



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 have been taken forward over the last 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