



# Perth and Kinross Council



## Statutory Biodiversity Duty

### REPORT ON DELIVERY

1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014)



## Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	The International and Scottish Context	1
3	The role of Local Authorities and Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnerships	1
4	Delivery of Biodiversity in Perth and Kinross Council 2012-2014	2
	4.1 Governance, Leadership and Management	
	4.2 Mainstreaming	
	4.3 Monitoring	
	4.4 Partnership Working	
5	Delivery of Biodiversity in Perth and Kinross by Service 2012-2014	5
6	Communication and Engagement	15
7	Future Biodiversity Action Planned	15
8	Conclusion	16

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 further requires all public bodies to report every three years on how they comply with this Duty. This first report is required by 1st January 2015 to cover activity for the period **1st January 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014** and demonstrates how Perth and Kinross Council has complied with the Biodiversity Duty for this period.

## **2 THE INTERNATIONAL AND SCOTTISH CONTEXT**

The work being undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council to further biodiversity conservation contributes to international targets to halt the global loss of biodiversity. The 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity provides the original overarching target to halt global biodiversity loss; in 2010, new global targets for 2020, the 'Aichi' targets, were agreed. These are:

### **Strategic Goal A**

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

### **Strategic Goal B**

- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

### **Strategic Goal C**

- To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

### **Strategic Goal D**

- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

### **Strategic Goal E**

- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Following the agreement of the Aichi targets, the European Union published 'Our Life Insurance, Our Natural Capital: an EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020'. To update and supplement the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy ('Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands') which was published in 2004, and this was updated in June 2013 by the '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity'.

## **3 THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Local Authorities are well placed to deliver biodiversity conservation as they can have a significant impact on biodiversity through the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. There are opportunities for wide-scale community engagement, sustainable resource management and positive education, plus a range of projects and initiatives that can be undertaken, all of which can contribute directly to the safeguarding and enhancement of local biodiversity.

In Scotland, many Local Authorities support and act as key leaders for the Local Biodiversity Partnership in their area. These partnerships were created in response to the original Convention on Biological Diversity. The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership (TBP) was one of the first in Scotland, being set up 16 years ago by Dundee City, Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils. More recently the partnership has involved only Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils. A dedicated Biodiversity Co-ordinator has been in place for the past 14 years. The role and importance of Local Biodiversity Partnerships is recognised and supported in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. In addition Perth & Kinross Council also has their own dedicated Biodiversity Officer.

Since its first publication in 2002, the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (produced by the TBP) has had two main aims, namely:

- to co-ordinate existing actions, as well as initiating and co-ordinating new ones
- to conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity, taking into account both local and national priorities.

The TBP is currently overseeing more than 40 projects in Perth and Kinross via its Working Groups, with the Partnership taking forward some of the projects itself. It also assessed and reported on the SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund (community landfill tax monies) from 2012 until mid-2014 which provided leverage of £607,000 on grants provided of £184,000.

#### **4 THE DELIVERY OF THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY IN PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL 2012 – 2014**

This section outlines how Perth and Kinross Council has strategically delivered on the conservation of biodiversity for the three year period 2012-2014.

##### **4.1 Governance, Leadership and Management**

Perth and Kinross Council comprises of 41 Councillors representing 12 wards across a geographically diverse area of some 5,500km<sup>2</sup>

All committee reports are assessed using an Integrated Appraisal Toolkit for implications against, amongst others, the Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement, Sustainability and a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This ensures all officers consider the environmental impact of the contents of their report against established standards.

Various teams within Perth and Kinross Council collaborate on carbon, climate change and sustainability work co-ordinating policies, action plans and projects which have clear links to biodiversity conservation. Perth and Kinross Council has a Carbon Management Plan and is a signatory to the Climate Change Declaration and the Scotland Geodiversity Charter.

Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013-2018 refers to 12 local outcomes as 'A Whole Life Approach', these include the following with specific relevance for biodiversity:

- **Protect and enhance the natural and built environment through planning frameworks that support sustainable development and design**
- **Decrease the carbon footprint within Perth and Kinross by reducing the carbon emissions from our organisation and in the community**
- **Promote access to our unique natural environment through high quality sports, active recreation and cultural programmes**
- **Maintaining resilient, responsible and safe communities**

The Perth and Kinross Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (2013-23) highlights that the 12 local outcomes 'reflect our local circumstances and priorities but also support and contribute towards the government's sixteen national outcomes.'

