

**Executive Committee
2026**

13th January

Biodiversity First Consideration Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jen Snape
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Service
Report Author	Job Title: Climate Change Manager Contact email: matthew.eccles@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 07816 112073
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	The green thread
Key Decision/ Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-

- 1) the findings of the Biodiversity Duty First Consideration Report be noted;**
- 2) Members agree to publish the full Biodiversity Duty First Consideration Report to the Council's website;**

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Environment Act 2021 places a legal duty on public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Redditch Borough Council must publish a Biodiversity Duty Report covering the period up to 1st January 2026 and publish this by 26th March 2026. The Biodiversity Duty Report reviews current activity, identifies gaps, and sets out recommended actions across all service areas.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 The council is actively implementing measures to enhance local biodiversity. Initiatives include leaving grass uncut in designated areas to create habitats for wildlife and support pollinator species, alongside planting wildflower meadows and pollinator-friendly spaces as part of

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the Sustainable Community Strategy. Additionally, revised management plans at Morton Stanley Park have expanded meadow areas, introduced mowing patterns to encourage flowering plants, and repurposed grass cuttings to create reptile habitats.

3.2 Follow consultation with relevant departments the report identifies existing policies and actions across Planning, Leisure, Environmental Services, Housing, and Regeneration. It highlights opportunities for improvement, including:

- Continued engagement with the Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Monitoring and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) through planning.
- Enhancing biodiversity on council-owned land.
- Promoting citizen science and community engagement

3.3 A new biodiversity report is required every 5 years

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Some actions may require capital investment, e.g., new mowing equipment for grass verge management and individual departments will bring forward to Executive Committee any capital/revenue requirements.

4.2 Officers will explore funding opportunities (e.g., Defra grants) if available and where required.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council is legally required to publish a Biodiversity Duty Report covering the period up to 1st January 2026 by 26th March 2026.

5.2 The biodiversity report has the following mandatory elements that it must cover.

- Policies, Objectives and Actions
- How Other Strategies Were Considered
- Future Actions
- Biodiversity Net Gain Information

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 No direct implications identified at this stage. Any new authority as a result of LGR will also have this legal duty to produce a biodiversity report.

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Relevant Council Priority

6.2 The proposals detailed in this report support the Council's Green Clean and Safe priority.

Climate Change Implications

6.3 Biodiversity actions contribute to climate resilience, carbon sequestration, and nature-based solutions.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4 The report and associated documents will be made accessible. Equality impact assessments will be undertaken where relevant.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Risks include non-compliance with statutory duties and insufficient monitoring of biodiversity outcomes. Mitigation includes establishing a central reporting mechanism and appointing a lead officer.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix A: Biodiversity First Duty Report

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Jen Snape	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Judith Wills	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Financial Services	Debra Goodall,	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principle Solicitor, Governance	02/12/2025
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Rebecca Green	02/12/2025