

## MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Title of Motion</b>	Championing nature in all we do
<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Chloe Turner
<b>Seconder</b>	Cllr Robin Layfield
<b>Recommendation for Council to vote on</b>	<p>Along with the other council members of Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, this Council has been invited by the Local Nature Partnership - conveners of the Biodiversity theme - to declare a national and international ecological emergency.</p> <p>This Council has previously recognised the ecological emergency through the Natural Environment theme in its 2030 Strategy and Master Plan, through the motion passed on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 in relation to the Climate &amp; Ecological Emergency Bill, and through Council Plan Objectives and Key Projects &amp; Activities under (in particular) EC1, EC2 and ER5.</p> <p>This Council now resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join fellow Severn Vale Catchment Partnership members in the promotion and delivery of the ‘Wilder Frome’ project</li> <li>• Partner with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on early work towards introducing unenclosed beavers to the county</li> <li>• Pursue new opportunities to increase biodiversity on our own estate, including our parks and playgrounds, cemeteries and closed churchyards, verges and other green spaces and our social housing estate</li> <li>• Investigate the introduction of particulates air quality monitoring above the statutory minimum required by the EA, including engaging in a possible partnership with a local academic institution</li> <li>• Work with our fellow Gloucestershire councils to develop countywide guidelines for the implementation of the Biodiversity Net Gain rules by developers</li> <li>• Continue our work to reduce pesticide use across the district, and to take part in the Pesticide Action Network UK <i>Pesticide-free Towns</i> initiative</li> <li>• Continue our work to reduce the litter and other waste that ends up in our natural environment, including proactive work with supermarkets and other businesses, and through partnership with other local stakeholders</li> <li>• Work with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire on the actions arising from the Biodiversity theme</li> <li>• Ask our Chief Executive to write to the Gloucestershire MPs, requesting that they press the Government for targets and a delivery plan to deliver the commitment in the Environment Act to restore 30% of land for nature by 2030.</li> <li>• Ask our Chief Executive to write to the Gloucestershire MPs, requesting that they press the Government for proper scrutiny of the 341 environmental EU laws that are due to be repealed at the end of this year under the EU Retained Law Act, and to introduce an equivalent or higher standard of environmental protection wherever required.</li> <li>• Ask our Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executives of Severn Trent and Wessex Water to enquire as to             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What measures the companies are taking to ensure there are no sewage discharges or other pollution</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>incidents in those parts of the River Severn, its tributaries (in particular the Frome) and the coastal waters that lie within the area covered by Stroud District Council, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How much the companies are investing in infrastructure improvements in the area covered by Stroud District Council and what measures they are taking to ensure this infrastructure is climate resilient.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Context for the motion (i.e. why is the motion being submitted – what is the proposer aiming to achieve)</b></p>	<p>Nature is in crisis, nationally and internationally.</p> <p>The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, ranking 228th out of the 240 countries in the Biodiversity Intactness Index. <a href="#">BBC Newsround (2021)</a>. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41% of our plant and animal species have declined in abundance since 1970, and this decline is accelerating. <a href="#">The State of Nature Partnership (2019)</a></li> <li>• The abundance of key pollinator insects has declined 30% since the 1980s. <a href="#">Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2022)</a>, <a href="#">DEFRA (2022)</a></li> <li>• 1225 ancient woodlands are under threat - 981 have been permanently lost or damaged since 2000. <a href="#">Woodland Trust (2021)</a></li> <li>• We've lost 90% of our wetland habitats in the last 100 years. <a href="#">The Wildlife Trusts (2018-22)</a></li> <li>• All English rivers are polluted, only 14% are rated healthy for animals and plants. <a href="#">BBC News (2020)</a></li> <li>• Only 38% of protected, biodiversity-rich Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are in a healthy state and well managed. <a href="#">UK Government (2021)</a></li> </ul> <p>We do not yet have targets and a delivery plan for the UK Government's commitment in the Environment Act to restore 30% of land for nature by 2030.</p> <p>In addition, The Government's EU Retained Law Act will scrap 341 environmental protection laws unless new legislation replaces these before the end of this year. <a href="#">EU Laws the government plans to scrap</a></p> <p>The Environment Act 2021 introduces new obligations and powers for local authorities in relation to nature. In particular, it is acknowledged that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• this Council will be a Supporting Authority in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Gloucestershire and,</li> <li>• As Local Planning Authority, this Council will need to assess all planning applications (except for small sites) for the delivery of at least 10% biodiversity net gain from November 2023.</li> </ul> <p>As a council, we can also do our part in championing nature more widely, by ensuring that the protection and restoration of nature is enshrined in everything we do.</p>
<p><b>Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility or which affect the District – please</b></p>	<p>All council services, but in particular:  Strategic Planning and Development Management  Waste &amp; Recycling  Environmental Protection  Natural Flood Management &amp; Land Drainage  Carbon Management  Place-making</p>

