

Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB (Tel.01259-450000)

Place Committee

Thursday 20 January 2022 at 9.30 am

**The meeting will be held by
video conference (MS Teams)**



Place Committee

The remit of the Place Committee is:

- (1) To determine policies for the environment, development and facilities and assets
- (2) To set standards for service delivery in the above mentioned areas
- (3) To secure best value in the provision of these services
- (4) To monitor performance in the delivery of services including consideration of:
 - quarterly service performance reports
 - inspection or other similar reports
 - financial performance
- (5) To keep under review the impact of the Committee's policies on Clackmannanshire
- (6) To take decisions on applications for Community Asset Transfer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend our Council and Committee meetings to see how decisions are made.

Details of all of our Council and Committee dates and agenda items are published on our website at www.clacks.gov.uk

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12 January 2022

A MEETING of the PLACE COMMITTEE will be held Via MS Teams, on THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2022 at 9.30 AM.

**Pete Leonard
Strategic Director (Place)**

B U S I N E S S

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1. Apologies	--
2. Declaration of Interests Members should declare any financial or non-financial interests they have in any item on this agenda, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest in accordance with the Councillors' Code of Conduct. A Declaration of Interest form should be completed and passed to the Committee Officer.	--
3. Confirm Minutes of Meeting of the:	
a. Place Committee held on 4 November 2021 (Copy herewith)	05
b. Special Place Committee held on 11 November 2021 (Copy herewith)	11
4. Financial Performance 2021/22 – October Outturn- report by the Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Copy herewith)	13
5. Sustainability Reporting: Biodiversity Duty Report, 2018-20 – report by Pete Leonard, Strategic Director, Place (Copy herewith)	27
6. Review of Access Arrangements and ID at Forthbank - report by Pete Leonard, Strategic Director, Place (Copy herewith)	57

Place Committee – Committee Members (Membership 8 - Quorum 4)

Councillors

Wards

Councillor	Craig Holden (Convenor)	4	Clackmannanshire South	SNP
Councillor	Jane McTaggart (Vice Convenor)	3	Clackmannanshire Central	SNP
Councillor	Darren Lee	1	Clackmannanshire West	CONS
Councillor	Tina Murphy	1	Clackmannanshire West	SNP
Councillor	Donald Balsillie	2	Clackmannanshire North	SNP
Councillor	Derek Stewart	3	Clackmannanshire Central	LAB
Councillor	Kenneth Earle	4	Clackmannanshire South	LAB
Councillor	Denis Coyne	5	Clackmannanshire East	CON



**MINUTES OF MEETING of the PLACE COMMITTEE held via MS TEAMS at 9.30 am on
THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021 at 9.30 am.**

PRESENT

Councillor Craig Holden (Convenor)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Dave Clark (S)
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Jane McTaggart

IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Iain McDonald, Senior Manager, Environment (Place)
Kate Fleming, Senior Housing Strategy Officer (Place)
Andrew Buchanan, Team Leader, Business Improvement (Place)
Wilson Lees, Homelessness and Supporting People Manager
Elizabeth-Anne Syme, Private Sector Housing Co-ordinator (Place)
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer, (Partnership & Performance)
Craig Dickson, Accountant (Partnership & Performance)
Saul Milne, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Lee Robertson, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Committee)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

June Anderson, Chair of Clackmannanshire Tenants and Residents Federation was also in attendance as an observer.

PLC(21)20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Kenneth Earle and Councillor Derek Stewart.
Councillor Dave Clark attended Committee today as substitute for Councillor Earle.

PLC(21)21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**PLC(21)22 MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLACE COMMITTEE HELD ON
9 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minute of the meeting of the Place Committee held on Thursday 9 September 2021 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The Minutes of the meeting of the Place Committee held on Thursday 9 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convenor.

PLC(21)23 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2021/22 – AUGUST OUTTURN

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided an update on the financial performance for the Place Division of the Council in respect of revenue spend for General Fund and revenue and capital spend for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the current financial year 2020/21. This was based on forecast information at August 2021. General Fund Capital expenditure will be reported to the Audit Committee on 25 November 2021 as part of the overall Council's financial performance report.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Dave Clark.

