

Appendix 2

Scrutiny Panel's Recommendations and Officer Responses

Recommendation	Contact	Officer Response / commentary
Strategic approach		
<p>1. A Biodiversity Strategy be developed to cover all areas of the council's operations and the whole city.</p>	<p>Corporate Strategy Manager, in conjunction with relevant corporate Directors (Director of Housing Neighbourhood and Building Services ("HNB"), Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services ("CLRS"), Regeneration and Public Health)</p>	<p>The response to developing the approach to biodiversity in Portsmouth is inextricably linked to other agendas around our approach to sustainability and the environment, including carbon reduction and the response to climate change; greening; air quality; the nature emergency; energy reduction; ocean management.</p> <p>As noted by the scrutiny panel, there is now a significant opportunity as we act on the findings of the review to reassess how we are approaching these areas of work and ensure that we are reducing duplication and identifying the linkages. This will ensure that we are targeting resource at those areas of highest priority and impact, including in relation to biodiversity.</p> <p>We will therefore undertake a mapping exercise to bring together the current activities focused on environmental sustainability and identify where there are opportunities to reshape resource to ensure that all priorities are being addressed, strategically and operationally. This will include bringing together the various information sources that we hold on environmental assets in the city (carbon data, open space register, tree inventory etc) and convening fora to enable officers to work collaboratively across these areas.</p> <p>The Panel recommendations around public engagement are welcomed. There is an opportunity to look at how we engage with the wider community on these issues collectively. Our external</p>

		<p>communications will be considered alongside the mapping exercise, and we will also look at the rich mix of partner groups in the city - including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Portsmouth Climate Action Board, various residents and community groups - to ensure that we are working as effectively as possible with these on the agenda.</p> <p>The work that has been undertaken on developing the climate change strategy is a strong starting point for the development of this wider approach to the environment in the city, and a range of key issues already relate to this. Officers will work together to broaden the scope of this strategy to ensure wider environmental and social gain is delivered, including biodiversity, and will present this work regularly through the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change.</p>
2. Give a single officer responsibility for coordinating biodiversity programmes across the council in accordance with the biodiversity strategy.	Cross directorate corporate officer (biodiversity)	A single point of contact is required to respond with regard to cross directorate work. Please see response to recommendation 1.
3. Establish a Climate Change and Biodiversity Liaison Group in the council comprising representative officers with responsibility for biodiversity projects across each of the different departments.	Cross directorate corporate officer (biodiversity)	<p>Please see response to recommendation 1.</p> <p>This officer will work with the Virtual Green Team and Portsmouth Climate Action Board to establish links with appropriate stakeholders and forums (internal and external) to co-ordinate biodiversity projects.</p>
4. Establish a Climate Change and Biodiversity Public Forum to allow representatives from residents' groups and third party organisations to meet and	Cross directorate corporate officer (biodiversity)	Please see response to recommendation 1.

<p>discuss ways to contribute to the city's biodiversity strategy.</p>	<p>HNB CLRS</p>	<p>Representation is enabled through the Residents Consortium and Link Consortium Group via the Residents Participation Scheme (Housing Neighbourhood & Buildings directorate).</p> <p>Communications to be channelled through Portsmouth Climate Action Board (PCAB) (including e-bulletins). PCAB includes representation from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT).</p> <p>The Virtual Green Team to continue to work with third party organisations.</p> <p>There are a number of Parks Friends Groups and volunteer groups which allow for interested parties to contribute to the city's biodiversity. Friends Groups: Rock Gardens, Canoe Lake, Victoria Park, Wilder Eastney. Volunteer Groups: Portsdown Hill, Hilsea Lines, Waterfront Garden Centre (Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services directorate).</p>
<p>5. Develop a Biodiversity Public Communications Plan to encourage residents to take action on biodiversity at home.</p>	<p>Communications Officer</p>	<p>Biodiversity Public Communications Plan to be developed by corporate communications officer in conjunction with Climate Officer, on same model as Climate Action Bulletin.</p>
<p>6. Consider the feasibility of establishing a central biodiversity database to register, monitor and assess biodiversity in the city.</p>	<p>Cross directorate corporate officer (biodiversity)</p>	<p>It is not feasible to measure biodiversity in the short term as gains are established over a number of years.</p> <p>In the longer term a biodiversity database may develop out from the current Green Asset Register.</p>

