

## **Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods**

### **Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Councillor R Inglis**

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet of the supporting authorities' consultation by Nottinghamshire County Council for the pre-publication Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
- 1.2. To make Cabinet aware of the pre-publication documents and online maps produced, to support the response to the supporting authorities' consultation.
- 1.3. To enable Cabinet to comment on the publication of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) if appropriate.

#### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) supports the pre-publication LNRS; and
- b) supports Nottinghamshire County Council publishing the LNRS.

#### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

To meet the requirement as a Supporting Authority for the LNRS under Section 105(5)(a) to (e) of the Environment Act 2021 and The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023.

#### **4. Background**

The Environment Act 2021 brought into law the Government's intention to create a Nature Recovery Network across England. The Nature Recovery Network will comprise of 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), which will cover the whole of England. In accordance with the Act, each strategy will be designed to ensure a locally targeted and co-ordinated approach to help reverse the ongoing decline of nature and biodiversity.

## **5. Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

- 5.1. 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 26 June 2023.
- 5.2. The County Council, as a Responsible Authority, must involve Supporting Authorities in the development of the LNRS, as set out in the Regulations. For Nottinghamshire, these are the City Council, the seven district and borough councils and Natural England. It has been confirmed that the East Midlands Combined County Authority will also be a Supporting Authority for both the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS and for the Derbyshire LNRS.
- 5.3. The LNRS is intended to guide action to support nature across the county including:
  - A single vision and strategic approach across the County and City, locally leading the way in which biodiversity is protected, restored, and enhanced.
  - An evidence-based approach to inform priorities for nature recovery.
  - A clear rationale for funding opportunities.
  - Building and strengthening local partnerships to achieve agreed outcomes.
  - Involving landowners and regulatory decision makers, to understand how they can contribute to nature's recovery.
  - Supporting the planning system in local policy and decision making, including the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 5.4. Measures within the LNRS can also be shaped to provide co-benefits, for example by improving public access to green space and supporting people's health and well-being, alongside helping biodiversity.
- 5.5. Once published all Nottinghamshire and Nottingham local authorities will be required to have regard to this document in the development and delivery of its policies, including planning policy.
- 5.6. The joint LNRS is evidence based, locally led and collaborative (more information is available online at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire>).
- 5.7. The LNRS must include a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map.

5.8. The pre-publication Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS includes:

5.8.1. A written description of the strategy area.

5.8.2. A written description of opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity, in terms of habitats and species, in the strategy area.

5.8.3. A map of “Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity, APIB’s” (the existing biodiversity in Nottinghamshire in designated sites). The map is available online at [Spectrum Spatial](https://spectrum.nottsc.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfq=%2FLNRS) (<https://spectrum.nottsc.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfq=%2FLNRS>)

5.8.4. A written “priority list” of species which are currently vulnerable or threatened in Nottinghamshire.

5.8.5. A written list of opportunities and priorities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity; the identified categories for opportunities and priorities are:

- Overarching – general
- Woodland
- Wetland
- Watercourses
- Heathland (not relevant in Rushcliffe)
- Grassland
- Farmland
- Urban and Post-Industrial
- Species.

5.8.6. Proposals for potential measures relating to the agreed priorities.

5.8.7. A map of specific “Areas that Could Become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity”, ACBs. These are only mapped where specific sites are identified and there is a potential measure applicable to those sites.

## 6. **Rushcliffe Borough Council’s involvement with the joint LNRS**

6.1. Rushcliffe Borough Council has supported the County Council to date, by serving on working groups established by the County Council under its Governance structure for the delivery of the LNRS. Rushcliffe Borough Council attends the following groups:

- a) **Political Oversight Group** – this role has been taken on by the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee, to monitor the development of the LNRS. The Leader of the Borough Council attends this group.
- b) **Strategic Oversight Group** – this Group ensures the LNRS follows the legislation and associated guidance. Rushcliffe Borough Council’s Chief

Executive has represented the district and borough councils in Nottinghamshire and was Chair of the Group up to January 2025.

- c) **Advisory Group** – this Group supports and enables the preparation of LNRS and stakeholder engagement. Rushcliffe Borough Council's Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer represents all the Nottinghamshire districts and boroughs on this Group.
- d) **Working Groups** - Five Working Groups have been established to undertake tasks to assist the LNRS preparation. Officers from Rushcliffe Borough Council attend the Planning and Biodiversity Net Gain Group.

