

Action for Nature - A Strategic Approach to Biodiversity, Habitat and the Local Environment for Leicestershire County Council Action Plan

2025 - 2030

This Action Plan supports the Action for Nature document and the Environment Strategy 2018-2030:

Revision	Revision Description	Date	Author
0	Published Version	Decemeber 25	James O'Brien / Sam Wood
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Land Management Actions	Scope (Internal / External / Both)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe	Key Environment Strategy Aims / Objectives
Deliver the Biodiversity Duty Plan.	Internal	All depts	All depts	Ongoing	G. Protect and enhance biodiversity as a natural capital asset throughout all our activities and seek to ensure that we achieve biodiversity net gain on our own land and influence improvements in the wider county.
Undertake responsible authority function and support delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Both	Environment	All depts External partners	Apr 25-Mar 30	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G2. The Council will manage its land with nature conservation designations to maintain and enhance their biodiversity value. G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the condition of natural capital features. G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. H2.greensinstructure in Leicestershire. J1. The Council will respect and enhance the character, heritage and accessibility of the landscape on its estate. J2. The Council will respect and enhance the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and towns.
Support delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain in Leicestershire.	Both	Ecology & Biodiversity	Environment Districts Developers Land Owners	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the condition of natural capital features. G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. H2.The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure in Leicestershire. J1. The Council will respect and enhance the character, heritage and accessibility of the landscape on its estate. J2.The Council will respect and enhance the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and towns.

Deliver Urban Wildlife Verge Scheme.	Both	Highways	Environment Parishes Naturespot	Annual recruitment	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G2. Manage land with nature conservation designations to maintain and enhance their value. G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate .
Improve grassland management, especially mowing regimes.	Internal	Highways Country Parks	Contactors	Annual Review	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G2. Manage land with nature conservation designations to maintain and enhance their value. G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. H2. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure in Leicestershire.
Deliver the Ash Dieback Action Plan.	Both	Forestry	Highways Comms Environment	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G4: Work with partners to support wider Biodiversity improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. H2. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure in Leicestershire.
Implement the Tree Management Strategy	Both	Forestry	Environment Woodland Trust	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1/H2. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate / Leicestershire. I. Reduce pollution and contamination.
Manage trees outside of woodland, including along the highway.	Both	Forestry Highways	Environment Woodland Trust	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. H1/H2. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate / Leicestershire. G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Administer and improve the Tree Protection Order service	Both	Environment	Landowners Districts	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.

Implement Country Parks Management Plans.	Internal	Country Parks	Forestry Flooding	Annual Review of Green Flags	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G2. Manage land with nature conservation designations to maintain and enhance their biodiversity value. G4. Work with partners to support wider Biodiversity improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. J1. The Council will respect, conserve and enhance the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape on its estate
Provide support to parishes, districts and other stakeholders to take on responsibility for civic spaces.	Internal	Special Projects	Highways Comms Environment	Ongoing	G4: Work with partners to support wider Biodiversity improvements across Leicestershire. H1/H2. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate/Leicestershire. J2. The Council will work with partners to support action that respects/ conserves and enhances the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and towns. K. Support the Leicestershire community in reducing environmental impacts and in enhancing green infrastructure for health and wellbeing benefits.
Provide comments on Neighbourhood Plans.	Internal	Communities Team	All depts	As needed.	G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H2. The Council will support the creation, protection, enhancement and management of sustainable green infrastructure in Leicestershire. J2. The Council will work with partners to support action that respects, conserves and enhances the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and town. K. Support the Leicestershire community in reducing environmental impacts and in enhancing green infrastructure for and wellbeing benefits.
Publicise and support a network of Tree Wardens engaged by parishes to assist with tree management across the County.	Both	Environment	Parishes Tree Council Comms	Ongoing	G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H2. The Council will support the creation, protection, enhancement and management of sustainable green infrastructure in Leicestershire. J2. The Council will work with partners to support action that respects, conserves and enhances the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and town. K. Support the Leicestershire community in reducing environmental impacts and in enhancing green infrastructure for and wellbeing benefits.

