

**Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Environment Sub-committee**

**Date: 5 July 2017**

**Title: Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2016/17**

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**Wards affected:** All

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**1.0 Purpose of briefing**

The purpose of this briefing is to inform Committee on the progress of the Newcastle and North Tyneside Joint Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

**2.0 Background**

The joint BAP was approved by North Tyneside Council Cabinet in February 2012 and Newcastle City Council in June 2012. Progress reports on target delivery are completed annually and this is the Annual Report for 2016/17.

**3.0 Delivery of the Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP**

There are a number of Habitat and Species Action Plans in the BAP as shown below:-

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Species</b>
Buildings & Structures	Farmland Birds
Estuary & Coastal	Bats
Brownfield Land	Amphibians
Transport Corridors	Dingy Skipper
Open Water & Wetland	Otter
Rivers & Watercourses	Urban Birds
Managed Urban Greenspace	Water Vole
Native Woodland	Red Squirrel
Lowland Grassland	Hedgehog
Scrub, Shrub & Hedgerow	Slow Worm
	Bumblebees
	Brown Hare

The progress report attached in Appendix 1 outlines the targets from each Habitat and Species Action Plan, which have been delivered in 2016/17.

### 3.1 Examples of BAP Projects Delivered in 2016/17

#### ***Lowland Grassland & Bumblebees***

- 23,000sqm (2.3ha) of wildflower grassland restored and created on 80 amenity, green space and roadside verge sites in North Tyneside
- 5000sqm (0.5ha) of wildflower meadow created in Killingworth Lake Park.
- 3000sqm of wildflower seed sown at Fenwick Pit Heap
- 1.1ha of wildflower seed sown in Brierdene
- Grazing project at St Mary's Wetlands continues to restore and enhance the meadow areas
- Species rich grassland secured through the following planning applications: Indigo Business Park, Backworth Housing sites, RSCP Extension, Station Road
- A number of parks have created wildflower meadow areas, including:-
  - Northumberland Park
  - Wallsend Park
  - Rising Sun Country Park

#### ***Native Woodland***

- 2000sqm of native woodland planted at Fenwick Pit Heap
- Woodland planting proposed as part of following planning schemes:- Backworth housing, Darsley Park, Whitehouse Farm, Scaffold Hill, Station Road
- Tree management undertaken as part of Fish Quay Project, including 2 community works days with Groundwork UK
- Tree management works started at Killingworth Lake Park
- 101 trees planted at 11 sites across North Tyneside by the Council

#### ***Open Water & Wetlands***

- New pond and dipping platform created at Wallsend Park
- 3 wetland areas created as part of Murton flood alleviation scheme
- 2 new flood basins and ditch proposed for Wellfield and Briarvale
- A series of wetlands are being created as part of the Scaffold Hill Housing scheme within the Rising Sun Country Park extension
- Small ponds/wetlands incorporated into design plan for Indigo Park wildlife corridor

#### ***Urban Birds***

- 80 bird box/bird features secured through Planning for a number of sites across North Tyneside e.g. East Wideopen Farm & Salters Lane
- 2 tree sparrow boxes conditioned as part of Briarvale scheme
- 3 owl boxes conditioned for scaffold Hill scheme
- 10 bird boxes installed at Rising Sun Country Park
- 2 dawn chorus events carried out at Rising Sun Country Park
- Bird boxes installed in new wildlife garden in Wallsend Park

- RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' survey in Wallsend Park
- Bird feeding event at Benton Quarry Park and Fieldhouse nursery
- Bird feeding & bird identification events at Northumberland Park, Marden Quarry and Churchill/Souter Park

### ***Bats***

- 45 bat boxes/features secured through Planning for a number of sites across North Tyneside e.g. Co-op Building, Seaton Burn House, Lidl, & East Wideopen Farm
- Native woodland and hedgerows secured through Planning on a number of schemes to benefit bats e.g. Backworth Housing Site, Station Road, Rising Sun Extension, Indigo Business Park
- 3 bat events/walks undertaken at Rising Sun Country Park
- 6 bat events/walks undertaken in Marden Quarry, Northumberland Park & Churchill/Souter Park

### ***Managed Urban Greenspace***

A number of projects have been undertaken in various parks and as part of community projects. These include the following:-

#### 1) Friends of Brierdene

- 2000sqm of red campion sown along north bank and woodland
- 45,000sqm (4.5ha) of wildflower seed sown in upper and lower dene
- 550 native bulbs sown (bluebells, daffodils, wild garlic, snow drops)
- Annual Bioblitz event
- Bird, bumblebee and butterfly surveys undertaken (April-September)
- Flying insects surveys
- 9000sqm of yellow rattle sown in upper and lower dene
- Moth night event
- School visits (planting wildflower plugs & water cycle walks)
- 1000 tulip bulbs planted at DFDS
- General maintenance and improvements

#### 2) Friends of Red House Ramble

- Edible hedge planted
- Wildflower meadow areas created
- Holly understorey planted in woodland
- Controlled access paths created through woodland areas

#### 3) Marden Quarry

- Community big Spring Clean activity x 13 attended
- Volunteers (individuals and combined hours) involved in environmental activities and events x7 individuals and 208 hours
- Bee survey walks x 10

- Bat event walks x2
- Bird feeder / identification activities x 4
- Educational visits focused on environmental topics x 4 classes
- Wildflower meadow management and increased annual seed sowing

#### 4) Northumberland Park

- Creation of wildflower / pollinator display area with annuals
- Improved and increased mixed border planting to central display area with an additional 140 shrubs and 100 herbaceous perennials added to overall park planting scheme
- Static interpretation panels added 1x butterflies 1x birds 1x aquatic flora & fauna 1x trees
- Bee survey walks x 10
- Bat event walks x3
- Educational visits focused on environmental topics x 7 individual classes x 400+ pupils visiting park
- Bird feeder / identification activities x 5
- Additional tree planting x 3
- Additional hedging planted x 240 whips

#### 5) Benton Quarry Park & Killingworth Park

- 1000 snowdrops and 1000 bluebell bulbs planted at Killingworth Lake Park with Westmoor Primary school
- 5000sqm of wildflower meadow created at Killingworth Lake Park
- 200sqm of wildflower meadow created at Benton Quarry
- Bird feeding event at Benton Quarry and Fieldhouse Nursery
- Wildflower area created at Holy Cross primary school
- Insect hotel created at Springfield Park nursery

#### 6) Wallsend Park

- Pond creation with dipping platform
- New wildlife garden with bug hotel and bird/bat boxes
- Tree top bird feeding stations created
- 2x bat walks
- RSPB 'Big Garden Bird Watch' survey undertaken

#### 7) Rising Sun Country Park

- 300sqm wildflower meadow created
- New wildlife garden with bug hotel and bird/bat boxes
- 2x dawn chorus events
- 3x bat walks
- 10x bird boxes erected
- Removal of scrub encroachment in meadow areas