

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Working for Warwickshire's Wildlife'

CONSULTATION RESPONSE REPORT

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

Executive Summary

The consultation satisfactorily covered Warwickshire's social and economic sectors. The results indicated that the WCC Biodiversity Strategy satisfactorily covered all the County Council's functions and that biodiversity is an important factor for consideration in all these functions.

A total of 37 responses were received (30 by WCC web-based system 7 by letter). The Web-based system did not capture the respondees' contact details. However, from the comments these appear to include both individuals and organisations, the organisations being from commercial, Non-Government Organisations and Government Offices. The non web-based respondees were West Midlands Government Office, Land Rover, Warwick Primary Care Trust, Advantage West Midlands, Environment Agency, Woodland Trust and an Ecological Consultancy (Appendix A).

All the non web-based responses supported the strategy and suggested changes. Due to the nature of these responses that cannot be included in the overall reporting figures. As this represents less than 20% of the total responses it is not considered that they will alter the statistical findings of this report, more so it is considered that they support the following results.

Of the web-based surveys, 84% are very or fairly satisfied with the strategy with 13% fairly dissatisfied. 91% agreed with signing the pledge with 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the WCC Biodiversity Strategy covers the actions in the pledge.

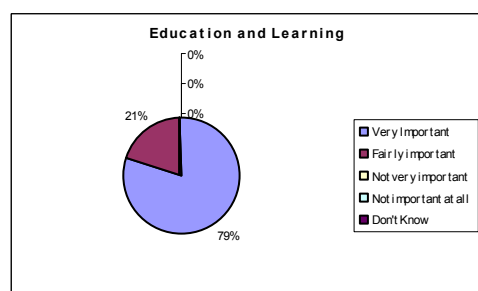
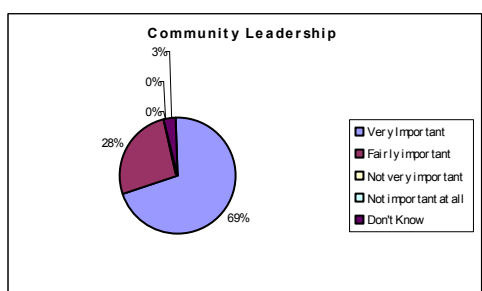
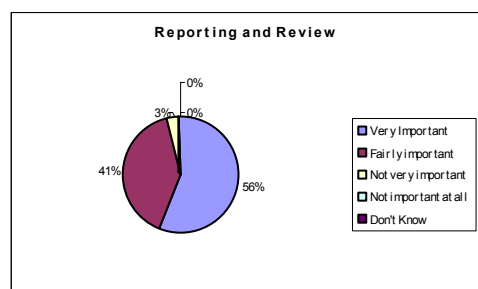
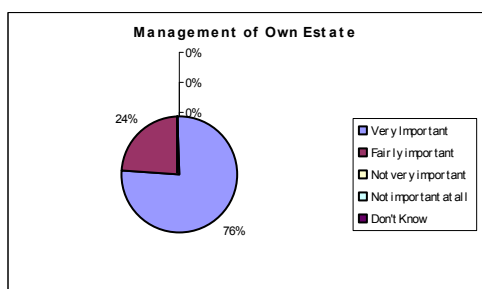
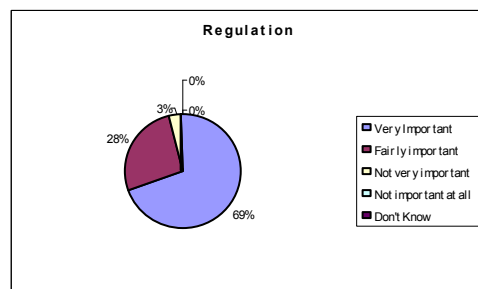
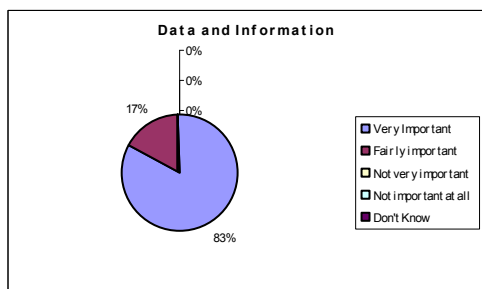
The overall results of the 6 strands showed:

Strand	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all	Don't Know
Data and information.	83%	17%	0%	0%	0%
Regulation	69%	28%	3%	0%	0%
Management of our own Estate	76%	24%	0%	0%	0%
Education and Learning	79%	21%	0%	0%	0%
Community Leadership	69%	28%	0%	0%	3%
Reporting and Review	56%	41%	3%	0%	0%

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Question 1

The strategy is divided into six strands, please indicate how important you think each strand is to the overall document:



Question 2: We would like to know your views on the areas of the strategy that interest you. Please indicate from the list below which sections of the Strategy you would like to comment on. You can select as few or as many of the strands as you wish, but you will not be asked any questions about an area of the strategy that you do not select from the list below:

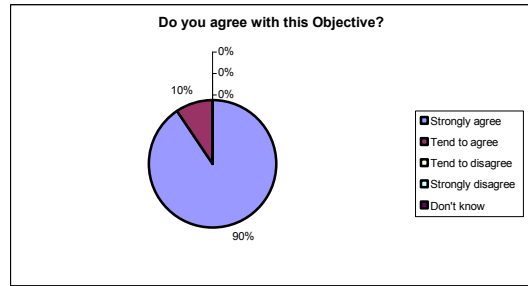
Strand	No. of Responses
Data and Information:	21
Regulation	18
Management of Own Estate	23
Education and Learning	23
Community Leadership	19
Reporting and Review	18

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Strand 1 - Data and information

Objective: To obtain, manage, and share environmental data to inform decision-making and monitor changes.

Question 3a: How strongly do you agree with the objective stated above?



Question 3B: If you have any comments on the objective stated above, please write them in the box below:

Would like species- or habitat-specific plans more readily available and more applicable to the level of local communities and sites. What butterfly species are habitats being managed for in Newbold Comyn? What factors affect presence of adders in Abbey Fields? That sort of thing.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Very important to ensure any changes are picked up on and where necessary positive action can take place.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