Collaborate with partners to design land management that can support both nature and local food production.	Both	Environment Public Health	Statutory and non-governmental external partners	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the condition of natural capital features. G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. J2. The Council will work with partners to support action that respects, conserves and enhances the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and towns. K. Support the Leicestershire community in reducing environmental impacts and in enhancing green infrastructure for and wellbeing benefits.
Work with Natural England on District Level Licensing and with other partners on enhancement of strategic sites for protected species.	Both	Environment	Country Parks External partners	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G4: Work with partners to support wider Biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Design mitigation measures to reduce pollution from our roads via planting of trees and hedges.	Both	Highways	External partners	As required	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. I. Reduce pollution and contamination.

Monitoring Actions	Scope (Internal / External / Both)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe	Key Environment Strategy Aims / Objectives
Monitor and record County Council land in better management for nature.	Internal	Environment	All depts	Annual	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G2. The Council will manage its land with nature conservation designations to maintain their biodiversity G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate.
Encourage Environmental Action Volunteers, Tree Wardens and other citizen science groups to submit records.	Both	Environment	Non-governmental organisations LRERC	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G2. The Council will manage its land with nature conservation designations to maintain their biodiversity/G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. K. Support the Leicestershire community in reducing environmental impacts and in enhancing green infrastructure for and wellbeing benefits.
Respond to enquiries from other services and the public.	Internal	Environment	All depts	As required	G4. Work with partners to support wider Biodiversity improvements across Leicestershire. H1/H2. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate/Leicestershire. J2. The Council will work with partners to support action that respects, conserves and enhances the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and towns.
Monitor actions to meet Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) objectives and details of BNG resulting or expected from approved plans.	Both	Ecology and Biodiversity	District Planning authorities Planning applicants	Annual	G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Support and participate in the LNRS Data & Evidence Working Group.	Both	Environment	External partners	Group set up by March 2026	G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. H1/H2. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate / Leicestershire. J1/J2.The Council will respect, conserve and enhance the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape on its estate / on the Leicestershire landscape and towns.
Review updated Natural England SSSI site assessments and take necessary action to enable implementation of recommendations.	Both	Property County Parks	Natural England	As required	G4: Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. J2. The Council will work with partners to support action that respects, conserves and enhances the character, heritage and accessibility of the Leicestershire landscape and town.

Actions to control invasive species (INNS)	Scope (Internal / External / Both)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe	Key Environment Strategy Aims / Objectives
Implement the American Mink Control Policy for Water Vole recovery on County Council land.	Internal	Environment	Country Parks External partners	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Co-ordinate and support partnership working to tackle invasive species.	Both	Environment	External partners	Quarterly meetings	G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Align INNS work with the LNRS.	Both	Environment	All depts External partners	Ongoing	G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Participate in Mammal Species Recovery initiatives.	Both	Environment	External partners	As required	G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Provide appropriate support, tools or training to INNS volunteer groups.	Both	Environment	External partners	Ongoing	G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.

Partnerships and Funding Actions	Scope (Internal / External / Both)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe	Key Environment Strategy Aims/ Objectives
Seek and apply for appropriate funding to implement actions related to biodiversity conservation and enhancement and nature recovery.	Both	All depts	External partners	As opportunities arise	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Receive, disseminate and act upon regular funding updates, looking for opportunities for the Council and LNRS partners.	Internal	Environment	External partners	As opportunities arise	G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Support County Farm tenants to access environmental grant schemes and other financial support to implement positive changes in practice.	Internal	Property	Environment Flood Team Climate Resilience	As opportunities arise	G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity and the condition of Natural Capital Assets. G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Participate in the Action for Nature Working Group.	Internal	Environment	All depts	Quarterly	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.
Participate in external partnerships relevant to LNRS, biodiversity, conservation and enhancement and opportunities for stacked benefits.	Both	All depts	Partnerships e.g. Soar Catchment Partnership	As needed	G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire.

