

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2018

**STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT ON DELIVERY –
1st JANUARY 2015 TO 31st DECEMBER 2017**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, REGULATORY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES,
PLACE**

ABSTRACT

Appendix 1 of this report highlights progress made during the period 1st Jan 2015- 31st Dec 2017 by Angus Council regarding the obligations imposed by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the contents of this report and **Appendix 1** for submission to the Scottish Government, Environment and Forestry Directorate;
- (ii) approve the publication of the report on the Angus Council website.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

ECONOMY

2. A skilled and adaptable workforce

PEOPLE

4. The best start in life for children
5. More opportunities for people to achieve success
6. Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

PLACE

7. Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
8. A reduced carbon footprint
9. An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

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 2018 to cover activity for the period 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2017. 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

4.1 This report (**Appendix 1**) will provide an update on the last three years progress as requested by the Scottish Government. It contains details of the progress being made in taking forward the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy [2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity](#) published in 2013, and [Scotland's Biodiversity – A Route Map to 2020](#) published in 2015.

4.2 Scotland's Biodiversity - A Route Map to 2020 links in with the original Aichi Biodiversity Targets which arose from the Convention On Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan in 2011, and includes the "Big Six Steps for Nature". These are:

- Ecosystem restoration
- Investment in Natural Capital
- Quality greenspace for health and education benefits
- Conserving wildlife in Scotland
- Sustainable management of land and freshwater
- Marine and coastal ecosystems restored

4.3 Angus Council deliver against many of the Aichi targets and all the big six steps have been included in the 2nd Edition Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26.

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.

8. CONSULTATION

The Strategic Directors of People and Place, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Corporate Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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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Appendix1: Statutory Biodiversity Duty Report on Delivery - 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2017