Decision

Having commented on and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note:

1. the forecast General Fund revenue underspend relating to the Place Division for the year of £(0.062)m;
2. the Housing Revenue Account forecasted revenue underspend of £(0.090)m;
3. the Housing Revenue Account Capital spend forecast underspend of which £(0.468)m which will be carried forward to 2022/23, and
4. the forecasted delivery of planned savings in the year of 96.8%.

PLC(21)24 HOMELESS PERFORMANCE UPDATE

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided an update to Committee on Homelessness presentation rates and performance in managing such presentations.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

Having commented on and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the report.

PLC(21)25 SCOTTISH HOUSING REGULATOR ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided a reminder for members on the 2019 changes to the regulatory framework for social housing in Scotland and asks members to note the submission of Clackmannanshire Council's Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) on 31 October 2021.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendation set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Committee agreed note the 2021 submission of the Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator, noting the relevant changes to the regulatory framework for social housing in Scotland and the impact of Covid-19 on our ability to implement the improvement actions required to be undertaken.

PLC(21)26 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING REPAIRS LEGISLATION UPDATE

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), set out the current position in relation to Mixed Tenure works, relating to Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assets. The report details actions including potential pilot considerations, areas of further investigation, resource requirements and aspects which until primary legislation is altered, might not be resolved.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

1. note the change the 'off the shelf' buying back policy to allow for owners, in certain situations (7.2), to contact the council to ask us to purchase the property, where their property meets the advertised criteria and where the Council would achieve vacant possession and a clean title;
2. agree that legislate changes, such as those envisaged by Housing to 2040, with establishment of a common standard across all tenures could assist with the challenges expressed in this report;
3. explore the mechanism and feasibility of engagement options for homeowners in mixed share works including;
 - a. a 'Golden Share' where the council obtain a percentage of the property value in return for front funding common works,
 - b. consider buying back property in mixed HRA tenure blocks, to facilitate common repairs/improvements and potential allow for sitting tenants/owners to remain in situ,
 - c. consider with legal and finance expertise, whether owners in mixed tenure HRS blocks could pay an ongoing proportionate share of the rent, which would guarantee all communal repairs, maintenance and improvement taking place, without any recourse for any charging mechanisms – i.e. the establishment of a proper factor.
4. note the service is considering examining mixed tenure blocks where the HRA is in minority ownership, to potential dispose of some of all of these assets in line with agreed council policy, where the funds received would be ring-fenced to re-invest in alternative affordable housing supply only;
5. note that process relating to door entry repairs and installations (3.6/3.7);
6. Note the list of future actions highlighted at point 10.0;
7. having commented on and challenged the report, the Committee agreed to note the reminder of the report.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

PLC(21)27 STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2022-2027

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), sought approval of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for 2022 – 2027, including the summary 5 year programme of housing sales, detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

PLC(21)28 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE SCHEME

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), updated the Committee on the Private Sector Assistance Scheme, to reflect the forthcoming legislative requirements for homeowners in relation to fire safety.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the relevant information on safety and approve the adjustment to the Private Sector Housing Assistance Scheme.

PLC(21)29 REVIEW OF SOIL AND RUBBLE AT RECYCLING CENTRE

This report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided an update and review to the Committee on the current operational processes of Disposal of soil and rubble at Forthbank HWRC. In accordance of the Council decision of 19 August in relation to the paper on the Household Waste and Recycling Policy.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve:-

1. that the current arrangements for soil and rubble disposal are retained beyond the end of COVID-19 restrictions and are adopted as standard operational procedure at the Forthbank Recycling Centre.
2. that the site conditions be risk assessed to ensure that soil and rubble operations remain safe as reasonably practical for members of the public and site staff.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

Ends 10:40 hrs



**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the PLACE COMMITTEE held via MS TEAMS on
THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2021 at 10:00 am**

PRESENT

Councillor Craig Holden (Convenor)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny (S)
Councillor Denis Coyne
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Jane McTaggart

IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager – Housing (Place)
Alistair MacKenzie, Facilities Team Leader (Place)
Lesley Baillie, Strategy and Performance Adviser (Partnership and Performance)
Saul Milne, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)
Lee Robertson, Solicitor, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Committee)
Gillian White, Committee Services, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance)

PLC(21)28 APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Darren Lee, Councillor Tina Murphy and Councillor Derek Stewart. Councillor Martha Benny attended as substitute for Councillor Lee.