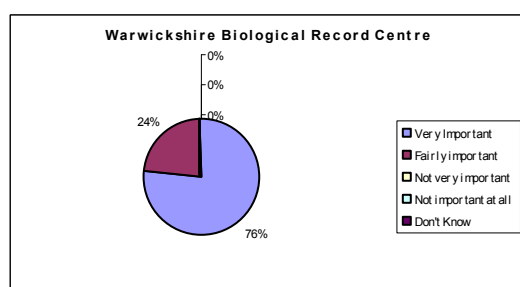
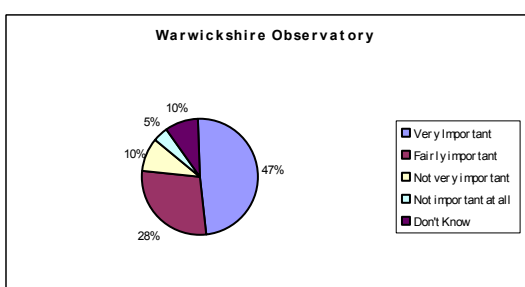
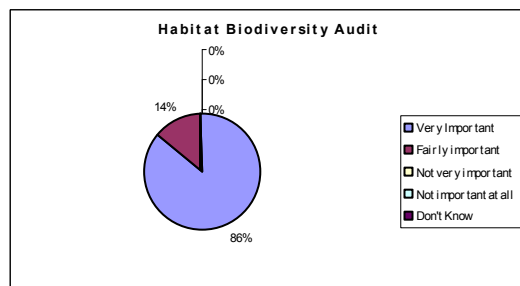
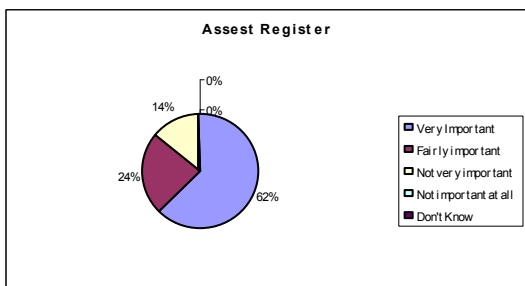
The most important thing is communication between the various groups and those working on behalf of the council. Contractors in particular should have staffs, which are highly trained. The county council should use the best contractors, not the cheapest in order to ensure high standards and contractors, which fall below standards or make mistakes should lose their contract with the council.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Suggest contact with 'Sustainable Rugby' for ongoing shared data - Stephen Marks R.B.C.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Question 3c: How important do you think each of the following are in meeting the objective stated above?



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The desired outcomes of this strand are:

- Key data and processes necessary to provide the basis for informed decision-making and to monitor change identified and in place.
- Sustainable ongoing management and resourcing for data collection, collation, management and dissemination secured.

Question 3d: Are there any other desired outcomes you think should be added to this section of the strategy? (Please write them in below)

To promote public awareness of the local dimension of biodiversity policy
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Form stronger links to purchase/use datasets collected within the county by NGO's that are not necessarily fully fed into the current recording framework
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Co-operative and mutual working with partners and individuals to give the best data possible for the county
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

Question 3e: Please use the box below for any other comments about this section of the questionnaire:

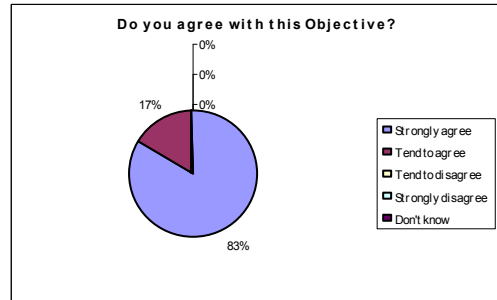
There is not enough being done to collect data, most people don't know anything about it.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
The processes for sharing information must be open and clear to anyone who is interested. The information needs to be presented clearly and in popular formats.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
I feel there needs to be greater integration between datasets. This should streamline operations. The HBA is great for vegetation but depending on the surveyors in question lacks target noting for Vertebrates and Invertebrates.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
"The HBA is a ... and is being annually"- incomplete sentence?
Action: <i>Sentence completed.</i>
Habitat Biodiversity Audit needs to be maintained and developed to ensure continuing relevance to all partners. The support and active input to the partnership by WCC ecologists are significant and important to the partnership.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

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Strand 2 - Regulation

Objective: To ensure that WCC considers biodiversity in exercising all of its regulatory functions.

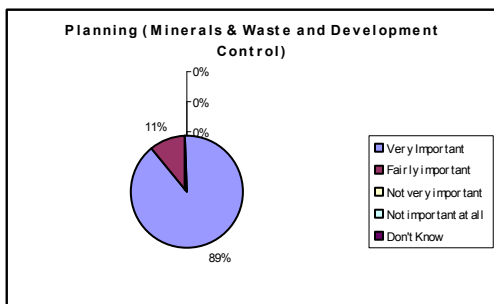
Question 4a: How strongly do you agree with the objective stated above?



Question 4b: If you have any comments on the objective stated above, please write them in the box below:

and more - I know that councils have particular species at the expense of others, enough some species that are protected aren't necessarily in the BioD strategies (I think)
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
This needs to be taken seriously by WCC and not just a lip service approach...
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Biodiversity and wildlife protection should be a primary concern. It should not be just 'considered' as this normally results in wildlife protection being low priority compared to financial gains and big business.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
It might be helpful to make reference to a role for county ecologists in district/borough regulatory functions?
Action: <i>The WCC Biodiversity only covers WCC functions and cannot not cover other Local Authority functions.</i>
Together with reference to other regulatory bodies e.g. Environment Agency, English Nature.
Action: <i>The WCC Biodiversity only covers WCC functions and cannot not cover other organisations' functions.</i>
Rather than "considers" could we make the statement stronger? Perhaps "protects and where possible enhances".....
Action: <i>Suggestion considered within the Desired Outcome section below and changes adopted.</i>
Biodiversity is a key resource for the county and its population, and must be considered alongside other resources in taking strategic and local decisions, especially those which impact on the environment and biodiversity
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

Question 4c: How important do you think the following is in meeting the objective stated above?



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Question 4d: **Are there any other desired outcomes you think should be added to this section of the strategy? (Please write them in below)**

with the continuing requirement of resources, housing and industry it is to ensure that all local partners, organisations and business are aware of WCC regulatory functions and know what is expected of all parties
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Actively pursue a net increase in biodiversity
Action: <i>Change to Biodiversity Strategy</i>
(i) The Green Infrastructure objective could include -... 'robust and biodiverse green infrastructure, with good level of connectivity with neighbouring areas'... (ii) Can the no net biodiversity loss be adjusted to - no net loss and in 50% of situations to achieve a biodiversity gain, to redress previous and continuing losses, to meet national and international government targets regarding biodiversity ... (iii) Can the due consideration to biodiversity be strengthened to - ...rigorous and thorough consideration to biodiversity
Actions: <i>(i) To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy. (ii) Change to Biodiversity Strategy. (iii) To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy.</i>

Question 4e: **Please use the box below for any other comments about this section of the questionnaire:**

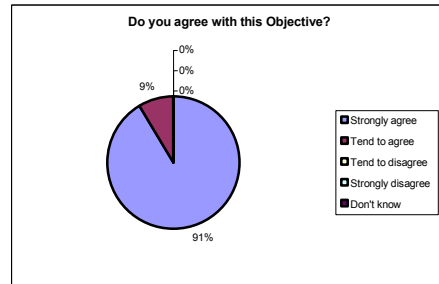
Awareness is important, and many people and organisations may not be aware of WCC's role when it comes to biodiversity and the regulations associated with it. It is important that WCC do more to raise awareness of it.
Actions: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
This needs to be taken seriously by both officers and politicians and perhaps needs to be part of their induction and training.
Actions: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
I believe the statement 'No net biodiversity loss resulting from WCC regulatory activity' is a sign that biodiversity is not taken seriously. Over time, our biodiversity is eroded. Short term little or no loss may be 'measurable', but long term its almost inevitable that losses will occur. Without proactively encouraging a net increase in biodiversity, I feel the council is giving out the wrong message. The council would not agree to this statement: No net financial or business loss resulting from WCC regulatory activity. so why should we accept this type of statement for biodiversity...? I can only be because the council does not actually take biodiversity seriously if the statement 'No net biodiversity loss resulting from WCC regulatory activity' is used.
Action: <i>Change to Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Can we aim higher than "no net loss". We have already lost much biodiversity from the wider countryside - so can WCC aim for "to reverse the loss" ?
Action: <i>Change to Biodiversity Strategy</i>
More emphasis should be given to green infrastructure (rather than just mentioned as a desired outcome). The network of green spaces and natural elements within and between our towns and villages are vital and must be preserved, enhanced and increased, not only for biodiversity but also climate change mitigation, health etc etc. This should be a major consideration in the planning process at both County and District / Borough level. The Strategy should mention, and promote, such things as green roofs and walls, tree planting within urban areas, continuous networks of open space within towns etc.
Actions: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Can this refer to how WCC tackles any activity not following procedures and processes re regulation, and how rigorous it can be ??
Actions: <i>Will relate this comment to all areas of the strategy and where relevant make changes.</i>