		<p>Departments involved in developing biodiversity through planting and other measures should feed into the Virtual Green Team to allow planting principles to be established.</p>
<p>Allotments</p>		
<p>7. The subdivision of plots can continue where appropriate but should not be relied on as the sole strategy to create new allotments. Due to the health, community and social benefits, the council identify new sites where possible.</p>	<p>CLRS</p>	<p><u>CLRS:</u> The sustained high demand for allotments and the clear benefits to people’s health and wellbeing, along with the societal and community benefits of allotments is acknowledged.</p> <p>Subdivision of plots (alongside a well-run plot inspection regime) will have to remain the core approach to increasing availability of allotment plots as it has proven to be the single most effective means since it was introduced around 13 years ago. 269 new plots have been created by subdivision since 2009 (a 18% increase, utilising existing sites only).</p> <p>Availability of new land is extremely low in Portsmouth. Identification of new sites is supported in principle, but in practice this would result in either the loss of newly available brownfield sites to development, or the loss of existing green sites to their prevailing use (e.g. publicly accessible open space).</p> <p>Any identified site will need to be assessed for suitability, especially around land contamination and accessibility. Capital investment will be required for soil decontamination and provision of utilities and site infrastructure.</p> <p>There may be instances where small pocket ‘community gardens’ could be provided as part of a wider site development and where feasible this will be considered.</p>

<p>8. Develop an online Allotment Education portal for new plot holders to provide information to allotment holders on biodiversity enhancement on allotments, the use of pesticide alternative and on re-wilding part of their plot.</p>	<p>CLRS</p>	<p><u>CLRS:</u> Access to reliable information about maintaining an allotment is important to the success of plot holders in keeping a well-managed plot, especially to those new to allotment gardening.</p> <p>A new online portal would require joint working between the council's parks service, the council's web team and the allotment associations. There is, however, a great deal of information available online already, for example from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) and Natural England. In addition, most of the allotment associations have websites and Facebook pages which signpost people (including non-members) to online resources.</p> <p>It may be more effective to use these existing resources to provide reliable information on biodiversity enhancements, alternatives to pesticides and re-wilding guidance. Given that experienced volunteer officers of the allotment associations have already emphasised to the scrutiny panel their willingness to help educate new plot holders, an alternative to a single council-provided resource would be to engage with the allotment associations to seek their support and to co-ordinate messages to plot-holders through existing channels. This would empower the associations to own the messaging which may be more effective than a council-branded message.</p> <p>Joining an allotment association also provides a wealth of offline access to guidance on managing an allotment plot. New members should be encouraged to consider joining their site's association as most already promote an approach to cultivation that contributes to biodiversity.</p>
<p>9. Pesticide use be banned on council allotments.</p>	<p>CLRS</p>	<p><u>CLRS:</u> As landowners, the council can introduce such a ban, but a ban on the use of pesticides on council allotments is probably best regarded as an option of last resort. Enforcement of a ban would be difficult and</p>

