

Council – 20 November 2024

Liberal Democrat 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.

This Council Notes that:

There is a need for the Council to improve the geographic balance of projects across the whole borough it serves.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) are essential if the Council presses ahead with the development of Davenport Green. This autumn has already seen Beech Fields in Timperley flooded, with floodwater coming within a few meters of residents' homes. Urban development of Davenport Green that increases the speed at which rainwater enters the river system will push that floodwater closer to homes.

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. Investigate additional drainage solutions that could be brought forward to cope with the increased rainwater run-off into Fairywell Brook following Davenport Green development, in the event that the development itself cannot provide sufficient SuDS.
5. Develop strategies to ensure that locations in the South of the borough play their part in delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.