

Biodiversity Strategy Interim Action Plan July 2022- 23.

June 2022

Introduction

In order to move forward and achieve the aims and objectives of the 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 will we have any idea about 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, towards 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 and Single Use Plastic and Waste minimisation agendas.

1. To undertake a review of all currently available information in order to provide a baseline picture 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 and opportunities 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 full action plan to achieve the strategy aims and objectives.
6. To present an 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
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 I habitat surveys) to identify the current situation on the ground where information is missing from the above exercises.	Sep 2023
2	To plot the above information on GIS,	Oct 2023
3	Review the above gathered information to identify gaps, areas for improvement and/or protection.	Nov 2022
4	Continue to engage with community hubs, local friends groups etc to raise awareness and gain support for future consultations and actions.	Ongoing
5	Consultation methodology to be determined, but to ensure suitable public bodies, businesses, schools, public and community groups are included within the consultation. The consultation to run until mid-June 2023 to allow the formulation of a draft action plan to be developed.	Mar-Jun 2023
6	Present the draft Biodiversity Action Plan to full Council for adoption.	July 2023
7	To raise awareness, Agree consultation issues, Provide baseline data (GIS mapping) To develop guidance notes/SPD for developers.	March 2023
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