

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change****Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek Cabinet approval for the Council's response to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation. This is in accordance with the Corporate Priority of Environment to 'protect the environment for the future'.

**2. Recommendation**

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that authority be delegated to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, to approve the Council's consultation response to the LNRS.**

**3. Detail**

England is widely considered to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, according to Government sources (Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies/local-nature-recovery-strategies>). In response to this the Government made a legally binding commitment to halt the environmental decline and support nature recovery through the Environment Act 2021 and the requirement to prepare an LNRS.

The primary aim of this Strategy is to reverse the on-going decline of nature in England by establishing clear priorities for nature recovery. This involves identifying key locations for creating and enhancing habitats that are most likely to benefit both biodiversity and the wider environment. Furthermore, the strategy will inform the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain and guide local planning policies for nature recovery.

Nottinghamshire County Council has been appointed as the responsible lead authority for leading the development of the LNRS for Nottinghamshire. They are currently collaborating closely with all local districts, Nottingham City Council, and other key stakeholders to develop this document.

Currently, Nottinghamshire County Council aim to present their draft strategy for district consultation from 17 March 2025 and 13 April 2025, allowing for a 28-day consultation period. Given that this timeframe falls outside the Cabinet programme, Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, to oversee the Council's response.

This delegation is necessary to ensure that there is appropriate representation of the Council's views into this important document.

Public consultation of the Strategy is expected to be undertaken for six weeks during June/July 2025.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, as it effects communities living or working in an area comprising of two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

This applies where a policy has been through pre-scrutiny or Policy Overview Working Group.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no financial implications for the Council in responding to the consultation, with any costs being contained within existing budgets.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Environment Act 2021 imposes specific statutory requirements on the Borough Council as regards to nature recovery and specifically the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Borough Council will support Nottinghamshire County Council as designated Responsible Authority with the legal requirements, this public consultation would meet that requirement

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

9. Union Comments

Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy plays a crucial role in addressing climate change implications by enhancing biodiversity and restoring ecosystems, which are vital for carbon sequestration. By prioritising habitat creation and improvement, the strategy will help to mitigate climate impacts.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable

13. Background Papers

Nil.