses. There is now also additional filtering functionality which enables more specific search criteria to be applied by customers, facilitating more effective searches for customers. The new allocations policy is currently out for consultation which is due to finish in July 2023. After the end of the consultation, the policy will be presented to each council for adoption. The consultation for the policy has been delayed slightly due to a delay in approval by Preston Council.
Risks	An ongoing issue the partnership is experiencing is insufficient housing numbers to meet demand and this is expected to increase further in the coming months due to upcoming changes in the private rented sector, with more landlords looking to sell their properties due to increasing mortgage costs and new regulations. The new allocations policy is expected to help mitigate some of these issues by improving the management of waiting lists for local people. This is alongside ongoing activity to encourage landlords

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	and social housing providers to join Select Move, including lower rates for public sector landlords with smaller property numbers.
Objectives 2023/24	Objectives for 2023/24 are to finish the consultation on the allocations policy and adopt the new policy, communicating the changes to allocations and eligibility clearly to customers and partners to ensure understanding and adherence.

IDOX	
Purpose	IDOX provides the case management software for planning, land charges, environment and licensing (regulatory services).
Objectives 2022/23	Previous objectives for the contract were to move to a shared contract and align modules and functionality across Chorley and South Ribble.
Progress and benefits realised	A new shared contract is now in place with the alignment of modules scheduled. This will provide an opportunity to review processes to ensure they are as efficient as possible, enable consistent work practices across the organisations, whilst also simplifying the ongoing maintenance of the systems for the shared ICT team allowing time for more complex work.
Risks	A previous issue had been identified in relation to specialist knowledge at the councils to deliver the alignment progress. This has now being progressed with support from IDOX whilst staff are trained on the system. Recent recruitment to the ICT team has also provided additional capacity to support business systems.
Objectives 2023/24	Objectives for 2023/24 are to implement the shared workflows for the platform to enable automation and align functionality across the councils.

Capita	
Purpose	Capita provides the Revenues and Benefits Software and a remote support service.
Objectives 2022/23	Previous objectives were to move to a new cloud-based system that would be shared across Chorley and South Ribble Councils, and to continue to align modules across the councils where appropriate.
Progress and benefits realised	<p>The move across to the cloud systems took place in October 2022. The cloud-based system has delivered cost benefits as servers are no longer on-site resulting in reduced running costs, and improved business continuity in the event of network issues at either local authority meaning much less system downtime. In addition, the ICT team no longer have to upkeep physical servers which enables the team more time for more complex work and significantly improves data security.</p> <p>The new system means that staff working within the shared Revenues and Benefits will be able to access Capita through one single system. The alignment of software modules across the councils is ongoing, with modules implemented at South Ribble including automating Housing Benefit Claims, Universal Credit Claim, Council Tax Valuation and Housing Benefit online review. The new processes offer increased automation and more efficient processes, which allow officers to focus more of their time on</p>

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	complex cases and processes whilst offering quicker resolutions for customers.
Risks	No new risks or issues have been identified as part of this update.
Objectives 2023/24	The objectives for 2023/24 are to implement new modules for council tax move automation, council tax refund automation, council tax direct debit automation and exemptions automation. A further objective is to move to a shared services desktop with a single log in for both council databases.

Local Plan	
Purpose	The Local Plan partnership between Chorley Council, South Ribble Borough Council and Preston City Council aims to develop and deliver the Local Plan for 2024.
Objectives 2022/23	Key objectives included developing and delivering the Part One draft preferred options document for public consultation.
Progress and benefits realised	The public consultation on the preferred options for the Local Plan was completed from December to mid-February with analysis of the results currently taking place within teams. Consultants will then produce a formal outcome report on the consultation. The next milestone is for the draft plan to be developed in line with the results of the consultation, with an aim to be complete for publication within Q2 2023/24.
Risks	There are currently resourcing issues that may impact on the deadline for the draft Local Plan. The team have developed short- and longer-term options to address this. In the short term, to go out to recruitment for the vacant posts working with recruitment to ensure we are advertising in the right places and these are attract roles for a hard to recruit area. The team are identifying options for consultants to complete certain packages of the remaining work if recruitment is unsuccessful.
Objectives 2023/24	Objectives for 2023/24 include the analysis of consultation responses, securing budget approval to procure all remaining required evidence for the Local Plan, completing the Part Two Preferred Options (Draft Local Plan,) and to recruit to or secure capacity within the team.

South Ribble Leisure Ltd.	
Purpose	South Ribble Leisure provides leisure facilities to residents that offer value for money and provide local facilities to promote health and wellbeing to residents.
Objectives 2022/23	Previous objectives were to deliver decarbonisation funding and to review the terms and conditions and management structure for leisure staff.
Progress and benefits realised	The review of terms and conditions has been completed, with changes approved by South Ribble Cabinet in November 2022. This has resolved historic management structure issues at the Leisure Company and aligned terms and conditions with wider Council staff, introducing better terms and conditions to help attract and retain staff. The decarbonisation of the Leisure Centres has is now being progressed and will be phased across the leisure sites with an expected completion for the end of 2023. This will help ensure the

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	<p>buildings are modernised and energy efficient in line with the council's carbon neutral objectives. There are stipulations around the grant funding that means all work must be completed by year end, there is a risk of the funding being pulled if this deadline is not met. The team are closely monitoring progress and working closely with partners to ensure this deadline is met.</p> <p>Key benefits of the wholly owned company include greater partnership between the leisure offer and the Council including more collaborative working with the Leisure Local approach which will help promote active health across the borough. This has allowed the HAF (Holiday Activity and Food) scheme to be successfully delivered in house.</p>
Risks	<p>Current issues include financial risk, with the leisure company underperforming financially due to the increase in energy costs, the pay award, and the cost of living crisis changing consumer habits. Extra funding was requested from Council in November 2022 to help resolve this issue. This is in line with general financial risks within the leisure sector currently. There is a long term strategy in place to deal with the sustainability in the form of a five-year plan, focused on areas including reviewing energy contracts, decarbonisation and staff development.</p> <p>There also remains an issue with recruitment and retention. It is anticipated over the next couple of months we will see the impact of the new terms and conditions and pay award which should help to make the rate of pay competitive against other leisure centres. Internal training opportunities are also being utilised as part of a 'grow our own' approach.</p>
Objectives 2023/24	<p>The objectives for 2023/24 include the completion of decarbonisation works by the end of 2023 and increasing the number of staff within the leisure service, specifically swimming teachers.</p>

New contracts for 2023/24

- The following contracts have been included in the reporting for the Key Contracts and Partnerships framework for the first time in 2023/24. Objectives have been set for 2023/25 and an update on progress will be brought against these in July 2024.

Enghouse

- Enghouse provides the telephony functionality for Chorley and South Ribble councils alongside an omnichannel contact centre. The system has been rolled out across both councils over the last year for telephony, with objectives for 2023/24 to roll out to the leisure centres, implement additional digital channels such as email and webchat and introduce automated live reporting.
- Following its rollout to the council's contact centres, the contract has been identified for inclusion in the framework due to its key role in providing council services and enabling customer contact.
- This new system will help to support the digital strategy by making it easier for customers to contact the council through a range of channels. The system integrates with existing council software such as Microsoft Teams which is used by officers and members for voice calls and will introduce new contact channels such as web chat.

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NEC-EDMS Software

15. NEC provides the electronic document management system software for the councils. The objectives for the system will be to implement a shared cloud-based system across Chorley and South Ribble by September 2023. This will include a single database which is split by authority to support single ways of working across the two sovereign authorities.
16. As the data would be stored online in a cloud-based system, this migration will offer improved business continuity as data will still be able to be accessed in the case of on-site outages. As NEC also manage all updates on the system, there is reduced risk to the council of system downtime and cyber risk to the council, and it will remove the need to maintain on-site legacy hardware.

Climate change and air quality

17. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Risk

18. Key risks and issues related to each Contract or Partnership are outlined within the narrative of the report. The Key Contract and Partnerships Framework provides a mechanism for mitigating the risk of service delivery through the council's strategic partnerships by ensuring regular monitoring and management.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

19. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

20. The report is for information and noting – as such there are no direct legal implications arising. There are no concerns from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Part Two updates

Appendix 2- Full contract information

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Caroline Winstanley (Transformation Coordinator)	caroline.winstanley@southribble.gov.uk		20.06.23

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood and Waste Services))	Cabinet Full Council	5 th July 19 th July

Biodiversity Action Plan

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Yes
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	No

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members approval and adoption of the draft Biodiversity Action Plan for South Ribble.

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. That the report be noted and present for adoption at Full Council

Recommendations to Council

3. That the report be noted, and the Biodiversity Action Plan is adopted.

Reasons for recommendations

4. Across the world biodiversity is under threat, either from pollution, development or changes in the climate. The lives we currently lead compromises our biodiversity. Habitats are being lost or fragmented, isolating plant and animal communities into ever smaller areas.
5. Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and recently updated by the Environment Act 2021 public authorities in England are under a legal duty to have due regard to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the exercise of its functions. The Environment Act 2021 requires the creation of 48 'Local Nature Recovery Strategies' (LNRS) to cover all areas of England to reverse the ongoing decline of nature.

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6. LNRS, alongside the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from development, means that Local Authorities have a proactive role to play in nature recovery.
7. Public bodies must also determine what action is required to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions and must determine such policies and objectives as appropriate to achieve this.
8. They must also publish biodiversity reports providing a summary of the action taken and planned and detailing the resulting biodiversity gains achieved.

Other options considered and rejected

9. Do nothing, this would negatively impact on the biodiversity of the borough and result in the council failing in its statutory duties to consider, conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its duties.

Corporate priorities

10. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

11. Biodiversity is the term that describes the biological variety of our planet. It includes all plants and animals and the ecosystems that support them and us. It helps to shape the landscape of our area and our local distinctiveness and prosperity.
12. It contributes to good mental and physical health and wellbeing and has a role to play in our response to Climate Change, Flooding, air, water and land quality.
13. Of those areas specifically identified as providing important biodiversity over 40% of are showing signs of declining. In addition, over 30% of priority species have also been identified as struggling. Given the importance of these, action needs to be taken to protect them, and this is specifically identified within the legislation.
14. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 has recently been updated by the Environment Act 2021, reemphasising the Government's commitment to protection wildlife across the country.
15. The changes set requirements for public bodies and the wider population. These include:
 - The Local Authority must publish a biodiversity report and update on actions,

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- Ensuring, by condition if required, a 10% net gain on biodiversity for all planning applications above a single dwelling.
16. The Environment Act 2021 received royal consent on 9th November 2021, Chapter 1 of which aims to 'Improve the Natural Environment' and introduces into law a number of requirements and the ability for the Secretary of State to set Regulations to achieve this aim.
 17. Following the enactment of the legislation a Biodiversity Strategy was adopted by Full Council in July 2022 alongside an Interim Action Plan for 12 months
 18. Progress on the Interim Action Plan has been included in Appendix A
 19. One of the Actions in the Interim Plan was to create a draft Biodiversity Action Plan for South Ribble, this is included in Appendix B
 20. Prior to developing the draft Biodiversity Action Plan a full consultation exercise has been undertaken, including interactive workshops with internal staff and volunteers and externally with relevant national and local wildlife organisations and groups. There has also been an online public consultation. The results of these are in Appendix C.
 21. It is envisaged that the Action Plan will eventually form part of the Climate Emergency and Air Quality Action Plans bring all three overlapping plans into one document which can then be easily referenced, updated and reported upon.
 22. In November 2023, it is expected that Biodiversity Net Gain will be adopted into Planning Law and all relevant developments will have to show a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. This net gain is firstly onsite, with offsite options and buying biodiversity credits as a last resort. The net gain will need to be financed by the developer and monitored and maintained for 30 years post development. The Local Planning Authority is expected to monitor and report on Net Gain in their area.
 23. In order to assist with the requirement for off-site Biodiversity Net Gain through the planning process, another action to be taken forward will be the collection of baseline data to enable the Council to registry its land for BNG projects and therefore attract external funding through the planning process.
 24. Work has started in Lancashire on the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Lancashire County Council have been appointed as lead authority by Defra and are being supported through the process by Natural England. District Authorities will have a Supporting Authority role and will play a key part in the production of the LNRS, ensuring that it dovetails into the Local Plan and planning system.
 25. All Authorities and partners are still waiting for final guidance from Government around content and timings of BNG and LNRS and as such, timescales and actions within the draft Biodiversity Action Plan regarding these are slightly unclear.
 26. There is currently no budget allocated to implement this action plan. Requests for funding will need to be submitted for approval against the relevant actions.

Agenda Item 6

Climate change and air quality

27. This report impacts on the work being undertaken by the Council on the Climate Emergency Agenda, helping to strengthen and prioritise the actions being undertaken to improve the sustainability and biodiversity across the borough. While increasing engagement with the residents and businesses and help to achieve the overall aim of net carbon zero by 2030.
28. Specifically, the report addresses improvements to green areas and biodiversity across the borough.

Equality and diversity

29. The biodiversity action plan have been developed following a full open consultation process and views received have been included.

Risk

30. The changes to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a duty upon the Local Authority to produce an action plan and apply set conditions to planning permissions granted by the authority.
31. Failure to undertake these duties would result in the Council failing to meet its statutory functions, potential bad publicity, and failure of the Council to achieve its corporate vision and priorities.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

32. This report has no direct financial implications at this time. Any schemes or funding required as part of the action plan will be approved through appropriate channels when developed.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

The purpose of the report is to adopt a Biodiversity Action Plan. This is to accord with our statutory duties and seeks to achieve a positive impact on biodiversity in the borough. Clearly it is important that we continue to take these issues very seriously.

Background documents

Cabinet Report Biodiversity Strategy and Environment Act 2021, 23rd March 2022
Environment Act 2021 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

Appendices

Update on the Interim Action Plan
Draft Biodiversity Action Plan
Responses from the consultation

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
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Agenda Item 6

Neil Martin (Senior Environmental Health Officer)	nmartin@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625336	June 2023
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Biodiversity Strategy Interim Action Plan

July 2022 - 23

Introduction

In order to move forward and achieve the aims and objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy it is acknowledged that further work is required to engage with all stakeholders as only with their help will the Council achieve its ambition.

Before improvements can be made, we need to understand where we are currently in relation to biodiversity, only then can we fully understand what is required to maintain and improve the borough as a whole.

This document identifies the immediate actions that will be undertaken by South Ribble following the adoption by Full Council of the South Ribble Biodiversity Strategy in July 2022. The document is intended to ensure progress is made towards the aims and objectives of the strategy over the immediate months following its adoption.

Interim Actions

The following actions will be taken forward over the next 12 months, progressing the aims and objectives of the Strategy and in co-ordination with the work and action plans currently being pursued on the Air Quality, Climate Emergency, Single Use Plastic and Waste Minimisation agendas.

1. To undertake a review of all currently available information in order to provide a baseline assessment of the biodiversity within South Ribble.
2. To map the above collated information to enable a visual representation of the current baseline.
3. To identify the gaps, opportunities and challenges to improve biodiversity across the borough.
4. To build on and improve engagement with stakeholder groups, some of whom will be relied upon in the future to deliver further actions.
5. To undertake a full consultation exercise in order to develop a action plan to achieve the strategy aims and objectives.
6. To present a Biodiversity Action Plan to Full Council in July 2023 for adoption.
7. To liaise with the planning department with regard to biodiversity, changing legislation and the emerging local plan, with a view to developing guidance notes for developers.
8. To undertake Member learning around biodiversity in order to clarify current understanding and to begin the process of community engagement.

Key actions, Milestone and targets

Action	Key action, milestone to achieve identified action	Target Date	Progress
1	Review all publicly held datasets to gather information Discuss with stakeholders to obtain permission to use their data on SRB's biodiversity To undertake surveys of the borough (Phase 1 habitat surveys) to identify the current situation on the ground where information is missing from the above exercises.	Sep 2022	Completed by Interns from Lancaster University summer 2022
2	To plot the above information on GIS	Oct 2022	Completed by Interns from Lancaster University summer 2022
3	Review the above gathered information to identify gaps, areas for improvement and/or protection.	Nov 2022	Work ongoing and has been written into the Action Plan to complete in year 1
4	Continue to engage with Community Hubs, local Friends groups etc to raise awareness and gain support for future consultations and actions.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5	Consultation methodology to be determined, but to ensure Officers, suitable public bodies, businesses, schools, public and community groups are included within the consultation. The consultation to run until end of May 2023 to allow the formulation of a draft action plan to be developed.	Sept 2022 - May 2023	Completed
6	Present the draft Biodiversity Action Plan to full Council for adoption.	July 2023	Completed
7	To raise awareness, Agree consultation issues, Provide baseline data (GIS mapping) To develop guidance notes/supplementary planning documents for developers.	Feb 2023	Ongoing
8	To arrange at least 1 Members training session to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the strategy and baseline data To develop an action plan for consultation To promote and recruit assistance to achieve other actions identified within the Climate Emergency and Air Quality Action Plans. 	March 2023	Completed Members Briefing on Biodiversity Oct 2022 Included in Climate Task Group briefings and meetings

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Draft Biodiversity Action Plan July 2023

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Document Control

Publication Date	July 2023
Related Documents	<p>SRBC Biodiversity Strategy 2022</p> <p>SRBC Climate Emergency Strategy 2022</p> <p>SRBC Air Quality Action Plan</p> <p>All related documents may be viewed via the SRBC website South Ribble Borough Council</p>
Owner (Department)	Environmental Health
Author (Team)	Environmental Health / Climate Emergency Task Group

Review of Strategy

Review Date	July 2025
Version	1.0

Introduction

In 2022, South Ribble Borough Council adopted a Biodiversity Strategy, pledging to restore, conserve and enhance the biodiversity in the Borough.

This Action Plan sets out the actions that will be taken over the next 5 years.