The local outcomes related to biodiversity, above, help the Council to achieve the following national priorities:

- **National Outcome 6. We live longer, healthier lives**
- **National Outcome 10. We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need**
- **National Outcome 12. We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations**
- **National Outcome 14. We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production**

#### **4.2 Mainstreaming**

The conservation of biodiversity is embedded in the delivery of Council services and an ecosystem services approach is used to balance economic development, social development and environmental protection. The Main drivers include:

- The Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan - a key service in the delivery of biodiversity conservation through land use and management policies, protection and designation of local sites. This ensures that land use planning and the management of Council-owned land delivers protection and enhancements for biodiversity
- The Development Management team who assess individual planning applications' potential impacts on biodiversity
- The Greenspace Ranger Service who manage the natural environment within Perth and Kinross, local nature reserves and a range of non-designated sites



**Figure 1: The ecosystem Services Approach is a holistic and inclusive approach to looking after the natural environment.**

#### **4.3 Monitoring**

The status of biodiversity and activity on biodiversity conservation is monitored through:

- The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership inputs to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Reporting System (UKBARS), which includes Local Authority projects
- the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership’s Annual Report on overall delivery of actions and targets
- The Council’s annual State of the Environment Report
- An annual programme of species recording provides the baseline data for indicators
- The Perth and Kinross Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23

#### **4.4 Partnership Working**

An increasing proportion of services are now delivered jointly, with more than one organisation working together. This way more can be achieved than as individual organisations working in isolation. Community Planning is the name that has been given to this process.

The ultimate aim of Community Planning is to make Perth and Kinross a better place to live, work and visit for everyone in all of our communities. By working together to improve our health, safety, environment, economic prospects and learning opportunities, this can be achieved.

The Council is a joint lead partner for the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership. The Partnership comprises approximately 100 organisations and bodies, including government agencies, non-governmental bodies, local naturalists and volunteer conservation groups. It is chaired by an independent Chairman. The Partnership is responsible for the production, delivery and promotion of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan, together with reporting on actions and targets.

Further information on Tayside Biodiversity Partnership can be found [here](#)

Council officers work in collaboration with a range of partnerships including:

- The Tay Estuary Forum, The Tay Landscape Partnership, TACTRAN, Sustainable Scotland Network, Beautiful Perth, NHS Tayside, Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Services, Perth College, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Enterprise

## **5 DELIVERY OF BIODIVERSITY IN PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL BY SERVICE 2012-2014**

This report outlines how Perth and Kinross Council has delivered biodiversity conservation across all Services for the three year period 2012-2014.

Perth and Kinross Council is divided into 4 Service areas:

- Chief Executive (including legal services)
- Housing and Community Care
- Education and Children
- Environment

Each Service has a number of functions, each delivered by teams of specialists. Activities within each Service are detailed below, although there is much collaborative working to deliver strategic services.

### **5.1 Legal Services**

Legal Services advise the Council on legal matters and carry out a wide range of legal and related services emanating from the decisions and activities of the Council. This includes being consulted on all strategies and policies to ensure their compliance with current legislation. In a biodiversity context consultations have included for example whether there is any legal requirement to control invasive non-native species on Council property.

### **5.2 Housing and Community Care**

Housing and Community Care is split into three areas, Community Care, Finance and Support Services and Housing and Strategic Commissioning. Perth and Kinross Council has a housing stock of 7400 properties. This has provided a number of opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity in the Housing Stock.

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### **Incorporating Swift Nests on Housing in Tulloch**

A community group in Tulloch, Tulloch Net, was looking to make provision for biodiversity in the local community, this presented an opportunity to erect artificial swift and bat boxes on Council housing in the area in a multi-agency project involving Housing, Operations, Tulloch Net, The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and the Council's Biodiversity Officer.



CASE STUDY

**Protecting Nesting Birds Whilst Insulating Homes in North Muirton**

A joint programme between Perth and Kinross Housing and SSE Hydro to fit external insulation to more than 1800 houses in North Muirton involved the careful timing of work and avoidance of properties while birds were found nesting on them. Birds found to be nesting included house martins, swifts and starlings. The Biodiversity Officer was consulted on the timing of the work.