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Strand 3 - Management of our own Estate

Objective: To improve the management for biodiversity of land and buildings owned by WCC.

Question 5a: **How strongly do you agree with the objective stated above?**

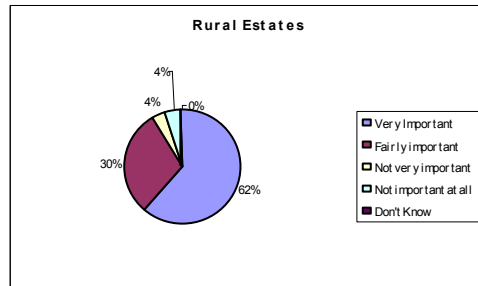
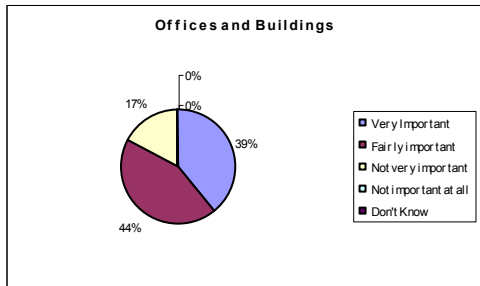
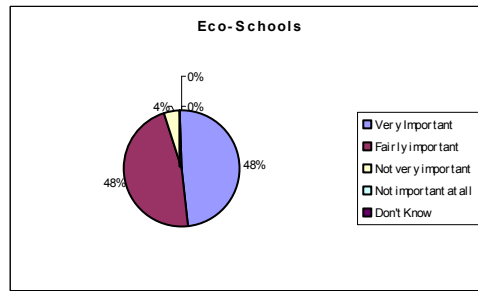
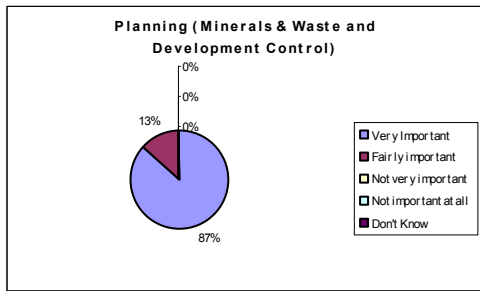


Question 5b: **If you have any comments on the objective stated above, please write them in the box below:**

WCC needs to manage public expectations of our estate, including a perception that grounds managed for biodiversity are simply untidy due to lack of spending on maintenance; and the huge demand for access to leisure activities in the countryside, which conflicts with management of sites for conservation.
Actions: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Space set aside for relatively unmanaged areas to allow natural woodland to develop etc
Actions: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Setting an example to other organisations, getting own house in order etc - very important if we want other people to look at biodiversity as important in their everyday work / lives
Action: <i>Change to Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Councils should definitely be leading by example and showing how working for biodiversity is not only essential but beneficial
Action: <i>Change to Biodiversity Strategy</i>
All council areas should be managed without the use of pesticides and with biodiversity in mind (e.g. road verges, hedges, parks etc)
Actions: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Building of any type within the county will reduce biodiversity or available habitat for lifeforms to live or colonise. Only a reduction in development and an active increase in 'natural' land around existing building will help.
Actions: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Is there an equally important role in facilitating and encouraging appropriate management of non-WCC sites, especially as lead of the LAA?
Actions: <i>To be taken forward in the Community leadership chapter of the strategy.</i>
As per response to Q 4B to include reference to planning biodiversity regulation of the county estate
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
This is important to be seen as role model and to use examples as good case studies for other authorities in county to follow. If WCC does not do this, smaller authorities will find it more difficult to do so.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

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Question 5c: **How important do you think each of the following are in meeting the objective stated above?**



Question 5d: **Are there any other desired outcomes you think should be added to this section of the strategy? (Please write them in below)**

Keep new property to a minimum, help the development of people living at working in smaller spaces
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Once again this needs to follow through to practical action.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Encourage all school grounds to develop 'wild areas' even if not in eco-schools. Get schools to champion certain species/habitats dependant on their local area.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
All schools, hospitals, towns and cities should be included in this. Why just Country Parks, Eco-Schools, Rural Estates, Offices and Buildings? Biodiversity can be improved in town by encouraging wild flower meadows in parks, proper management or roadside verges to encourage wildlife rather than destroy it.
Actions: <i>To be taken forward in the Community leadership chapter of the strategy.</i>
A programme of monitoring for biodiversity quality and condition of sites, especially SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites, to ensure knowledge of resource and to enable action to be taken to prevent if condition of sites becoming unfavourable.
Actions: <i>To be taken forward in the Reporting and Review chapter of the strategy.</i>

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Question 5e: **Please use the box below for any other comments about this section of the questionnaire:**

County owned farms should be managed organically. Allotment sites should be organic and used to promote biodiversity.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Are the council offices ISO14001 and EMAS assessed?

Action: *WCC has a Corporate Energy Policy and is producing "Energy Certificates" for its buildings. Please see www.warwickshire.gov.uk for more details.*

In addition to the above there are also other areas of WCC land (owned or managed by) which we, as the County Council's Landscape Architects (in the Regeneration Projects group) are involved with: - Landscape management of highway land to promote biodiversity (e.g. through suitable mowing regimes to encourage wildflowers etc.) - Planting schemes for new roads using local tree, shrub and wildflower species; creation of wildlife habitats in character with the local area etc. - School grounds improvements to encourage wildlife, to provide opportunities for outdoor / environmental learning and promote appropriate, sustainable management / maintenance. (This may fit better in Section 4 of the Strategy.) - Appropriate landscape management of WCC's waste disposal sites to encourage biodiversity.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy and will consider these comments in other relevant sections of the Strategy.*

Case Study 3 re Kingsbury Water Park - can this refer to working with the Tame Valley Partnership and the developing Living Landscape project with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and range of partners Re SINCs - we did agree at HBA steering group to refer to these as LWS/SINCs in coming publications, not just as SINCs , so we show link with Defra guidance. can this be used here in 5.5. for clarity and consistency

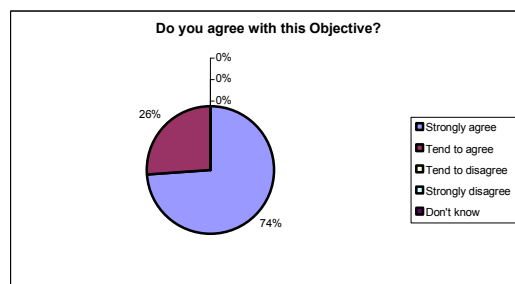
Action: *Changes to Biodiversity Strategy*

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Strand 4 - Education and Learning

Objective: To raise awareness of biodiversity and promote opportunities for formal and Informal learning about and understanding of the natural world.