Strategy Vision – For a Borough where biodiversity is bigger, better and more joined up. With networks of accessible, natural greenspace, linking areas of habitat that are positively managed for wildlife, biodiversity gains, as well as resident enjoyment and wellbeing.

Strategy Aims - To ensure that South Ribble Borough Council's responsibilities to restore, conserve and enhance biodiversity is integrated into the work of all departments and there is a clear understanding of biodiversity and how it relates to decision making. That residents and businesses benefit from maintaining and improving a healthy green environment.

Strategy Objectives –

- To act as a responsible landowner and land manager and conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- To highlight priority habitats and species that have value locally and nationally
- To highlight threats and issues that may adversely impact priority habitats and species
- To maintain, restore and create habitat connectivity
- To share good practice and develop partnerships
- To encourage education and community action / involvement
- To instigate a cross department ethos that will inform decisions
- To ensure development does not negatively impact on existing biodiversity across the Borough and where possible actively improves it.

This Action Plan details those actions required to be taken across the Borough but also the actions that it intends to take as an organisation and local employer.

The Council has 3 spheres of influence within the Borough




- Exemplar – To set our own high standards and be a model of good practice for the Borough.
- Enabler – To play our part in partnership working, sharing responsibility, facilitating, coordinating, and promoting projects.
- Encourager – To provide information, support and introductions that will make a positive contribution to our response to the biodiversity and climate emergency.

In implementing our actions, we are seeking to act as a community leader, setting high standards and working collaboratively to show the changes and improvements that can be achieved, so that we are able to help others across the borough do the same.

Due to the seasonal nature of some of the work required in this action plan, even short-term targets may take two years to complete and longer than that for habitats to become established and develop to their full potential. The impacts of weather and associated ground conditions may further hamper progress, but this is outside of the control of those delivering on actions.

Some of the actions will require a cultural and behavioural change inside South Ribble to alter long established practices. It may also require residents to change their perspective on amended maintenance regimes where parks and open spaces no longer look as neat and tidy as they once did. Engagement and education are key to this being delivered successfully.

There will be an annual updated on progress taken to Council each summer alongside the Climate and Air Quality reports. It is noted that this Action Plan is very comprehensive and that it cannot all be achieved and reported on every year. For this reason, 10 key actions will be identified for each year and these will form the basis of the annual report on progress. The full Action Plan will be reviewed every four years.


	Biodiversity
	Climate Emergency
	Air Quality




This Action Plan links and crosses over with the existing Climate Emergency and Air Quality Action Plans. In time they will all be incorporated in to one single Action Plan but in the meantime, links are indicated using the following symbology.

Key actions for 2023 / 2024




1. To comply with national directives to imbed Biodiversity Net Gain into the Planning system, scheduled to commence in November 2023
2. Identify Council owned sites which are appropriate for registering for developer contributions for Biodiversity Net Gain.
3. To comply with our role as a Supporting Authority and support Lancashire County Council as the Responsible Authority, in the development of the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
4. To undertake a green corridors mapping exercise to identify opportunities to create and enhance habitats across the Borough
5. To review our mowing schedule to incorporate low intervention areas and provide better habitat for wildlife
6. To create a work programme for ponds on a 5- to 10-year management cycle
7. To ensure South Ribble and its suppliers only use peat free alternatives for compost
8. To promote awareness and understanding of the park's wildlife and associated management in South Ribble using engagement, education, signage and comms
9. To deliver the corporate targets for tree planting in the borough by developing partnerships with landowners and other organisations
10. To continue to support and grow our own Friends Groups by expanding our programme of conservation volunteering opportunities and to help facilitate community groups already committed to biodiversity and climate projects
11. Continue to engage with residents and park users to tackle environmental crimes such as litter, dog fouling and fly tipping




Management






	Outcomes	Measure and Rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Introduce a best practice approach to management for biodiversity on South Ribble Borough Council owned land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To adapt and regularly review existing park management plans and maintenance schedules to promote biodiversity friendly management practices on Council owned open spaces and parks To create biodiversity management plans for groups of similar smaller parks To identify areas and actions where parks and open spaces can be enhanced through habitat creation, enhancement and management and the creation of wildlife corridors and steppingstones To undertake management / maintenance work during the correct times of the year and with the least disturbance to habitat and wildlife To ensure that there is a net gain of habitat in the Borough 	<p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Short</p>	Lancashire County Council Neighbouring authorities
	Place South Ribble in a wider conservation context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with other organisations and groups to develop a large-scale regional approach to conservation including joint resources and collaborative working on larger cross border projects, for example through the Lancashire Nature Partnership To deliver our Biodiversity Duty as per the NERC Act 2006 and Environment Act 2021 and report on compliance To link with neighbouring Boroughs and Lancashire County Council to increase connectivity, allowing wildlife to expand their ranges To comply with our role as a Supporting Authority and support the development of the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy To comply with Biodiversity Net Gain in the planning system to enhance biodiversity through developments in the Borough To aim to achieve a biodiversity net gain for internal projects that do not require planning consent To embed biodiversity and climate in other relevant Council Strategies and Policies 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Long</p> <p>Medium</p>	Natural England Defra Other wildlife organisations and groups Neighbourhood Services Parks
	Data collection and mapping to benefit biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to update baseline data maps to keep accurate records of biodiversity in the Borough. To undertake a green corridors mapping exercise to identify opportunities to create and enhance habitats across the Borough To support biodiversity surveying by volunteers and wildlife groups to maintain up to date information To continue with and expand biodiversity data sharing with LERN and other partners 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p>	Lancashire Environmental Records Network (LERN)







	<p>Opportunities for funding and resourcing our conservation work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate registering appropriate pieces of SRBC land for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and potentially creating a habitat bank, as a way of funding creation, enhancement and management of biodiversity improvement works. To secure internal and/or external funding to expand on the successful tree giveaways to residents and landowners To source resources to develop, support and expand opportunities for volunteering and community groups in the Borough To continue to apply for and support community groups to apply for external funding for conservation and climate projects To manage our actions to have the most impact with the resources available. 	<p>Short Medium Medium Annually Annually</p>	<p>Planning Volunteer and Community Groups Neighbourhood Services Parks</p>
	<p>Opportunities for training our staff and volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continuously improving knowledge of the environment and stay up to date with international, national and regional climate and conservation policy and development To develop staff training opportunities to embed conservation practices into our everyday work To develop a volunteer training programme around conservation and climate To develop opportunities for staff to take part in practical climate and conservation action by volunteering 	<p>Annually Medium Medium Medium</p>	<p>SRBC</p>
	<p>To continuously monitor, review and adapt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To monitor and review the Action Plan every 4 years in line with international, national, regional and local developments To report on the key actions and achievements as part of the annual report to full Council To set local targets for biodiversity improvements linking in to regional, national and international projects and opportunities To adjust, adapt and support the new opportunities that will arise form national developments and schemes such as Biodiversity Net Gain, Environmental Land Management and Local Nature Recovery Strategies To monitor habitat improvement projects and use the findings to adapt and amend our management plans and maintenance schedules as necessary 	<p>Long Short Medium Medium Medium</p>	<p>SRBC</p>

Habitats and Species













	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	The creation of habitats that are bigger, better and more joined up, across the Borough and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create specific habitat plans to restore, maintain and enhance habitat types on our estate To create a work programme for specific habitat types on a 5- to 10-year management cycle To ensure our work enables the conservation and expansion of key species populations To undertake a series of surveys and audits of our sites to identify species and habitats that would benefit from improved or amended management practices in conjunction with plans To ensure the correct management of our land to maintain and enhance its biodiversity value – right plant, right place 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Wildlife Groups</p> <p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
	Trees, Woodlands and Orchards	<p>To encourage species rich, structurally diverse woodlands on our estate and to encourage others to do the same by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underplanting existing woodlands where required Attention is given to field and shrub layers of woodlands Introducing management techniques such as coppicing where appropriate Retaining brash and logs from tree works as habitat piles or dead hedges Retaining standing and fallen deadwood where it is safe to do so <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use planting and natural regeneration schemes and strategic Biodiversity Net Gain to link up existing woodland habitats, creating corridors and steppingstones for wildlife To link in with existing and developing woodland creation opportunities across the Borough To continue to monitor Ash Dieback on our estate and manage in line with national policy To encourage the creation of orchards and wet woodland 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
	Hedgerows	<p>To encourage species rich hedgerows on our estate and to encourage others to do the same by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allowing hedge bases to thicken to increases the biodiversity value changing management practices to bring hedgerows into favourable condition, including the use of hedge laying over mechanical cutting reducing the frequency of cuts on some hedgerows cutting hedgerows as late as possible to allow birds access to fruits and berries through autumn and winter gapping up our existing hedgerows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting new hedges to create wildlife corridors to link areas of habitat in line with plans (eg BNG) Encouraging time sensitive management of hedgerows to avoid breeding seasons 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p>


 	Ponds	<p>To encourage a mosaic of species rich ponds on our estate and encourage others to do the same by ensuring all ponds have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a diversity of marginal and aquatic plants, with submergent, emergent and floating vegetation • areas of open water • air flow and light to the water surface to maintain oxygen levels • reduced shading, especially on the south side • variations in depth • egg laying plants for newts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish and enhance 3-meter-wide buffer areas around priority wildlife ponds • To continue to work in partnership to create, enhance and restore ponds across the Borough • To create a 5- to 10-year pond survey and maintenance programme with associated budget to improve the condition of our ponds • To increase the area of reed beds in the borough e.g. through Biodiversity Net Gain • To manage selective ponds as an educational resource • To continue to educate and engage park users around the issues of feeding the ducks • To continue to undertake Great Crested Newt surveys on an annual basis • To develop bog gardens in areas adjacent to existing ponds, in failed or failing ponds or in areas where it is not safe to have areas of open water 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Long</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Long</p>	<p>Lancashire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
 	Rivers and Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work at a river catchment level with appropriate partners and landowners on conservation projects including the protection of riverbanks and floodplains, coastal floodplains and grazing marsh, intertidal mudflats and coastal saltmarsh habitats • To maintain and improve water quality of streams and rivers by having regard for management practices in their vicinity • To develop schemes for wetland creation and river restoration • To establish and enhance 3 – 5m wide buffers along rivers and streams where possible. 	<p>Long</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>River Ribble Trust</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>LCC</p> <p>CSF</p> <p>Neighbourhood Services</p>
  	Grasslands	<p>To ensure we have structurally diverse, species rich grasslands supporting pollinators and other invertebrates by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring mowing and grazing regimes are in synch with the seasons • controlling competitive grasses and other species – spot treatment of some species that threaten grassland habitats may be required • ensuring that there is a diverse sward structures and successional areas 	Annually	Neighbourhood Services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cutting areas on rotation to provide structure and variety for species, prolonging the availability of pollen and nectar and aesthetic value for park users ensuring appropriate seed mixes are used for repair of damage or areas in poor condition, including yellow rattle collecting arisings on all our wildflower meadows ensuring areas of tussocky grass are retained for overwintering invertebrates To instigate differential mowing regimes around some of our amenity grasslands To attempt to create new native wildflower meadows on amenity grassland where appropriate To ensure that Urban Flower Meadows are not planted where they could cause detriment to native species and habitats 	Short Medium Short	Parks
	Roadside Verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with Lancashire County Council on reducing and amending cutting regimes for roadside verges where it is safe to do so, to encourage a network of wildlife corridors and enhance habitat connectivity 	Medium	LCC Neighbourhood Services
	Peat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work in partnership with other bodies and landowners to ensure the protection and restoration of peat bogs in the borough and investigate income opportunities from paludiculture (wetter farming) To ensure South Ribble and its suppliers only use peat free alternatives for compost 	Long Annually	Various
	Arable Field Margins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with landowners and partners to increase the biodiversity value and connectivity of the arable field margins in the borough 	Long	NFU Landowners
	Gardens, cemeteries, allotments and buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with residents, businesses and landowners to encourage a mosaic of different habitat types across the borough, that provide important food and nectar sources to support our wildlife To encourage the ethos of leaving space for nature To encourage the inclusion of wildlife refuges in buildings and structures 	Medium Medium Medium	Residents Landowners Businesses SRBC
	Artificial refuges	<p>To encourage the installation of artificial wildlife refuges where appropriate to enhance what is naturally available to our wildlife, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hibernaculum Hedgehog highways Bird and bat boxes Bee / insect boxes Log / stone piles Deadwood Wildlife bridges and tunnels Green walls and green roofs 	Annually	Planning Resident Landowners Businesses Neighbourhood Services




 	<p>Create some low management intervention areas</p>	<p>To encourage biological diversity in our parks and open spaces by altering management schedules to introduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unmanaged strips of grass – where reduced frequency mowing can help protect flowering plants and longer swards provide structure / shelter for invertebrates and small mammals a mosaic of habitats to provide a wide range of species with a wide range of habitats to enable them to complete their lifecycles wilder areas nettle beds and bramble patches areas of bare earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage a mindset of reducing access to identified areas of land at certain times of the year to protect species and habitats To install information signs to explain these changes 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium Short</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
  	<p>Planting schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the use of locally abundant, native species in planting schemes To ensure the protection of existing habitats by following a right plant, right place ethos To consider food and nectar sources and shelter in planting scheme development To ensure sensitive time management of planting for plants and wildlife To replace annual planting with more sustainable perennial schemes 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
	<p>Protected species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek to increase populations of protected species by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> positive habitat management to create viable habitat for target species sensitive maintenance regimes and timings creation of refuges where appropriate improving ecological connectivity via the creation of corridors and stepping-stones to allow populations to expand naturally managing public access to protect sensitive habitat and species enhancement of existing habitats creation of new habitat where the opportunity exists or becomes available use of wildlife sensitive lighting schemes to remove barriers to the movement of nocturnal species To promote awareness and understanding of the park's wildlife and associated management To create a pollinator pledge to increase the diversity and numbers of pollinating insects in the Borough 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>

Environmental Pressures and Mitigation Measures

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
 	Invasive non-native species (INNS), pests and diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create and implement a management strategy against invasive species, pests and diseases which have harmful effects on native and priority species and habitats To carry out regular surveys for INNS, pests and disease To provide advice to landowners on the identification and control of INNS To deliver INNS related conservation activities To improve community action and awareness of INNS To ensure correct biosecurity measures are in place to reduce the spread of INNS, pests and disease through our maintenance work 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
 	Pesticides and herbicides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides wherever possible To promote the use of environmentally friendly and natural pest deterrents and weed removal measures To include in this the services offered by our Pest Control team 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p>	Environmental Health
  	To manage our parks and open spaces to help protect communities from the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage our own land and encourage others to manage land in a way that increases the resilience of our Borough to the impacts of climate change To manage and restore habitats and increase species areas to make wildlife more resilient to changes in climate To reuse and recycle our green waste on site wherever possible To ensure the use of sustainable products and materials in our habitat management work 	<p>Short</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Parks</p>
  	Threats and pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To highlight threats and issues likely to impact priority habitats and species as they arise and outline measures to combat these threats To work collaboratively to tackle and reduce threats and pressures to habitats and species at a landscape level Failure to recognise biodiversity as a way to adapt to and mitigate for climate change 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Long</p>	Various
 	Pollution	<p>To improve water quality by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaging with residents, businesses and partners to continue to clean up waterways to allow biodiversity to thrive managing our ponds to reduce the likelihood of fish kills occurring due to drops in dissolved oxygen levels managing algal blooms as they occur on our ponds To reduce light pollution by promoting low level lighting schemes 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	Various

	<p>Recreation pressures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To design in resilience in planting schemes, management and zoning to allow a balance of recreation and conservation To design out hotspots of people pressure on sites To understand and consider and mitigate the negative impacts (damage, noise, lighting or dust) of events that are held on our parks and address these in the planning, implementation and clean up phases. To continue to engage with residents and park users to tackle environmental crimes such as litter, dog fouling and fly tipping 	<p>Medium Long Medium Short</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Services Parks</p>
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Sustainable Development

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
Page 40 	<p>Designated sites, priority habitats and green belt land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work collaboratively to ensure that all internationally, nationally and locally designated sites are managed in a positive way To have due regard for irreplaceable and priority habitats of strategic significance and distinctiveness To investigate the potential of increasing the number of our sites with local or national designations To look for opportunities to restore, enhance and create habitats outside of designated wildlife sites To continue to maintain our sites to Green Flag standards 	<p>Annually Annually Long Long Annually</p>	<p>LCC Natural England Lancashire Nature Partnership SRBC</p>
	<p>Integrated biodiversity into wider sustainable development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To comply with our statutory roles and link biodiversity, Biodiversity Net Gain and Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy details into wider corporate priorities and the new Local Plan Work with developers to add biodiversity value to sites using natural features and artificial refuges on all developments to ensure communities have access to wildlife rich green space To encourage the use of SUDs schemes, the removal of weirs and barriers in watercourses and the creation of swales and ponds To ensure a net gain of habitat across the Borough 	<p>Short / Medium Short Medium Annually</p>	<p>LCC Natural England Planning Parks</p>
	<p>Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that emerging Local Plan sets strong ambitious targets for improving biodiversity through development To ensure that biodiversity is a key consideration on all planning applications 	<p>Short Short</p>	<p>Planning</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planners to provide annual update on BNG for inclusion in the Climate Report to Council To promote over 10% net gain on planning applications 	Medium Medium	
	Businesses and landowner advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To offer support for landowners wishing to enhance biodiversity on their land To provide advice to businesses on how they can take positive action for biodiversity 	Annually	
	Delivering social benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maximise the contribution that biodiversity makes to the health and wellbeing of residents and economic prosperity of the borough To improve social cohesion by removing barriers to participating in volunteering and engagement activities. To provide opportunities for corporate engagement and volunteering opportunities that support local projects To integrate biodiversity gain into our Procurement process and encourage contractors working on our property to do their bit for biodiversity 	Medium Medium Medium Medium	Investment and Skills Community groups Procurement
	National campaigns and lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To stay up to date with national campaigns and lobbying for biodiversity To implement new policy according to national guidelines 	Annually	
	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider where new roads will be located and whether they will be near any priority site and/or species To incorporate wildlife tunnels and bridges into roads to prevent the fragmentation of habitat 	Annually Annually	Planning

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Education and Engagement				
	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Raise awareness of biodiversity in South Ribble and regionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage an ethos of caring for and about the natural diversity and uniqueness of the borough To encourage public access to and engagement with nature by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting Citizen Science opportunities to residents, schools, volunteers and community groups such as RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch and Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count continuing to promote "What can I Do?" activities on our website providing natural history themed walks and talks for volunteers and residents installing signs and information regarding to biodiversity improvements on our sites 	Medium Medium Short Medium Short	SRBC

	Working with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to put people at the heart of our work on biodiversity, increasing awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment and delivering opportunities for people through education and volunteering by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing to support and grow our Friends Groups by expanding our programme of conservation volunteering opportunities continuing to support the activities School Eco Councils continuing to support environmental enhancements in communities continuing to work with businesses and landowners to add biodiversity value to their land To support and encourage the development of wildlife groups and activities in the Borough To continue to support and help facilitate community groups committed to biodiversity and climate projects To develop a Social Prescribing offer that allows residents to connect with and value nature as a route to physical and mental wellbeing 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Medium</p>	SRBC
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote biodiversity as an environmental education resource To work with schools to encourage participation in biodiversity initiatives / activities To enable education visits to parks To help develop and support the sustainability agenda in our schools To support forest school programmes and development of wildlife areas or biodiversity improvements in school grounds Provide educational visits and resources for use in schools 	Annually	SRBC
	Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to be a part of the Lancashire Local Nature Partnership and other climate and biodiversity partnerships To continue to network and collaborate with partners, local and national wildlife and climate groups Create links with voluntary, community and health groups to improve the health and wellbeing of residents To bring conflicting interest groups together to encourage and foster understanding 	<p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>LCC</p> <p>LNP</p> <p>Wildlife Groups</p>

Abbreviations

LCC – Lancashire County Council
 LNP – Lancashire Nature Partnership
 BNG – Biodiversity Net Gain

LRNS – Local Nature Recovery Strategy
 CSF – Catchment Sensitive Farming

Biodiversity Action Plan Consultation Responses



The consultation for the Biodiversity Action Plan ran from November 2022 until May 2023 and took on two forms – a series of interactive workshops with identified interest groups and partners and an online public consultation.

