

Appendix 2

Overview of the Task and Finish Group sessions

Session 1 – Governance and Agenda setting.

Planning Session – Stakeholder Mapping – Sheffield’s diverse and knowledgeable partners who play a role in supporting and shaping nature’s recovery in the city. This included organisations that manage land on our behalf.

- a) Recognise the importance of wide stakeholder engagement in empowering communities to take action for nature and that many groups and organisations across the city and region play a role in supporting nature Recovery.
- b) Consider the reinstatement/refresh of a citywide partnership that brings together stakeholders with a vested interest in the city’s outdoors and the environment.

Session 2 - Overview of related work from the Ecology, Planning and Climate Change Teams. *This included the ecology and biodiversity of the Sheffield area, the Local Plan and associated planning policy.*

- c) That the Climate and Nature Emergency is inextricably linked and must be considered holistically in relevant plans and policy
- d) That climate impact assessments require explicit consideration of potential impacts on habitats and biodiversity.
- e) That the emerging Sheffield Local Plan will be the main spatial planning document to guide and shape development in the city and that supplementary planning guidance (SPG) will be drafted to strengthen policies that support nature recovery
- f) Further briefings are provided for members on the council’s approach to delivering Biodiversity Net Gain and the regional Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- g) That the city commissions a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, and adopts the Natural England Green Infrastructure Standards
- h) Ensure the city embraces its rivers and waterways network as an ecological, economic, heritage and social asset.

Session 3 – External Partner Engagement – Representation from the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Green Estate/Chair of the Green and Open Spaces Forum and Eastern Moors Partnership. *Partners were invited to share their work and thoughts on how we can work together to respond to the biodiversity emergency.*

- i) That opportunities to link into wider place marketing and the ‘Outdoor City’ brand are maximised to further support a citizen’s understanding of our treasured natural environment and how they can help enhance and protect it and the city should seize the

moment to communicate a clear vision on what a 'Healthy and green Sheffield looks like'.

- j) The council should continue to build on existing and explore new and innovative partnerships at a local, regional and national level – these organisations have a wealth expertise and access to resources.
- k) Partnerships can help prepare a pipeline of 'shovel ready' projects that will help achieve large scale impact and could form a 'Green Investment' opportunity.

Session 4 – Understanding the '30by30' targets and how this informs Sheffield's habitat and species priorities.

- l) That the council identifies opportunities to meet international targets to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030 (known as 30by30)
- m) Acknowledges the challenge associated with the resource needed to adequately monitor, report and manage our Local Wildlife Sites, but equally recognises the importance of accurate and robust data for these sites.
- n) Opportunities for 'citizen science' can bring great value to monitoring our designated sites if appropriately resourced and managed.
- o) The Parks and Countryside service continues to work with other service areas to identify SCC land which delivers LNRS priorities (e.g. BNG Habitat banks, peatland restoration, wetland, woodland, and grassland creation etc)
- p) The Ecology team continues to work with colleagues in planning to identify opportunities to connect habitats and embed this in spatial decision making.

Session 5 – Governance and next steps – *Understanding important milestones relating to the Environment Act 2021 requirements and how we ensure a collective of understanding is achieved across the council.*

- a) That subject to the Board approving the request, the Climate Oversight Board becomes the 'Climate and Nature Oversight Board'
- b) That biodiversity is considered as part of an impact assessment.
- c) Future work and resourcing should focus on ensuring ecological considerations are embedded in decision making across a range of service areas notably planning, landscape design, land management, facilities management (notably renovation of property), active travel design, infrastructural corridors, and roads.
- d) That upcoming reviews of relevant strategies will embed nature recovery within them.

It is proposed that a number of recommendations from the Task and Finish Group are taken forward and acted upon as part of existing work streams, or where resources allow considered as new activities

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