**5.3 Community Care**

Community Care services provides support for older people, those with dementia, mental health problems, learning difficulties, disabilities, who misuse drugs and/or alcohol and people who offend. It helps people wherever possible to live independently within their own homes, and works to reduce re-offending and increase public safety and protection.

Residential Care Homes and Day Care Centres in Perth, Aberfeldy and Auchterarder provide supported accommodation for elderly and disabled clients surrounded by landscaped gardens with wildlife friendly planting and bird feeders. This helps to provide a stimulating environment for the residents, creating a higher quality of life as well as the obvious biodiversity benefits.

The Tayside Biodiversity Co-ordinator is also working with a number of care homes to provide advice on improving their grounds for biodiversity.

CASE STUDY

**The new Rannoch Day Centre, Perth**

The new Rannoch Day Centre opened during the first half of 2014 in a renovated building in North Muirton to cater for the elderly with dementia. The garden was designed especially for dementia sufferers with smooth circular paths, raised beds and ample seating. The design also provides for wildlife with an orchard, wildflower meadow, bird feeders and nectar rich flowering shrubs which all help to provide biodiversity benefits.

**5.4 Education and Children Services**

This Service aims to provide improved outcomes for communities in Perth and Kinross in five main areas:

- Education

- Social work services for children and families
- Community, cultural and active recreation services
- Support services across Perth and Kinross
- IT services for ECS and across the organisation

The Service works to keep people safe and protected, to improve the health and wellbeing, to develop the range and quality of learning experiences for everyone to raise standards of performance and achievement, and to develop both active and responsible citizens within caring and confident communities.

Education and Children's Services contributes to the biodiversity duty through formal environmental education in schools and other learning establishments.

Over 98% of Perth and Kinross schools are registered as Eco-schools with 53 achieving 'Green Flag' standard. The involvement of pupils makes Eco-Schools an invaluable opportunity to promote an enduring mass behavioural change amongst young people. Biodiversity is one of the key criteria for Eco Schools and can play a crucial role in promoting and improving the biodiversity potential of their local area by caring for local habitats and species. Education is also crucial for engagement of future generations.

#### CASE STUDY

##### **Kinross High School and Associated Primary Schools**

Kinross High School and associated primary schools worked in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to develop the 'Growing Up with Loch Leven' initiative. Pupils from all grades were responsible for projects using Loch Leven as a learning resource. The initiative greatly enhanced pupils' understanding of, and engagement with, their local environment.

#### CASE STUDY

##### **Woodland Heritage**

Through Living Communities, eight schools explored outdoor learning in 2014 through the creation of dance and music in response to their environment. This initiative supported outdoor learning, dance development and environmental awareness related to woodland. They also had the opportunity to study woodland folklore linked to Gaelic learning, woodland management and conservation.

## **5.5 The Environment Service**

For many people The Environment Service is often their main contact with the Council and many of its staff are judged to be the public face of the Council and may often be the public's first and sometimes only contact with the Council. Whilst the Service's local influence is highly visible and apparent it also makes a significant contribution as to how the area looks as well as how it is presented through events and marketing to a wider range of audiences.

The Environment Service is divided into four key areas:

- Planning & Regeneration
- Performance and Resources
- Property Services
- Environmental and Consumer Services

## **5.6 Planning and Regeneration**

The Planning & Regeneration Division is organised into 6 sections responsible for Strategy & Policy, Development Management, Building Standards, Roads Infrastructure, Regeneration, and Enterprise. Working together, these sections deliver an integrated approach to sustainable economic and physical development.

## **5.7 Building Standards**

While the main function of the building standards team is to ensure all buildings are safe and comply with building regulations they also have a crucial role in ensuring that where buildings are demolished the work is done in a manner which does not adversely affect species which may be present, such as bats and birds.

## **5.8 Strategy and Policy**

Strategy and Policy comprises three teams;

- Development Plans
- Sustainability, Policy and Research
- Transport planning

The Development Plans Team sets the framework for sustainable development through the preparation and implementation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) for Perth and Kinross, in accordance with the Strategic Development Plan (TAYplan). It follows the timetable and process set out in the Council's approved Development Plan Scheme.

