

Biodiversity Policy 2019



South Lakeland **CLIMATE ACTION**

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South Lakeland Council is committed to a review of how its activities can protect and enhance local and global biodiversity while at the same time delivering services, housing and climate change protection to the residents of the district and working with local authorities and other strategic partners in Cumbria and elsewhere to jointly address this highly serious issue.

To promote and enhance local and global biodiversity, South Lakeland will:

- Ensure where possible that products procured by the Council and its contractors are from sustainable sources and encourage our community and partners to do likewise;
- Through the implementation of its Climate Change Policy seek to minimise the emissions of greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming and habitat degradation by the
 - Council's own activities and by other stakeholders across the County and sub-region.
- Through its policy of avoiding the use of single-use plastics, and through encouraging other stakeholders to do the same to minimise pollution of rivers and oceans.
- Encourage habitat creation, restoration and safeguarding through its planning policies which;
 - Encourage the development of greenspace networks and corridors and develop green infrastructure strategy;
 - Enshrine the principles of net gain, safeguard important site features and habitats and encourage habitat creation in new development;
 - Require the use of sustainable drainage systems and fit for purpose foul water drainage in new developments;
- Through our Contaminated Land Strategy, ensure that contaminated land is effectively remediated when land is redeveloped and ensure that new development does not have an adverse effect on air or water quality;
- Use its environmental protection powers to ensure that potentially polluting uses and activities are effectively managed;
- Where practical, adopt biodiversity friendly land management and habitat creation in parks, open spaces and other land within its ownership and encourage other public and community landowners to do the same;
- Ensure that existing woodland within its ownership is managed in accordance with current industry best practice to retain tree cover and biodiversity, and improve biodiversity where possible. This will include thinning woodlands to create opportunities for natural regeneration and create habitats for insects (including bees, butterflies and moths).
- Work with the Environment Agency, National Park Authorities, the Morecambe Bay Partnership and major landowners to promote sustainable land management including promoting natural flood management;
- Support the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, the Morecambe Bay Partnership, the National Trust and other conservation bodies in understanding and enhancing biodiversity in South Lakeland.
- Ensure that biodiversity objectives are fully reflected in its own strategies and seek to ensure that they are given due weight in plans and strategies prepared by others. Seek to ensure that opportunities are realised to enhance biodiversity in new coast and flood management measures.