		<p>would require additional resources. The extent of pesticide use on allotments is not currently known, but anecdotally it is low. It may be that a ban would have little impact on actual pesticide use.</p> <p>Recommendation 8 above emphasises the importance of education and engagement in facilitating change to more biodiverse cultivation practices. Attention should be focused first on educating plot holders of the wider impacts of pesticide use and of the potential alternative methods of weed and pest control.</p> <p>Periodic surveys of pesticide use on allotments would enable the measurement of the impact of the effectiveness of recommendation 8 and also quantify the extent of pesticide use to inform future decisions on whether a ban is appropriate.</p>
External partners		
<p>10. Work with Colas to create a clear plan to update the city maintenance contract in relation to the care of verges, trees, bushes and other green areas so that opportunities can be found to both enhance biodiversity and make savings.</p>	<p>Regeneration</p>	<p>The team at Colas is actively looking at opportunities to enhance biodiversity currently. Further suggestions should be directed to the Council's PFI Team, to be discussed with Colas.</p> <p>The PFI contract with Colas is entering its sunset years with hand back of operations and a plan for future maintenance and upkeep of Portsmouth's roads being developed. Any new plan will seek to enhance biodiversity while maintaining the safe operation of the highways network.</p>
<p>11. Continue to involve the public, schools, tenants, outside organisations and businesses in promoting biodiversity in the city and also to explore the possibility for suitable partnerships as appropriate.</p>	<p>Cross council: CLRS, HNB</p>	<p><u>CLRS</u>: There are community engagement officers within the Parks Service (i.e. at the Waterfront Garden Centre, at Victoria Park and two countryside officers). They are embedded within projects where dedicated resource exists for this purpose and provide opportunities for engagement and promotion of suitable messages around sustainable horticulture and biodiversity.</p>

	<p>Regeneration</p> <p>Public Health.</p>	<p><u>HNB</u>: Community Gardener involved with Landport Community Garden / Grow Zone and related stakeholders, as well as expansion to HRA blocks in near future to pass such messages.</p> <p><u>Regeneration</u>: The transport team is actively engaged with schools to promote modal shift, bike safety, clean air etc. A single contact broader message approach may serve all parties better.</p> <p><u>Public Health</u> – Green & Healthy City Coordinator currently working on a programme to deliver greener schools, including tree planting, edible planting programmes, planting for clean air and promoting biodiversity</p> <p>Planning in place to deliver a community funding programme with calls for bids. This is to support community groups to deliver greening across the city with biodiversity outcomes.</p>
<p>12. Develop a clear and simple policy approach and a line of contact for residents of council Housing who wish to pursue greening and biodiversity projects in council owned communal areas around their homes.</p>	<p>Housing Green & Clean Services for council housing tenants.</p>	<p>PCC web page to be updated to reflect suitable advice and communication routes for this.</p> <p>Existing management teams already in place to field such enquiries. E.g. via area housing offices, customers can communicate with G&C management teams, which can result in site visits and face to face conversations with tenants regarding greening and biodiversity.</p> <p>Community Gardener on hand to provide further support – specifically to housing sites / housing customers. Can include working with residents to educate and advise or provide community volunteers for small projects – usually linked to larger projects G&C complete.</p>
<p>13. Take a proactive approach to encouraging large private landowners in the city such as the Navy, the NHS and the University to</p>	<p>Corporate Strategy Manager, in</p>	<p>Please see response to recommendations 1-6</p>