Question 6a: **How strongly do you agree with the objective stated above?**



Question 6b: **If you have any comments on the objective stated above, please write them in the box below:**

What really inspires people to take care of the environment? I think it is a personal relationship to it, which is difficult to develop when entirely mediated through the formal structures of school & curriculum. But freer access to nature conflicts with health & safety and child protection concerns which have a disproportionately high public profile. We need to find a way to give children whose families aren't engaged the kind of cultural background we'll need for future generations to play the part they need to.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Connecting with nature is important if we want to sustain the bioD for the future

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Young people are losing touch with the natural world and this needs to be addressed if we want to conserve and enhance biodiversity

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

The need for biodiversity and the services it provides need to be embedded in education at all levels from primary to college. Once again this needs to be taken seriously.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Awareness is one thing but I feel we also need to cultivate a culture of respect for the natural world.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Raising awareness is key to the future of our children and their standard of life. The council needs to be more proactive in getting the general public involved in wildlife protection. A regular presence in the counties towns promoting biodiversity and the work of paid and volunteer organisations should be encouraged and all of its benefits such as improved health, improved environment and improved biodiversity should be demonstrated.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

For many people, the natural world is still only what they see on their TV screens. More local projects, with good publicity, should lead the way to educate folk at the local level.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Perhaps add something about "engendering a sense of care and responsibility"

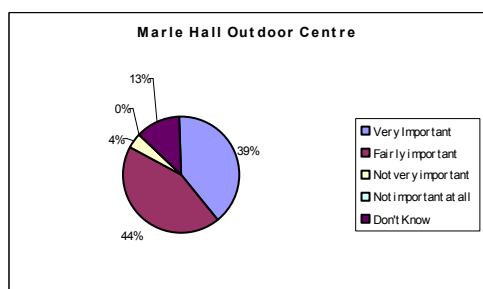
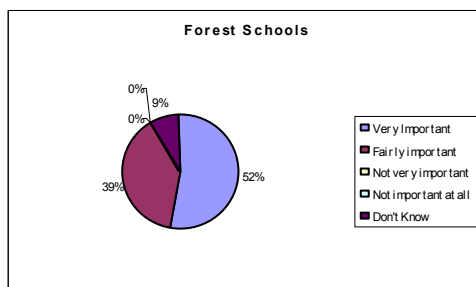
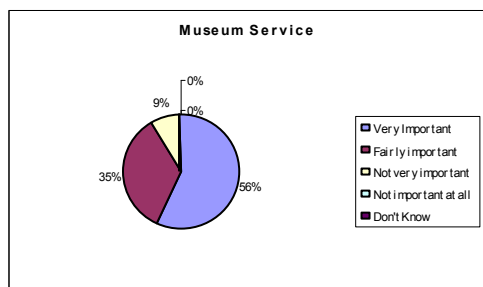
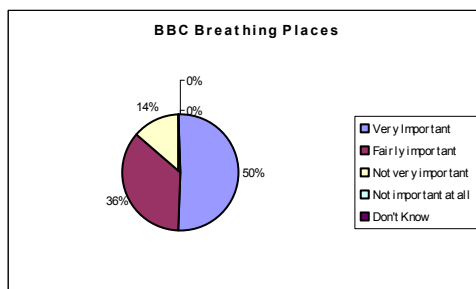
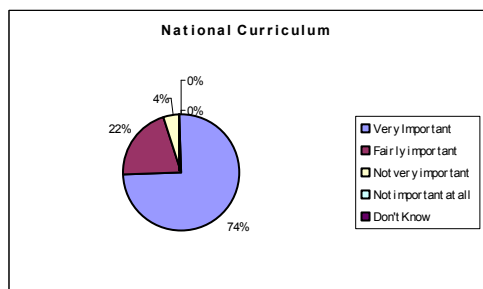
Action: *Changes to Biodiversity Strategy*

Displays at Rugby Library Art Gallery for public and school class visits to raise awareness and possible source for recruitment of young and adults when volunteers are needed.

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

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Question 6c: **How important do you think each of the following are in meeting the objective stated above?**



Question 6d: **Are there any other desired outcomes you think should be added to this section of the strategy? (Please write them in below)**

To include stewardship of the environment as a component of good citizenship.
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
Increased awareness of how humans impact on biodiversity. Ensure people are aware that the world population is growing and expect more - more intensive farming, more housing, more roads = less biodiversity. Make environmental awareness part of all education eg family planning, and services eg driving around to help elderly and disabled people.
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
Increased awareness amongst teachers and school governors of the importance of biodiversity.
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
Increase inclusion of biodiversity in local colleges for 16-25 year olds and adults of all ages.
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
Increased awareness of biodiversity issues in local businesses.
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
We feel there is a very important role for non-statutory, particularly voluntary bodies such as RSPB and The Wildlife Trusts in delivering this outcome. It would be helpful if this were recognised somehow in a commitment to partnership working perhaps?
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy and comments to be considered in the Community Leadership chapter.

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Increased involvement of local businesses in supporting biodiversity
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
To engage a range of ages and cultures in informal and formal education, in order to widen range of opportunities ... To ensure sites and access to sites for use in educational activities To work in partnership with various organisations to achieve these objectives
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

Question 6e: **Please use the box below for any other comments about this section of the questionnaire:**

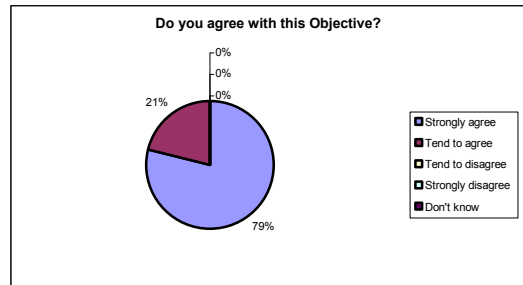
Training needs to be offered at all levels.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Class sizes and syllabus pressures often result in fieldwork being sidelined. The County perhaps needs a scheme where schools are more able to 'club' together fieldwork. Or even better to run special events/trips available to all schools that students can participate in ideally fitting in to areas of the National Curriculum.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Don't ring-fence... let get everyone involved... target 16-25 year olds and get them off the streets and involved in something constructive... but where's the money coming from to do this?
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Vital though it is, just educating school children about biodiversity isn't enough. We can't afford to wait until they are adults to improve our environment. Today's adults need to play their part to the full, but many don't know how.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

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Strand 5 - Community leadership

Objective: To act as an exemplar of best practice, by incorporating biodiversity into relevant strategies and within partnership working.

Question 7a: How strongly do you agree with the objective stated above?

