

Meeting Ecological Emergency Action Plan Review - Action Log Updated from Corporate Meeting.
Date 9th October 2023.
Purpose To log progress, decisions and issues against EEAP actions; Document to be updated after each meeting

Action and theme area: [Education and Awareness theme.](#) [Policies and Strategies theme.](#) [Land Management theme](#)

9th October 2023						
	Issue / Decision / Action required	Responsibility	Date Raised	Due Date	Action taken	Status
1	Commit to the continuous development and engagement with partners and stakeholders in the delivery of landscape scale programmes.	Environmental Services; Environment & Design	03/04/23	ongoing	Reaching out to other landowners and consulting with National Trust. Currently signing of Partnership Agreement to give clarity of roles and relationships including land holding opportunities. Seascapes programme ending autumn '24 and board are now engaged in evaluation and legacy provisions Heritage Coast has passed 1st stage of bid to NLHF Species Survival Fund – for restoration of grassland habitats from Blackhall to Noses Point Skerne wetlands landscape recovery is a key outcome of Brightwater project and central to legacy provisions in process of wrap up in Mar '24.	Progressing
2	Development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy with the County Durham Partnership	Environmental Services; Ecology	03/04/23	on-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Webpage agreed and to be host by DCC. Meeting with web team arranged to discuss the content and layout •Draft consultation process has been produced, this is the subject of on-going discussion. •DCC Consultation and GIS Teams fully engaged with the development of the consultation process •Regional Meetings between the 4 NE LNRS groupings have been agreed and continue to take place •Regular update meetings with Natural England are being undertaken •ERIC has agreed to produce the LNRS mapping •Working with CYPS and OASES to deliver schools engagement 	Progressing
3	Produce a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), concentrating on delivery of biodiversity within urban and industrial developments.	Environmental Services; Ecology & Planning and Housing; Spatial Policy	03/04/23	01-Sep-23	As the Government has now postponed the implementation of the requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain until January 2024, and the upcoming regulations and guidance are yet to be published, the timescales for the SPD will have to move back from the February 2024 Cabinet date that is currently in the forward plan.	Progressing
4a	Produce Contributions SPD, which clarifies the process and options available to developers to deliver biodiversity net gains.	As above	03/04/23	01-Jul-23	Consulting on 2nd draft currently. Subject to comments – if minor changes only adoption June/July 23. finalising now - looking for apotion next month.	Progressing
4b	Investigate a model that enables developer contributions for BNG to be delivered, where appropriate, on currently available Council land.	Environmental Services; Ecology & CPaL; Asset Strategy	03/04/23	01-Mar-24	SP working with Countryside (DC), sites been identified, progress to baseline surveys over the summer, ideally have site assessed by end of Nov 23 when BNG becomes mandatory Engagement with CPAL continues. SP been various meetings with DWT for on site delivery and also CPAL and other local/regional authorities. Also investigating legal agreements; how we manage it etc.	Completed
5	Examine the need to develop or change systems and policies so that the system for identifying and allocating land for biodiversity purposes is optimised.	CPaL ; Asset Strategy	03/04/23		Links to Action 4b. Setting up sub group to consider and bring forward landuse change - now need to see C Bradley for links to plan policy - REG etc.	Completed
6	(Procurement) Produce systems in relation to an Ecological Emergency using the model employed by the Climate Emergency.	Resources; Procurement	ongoing	on-going	System development completed. System will require monitoring to ensure it is fit for purpose. Refer to Procurement: R. Carroll.	Completed
7	Examine the potential to include ecological impact implications alongside those for climate and sustainability in committee and Council reports.	Resources; Democratic Services	03/04/23	01/09/2023??	SB to refer to Michael Turnbull, review timeline - align to constitution working group for introduction to training and learning programme. Utilise approach adopted for CERP training. SB to chase M Turnbull, Dem Servs, for an update.	Progressing
9	Produce a strategy document to define the approach to biodiversity interventions on public open spaces managed by Clean & Green and identify constraints to delivery as the programme continues to be rolled out across the county.	Environmental Services; Ecology & Technical Services	20/09/23	01-Jun-23	Work has started, with main headlines are in place. Now working on the detail, aiming for a draft version by December - almost completed; It will be circulated to this group as soon as its ready. GK proposing list of back-up sites to put forward when going through to Members for endorsement. Health and wellbeing benefits message needs to be included, as well as target setting for site delivery. Regular meetings scheduled between GK , SP, and other Ecology leads.	Progressing

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10a	Engage with partners, especially Natural England, to assist in developing a strategic solution for Nutrient Neutrality.	Housing and Development; Spatial Policy	20/09/23	ongoing	Natural England are delivering a mitigation scheme (based on land use change / selling credits to developers) in partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust. Round 3 of NE's credit bidding round was launched on the 2nd October 2023.	Completed
10b	Investigate possibilities of delivering a strategic mitigation approach to NN on DCC land	CPaL and Spatial Policy			The role of DCC in delivering mitigation for either our own development or private development is yet to be determined by CPAL but being considered alongside delivery of BNG on DCC land as per action 4b.	Progressing
11a	Undertake condition assessments of designated sites (i.e., Local Wildlife Sites) within the estate.	Environmental Services; Countryside Service	20/09/23	Ongoing	Countryside team leading on identification of 20 sites within the Countryside Estate, located previous citations and will look to carry out condition assessments against all 20 over the next few years.	Progressing
11b	Instigate appropriate long-term management to restore designated sites to good condition when resources are made available	Environmental Services; Countryside Service	20/09/23	Ongoing	We have started the process in relation to the above item and are on track to complete 2 assessments by end of Oct.	Progressing
12a	Run trials on reduced cutting regimes on amenity grassland with a view to reducing cutting and encouraging a greater floral diversity on sites where ceasing management or a single annual cut is not a viable option.	Environmental Services; Clean & Green Service	20/09/23	ongoing	Consultation on 28 sites. Currently liaising with ward members, including further alternative sites. Approx 20/28 sites may progress. Could expand to former school sites. 8 sites trialled to seek initial public responses and none received. Photos of the 8 sites to be collated to show they are working. 64 acres achieved this year.	Progressing