1. Interactive Workshops

The Climate Team help three interactive workshops to gather opinions on the content for the Biodiversity Action Plan.

1. November 2022 – Held at the Depot for Neighbourhood Services and Parks staff, there were 15 participants
2. January 2023 – Held at Civic Centre for volunteers from Council Friend’s Groups and local biodiversity focused community groups. The 14 participants came from

Friends of Farington Lodges	Leyland in Bloom
Friends of Paradise Park	Penwortham in Bloom
Friends of Worden Park	Guardians of Nature
Friends of Walton Park	Withnell Anglers
Friends of Hurst Grange Park	Progress Housing Community Inspector

3. January 2023 – Held at Civic Centre for representative of national and local wildlife organisations. The 29 participants came from

The Bee Centre	Merseyside and West Lancs. Bat Group
Chorley and District Natural History Society	Natural England
Dragonfly Surveyor	Preston Society
Environment Agency	River Ribble Trust
Groundwork	RSPB
Lancashire Badger Group	WWT Martin Mere
Lancashire County Council – Ecology Team	SRBC Planner
Lancashire Ecological Records Network	SRBC Operations Supervisor - Grounds Maintenance
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	

Workshop participants were asked to consider the same six areas

1. Threats to sites and biodiversity
2. Opportunities for improvement
3. Challenges and barriers
4. Solutions to the identified threats, challenges and barriers
5. Community involvement
6. Contents for the Action Plan

The results of these sessions have been combined and are included as Appendix one. The responses from each session are colour coded and then grouped in themes to show where there was consensus across the three sessions.

2. Online Public Consultation

The online public consultation on the main themes developed during the workshops ran for 10 weeks in March, April and May 2023. There were 79 responses.

95% of responders felt that it was important to take action to protect and enhance biodiversity in South Ribble, with habitat fragmentation, pollution and development being seen as the things most likely to threaten biodiversity in the Borough.

The preferred ways to improve biodiversity in the borough were

Option	Percent
Make more native wildflower meadows	84%
Creating, restoring and protecting habitats	81%
Wildlife corridors – linking habitats together to allow wildlife to move around safely	77%
Litter / fly tipping / dog fouling enforcement	76%
Plant more trees	75%
Designate more sites for protection	70%
Education and awareness raising	65%
Create artificial refuges for wildlife – bee hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog highways etc.	65%
Create unmanaged biodiversity areas	63%
Improved management of parks and open space	62%

93% of respondents felt that South Ribble should allocate some areas of the parks and open spaces for nature, reducing maintenance, allowing the grass to grow, excluding dogs and managing for wildlife rather than people

58% respondents said that they would be happy with an increase in the amount of ‘weeds’ in the streets and on our parks, if we reduced the amount of herbicides that we used. Those that were against this suggested more cautious, targeted use or a swap to natural weed killers instead. A decreased use of herbicides in Parks was suggested, or increased community action to keep local areas looking neat and tidy.

90% of respondents agreed that working in partnership between the Council, landowners, businesses and local communities was key to restoring and enhancing biodiversity in the Borough.

When asked about what action they would be prepared to do to help nature, 77% said they work on their own property, 61% said they would volunteer on local projects and 49% saying they would join a local volunteer group / organisation.

Full details of all the questions and the responses are given in Appendix Two.

Appendix One – Interactive Workshops Response Summary

Key to text colours -

SRBC – Grounds and Parks teams

Community Gardening Groups / Friends of Groups / In Bloom Groups

Wildlife Groups and Organisations

1. Threats to Biodiversity and Sites

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money Lack of funding</p> <p>Maintenance resources for planted areas Poor / intensive land management – mowing / tilling Wrong times and too much Lack of habitat maintenance Footpath maintenance Lack of protection for biodiverse land Ivy on trees is a big problem – harbouring overwintering insects that are eating the alder leaves and killing off the trees Drainage ditches aren't being cleared. Ponds are clogged up with duckweed and rubbish</p> <p>Cutting grass verges too much – need to leave long for wildflowers, insects and birds Lack of collaboration</p> <p>Lack of longevity for associated roles Loss of environmental subsidies</p> <p>Changes to agri-environmental schemes Neglect</p> <p>Maintenance needs to be consistent Stuck in ways, using outdated processes Lack of understanding</p>	<p>Trees Lack of tree cover / shade Poor tree planting / poor practice / habitat loss Unsympathetic hedge cutting Ash dieback More TPOs</p> <p>Loosing trees to disease – Ash Dieback</p> <p>Under recording / monitoring of some species / types Habitat loss, fragmentation Loss of ponds, hedgerows, trees, meadows Species or population isolation / fragmentation Loss of / lack of corridor routes / connectivity Loss of habitat for building Loss of green space for car parking</p> <p>Loss of green space Species disturbance by dogs Wildlife displacement</p> <p>Division or larger wildlife areas – lack of wildlife corridors</p>	<p>Agriculture – land use and hedgerow removal Intensive agriculture Farming pressures More control over industry and farming</p> <p>Loss of small farms with many small fields and hedgerows etc to large scale farms Recreational pressure Recreational pressures Human disturbance</p> <p>Population Growth Housing and industrial development Manmade structures / obstacles</p> <p>Treatment plants – poor management Hunting / shooting Direct hunting at home and abroad</p> <p>Impact of game management</p> <p>Cost of living</p> <p>Abstraction INNS – plants, animals, invertebrates, crustaceans Management and eradication of INNS Value of INNS for pollinators – alternatives / phasing Planting on non-native or locally non-native species Escaped species introduction (e.g. mink)</p> <p>Avian Flu</p> <p>Water quality (run off / diffuse pollution Leaching into water courses Management of run off into watercourses Pollution from the road network (including vehicle fumes)</p>	<p>Weaknesses in policing planning conditions Development Local planning policy Local Plan Planning system needs an overhaul Planning to work around ecological sites of interest Built development Fewer new builds – more on brownfield sites Re-evaluation of BNG Lack of experience in LAs – e.g. SRBC consults GMEU Development / urbanisation Too much development / road building Over development – hard paving, human population Planning rules – insufficient protection People pressure on sites Cars People parking on pavements and verges Planting / gardening trends of removing hedgerows, less plants and more tarmac</p> <p>Fake grass</p> <p>Unrealistic Nature Recovery targets</p>	<p>Attitudes towards the environment Cats killing songbirds Dogs disturbing habitats and wildlife</p> <p>Discourage shrines on memorial benches Lack of knowledge Encourage wildlife awareness in private gardens</p> <p>Education in schools</p> <p>Expand knowledge of what are INNS</p> <p>Biosecurity – poor education Have Forest School classes started up again on site to encourage children to respect their green space?</p>

<p>Spraying streets with weed killers – less food for pollinators, less habitat and run off into waterways</p> <p>Alternatives to pesticides / herbicides</p> <p>Over-use of weed killer</p> <p>Pesticides / herbicides / artificial fertilizers</p> <p>Fly tipping and litter is an issue</p> <p>Dogs and dog waste – action needed</p> <p>Training of SRBC workers</p>	<p>Peat degradation – agriculture and recreation</p> <p>Loss of peat through cultivation</p> <p>Persecution of predators</p> <p>Inappropriate development – loss of forage, roost and breeding sites</p> <p>‘Pest’ species surviving mild winters</p>	<p>Agricultural run off – manure</p> <p>Nitrification</p> <p>Pollution – litter / pesticides / agricultural / industrial / household</p> <p>Farm waste and run off from fields and industry</p> <p>Chemical run off – fish kills</p> <p>Pollution – especially waterways, streams and canals</p> <p>Washing machines emptying into streams</p> <p>Soil erosion</p> <p>Electromagnetic radiation</p>	<p>Climate change – water temp / flooding / drought / erosion / Invert lifecycle changes</p> <p>Impact of climate change on coastline</p> <p>Ribble estuary – costal erosion / climate change / loss of habitat</p> <p>Loss of flood plain</p> <p>More extreme weather events</p> <p>Alternative energy too expensive</p>	
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2. Opportunities for improvement

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Identify -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible wildlife corridors through the borough Possible wetland sites <p>Effectively manage existing wildlife sites</p> <p>Connectivity – hedgerows</p> <p>River restoration – de-culverting, bed restoration, better connectivity / flood plains, meandering, more shades, buffers / ecotone</p> <p>Managed realignment</p> <p>Greater protection of large areas of land with a lot of wildlife potential – not little fragments that are not managed</p> <p>Coordinated review of land management (SRBC)</p> <p>Default should be all land as BHS unless designated as not</p> <p>Encourage green land management by landowners</p> <p>Small areas of SRBC land – give to residents where they can improve biodiversity by better management</p> <p>All council sites not mown unless there is a H&S risk</p> <p>Better maintenance of sites</p> <p>No Mow May</p> <p>Mow less</p> <p>Leave strips of unmown grass next to hedges</p> <p>Leave grass under trees (not mown) (Croston Manor)</p> <p>Stop raking out under shrubs and hedges</p>	<p>Grass verge management</p> <p>Manage road verges for wildlife</p> <p>More planting on road verges</p> <p>Native / locally native flower areas – long term at sites currently sown with alien flower mixes</p> <p>Re-establish locally rare / scarce / extinct species in the borough based on historic data</p> <p>More use of indigenous species</p> <p>Pollinators, what has caused the decline and how can it be reverted?</p> <p>Supply of wildflower seeds to SRBC residents for gardens (advert in with Council tax notification)</p> <p>Less amenity grassland – more meadow</p> <p>Support planting of more desirable species in gardens – pollinators etc</p> <p>Tree planting needs to be native species, not conifers and not on valuable habitat – peat bogs and heathland</p> <p>Preserve more hedgerows</p> <p>Right tree for the right area</p> <p>Protect mature trees</p> <p>Remove laurel hedges and swap for alternatives for free</p> <p>Weigh up the best way to manage areas for biodiversity – not just tree planting</p> <p>Nature reserves</p>	<p>Mitigation needs to be rigorous and enforced – developers get away with vague promises and ridiculous policies</p> <p>Restrict development – don't build on green belt, already seen displacement of wildlife</p> <p>Better incentives for farming, improving nutrient management</p> <p>Street lighting to reduce brightness / light pollution</p> <p>Discourage parking on road verges and pavements</p> <p>More incentives for green energy</p>	<p>Swift boxes / sparrow terraces on all developments</p> <p>Artificial badger setts</p> <p>Wildlife warning system</p> <p>Stronger push for SUDs</p> <p>Removal of weirs and barriers</p> <p>Better water quality / bathing water / WFO</p> <p>Making space for water (Coastal retreat)</p> <p>Introduce swales into woodlands as well as ponds</p> <p>Minimum tree requirements – depending on size of development for BNG</p> <p>Carbon market – woodland / peatland</p> <p>BNG</p> <p>LNRS – identify opportunities and priorities</p> <p>Cooperation – organisational LNRS delivery plans</p> <p>Make contractors show us what they are doing to improve biodiversity</p> <p>Reform of the planning system</p> <p>Reduce development to reduce population</p> <p>Pick your own schemes</p>	<p>Cranfield Uni – Peat mapping (shallow peat soils ~30cm)</p> <p>Engage farmers</p> <p>Engage owners of BHS</p> <p>More collaboration / knowledge sharing / better technology</p> <p>Connect groups with residential homes and organisations where we can go and rewild their green spaces</p> <p>Partnership working with ecology firms</p> <p>Citizen Science</p> <p>Encourage communities to engage with their local wildlife group to organise events such as bat walks, bird ringing etc.</p> <p>Downloadable scavenger hunts appropriate to each location</p> <p>Involve local people to care for them</p> <p>Give residents wildflowers to plant to increase the bee population</p> <p>Encourage people to practice improvements at home</p> <p>Educate on the benefits of home composting.</p> <p>Discounts to residents on compost bins and water butts</p>

<p>Stop spraying hedge bases Stop using selective weed killers on sports pitches Schedule changes – hedge cutting out of nesting season Be less tidy to allow insects to live as food for hedgehogs</p> <p>Regular monitoring Stronger enforcement of current rules</p> <p>More funding Ensure biodiversity is adequately funded and prioritised</p> <p>Staff training on the diversity of species</p> <p>Ring up the council to collect the bulbs that are being thrown away</p> <p>Litter picking incentives – need to make litter picking ‘cool’</p> <p>LWT working with farmers at Wrea Green Land below St Mary’s, Penwortham and the churchyard / river area – possibly owned by Anglican church and Blackburn dioceses</p> <p>Land between Longton Drumacre Lane – Walmer Bridge – create as woodland, ponds, hedgerow and paths (one already there)</p> <p>Land between Longton sports and social club to Drumacre Lane – develop as woodland, orchids, ponds, woodland walks from existing footpaths</p>	<p>More hedgerows Create more ponds Encourage living walls Secure beehive areas Encourage species More green roofs More bat and bird boxes Bee friendly flower beds that are not sprayed with weed killer and non-native flowers planted</p> <p>Wildlife friendly parks Hedgehog highways – encourage residents to make gardens more accessible and wildlife friendly</p> <p>Standing dead wood Habitat piles</p> <p>Salt marsh creation / realignment of coastal flood banks Strategic wetland creation and Natural flood management and biodiversity On site water storage – Ponds / reservoirs</p> <p>Encourage diversity around allotments</p> <p>More orchards – edible foods and herbs More community fruit trees (map so know where to find them)</p> <p>Buy up available land to protect it from future development</p>		<p>Council to work with local organic veg growers to incentivise residents to buy veg boxes – local food, less waste, less carbon</p> <p>Refill Stations, household goods Repair cafes or pop up shops – repair items locally so don’t have to throw away</p> <p>Ask local garages to remove free plastic gloves from the pumps</p> <p>Reduce parking outside schools, encourage parents to walk or ride bikes instead Publish local bike riding routes Publish walking routes – encourages families to get outside and engage with nature Green footpaths</p> <p>Sustainable living workshops – grow organic food at home, companion planting to encourage wildflowers at home alongside vegetables Penwortham needs organic food markets, somewhere that sells local produce</p>	<p>More education in schools / extra-curricular Local youth as environmental champions Insect boxes / bird boxes supplied to schools for children to take home Support sustainability in schools Ensure every school in the borough has a green / eco council Gardening, woodland workshops at schools, encourage children to engage with wildlife and nature. After school groups led by community groups getting children outside in nature More education in schools – via events to help people understand how to help Work with younger people to encourage</p> <p>Social prescribing Collation of roadkill data</p> <p>Educate residents to use alternatives to glyphosate and slug pellets</p> <p>Also educate the decision makers</p> <p>Bring back the Ranger Service Brickcroft example – roll out to other parks more education Educational centre at Worden Park</p>
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3. Challenges and Barriers

