

Appendix A: Report of progress against actions and targets of Peterborough City Councils Biodiversity Strategy

	Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy	Update on Progress/Action underway	Barrier to Progress	Future Action
1	<p>Biodiversity should be incorporated in to all landscape management contracts/SLAs.</p>	<p>Biodiversity already features in a number of landscape management contracts; these include the mowing regimes of protected road verges and management of areas such as the Bluebell community area and Broadway cemetery.</p> <p>The production of biodiversity specifications for consideration at contract renewal continues to be investigated. The need to work within existing resources is however an over-riding factor.</p> <p>A specification with respect to working on watercourses with wolveroles was incorporated into the Drainage ditch management contract when it was renewed.</p> <p>Woodland and shelterbelt management is undertaken in a manner to sustain and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>A specification with respect to the implementation of hedge, shrub and tree works in the bird nesting season was developed as part of the update of the biodiversity strategy. Key feedback from RSPB and Natural England was secured from this specification.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Cost element of this has been identified as key. Has to work within existing resources. Pursuit of external funding for this area unlikely to be successful.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Concerns with respect of cost of implementation from Corporate Management Team.</p>	<p>Support of these efforts continues.</p> <p>Ways in which further biodiversity can be incorporated at no additional cost continue to be sought.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A.</p> <p>The Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee has referred this to Peterborough City Services to progress this independently of the Biodiversity Strategy. Support will be provided from the City Councils Officer Working Group for Biodiversity as required.</p>

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2	In the short-term reasonably significant areas should be identified for trialling new approaches to landscape management.	<p>A number of trials have been carried out and/or continue These include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunningdale trial woodland coppice area. • Crematorium Wildflower area. • Central Park Wildflower strip. • Dogsthorpe and Olive Road allotment Initiatives 	This will become clear as management of trial areas progress.	The trial areas approach continues and positive/negative aspects of management investigated. Dependant upon this, expansion of management for biodiversity within a site or to another similar site can then be given informed and realistic consideration.
3	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>A number of training session have been carried out since the strategy was first adopted these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Drainage engineers and contractors have attending training on water voles and how works can be carried out in water vole habitat. • Biodiversity Training sessions have been offered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and attended by PCC officers. • A briefing session has been held for PCC highways officers. <p>The Natural and Historic Environment Team has continued general liaison and advice to officers and departments from across the City Council with respect to Biodiversity. In addition to those specifically represented on the Biodiversity Officer Working Group these also for example include highways and rights of way officers.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Not all departments were available to attend.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>A follow up Peterborough specific training session could be organised following adoption of an updated biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>Follow up meetings as required.</p> <p>Continue this role.</p>

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4	<p>Production of management plans for open spaces as has been done for Central Park. In this context, where appropriate, incorporate differential grass cutting regimes in parks, verges and large open spaces.</p>	<p>This is under investigation by the Officer group much information with respect to site management is already held.</p> <p>It will need to be linked to the trial areas discussed above. Plans would need to be written sequentially by the relevant officer to that site. It would not be possible to write management plans for all sites concurrently due to the magnitude of this task.</p> <p>The City Councils ancient woodland has been surveyed and widespread consultation undertaken. A management plan that will secure these valuable assets for decades to come has been produced. Investigations underway with Bereavement Services with respect to Pockocks wood and bringing this into favourable management for conservation and public access.</p> <p>Part of the works sponsored by Froglife at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve has included the production of a management specification for the site, works at the site for example by Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have proceeded in accordance with this plan.</p> <p>A biodiversity assessment of Central Park has been produced in support of its green flag status.</p> <p>The Bereavement Services Team produced</p>	<p>Linked to trial areas</p> <p>The production of management plans is potentially a very time consuming process.</p> <p>Any changes to management will need to be achieved within existing resources.</p> <p>Implementation of the plan is reliant on existing resources and accessing external funding.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Trial areas approach continues.</p> <p>Progress sequentially. Investigate sources of external funding.</p> <p>Ways in which management could be amended at no additional cost continue to be sought/investigated.</p> <p>Potential sources of external funding are identified in the plan that has been produced.</p> <p>Continue management in accordance with specification.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Maintain this status.</p>

