

Report on	NI Biodiversity Strategy 2032
Date of Meeting	6 th December 2021
Reporting Officer	Raymond Lowry (Head of Technical Services)

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Mid Ulster District Council have been asked by DAERA on the 8 th November 2021 to input into the draft Strategic Targets set out for the new NI Biodiversity Strategy 2032. A response was due 3 rd December 2021 is currently being drawn up by Council Officers, and will be submitted to the January 2022 Committee meeting for comments / approval.
2.0	Background
2.1	With the previous NI Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 now elapsed, the Executive agreed to the development of a new Strategy. It is intended to develop this new Biodiversity Strategy to meet the challenges faced by the natural environment.
2.2	The scientific evidence points to an on-going decline in the world's overall biodiversity; with that trend very much mirrored in Northern Ireland. Internationally the United Nations, through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is refocusing its intention on reducing the loss of biodiversity through a Global Biodiversity Framework. This framework has been developed internationally with DEFRA representing the UK. Work is ongoing but it is likely that the framework will include the 21 strategic targets shown in Appendix A.
2.3	The CBD intends to get international agreement to the framework at the Council of the Parties meeting (CoP15) in May 2022 in China. In the meantime the four UK countries are refreshing their strategies, based on the draft framework.
2.4	The framework is very cross cutting and while the targets focus on many of DAERA's responsibilities, there are aspects of the targets which are relevant to Mid Ulster District Council.
2.5	Mid Ulster District Council are already taking actions which support and fulfil obligations in the NI Biodiversity Strategy. Through biodiversity initiatives both on council's own properties, and working with local community groups, local residents and schools, positive contributions are being made to a range of targets laid out in the Strategy.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The draft response will be submitted to the Committee in January 2022. Council Officers have been in contact with the DAERA officials and extension of time has been granted for the response until end of January 2022.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Nil
	Human: Staff time to collate the necessary information from various departments throughout the Council.
	Risk Management: Failure to respond will have negative impact to Councils Biodiversity impacts
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members to note the content of this report and the action that has been requested of Council in regards to the draft Strategic Targets set out for the new NI Biodiversity Strategy 2032.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – NI Biodiversity Strategy 2032 – Strategic Targets.