



Proposed Biodiversity Strategy 2022 - 2032

Briefing to CEEEP

28 June 2022

www.norwich.gov.uk



NORWICH
City Council

Draft for consultation

1. We are presenting a draft of the Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2032 and will publish this for wider consultation shortly, with the intention of formal adoption of the post consultation draft by Cabinet in November.
2. We seek views on the Strategy and contributing suggestions for the Biodiversity Action Plan

Building on success

1. Above national average tree canopy cover
2. Green Flag status achieved for Eaton Park, Waterloo Park, and Mousehold Heath
3. £300,000 in CIL funding secured to invest in the creation of new habitats at Kett's Heights to boost biodiversity
4. Mousehold Heath grant of £30k was secured from Natural England for a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement to improve the quantity and quality of heathland and acid grassland
5. c50 management plans developed for our green spaces
6. Strategic partnership approaches e.g. River Wensum Strategy

Aims of the new Strategy

1. Redress the environmental & climate emergencies declared in 2019 by:
 - a) Halting species decline and increasing species diversity and abundance in Norwich by 2030, using science and evidenced based approaches
 - b) Reducing heat, drought, flood risk and improving air and water quality, though biodiversity improvement and nature-based solutions;
2. Improve community health and wellbeing
3. Promote nature-based solutions and the low carbon economy
4. Enhance tourism and visitor experience
5. Create new revenue streams from Biodiversity Net Gain offsite arrangements
6. Preparing to implement the Environment Act 2021, as part of HM Govt's 25 Year Environmental Action Plan

Environmental policy statements

Environmental Strategy 2020 - 2025

Protect and enhance biodiversity and habitat

Amended to:

Create a city where biodiversity can recover and thrive, halt species decline and increase species diversity and abundance by 2030

Geographical scope, linkages and audience

1. A strategy for the *City* including council operations, existing land and buildings owned by others and new development
2. Linkages include:
 - a) Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy, driven by the GNLP
 - b) The National Nature Recovery Network led by County, driven by the Environment Act 2021
3. Written inclusively for both an expert and non-expert audience

Pre-draft public engagement and activity

1. Drafting of the Strategy follows public engagement activity including:
 - a. A public event at the Halls in November 2021
 - b. A digital engagement via Get Talking Norwich which is still liveMainly tactical comments and enthusiasm for public involvement, less strategic ambition which reinforces the need for 'council as leader' position
2. Development consultancy work by EELGA

Main strategic aims

The Strategy has two principal outcomes:

1. Leading the development of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) for Norwich by:
 - a) Exceeding the ambitions set out in the Environment Act 2021
 - b) Calling for voluntary engagement from strategic partners and interested parties, including institutions, businesses and members of the public
 - c) Enforcing the requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain from new developments
2. Aligning Council operations with the Strategy to contribute to the NRN, to promote nature recovery:
 - a) Significant nature restoration in parks, open spaces and green spaces in the built environment
 - b) Reviewing facilities management processes to improve biodiversity

The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) concept

1. Existing wildlife sites and newly recovered parkland as *hubs*
2. Interconnecting nature *corridors* comprising designated parts of the city including streets, significant green spaces around buildings, highway verges, rows of gardens, etc.
3. The Network *is infilled* by smaller green spaces in and around buildings, individual gardens, balconies, planters and pots
4. 10% Biodiversity Net Gain from new development to create new infrastructure (hubs, corridors and infill).

Strategic ambition

1. The Environment Act 2021 calls for the national Nature Recovery Network to be complete by 2042, halting species decline by 2030
2. The Strategy describes the Nature Recovery Network for Norwich as being *significantly complete* by 2030, resulting in *an increase species diversity and abundance* by 2030 (not just halting species decline)
3. NCC's ambition therefore exceeds Government's in the same way that Net Zero 2030 exceeds Governments Net Zero 2050 target
4. Initial internal discussions have established that these targets are deliverable

Strategic Implementation –action

1. Undertake a biodiversity baseline measurement exercise
2. Develop local nature recovery strategies and set targets for species recovery
3. Implement local nature recovery strategies
4. Measure success of local nature recovery strategies
5. Develop supplementary planning policy to support the Strategy
6. Review the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to optimise nature recovery

Tactical implementation - action

1. Develop and manage a biodiversity opportunities register and action plan
2. Establish a cross directorate Biodiversity Working Group
3. Align and integrate City Council strategies
4. Develop the Nature Recovery Network spatial plan for the city
5. Establish relationships and collaborate with Strategic Partners and Interested Parties to realise nature recovery infrastructure and related benefits
6. Continue to develop nature recovery management plans
7. Develop a Pesticide Policy for City Council operations

Communications plan

A communications plan is being developed to seek views from:

- Members of the public – via Environmental Hub on Get Talking Norwich
 - Subject matter experts
 - Strategic Partners
 - Interested Parties
- Collaboration and engagement to develop the Biodiversity Action Plan

Consultation & collaboration

Strategic Partners
Norwich City Council
Norfolk County Council
Greater Norwich Growth Board
Norwich City Vision Partnership
Norwich Climate Change Commission
Norfolk Chambers of Commerce Climate Leaders Group
Norwich Business Improvement District
Broadland District Council and South Norfolk District Council
Breckland Council
Broads Authority
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
River Wensum Strategy Partnership
Norwich Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Woodland Trust
RSBP
Wild East
Community Representation
2040 City Vision Business Leaders' Group
Norfolk Strategic Planning Group

Interested Parties
<i>Local Interested Parties</i>
Norwich citizens
Norwich businesses
Norwich institutions
Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service
Norwich voluntary, community and social enterprises
Registered housing providers
Community groups with an interest in biodiversity
The Council executive, administration and cabinet
Representative from the Greater Norwich Sport & Physical Activity Strategy
Norwich Fringe Project
Parish Councils
Norwich Friends of the Earth
<i>Campaign Groups</i>
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
Extinction Rebellion
<i>Regional and National Interested Parties</i>
Water Resource East
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Office for Environmental Protection
Natural England
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
Forestry England