

SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THE VISION AND APPROACH OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A

It is intended that opportunities will be exploited as they arise, however the following specific actions and possible methods of delivery have been identified under the headings used in the approach and also the vision and approach more generally.

	Specific action	Possible methods of delivery, consideration and comments
Awareness Raising		
1	<p>All City Council and contract staff directly involved in the management of open space should be given training and guidance on good management practice to safeguard and promote Biodiversity.</p> <p>This should include the identification of 'model' sites to demonstrate best practice.</p>	<p>Opportunities for internal and external training and guidance to be regularly brought to the attention of and where appropriate taken up by employees and members. Internal training to be requested from the councils own internal specialists where required.</p>
Habitat Networks and Climate Change		
2	<p>Where PCC owned or managed land forms part of a wildlife corridor its management will aim to facilitate its role as a part of the ecological network it is part of.</p>	<p>An analysis of habitat networks and gaps within them has identified that road verges are the main area where the City Council can directly contribute to increasing the connectivity of habitat networks. A number of specific examples have been identified for further investigation/progression.</p>
Sites of Special Scientific Interest		
3	<p>Secure funding for enhancement works and SSSI specific management for the PCC owned part of the Orton Pit SSSI.</p>	<p>This is the only PCC owned SSSI and consists of part of the treebelt which runs along the southern edge of the Fletton Parkway. Woodland grant scheme could be sought to cover a significant proportion of SSSI specific works within the Treebelt.</p> <p>Other opportunities to assist Natural England with the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs should also be supported. This may for example include efforts to create habitat links to connect SSSIs within the wider landscape as outlined under specific action 2 above.</p>
4	<p>Continue to work with Natural England in their role as statutory adviser in planning and development matters pertaining to SSSIs and International sites.</p>	<p>Continue dialogue at the strategic planning level as well as with respect to specific development proposals.</p> <p>Contributes to item 3 of the approach outlined as part of the vision statement.</p>

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County Wildlife Sites		
5	<p>All PCC County Wildlife Sites to be positively managed to conserve and where possible enhance the site for the criteria for which they are designated CWS.</p>	<p>Re-survey of all wildlife sites in the Peterborough area is in part covered under a service level agreement between the Wildlife Trust and the City Council.</p> <p>PCC are responsible for 12 out of 107 wildlife sites:</p> <p>Eye Green gravel pit The Boardwalks Debdale pond Broadway Cemetery Eastfield Cemetery Pocock's Wood Grimeshaw Wood, Highlees Spinney, Spencer's Hurn & Water Spinney Holywell Fish Ponds Southey Lodge verge (Langley Bush Road). Stamford Rd./Heath Rd./ Ailsworth Rd./King St. verges (Includes "Marholm road" west of King Street Crossroad) Barnack road verges Bedford Purlieus-Wittering road verge</p> <p>One site is due to be added, this is 1400m of road verge at the south end of Highfield road.</p> <p>A number of possible actions have been identified which might be required to continue the positive management of these sites. This includes the drawing in of external funding for the restoration of woodland and minor amendments to mowing regimes for road verges.</p>
Non native invasive species		
6	<p>Employ best practice procedures to deal with invasive non native species on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks.</p> <p>Otherwise the occurrence of invasive non native weed</p>	<p>Invasive species which are problematic in the Peterborough area and on sites managed by the authority include:</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed Giant Hogweed Orange Balsam</p>

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	species should be reported by PCC officers where this is observed as a result of carrying out their normal duties.	<p>The authority should also be on its guard against other problem species such as:</p> <p>Himalayan Balsam New Zealand pygmyweed Parrots feather</p> <p>Training in the recognition of these species should be organised for non specialist employees/contractors as required.</p> <p>One nature reserve currently has a problem with Japanese Knotweed although treatment of this has recently commenced.</p>
The Planning System		
7	Planning related departments of the City Council to continue to work with internal advisers, conservation bodies and local groups with respect to the production of a Local Development Framework and also specific development proposals.	Training as outlined in respect of specific action 1 in this table is also relevant in this respect.
Green Spaces		
8	In the short-term reasonably significant areas should be identified for trialling new approaches to landscape management.	<p>The area chosen should be large enough to contain a variety of types of landscape (e.g. parks, playing fields, kick about areas, open space in housing areas, etc). The trial should involve consultation with local residents and relevant departments within the City Council in planning the management of such areas, and offer a range of different options for particular sites within the trial area and the habitats they possess.</p> <p>Where appropriate this could be through the use of set conservation management specifications or where it would be beneficial the production of management plans for these spaces such as already demonstrated for Central Park. The possibility of reduction in management costs should be acknowledged as a possibility via this change in management¹. The possibility of the creation of new purpose designed sites and habitats for wildlife and people should not be ruled out nor should the potential role of the PCC Agricultural Estate.</p>

¹ Such as identified in the Urban Forestry Report “Trees or Turf? Best value in managing urban green space”.