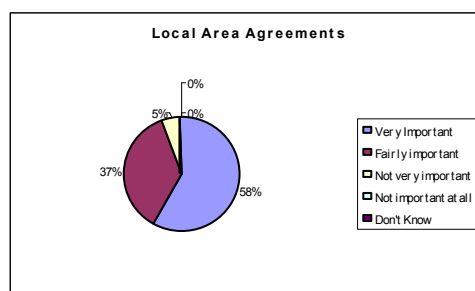
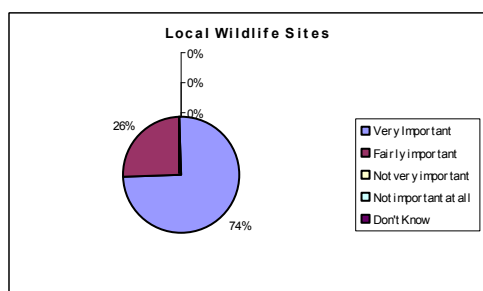
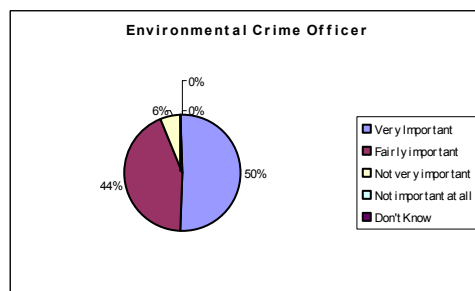
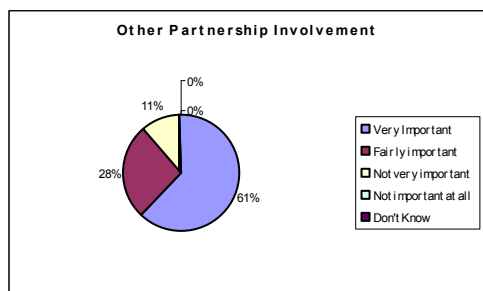
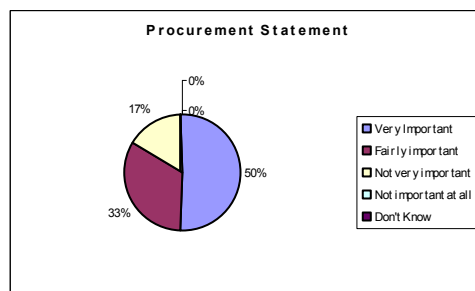
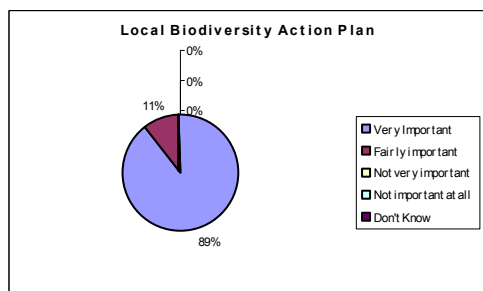


Question 7b: If you have any comments on the objective stated above, please write them in the box below:

The phrase "relevant strategies" worries me - biodiversity should be considered in EVERYTHING
Action: <i>relevant strategies is to remain, but all strategies will investigate if biodiversity is relevant.</i>
very important to consult and work with local people - with local knowledge and regular usage
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Re-phrase: To act as an exemplar of best practice, by incorporating biodiversity into ALL strategies and within partnership working.
Action: <i>relevant strategies is to remain, but all strategies will investigate if biodiversity is relevant.</i>
Local/district/town/parish councils need to be more involved. Some don't appear to do anything, or if they do, it isn't publicised properly.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
This is essential to ensure that people making key decisions are well informed about biodiversity and its needs, and potential benefit to be gained from having a good quality and level of biodiversity in the county.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

Question 7c: **How important do you think each of the following are in meeting the objective stated above?**



Question 7d: **Are there any other desired outcomes you think should be added to this section of the strategy? (Please write them in below)**

Local/town councils publish statements re their biodiversity policies, and show in practical terms how they achieve them.

Action: *To be considered in the Reporting and Reviewing chapter*

Environmental Crime Partnership could be step towards eliminating fly tipping and prevent damage or loss of natural wildlife

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Continuation of active role in LBAP partnership and supporting the process Wildlife Crime Partnership - Warwickshire Wildlife Trust wish to be active members of this, and there are other organisations e.g. wildlife sanctuaries that have an important role to play, also community organisations in awareness and reporting of crime. Can this objective be widened to include 'other organisations'

Action: *To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy*

Question 7e: **Please use the box below for any other comments about this section of the questionnaire:**

I think that there should be some mention of the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership in this section of the Strategy

Action: *Changes to Biodiversity Strategy*

The case Study re LBAP should refer to management of LBAP co-ordinator by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

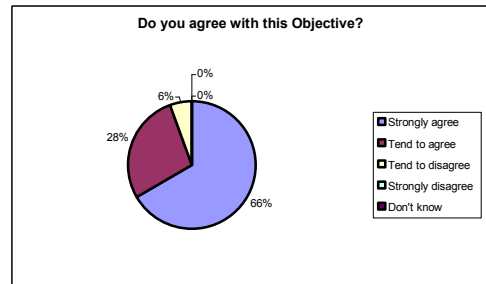
Action: *Changes to Biodiversity Strategy*

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

Strand 6 - Reporting and Review

Objective: We will establish and maintain an internal reporting mechanism to inform and report on how WCC is actively progressing biodiversity.

Question 8a: How strongly do you agree with the objective stated above?

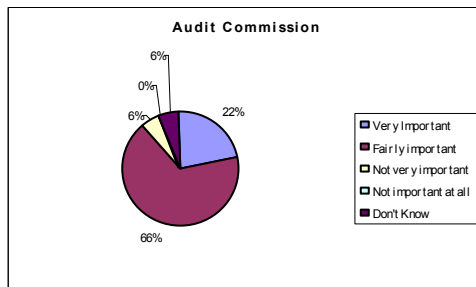
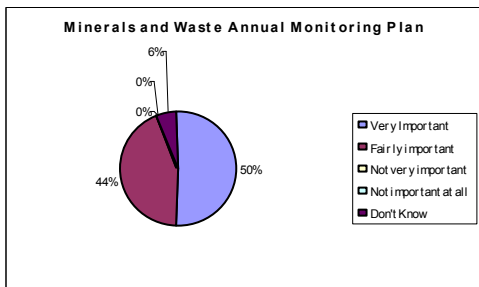
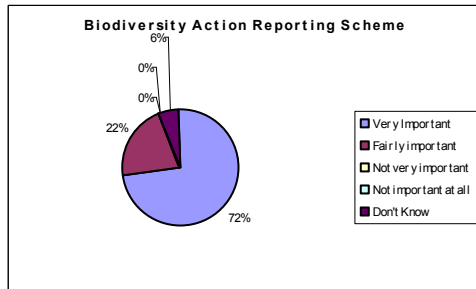
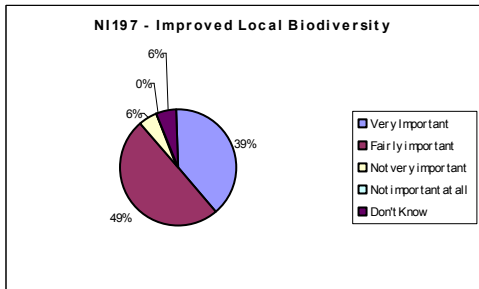


Question 8b: If you have any comments on the objective stated above, please write them in the box below

Should be specifically tied in to the Data and Information stream, so interested parties can gain a feel for whether plans are actually delivering, whether actions have been initiated etc.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
needs to be slimline to ensure quick response - proactive and reactive
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Perhaps it should be available externally
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
This internal reporting should include all external contractors involved in the delivery of biodiversity mechanisms.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
A newsletter put in local papers, once or twice a year, in layman's language, could inform the public of this progress.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

Question 8c: How important do you think each of the following are in meeting the objective stated above?



