

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Executive on 29th January 2024

BOLSOVER LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY CHAMPION

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Performance and Human Resources

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Assistant Director of Planning & Planning Policy
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To re-establish the Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role (post May 2023 elections), and to re-select a Member to the role from the available volunteers.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Member role of Local Nature Recovery (LNR) Champion was agreed by the Executive at its [meeting](#) on 31st October 2022, with the role previously being carried out by Councillor Tom Munro.
- 1.2 To date this Member role has supported the successful launch of the ‘Bolsover Local Nature Recovery Action Plan’ at its [‘Bolsover Local Nature Recovery Summit’](#) held on 10th February 2023, which brought together experts, volunteers and land managers from across the district and culminated the following pledges for action being made by the Council:
- A. Bolsover District Council pledges to increase the financial support for local nature recovery by 50%, using this funding to help deliver the Bolsover Local Nature Recovery Strategy by surveying more of our precious Local Wildlife Sites and bring about improvements to their condition.
- B. Bolsover District Council pledges to do its own land management differently and in ways that enhance biodiversity, and we will trial this new approach at the Hilltop Recreation Ground in Pinxton, involving the local

community, to deliver a more local nature orientated management regime that brings about improvements to its condition.

- C. Bolsover District Council pledges to establish a Voluntary Sector Forum to bring together the District's community groups that are active in local nature recovery and environmental matters to foster greater networking and volunteering opportunities, as well as increasing understanding of the funding available to them for local nature recovery.
- D. Bolsover District Council pledges to establish a land bank record and seek to add to this by asking its new company, Dragonfly Development Ltd, to explore opportunities to acquire land that would help connect and extend the District's local nature networks.

1.3 Work on the Bolsover Local Nature Recovery Action Plan continues, led by the Planning Policy team, and alongside this under the provisions of the Environment Act 2021 a county wide [Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) for Derbyshire](#) is now in its preparatory stages.

1.4 The Derbyshire wide LNRS is being led by Derbyshire County Council (DCC), who have been appointed by the Secretary of State as the Responsible Authority for the county wide strategy. This work will involve consultation with all district / borough councils, who are recognised under DCC's preparatory framework as Supporting Authorities to this project. The Champion role will now also feed into this county wide collaboration, alongside project work that continues the focus of our own LNR Action Plan and pledge projects.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 Following the District wide elections in May 2023, it is now necessary to re-select a Member to the role of LNR Champion.

2.2 This role will continue to work closely with the Planning Policy team as the focus of the 4 no. pledges are carried forward. This position will also sit on a newly formed LNR task and finish group, who will collectively identify focus for forthcoming workstreams and ongoing engagement with the county wide LNRS preparation.

2.3 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 19th January 2024. This will allow for any relevant nominees to be presented at the Executive meeting for consideration.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To re-select a Member volunteer for the role of Local Nature Recovery Champion, 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 the Executive agree to the re-selection of a Local Nature Recovery Champion Member role, and appoint a Member to the role.

Approved by Councillor Duncan McGregor Portfolio Holder for Corporate Performance and Human Resources

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: There are no specific finance or risk 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

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details: The re-selection of a LNR Champion will ensure continuity for the delivery of the LNR Action Plan and the Council's four pledges made at its LNR Summit in February 2023.

Staffing: Yes No

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

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>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:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	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"/>	Details: Chair of Planning Committee and 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>

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