

## Annexe 2: Further responses to recommendations on Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan

Unique Ref.	Name of the Agenda Item	Recommendation	Initial Executive response (05/07/2022)	Reason for the Executive Decision and Next Steps (05/07/2022)	Further developments and additional information (12/12/2022)
S22-06-21-8.1	Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan	The Committee are unable to recommend adoption of the policy and action plan at this stage. It would not be able to do so unless recommendations S22-06-21-8.2 – 8.10 are addressed.	Rejected	The Executive felt a policy was needed to set a direction before further steps can be taken.	N/A
S22-06-21-8.2	Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan	Highlight which aspects of the policy and action plan reflect current practice and which are new.	Rejected	The Council has not had a biodiversity policy and action plan in place before. Therefore, the whole document is new.	In the action plan, highlighted asterisks (*) were added to denote pre-existing work on biodiversity. The remainder of the document was new.
S22-06-21-8.3	Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan	Include further details on the likely resource implications of the action plan including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an indicative spend profile</li> <li>b. the maintenance costs of biodiversity areas</li> <li>c. which policies there is already funding in place for and which will depend on obtaining external funding</li> <li>d. the prioritisation of the policies in the event funding is not achieved</li> <li>e. an officer utilisation profile covering which roles would be performed by existing staff, staff who will need to be recruited, and by specialist staff</li> </ul>	Partially accepted	An appendix with a broad outline of the indicative budget will be added. However, more detailed assessments of the resources required will depend on the baseline data collected.	An additional appendix (4) was added which attempts to highlight the funding required for the action plan delivery, it also indicates where the Council already has funding. The maintenance costs of new biodiversity areas will not be fully known until details of delivery plans are finalised.
S22-06-21-8.4	Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan	Provide an evidence base for the claims in section 5.3.7 about the contributions road verges make to biodiversity.	Rejected	This will be done as part of establishing the baselines for particular areas, acknowledging the limitations of those baselines.	Baseline surveys are yet to be delivered. However, the benefit that well managed highway verges provide for biodiversity and pollinators in particular is well documented by other agencies. Therefore, there is limited need to provide an evidence base.  Point to note Surrey County Council are taking back management of their verges from 1 April 2023.

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S22-06-21-8.5	Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan	Given the scale of the Ministry of Defence's landholdings within the Borough, it should be added as a partner organisation in Appendix 3.	Rejected	The plan relates to land owned and managed by the Council and the Council's activities will have negligible impact on the biodiversity of MOD land.	The previous response is still fully applicable.
S22-06-21-8.8	Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan	Include targets for achieving Natural England's 'favourable conservation' status for habitats within the Borough.	Rejected	Such a decision is for the future. It is not possible to assess the viability of this as a target until the baseline data for individual sites has been obtained.	Natural England's 'favourable condition' only applies to protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest that we manage under a Higher Level Stewardship / Countryside Stewardship funding scheme. It is not a classification Waverley Borough Council will use on the other sites it manages.