

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 3 FEBRUARY 2015

**STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT ON DELIVERY –
1st JANUARY 2012 TO 31st DECEMBER 2014**

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING & PLACE

ABSTRACT

This report for 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2014 highlights progress made by the Council regarding its work to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the contents of this report for submission to the Scottish Government, Directorate for Environment and Forestry;
- (ii) approve the publication of the report on the Angus Council website.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/ COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our Natural Environment is protected and enjoyed.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 further requires all public bodies to report every three years on how they comply with this Duty. This first report is required by 1st January 2015 to cover activity for the period 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2014. This report demonstrates how Angus Council has complied with the Biodiversity Duty for this period.

3.2 The guidance note provided by the Scottish Government suggested a format for local authorities to follow and focuses on six key areas:

1. Governance – providing clear leadership and management on biodiversity.
2. Action – taking action to protect and enhance biodiversity.
3. Mainstreaming – integrating biodiversity into corporate projects, plans and strategies.
4. Monitoring- recording data and reporting trends.
5. Partnership – developing effective partnership working through the Local Biodiversity Partnership and other stakeholders.
6. Communication – raising awareness and building capacity amongst stakeholders.

4. CURRENT POSITION

This report (**Appendix I**) will provide and update on the last three years progress as requested by the Scottish Government. The report follows the recently published Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Report to Parliament 2011–2013 [Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Report to Parliament 2011 – 2013](#) It contains details of the progress being made in taking forward the

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy from 2011 to 2013 and information on the trends demonstrated by a series of biodiversity state and people engagement indicators. In future years Angus Council will be expected to report regularly on corporate progress.

5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Council approve the contents of this report for submission to the Scottish Government.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Failure to produce a regular report would result in the Council failing to meet the commitment under The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requiring all public bodies to report every three years on how they comply with this Duty.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices: Statutory Biodiversity Duty Report on Delivery - 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2014