



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE - 11th JUNE 2025**

MINUTE EXTRACT

Final Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport the purpose of which was to seek the Committee's views and comments on the Final Local Nature Recovery Strategy before this was presented to the Cabinet for approval at its meeting on 17 June 2025. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 10', is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:

- i) The Committee welcomed the final draft LNRS and commented that this identified meaningful priorities that could be progressed to make a big difference to the local environment.
- ii) It was noted that the Strategy had been subject to public consultation and that the feedback received had been meaningful and of a high standard. However, it was suggested that consideration should be given to other types of engagement in future to improve response rates, in particular to encourage a wider range of different communities to get involved. It was acknowledged that all public consultation exercises undertaken by the Authority were constrained by the resources it had available.
- iii) It was highlight that a prudent use of grants would be required to deliver the Strategy and its priorities and that over the coming year a pipeline of projects would be identified and funding sourced to deliver these.
- iv) It was noted that the County Council had led on the development of the Strategy as the designated responsible authority for Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland. Alongside this a Delivery Plan would next be developed with partners, and this would provide a shared platform setting out the agreed areas of focus to invest in and which could be maintained in the long term. The Plan would be a live document and adapt to circumstances and funding.
- v) Members were pleased with and supported the innovative approaches highlighted in the Strategy to address flooding concerns across the County and requested that the Committee be kept undated on any progress made in this area.

- vi) A Member commented that there were many people passionate about the natural environment locally who would support the delivery of this Strategy and that this would be delivered over the coming decades to make an environment which was better for all. However, it was a concern that this was reliant on funding to ensure delivery of projects.
- vii) It was highlighted that although there were no commitments to funding for 2025/26, discussions would be held with partners as the Delivery Plan was developed to determine if, in addition to Government funding, local resources could be made available to support the delivery of specific projects. It was recognised, however, that all local authorities and partners were under significant financial pressure at the current time.

RESOLVED:

That the comments made by the Committee be presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 17 June 2025 for consideration.