

Title of Report:	Development of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2027-2032
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 December 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Climate Change and Our Environment
Outcome	Our natural assets and spaces are managed and developed to recognised standards and processes
Lead Officer	Biodiversity and Habitat Management Officer Coast and Countryside Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	Feb 2027

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	n/a
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: n/a
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: n/a

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update Members and seek approval for the development of a new Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 All Councils in Northern Ireland have a statutory duty to conserve biodiversity when carrying out their functions under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 (WANE Act). Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) were adopted by Councils as a mechanism to meet the requirements of the WANE Act. The first LBAP (2013-18) covered the four legacy Councils of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle.
- 2.2 A review of the 2013 -2018 LBAP now proposes to develop a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough which will consider the range of functions undertaken by Council.
- 2.3 The new LBSAP will ensure Council carries out its duty to conserve biodiversity effectively and will include targets and actions to ensure Council achieves the necessary outcomes for successful delivery of its statutory duty.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 The table below outlines work undertaken to date and proposed timeline for the development of the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It considers extensive internal consultation and an extensive 12-week public consultation.

Action	Description		Timeline
Internal consultation with relevant Heads of Service (HoS)/Department Leads (DL)	Council Officer meets with HoS/ internal stakeholders	Engagement on the strategic context of Council's biodiversity duty and how it impacts on individual service areas/ departments	Ongoing since July 2024 to be completed by end January 2026
		Recommendations for departments to deliver actions	
Draft LBSAP developed	Council Officer draft LBSAP		January 2026 - March 2026
Internal consultation with HoS	Council Officer present draft LBSAP to HoS		March 2026
LBSAP sent to HoS and DLs	Draft LBSAP sent to HoS and DLs for feedback		April 2026
Amendments made	Council Officer updates LBSAP according to feedback received		May 2026
Workshop held with Elected Members	Presentation of LBSAP		May 2026
Amendments made	Council Officer updates LBSAP according to outcomes of member workshop		June 2026
Draft LBSAP sent to L&D Committee/Full Council for approval			June 2026
Equality and rural proofing/screening	Screening completed	Rural proofing/screening	July 2026
		Equality proofing/screening	
Public consultation	Easy read version created		

	Draft LBSAP put out to public consultation for a period of 12 weeks	Questionnaire created PR consulted and adverts put out	August 2026 - November 2026
Draft LBSAP updated			November 2026 - December 2026
Draft LBSAP sent to HoS and Elected Members	Feedback and input for final draft		December 2026
Final LBSAP draft completed and presented to Committee	Final draft LBSAP presented to Committee		January 2027
Final draft LBSAP presented to Council	Full approval by Council		January 2027
Final draft LBSAP completed and published	Publishing and promotion of LBSAP		February 2027

- 3.2 In tandem with the development of the Strategy and Action Plan, it is proposed to establish a Council-led biodiversity forum (including statutory body representation) and a public facing forum. This will allow for the sharing of knowledge and expertise on biodiversity and will promote the strategic approach being taken by Council through discussion and regular events.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council to agree to the development of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the years 2027 – 2032 to ensure Council fulfils its statutory duty under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011.