<p>work closely with the city council on how they can make biodiversity enhancements on their land as part of the city strategy.</p>	<p>conjunction with relevant corporate Directors (Director of HNB, CLRS, Regeneration and Public Health)</p>	<p>It is noted that the Council currently works with a number of third party organisations including PCAB, HIWWT, Solent LEP and Partnership for South Hampshire.</p> <p><u>Public Health</u> - Work has already started with NHS and University partners with a successful programme of biodiversity enhancement at QA hospital - led by PCC Landscape architect team. University contacts are also supporting with biodiversity projects in planning phase for CCN project.</p>
<p>14. Engage neighbouring authorities in biodiversity planning on a regional level to maximise biodiversity gains across the Solent area.</p>	<p>Corporate Strategy Manager, in conjunction with relevant corporate Directors (Director of HNB, CLRS, Regeneration and Public Health)</p>	<p>Please see response to recommendations 1-6</p> <p>Part of the responsibility for corporate biodiversity officer would include mapping regional networks and developing working relationships across the region.</p> <p>This would include engagement with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (DEFRA).</p> <p><u>Public Health</u> – Work programme for early 2023 – explore with neighbouring authorities the potential for collaborative working on greening and biodiversity gain.</p>
<p>15. Phase out the use of pesticides and encourage businesses, residents and organisations to do the same too.</p>	<p>CLRS, HNB, Regeneration / COLAS</p>	<p>Already considered by Cabinet.</p> <p>The Cabinet report of 22 March 2022 Use of Pesticides on City Council Land.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk) sets out Council's approach to current use of pesticides, approach to reducing and minimising use and the trialling and practical implications of alternative methods.</p> <p>This does not include the viewpoint or direction of the Colas treatment of the road networks in Portsmouth</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restricting use to a minimum - pesticides are only used where they are required - all treatments are targeted with no preventative treatments carried out, whether that be weed or pest control.• A selective herbicide is no longer applied to any grassed area, other than high amenity sports turf (excluding football pitches).• Use of weed suppressants - increased mulching of shrub beds and new tree plantings using recycled woodchip from tree works carried out in the city helps to suppress weed growth and the need for treatment.• Overplanting - an annual winter improvements programme allows for planting beds to be supplemented (gapped-up) or re-planted, not only for their aesthetic and environmental gain, but to reduce areas for weed growth and need for future treatment.• Maintaining surface integrity - working procedures are in place for surveyors to report surface defects and arrange timely repairs. The efficient reporting of repairs reduces the potential for weeds to grow as they would through damaged paved and hard surfaces. Collaborative working between site surveyors and design teams influence future decision making around the type of surfacing and street furniture.• Reduced mowing of grass - to enhance and support biodiversity, teams have relaxed mowing regimes to an increasing number of areas across the city and continue to trial expansion of this. Public response has been favourable where this has been introduced and continues to inform further areas where the right balance can be found between increasing wildlife friendly grassland and scrub and public amenity use and respecting walking desire lines. All sites are
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		<p>on a case-by-case assessment and these changes are being monitored and reported through updates on the Council's greening strategy. Wilder site boundaries mean herbicide is no longer applied along areas such as fence lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechanical and manual cultivation - chemical treatment is no longer used when preparing beds for the popular and increasing number of wildflower and meadows seeded areas that have been incorporated across a range of green spaces and adjacent residential housing and highways.• Mechanical weed ripper machines are used to remove moss and weeds to suitable housing curtilage areas and ball courts.• Manual weed removal is still employed where relatively small areas are affected and it remains more time-efficient for operatives to undertake the necessary control using hand implements, than for this to be followed up by scheduled herbicide treatment.• Continual review - teams continue to work with product suppliers to ensure any pesticide used is based on an informed decision and where herbicide is still required, products other than glyphosate are used where possible, or that help reduce the amount used in the weed growing season. <p>Additional funding is required where alternative maintenance practices are more costly, less effective (and require repeat treatment) and/or are more time consuming.</p>
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Trees and planting		
16. Pursue and encourage more on street greening as this is one of the best actions to take to enhance urban biodiversity.	All services Regeneration/ COLAS	Services to work with PCAB and Virtual Green Team to encourage further street greening. The team at Colas is actively looking at opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Currently, further suggestions should be directed to the Council's PFI team, to be discussed with Colas.
17. Ensure that greening goes beyond tree coverage and includes shrubbery, hedgerows wildflowers etc. as these diverse forms of planting have considerable impact on reducing carbon emissions and supporting biodiversity.	CLRS, HNB, Regeneration / COLAS	<p><u>CLRS</u>: Phased annual enhancements to existing planting areas are funded through existing revenue budgets, and these enhancements take place annually. Further greening measures (i.e. new areas of planting) may be funded through alternative use of existing revenue budgets where possible, or through new capital allocations, CIL or external grants. Significant capital investment into new planting areas should be accompanied by an appropriate adjustment to the directorate cash limit to fund the additional ongoing maintenance required.</p> <p><u>HNB</u> - This approach is already part of our business as usual which includes refreshing of HRA blocks or land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an intention to replace some areas of planting with new shrubs and hedges where space allows or to make an attractive feature either using native hedge species against boundaries and fences, or using low-medium height mixed evergreen and herbaceous shrubs and perennials with colour and seasonal interest that will require less annual cutting and pruning than the existing large evergreen shrubs