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money Slow ineffective funding systems Lack of investment in project developments – shovel ready projects Resources Replace mowers with suitable machines to cope with the changes Complexity – regulations and policies / uncertainty / conflict of interest Lack of funding – government priorities Lack of funding – make money more accessible Bureaucracy Lack of money Resources - available land and Financial / budget money Funding for residential giveaways General funding – fixed budgets. Don't waste money on other things eg cladding changing rooms at Worden.</p> <p>Farming policy Incentivisation of landowners to protect / improve land for biodiversity – funding? Lack of staff is keeping volunteer time down Lack of staff Dedicated role for a person to look after volunteers Age of volunteers Adequate staff training levels to carry out more environmentally friendly ways of working, i.e.. Hand weeding more labour intensive Maintenance capacity – coppice woodlands etc Recruit staff and train</p> <p>Reliable data – current state / modelling / predictions / data sharing Box ticking / tokenism</p>	<p>Habitats are valued only if public are informed of the wildlife value External impacts on migratory species Chose the right areas for wildflowers Ponds – safety, cost of fencing</p>	<p>Environmental abuse is profitable Inequitable access to the environment Running out of space for nature Population increases Landowners lack of empathy to biodiversity Untrained dogs Fighting against the weather</p>	<p>Land availability Lack of advisory staff / volunteers to talk to landowners etc. Lack of understanding of how important biodiversity is for humans – food production Awareness of habitat importance Imbalance of politicians – more bias to economics rather than gains to the natural world Organic farming perceived as too costly Getting developers to add in ponds, swales and drainage and to maintain them Industry and businesses Cost of living crisis Plastics Government Policy Government encouraging / can't stop development building Housing demand / car orientated society</p>	<p>Apathy / perception Willingness from public / local authority Ignorance Public awareness improvements Lack of awareness by general public Consumer behaviour, wastefulness Lack of knowledge Lack of knowledge Wider change in culture – human nature Lack of trust in NGOs, charities, Local authorities and government by public and each other Public interest and incentives Changing public view on what looks tidy or 'a mess' – messy is better for wildlife Public understanding Public used to things being done a certain way Lack of education Increased education of school children of need / importance of native wildlife and biodiversity Should be a compulsory part of the</p>

<p>Paper exercise – placing documents away and policies not being implemented</p> <p>Lack of co-ordination between different objectives</p> <p>Lack of evidence / good practice</p> <p>Cross boundary working</p> <p>Legislation with no teeth</p> <p>Fly tipping / litter – consequences</p> <p>Legislation</p> <p>Expectations – quick fixes to problems rather than ecologically effective ones</p> <p>Poor expectations</p> <p>Misinformation</p> <p>Short sighted projects that look good</p> <p>Too tidy</p> <p>Reluctance to change</p> <p>Use of pesticides</p> <p>Vandalism</p>			<p>Enforce contractors doing their bit for biodiversity.</p>	<p>curriculum that continues to high school</p> <p>Resistance to change</p> <p>Conflict of interest</p> <p>Publicity</p>
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4. Solutions

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Effective up to date mapping</p> <p>Innovative financing options</p> <p>Increased funding and staff</p> <p>Funding to develop projects</p> <p>Financial certainty / stability will decrease speculation</p> <p>Financial support for reliable data</p> <p>Better use of funds available</p> <p>Change work patterns to free up money</p> <p>Funds need to be directed to environmental projects because of their importance</p> <p>Biodiversity to have economic value recognising</p> <p>More resources – land and funding</p> <p>Land banking</p> <p>Agencies need to work more closely together</p> <p>Partnerships – catchment areas / coastal / others</p> <p>Partnership based projects</p> <p>Greater coordination / networking</p> <p>Locally agreed priorities / plan</p> <p>Working to strengths (organisations)</p> <p>Certainty / clear direction irrespective of policies</p> <p>Enforce existing byelaws</p> <p>Cabinet minister dedicated to the environment</p> <p>More Lengthsmen to improve footpaths</p> <p>Leave green waste on site – brash and log piles, reducing mechanical usage – fuel, energy, noise</p> <p>Cameras</p>	<p>Turning grazing land into orchards – fruit trees to replace income from lamb, red meat / dairy</p> <p>Legislate so that hedgerows must be planted rather than fences</p> <p>If an area is wet, then create wetland / bog gardens</p> <p>Ponds – design and location</p>	<p>Harsher punishments for environmental crime</p>	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain</p> <p>Why not 15% BNG rather than 10%</p> <p>New government policies</p> <p>Planning conditions</p> <p>Secure by design</p> <p>SPDs for development – reduce / improve design</p> <p>Corporate social responsibility</p> <p>Corporate responsibility</p> <p>Clause in contracts about biodiversity</p> <p>Wildlife bridges and tunnels</p> <p>Improved dialogue with landowners</p> <p>Properly funded countryside stewardship</p> <p>Incentivise ecological practice / increase profits through improved environmental measures</p> <p>Independent monitoring</p> <p>More stringent use of ecological consultants for planning</p> <p>Incentives for families – bottle deposit schemes</p> <p>Supermarket involvement</p> <p>Take away outlets should take more responsibility for their waste. More pressure on corporates like McDonalds and Cadbury's</p>	<p>Grassroot education</p> <p>Environmental apprenticeships</p> <p>Funding for environmental education</p> <p>Information pack to children / parents at school</p> <p>Education via public events / Friend's groups / social media</p> <p>Try to involve Friends Groups more</p> <p>Embrace / value volunteers</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Educate at all levels</p> <p>Use social media to educate</p> <p>Closer liaison with universities (local) to bring more presentations / lectures to general public and / or local wildlife groups / clubs / societies</p> <p>Public involvement in planning / delivering environmental projects</p> <p>Improved education of the public – signs / information boards</p> <p>Include people – ownership</p> <p>Wider engagement</p> <p>Incentives for families – bottle deposit schemes</p> <p>Supermarket involvement</p> <p>Take away outlets should take more responsibility for their waste. More pressure on corporates like McDonalds and Cadbury's</p> <p>Funded, targeted schemes for residents</p> <p>Stand up to the pressure and consult with the public</p>

5. Community Involvement

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Money – get some out there</p> <p>Enough staff to manage volunteers</p> <p>Work in partnership with organisations that already community involvement</p> <p>Links forged between groups</p> <p>Sharing best practice with other Local Authorities</p> <p>More work with Probation Service</p> <p>Government and local government investing in NGOs</p> <p>Monitoring and advertising of sites – before during and after</p> <p>Low cost signage at sites, social media QR codes</p> <p>Friends of groups</p> <p>Working with and supporting more Friends of groups</p> <p>Provision of an indoor space for Friends Groups as a drink / biscuit after sessions adds to social benefits of volunteering</p> <p>Larger membership of Friends Groups and resources to manage</p>	<p>Wildflowers (Longton)</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>Continuity of survey work across volunteer groups</p> <p>Target on native plants and let nettles, ivy etc grow for habitat</p>	<p>Ash dieback / INNS – reporting / logging / plotting / education / removing / treating</p>	<p>Get farmers and landowners into the same room and talk to them honestly about the future</p> <p>Farmers / landowners</p> <p>Liaison with landowners / other public sector landowners / farmers and incentives for each group</p> <p>Prison land</p> <p>Golf courses</p> <p>Corporate engagement / volunteering</p> <p>Corporate partnerships – volunteering</p> <p>Local businesses involved in projects</p> <p>Volunteer days – in / out of work</p> <p>Team building days – internal and external</p> <p>Businesses – Bae / Highways England / Railtrack / UU / Canal and Rivers Trust / National Grid</p> <p>Local businesses support local projects</p> <p>Church eco groups</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Promotion at supermarkets, galas etc</p> <p>WCAF – woodland creation accelerator fund</p> <p>Interaction with wildlife groups / organisations</p> <p>Free tree schemes / wildflower schemes</p>	<p>Making use of social influencers</p> <p>Identify the people who are listened to and talk to them / influence them to influence others</p> <p>Use local radio stations</p> <p>Create podcasts for local biodiversity / wildlife</p> <p>Encourage wildlife recording</p> <p>Citizen science</p> <p>CASTO (river specific) citizen science</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Invest more in early years education – nursery / forest schools</p> <p>Should start in schools – Forest Schools, allotments, clubs etc</p> <p>Make more garden areas for schools / community groups</p> <p>Communication between conservation groups</p> <p>Bring members of the public with different interests together e.g. anglers & kayakers</p> <p>Invitation to local landowners / major stakeholders to presentations on biodiversity</p> <p>Encourage landowners to open days on their properties with biodiversity experts to help advise / encourage changes to land use</p> <p>Biodiversity open garden days</p> <p>Volunteer / You Tube / presentations on local walks</p> <p>Flora / plant / bird identification days</p>

<p>Friends Groups – encourage, engage, educate</p>			<p>Social prescribing / free transport and equal access / school twinning for projects</p> <p>Better investment in environmental guardianship / stewardship – start with those who already have a keen interest and get them to do more monitoring / reporting</p> <p>Promote / embrace projects</p> <p>Off road Trampler for mobility</p>	<p>Expert leaders on walks concentrating on seeing things rather than walking as the exercise</p> <p>Events in Parks e.g. – talks with RSPB, bat watching, pond dipping</p> <p>Photography competitions – postcards or calendars</p> <p>Guided walks</p> <p>Citizen Jury – empowering interested local people to be able to direct ideas / funding</p> <p>Development restrictions and structure planning restrictions</p>
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6. Action Plan Content suggestions

Management	Habitats and Species	Environmental pressures and mitigation	Sustainable development	Education / engagement
<p>Partnership working – Council should be working with partners not alone to maximise benefits to wildlife</p> <p>Wider environmental group</p> <p>Catchment wide meetings / cooperation</p> <p>Management that is committed</p> <p>More staff and volunteers</p> <p>Investment of time and money</p> <p>Overlay land ownership map with habitats maps</p> <p>Engaging BHS landowners</p> <p>Corporate buy in from landowners and within council</p> <p>Education of landowners – make information available in addition to the top levels such as SSSIs, BHS etc.</p> <p>All areas should be managed locally, preferably by residents who have experience of living there</p> <p>Cutting trees and grass at the right time</p> <p>Reinforcing local byelaws</p> <p>Reducing pesticides, herbicides etc</p> <p>More equipment to enable flexibility of teams – e.g. rough cut mowers</p> <p>More flexible working practices</p> <p>Constantly review working practices</p>	<p>Improve biological recording</p> <p>Important habitats and precise records of species</p> <p>Data sharing / reliability / currency</p> <p>Long term data modelling</p> <p>Nest boxes etc in urban area</p> <p>Connectivity and habitat corridors</p> <p>Identifying risk areas for roadkill</p> <p>Specific habitat targets for receptive Landowners</p> <p>Identify and protect</p> <p>Promote habitats for bats, hedgehogs, deer</p> <p>Replace urban meadows with native</p> <p>Difference between wildflowers and Urban Meadows</p>	<p>INNS initiatives to work to remove such species</p> <p>Information on INNS, especially those escaping from gardens to vulnerable habitats</p> <p>More control of INNS and dedicated Grounds</p> <p>Maintenance team to tackle</p> <p>Accountability and enforcing around mitigation / BNG</p> <p>INNS / pests</p> <p>Removal of INNS</p> <p>Water storage – ponds / reservoirs / tanks for summer irrigation</p> <p>SuDS systems</p>	<p>Effective BNG measures</p> <p>Ensure biodiversity targets are met by developers in the borough</p> <p>BNG and more resources around assessing planning applications, wide skills set needed</p> <p>Ask landowners take responsibility for biodiversity</p> <p>Ensure developers and planners are well informed and educated</p> <p>Lancashire Nature Partnership</p> <p>Lancashire Peat Partnership</p> <p>Projects equivalent to REMADE if funds become available</p> <p>Recycling</p> <p>Food recycling – what's happening?</p> <p>Renewable Energies</p> <p>Green roof</p>	<p>Who is doing what and where?</p> <p>Older naturalists meet younger people using apps, SM etc.</p> <p>Encourage the use of apps like iRecorder / iNaturalist</p> <p>Send records in to LERN</p> <p>Community Involvement</p> <p>Get Lancashire Botany Group active again</p> <p>Church Groups</p> <p>Landowner involvement / target groups at existing NFU events</p> <p>Targeted events</p> <p>Work with schools and colleges to support the biodiversity / sustainability agenda.</p> <p>We like the photography competition idea.</p> <p>Community Hubs and Learning Centre</p> <p>Pop up hubs on parks and town centres</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>Days – promo radio, not all internet</p> <p>Eco areas</p> <p>Skills to develop community groups</p> <p>Incentives to volunteer</p> <p>Educate the public</p>

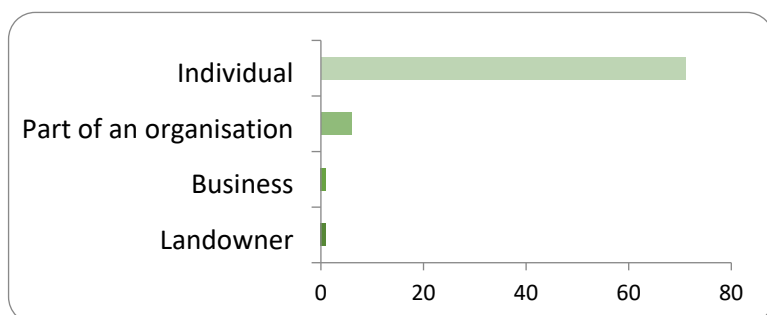
Appendix Two – Summary of responses from the online public consultation

Following on from the development of our Biodiversity Strategy, we're now looking to create the Action Plan to help guide how we deliver conservation at a local scale. The creation of South Ribble's Biodiversity Action Plan is a partnership effort to target actions in 5 main areas.

- Management
- Habitats and Species
- Environmental Pressures and Mitigation
- Sustainable Development (ensuring what we do meets current needs but will not compromise the needs of future generations)
- Education / Awareness

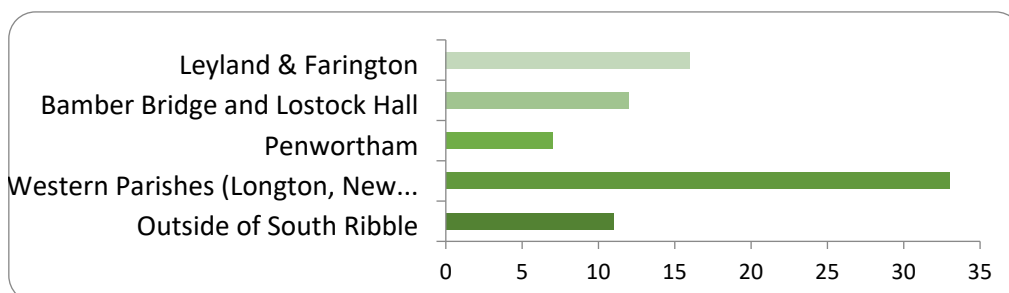
Integral to the creation of the Action Plan is the collaboration of interested parties, sharing knowledge, expertise and resources to deliver action for nature. We have already consulted our own Parks and Grounds staff, our Volunteers and other local volunteer groups, local wildlife groups and national wildlife Non-government organisations. We would now like to know what you think about some of the main themes and issues that have been raised.

1. Are you responding as?



Option	Total	Percent
Individual	71	89.87%
Part of an organisation	6	7.59%
Business	1	1.27%
Landowner	1	1.27%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

2. Which part of the borough are you from?



Option	Total	Percent
Western Parishes (Longton, New Longton, Much Hoole area)	33	41.77%
Leyland & Farington	16	20.25%
Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall	12	15.19%
Outside of South Ribble	11	13.92%
Penwortham	7	8.86%
Eastern Parishes (Gregson Lane, Samlesbury, Coupe Green area)	0	0.00%

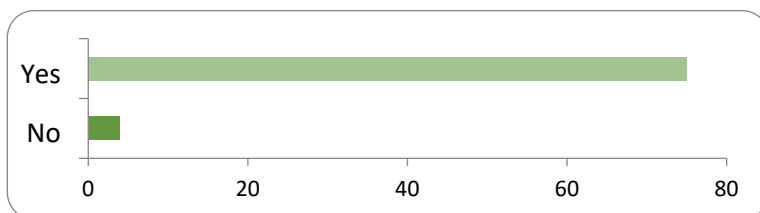
Not Answered

0

0.00%

We are aware that Planning laws and developments are emotive issues when it comes to the environment and biodiversity. While this will be referenced in the Action Plan it is not possible for this document to change UK planning law. If this is something that you feel strongly about, then the Local Plan for Chorley, South Ribble and Preston is currently being updated and will be open for a second round of consultation late summer 2023. Adding your views in this arena will have much more impact, than comments here.

3. Do you think that taking action to protect and enhance the natural environment in South Ribble is important?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	75	94.94%
No	4	5.06%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? (there were 9 responses)

There are more important things to sort out, like feeding the poor and making sure they are warm

Nature and green space, with wildlife and natural plants, are absolutely essential for the wellbeing of residents. Previous destruction of green spaces was destroying what little Nature we had left. That must cease, and Nature and wildlife protected for their own sake as well as ours.

There are far more important priorities.

Because you take too much of our money already. I'd rather have it stay in my pocket.

Absolutely, but not to the detriment of existing habitats or local that it might impact.