<b>confirm how this criteria is met</b>	Community wellbeing Canals Management of the Council's own estate
<p><b>Which Council Plan Priority does the Motion support? (select all that apply)</b></p> <p>This motion primarily concerns the Council Plan priority “Environment and Climate Change – Protecting our environment and leading the district to carbon neutrality in 2030”.</p> <p>However, it also has relevance for “Community Resilience and Wellbeing – Strengthening and supporting our communities so people feel included and connected” and “Economy, Recovery and Regeneration – Supporting a thriving and resilient local economy”</p>	
<p><b>Does the motion have potential financial or resource implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be</b></p> <p>It is anticipated that the resolution will largely be met within existing budgets. However, the Council's involvement in new projects such as the GWT Gloucestershire beaver project and the Wilder Frome project may result in new funding requests.</p>	
<p><b>Does the motion have potential legal or constitutional implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be</b></p> <p>Yes, this motion will support the requirement to meet the Council's obligations under the Environment Act 2021</p>	
<p><b>Are there any Environmental or Climate Change Implications that the Council should be aware of – if yes advise what these might be</b></p> <p>Yes, this motion is primarily concerned with improving our immediate and wider environment</p>	
<p><b>Are there any equalities impacts associated with the motion? If yes an equalities impact assessment will be required</b></p> <p>TBC</p>	
<p><b>Does the motion require further background information to enable the Council to make a decision– if yes advise what might be required</b></p> <p>No</p>	

## OFFICER IMPLICATIONS

<b>Officer Name</b>	Claire Hughes
<b>Officer Title</b>	Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	<a href="mailto:claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk">claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk</a>
<b>Has the Council or is the Council doing any work at the current time in relation to this motion or any associated issues? If yes please add details</b>	
All of the bullet points contained within the motion relate to either work on specific projects which would be supportive of current policy or the production of guidance which we are already planning to produce.	
<b>Does the motion support any of the priorities set out in the Council Plan?</b>	
Yes - "Environment and Climate Change – Protecting our environment and leading the district to carbon neutrality in 2030".	
<b>Does the motion have potential financial or resource implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be and confirm whether budget is available</b>	
Much of the work identified within the motion is underway or scheduled. However, there is the potential that additional resourcing will be needed as things develop. At this stage difficult to accurately estimate where the gaps in resourcing may be, although they will become apparent as we progress and there will be various ways of addressing them.	
<b>Does the motion have potential legal or constitutional implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be</b>	
No constitutional implications have been identified. The motion supports the requirements of the Environment Act 2021	
<b>Are there any Environmental or Climate Change Implications that the Council should be aware of – if yes advise what these might be</b>	
Positive impacts – the motion supports the Councils approach to Environmental matters	
<b>Should an equality impact assessment be completed before the deliberation of this motion?</b>	
Not required	
<b>Does the motion require further background information to be carried out to enable the Council to make a decision – if so advised what might be required</b>	
None required	

END