

## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject:** Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Author:** Assistant Director – Development

**Wards Affected:** All

### **Purpose**

To confirm the Council is content for Nottinghamshire County Council to publish the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and to note and implement the Strategy

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **THAT:**

- 1) Cabinet confirms that there are no objections to Nottinghamshire County Council publishing the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- 2) Cabinet notes the content of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Environment Act 2021 established a requirement to produce Local Nature Recovery Strategies for “areas” within England and that these strategies should cover the whole of England. The core purpose of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), as defined by DEFRA, is to help reverse the ongoing decline of nature and biodiversity in England through coordinated, practical and focused action.

- 1.2 Nottinghamshire County Council was formally appointed as the Responsible Authority for preparing, publishing, reviewing and re-publishing the LNRS for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 26th June 2023.
- 1.3 The LNRS must be evidence based, locally led and collaborative. It must include a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map. The statement covers:
- the existing biodiversity
  - opportunities and priorities, in terms of habitats and species, for recovering or enhancing biodiversity; and
  - proposals for potential measures relating to the agreed priorities.
- 1.4 The LNRS must be published and be publicly available, with the evidence base against which it has been formulated, in accordance with the format prescribed by Government. It must then be reviewed and republished as part of an ongoing cycle of appraising what the strategy has achieved and identifying what further work is needed for nature to recover.
- 1.5 The County Council has worked closely with the Supporting Authorities (SAs), which include Gedling Borough Council, and a wide range of stakeholders to produce a draft LNRS for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, in accordance with the Regulations and Guidance. The production of the draft LNRS included both in-person and online events and workshops to inform development of the Priorities and Measures and the subsequent Mapping of Measures. The SAs for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham comprise all 7 District and Borough Councils, the City Council, the East Midlands Combined County Authority and Natural England. Stakeholders engaged through events and workshops have included planners, ecologists, environmental and land-based NGOs, organisations that operate at landscape scale, green space and partnership groups, parish councils, farmers and landowners, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University. All of this stakeholder input informed the production of the consultation draft of the LNRS and the accompanying digital mapping of Measures.

- 1.6 Once published, our Local Plans must “have regard” to LNRS priorities, the LNRS will be a material consideration for Planning Applications and LNRS mapped Measures will affect Biodiversity Net Gain calculations for new developments.
- 1.7 As a Supporting Authority, Gedling Borough Council has been involved in the process of setting the Priorities and Measures for the Nottinghamshire LNRS and agreeing suitable areas within our borough for measures to be delivered.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 The process for adoption of the LNRS is set out in the Environment Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 which came into effect on 13 April 2023. Under the Regulations, the County Council must prepare a consultation draft LNRS, undertake a public consultation on the draft, and publish responses to the consultation within a reasonable time.
- 2.2 The County Council has undertaken a 6-week public consultation on the draft strategy which ran from 6th May to 16th June 2025. This included in-person and online events and an online survey. These were publicised by email sent to all contacts on the LNRS database, Parish Council clerks and via social media posts by County Council channels, as well as dissemination via partner newsletters and networks. Links to the draft LNRS and the online survey were also sent to all County Councillors
- 2.3 The public consultation included attendance by the LNRS team at a number of in-person and online events, webinars or meetings. A total of 320 people attended. An online survey was made available on the Notts Nature Recovery website. 409 responses to the online survey were submitted, and 51 email responses submitted.
- 2.4 The summary report of the public consultation revealed broad support for the LNRS and the proposed Priorities and Measures, with a clear understanding of the LNRS’s aims and commitment to nature recovery. Specific concerns included interpretation of the Local Habitat Map, the need for clearer delivery policy, and omissions of some important local sites and species.

2.5 The key amendments that have been made in response to comments raised during the consultation are:

- Addition of new sub-section in section 3 of the Statement of Biodiversity Priorities to explain link between heritage and nature recovery.
- Addition of reference to Sport England Playing Field Policy in section 6.3 to clarify presumption for sporting use.
- Addition of mapped measures at Lowfield Lane, Balderton, south of the existing housing development site, for grassland and woodland measures in response to landowner and local resident comments.
- Additional grassland measures mapped in the eastern half of the county to address concerns about lack of measures for neutral grassland.
- Additional mapped locations for Bittern and Creeping Willow.
- Grizzled Skipper identified as a Priority Species for bespoke action, and locations identified for mapped measures.
- Amendments to mapping of some specific landowner sites – including removal of sites with planning permission or allocated for development in a Local Plan, or in exchange for identifying alternative land in their ownership.

2.6 The County Council will prepare User Guides for different groups when the plan is published, including farmers and landowners, and planners and developers. There will also be a guide for local residents with advice on how they can help to recover nature in their own gardens and by supporting local environmental or community organisations

2.7 The final written Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (SBP) is attached at Appendix 1. The SBP provides a description of the main habitats and species in Nottinghamshire, the pressures and opportunities, and the priorities and measures for nature recovery.

2.8 The Local Habitat Map is attached at Appendix 2. The Local Habitat Map shows the existing Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) which cover existing designated sites of national and local importance, the proposed Measures for different habitats and species, and the Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACB). The diagram shows the location of ACBs in the county. The link to the online

map is included, where all the APIBs, Potential Measures and ACBs can be viewed in detail.

- 2.9 The approved LNRS will remain in place until a review is undertaken, as directed by DEFRA. The review can be any time between 3 – 10 years after publication.

### **3 Alternative Options**

- 3.1 None. Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty to produce an LNRS for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, in accordance with the relevant legislation, Regulations and guidance. Gedling Borough Council, and the other supporting authorities, have been involved in the development process through the LNRS Advisory Group and the LNRS Strategic Oversight Group. The development of the LNRS was also supported by the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Economic Prosperity Committee in June 2024.

### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no additional resource implications for Gedling Borough Council associated with the work set out in the LNRS. All anticipated costs will be met from within existing budgets and council functions.

### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham has been drafted by Nottinghamshire County Council in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021. Once adopted by the County Council, Gedling Borough Council will have a legal duty under section 102 of the environment Act 2021 to have regard to LNRS when exercising its functions.

### **6 Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 The implications of the LNRS relating to equality issues have been considered by Nottinghamshire County Council and it has been concluded that no protected group will be adversely affected.

### **7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

- 7.1 The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will form part of the national Nature Recovery Network, which aims to:

- enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places
- create and restore wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping-stones to help wildlife populations to grow, move, thrive and adapt to a changing climate
- improve the natural and urban environment's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk
- sustain vital ecosystems that provide healthy soil, clean water and clean air
- protect the natural, geological, historical and cultural diversity of the natural environment
- provide more, better green spaces for us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play, improving our health and well-being.

## **8 Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1 - Statement of Biodiversity Priorities (SBP)

8.2 Appendix 2 – Local Habitat Map

## **9 Background Papers**

9.1 Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy - <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire>

## **10 Reasons for Recommendations**

10.1 To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021

### **Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**  
**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**