

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Executive on Monday 31st October 2022

BOLSOVER LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY CHAMPION

Report of the Assistant Director of Development

Classification	This report is Public
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PURPOSE / SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To seek agreement to create a Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role and to select from the available volunteers a Member to fulfil this role.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Executive at its meeting on 28th September 2020 approved a budget for the Planning Policy team to oversee the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Bolsover District in order to ready the Council for the duties emerging from the enactment of the Environment Act 2021.
- 1.2 To deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the Council commissioned the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust given both their expertise in matters relating to biodiversity and nature recovery and their role in holding the record for local wildlife sites within Bolsover District and wider Derbyshire.
- 1.3 This work had experienced a number of delays during the initial part of the commission, stemming from the uncertainties of the eventual form and provisions during the Parliamentary progression of the Environment Act and work carried out by Derbyshire County Council. However, once these and other matters had been resolved progress has been swift and a final document has now been received and was reported to the Council's Local Plan Implementation Advisory Group at its meeting on 21st September 2022.
- 1.4 At this meeting, the Group welcomed the update on the preparation of the Bolsover Local Nature Recovery Strategy and advised that it provided the Council with the opportunity to make a real difference on Local Nature Recovery. The Group also stressed the importance of engagement with local community groups in recognition of their great volunteering work and in order that they could feel a sense of ownership going forward.

- 1.5 Going forward, the Group welcomed the suggestion to arrange a Bolsover Local Nature Recovery Summit in November and advised that it would be appropriate to create a new Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role in advance of the Summit.
- 1.6 As a consequence, this report seeks to take forward the advice from the Local Plan Implementation Advisory Group in relation to the creation of a new Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Local Nature Recovery Champions are not yet widely established across the country and so this offers the Council the chance to demonstrate yet further its ability to promote the District through its leadership and innovation.
- 2.2 As such, the remit of the role would need to be drawn up and the Council is thus free to tailor its Member role to suit its needs. Officers have given thought to the remit of the role and in doing so have drawn upon the more established area of Heritage Champions as promoted by Historic England.
- 2.3 Based on this work, it would be possible for the Local Nature Recovery Champion role to seek to champion Bolsover District's natural environment in the following ways:
 - Inspire - Generate enthusiasm and awareness for the importance of Bolsover District's natural environment within the Council and the wider community; and to stand up as a point of contact for support and information on local nature related issues from both the local community and others outside the authority.
 - Advocate - Promote opportunities that draw attention to the natural environment across Bolsover District and to help ensure that commitment to the proper care of the natural environment is embedded in all activities over which the authority has influence.
 - Influence - To influence those stakeholders around Bolsover District for the benefit of the natural environment.
 - Communicate - To be a voice within the Council to communicate the importance of Local Nature Recovery.
- 2.4 As this is a Member role, should it be decided to create the Local Nature Recovery Champion role it would also be appropriate for the Executive to select the Member to fulfil this role.
- 2.5 To aid with this selection, the leaders of the Council's political groups have been emailed to notify them of this potential opportunity and to establish whether there are any interested Members that would wish to volunteer for the Local Nature Recovery Champion role. Volunteers have been asked to direct their interest to the Governance team by 5pm on Friday 28th October 2022 so that a list of any volunteers can be brought to the meeting for consideration.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To enable the Members to consider the advice of the Local Plan Implementation Advisory Group in relation to Local Nature Recovery and particularly the suggestion of creating a Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role.
- 3.2 Therefore, the agreement of the Executive is sought to create a Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role and to appoint a Member to the role.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 It would be possible to not create a Local Nature Recovery Champion, although this would not achieve the benefits stated in the report. Therefore, officers have not considered this option.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Executive agree to the creation of a Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role and appoint a Member to the role.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: There are no specific finance or risk issues arising from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: There are no specific legal or data protection issues arising from this report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details: There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Chair of Local Plan Implementation Advisory Group

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.
Focussing on Our Customers Focussing on Our Economy Focussing on Our Environment

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No.	Title

Background Papers
<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>