The Development Plans Team ensure the development of local land use planning policies which promote and enable economic development, are socially inclusive and support the Council's commitment to enhancing and protecting the environment.

The approved LDP together with TAYplan forms the development plan. Council decisions on planning applications must be in accordance with the development plan unless there are other material considerations.

The Development Plans Team also prepares supplementary planning guidance (SG) on relevant planning issues. Recent published guidance includes:

- Flood Risk and Flood Risk Assessments
- Loch Leven Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site
- Sustainable Development and Zero Carbon Development
- Developer Contributions-Primary Education & A9 junction improvements
- Green Infrastructure
- Forest and Woodland Strategy
- Auchterarder Expansion MasterPlan
- Conservation Area Appraisals

Additional SG is currently being prepared for the following topics:

- Planning and Biodiversity
- River Tay Special Area of Conservation
- Dunkeld – Blairgowrie Lochs Special Area of Conservation
- Open Space Provision and Developer Contributions
- Placemaking Guide
- Spatial Strategy for Wind
- Green Belt Management Plan
- Landscape Guidance

The aims of the Sustainability, Policy and Research Team are:

- To ensure the embedding of sustainable development principles throughout the Council in its plan and decision making processes and support the Council's commitment to enhancing and protecting the environment.
- To provide a Geographic Information resource to the Council, undertake strategic environmental assessment screening and report on the state of the environment.
- To provide an accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and meaningful picture of the economy, environment and society to support the formulation and monitoring of environmental, economic and social policies by the Council at all levels.

- To ensure the development of strategic land use planning policies for waste, transport, retail, housing, renewable energy, minerals, that include effective climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
- To ensure that the Council meets its Biodiversity duty. The Biodiversity Officer has responsibility to advise all services on how to conserve and enhance biodiversity where possible.

The Biodiversity Officer works with a range of services across the whole Council including Architects, Property, Housing, Education, Community Greenspace and Development Management to give advice on how to protect existing wildlife and how to enhance opportunities for wildlife.

#### CASE STUDY

##### **Providing opportunities for biodiversity in new school buildings**

Perth and Kinross Architects have designed biodiversity into new school buildings and extensions in a number of different ways following advice from the Biodiversity Officer. Simple solutions such as incorporating swift nest boxes and bat boxes into new schools and school extensions, planting school orchards and the inclusion of a wildflower living roof at Invergowie Primary School are all examples of how working with architects has enhanced biodiversity.

The Transport Planning Team is responsible for the strategic planning and development of the entire transport network for Perth and Kinross. This involves all forms of transport, private, public, freight etc. The team's remit is to ensure that Perth and Kinross keeps moving, ensuring a prosperous economy and a healthy, socially inclusive society.

The Perth Transport Futures Project is a vision for the provision of a transport system in and around Perth that will also support sustainable economic growth, protect and improve the environment and improve social inclusion and accessibility. Phase 1 will provide an improved junction at the A9/A85 with links to Bertha Park to the north of Perth. The project will ease congestion in the city and improve air quality.

## **5.9 Development Management**

Development Management manages new development by granting or refusing planning permission, and managing unauthorised developments using, when necessary, formal enforcement powers. Pre-application advice is also provided to assist applicants as to which policies, key issues and supporting information are required for a particular development proposal.

The Development Management function implements the biodiversity protection and enhancement policies contained within TAYplan and the LDP through the assessment of applications for planning permission. It also has responsibility to ensure that development is assessed against legislation

designed to protect designated sites and species (e.g. Habitat Regulations). Below are some examples of how the work the team carries out contributes to the enhancement and protection of biodiversity:

- Development proposals which could affect protected sites or species require to be supported by information to show that adverse impacts can be avoided through mitigation.
- Protected species surveys are required to support the assessment of development proposals.
- Planning conditions or planning obligations have helped to provide nest boxes for swifts and/or boxes for bats, either as mitigation or as a contribution from developers.
- Development proposals which would lead to the loss of areas of woodland or lowland peat bog have been resisted, thereby protecting the habitats contained within these areas.
- New housing developments have been required to amend plans to include more biodiverse open spaces and landscaped areas.
- Woodland management schemes which enhance biodiversity by removing non-native plants have been required to be included in development proposals.