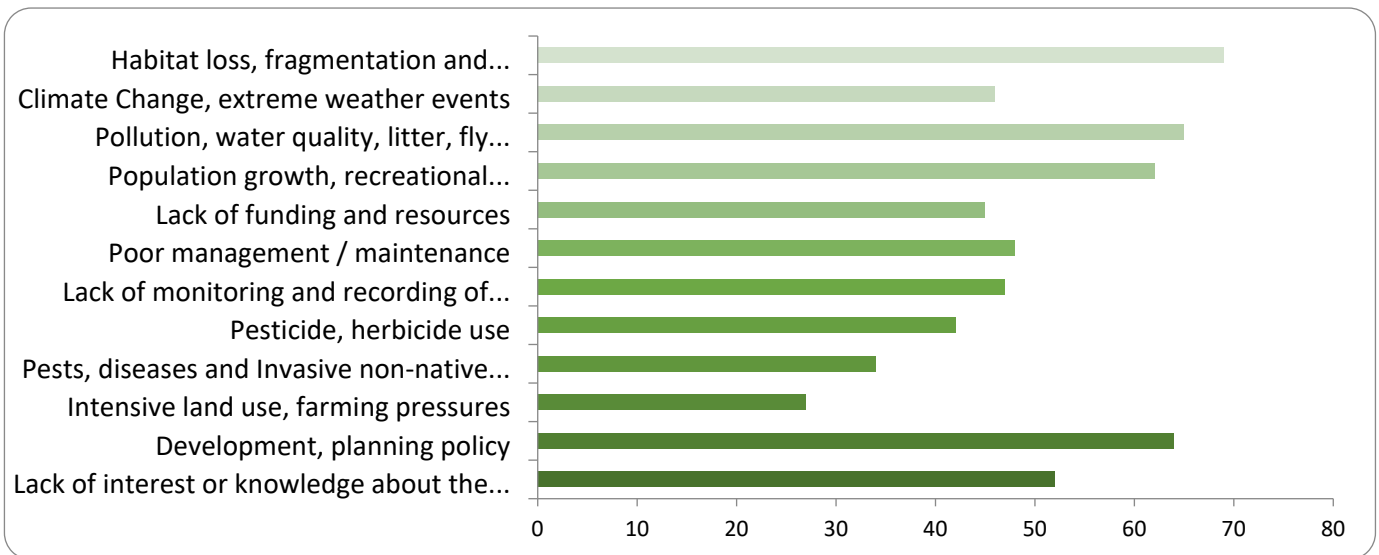
Glamping pods in Longton absolute ridiculous they only want to do this is so then in 5 years they can get planning passed for houses

Very important that we protect what we have left. As we are all aware the UK has lost more wildlife than the rest of Europe and is the least biodiverse country in Europe.

Want to have plenty of greenery and better public services before building g more houses

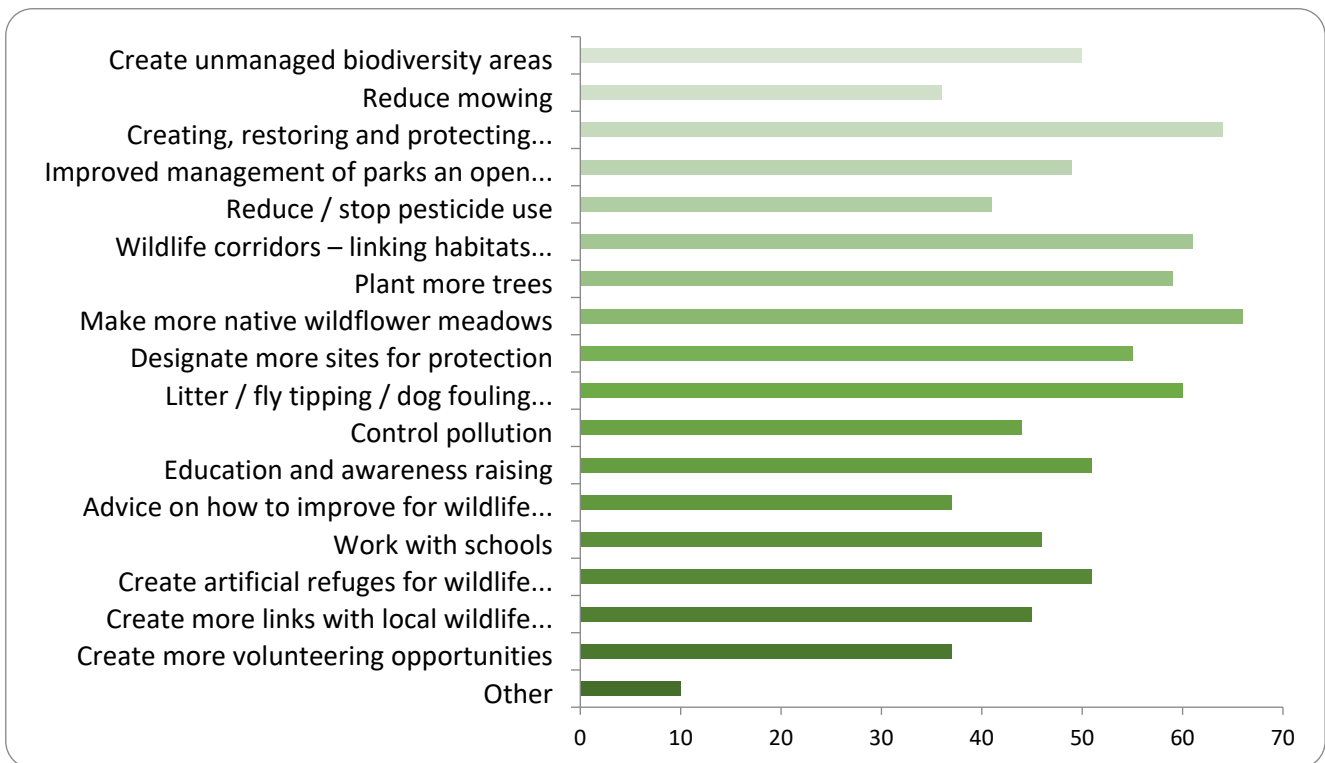
We need nature for our health and wellbeing being and every year green space is lost as more and more houses/factories/ shops are built. Wildlife is in decline and so we need to try and save it from extinction...and that is also for our survival as all life on earth is interconnected. We need natural reserves of green space to help our air quality too.

4. Please pick all the things you feel threaten biodiversity in South Ribble



Option	Total	Percent
Habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance	69	87.34%
Pollution, water quality, litter, fly tipping and dog fouling	65	82.28%
Development, planning policy	64	81.01%
Population growth, recreational pressures, human disturbance	62	78.48%
Lack of interest or knowledge about the environment	52	65.82%
Poor management / maintenance	48	60.76%
Lack of monitoring and recording of species and habitats	47	59.49%
Climate Change, extreme weather events	46	58.23%
Lack of funding and resources	45	56.96%
Pesticide, herbicide use	42	53.16%
Pests, diseases and Invasive non-native species	34	43.04%
Intensive land use, farming pressures	27	34.18%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

5. Please pick all the things that you feel should be done to help improve biodiversity in the borough –



Option	Total	Percent
Make more native wildflower meadows	66	83.54%
Creating, restoring and protecting habitats	64	81.01%
Wildlife corridors – linking habitats together to allow wildlife to move around safely	61	77.22%
Litter / fly tipping / dog fouling enforcement	60	75.95%
Plant more trees	59	74.68%
Designate more sites for protection	55	69.62%
Education and awareness raising	51	64.56%
Create artificial refuges for wildlife – bee hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog highways etc.	51	64.56%
Create unmanaged biodiversity areas	50	63.29%
Improved management of parks and open space	49	62.03%
Work with schools	46	58.23%
Create more links with local wildlife groups and organisations	45	56.96%
Control pollution	44	55.70%
Reduce / stop pesticide use	41	51.90%
Advice on how to improve for wildlife in private gardens	37	46.84%
Create more volunteering opportunities	37	46.84%
Reduce mowing	36	45.57%
Other	10	12.66%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

6. Please tell us what other actions you would like to add (there were 27 responses)

Stop building houses on the wildlife habitats in the first place
I would like to see the introduction of green bus stops so that flowers that grow on the roofs of these bus stops create an urban path for pollinating insects
Regarding native wildflower meadows - the wildflower plantings of the last few years have been lovely but have mostly been annuals and include non-native species. Planting up with native perennials will cost less and require less maintenance in the long run, may look slightly less 'pretty', but will help ensure our native meadow species flourish.
Events in the community to educate children with parents during school holidays and weekends. Council Teaming up and helping promote and advertise with community allotment groups, forest school groups, wildlife charities in the area to promote families getting more connected to nature, joining outdoor extracurricular for health, wellbeing and to environment education and voluntary conservation.
All of the above are key
Encourage secondary as well as primary schools to take an interest in the environment, to turn over some of their land for wildlife conservation and protect and maintain existing trees and woodland within their playing fields. Reduce close mowing on these fields and stop strimming field edges where wildlife live.
Better planning policy to prevent the most damaging industries like intensive livestock get planning permission
Stop cutting down mature trees to make way for development.
Encourage local people to take charge of unused areas such as the piece of land on Gaskell road to be used as a common area for growing fruit, flowers and veg
Avoid building on green belt land
Leave ponds where building is taking place, don't culvert streams. Wildlife needs water. Small mammals died last year in the drought particularly our hedgehogs.
A somewhat biased question assumes that improving biodiversity is anything to do with the council. Get the bins right and slash staff numbers instead.
Stop strimming of grass verges.
Engagement with organisations any information they have about certain areas, species etc to know what is using the habitat. Knowledge is key - for instance more trees are good but to the expense of freshwater areas which maybe more should be created. (Ponds can have a cooling affect, are habitats for dragonflies, newts etc, are good for mental health, are a drinking source for animals).
Ensure planning consents require developments to apply the biodiversity and SUDs hierarchy and that their delivery is guaranteed to be funded by the developer and delivery of targets enforced.
Generally, building on green belt land should be stopped.
Enforce TPOs (that office is impossible to contact despite multiple requests by phone and email)
Stop building more and more houses
More links with school, especially secondary education. Help schools make biodiverse areas within the school grounds
Control of invasive animals and plants. For example, grey squirrels. Red squirrels have been seen in the area but are at risk as long as there are grey squirrels.
Control invasive species e.g. grey squirrels
"Less building of new houses
Less new housing estates
More bridle paths
More effective Grey Squirrel Control in Parks and other land managed by the Council. Removal of Grey Squirrels because they are non-native invasive and make room for Red Squirrels to recolonise.

Stop commercial development and building on green belt land. It's absolutely outrageous that farmland & green belt fields are being sold off and planning permission given to build on these areas. A perfect example of this is the proposal for a glamping site in Longton. It's ridiculous and totally inappropriate. The proposer is paying lip service to biodiversity, using all the "buzz words" in his planning application. It's merely "smoke & mirrors" If this goes ahead, biodiversity will go out of the window and it will make way for a housing estate on farmland. Do not let it pass

Biodiversity would also improve with reduced car dependency and use and an increase in electric car use with corresponding rise in take up of public transport (to reduce air pollution particulates).

Significant reduction in artificial lighting would help biodiversity. Light pollution is a major biodiversity issue. If commercial premises turned off their lights when the premises are not in use it would really help. Encouraging residential occupiers not to have lighting on in their gardens/yards etc etc or even a ban between certain hours, ditto.

A joined-up approach would be most useful. The Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy may help with that, as and when produced and implemented.

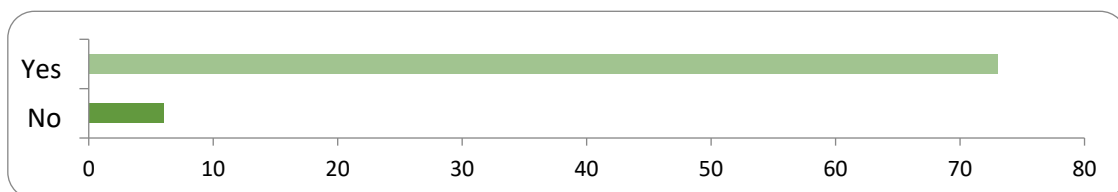
Management of existing woodland, especially ancient woodland, is a greater priority than tree-planting. The latter cannot recreate the ancient soils and the complex ancient ecosystems that ancient woodland supports.

Intertidal and marine management needs addressing: a whole Ribble Estuary approach would be appropriate.

A joined-up approach would be most useful. The Lancashire Nature Recovery Strategy may help with that, as and when produced and implemented.

Management of existing woodland, especially ancient woodland, is a greater priority than tree-planting. The latter cannot recreate the ancient soils and the complex ancient ecosystems that ancient woodland supports. Intertidal and marine management needs addressing: a whole Ribble Estuary approach would be appropriate.

7. Do you agree that South Ribble Borough Council should allocate some areas of their parks and open spaces to nature, reducing maintenance, allowing grass to grow longer, excluding dogs and managing for wildlife and not people?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	73	92.41%
No	6	7.59%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? There were 7 responses

Only a small area of the borough is made up of parks and they have important value for people to use for recreation, exercise, etc. They should be well planted with trees and plants and ponds maintained but you should keep a good portion where you cut the grass for children to play on, allow dogs for good walks (good for owners too!) Etc.

Controlling where people are allowed to go is wrong

The old railway line Todd Lane Junction needs regular husbandry it is a disgrace. Steps up from embankment falling into disrepair yet money spent tarmacking areas where tree roots spoil the path. Too many brambles.

Basically. A cop out from maintaining local parks to save money by councils. Children need places to play safely. Dogs should not be banned, where are people supposed to exercise dogs when all the fields for miles are being built on

Because you will abuse your perceived authority.

There are already areas like this in my area - places like the Brickcroft with areas fenced off from people and dogs are kept on leads so walkers can still enjoy it but wildlife isn't disturbed. The public footpaths are also overgrown as it is. Areas around the edges of parks can be left unmowed with wildflowers planted. More of these could be planted. It is also a better idea to stop building on the fields we have than to take away parks! Stop building more houses which in turn creates more traffic as well as taking these areas away.

Just educate people to be more aware of their surroundings and environment and they can help to improve the area. If you exclude people, they will be less willing to help.

8. Which parks and open spaces should we create these areas on? There were 55 responses

Worden Park.

Withy Tree park could do with more natural areas, sorting out the small ponds in and around the park, clearing and managing the small overflow stream to make suitable for habitats

More seasonal flowers around the park

Worden Park Leyland

St Catherine's Park Bamber Bridge

Cuerden Valley Park

Hurst Grange Park Penwortham

All parks and open spaces should have a designated area

Hurst Grange, Worden and St George's Playing Fields, Penwortham.

All parks can have some portion where grass is left longer, wildflower meadows created, more trees planted. Just make the size of the area proportional to the size of the park and ensure the balance of space for people the play, exercise, relax Vs space for wildlife is kept.

All play parks surrounded by grass could have a patch with a sign next to it explaining its use to educate families. The sign could also have the suggestion that families create their own "wildlife only patch" in their garden. Connecting with young children and their role models/families to nature is really important.

All of them

Parks without playgrounds, such as paradise lane.

All of them, but particularly Worden park, for years one of the best natural parks in the north west. Stop emphasising the creation of so many children's playgrounds and sports pitches in South Ribble and do more for wildlife. Plastic-filled playgrounds and designated sports areas discourage creativity and awareness of the environment. Prohibit the use of bicycles in Worden Park woods: they destroy pathways, create noise and danger to walkers.

All of them! We need to do this properly to have the impact we need

Withy Grove

All parks. And large open areas should have some of these spaces. They need to be large enough to support some of the bigger animals not just tiny patches of fenced of areas for insects.

Roadside verges

Roundabouts

Motorway verges

Can you not allocate a proportion on all parks / open areas
Unused woodland, overgrown land etc
All parks and open spaces should be able to accommodate wildlife as well as people. They are an integral and necessary part if healthy life.
none
Cuerden Valley park. Farington Moss, all new build developments should have these spaces built into the planning agreement.
Farington park, Worden Park, Leyland town centre, Bamber Bridge town centre
I like the grass being left long at Worden Park with mowed footpaths. New ponds could be protected, or signs added (I believe the one at Worden Park maybe getting something to protect from dogs) as the ponds have been created for more biodiversity.
At Moss Side there is plenty of grassland that could have wildflowers. Also, there is an old skateboard park that could be repurposed for nature as its never used, there is already a football pitch and a bigger playground."
Larger ones. Not great conservation value to have tiny piecemeal bits here and there other than for education and where volunteers are engaged to maintain the habitat.
Please also consider golf courses, churchyards/cemeteries and road verges"
There is land off Back Lane that currently has application in to put caravans on it, this is a perfect location to leave unmanaged or plant bee and butterfly flowers to support pollination
Longton Brick Croft and green belt land where possible.
Longton Brickcroft
Existing green belt land
Worden Park
Farington Park
Cuerden Valley Park
Leyland Golf Course
Paradise Park
Malt Kiln Woods/Nature Area
Hurst Grange Park
Dog Kennel Woods
Middleforth Green/Park
Hurst Grange Park
Worden Park
Longton marshes
Howick Cross
Middleforth Green Park
All
A % on all parks, with signage to help educate and raise awareness of the importance
Hurst grange. Worden. I'm not so familiar with others but I'm sure there are more.
It is hard to answer this when I do not know exactly what the council owns and what is private land. It is important to have a balance of safe places for our children to play as well as areas for wildlife. Wildflowers could be put around the borders of all parks and community fields.
On all council owned areas

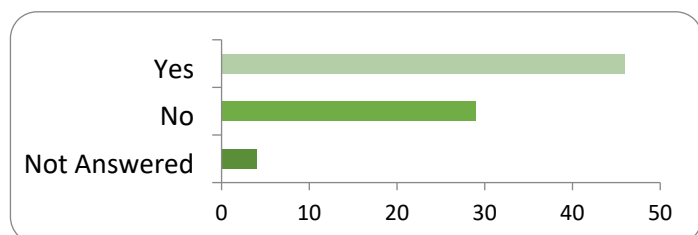
Any that are large enough
As many as possible
All parks
Areas that aren't used for community sport
Plant wildflowers on any grass verges etc"
All parks, but with Worden Park as the flagship and education centre, working with local schools and colleges and the local retail shops to ensure that the message about less mowing, more native wildflowers is getting out
Withy Grove Park, Holland House estate
Any land that isn't currently used by people - hedgerows - areas of grass around the village - the graveyard would look stunning with an area of natural beauty
Walmer bridge park
Any suitable woodland where Red Squirrels can re-establish themselves Cuerden Park, Worden Park Brickcroft would be ideal
Worden Park Leyland
Hurst Grange Penwortham"
All parks should have some of their space allocated.
As many as possible, including wildflower meadows
On the larger parks such as Longton park next to Longton school it's has the space
Wooden park
All of the parks, even the small ones
All of them wherever possible
All
Every park if it is big enough to have a designated "wild" area. The more it is done, the more that people see and learn and can begin to understand the issue. Communication of the right kind and at the right time is important to achieve this.
All parks in the and open spaces in the Borough
Withy Grove Park in Bamber Bridge
I can't immediately say. That would require strategic analysis as to which were most suitable and for what and how each fits into the wider nature recovery network. Off the top of my head I do know that some are identified, at least in part, as Lancashire Biological Heritage Sites.
Wherever possible. Worden park is trying to move towards this.
Farington park - like the new tree area that was planted a few years ago. Could do something similar on 'Trumpet park' by the Oaks estate in Leyland, this is a large open field at the moment and would be perfect for more tree planting.