Question 8d: Are there any other desired outcomes you think should be added to this section of the strategy?

Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation by service users.
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
(i) To report publicly on WCC Biodiversity Action Plan, on annual basis. Ideally to have some external input to reviewing reports. (ii) Reporting on NI 197 is linked to work of Wildlife Sites project, part of Habitat Biodiversity Audit. (iii) Can 'Robust and reliable process' have 'resourced' added to it?
Action: (i) & (ii) To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy. (iii) Considered and included in the Data and Information chapter.

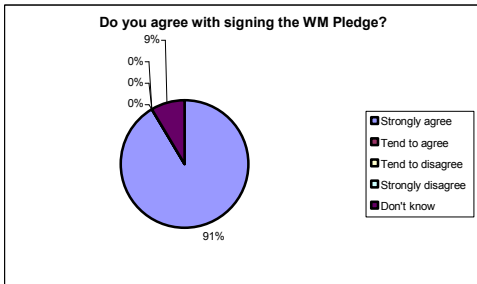
Question 8e: Please use the box below for any other comments about this section of the questionnaire:

Reporting is all very well but tends to be a box ticking exercise. Perhaps there needs to be independent auditing by the public?
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
What are your established baselines for measuring success?
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
We have some concern that the use of SINC rather than HBA data will lead to the omission of large and important areas of nature conservation importance from the reporting system. We feel that mechanisms outside of the LAA indicator must not be lost from the monitoring and evaluation system.
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy
NI 197 delivery heavily dependent on private landowners, WCC must try to influence but has little leverage
Action: To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy

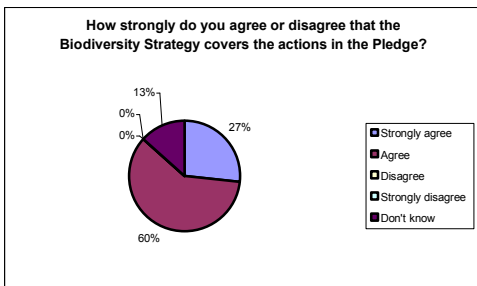
Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

Summary

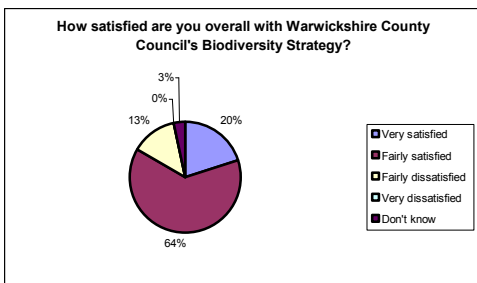
Question 9a: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the County Council should sign the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge?



Question 9b: How strongly do you agree or disagree that the Biodiversity Strategy covers the actions in the Pledge?



Question 9c: How satisfied are you overall with Warwickshire County Council's Biodiversity Strategy?



Question 9d: If you have any further comments you would like to make about the strategy, please use the box below:

I don't think it goes far enough. This is fine for a first stage but stronger plans for the future should be built in.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Not sure why the outcomes are 'desired outcomes' and not firm outcomes - it reads as a get out clause in case things don't get done!
Action: <i>Changes to Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Country parks seem to be lagging behind in implementation
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Biodiversity and climate change are two crucial issues facing the council over the next decade and practical education programmes need to keep the public informed and encourage them to directly participate in the biodiversity strategy.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the</i>

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

<i>Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Pledges and Awards are always good for keeping a body focused on an intended goal if only for prestige rather than actual long term gain or desire.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
Biodiversity will always be low priority due to the lack of financial support and the lack of priority compared to 'development'. Until the balance is redressed and biodiversity is a matter, which cannot be ignored, and penalties are levied against those, which ignore biodiversity policy or physically damage biodiversity either through neglect, ignorance or wilful damage.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
The strategy appears comprehensive and highly desirable. The challenge is to achieve a position where everyone has it firmly implanted in their minds so that they have a desire to do what they should and what they can and not wish to ignore it or regard it as an inconvenient obstacle to work around. Its success depends entirely on human activities and attitudes both of which are notoriously difficult to manage. If time and resources are generously invested in the initial stages a strong foundation should enable a positive long-term outcome.
Action: <i>To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy</i>
In the section entitled "Day in the Life of the County Family" we might suggest that RSPB gets a specific mention, for example in providing the Wildlife Explorers club with the rangers at Kingsbury Water Park. However, we understand that all organisations involved can not get a specific mention. From that point of view, it might be better to remove all specific references (eg. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and the Bat Group) and make up a non-specific fictional organisation??
Action: <i>Changes to Biodiversity Strategy</i>
(i) It would be useful to have a bit of background on the biodiversity resource of Warwickshire. Is resilient landscape a meaningful term for people? explain/simplify (ii) Should mention West Mids Biodiversity Partnership Needs to say why data important in policy terms. (iii) Is it correct to say that NERC cements all the other legislation and policy or is it just another statutory duty added to the others (iv) No net loss of biodiversity should be changed to increased biodiversity through enhancement to help deliver ecological resilience within landscapes and t provide socio-economic benefits (v) Does WCC intend to sign the biodiversity pledge? - there is no mention of this in the text although it is included within the strategy These comments are submitted on behalf of Natural England
Action: <i>(i) To be taken forward for consideration into the action plan that will accompany the Biodiversity Strategy. (ii) Changes to Biodiversity Strategy (iii) Changes to Biodiversity Strategy (iv) Changes to Biodiversity Strategy(v) yes.</i>
The Pledge does not explicitly cover the geodiversity aspects.
Action: <i>Will pass this comment to the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership</i>
Re Q9b - aspects re championing/promotion of biodiversity not so covered by this plan; also aspects re Climate change impact not so obvious in wording, although all points link to this. Overall, covers many aspects very well. Hope these points help.
<i>Changes to Biodiversity Strategy</i>

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

About you

Question 10a: **Are you male or female?**

Males = 15

Females = 14

No comments = 1

Question 10b: **Please indicate which age band you are in.**

Under 18	18 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60+
0	1	12	11	4

No comments = 2

Question 10c: **To which of these groups do you consider you belong?**

White = 26

Other = 2

No comments = 2

Question 10d: **Do you have any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity? (long-standing means anything that has troubled you over a period of time or that is likely to affect you over a period of time)**

No = 24

Yes = 4

No comment = 2

Question 10e: **What is your religion, even if you are not currently practising?**

None = 11

Prefer not to say = 3

Christian = 13

Other = 1

No comments = 2

Question 10f: **Do you consider yourself to be ... ?**

Gay or Lesbian = 1

Heterosexual or straight = 21

Other = 2

Prefer not to say = 4

No comments = 2

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy – Consultation Response

APPENDIX A:

NON WEB-BASED RESPONDEES



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

Dave Lowe
Principal Ecologist
Warwickshire Museum Field Services
Warwickshire County Council
The Butts
Warwick
CV34 4SS

Sustainable Futures

5 St Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW
Tel: 0121 352 5050

Your Ref:

Date: 9 September 2008

Dear Dave,

Re: Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy - consultation

Thank you for consulting us on the Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy. This is a very welcome development and usefully and effectively sets out how the Council intends to contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the County.