#### CASE STUDY

##### **Protecting biodiversity through Development Management**

Approximately 2,000 planning applications are received every year, which the Biodiversity Officer screens for potential impacts on, or opportunities for, biodiversity, with an average of 180 applications each year requiring some advice on biodiversity. Through the use of conditions bat roosts have been conserved and bat and bird boxes have been provided as enhancements. A lowland raised bog has been saved from destruction as a result of advice to the Planning Officer. Advice has also been given on appropriate species for planting regimes.

#### CASE STUDY

##### **Example of requirements for Planning Applications**

A bat survey can identify impacts of a development on bats, and any mitigation or habitat enhancement measures required to comply with wildlife legislation. This may include actions such as the use of bat slates in buildings or areas of roofs which are maintained or provided as bat roosts. For birds, controls may be attached to a planning permission restricting the time of year development can take place to avoid disturbing birds during the nesting season on the advice of the Biodiversity Officer.

## **5.10 Property Services**

Property Services is responsible for the provision, within the Perth and Kinross Council area, of a wide range of building related services to its public buildings.

Within this Division there are six teams.

- Architects & Engineering
- Architects & Small Projects
- Premises & Facilities Management
- Surveying & Maintenance
- Roads
- Public Transport

Architects and Premises and Facilities Management ensure that surveys for protected species are carried out prior to work being carried out on alterations and extensions to property, and consult with the Biodiversity Officer whenever there is a potential impact on or opportunity for biodiversity.

Roads and Structures ensure that surveys for protected species are carried out prior to work being carried out on bridges and culverts. They also consult with the Biodiversity Officer whenever there is a potential impact to biodiversity when repairs are required.

Roads have been involved with the Ranger Service on the award winning wildlife kerbs project as well as assisting in the amphibians in drains project. For more information follow this [link](#)

## **5.11 Environment and Consumer Services**

The Environmental and Consumer Services teams are involved with various aspects of the immediate environment which have a direct effect on health and quality of life issues. These teams are responsible for safeguarding consumers, local businesses and visitors to the area through inspections and agreed enforcement policies.

Their remit includes:

- Animal welfare and dog fouling
- Direct Services (Operations)
- Community Greenspace
- Grounds Maintenance

The Community Greenspace team covers a range of areas including:

- Bereavement Service
- Ranger Service

- Environmental initiatives
- Landscape Architects
- Management of Green Spaces
- Parks
- Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust
- The Access Team
- Tree and Woodland

Bereavement Services manage cemeteries and graveyards across the county. Their maintenance is managed by the grounds maintenance team.

The Ranger Service manage 'countryside sites' in Perth and Kinross Council, such as Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park, the Birks of Aberfeldy and the Knock of Creiff. There are 20 or so such sites around the county, attracting in the region of 300,000 visits a year.

There are also three footpath networks managed by the Ranger Service, these are around Blairgowrie, Dunkeld and Birnam and Pitlochry, and the circular long distance Cateran Trail that crosses into Angus, they are also responsible for some 200 miles of Right of Way and the Loch Leven Heritage Trail.

The Rangers develop Management Plans for these countryside sites.

Perhaps the most well-known aspect of the Countryside Rangers work is in actively engaging with communities, working with volunteers and generating support, interest and activity in Perth and Kinross's green spaces.

#### CASE STUDY

##### **Wildlife Kerbs**

As a result of a study that showed that road gullies were causing large number of fatalities in small mammals and amphibians close to a pond in Blairgowrie, in 2012 the Ranger Service and Roads maintenance division replaced standard road kerbs with wildlife friendly kerbs that allow amphibians and small mammals to pass road gullies safely. The project received an award from the animal charity People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals as well as a gold award in the Perth and Kinross Securing the Future Awards 'Promoting Sustainability' category.

. For more information follow this [link](#)



The Environmental Initiatives Team manages the Westbank nursery, coordinates and supports volunteers who work in their communities on the 'In Bloom' programmes, and work with schools through the Eco School programme.

#### CASE STUDY

##### **Wildflower Meadow Creation**

A number of wildflower meadows have been created in parks across Perth and Kinross using seed collected from Angus and the east of Scotland. A much admired wildflower meadow has been created on a roundabout in Glasgow Road. These meadows are havens for bumblebees and butterflies.

The Landscape Architects are key to many park development projects, designing outdoor areas, town and city centre regeneration projects and play areas. They have a role in virtually every green space area in the County.