PLC(21)29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PLC(21)30 CAT REQUEST – DOLLAR CIVIC CENTRE, DOLLAR & ADJACENT AREA

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), sought a decision in accordance with Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 ("the Act") on the Community Asset Transfer Request ("CAT Request") made by Dollar Community Development Trust ("DCDT") for the purchase of the former Civic Centre, Dollar (the "Property") and some adjacent land.

Motion

That the Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

Decision

The Committee agreed:

1. To review the application at appendix 1 and the assessment of the application by officers at appendices 2, 3 and 4;
2. To give consideration to the requirements in the Act at sections 82 (3) and (4) and the statutory guidance published in terms of section 96 of the Act (as set out in the background paper);
3. Having determined the community asset transfer request for the former Civic Centre, Dollar made by DCDT, approved the application on the basis that following their review and consideration, that there are no reasonable grounds for refusal; and
4. That subject to 3 (above), to offer both Option 1 and Option 2 for the terms of the sale of the property as detailed in Clause 3.10; and
5. To delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, to issue a decision notice in terms of the Act.

Ends 10:20 hrs

Report to: Place Committee

Date of Meeting: 20 January 2022

Subject: Financial Performance 2021/22 – October Outturn

Report by: Chief Finance Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This paper provides an update on the financial performance for the Place Division of the Council in respect of revenue spend for the General Fund and revenue and capital spend for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the current financial year 2021/22. This is based on forecast information at October 2021. General Fund Capital expenditure will be reported to the Audit Committee on 3 February 2022 as part of the overall Council's financial performance report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to note this report, commenting and challenging as appropriate on:
- the forecast nil variance on the General Fund revenue relating to the Place Division for the year;
 - the Housing Revenue Account forecasted revenue surplus of £(0.501)m;
 - the Housing Revenue Account Capital spend forecasted underspend of £(2.682)m which is proposed to be carried forward to 2022/23, and;
 - the forecasted delivery of planned savings in the year of 88.4%.

3.0 Background

- 3.1. The following service areas are within the remit of the Place Division:
- Development;
 - Property;
 - Housing, and
 - Environment.

Source: Organisational Redesign: Update June 2019

4.0 General Fund Revenue

- 4.1. Overall the Division's net service expenditure is forecasting a nil variance for the year ended 31 March 2022. This is an adverse movement of £0.062m since the August Outturn report to this Committee on 4 November 2021.
- 4.2. Included within the forecasted outturn for Housing and Community Services is a forecast of £0.631m for emergency repairs and maintenance costs associated with council owned public buildings. These costs relate to unexpected emergency repairs requiring immediate action to ensure the integrity and stability of occupied buildings and maintain the security and safety of vacant buildings owned by the Council. At its meeting on 16 December, Council approved to fund an amount upto £0.585m from uncommitted reserves to offset these unexpected costs. Based on the forecast at October, £0.372m has been allocated for this purpose with the remaining overspend offset from underspends elsewhere within the Place portfolio.
- 4.3. **Appendix 1** provides an overview of the financial outturn position within each Service Expenditure area and the movement from the previous reported projected outturn.
- 4.4. **Appendix 2** sets out the main variances for the year.
- 4.5. Covid19 continues to impact the delivery of Services as we move through the Recovery phase of the pandemic. Elements of the variances attributable to Covid19 are shown within the appendix. The Council received funding during 2020/21 and 2021/22 and will allocate this funding to offset overspends relating to Covid19 as appropriate at the end of the financial year.

5.0 2021/22 Savings Progress

- 5.1 The 2021/22 budget incorporated approved savings of £2.126m. Of this total £0.776m is attributable to the Place Division.
- 5.2 Based on analysis to date, savings of £0.686m (88.4%) are forecast to be achieved with £0.090m (11.6%) being forecast as at risk or unachievable in 2021/22.
- 5.3 **Appendix 3** provides details of progress towards achieving the approved 2021/22 savings and shows further detail of the savings that have been identified as at risk or unachievable. Services supported by the accountancy team are working to achieve the approved savings or identify compensatory savings by the end of the financial year.