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		a management plan for the memorial gardens which led, at the first attempt, to the award of the Green Flag in 2009. Development of the management plan resulted in the award of a further Green Flag in 2010.		
5	Establish measurable annual targets for the creation of new areas of wildlife interest.	<p>A sub group of the Natural Networks Group has been formed to attempt to combine the Natural Environment Audit, BAP targets and Green Grid Targets. This would in effect give a Peterborough Specific Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>A Skills for the Future Bid by Peterborough Environment City Trust which includes two posts which will digitise the Green Grid Strategy has been successful. This would allow the effective monitoring of this strategy by the Natural Networks Group and targeting of effort.</p>	<p>This is a potentially very time consuming process which could divert effort away from practical implementation.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue to work with Natural Networks targets subgroup.</p> <p>Progress as resources allow.</p> <p>Hosting of two project posts in the Natural and Historic Environment Team</p>
6	Where appropriate, consider gradual replacement of non-native species with native species.	<p>This has been investigated by the Officer Group; the appropriate and gradual nature of this action is viewed as being key. For example non native shrubs could only be replaced once they have reached the end of their lifespan. There would be a significant cost element to undertaking this in advance of such a time.</p> <p>Planting opportunities in the shelter belts have all been filled with native, and wherever possible locally sourced plants.</p>	<p>Cost of early replacement.</p> <p>Limited budgets are available for this item.</p>	Continue current efforts.

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7	Give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.	<p>PCC Natural Environment Project grants have continued. Up to 15 community wildlife schemes are supported each year. The budget available for this item has however been reduced in the current financial year.</p> <p>Support for community projects has continued, as has support for projects such as Broadway Cemetery and Cuckoos Hollow groups.</p> <p>Peterborough Conservation Volunteers continue to undertake conservation tasks for Recreation Services on PCC sites and County Wildlife Sites with Support from the Natural and Historic Environment Team. These have included works at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve as well as Debdale, Basil Green ponds Barnack grassland and Ermine Street County Wildlife Sites.</p> <p>The probation services also undertake works on semi natural areas and Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>This has been successful in the reporting period; funding for the next reporting period has been allocated, albeit at a reduced rate.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Dependant on continued allocation of budgets.</p> <p>Continue to support these efforts.</p> <p>Maintain budget allocations and continue to support these efforts.</p> <p>Support to this group to continue.</p>
8	<p>Recognise the role of allotments and cemeteries in promoting Biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where there is local support, opportunity should be taken for the utilisation of disused allotments and closed 	<p>This approach has been trialled at the Dogsthorpe allotments site. For example young offenders have undertaken a pond creation scheme with the Froglife group. This is contributing to both of the parts of this action point.</p> <p>Where allotment sites are not utilised this is</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Limited resourcing to</p>	<p>This project is continuing to be supported.</p> <p>Recreation services have actively</p>

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	<p>cemeteries for promoting wildlife habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allotments and cemeteries that are in use have a part to play with respect to biodiversity. This is not intended to conflict with their operating requirements. 	<p>very difficult to achieve.</p> <p>The Allotments Officer has produced a wildlife leaflet for allotment holders.</p> <p>Meetings with allotments committees have been undertaken to discuss how the biodiversity of allotments can be increased and the possibility of using Natural Environment Grant funding to facilitate this. This grant has for example paid for hedging materials which have been planted at an allotment site by the users in the reporting period.</p> <p>In conjunction with sponsorship from Frog Life and utilising available sponsorship the tenants to various sites have constructed ponds to encourage amphibians.</p> <p>The wildlife value of cemeteries is well recognised. A wild garden of remembrance has been created at the crematorium and the Friends of Broadway Cemetery Group continue to appreciate the wildlife value of this site.</p> <p>A great deal of work to control bramble and scrub at the Broadway Cemetery Site has continued in the last reporting period.</p>	<p>bring disused plot back into active use.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Antisocial usage of this site continues to be a concern.</p>	<p>promoted allotments and allotment tenancies are continuing to increase as plots are cleared and brought into active use to meet the demand.</p> <p>Continue existing management and projects.</p> <p>Continue current efforts and Natural Environment Project grant funding.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>The efforts of Bereavement Services, supported by Officers from other relevant departments and bodies are ongoing.</p>

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		<p>The wildflower area at the Crematorium continues to develop with self propagation supported by careful planting of native species. As with Eastfield Cemetery, the balance between the demands of the bereaved and supporting biodiversity needs sensitive management.</p> <p>The Children's Memorial Garden at the Crematorium is maturing well with a good mix of indigenous planting supporting a range of butterflies, bees and other insects. The woodland pond has naturalised well and sports its own flora and fauna.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to develop a management plan for Pockocks Wood and to identify sources of funding, with the aim of re-opening the woodland to visitors.</p>	N/A	<p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p>
9	<p>Support initiatives to encourage wildlife friendly gardening, recognising the increasing amount of land devoted to this usage.</p>	<p>Wildlife Gardening has been a strand of the Peterborough in Bloom competition since 2006.</p> <p>School wildlife projects have also been supported via the Natural Environment Projects Grants Scheme administered by the Natural Environment Team and also the eco schools initiative. In the reporting period this has for example included the planting of school orchards, restoration, creation and</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to budget allocations.</p>	<p>Support of urban wildlife initiatives is continuing both directly and also indirectly such as those with other organisations as Froglife and the Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p>