Community Greenspace are responsible for management of all of the Councils green spaces, parks and countryside, roadside verges, hedges, graveyards and flower beds.

The Tree and Woodland Officer is responsible for looking after all the trees in Council ownership, from street trees in Perth High Street to those in parks and countryside sites and in school grounds. He deals with public enquiries and complaints, undertakes tree inspections and schedules all tree surgery and felling.

It is because Community Greenspace has responsibility for the majority of public open space within Perth and Kinross that they are at the forefront of a number of positive projects for biodiversity. These include:

- Lady Mary's Biodiversity Project in Crieff – A long established Wildflower meadow
- Bumblebee and Wildflower Surveys at newly created wildflower meadow in Coupar Angus
- Perth Bat Project – Working with volunteers to survey all parts of the city for bat activity
- Goose and Wildfowl counts in the Tay Estuary Local Nature Reserve
- 10<sup>th</sup> Perth Scout Group woodland adoption project, providing nest boxes and woodland management
- Sheltered Housing and Biodiversity Project – Involving elderly residents in wildlife recording and orchard planting, swift nest boxes and barn owl boxes
- Perth College Biodiversity Project – students on the Environmental Conservation course work carrying out conservation and management projects with the Ranger Service

More information [here](#)

## CASE STUDY

### **Allotments, Orchards and Community Gardens**

Community Greenspace were instrumental in helping to form a number of allotments , orchards and community gardens. In total there are more than 20 community led allotments across Perth and Kinross, all except 2 formed since 2012. Allotments, Orchards and Community Gardens allow people to engage with nature, the plants attracting pollinating insects. Link to [allotments](#)

## CASE STUDY

### **Red Squirrel Conservation**

A year-long study of both red and grey squirrels on land managed by Perth and Kinross Council has identified where there are populations of grey squirrels which out compete our native red squirrels. Assistance with funding will be sought in 2015 to cull grey squirrels on Council managed land.

## **6 Communication and Engagement**

Awareness-raising, communication and engagement are a key element of biodiversity work within the Council. Promotion of biodiversity includes:

- Building better biodiversity sharing good practice workshops held for staff
- Collaborations between different service areas
- Exhibitions and displays at events
- Training days and events
- Summit to Sand newsletter published annually
- Tayside Recorders Forum annual event
- Tayside Geodiversity trail leaflets

## **7 Future Biodiversity Action Planned**

Key work areas for the next three years (2015 to 2017) may include:

- Assistance with the review and launch of the 2nd Edition of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Red squirrels conservation work on Council managed land to encourage the recolonization of Red Squirrels

- Carse of Gowrie Historic Orchard Project
- Tree Warden Network training events
- Buildings for biodiversity
- Ecological surveys of trees prior to felling or surgery
- Develop a strong suite of standard conditions for Development Management
- Addition of swift nest bricks and bat boxes in all new developments where suitable
- The standard installation of swift nest bricks and bat boxes into all new and refurbished Perth and Kinross Council buildings
- Create new areas of wildflower meadows where considered suitable

## **8 Conclusion**

Perth and Kinross Council is trying to raise awareness of local biodiversity where ever possible and aims to collaborate with the local community, neighbouring local authorities and stakeholders to ensure that biodiversity is at the forefront of all our work and will be enjoyed for generations to come.

In the writing of this report, the collation of information on the wide range of work that is undertaken within Perth and Kinross Council's different service areas shows the diverse range of activity the various teams facilitate as part of their regular work programme. Progress has been made in recent years to mainstream the biodiversity process and this is reflected in this report. This will be a useful document to review internally on an annual basis as there becomes wider understanding of the value of biodiversity and the need to report on progress. This will pave the way for a more comprehensive and inclusive reporting structure in time for the next Scottish Biodiversity Duty reporting round in 2018.

Importantly, ongoing monitoring will allow projects undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council to be entered into the UK Biodiversity Action Recording System (UKBARS). This allows the Council to monitor progress on its own projects and those taking place by others across Perth and Kinross. UKBARS will enable summaries of the data to be generated, as well as demonstrating what biodiversity actions the Council is contributing towards Scottish Biodiversity Strategy targets.

Further information on Biodiversity in Perth and Kinross can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

23 December 2014