6.0 Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Spend

- 6.1 **Appendix 4** provides an overview of the financial outturn position for the HRA Revenue spend for this year in accordance with its Business Plan. It is forecast that the Service will achieve a surplus in the year of £(6.146)m which is £(0.501)m greater than budgeted. This is a favourable movement of

£(0.411)m since the August Outturn report to this Committee on 4 November 2021.

- 6.2 **Appendix 5** sets out the main forecasted variances and explanations for the year.

7.0 Housing Revenue Account – Capital Spend

- 7.1 The current net HRA Capital Budget is £8.992m. This is inclusive of carry forward of £2.501m from 2020/21 which was mainly due to slippage in planned work due to lockdown restrictions which will now be carried out in 2021/22.

- 7.2 At this time the HRA Capital Programme is forecast to underspend by £(2.682)m. The programme has previously been impacted with the recent Covid19 restrictions that were in place. The underspend is largely made up of:

- the Window Replacement project is forecasting to underspend by £0.568m as work is still impacted by restrictions to the number of tradespersons in homes,

- the budget for off the shelf purchases is forecast to underspend by £1.100m due to the buoyant housing market the service will require to re-examine the current strategy.

- the budget for a new IT system is not forecast to spend this financial year and is therefore forecast to underspend by £0.260m. The internal staff capacity to take this project forward is currently being reviewed.

These areas will be continually monitored during the year and any variances will be reported to committee through these reports.

- 7.3 **Appendix 6** provides details of the HRA capital programme for the current year, where individual projects are listed within the various asset management plans.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Place Division revenue spend is forecasting a nil variance.
- 8.2 Of the associated approved savings of £0.776m, £0.686m (88.4%) is forecast to be achieved by the end of the financial year.
- 8.3 The HRA Revenue Account is anticipating a surplus of £(0.501)m more than budgeted.
- 8.4 The HRA Capital Programme a forecast to spend under budget by £(2.682)m.

9.0 Sustainability Implications

9.1 None

10.0 Resource Implications

10.1 Financial Details

10.2 The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ☒

10.3 Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ☒

10.4 Staffing

11.0 Exempt Reports

11.1 Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

12.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

13.0 Equalities Impact

13.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes ☐ No ☒

14.0 Legality

- 14.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒ ☐

15.0 Appendices

- 15.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1- Financial Outturn position at October 2021

Appendix 2- Outturn variances at October 2021

Appendix 3- Summary Savings by Directorate at October 2021

Appendix 4- HRA Revenue Outturn at October 2021

Appendix 5- HRA Revenue Variances at October 2021

Appendix 6- HRA Capital Outturn at October 2021

16.0 Background Papers

- 16.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☐

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Elizabeth Hutcheon	Management Accountancy Team Leader	Ext 6214

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lindsay Sim	Chief Finance Officer	
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	

Place Summary 2021/22

Appendix 1

As at October 2021

	<i>Annual Budget 2021/22 £'000</i>	<i>Forecast to March 2022 £'000</i>	<i>Variance Forecast to Budget £'000</i>	<i>Variance as at Aug-21 £'000</i>	<i>Variane Movement From Previous Forecast £'000</i>
Executive Team	197	172	(25)	(25)	0
Development & Environmental	14,494	14,369	(125)	(130)	5
Housing & Community Safety	4,693	4,843	150	93	57
Place Total	19,384	19,384	0	(62)	62