The strategic relationships for the work of the Council on biodiversity are well set out through the Corporate Policy for Environmental Sustainability and the Strategic Positioning Diagram. Signing the WM Biodiversity Pledge is an important indication of the Council's commitment to biodiversity.

The aims and objectives could be enhanced with a reference to aspiration (perhaps something about creating wonderful places for people) and how it will contribute to national, regional and county biodiversity targets

The section headings, Data and information, Regulation, Management of our own Estate, Education and Learning, Community Leadership, Reporting and Review and Implementing the Strategy are appropriate and the content usefully explains the Council's approach and intended actions.

The Strategy has a section on the Warwickshire Biodiversity Action Plan and the contribution of the work of the Council towards it. Within this, better reference could be made to how the Strategy will contribute to national, regional and local targets. It could also have in its objectives the support of the BAP outcomes.

A day in the life of a county family is a valuable way of conveying the aspirations of the Strategy. However, not everyone will necessarily aspire to this particular family's lifestyle and a slightly different version may have greater impact.

Once again, thank you for consulting us and I would be grateful if you could forward us an electronic copy of the final version.

Yours sincerely

Paul Cobbing
Climate Change and Energy Officer

WWW.GO-WM.GOV.UK

creating a better place



**Environment
Agency**

WCC Ecology Unit,
Warwickshire Museum The Butts
Warwick
Warwickshire
CV34 4SS

Our ref: UT/2008/104725/01-L01
Your ref: Biodiversity Strategy
Date: 15 September 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

WARWICKSHIRE CC BACKGROUND DOCUMENT FOR LDF

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY - WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY

Thank you for referring the above strategy on 3 September 2008.

Having reviewed the on-line document we have the following comments to make:

The 'Principals' of the Strategy focus upon minimising damage and loss of habitat, rather than improving and enhancing habitats and features. We would have expected the document to have higher aspirations and to set forward proposals for environmental enhancements within Warwickshire.

A day in the life of the county family

This does not seem to be a realistic future depiction of the majority of the people living in Warwickshire, now or in the future. Whilst we would of course aspire to many of the things the County family do and have, only a small minority have large enough gardens to grow their own food on any scale. Indeed current housing densities actively prevent this becoming a reality for the majority. I wonder whether it will put more people off than it inspires. Some adjustment so that it is more relevant and achievable for the average person with a tiny (or no) garden might be better.

New Buildings and Retro-fitting of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)

All new buildings should be fitted with the best available sustainable drainage techniques. The use of green roofs can increase local biodiversity and features such as rainwater harvesting can reduce the demand on water supplies. Features such as reed beds and pools also offer new wildlife habitats.

As well as the use of SuDs on all new buildings, although this may be a requirement of PPS25 for some new developments, it would be helpful for your authority to take a lead in this area and consideration should be given to retro-fitting SuDs on existing County Buildings to reverse the existing impacts associated with its buildings.

Forest Schools – Although they work elsewhere in the country and abroad has found that Forest Schools can benefit older children as much as younger children.

Encouraging children to learn in a Forest School environment, during secondary

Environment Agency
Sentinel House, 9 Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 8RR.
Customer services line: 08708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

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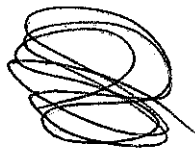
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

school age may also encourage students to value and respect our natural heritage more.

Sustainable Procurement - An important aspect of sustainable procurement within the County is to spread the message further, particularly to County businesses. The County Council should hold a directory of sustainable suppliers, particularly local suppliers and spread the message to the wider public. An area of sustainable materials that is generally undervalued is that of timber generated from our local sustainably managed woodlands, for example encouraging coppiced products such as chestnut fencing rather than treated pine alternatives.

It would be beneficial to add in details of any Natural 2000 sites (SAC) or other sites (SSSI, AONB, SINCE etc) which fall within Warwickshire (as an appendix) in the final strategy report, as it would increase awareness of where these sites are.

Yours faithfully

P.P. 

Mr James Kitchen
Planning Liaison Team Leader

Please ask for: Becky Clarke

Direct Dial: 01543 404945

Direct Fax: 01543 444161

Direct email: becky.clarke@environment-agency.gov.uk

3rd September 2008

Mr David Lowe
Principal Ecologist
Audit, Health and Community Services
Warwickshire Museum Field Services
Warwickshire County Council,
The Butts
Warwick
CV34 4SS

Dear Mr Lowe

RE: Consultation on the draft Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy.

Thank you for consulting Advantage West Midlands (the Agency) on Warwickshire County Council's draft Biodiversity Strategy.

Advantage West Midlands is the Regional Development Agency for the West Midlands. Its role is to work with partners to achieve sustainable economic development for the region. The West Midlands Economic Strategy 'Connecting to Success', launched in December 2007, is the region's approach to closing the £10 billion output gap between the West Midlands and UK average, when measured in terms of output per head.

Hailed as the UK's first low carbon Regional Economic Strategy, "Connecting to Success" sets a vision of the region as, 'a global centre where people and businesses choose to connect'. Whilst seeking to promote a more prosperous region, the Strategy acknowledges that economic growth must support overall improvements in the quality of life and the wellbeing of residents, ensuring skills development and equality of opportunity. The vision for Connecting to Success also acknowledges that the West Midlands needs to become a more sustainable region, correctly valuing the natural, historic and cultural assets and seeking to minimise the use of the planet's resources as well as preparing for a low-carbon future.

Within this context the Agency acknowledges the aims and objectives of the Warwickshire Biodiversity Strategy and hopes that these will be integrated into the holistic approach for sustainable economic development for the both County, within its own LAA targets and Corporate Approach, and with partners within the sub-region. Achieving sustainable economic development can be challenging and hence mechanisms such as the West Midlands Sustainability Checklist have been developed and are used for Agency projects to help weigh up how issues such as biodiversity, low carbon development and access to opportunity can be managed to achieve a positive outcome. It is noted that the Biodiversity Strategy will seek to protect, promote and enhance natural habitats and wildlife and the social and environmental wellbeing associated with them. The County Council's Corporate Policy for Environmental Sustainability also recognizes that social, economic and environmental issues must be

integrated and delivered in a joined up way; activities must be planned for the long term and negative impacts on adjacent areas, local and global must be minimized.

The Agency welcomes the proposals for the inclusion of biodiversity within planning documents and in promoting education and learning. Within "Connecting to Success", the need to encourage sustainable living is a key goal, principally through changing attitudes to sustainability and consumption. However it is acknowledged that measures such as the development of green infrastructure both within urban and rural environments (where safely accessed, publically accessible green space, for example, is sometimes difficult to reach) are often key to this. The Agency therefore welcomes the Biodiversity Strategy's proposal for the inclusion of green infrastructure in strategic planning documents, and hopes this will be looked at in both a rural and urban context.