9. Which parks and open spaces should we not create these areas on? There were 33 responses

Withy trees - keep access for walking dogs into surrounding areas maybe keep on leads though
None
I can't think of any that wouldn't be improved by this
I think parks with playgrounds as kids may want to venture into the wild areas

Existing long-established play and sports areas.
None
Playing fields
Not sure
all of them
All parks should have these areas
Also, don't exclude dogs from all water courses and fields. They need places to run and enjoy. Same with other uses of parks including sports pitches, it isn't to take things away but to protect areas that have been worked on.
Ones with too many dog walkers and too much need for intensive recreational play
All parks would benefit in my opinion.
Some areas of all parks and open spaces in South Ribble could benefit from more diverse habitats
Not sure.
Possibly New Longton, because I believe all the managed green space is dedicated to football pitches and cricket, which is important for the community. But I would love to see more wild spaces there too if there was a suitable site. Possibly between the playground and the football pitch?
Places that are used regularly by families and the community for health and wellbeing.
Any small ones vital to communities
Any that are likely to be vandalised
Ones that are used for walkers / horse riders etc
None
Only small parks which don't have the capacity to create adequate benefit.
None
All
For some families and people, their local park is their only green space. So, it is important that parks in such areas can be used by such people, particularly their children. Urban or suburban "no go" areas in parks in disadvantaged or economically deprived areas should not be used to restrict human access unless the park is big enough to limit movement or apply restrictions that only apply at certain times .
I can't immediately say. That would require strategic analysis as to which were most suitable and for what and how each fits into the wider nature recovery network.
All of them
Not sure

10. If we reduce our herbicide use there will be an increase in weeds in streets, back alleys and on our parks and open spaces won't look as tidy, would you be happy with this?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	46	58.23%
No	29	36.71%
Not Answered	4	5.06%

If no, why is this? There were 29 responses

Better natural maintenance like cutting back areas more frequently using chemicals shouldn't be an excuse to areas looking untidy especially when it comes to walkways
The emergence of weeds makes a place look uncared for. I use white vinegar on my garden.
Everything is there for a reason and instead of employing people to spray herbicides all over the environment employ people to tidy these natural weeds up and maintain areas better
Should be a more balanced approach parks and open spaces should have reduced herbicide use and let the weeds grow. Maybe only use them when essential i.e. streets
There is a biodiversity crisis.
Use herbicides more cautiously. Consider where it is really needed for something other than 'it looks tidy'.
We pay for this maintenance so for the council it's only about reducing costs without reducing council tax
Litter and debris will then amass. Weeds will spread quickly into other areas.
Feels like this is an excuse to not maintain things. General maintenance is already not great in many of these areas.
If back alleys and streets look untidy promotes anti-social behaviour
Think keeping an area tidy helps people to have pride in their environment and improves Health & Wellbeing.
Can these areas be managed under community services where people work/ keep an area tidy"
Again, South Ribble looks scruffy. Roadsides need weeding or the drains become blocked and then the flooding is increased.
It does not look good. I think limited use in residential areas would not be an issue.
don't want untidy environment
Streets and footpaths should be cleared to maintain standards and encourage pride in an area. Herbicides in parks should be minimised where possible, unless as a last resort to manage plants which out-compete wildflowers: Horsetail and Himalayan balsam etc.
Plants around buildings can eventually lead to further damage and if left unmanage could become dangerous
There is no reason not to use herbicides on street and back alleys.
Why not use environmentally friendly ones that do not harm wildlife but keep unwanted plants under control, such as knotweed etc.
South Ribble is a beautiful place and I would not be happy for it to look like a slum area. Hopefully, there is a form of natural herbicide that can be utilised.
This would be where volunteering would help.
Yes and no - there is no reason someone can't be employed to maintain areas if they are already employed to spray herbicide!
However, within reason - some ""weeds"" are good for wildlife and can be left in the right areas if they are causing no harm and not blocking routes."
Maybe. If communities and volunteers are given more responsibility maybe some of the tidying can be done manually without herbicides.
Actually, you could use steam/hot water to kill the plants in streets ad back alleys and this is more sustainable and kinder to the environment
Use more environmentally safe herbicides
A happy medium would be the answer
Not all herbicides are bad

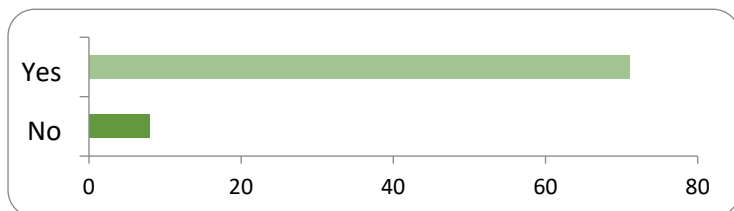
We should be using weed killers which are not harmful to wild life and humans

It would depend where, and what species.

There has to be a measure of management.

As an authority we only own 4% of the land in South Ribble. Building partnerships between the Council, landowners, businesses and local communities is key to restoring and enhancing biodiversity across our borough.

11. Do you agree with this statement?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	71	89.87%
No	8	10.13%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If no, why is this? There were 10 responses

Landowners and local authorities do not always see eye to eye on issues of this nature so some landowners should reserve the right to manage their own land without interference from the relevant authority. However, there will be landowners who will embrace these considerations from councils with mutual agreement to suggestions.

Maybe it's true but again feels like the council are trying to offload their responsibility and accountability. Just look at the destruction created by the monstrosity that was approved for Caddick in Farington. Hundreds of mature trees ripped up to create a monumental eyesore. This was council land that could have been reserved for nature.

assumes biodiversity is anything for the council to get involved with. Stop wasting my money.

It should also specifically include agricultural owners and tenants

Absolutely, there is a piece of land off back lane that should be purchased by the council and used for this very project

Not as a blanket measure. For example, a planning application has been submitted for a glamping site on a green belt field on Back Lane in Longton which includes 10 glamping pods, an administration building and a landscaped park area. This field is currently home to deer, foxes, peregrine falcons, pheasants, rabbits, hares etc. Were this development to be approved, despite the park land area, it would undoubtedly have a negative effect on the current biodiversity of the land.

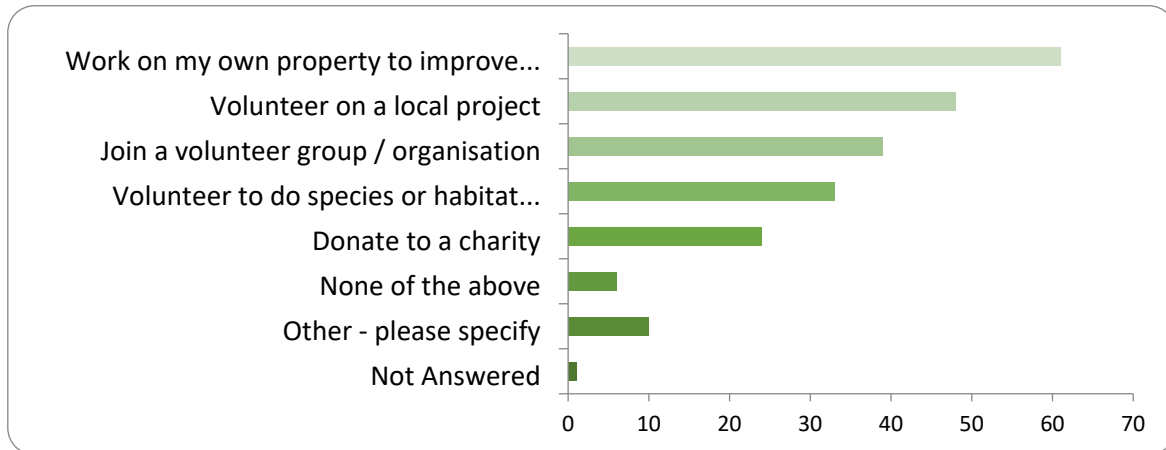
Not as a blanket approach to achieving biodiversity. South Ribble has only limited green belt land left following previous policies to develop and build. The council needs to work closely with the people of the borough to achieve a balanced environment that will support biodiversity for future generations.

I feel some landowners are paying lip service to biodiversity to further their own agenda

We need to protect what green belt we have left. Use brown field sites and as people are now working more from home could we not utilise the land the empty offices are built on.

To enable less concrete

12. What action would you be prepared to take in the future to help local biodiversity?



Option	Total	Percent
Work on my own property to improve biodiversity	61	77.22%
Volunteer on a local project	48	60.76%
Join a volunteer group / organisation	39	49.37%
Volunteer to do species or habitat survey work	33	41.77%
Donate to a charity	24	30.38%
Other - please specify	10	12.66%
None of the above	6	7.59%
Not Answered	1	1.27%

If other, please let us know what? there were 16 responses

Petition other larger landowners to take responsibility for their contribution
I am elderly and Disabled; otherwise I would volunteer. However, my own garden is a haven for wildlife in the town centre.
There are far more important things to worry about at the current time.
I'm sure there are many willing volunteers, but you need to create the opportunity for people to get involved.
I already run Leyland Hedgehog rescue, give talks on environment, wildlife, and in particular hedgehogs to educate people to their important but simple needs.
Organisation/individual research/survey work. If there are questions the council have about an area or species, then relevant people may be able to bring answers from their insight's surveys or studies. Also, students and other individuals/groups may want to do some research and being able to pass this onto someone.
Support with "backroom" tasks for volunteer organisations
support tree planting programmes via Lancashire Woodland Partnership
promote community activity and school activity (e.g. Carbon Literacy training)"
I would love to volunteer to improve the local environment. Whenever I've looked for organised schemes locally, I've ended up giving my time to projects on the other side of Preston or even as far as north Manchester.
I am a geography teacher so help to educate more on the local environment

Let's Grow Preston would be delighted to assist in delivering workshops and getting the message out

take part in educating the public about biodiversity by running workshops in species identification

I already run a Volunteer Group. Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Squirrel Initiative, working in conjunction with British Red Squirrel

I am a trustee and the Chair of the Lancashire group of CPRE The Countryside Charity. I already do hours of voluntary work every week for the charity and donate to it regularly!

I will continue to work for The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside.

Would be keen to see more volunteering opportunities for young people, local high schools and colleges could be contacted for students to volunteer in litter picking or planting schemes. Lots of litter picking volunteering opportunities run by local counsellors are during the working day, preventing those who work or are in education participating

As part of the new [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) and national register of land for [Biodiversity Net Gain](#), there will be opportunities for new large-scale conservation projects. As these are still to be identified, can you think of any wildlife improvement schemes that we may be able to collaborate on with landowners and partners? These can cross Borough boundaries and pull together land owned by multiple agencies.

13. As these are still to be identified, can you think of any wildlife improvement schemes that will be able to collaborate on with landowners and partners?

Nothing immediately comes to mind.

Everywhere I go I see litter and rubbish especially around works premises. What's the point of having fines for littering when there is no-one around to enforce it. Major country wide media urging people to clear up their mess. Businesses, by law, should be made to keep their surroundings clean and litter free. Actually, more litter in the streets after the refuse collection. This will create healthier spaces and get rid of the unsightly mess. I have visited a few different countries and the UK is the dirtiest but what can we expect as we must be the only country in the world to have our rubbish bins adorning our front step instead of tubs of flowers.

Add Green Wildlife Bus Stops in and around LCC authority's

Rather than specific schemes give consideration to working with colleges and universities in the area to adopt and innovative approach that could benefit all parties.

It would be great to have Incredible Edible across the borough - local shops, railway stations etc having planters with herbs etc which people can harvest.

A bee keeping initiative would be good as well, local hives and teaching people bee keeping skills.

Actually, ensure that areas designated as biological heritage sites are not impacted on by development through the Local Plan.

Teaming up with these wider schemes to create community conversations. Chorley flower show and Leyland in Bloom competitions are great as long as they encourage wildlife and no pesticides.

'No Mow May' (to encourage pollinators) with plantlife.org.uk

1000 hours outside challenge" (to connect people with nature) 1000hoursoutside.com

30 Days Wild" (to educate and challenge communities to get involved together to create wildlife highways and other things on their street as a community rather than individuals.) wildlifetrusts.org"

Stop building on green land

No more roads - encourage more use of public transport so the demand for roads decreases

Awards and incentives for businesses and landowners that that 'do their bit' for enhancing biodiversity.

Do more of what you already do.

Hedgehog highways - hedgehogs are declining

More butterfly / bee friendly flowers around the area, such as buddleia which is low maintenance

The large school field attached to Wellfield High School has some very old and beautiful trees, which are teeming with wildlife and several species of bats. In the past I have tried to interest the school in creating a wildlife study area here, but despite the school claiming ""Green"" credentials, the response was that it was not part of their curriculum and they were too busy. The trees are neglected and where previously were areas of rough grass are now, with better equipment, mown and strimmed so closely that wildlife is disappearing. Lancashire County Council is responsible for maintenance of the field, and LCC and the school need to be made aware of the wildlife habitat loss they are causing - the many tawny owls that were there have all but disappeared because loss of cover has removed their prey, and if the trees are neglected the bats may go too. Part of the field could be preserved as a valuable town centre nature reserve."

Converting polluting intensive animal farming to agro-ecology and halting any new factory farms from being built. This includes reducing the amount of chemicals used by farmers and shifting what they grow to reflect a more sustainable diet (i.e. less meat, more veg, pulses and legumes). This would produce more food, employ more people, and free up land for rewinding and nature recovery.

All landowners must improve biodiversity on their land by planting trees, halting the use of pesticides and basically getting rid of grass to replace with an array of other plants

Companies that have large areas of restricted land such as BAE Systems.

Some farmers have land that is unworkable or of limited use that could be used.

Verges along train tracks.

Inaccessible land of any kind / reason. Some of the small areas around estates that get mowed could be converted.

Purchase of land should also be considered but needs to be set aside for environmental purposes in perpetuity.

To ensure that light pollution from such things as floodlights is appropriately challenged and acted upon from a planning enforcement perspective.

Ponds in farmers' fields such as the one adjacent to the public footpath at skew bridge Leyland road should be treasured not allowed to fill in with trees and sedges. These are a rarity and need conservation. The stream which runs at the bottom of the same field is unique in the area and has a large amount of ancient hedgerows again the stream is overgrown and blocked with fallen trees and rubbish.

Keep on top of planning and building applications that would have a detrimental effect on the wildlife, one current example being the planning application for glamping pods on back lane in Longton. With the best will in the world birds, insects, bats, general wildlife and the fields will be disturbed, this is not what we want!

Leave hedges in place and do not mow within two feet of them allowing corridors for wildlife to thrive.

More ponds or streams.

More education regarding the dangers of littering. Less strimming under shrubs and hedges.

So many hedgehogs are mutilated and left to die this way, noses and legs chopped off.

We don't need to be so pristine we push wildlife out. Learn to appreciate wonderful diverse nature

Hedgehog highways in all new building developments. Leave existing mature trees in all new building developments.

Hand clearing of shrub areas when clearing for a new development, machine clearing kills and injures so much wildlife

Protected dark areas and roosting spots for nocturnal animals, such as bats.

As mentioned, there is land off Back Lane in Longton that could be purchased for this very idea. It would be ideal as I have seen, deer, foxes, owls, pheasants, rabbits and a range of birds that use the area.

Not in the immediate vicinity.

Work closely with local Farmers and Landowners. A close collaboration between Conservation and Agriculture is the way forward to improve biodiversity and restore habitat, alongside improvement of our local environment i.e. our waterways and hedgerows etc. But making sure to benefit our local Agriculture and through this work support our farmers and as a result also improve our food security and produce levels. Nature friendly farming that is well supported by local authority to benefit our farming too.

Other Schemes such as: Nature friendly initiatives enforced on all Housing Developments. Including keeping corridors for wildlife to surrounding untouched land, bat and swift bricks implemented into the properties, complimentary nest boxes in gardens, creation of small ponds and increased number of trees planted on the development.

Waterways improvement - INNS control, litter and waste cleared from our streams and rivers, monitoring pollution i.e. sewage discharge and industrial run off etc

Wildlife Pond creation targeting protection of Great Crested Newts which ultimately creates habitat for a range of other flora and fauna species.

Offering help to local fisheries who already manage fantastic nature friendly spaces. Collaborate with them to put up bird boxes, bat boxes or create hibernaculum's around their lakes and ponds.

Conservation Grazing - consider this on any pastoral land/meadow land that the council may have or have access to. Grazing by cattle/sheep will create better opportunities for wildflowers to grow, improve soil health and provide an opportunity again to work with farmers and landowners.

Public Parks and Play Areas - put up more bird boxes and bat boxes.

Create discrete native wildflower meadows on the quieter areas of the parks or on the edges avoiding vandalism and any damage by dogs.

Don't waste time and money on tree planting initiatives, especially in our public parks and green spaces. (Let any woodlands there are regenerate and extend/connect through their own natural spread.)

Unless it is done on our existing nature reserves or agricultural land where they will not be vandalised and will thrive and actually have an impact on our environment (Collaboration with farmers and landowners again).