Agriculture Actions	Scope (Internal / External / Both)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe	Key Environment Strategy Aims / Objectives
Support nature friendly farming and promote regenerative agriculture for biodiversity conservation and enhancement and nature recovery.	Both	Property Public Health Environment	External partners	As opportunities arise	G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity and the condition of Natural Capital Assets. G4. Work with partners to support wider biodiversity and natural capital feature improvements across Leicestershire. I. Reduce pollution and contamination. M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Work with County Farm tenants to develop nature-friendly farming practices.	Internal	Property	Flood team Forestry Environment Climate Resilience	Linked to funding opportunities	G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity and the condition of Natural Capital Assets. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. I. Reduce pollution and contamination. M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Maintain existing higher level stewardship commitments on County Parks.	Internal	Country Parks	Natural England	Ongoing	G1. Improve the biodiversity value and condition of natural capital features on Council managed land and assets. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate. I. Reduce pollution and contamination. M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Work closely with relevant bodies to support and develop environmental land management schemes on Council land.	Both	Property	Environment	Linked to funding opportunities	G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity and the condition of Natural Capital Assets. H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate I. Reduce pollution and contamination. M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.

Develop opportunities for river restoration and natural flood management where biodiversity benefits are possible and appropriate.	Both	Flood	Environment External Partners	Linked to funding opportunities	H1. The Council will create, protect, enhance and manage sustainable green infrastructure on its estate I. Reduce pollution and contamination. M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Develop opportunities for habitat creation on County farms where possible and appropriate especially where this would support recovery of priority species.	Internal	Property	Environment Forestry	Linked to funding opportunities	G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity and the condition of Natural Capital Assets. I. Reduce pollution and contamination. M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Apply for the Gold Award for Sustainable Food Places.	Internal	Public Health Environment	Sustainable Food Places External partners	See Public Health Strategy	G3. The Council seeks to demonstrate and support environmentally sustainable farming practices on its farms that support the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity and the condition of Natural Capital Assets. I. Reduce pollution and contamination. M3. Work with others to increase awareness of the need to take action on climate change an ecological decline and support residents and communities to take required actions N2. Work with partners to advance opportunities that support a low carbon circular economy in Leicestershire.
Use procurement to support producers using sustainable farming practices.	Internal	Public Health Environment	Suppliers Producers	As opportunities arise	I. Reduce pollution and contamination M3. Work with others to increase awareness of the need to take action on climate change an ecological decline and support residents and communities to take required actions. N2. Work with partners to advance opportunities that support a low carbon circular economy in Leicestershire.

Communities Actions	Scope (Internal / External / Both)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe	Key Environment Strategy Aims / Objectives
Ensure that opportunities to take action to conserve habitats and biodiversity are an option of choice as part of supporting active lifestyles.	Internal	Public Health	All depts	Ongoing	K. Support the Leicestershire community in reducing environmental impacts and in enhancing green infrastructure for and wellbeing benefits. L1. Use Councils duties to protect people from harm caused by Climate Change and ensure effective communications.
Encourage active volunteering within Country Park sites.	Internal	Country Parks	Volunteers	Ongoing	L3. Work with partners to address issues of climate change and health inequalities.
Provide biodiversity training to Environmental Action Volunteers.	Internal	Communities Team	Environment	Ongoing	L3. Work with partners to address issues of climate change and health inequalities.
Provide information and support to local areas, such as parishes regarding biodiversity and the LNRS.	Both	Environment	All depts	Ongoing	M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Facilitate the Nature Network for parishes, community groups and other stakeholders.	Both	Environment	All depts/external partners	Every 4-6 weeks	M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Provide co-ordination and support to parish Tree Wardens including liaison with the Tree Council.	Both	Environment	External partners	At least one event annually	M. Demonstrate and promote environmental good practice and show community leadership.
Seek to use Social Value to achieve biodiversity conservation and enhancement.	Internal	Public Health Environment	All depts	As opportunities arise	I. Reduce pollution and contamination M3. Work with others to increase awareness of the need to take action on climate change and an ecological decline and support residents and communities to take required actions. N2. Work with partners to advance opportunities that support a low carbon circular economy in Leicestershire.

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