

## **First Statutory 'Biodiversity Report' on Pursuance of Statutory Duty to Further the Conservation of Biodiversity**

**Report by John Blair, Director, Resources**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention the attached report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

### **2 Background**

The report was considered by the Cabinet on 18 November 2014, when it was agreed, as follows:-

- (a) That the report appended to the Head of Communities and Economy's principal report, be published as the Council's first 'biodiversity report' under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004;
- (b) To refer the report to the Performance Review & Scrutiny Committee for its interest; and
- (c) To note that over the previous three years over 48,000 hours of volunteer time and time through the Midlothian Criminal Justice Team had been realised through the Midlothian Ranger Service, with a value of around £330,000; and to congratulate the Ranger Service accordingly.

### **3 Report Implications**

These are as outlined in the attached report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

### **4 Recommendations**

The Committee is invited to consider the attached report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

**Date 18 November 2014**

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