

First Statutory Biodiversity Report in 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 Cabinet's attention, a recommendation of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee.

2 Background

- 2.1** The Cabinet gave consideration to a report by the Head of Communities and Economy on this subject on 18 November 2014. The Cabinet approved the report and agreed to refer it to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee for its interest. The report by the Head of Communities and Economy can be viewed at <http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/382/cabinet>
- 2.2** The report was accordingly submitted to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2014. The Committee expressed concern that there was no officer resource dedicated to biodiversity and accordingly agreed to recommend to the Cabinet that it review the staffing resources available to support biodiversity, with a view to ensuring that the Council fully met its statutory obligations.
- 2.3** The Committee also agreed to invite the Cabinet Portfolio holder with responsibility for biodiversity to discuss the matter with them at their next meeting on 20 January 2014. Arrangements have therefore been made for Councillor Bryant to attend this meeting.

3 Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.2 Risk

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes/

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- x Sustainable growth
- x Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

3.10 IT Issues

This is addressed in the report by the Head of Communities and Economy.

4 Recommendations

The Cabinet is invited to:-

(a)/

- (a) Consider the recommendation of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Paragraph 2.2 hereof; and
- (b) Note that Councillor Bryant, as the responsible Cabinet Portfolio holder, will be discussing the subject matter with the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee on 20 January 2015.

18 December 2014

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