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubs and hardy perennials are chosen for size, seasonal interest, textural and foliage character, flowering and colour. Though most of these are not native, many provide value for bees and insects throughout the year. • Many trees are planted as part of these works. Trees offer long term habitat for birds and insects as well as all the other benefits to climate and healthy living. We aim to use a mix of native and non-native species to provide a range of tree sizes and qualities for the urban environment, some with flowering and leaf interest. • These planting schemes are produced through existing revenue budgets, capital schemes, new build projects, planned maintenance schemes, CIL and grant applications. • Installed via the in house G&C teams.
<p>18. Planting should prioritise native wildflowers, shrubs and trees in its parks, open spaces and any greening or biodiversity projects as this will help better support local ecosystems.</p>	<p>CLRS, HNB, Regeneration / COLAS</p>	<p><u>CLRS</u>: Although native trees and shrubs are relatively narrow in scope, they already form the backbone of the city’s existing stock. The parks department then supplements native species with non-native ones to bring ornamental benefits.</p> <p>Priority will continue to be given to native species when designing new areas of planting. In the cases where areas are of a particularly distinct habitat (eg chalk downland on Portsdown Hill) this approach will extend to the use of seed and plants of local provenance to further enhance these local habitats.</p> <p><u>HNB</u> - This approach is already part of our business as usual – see above point</p>

<p>19. When tree planting the council should have regard to native species, biodiversity and funding the lifetime maintenance of the tree, as well as resident concerns over street placement.</p>	<p>CLRS, HNB, Regeneration / COLAS</p>	<p><u>CLRS</u>: This approach is already embedded in existing working practices.</p> <p>Lifetime maintenance is not currently associated with current tree planting programme (grant funding often includes young tree maintenance and establishment).</p> <p>Introducing a new accounting mechanism for collecting life-cycle cost of new tree planting will support good management and health and safety of city tree stock.</p> <p>See also response to recommendation 22.</p>
<p>20. When planting new street trees, soil or the most appropriate permeable surface should be used at the base rather than tarmac, with wildflowers planted.</p>	<p>CLRS, HNB, Regeneration / COLAS</p>	<p><u>CLRS</u>: The parks service does not normally plant trees in areas of hard surfaces.</p> <p>Wildflower planting at the base of trees is not normally successful as trees compete for available moisture and as they become established, light.</p> <p>There is opportunity here to enhance other agendas like surface water run off and flooding by including passive SUDS solutions in tree planting and run off areas, early discussions with the Infrastructure and Planning teams should be encouraged to ensure opportunities are not missed.</p> <p><u>HNB</u> – as above regarding wild meadows. Although we do plant meadows and new trees together at time, it is likely that over time the shade created by the trees along with moisture competition will result</p>