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		<p>enhancement of school ponds and wildlife areas.</p> <p>43 PCC schools have either registered, participated, or are currently working towards an eco-school award (see below) or are actively pursuing the DFE Sustainable Schools Framework which has the same aims; PECT have their own education officer who assists schools with the scheme. Many of these schools also have school gardens and wildlife spaces.</p>	N/A	Continue these efforts.
10	Give particular emphasis to the protection of ancient and semi-natural habitats through all the City Council's activities.	<p>The protection of these habitats continues to be emphasised in planning for example through the existence and use of local plan policies and formulation of policies and allocation of development sites in the Local Development Framework.</p> <p>The City Councils ancient woodland has been surveyed and a management plan that will secure these valuable assets for decades to come has been produced.</p> <p>Security concerns raised with respect to Pockocks wood by neighbouring businesses have been responded to in the reporting period. This has been led by Bereavement Services in conjunction with the Natural and Historic Environment Team as well as Peterborough City Services and Strategic Property.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Implementation of the plan is reliant on existing resources and accessing external funding.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Emphasis on the protection of ancient and semi natural habitats is being continued.</p> <p>Potential sources of external funding are identified in the plan that has been produced and are also suggested in the proposed update to the PCC biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Dialogue continues.</p>

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		<p>Further work has been undertaken during the past autumn/winter period at Broadway Cemetery, a County Wildlife Site, to raise tree canopies and remove unwanted self-sets. This has improved the ground flora as well as the aesthetic appearance of the site. Evidence indicates that wildlife is increasing at this cemetery and, hopefully, the bird and bat boxes previously provided are helping in this respect.</p> <p>A further County Wildlife Site survey was carried out at Eastfield Cemetery, on 24th July, 2009, which identified a reasonable selection of grassland and shade plants, although only a few of the indicator species found in 1991 were found during this survey. Consideration is being given to the current mowing regime to see if there is any room for compromise between the needs of nature and the demands of the bereaved.</p> <p>Children's Services assets and school place planning team also operate a "landlord's consent" scheme whereby all schools are required to register capital works to their premises, this enables monitoring and advice to schools in respect of grounds works, planting schemes, ponds, etc. Occasionally works which are not in accordance with City Council policy or procedure, such as inappropriate felling or pruning of trees, can be intercepted via this scheme.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Overriding requirement of the demands of the bereaved.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Meeting to be held on site with the Wildlife Trust in the Autumn.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>

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		<p>All trees on school sites are managed by City Services, Parks, Trees and Open Spaces Department. This enables closer monitoring of school grounds and from this may lead to the acquisition of additional school grounds maintenance contracts, thus ensuring that a greater proportion of schools will be managed in accordance with City Council policy.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has led on the achievement of the National Indicator Target for Biodiversity (percentage of County Wildlife Sites in positive management). This has included close liaison with key partners such as the Wildlife Trust, Biological Records Centre and Peterborough Geology group. Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have also played a vital role in undertaking work on Peterborough sites to maintain and bring them into positive management. Within this surveys, provision of advice to landowners and activities have been carried out on behalf on the Natural and Historic Environment Team by the Wildlife Trust via a Service Level Agreement. This agreement has been updated and re-issued in the reporting period.</p> <p>Continued support for the long standing Peterborough Barn Owl recovery programme. This is now recognised as one</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p>

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		<p>of the most successful of these programmes in the UK. Monitoring in the last year has also included additional boxes erected in the previous reporting period which replacement those lost or which had fallen into disrepair over the last 14 years. The data from this ongoing monitoring scheme has proved crucial in the provision of advice to the Planning Department with respect to a number of strategic planning applications for example for wind farm proposals and public enquiries and how they would relate to this key environmental feature of the Unitary Area. Press releases for this project and a new webpage have been published in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Continued support for monitoring and habitat management for the rare four spotted moth in Peterborough. This has been particularly valuable in the reporting period in the provision of advice to the planning department with respect to the proposed development of a neighbouring site. The monitoring has also allowed the extension of the neighbouring County Wildlife Site and its continued assessment as being in positive management which has directly contributed to the National Indicator 197 target included in the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic environment team continues to play an active role with the County Biodiversity and Peterborough</p>	<p>budget allocations.</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued budget allocations.</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued</p>	<p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p>

