

ANGUS COUNCIL

ANGUS COUNCIL – 17 DECEMBER 2020

**STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT ON DELIVERY –
1st JANUARY 2018 TO 31st DECEMBER 2020**

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES

ABSTRACT

This report for 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2020 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

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the contents of this report for submission to the Scottish Government.
- (ii) approve the publication of the report on the Angus Council website.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 This report contributes to the priorities in the Angus Council Plan, which are:
Economy
People
Place
and Our Council.

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 report is required by 1st January 2021 to cover activity for the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2020. 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 seven key areas:

1. Actions to Protect Biodiversity and Connect People with Nature.
2. Mainstreaming Biodiversity.
3. Nature-Based Solution, Climate Change and Biodiversity.
4. Public Engagement and Workforce Development.
5. Workforce skills and Training.
6. Research and Monitoring.
7. Biodiversity Highlights and Challenges.

4. CURRENT POSITION

This report (**Appendix I**) provides 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.

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

Angus Council deliver against many of the Aichi targets and all the big six steps have been included in the Tayside Local 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.

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 2018 to 31st December 2020