- 6.2. The County Council is required to take reasonable steps to involve the Supporting Authorities, as set out in the Regulations. A Supporting Authority can formally object to the LNRS consultation draft and give notice to the Secretary of State if it considers that the final LNRS proposed for approval is materially deficient.

## **7. Consultation process**

- 7.1. A draft of the LNRS was subject to a 28-day formal consultation with the Supporting Authorities in March - April 2025. Rushcliffe Borough Council responded supporting the draft and making some recommendations (detailed in Appendix A).
- 7.2. A six-week statutory consultation with all stakeholders and the public followed.
- 7.3. Stakeholder engagement has been ongoing throughout the development of the LNRS.
- 7.4. Following these consultations amendments have been made to the LNRS.
- 7.5. The amended Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS has been approved for publication by Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet on 10 September 2025, the documents for the County Council Cabinet meeting are available [online](#), Agenda Item 4.
- 7.6. The pre-publication strategy is open for consultation by all Supporting Authorities for a 28-day consultation, from 22 September to 19 October 2025. (Please see the Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet documents [online](#), Agenda Item 4).
- 7.7. The full approved Final LNRS is expected to be published in November 2025, this will be reviewed anytime between 3 –10 years after publication.

## **8. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection**

The Borough Council could have not engaged with the development of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy. However, the legislation makes the Borough Council a Supporting Authority and

engaging enables the Borough Council to help shape the LNRS so that it meets the best interests of the Borough and its residents.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

- 9.1. The Borough Council can decide to oppose the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy LNRS. The legislation sets out a procedure for a disputed LNRS, this may not uphold any objections of the Borough Council and will delay its implementation.
- 9.2. The LNRS does not guarantee any measures are implemented. It does not provide funding for the measures and requires landowners in areas identified to agree to the measures being implemented. However, it does provide a clear recommendation of where the greatest opportunities to address nature recovery are to be found, which may support project development and funding bids.
- 9.3. The LNRS does not identify every possible nature recovery opportunity. It does not prevent nature recovery occurring in different locations or impacting on other habitats and species if other opportunities occur.
- 9.4. The Borough Council must take account of the LNRS; however, this does not prevent the Borough Council identifying other threats and opportunities for nature recovery.

## **10. Implications**

### **10.1. Financial Implications**

The LNRS development and implementation is the responsibility of the County Council, the support provided by Rushcliffe Borough Council has been met within existing budgets.

### **10.2. Legal Implications**

To meet the requirement as a Supporting Authority for the LNRS under Section 105(5)(a) to (e) of the Environment Act 2021 and The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023. Additionally the Council's planning policy must take account of the LNRS once published under the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, Chapter 55, 15C(7).

### **10.3. Equalities Implications**

There are no known equality implications.

### **10.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

There are no known Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications.

## 10.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

The LNRS will support the targeting of Biodiversity Net Gain within the Borough, this will be a positive implication.

## 11. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Identifies key nature recovery options in Rushcliffe (and across Nottinghamshire) to direct policy and project development and future investment
Quality of Life	Identifies places of importance for nature and future places of importance for nature supporting access to nature and its health and ecosystem service benefits
Efficient Services	Not applicable
Sustainable Growth	Identifies areas of strategic significance for inclusion in planning policy documents and used to direct Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities

## 12. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- a) supports the pre-publication LNRS; and
- b) supports Nottinghamshire County Council publishing the LNRS.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Paul Phillips Senior Ecology and Sustainability Officer Tel: 0115 9148595 <a href="mailto:pphillips@rushcliffe.gov.uk">pphillips@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	<p>The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 available online at <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/341/made">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/341/made</a></p> <p>Government guidance on Local Nature Recovery Strategies available online at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies</a></p> <p>Report to the Nottinghamshire County Council Cabinet 10 September 2025 on the LNRS <a href="#">online</a> Agenda Item 4</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council website - <a href="https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire">https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire</a></p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council LNRS Engagement</p>

	<p>website -  <a href="https://notts naturerecovery.co.uk/index.php?contentid=7">https://notts naturerecovery.co.uk/index.php?contentid=7</a></p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council LNRS Map website -  <a href="https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire/local-habitat-map">https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy-for-nottinghamshire/local-habitat-map</a></p> <p>Rushcliffe Borough Council <a href="#">Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group, Thursday, 23 January 2025</a>.</p>
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix A - Letter from Rushcliffe Borough Council re the draft LNRS Supporting Authority consultation 9 April 2025