		in minimal meadow growth in such areas. In hard surfaced areas the immediate area below the trees are generally grassed.
21. Tarmac bases around trees should be removed from around tree pits and if replaced, replaced with a tree-friendly surface or let it go fallow.	COLAS Regeneration	This approach to be incorporated by service and design teams where feasible. Please see response to recommendation 20, above.
22. Consideration should be given to signing up to the National Tree Charter.	CLRS	<u>CLRS</u> : The parks service maintains an ongoing working relationship with Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens and The Woodland Trust (producers of the National Tree Charter). The practicalities of managing an urban tree stock means that, whilst nothing we do conflicts fundamentally with the National Tree Charter, a locally produced set of guiding principles or a local tree strategy is regarded as more appropriate for operational management and strategic direction. It will incorporate recommendation 19 above. <u>Public Health</u> - Portsmouth has recently been given recognition as a Tree City of the World through the Arbor Day Foundation. This is in recognition of the vast tree planting that has taken place in the last 2 years and the commitment from the Council and stakeholders to making Portsmouth a greener City. Updating the existing tree charter is on the work plan for 2022/23.
23. Establish a plan for hedge planting and restoration around the city - working in partnership with schools and community groups where appropriate.	CLRS, HNB, Regeneration / COLAS	<u>CLRS</u> : This approach is already part of the parks department business as usual (see 17 above) for council land maintained by us. There is the potential for use of community engagement officers to encourage schools and other community groups to enhance their planting areas. Support is available from the parks department for planning and designing any new planting.

		<p><u>HNB</u> - This approach is already part of our business as usual – see point 17</p> <p><u>Public Health</u> – This work is already happening on school sites in Partnership with HIOW wildlife trust, Portsmouth climate action and Charles Dickens community orchards, with successful external funding contributions. Manor infant school is a great example of partnership working and supporting our local schools.</p>
Workforce and volunteers		
<p>24. Continued support should be given to the excellent work of frontline officers using their expertise to identify and trial biodiversity projects.</p>	<p>CLRS, HNB, Regeneration / COLAS</p>	<p><u>CLRS</u>: Support will continue to be given to existing service teams, together with communications team. Officers' expertise is essential for long term success of biodiversity projects.</p> <p>Capital greening fund to support new initiatives where required.</p> <p><u>HNB</u> – continue to work with landscape architects, and seek out ways to improve employee skill and knowledge in relation to biodiversity and greening projects.</p>
<p>25. Consider raising the budgets of the City Ranger and the Portsdown Hill Countryside Officer and offering volunteer recruitment support and publicity if required.</p>	<p>CLRS</p>	<p><u>CLRS</u>: The parks budget covers the relevant salaries but is maintained at the current funding level with reliance on fixed-term Countryside Stewardship Grants.</p> <p>Any additional budget will need to come from new capital, CIL or greening fund allocations or external grants, and if intended to be ongoing will need adjustment to the directorate cash limit to fund changes sustainably.</p> <p>Publicity within Parks team with support from Communications team.</p>

		<u>Public Health</u> - Additional funding to support biodiversity work on Hilsea lines has recently been agreed from the city greening fund.
26. Consider the establishment of a support programme for residents' groups wishing to set up community gardens and other gardening schemes e.g. Charles Dickens Community Orchard and Green Wymering.	Corporate Strategy Manager, in conjunction with relevant corporate Directors (Director of HNB, CLRS, Regeneration and Public Health)	Please see response to recommendations 1-6 <u>HNB</u> : Existing management teams already in place to field such enquiries. Community Gardener linked to Landport Community Garden on hand to provide further support. <u>Public Health</u> – Community enquiries are currently being fielded to Charles Dickens Community Orchards to enhance their volunteer base and provide support for residents wishing to be involved. Wider plans are in place to seek external funding for additional resource to support programmes of community greening and volunteering.
Policy Framework		
27. The renewed Greening Strategy planned for later this year should include express consideration of how greening projects should embed biodiversity enhancement as a key objective of all new schemes.	Green & Healthy Streets Co-ordinator	Current Greening Strategy was published in March 2020. This will be refreshed in 2022/23 and will include biodiversity as a key objective, complementing other objectives including climate change mitigation, air quality improvement and health benefits, among others, supporting the City Vision and other PCC policies.
28. The planning service should maximise ability of the new Local Plan to require biodiversity gains in new developments in line with the new Environment Act.	Regeneration - Planning Services	Following consultation feedback, this is being considered and may come forward as part of the Regulation 19 submission for Council to approve.
29. Include a policy in the new local plan to require developers to include flexible	Regeneration - Planning Services	Following consultation feedback, this is being considered and may come forward as part of the Regulation 19 submission for Council to approve.

