

Report on	Biodiversity – 6 month update – April-September 2022
Date of Meeting	13 th September 2022
Reporting Officer	Raymond Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Contact 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	To update the members on the main biodiversity activities over the last 6 months (April to September 2022).
2.0	Background
2.1	The Biodiversity Officer post is shared between two departments, based with Technical Services 3 days per week.
2.2	The Biodiversity Officer's focus of activities has concentrated on community involvement in innovative biodiversity projects. Many of these involve a training element to provide local people with the skills to undertake biodiversity initiatives. Partnerships are created and developed to aid the provision of practical nature conservation activities. Underlying ALL activities is a focus on raising people's awareness of fundamental biodiversity issues.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Actions within Service Improvement Plan:
3.2	<i>Increase biodiversity awareness among local community and wider public through delivery of Mid Ulster specific biodiversity activities.</i>
3.2.1	Mid Ulster Bird Ringing Project The Traad LNR Constant Effort Site (CES) continues to be a success with all 12 visits completed between the beginning of May and the end of August. The data gathered is vital in monitoring bird populations. This can be used for determining Priority Species, enabling conservation action to be appropriately targeted. For further information on this project, please see section in Appendix I.
3.2.2	All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Survey This is the 13th consecutive year this survey has been undertaken along the Torrent River/Coalisland Canal. The data collected from this survey feeds into the All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Survey through Bat Conservation Ireland. For further information on this project, please see section in Appendix I.

<p>3.2.3</p> <p>3.2.4</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>All-Ireland Pollinator Plan With Mid Ulster District Council now an official partner of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, there are a number of actions to be undertaken each year to support the AIPP. As part of this, the Biodiversity Officer has delivered three workshops to local communities focussing on pollinators and how to take action to protect them. For further information on this project, please see section in Appendix I.</p> <p>Biodiversity Recording Northern Ireland is vastly under-recorded in terms of biodiversity. The Biodiversity Officer continues to encourage people to record the wildlife they see and submit their records to the national database. This information helps build a better picture of how our local biodiversity is faring, enabling an assessment to be made on the health of our environment. For further information on this project, please see section in Appendix I.</p> <p><i>Provide guidance to MUDC in complying with obligations under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011, in relation to council functions, ensuring council fulfil their Biodiversity Duty wherever possible.</i> The Biodiversity Officer continues to provide guidance to try to ensure MUDC fulfil obligations under the Biodiversity Duty.</p> <p><i>Provide advice and contribute to the development of Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) for council projects</i> The Biodiversity Officer continues to provide advice and assistance to the development of HRAs as requested.</p> <p><i>Provide support across relevant council functions in relation to biodiversity matters.</i> The Biodiversity Officer continues to provide advice and support on biodiversity issues across a range of council sections.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: No additional financial resources over and above that already committed to biodiversity related projects/activities.</p> <p>Human: No additional resources required to continue with ongoing activities.</p> <p>Risk Management: Non-delivery of the actions will result in negative press for the Council.</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Members to note the content of this report</p>

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Biodiversity Officer 6 Month Update Apr-Sep 2022