

**Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan**

Report Submitted By: **Environment Director**  
Contact for further information: **Peter Jepson, 01772 264164**  
Directorate: **Environment**

**Executive Summary:**

At the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the UK Government, along with 150 other countries signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (or the Biodiversity Convention). The Convention on Biological Diversity and Local Agenda 21 shares a common root and are closely interconnected.

The UK Government's response to the convention was – *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan* - published in 1994, which sets out the broad strategy for conservation and enhancing wild species and wildlife habitats in the UK for the next 20 years. This action is delivered through the UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP).

In UK Government Guidance Notes, the role of Local BAPs is given as the means by which national objectives and targets will be translated to the local level.

The Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership was set up to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan for Lancashire. The first tranche of action plans for the Lancashire BAP covering twenty-nine species, ten habitats and a people plan was produced in April 2001.

This is deemed a Key Decision and is included in the Forward Plan.

**Recommendation:**

That the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan be endorsed and that the Environment Director be authorised to work with other organisations/agencies in the Lancashire BAP Partnership to produce further tranches of species and habitat Action Plans during the period 2001-2003, and to monitor and keep the Lancashire BAP under review.

**Background:**

At the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 the UK Government, along with 150 other countries signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (or the Biodiversity Convention). The Convention on Biological Diversity and Local Agenda 21 shares a common root and are closely interconnected.

The UK Government's response to the convention was – *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan* - published in 1994, which sets out the broad strategy for conservation and enhancing wild species and wildlife habitats in the UK for the next 20 years. This action is delivered through the UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP).

As a means by which national objectives and targets can be translated to the local level, the UK Government through the UK Local Issue Advisory Group, produced a set of four guidance notes, *Guidance for Local Biodiversity Action Plans*. These were used in developing the Lancashire BAP through partnership working by the Lancashire BAP Partnership.

The Lancashire BAP Partnership Steering Group involves a wide range of interested and relevant organisations including English Nature (North West Team), The Wildlife Trust in Lancashire, Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Farmers Union, Country Land & Business Association, Game Conservation Trust, National Gamekeepers' Organisation, Lancashire Association of Parish & Town Councils, Central & West Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Lancashire County Council. A Project Officer was employed to oversee the production of the plan with funding through the Lancashire Environment Fund.

The first tranche of Action Plans, covering twenty-nine species, ten habitats and a people plan, was produced in April 2001. Lancashire's Biodiversity Action Plan is available on the web site [www.lbap.org.uk](http://www.lbap.org.uk). Hard copies are also available but in limited numbers.

Through objectives, targets and proposed actions, the Lancashire BAP provides a focus for the delivery of UK objectives at a County level. Mechanisms for delivery, applicable to the County Council, include existing projects and partnerships such as the Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) Partnership and the BHS Project. LCC Countryside Service already undertake works which deliver BAP objectives and targets through liaison with land owners and through the management of LCC Local Nature Reserves, Country Parks and Picnic Sites. Within the statutory planning system, the Lancashire BAP will be of significance. Emerging Regional and National Planning Guidance requires consideration of biodiversity and appropriate mitigation/compensation for damaging developments. The Lancashire BAP will serve to inform restoration of mineral and waste schemes as well as road schemes.

Additional BAPs will be produced between 2001 and 2003 and published on the above web site. The Action Plans will be reviewed and kept up-to-date through this medium.

Part of the BAP is a People Plan which makes the link between biodiversity and LA21 and covers local government, schools, further and higher education, business and farmers and land managers. In the next twelve months, additional parts to the People Plan will be published to cover Local Agenda 21 and Community Strategies, and Ethnic minorities.

**Consultations:**

As indicated in the 'Background' section of this report.

**Advice:**

Nil

**Alternative Options To Be Considered:**

N/A

**Implications:** E.g. Financial, Legal, Personnel, Human Rights, Crime and Disorder or Other

This item has implications in terms of directing the County Council's focus over biodiversity issues. It is a useful component in seeking external funding for regeneration, community and land management projects and initiatives.

**Any Representations Made To The Cabinet Member Prior To The Issue Being Considered In Accordance With The Public Notice Of Forward Plans**

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Organisation:</u>	<u>Comments:</u>
Nil		

**Local Government (Access To Information) Act 1985  
List Of Background Papers**

<u>Paper</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact/Directorate/Ext</u>
Nil		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

DECISION TAKEN: DECLARATIONS

Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan

Cabinet Member for Community & Regeneration

Yes   No

Original recommendation, as set out in the report, approved without amendment.

Yes  

Original recommendation amended and decision as follows:

 

I declare that I do not have a pecuniary or prejudicial interest in this matter.

Yes  

If an interest is declared please give details below:-

I have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee, the details of which can be seen in the Register of Member Interests

 

B Johnson  
Cabinet Member for Community &  
Regeneration

Date 9<sup>th</sup> January 2002\*

Chief Officer

I certify that this is an appropriate and accurate record within the terms of Standing Order 62(3) and (5) of the decision taken by the Cabinet Member.

Graham Harding  
Environment Director

Date 9<sup>th</sup> January 2002\*

\*(NOTE : This item is published at least 3 working days before the decision is considered. The item will be re-filled should the decision taken differ from that recommended in the report).