Bolsover District Council

Information Report for All Council Members

Derby and Derbyshire Local Nature Recover Strategy
- **Stakeholder Engagement Exercise and Workshops**

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REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

1.1 Members may be aware that Derbyshire County Council is the responsible authority for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire.

1.2 Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new system of plans for nature and environmental improvement across England. The purpose of these plans is to establish priorities and proposals to help nature to thrive and provide wider environmental benefits in the future. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Derbyshire will be specific to the county of Derbyshire and the city of Derby and will set a long-term plan that is formed and delivered in partnership with a range of organisations as well as local people.

1.3 As such, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire will cover Bolsover District and become a statutory plan that will need to be taken account of both in planning and wider Council decisions once the Strategy has been approved. It will not override existing strategies or adopted Local Plans but will need to inform future decisions as the Council seeks to both plan for its development needs and contribute to a wider local nature recovery. As a result, Bolsover District Council is a statutory consultee as a 'Supporting Authority' in the preparation process and officers in the Planning Department have been involved during the early stages of the preparation process.

1.4 Preparation to date has largely involved information gathering and engagement with a number of stakeholder sectors, such as the farming community and statutory and volunteer wildlife organisations. However, the County Council wish to extend this engagement and have proposed two stages of public engagement and consultation, namely:

1. Pre-Consultation (September 2024)
2. Formal Public Consultation (January 2025)

1.5 In accordance with this timetable, the County Council has now launched the pre-consultation Stakeholder Engagement Exercise and published a timetable of workshops that focus on five geographic landscape character types and five habitat themes and these are set out overleaf.

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1   The programme of geographic landscape character type workshops is as follows:

Date and Time	Venue	Focus areas
Monday 9th September, 1:00pm - 4:00pm	Hasland Village Hall, Chesterfield, S41 0AY	South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire Coal Field / South Magnesian Limestone Plateau
Tuesday 10th September, 1:00pm - 4:00pm	Lonsdale House, Derby, DE1 3HD	Trent Valley Washlands (including Derby City)
Wednesday 11th September, 1:00pm – 4:00pm	Midway Community Centre, Midway, Swadlincote, DE11 0FF	Melbourne Parklands / Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coal Fields / Mease / Sence Lowlands
Wednesday 18th September, 1:00pm – 4:00pm	Octagon Lounge, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, SK17 6BE	Dark Peak / White Peak / South-West Peak
Thursday 19th September, 1:00pm – 4:00pm	Ashover Parish Hall, Ashover, Chesterfield, S45 0BA.	Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent / Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands

2.2   As can be seen, none of the workshops are to be held in Bolsover District but the key relevant session is the one held at Hasland Village Hall as this covers the two landscape character types of Bolsover District, namely the Derbyshire Coal Field and the South Magnesian Limestone Plateau landscape types.

2.3   Beyond this, the programme of habitat themed workshops are due to be online and cover the following themes:

1) Woodlands and trees – Wednesday 4th September 1-2.30pm
2) Wetlands and watercourses – Thursday 5th September 1-2.30pm
3) Grasslands, heathlands and open habitats – Thursday 12th September 1-2.30pm
4) Urban environments – Tuesday 17th September 10-11.30am
5) Farmed landscapes – Tuesday 12th September 6-7.30pm

2.4   The feedback from this pre-consultation exercise and workshops will inform the preparation of the Consultation Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

3. **Matters for Consideration**

3.1   The purpose of this County Council pre-consultation engagement is to ensure that key stakeholders in Derbyshire have the opportunity to talk about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and have their say about the habitats and species it seeks to protect and enhance. At this stage, the County Council want to engage with public,

private and voluntary sector organisations to draw on a wide range of knowledge and ideas. As a result, at this stage this report is for information.

3.2   Members will be aware that Bolsover District Council have taken a lead on this across Derbyshire and we published our Local Nature Recovery Action Plan back in February 2023 at our Local Nature Recovery Summit. Officers have promoted this to the County Council to inform their initial preparation steps and this has been useful for County colleagues.

3.3   Beyond this pre-consultation exercise, officers will continue to monitor the progress of the Consultation Draft Local Nature Recovery and intend to bring a report to Planning Committee in January to shape the District Council's formal response to that statutory consultation stage.

3.4   Officers are also preparing a Member Training session at the end of October that will cover this subject and the related subject of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). However, in advance of this please provide any feedback or questions to me or colleagues.

3.5   Finally, the dates for the workshops have been shared with the local wildlife groups that attended our Local Nature Recovery Summit to aid their engagement in the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Further information

Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy dedicated webpage

Derbyshire County Council background information

Derbyshire County Council press release regarding the pre-consultation exercise and how to register to attend

The Landscape Character of Derbyshire webpage

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