The Agency would also acknowledge the role of the County Council in leading by example by promoting biodiversity in their own projects. Ecologically designed buildings and sites and habitat creation can assist in improving local biodiversity and help future-proof developments. We would encourage the use of the West Midlands Sustainability Checklist, which we apply to our own funded projects, to assist in this.

I hope that these comments are of use and look forward to receiving confirmation of the finalised Biodiversity Strategy document.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Pearce
Corporate Director for Economic Regeneration

Subject Biodiversity Strategy - Consultation

Dear Mr Lowe,

I am writing in response to your letter seeking views on the draft WCC Biodiversity Strategy.

The strategy does not directly deal with any specific 'public health' related indicators so there isn't much we can provide our input into.

There are, however, a few points worth mentioning here:

On a **general level** we, as a PCT, fully support the strategy as it is indeed a step in the right direction. Biodiversity loss can have indirect effects on Public Health and well-being as follows:

- The loss of biodiversity leads to emergence and reemergence of infectious diseases at a faster rate.
- Biodiversity loss leads to ecosystems that are less resilient, more vulnerable to shocks and disturbances, and less able to supply humans with needed services. The damage to coastal communities from floods and storms, for example, increases dramatically following conversion of wetland habitats, as the natural protection offered by these ecosystems including regulation of water run-off is compromised.
- Biodiversity loss diminishes the supplies of raw materials for drug discovery and biotechnology, causes a loss of medical models, and threatens food production and water quality.

(Alves RR, Rosa IM. Biodiversity, traditional medicine and public health: where do they meet? *J Ethnobiol Ethnomed.* 2007; 3: 14).

I have a few specific comments as follows:

- **Strand 1: Data and Information** – this is a very important part of the strategy and we would like to see strong leadership on this so that reliable data can be collected and disseminated in a timely manner. This has implications for public health in terms of health protection/infectious diseases issues.
- **Strand 4: Education and Learning** – in addition to all the formal and informal learning opportunities outlined in the strategy, the role of print media should not be underestimated. For example, a regular column (on quarterly basis) on the importance of biodiversity should be published especially in the weekly free newspapers. This would be helpful in raising public awareness.
- **Strand 4: Education and Learning** – A small amount of funding should be

made available through the council's education department for students/researchers interested in studying the effects of loss of biodiversity on humans. This funding can be channeled either through the Universities or directly through the council.

I hope this is of some help.

Best wishes, Faisal

Dr Faisal Yunus
Consultant Public Health Medicine
NHS Warwickshire
Faisal.Yunus@warkpct.nhs.uk

Did you know South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust is applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust? You can find out more about our application and/or apply for Membership at

<http://www.warwickhospital.nhs.uk/foundationtrust/default.aspx>

or by calling our Foundation Trust Office on free phone 0800 085 2471.

This email has been scanned for viruses by NAI GS6, however we are unable to accept responsibility for any damage caused by the contents.

The opinions expressed in this email represent the views of the sender, not South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust unless explicitly stated.

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Please consider your environmental responsibility: Before printing this e-mail or any other document, ask yourself whether you need a hard copy.

Warwickshire County Council
Draft Biodiversity Strategy
September 2008

Woodland Trust comments :-

1. We are pleased to see the overarching aim of the Strategy is *'To work with partners to protect and enhance existing and future wildlife populations and habitats in Warwickshire, within a resilient landscape'*. However we would like to see this stated more explicitly throughout the document, rather than just in the introductory section, particularly with reference to irreplaceable semi-natural habitats such as ancient woodland, which require absolute protection (see PPS 9 and *'Keepers of Time - A statement of policy for England's ancient and native woodland'*, 2005 , FC).
2. Similarly, we are concerned in 'Section 2: Regulation' about the reference to 'no net biodiversity loss' under 'Desired Outcomes' in the final paragraph box. Semi-natural habitats like ancient woodland are irreplaceable. In terms of compensatory measures, it is impossible, for instance, to replace ancient woodland as this habitat has evolved over centuries and it is impossible to replace hundreds of years of ecological evolution by planting a new site or attempting to translocate them. For these reasons, semi-natural UKBAP priority habitats should be excluded from this reference.
3. 'Section 5: Community Leadership': para 5.7 – 'Other Partnership Involvement' – we would like to draw attention to the Woodland Trust's Community Woodland Network initiative, set up to facilitate community ownership, management and creation of woods - see <http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/communitywoodlandnetwork/>.

For further information please contact:

Justin Milward
Regional Policy Officer (West Midlands)
Woodland Trust
Jayrise
Butcombe
Bristol BS40 7UT
Tel/Fax: 01761 463434
Email: justinmilward@woodland-trust.org.uk

Subject Biodiversity Strategy - Consultation

Dear David

I'm in receipt of a letter from your office to Mr.B Campbell of Land Rover, dated 21st August 2008, seeking our views on the draft Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy, that is out for consultation.

Having examined the document closely, I do not feel that we can constructively respond with the questionnaire, as the strategy is rightly focused on initiatives within WCC remit, and the questionnaire aimed toward an individual public response. However, I would like to put on record that Jaguar, Land Rover are supportive of the strategy, and welcome such pro-active initiatives from the County authority.

Our site at Gaydon benefits from a fine location in rural Warwickshire, and we are committed to doing what we can, within business parameters, to protect natural habitats, and enable the local site ecology to flourish, inside a larger rural context. We seek to maintain a healthy dialogue with your Ms.Anna Swift, including further consultation on an ecological management plan for the site.

For your information, I would advise that Mr.Campbell has retired from service with Jaguar, Land Rover. Hence your letter was re-directed to myself.

I trust you find these comments of value.

Kind Regards,

Clive J Dorney

Principal Engineer

Site & Facilities Strategy

01926 643300

Jaguar cars Limited, Abbey Road, Whitley, Coventry CV3 4LF, UK

Registered in England Number 1672070

Land Rover, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwick CV35 0RR, UK

Registered in England and Wales Number 4019301



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Subject: WCC Biodiversity Strategy reply

Hi Dave,

Was hoping to get to speak to you prior to sending my review of the Warks Biodiversity Strategy Document as I have attached a PDF here that I have commented on. I would like to chat through these comments with you, but if you are pressed for time, I understand. I hope the comments I have made will help and are definitely not intended to offend! I am sure you will only use what is useful anyway and will disregard any unimportant comments.

In general I feel whilst the document contains all the information needed it is a little hard to read, just in terms of leading the reader into what the document is about and taking them on a journey through it and explaining how it all fits in together with or is informed by regional and national biodiversity strategies.

There are general issues I am sure you are aware of such as use of abbreviations without explanation, interchanges of terms such as the council and WCC or Ecology Team or Ecology Unit - maybe best to stick to one or the other. I would also like to see the implementation part expanded and maybe to include how the reader might help the council in implementing its strategy. As here the strategy seems to end rather abruptly and doesn't lead on to other information sources or partners involved etc. It may be you are intending on including them so apologies if I make comments you are already aware of.

Hope to speak with you in the next few days,

Regards
Natalie

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