The plethora of wild animals that are killed on our highways is exorbitant and unacceptable. Could there be special routes and habitat for the likes of hedgehogs, badgers, foxes, deer and bats etc.

Provide connectivity between habitats

Re-wilding of unused or less-used space should be one an urgent priority - there are a lot of open fields here that don't seem dedicated to growing crops. For example, the council could fund farmers to replace sheep fields with new woodland. I'm sure charities like the woodland trust would happily provide native trees to plant.

We urgently need to enforce green belt legislation and stop the huge wave of inappropriate building that's going on at the moment. For example, around the Whitestake area, large areas of wild land (including valuable woodland) have recently been destroyed in favour of property development, when the emphasis should be on building housing on brownfield sites. One whole field near my house was completely cleared of established woodland (during the nesting season) by developers, to allow for a speculative planning application.

We've been trying to contact the Tree Protection office for months to request a TPO on the few remaining trees in this site, and nobody responds despite many emails and phone calls, which is disgraceful and indicates that the council do not care at all about biodiversity.

Create wildflower verges and mow less aggressively.

Plant more trees and wildflowers corner of Stanisfield Road and Lydiate Road. Get rid of grass verges and sow wildflowers. Plant and sow more on all roundabouts.

Stop building on fields etc

Control of invasive species. For example, Cumbria is doing a fantastic job culling grey squirrels and increasing red squirrel numbers. Targeted Himalayan balsam removal.

If you work with existing organisations like the very active In Bloom groups and garden clubs, local churches, schools, you will be able to identify spaces that matter to local residents. If members of these

local organisations are identifying spaces, then you have more chance of making positive and sustainable changes
Control invasive species e.g. grey squirrels
No more housing as this removes green spaces, hedgerows etc
Encourage all landowners to undertake the removal of the Non-native Invasive Species the Grey Squirrel. I can provide Lantra accredited Grey Squirrel Management Training for staff and managers. The Course has been developed by British Red Squirrel in conjunction with the main players in the squirrel world including the UK Squirrel Accord."
A field that borders Waverly Drive and Hugh Barn Lane - locally known as Dawson's Pit in New Longton. The pond in this field used to have a thriving newt population about 35 years ago. I don't know the current state of the pond, but it would be wonderful if the habitat could be conserved/improved.
Wildlife corridors Planting patches of wildflowers Safeguard green belt by refusing applications to build on green belt land and require builders to include some green space in all developments
The lottery funded 300 km walk " GM Ringway" includes a part of Lancashire bordering Greater Manchester. A wildlife improvement scheme for the Ringway with collaboration between South Ribble Council and other Lancs. councils could "tick boxes", particularly if it could be used to create new wildlife corridors. A joint venture with the Lancashire Nature Partnership (LNP) to create or add to wildlife improvement scheme(s). Collaboration with the AONB of Arnsdale & Silverdale (border of Lancs. and Cumbria) to create a wildlife improvement scheme?
The Old Mill Industrial Park, on the Brindle Road site has been flattened and all the Trees cut down... it is now devoid of any wildlife, so it definitely needs some improvement.
These are identified - as Nature Recovery Focus Areas - across Lancashire, Greater Manchester & North Merseyside in the current iteration of The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside's Business Plan. That focussed on the Alt-Crossens Catchment and that on the Ribble Estuary and valley (to the upper tidal limit) cover parts of South Ribble Borough. Further discussion would be needed internally and with partners as we must prioritise our own and shared resources where these are likely to achieve the most effect across our geographical remit.
Leyland in bloom is a fantastic group of volunteers already helping to improve our open spaces, maybe give them some funding instead of them having to raise their own funds. Also, workshops for residents to become involved and interested. Opportunities to purchase environmentally improving products and habitats eg, bird boxes, hedgehog houses and bug hotels.

14. If you are a landowner or a business that would like to work with us, please leave an email address or contact number

There were 6 responses which have been redacted from this summary

15. Are there any further comments you would like to make? There were 28 responses

No.
Bring back the patriotic spirit to the people to urge everyone to clean up their act.
15-minute cities and 20 minute neighbourhood are coming to this area and it's not about conversation it's about controlling the people https://www.facebook.com/billywatsontv/videos/134378899368992/?app=fb
There are local green spaces which are currently suffering due to selective management. We live on an estate bordered by the river Lostock- most days it's polluted and littered why can't the council put things in place to monitor/prevent this more stringently? There are ponds on the estate- unkept, overgrown with relatively low biodiversity value. These are ideal places for people to see and learn about biodiversity in action, free and accessible to all. In all honesty in this case fences are broken that surround the ponds, it's unsightly and dangerous for young children and hasn't been rectified in months. Surely, we could start with the smaller projects as well as the bigger ones?
Educating the community, helping advertise wildlife charities and everything wildlife friendly that the area would like to do would all be best placed in a locally accessed family friendly Facebook Group for example just for Lancashire County Council. Families could share ideas for their allotment gardens, wildlife corners, share successes in the community.
Climate change agendas are making the people poor. Unable to heat their homes or feed their children
Please work to save what remaining wildlife and Nature we have in South Ribble.
We really need to be bold and we support the council in taking strong action on this
Yes. You or Lancs. CC are doing a poor job of the Todd Lane reserve. Some trees have been pruned unnecessarily but not overhanging branches impeding cyclists. Look at existing areas first. Walton Park is another area. Muddy paths etc. If it wasn't for volunteers the area would look far worse.
Small bridge is needed from Central Park development across stream on old railway line. Road ends abruptly at stream.
I really hope we see some meaningful action in this area that is desperately needed to offset the destruction that results from development.
The sports facility development at Lostock Hall Academy is in direct conflict with elements of the Council's biodiversity strategy and has broader environmental impacts that need to be addressed by the Council. Specifically, light and noise pollution alongside disturbing the natural habitat of the associated nature reserve.
Ripping out of ancient hedgerows in fields when planning permission for new housing developments is passed needs to be stopped immediately. The hedgerows should be conserved and fencing erected two metres in front or behind them with hedgehog highways incorporated into the fences there is no need whatsoever to remove hedgerows it's criminal
I really hope this is an effort to make a difference and not just a tick box exercise.
Just empty the bins, bunch of wasters.
Work closer with local wildlife rescues to understand how they are affected by the mass development of green fields around the South Ribble area. Only allow planning
Permission to developers who can prove they are serious about protecting wildlife.
Please buy the land off Back Lane in Longton and preserve our green spaces
No.
A recent planning application for Glamping pods in Longton will destroy the existing biodiversity of the land that supports deer, birds of prey, hare, pheasant, foxes and hedgehogs. Surely this type of development would destroy the biodiversity that you claim to support.
I would highly recommend a strong focus on working with our local farmers, agricultural sector and sensible, like-minded landowners.
This benefits our farmers and public alike.

Provide better financial support to our farmers and encourage nature friendly farming to improve biodiversity, habitat creation/restoration/management and in turn improving the farmers land health and our local food production and overall food security, benefiting our agricultural sector."

Wildlife, biodiversity and sustainability are important issues which have largely been neglected over many years and this situation needs to be addressed immediately.

Groundwork CLM is a member of the Local Nature Partnership and happy to work with South Ribble BC on Nature Recovery activities.

Please please act to stop the tide of development on our previous green belt land. I appreciate that SRBC cannot change the laws, but currently you are not acting to enforce them, particularly with regards to established woodland

Rather than keep building large houses, consider smaller dwellings e.g. Apartments close to amenities and affordable without large maintenance fees to encourage downsizing to free up housing for families etc.

None

Let's Grow Preston is a charity that was created to support a network of community gardens and friends of open spaces in the advancement of conservation, and for maintenance, creation of open spaces and community spaces. We work with local residents and bring people together to encourage and enable community change.

Keep up the good work!

More information should be given to all residents regarding the issues raised above and how they can help to improve the environment

Children need to be made aware of what is happening and what they can do to help

The changes being made to South Ribble are obvious and visible. The wildflower areas are beautiful in summer, but you do need to advertise more what you are doing.

'No Mow May' is not being publicised, I only heard of it through Leyland in bloom last year.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer and Digital (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Customer Services and Digital))	Cabinet	Wednesday 5 th July 2023

Content Management System

Is this report confidential?	Partly Financial information included in Appendix One, Appendix Two and Appendix Three.
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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Purpose of the Report

1. To agree the future for South Ribble Council's Content Management System (CMS).

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. Cabinet to agree:
 - a. A direct award to GOSS through a compliant procurement framework, only if favourable commercial terms can be agreed including transparency on future costs for a period of up to 5 years from July 2024, for a joint GOSS iCM platform with Chorley Council.
 - b. In the absence of the above i.e., not obtaining favourable commercial terms directly with GOSS, the council will undertake a full market procurement exercise which will include open-source software currently being explored.
 - c. To approve the delegation of the outcome and final sign off for either recommendation (a) or (b) to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Customer and Digital).

Reasons for recommendations

3. To ensure that the council maintains and develops its online presence and delivery of online services to residents.

Other options considered and rejected

4. Other options to be considered are detailed within the report.

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Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

6. GOSS is the CMS that is used to manage and modify content on several council owned websites. It is a low code solution that reduces the requirement for technical knowledge to make changes to the website content.
7. The following council owned websites are currently managed using GOSS:
- a. South Ribble Council website – southribble.gov.uk
 - b. Leyland Town Deal - leylandtowndeal.com
 - c. South Ribble Leisure - southribbleleisure.com
 - d. Discover South Ribble - discoversouthribble.co.uk
8. The foundations of the Shared Service Customer and Digital Strategy are now in place.
- a. There is an established structure in Customer Services
 - b. the Customer Access Charter has been agreed and implementation is underway
 - c. the Enghouse telephone system has been implemented.
9. These changes have laid the foundations for future enhancements to the customer experience. However, a large part of this will be to invest and improve council's online presence. Changes outlined, will enable more services to be accessible online, improve the responsiveness of service delivery, provide better customer interface through an integrated eforms package and view of customer contact through a new customer relationship management system, and simplify the logging in process for online users.
10. These enhancements will be included in any future agreement with GOSS or other supplier.
11. Irrespective of the technology agreed, online capability and AI are set to make the biggest changes to the customer experience and efficiencies over the coming years. This presents significant opportunity and consequently this is a major project for 2023/24 and beyond.

Commercial Information

12. The current contract with GOSS is a shared contract with Chorley Council, using separate instances to manage each councils' different websites.
13. Discussions with GOSS have highlighted that the council should expect a significant cost increase upon contract renewal in July 2023.
14. A one year contract extension until July 2024 with GOSS has been agreed via Executive Member Decision to allow the council to quickly move to the next stages

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of development, and to enable time to fully evaluate the market without the added pressure of services terminating when the existing contract ends in July 2023.

15. The cost of GOSS in the current contract from July 2020 –July 2023 is listed in Appendix One. Within G-Cloud 13, GOSS have standardised pricing which means there are no like for like product modules to compare against for some pricing lines.
16. GOSS have suggested that more attractive pricing would be available if the councils had a shared iCM administrator and production environment. The cost of both a shared platform for 2, 4 and 5 years and separate platforms for 2 and 4 years are available in Appendix Two.
17. A shared platform will allow websites to remain independent with their separate individual branding and design. The iCM administrator platform that officers use to manage and edit the websites would become a shared platform.
18. The professional pricing tier recommended in the new quote includes the CMS, GOSS Forms, and MyAccount: Self Service and Assisted-Service.
19. By making use of all the features on the GOSS professional platform, it would be possible to retire the current forms and CRM system.

GOSS considerations

20. The next steps of the GOSS implementation will commit the council to long term increases in costs. Not only are these expected to rise further, but the technology will then become fully established within the council and with customers. It will then be extremely difficult to change direction and migrate to alternative technologies when this happens. This strategy, the reliance on established technologies, is now synonymous with most software suppliers operating in the public sector and more so since COVID19.
21. Further transparency is required from GOSS to future costs and developments that will arise mid contract which they hold a monopoly on especially as it is not always possible to future proof against all developments from the onset.
22. It is recommended that a direct award to GOSS through a compliant procurement framework, only if favourable commercial terms can be agreed. An example of favourable terms is available in Appendix Three.

Alternative options

23. Some market comparison of alternative CMS systems has been undertaken. The top 5 CMS systems used by local authorities and the number of authorities using those systems is indicated in the table below.

CRM System Provider	Number of local authorities using	Open Source	CRM included	Online forms included
Jadu	62	No	Yes	Yes
Drupal	60	Yes	No	Yes
Umbraco	58	Yes	No	Yes
GOSS iCM	32	No	Yes	Yes
Wordpress	14	Yes	No	Yes

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24. Three of the top five council CMS systems are based on open-source software. This appears to be a local authority response to invest in alternative systems to proprietary ones. The open-source platform is based on sharing developments and on councils contributing collectively to future developments to try and manage costs.
25. Using an open-source CMS provider would require a separate procurement of a CRM system.
26. The council's strategy is to work where possible with out of the box solutions to reduce the reliance of managing systems in house.
27. Moving the websites to a new provider would incur significant officer resource and reliance from ICT.
28. However, given the considerable increase in costs from the incumbent supplier, should favourable commercial terms not be agreed, the council will seek to explore the market for a new CMS preferably one design on the merits of being open-source.

Equality and diversity

29. A full impact assessment would be completed at the necessary stage once the future CMS system provider has been identified.

Risk

30. There are several risks relating to this decision:
 - a. Potential for annual increases in costs from out of the box suppliers
 - b. Full costs for out of the box suppliers are not transparent
 - c. Large administrative overhead to move to a new supplier
 - d. Reliance of in-house resource if moving to an open source supplier.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

31. There is no current budget provision for any increase in costs. Should the cost increase come into reality this would be a pressure in 2024/25 budget setting. Based upon current costs it is anticipated to be £20k increase.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

32. The proposal needs consideration in order to ensure that the council meet their value for money obligations. Recognising that there is a likely cost increase in 12 months on any new contract proposal enables an informed decision on the correct strategy for this contract.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix One – Current contract pricing from July 2020 –July 2023

Appendix Two - The costs of both a shared platform and separate platforms for 2, 4 and 5 years

Appendix Three – An example of favourable terms with GOSS

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Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Katrina Sykes (Customer and Digital Transformation Lead)	katrina.sykes@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625492	09/06/2023

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

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Agenda Item 8



Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Planning, Business Support and Economic Development))	Informal Cabinet Briefing	Monday, 19 June 2023
	Cabinet	Wednesday, 5 July 2023

Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble - Response to Recommendations

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	No

Purpose of the Report

1. To present Cabinet with the final report from the Scrutiny Committee's review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods (Enhancing Housing Standards in South Ribble).

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. That Cabinet consider and respond to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods.

Reasons for recommendations

3. As part of the governance arrangements of the Council and Scrutiny regulations, Cabinet are required to respond to recommendations referred to it by the Scrutiny Committee.
4. To ensure that the Council continues to place the health and wellbeing of residents at the forefront of its work and to support the Council's vision for good homes, green spaces and healthy places.

Other options considered and rejected

5. No options were considered.

Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

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An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

6. As part of the Scrutiny Committee's work programming, which includes look at the key issues affecting the Borough, it was felt appropriate for the Scrutiny Committee to form a task group to review the housing standards in South Ribble.
7. The task group was made up of:
 - Councillor Michael Green (Chair)
 - Councillor Lou Jackson
 - Councillor Kath Unsworth
 - Councillor Karen Walton
8. The task group started its review in November 2022 and completed its work in March 2023. The final report from the review, attached at Appendix 1, was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee on 20 March 2023 (minute 116 refers)
9. The final report from the Task Group was presented to Full Council on 17 May 2023 (minute 128 refers) and it was agreed that the recommendations be considered by Cabinet for implementation.
10. A draft response to each of the recommendations has been put together and attached at Appendix 2 to enable the Cabinet to consider each recommendation.
11. Cabinet is therefore asked to consider each recommendation and respond to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.
12. The Community and External Scrutiny Committee will then monitor the implementation of the recommendations as part of its monitoring and tracking process.

Climate change and air quality

13. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

14. There are no equality or diversity implications immediately arising from this report. It is anticipated, however, that the recommendations of the task group will enhance the health and quality of life all demographics within South Ribble.

Risk

15. There are no risks identified with any of the information contained within this report.

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Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

16. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however Recommendation 4 could have implications on the funding of future capital schemes should restrictions be required on the utilisation of S.106 receipts; this could lead to less flexibility across the borough. By tying payments closely to the ward in which they are generated, if a project does not come forward within that ward in the timeframe available to expend the S.106 receipt, then the money could be lost.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

17. No comments.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group into Housing Standards in South Ribble

Appendix 2 – Draft Responses to Recommendations

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Darren Cranshaw (Head of Democratic Services), Elizabeth Hindle (Head of Planning and Enforcement) and Coral Astbury (Democratic and Member Services Officer)	darren.cranshaw@southribble.gov.uk Elizabeth.hindle@southribble.gov.uk coral.astbury@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625308	15/06/23

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

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Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods

Enhancing housing standards in
South Ribble

Foreword by Councillor Michael Green, Chair of the Scrutiny Review Task Group

The Scrutiny Committee selected this review because the houses in South Ribble are increasing in number with each year that passes. As we meet the need for housing, it was felt that the impact of housing developments upon our residents should be looked at. We wanted to consider whether the infrastructure being put in place to support developments is adequate, if new developments can contribute better to reducing carbon emissions and if there is a way to enhance housing standards in South Ribble.

We believe that houses are more than buildings where people live. They are homes, in which we bring up our families, socialise with friends and spend most of our time. The links between housing and health are strong. The homes we live in can influence our physical health and they also impact upon our mental health and wellbeing, in turn potentially affecting the lives of residents in many ways.