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9	Biodiversity should be incorporated into all landscape management contracts.	The Best Value review of Contract Services considered the Biodiversity impact of all activities carried out, including grass cutting regimes, weed control and pesticide use. Contributes to item 7 of the approach.
10	Production of management plans for open spaces as has been done for Central Park. In the context of the above, where appropriate incorporate differential grass cutting regimes in parks, verges and large open spaces.	In consultation with relevant departments within the City Council and local residents and user groups. It should be recognised that works that are required on the grounds of Health and Safety take precedence over the needs of wildlife. This could however form part of the approach to PCCs creation of links within the habitat network discussed in line two above.
11	The loss of hedges and shrubs will be resisted unless there are sound horticultural or other reasons to indicate otherwise e.g. the maintenance of highway safety, disease, structural damage or the shrubs are due for replacement. Where the loss of an established hedgerow is unavoidable, such as in major infrastructure projects the transplantation or otherwise replanting of hedgerows should be expected to take place as a standard approach. Where it is appropriate, consideration will be made for the gradual replacement of non-native species with native species.	 For example where suitable native species can be selected to provide a similar landscape function.
12	Give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.	The principle of leases of certain areas to some bodies (e.g., Eye Green Local Nature Reserve to the Wildlife Trust) has been established but could be expanded to include leasing some open spaces to residents associations and Parish Councils with some delegated budgets for management. Further work with bodies such as Natural England and Wildlife Trust would be needed to develop and encourage these schemes. Support for small-scale community wildlife schemes is also provided through the Natural Environment projects grant

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		<p>scheme.</p> <p>PCC support of projects such as Nature in Your Neighbourhood and any successor projects such as Access to Nature would be relevant in this respect.</p>
13	Recognise the role of allotments and cemeteries in promoting Biodiversity.	<p>For example:</p> <p>Opportunities should be taken where there is local support for the utilisation of disused allotments and closed cemeteries for promoting wildlife habitats.</p> <p>Allotments and cemeteries that are in use have a part to play with respect to Biodiversity. This is not intended to be in conflict with their operating requirements.</p> <p>Initiatives such as biodiversity guidance for allotment holders should continue.</p>
Wider understanding		
14	Support initiatives to encourage wildlife friendly gardening, recognising the increasing amount of land devoted to this usage.	For example via Peterborough in Bloom.
Involvement and Local Wildlife Groups		
15	With partners investigate the re-instatement of a Peterborough Wildlife Group or Wildlife forum.	<p>At a recent urban wildlife meeting with local wildlife groups; support was voiced for the possibility of bringing back the Urban Wildlife Group for Peterborough.</p> <p>Also see action above under broad approach 8 of the Vision statement, to give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.</p>
Biodiversity Action Plan Targets		
16	Establish measurable annual targets for the creation of new areas of wildlife interest.	Including tree/shrub planting and woodland creation – both through the City Council's own land management and its role as a planning authority.

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		The Natural Networks partnership is investigating how the targets from the Green Grid Strategy, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan and Peterborough Environment Audit can be brought together as one set of targets for Peterborough. If this were achieved it may be possible to further extract a set of targets for the City Council.
Biodiversity Data		
17	Continue to support the Biological Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	A biological records centre is essential to enable effective and efficient management of biological and ecological data about Peterborough, but would be financially unsustainable if developed just for the Peterborough area. This data is a pre-requisite to the planning, implementation and monitoring of Biodiversity gain, as well as the achievement of more sustainable patterns of development. Effective management of biological data is also essential to the monitoring of the success or otherwise of the targets set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Action Plan.
Overall Contribution to the Vision Statement and Approach		
18	Give particular emphasis to the protection of ancient, and semi-natural habitats through all the City Council's activities.	For example ancient woodland and veteran trees.
19	Investigate and exploit external funding opportunities for creating and enhancing the Biodiversity value of City Council managed land. For example from Forestry Commission, Natural England, landfill tax or aggregates levy.	While much can be achieved by the City Council, this should be viewed as essential to achieving many of the actions listed above.
20	Continue to review the use of pesticides (including fungicides and herbicides) in the City Council's land management.	Such that their use is consistent, minimised and very carefully targeted in line with COSHH regulations requirements.