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		<p>Natural Networks Partnerships.</p> <p>Operational works within the shelterbelts has been followed by chipping the cut back into the belt and the stacking of the logs for their gradual decay and production of invertebrate habitat.</p>	<p>budget allocations.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>
11	<p>Investigate and exploit external funding opportunities for creating and enhancing the Biodiversity value of City Council managed land.</p>	<p>All members of the Officer Group have access to the Funding Database on the BAP partnership web pages.</p> <p>The seeking of external funding would have to be linked to a number of actions outlined above.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has supported the development of a Skills for the Future Bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund by Peterborough Environment City Trust. This includes two posts which will be hosted within the team which will map and update the Green Grid Strategy as a live electronic (GIS) document and undertaken field surveys of habitat networks. 2 built environment pots will also be hosted within the team.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has supported the development of a Countywide pond restoration project by the County Biodiversity Partnership. This will apply for funding to external bodies such as the WREN landfill tax fund. At least 5 of the</p>	<p>N/A at the present time - linked to other actions.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Dependant on securing external funding.</p>	<p>Linked to actions/areas above for which for which external funding could be sought.</p> <p>Additional detail is laid out in this respect in the proposed update to the PCC biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>

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		<p>ponds to be restored would be in the Peterborough area.</p> <p>Debdale Pond in Orton Warterville has received attention under guidance from PCS from the local open space friends group in an attempt to clear the banks and allow sunlight to gain entry. In addition there has been a local schools bird box campaign utilising the mature trees on site.</p> <p>In 2010 PCS began a review of the management techniques deployed within the shelter belts and an assessment initiated for their potential to accommodate multiple habitats at levels ranging from the forest floor to the top This is to be an ongoing process and one that will feed into the futuristic Tree & Woodland Strategy.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>
12	Support the proposals to establish a Biological Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	The Biological Records Centre is now a reality. A data officer was employed by the BRC Partner organisations in October 2004. A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the County Biodiversity Partnership and BRC partners was successful and allowed the establishment of the BRC from June 2005. The centre is hosted by the Wildlife Trust and based in Cambourne. PCC and other authorities and organisations in Cambridgeshire continue to support this centre. It has completed the establishment phase funded by HLF and has progressed into a self sustaining operation.	N/A project progressing very well.	Support for the BRC is ongoing. Continued budget allocations essential.

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		<p>The Natural and Historic Environment Team and Planning Policy have continued to support the Biological Records Centre which has provided data for a number of PCC projects and reports including those associated with the Local Development Framework, Annual Monitoring Report and National Indicator 197.</p>		
13	<p>An increasing number of organisations are establishing 'machinery rings' to share the cost of landscape management equipment between organisations.</p>	<p>Detailed consideration has been made by Peterborough City Services with respect to the potential for this type of working. PCS have concluded that the pool of machinery currently held is of a high standard. This is held under constant review. The grounds maintenance team for the Northern/Rural area has access to a very wide ranging pool of specialist grounds maintenance machinery and equipment. Arrangements to loan/inter exchange machinery for specific undertakings with other areas has occurred in the past and can quickly and conveniently put in place within the bounds of current rates/budgets. Other/outside contractors also undertake specific allocated works when this is considered to be advantageous. These sub contractors will mostly have their own specialist machinery/equipment or if required will be provided with machinery to ensure works are completed to the required specification. These contractors tend to be local, readily/conveniently available and are familiar with the highly competitive rates and</p>	N/A	<p>To be reinvestigated if identified as required.</p>

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		<p>specifications sought by contract services. PCS are therefore content that at the present time the availability of specialist equipment and contractors is well served within current budget considerations.</p>		
14	<p>Continue to review the use of pesticides in the City Council's land management.</p>	<p>COSHH regulations require that this is undertaken and therefore this is ongoing for all users of pesticides.</p> <p>The use of pesticides in the Council's cemeteries has been significantly reduced and is now only used for weed control on paths and roads.</p> <p>The use of pesticides in the Crematorium gardens has been significantly reduced by a policy of manual hoeing and weeding of the beds, etc. Pesticides are now only used for treating the roses or for weed control on paths and roads.</p>	N/A	N/A

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