We have explored these issues and come up with a series of recommendations which we believe will help to reduce the impact of housing developments upon our residents and lead to better homes being built. We hope that South Ribble Borough Council will accept our recommendations and implement those which are within the powers of the council. For those outside local control, we have suggested that the council may be able to use its influence to bring about improvements.

One of our key recommendations is that the council should introduce a 'charter' accreditation scheme for developers, which would be designed to promote a high standard for the design and style of homes to be built in South Ribble.

I would like to thank my fellow task group members for their hard work during this review and our gratitude must be expressed to the Democratic Services officers who have provided invaluable support to the task group. We would like to thank the elected members who have offered their experiences from developments which have taken place in their communities and all the stakeholders we have met, including officers from the council and our partners.

Finally, we hope that the outcome from this review will be to lead to better homes being built in the future in South Ribble. If successful, this will amount to a great achievement for the residents we serve.



Councillor Michael Green
Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee
Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Task Group

Members of the Task Group

The following Members were appointed by the Scrutiny Committee to undertake this review:

- Councillor Michael Green (Chair)
- Councillor Lou Jackson
- Councillor Kath Unsworth
- Councillor Karen Walton

The following Officers also supported this review:

- Darren Cranshaw, Head of Democratic Services
- Coral Astbury, Democratic and Member Services Officer

Rationale for the Scrutiny Review

Like many areas South Ribble is under pressure to increase the number of housing developments in the Borough to deal with the increasing needs for houses.

The South Ribble Local Plan is currently being reviewed. There are proposals for a new garden village in Samlesbury as well as other development sites which could impact our communities.

The Council has also started to build its own housing for affordable rent to meet local needs.

Climate change and reducing carbon emissions is a key priority of the Council and Members are interested to find out more about the contribution new housing developments make to this agenda.

Members have expressed concern that some developments are not ready to be adopted or being adopted in a timely or appropriate way.

Members are also concerned about planning enforcement and developers applying to waive planning conditions.

Residents are increasingly commenting that the infrastructure put in place by developers is not adequate for the pressure being put on local facilities.

Objectives for the Review

- To understand the true scale of housing developments and the impacts this has on the Borough and communities.
- To highlight issues around the impact of housing development in South Ribble
- To explore existing initiatives to mitigate the impact of housing developments on communities
- To explore the increased demand on infrastructure as a result of development and to consider how this may be mitigated

- To consider the impact housing development is having on our commitment to tackling climate change and target for net zero
- Engage with developers and relevant stakeholders on how the impact of housing development could be managed more effectively
- To produce a series of recommendations to Council to reduce the impact and more effectively manage housing development in the Borough.

Links with Corporate Plan

This review links in with each of the Council's corporate priorities:

- An exemplary council
- Thriving Communities
- A fair local economy that works for everyone
- Good homes, green spaces and healthy places

Methodology Adopted

Meetings with Stakeholders

The Task Group met with the following stakeholders as part of its review:

- Councillor James Flannery, Cabinet Member for Planning, Business Support and Regeneration
- Councillor Caleb Tomlinson, Chair of Planning Committee
- Jonathan Noad, Director of Planning and Development
- John Harrison, (Interim) Director of Planning and Development
- Steven Brown, Planning Manager
- Chris Sowerby, Development Planning Team Leader
- Neil Martin, Senior Environmental Health Officer
- Jane Clayton, Enforcement Officer
- Ben Terry, School Planning Principal at Lancashire County Council
- Neil Stevens, Development Support Manager for Highways at Lancashire County Council
- Carolyn Williams, Local Plan Co-Ordinator
- Mark Bray, Planning Enforcement Consultant
- Derek Terry, Building Control Manager

Survey

Members of the Task Group designed and circulated a survey to all Borough, Parish and County Councillors for South Ribble.

Workshop

Members held two workshops on the 8 February and the draft recommendations were presented to members.

The feedback received was supportive and positive. Suggested amendments were accepted by the task group and the recommendations have subsequently been updated to reflect the feedback received.

Review of Documents

The Task Group reviewed the following documents and evidence sources as part of their review:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Central Lancashire Local Plan
- Understanding Planning in South Ribble – LGA Research
- Lancashire Evidence Base – Central Lancashire Local Plan
- Central and West Lancashire Rail Options
- Enforcement complaint response letter

Case Studies

Members of the Task Group also reviewed the following case studies:

- City of York Council
- Cornwall Council
- Climate Emergency – Lancaster City Council
- Sustainable Design Guide SPD – Bradford Council
- Tudor Walters Report

Key Findings

In reviewing all the evidence from the review, the Task Group found the following:

- South Ribble Planning Officers have fostered a good and effective working relationship with Highways Officers at Lancashire County Council and hold weekly meetings wherein applications are discussed. The authority benefits from this relationship as guidance and assistance is shared between officers.
- However, a key frustration for both members and residents stems from national legislation that places restrictions upon several areas within the Planning realm. An example of this is the Highways Authority who are restricted by legislation in how they comment on applications. Current legislation only provides the Highways authority with a route to object if an application is deemed severe, as there is a lack of case law in this area this leads to a strict interpretation of the term which further exacerbates this. It was the Task Group's view that what could be deemed as "severe" in one locality may not be "severe" in another and this one fits all approach does not work.
- Lack of adequate infrastructure is also an issue. With increased traffic on the roads, no extra provision for healthcare services and lack of school places also causing frustration for residents. Where Section 106 and CIL monies are received, it was members view that these should be used within the area of the development where

possible to mitigate the impact of development and to improve the locality.

- Parished areas currently receive 15% of CIL money from developments within their area and areas such as Penwortham, who have a neighbourhood plan receive a 25% share of CIL money. This puts non parished areas such as Leyland at a disadvantage when they are still impacted by development within their area.
- Ward members are often faced with queries and frustration from residents when developments are taking place and it can be a challenge to know who to contact at the development. The task group also wanted to encourage open dialogue between developers and residents, and it was agreed that having a single point of contact would facilitate this.
- Frustration for residents also stems from conditions upon the development not being stringent enough. Developments are taking place within the borough without having mandatory conditions that enforce permitted construction hours and requirements to keep the area clean and free from debris and mud. There also needs to be continued enforcement of conditions post build, such as ensuring that landscaping conditions are adhered to.
- South Ribble is currently seen as an ideal place to build and Members were keen to implement a charter that would encourage developers to build towards a higher standard. The Charter would look to provide accreditation to the developer should they meet certain criteria, such as minimum dwelling sizes, extra features such as solar panels and ensuring the development was fit for purpose with adoptable roads. The Charter would also seek to address the issue of communication between developers and residents by asking the developer to undertake pre-application resident's meetings and to provide a continuous single point of contact.
- As there is similarities and connections between the powers of Building Control and those of Planning it was member's view that Planning could act as an advocate in developing Building Control's work in driving quality and standards. Building Control can reciprocate this by contributing to the Planning process by the increased use of their powers.
- It was noted that the enforcement process was quite lengthy and frustrating, both for officers and residents. Enforcement are another area where strict legislation limits what action can be undertaken. Discussion with officers also highlighted the potential risk officers face when enforcing, particularly in rural areas. It was felt that body cameras should be offered to those public facing officers.

Key Findings – Local Plan

As the current Local Plan is currently under review the document was discussed at length and several key findings were noted:

- The task group referred to the Council's pledge to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. It was felt that the Local Plan should request homes to be carbon neutral from the offset and not leave a five-year gap in which no action was being taken.
- When discussing climate change it was also noted that developments were often in rural areas with limited public transport links. Developers should be contributing to improving green links and transport connections for new residents and residents, which would also lessen the impact on highways infrastructure. This could be done by providing suitable cycle storage and walking routes or by providing additional bus services and investigating potential rail links.
- The current Local Plan contains policies and standards which developers "should" adhere to, and it was felt that this could be strengthened so that the developers "must" adhere. It was realised that developers would often attempt to do the minimum required and they needed to be encouraged to go beyond this.
- The task group also discussed the need to improve the quality of housing within the borough, with homes being fit for purpose. The Tudor Walters report produced in November 1918 set a minimum standard for house design and location for the following 90 years and hailed some success. Five model plans were published, and homes ranged from 820 square feet to 1,230 feet.
- New houses are now built smaller than traditional older builds and are placed quite close together with a lack of public open space, as the developer prioritises the number of dwellings over the quality of the dwelling. Members referred to the successes of the Tudor Walter report and would like to see the Council developing their own extensive portfolio of house styles with minimum requirements for sizes which could be included in the new Local Plan. These houses would be of a higher standard and would improve resident's well-being as they have enough space to live in enjoyment. Increasing the size of dwellings would also ensure that a home is fit for purpose for an ageing population as modifications could be made to ensure the property remains accessible.
- The consultation period for the Local Plan is quite extensive and several key stakeholders are consulted, however given the close proximity between Planning and Building Control and the overlap in service provided, there would be some benefit to Building Control being consulted as part of the Local Plan process.

Recommendations

Based on the research and findings from the review the Task Group make the following recommendations for the Council and Cabinet to consider:

1. The Council develop a “charter” accreditation scheme which would outline the standards and conduct expected of developers when building in South Ribble. The document would also emphasise the need for a single point of contact for Members, Officers and Residents.
2. As part of the review of the Local Plan consideration is given to the Council’s commitment to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 and it is suggested that the Local Plan requests all new dwellings to be Carbon Neutral by the implementation of the plan and not 2030.
3. The Scrutiny Review Task Group will submit a consultation response to the Central Lancashire Local Plan Team referring to the following issues:
 - Improving green links and active travel, with emphasis placed upon improving public transport provision
 - Minimum requirements for public open space
 - Shift in language on policy from passive, for example “you should” to more assertive, for example “you must”
 - Consideration be given to the Council developing their own extensive portfolio of house styles to include minimum standards, dwelling and room size and environmentally friendly features. This would be available for developers to select from when designing their development in South Ribble.
4. Planning Officers should endeavour to ensure that Section 106 and CIL agreements are written in such a way to ensure that funding should be spent within the locality, or surrounding areas of the development. In situations where this is not achievable the funds should be used towards borough wide initiatives.
5. In a non-parished area, the relevant Neighbourhood Community Hub should be given 15% of the CIL funding to be spent as close as possible to the development, where this is not possible it should be spent within the vicinity.
6. The Council uses its influence with the Local Government Association and other bodies to lobby the Government to change legislation in relation to statutory comments on planning applications. In particular, the term “severe” which limits the Highways Authority in how they can respond to Planning Applications.
7. Mandatory conditions need to be placed on all planning consents to reduce the potential impact of development on residents during the construction phase. These would include permitted construction hours, access and a requirement to keep the area around the development clean and free from mud and debris.
8. Building Control should be included on the list of consultees for the Local Plan.
9. Members would like to see increased engagement between Planning and Building Control which would enable both services to work more effectively together.

10. A review of the risk assessments for Enforcement Officers, with body cameras offered to those officers who are public facing and could face threats or harassment.
11. Highways and Enforcement are included as individual Member Learning Sessions on the Member Development Programme for 2023/24.

Further Information

For further information, please contact Darren Cranshaw or Coral Astbury

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Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods - Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble

Draft Cabinet Response to Recommendations

Scrutiny Review Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted Yes / No	Comments and Timeline for Implementation
<p>1. The Council develop a “charter” accreditation scheme which would outline the standards and conduct expected of developers when building in South Ribble. The document would also emphasise the need for a single point of contact for Members, Officers and Residents.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive step forward for information being provided to developers to help to facilitate quality schemes to South Ribble, noting that it would not be planning policy within the Local plan, and as such would have no policy basis. Single point of contact could be facilitated in the Planning Team so everyone knows who to approach; likely to be within the planning policy team.</p> <p>The document would need to be ‘scoped’ out over a period of time, to allow proper consultation and engagement with developers, members, public and officers alike. Likely timescale 12 months to produce the scope.</p> <p>Then we would need to consider how to draft the work, and again follow on with consultation. Further 12 months to produce the final draft. Positive idea, but needs scoping and progressing, with clarity on its status in consideration of planning applications.</p>
<p>2. As part of the review of the Local Plan consideration is given to the Council’s commitment to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 and it is suggested that the Local Plan requests all new dwellings to be Carbon Neutral by the implementation of the plan and not 2030.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Positive idea- ‘Net Zero’ could be set as a target for developers, the terms are often used interchangeably and ‘Net Zero’ can be easier /more achievable. Details of how this again needs to be</p>

Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods - Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble

Draft Cabinet Response to Recommendations

Scrutiny Review Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted Yes / No	Comments and Timeline for Implementation
		<p>considered; does it apply to all developments or the larger scale ones for example? (The bigger the development, the bigger the impact and the smaller developments are sometimes more boarder line viability wise). The emerging Local Plan will have requirements for carbon reduction set within it, in line with government policy. This additional document is likely to be in excess of that and would be an additional target for developers in South Ribble.</p>
<p>3. The Scrutiny Review Task Group will submit a consultation response to the Central Lancashire Local Plan Team referring to the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improving green links and active travel, with emphasis placed upon improving public transport provision b) Minimum requirements for public open space c) Shift in language on policy from passive, for example “you should” to more assertive, for example “you must” d) • Consideration be given to the Council developing their own extensive portfolio of house styles to include minimum standards, dwelling and room size and 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Officers can work with the Scrutiny Task Group to submit a consultation response to the Local Plan team. The current consultation period has ended, but this can be picked up when the Central Lancashire Local Plan is out for the next consultation.</p> <p>South Ribble can scope out a portfolio of house styles etc- this would need to be in line with the Central Lancashire Design Guide which is already in place (2012) and the emerging policies in the Local Plan. This may require consultant input and it must be done carefully to ensure</p>

Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods - Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble

Draft Cabinet Response to Recommendations

Scrutiny Review Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted Yes / No	Comments and Timeline for Implementation
<p>environmentally friendly features. This would be available for developers to select from when designing their development in South Ribble.</p>		<p>that the advice is relevant / appropriate to the Borough.</p>
<p>4. Planning Officers should endeavour to ensure that Section 106 and CIL agreements are written in such a way to ensure that funding should be spent within the locality, or surrounding areas of the development. In situations where this is not achievable the funds should be used towards borough wide initiatives.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>There is a risk involved with tying some S106 receipts closely to the immediate area/locality in which they are generated. If there is not a project available in that locality in the timeframe, then the money could be lost as developers are allowed to claim it back after a certain period. This particularly affects affordable housing receipts. It is considered important to retain flexibility on these receipts in line with this. Other receipts such as public open space contributions, can be more controlled and officers work closely with the parks department to find a suitable solution- again tying them too tightly in the wording of the S106 can affect the ability to spend that money- and sometimes these receipts can go to bigger projects which benefit more residents as a result.</p> <p>CIL monies are covered in the section below.</p>

Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods - Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble

Draft Cabinet Response to Recommendations

Scrutiny Review Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted Yes / No	Comments and Timeline for Implementation
<p>5. In a non-parished area, the relevant Neighbourhood Community Hub should be given 15% of the CIL funding to be spent as close as possible to the development, where this is not possible it should be spent within the vicinity.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>CIL spend is controlled by the legislation. This allows 15% to go to parished areas and 25% to a parished area with a 'Neighbourhood Development Plan' and where all or part of the development is granted planning permission by a Neighbourhood Development Order (15 or 25% dependant on which part of the Town and Country Planning Act it was made under. The allocated sites in the City Deal list and some windfall sites give all their monies to City Deal.</p> <p>In non parished areas, communities can still benefit from the 15%. The council would retain the levy receipts and can engage with communities where development as taken place and agree with them how best to spend the neighbourhood funding. The council will need to set out clearly how they engage with communities and the use of funds should match priorities expressed by local communities, including priorities set out formally in neighbourhood plans. As such it is not possible to just pass the 15% across to 'Neighbourhood Community Hubs' automatically, although</p>

Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods - Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble

Draft Cabinet Response to Recommendations

Scrutiny Review Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted Yes / No	Comments and Timeline for Implementation
		following active engagement with the community this may be the way forward.
<p>6. The Council uses its influence with the Local Government Association and other bodies to lobby the Government to change legislation in relation to statutory comments on planning applications. In particular, the term “severe” which limits the Highways Authority in how they can respond to Planning Applications.</p>	Yes	This matter can be actioned.
<p>7. Mandatory conditions need to be placed on all planning consents to reduce the potential impact of development on residents during the construction phase. These would include permitted construction hours, access and a requirement to keep the area around the development clean and free from mud and debris.</p>	Yes	<p>This matter can be actioned in principle. It will be necessary to consider the scale of development, as all conditions have to meet the test set out in the NPPF; these are that they are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary • Relevant to planning • Relevant to the development to be permitted enforceable, • precise and • reasonable in all other aspects. <p>For example, it may not be reasonable for a smaller builder to hire wheel washing equipment or dampening down machines for their scale of development.</p> <p>We can work with Environmental Health and Highways to ensure we have a</p>

Scrutiny Review of Building Better Homes and Neighbourhoods - Enhancing housing standards in South Ribble

Draft Cabinet Response to Recommendations

Scrutiny Review Recommendation	Recommendation Accepted Yes / No	Comments and Timeline for Implementation
		coordinated approach which meets these tests.
8. Building Control should be included on the list of consultees for the Local Plan.	Yes	Can be actioned
9. Members would like to see increased engagement between Planning and Building Control which would enable both services to work more effectively together.	Yes	This does occur within the department already, Planning can work with Building Control to see where this would be beneficial.
10. A review of the risk assessments for Enforcement Officers, with body cameras offered to those officers who are public facing and could face threats or harassment.	Yes	This can be actioned
11. Highways and Enforcement are included as individual Member Learning Sessions on the Member Development Programme for 2023/24.	Yes	This can be actioned and could be really helpful for training members.

Agenda Item 10

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Agenda Item 11

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Agenda Item 12

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