growing spaces in communal areas of land from residents of flats and apartments.		
Strategic sites		
30. Consideration should be given to a significant reduction in housing proposed for the site, with no housing sited on the southern shore and bay area and the grassland areas of the site.	Regeneration - Planning	This is one of the options that the Group Leaders have been asked to consider in developing a compliant and deliverable Local Plan.
31. Consider establishing a new wildlife reserve on Tipner West peninsula for the benefit and education of city residents, and the protection of wildlife in the city.	Regeneration - Planning	This is one of the options that the Group Leaders have been asked to consider in developing a compliant and deliverable Local Plan.
32. A biodiversity strategy be developed for Horsea Country Park (Ecological Reserve) to fit in with the citywide strategy and this be disseminated to all Councillors.	HNB, CLRS, Regeneration	<p><u>CLRS</u>: The closed landfill site will be restored primarily as a county and ecological reserve with a strong focus on ecological and biodiversity outcomes.</p> <p>However the site is ultimately managed, any management plan will incorporate an approach to biodiversity, to be informed by ecologists and Countryside Officers.</p> <p><u>HNB</u>: Work with CLRS to ensure site management plans/strategies are designed to work in conjunction with our Waste Disposal Contractor Veolia who are contracted to manage the closed landfill sites environmental systems until 2030. Veolia have several legal requirements to meet at the site including contractual obligations, planning, the sites Environmental Permit (issued by the Environment</p>

		Agency) requirements and the ATEX/DSEAR legislation (applicable to the sites environmental infrastructure).
33. Council-owned sites in Portsmouth and Hampshire which have been procured for commercial purpose i.e. Lakeside North Harbour must still comply with both the letter and spirit of the council's policies and strategies on biodiversity and should ensure public access to areas of biodiversity on the sites.	Regeneration - Property Services	Properties purchased for commercial services should maintain their primary focus to generate revenue to support Council Services, however, where possible for them to add further value by increasing biodiversity, this should happen. Public access is often restricted by lease terms and often has a negative impact on biodiversity but Property will consider if there is an opportunity to improve access without affecting the primary objectives.
34. Consider how future plans for the city can work towards ambitious street greening with as many residential streets as possible containing green spaces and verges, as well as extensive tree planting and use of planter.	Green & Healthy Streets Co-ordinator	Oversee the delivery of the Portsmouth Greening Strategy, including greening of residential areas and tree planting. The Strategy needs to operate within existing parameters laid out in the Colas agreement for maintenance of verges and street trees. The Greening Strategy will be reviewed in 2022/23. Public Health working collaboratively with transport teams to deliver roadside greening on planned schemes such as east/west active travel corridor.
35. Biodiversity enhancement in the open space behind Eastney Beach at Fort Cumberland.	CLRS	<u>CLRS</u> : Biodiversity objectives are already captured within the site management plan. The current habitat is coastal heathland and so already has value in terms of biodiversity. Any divergence from its current management would alter the nature of the site. Any additional budget will need to come from new capital, CIL, greening fund allocations or external grants.

<p>36. Plan for the creation of a breeding and roosting island for waterfowl in Portsmouth Harbour.</p>	<p>CLRS partnership working</p> <p>Regeneration</p>	<p>- The creation of new habitat is controversial in the eyes of Natural England but with large scale development (where compensation is already required) this could form part of the offer. The Sea Defence team are currently creating a small island in Langstone Harbour as part of the North Portsea defences and this could also feature as part of the compensation for the Tipner West development however these tend to be controversial in the eyes of Natural England and require compensation for Habitat lost.</p> <p><u>CLRS</u> could manage the site (through Countryside Officers) in partnership with HIOWWT.</p>
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