

Council – 20 November 2024

Green Party Group Amendment to motion 8c – Local Nature Recovery Strategy

In March 2022 Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) declared a biodiversity emergency, which was followed up by the publication of the *State of Nature in Greater Manchester* report in March 2024.

The GMCA has now launched a public consultation on its draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which will set out the action we all need to take over the next decade to respond to the biodiversity emergency.

Trafford Council has worked with the GMCA and nine other local authorities to produce the draft strategy, which will act as a road map setting out how and where everyone can work together to help nature recover across Greater Manchester.

In addition to this, the Council is fulfilling its biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021 in the following ways:

- Collaboration with GMCA and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU): The Council collaborates on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) preparation and implementation, supported by Defra funding, GMEU surveys and reports on the condition of Sites of Biological Importance in Trafford.
- Trafford Countryside and Nature Partnership: This partnership involves organisations like City of Trees and The Conservation Volunteers, identifying improvements at key sites across The Mersey Valley. Recent funding has supported projects at Sale Water Park, Wellacre Country Park, and Urmston Meadows.
- Strategic Funding Bids: The Council has submitted funding bids with biodiversity components, such as the Longford Brook de-culverting project and the 'Lost Wetlands' study at the former William Wroe Golf Course.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS): SuDS manage surface water and provide biodiversity and amenity benefits. The Council is incorporating SuDS into the public realm, including at Kingsway in Stretford.
- Land Management: The Council manages its land to enhance biodiversity by reducing herbicide and pesticide use. Community groups are also supported in accessing grants for biodiversity projects such as bee corridors and rewilding.
- Tree Planting Programmes: Tree planting initiatives across Trafford are supported by the Northern Forest and Nature for Climate funding, in conjunction with City of Trees.

The Council resolves to:

1. Promote the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation to residents and consider ways to maximise feedback.
2. Recognise and incorporate the importance of biodiversity into the development of our Local Plan.
3. Provide an annual update to members on our local response to the biodiversity emergency.
4. Write to the relevant minister, asking the Government to pass a Rights of Nature Bill. This should give Nature legal personhood meaning that it cannot be exploited for financial gain, protecting our biodiversity here in Trafford in an ongoing way.