

Transport, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel Scoping Document

A review into biodiversity enhancement in urban Portsmouth.

1. Background

On 13 October 2021 the Full Council instructed the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety (TECS) Scrutiny Panel to carry out the review this municipal year.

2. Objectives of the inquiry.

This study will review all relevant policies and practices on urban biodiversity that might harm or undermine local ecosystems, such as grass cutting across the city, re-wilding on allotment plots to improve habitats for insects, including bees. In general, approaches should aim to positively contribute to re-wilding and support other approaches to re "greening" Portsmouth.

Evidence

The TECS Scrutiny Panel will draw on evidence from a range of sources including:

- Allotment Associations
- Doug Gray (Grounds Maintenance Manager)
- Ashley Humphrey (Parks Client Contract Supervisor)
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Lyall Cairns (Coastal Partners, Sea Defences)
- Colas
- Simon Pearce (Arboricultural Officer)
- The Headteachers from Portsmouth Schools
- Charles Dickens Community Orchard (Other Community Orchards?)
- Helen Bergin (Landscape Architect)
- Dr Heather Rumble (Ecologist at Portsmouth University)
- Royal Navy
- Lakeside Management Committee
- Philip Bentley (Head of Estate Services)
- Richard Jones (Portsdown Hill Countryside Officer)
- Peter Roberts (Hilsea Lines Ranger)
- Neighbourhood Forums and Residents' Associations
- Portsmouth Friends of the Earth
- Portsmouth Hospitals' NHS Trust
- University of Portsmouth
- Councillor Lynne Stagg Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation
- Councillor Dave Ashmore Cabinet Member for CS & Environment
- Councillor Darren Sanders Cabinet Member for Housing & Preventing Homelessness

Outcomes

The review will:

- Provide a strategic overview of the current level of biodiversity set out in the Council's policies
- Indicate areas where improvements are required.
- Make recommendations on future focus.