Place	Annual Budget 2021/22	Forecast to March 2022	Variance Forecast to Budget at October	Variance due to Covid	Variance due to Non Covid	Variance Forecast to Budget at August	Movement in variance August to October	Narrative
	£'000	£'000	£'000			£'000		
Executive Team	197	172	(25)	0	(25)	(25)	(1)	Underspend in employee costs of £(0.025)m due to recharge to Housing Revenue Account for Strategic Director's time.
Development & Environmental	14,494	14,369	(125)	61	(186)	(130)	5	<p>Building Operations: £0.010m overspend, £0.024m movement due to increased utility usage across sites.</p> <p>Catering: £0.014m overspend, £(0.098)m movement. Movement is due to an increase in income, with remaining overspend due to reduced income overall.</p> <p>Regulatory: £0.012m overspend, £(0.006)m movement. Overspend due to lower income from rental of park space for events due to Covid, movement due to additional income received from Nature Scotland for Countryside Rangers.</p> <p>Waste Management: £(0.065)m underspend, £0.063m movement - £(0.046)m underspend, £0.039m movement in Waste Treatment routes; £(0.019)m underspend, £(0.006)m movement on staffing due to vacancy management; £0.030m movement due to the settlement of ACE Recycling.</p> <p>Streetcare: £0.028m overspend, no movement - £0.040m overspend on overtime due to an unrealised saving in 2018/19 which removed the overtime budget; partially offset by £(0.012)m underspend on staffing due to vacancies.</p> <p>Fleet: £(0.178)m underspend, £(0.029)m movement - £(0.044)m underspend in diesel usage due to the use of electric vehicles; £(0.044)m underspend on material spend and maintenance due to repairing rather than replacing; £(0.024)m saving in replacement of tyres; £(0.037)m overachievement on internal recharges for avoidable repairs, £(0.029)m underspend and movement in insurance.</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance: £0.061m overspend, £(0.009)m movement - £0.056m overspend due to lower income as a result of fewer external factoring contracts; £(0.019)m underspend, £(0.009)m movement due to vacancy management; £0.030m overspend for leasing of equipment required; £(0.006)m various small underspends and movement.</p> <p>Facilities: £0.015m overspend, £0.029m movement due to staff absence cover.</p> <p>Roads: £(0.016)m underspend, £0.062m movement - £(0.019)m underspend, £0.021m movement due to reduced capitalisation of salaries as a result of staff absence, £(0.049)m underspend, £0.030m movement due to decreased spend in bridges and drainage; £0.024m overspend and movement due to short term vehicle hire as a result of changes in procurement regulations; £0.028m overspend due to historic street lighting invoices from Falkirk Council being billed; £(0.013)m various small movements.</p> <p>Head of Service: £(0.002)m underspend.</p> <p>Development Services: £(0.005)m underspend, £(0.031)m movement - £0.049m overspend due to a reduction in planning and building standards income with income not achieving pre covid levels; £(0.040)m underspend, £(0.017)m movement on staffing due to vacancy management; £(0.014)m overspend and movement due to increased income from rental of Glebe Hall.</p>
Housing & Community Safety	4,693	4,843	150	0	150	93	57	<p>Building Operations - overspend of £0.725m, movement of £0.531m. There continues to be a high value of unexpected emergency repairs requiring immediate action to ensure the integrity and stability of the occupied buildings and maintain the security and safety of vacant buildings. Detail of this spend was reported to Council in the Budget Strategy Paper presented on the 16th December 2021 where Council agreed an amount upto £0.585m from uncommitted reserves to fund these forecasted costs. For this outturn £0.372m has been allocated with the remaining balance £0.352m offset by other underspends within Place.</p> <p>Homelessness - underspend of £(0.295)m, movement £(0.162)m, as income received for clients exceeds budget. This underspend is linked to the corresponding budget within P&P currently forecasting an overspend of £0.129m. The budgets across the two services will be reviewed to identify the offsetting factors involved and realigned if required. The underspend has increased by £(0.145)m from August. Expenditure on placing people in B&B has fallen by £(0.093)m and rental income increased by £(0.054)m, other costs have increased by £0.002m.</p> <p>Housing - overspend of £0.102m, movement of £0.053m. Following review it was confirmed that the charging of staff to other areas cannot be progressed as they are still supporting the corporate pandemic response and recovery.</p>

Place	<i>Annual Budget 2021/22</i>	<i>Forecast to March 2022</i>	<i>Variance Forecast to Budget at October</i>	<i>Variance due to Covid</i>	<i>Variance due to Non Covid</i>	<i>Variance Forecast to Budget at August</i>	<i>Movement in variance August to October</i>	<i>Narrative</i>
	<i>£'000</i>	<i>£'000</i>	<i>£'000</i>			<i>£'000</i>		
Directorate Total	19,384	19,384	0	61	(61)	(62)	62	

Management Efficiencies

Service Reference	Description of Saving	2021/22 £	Achieved/Likely to be achieved £	Amber £	Red £	Unachieved due to Covid £	Service updates
PLMGT1	Modern Apprenticeship Scheme	21,550	21,550				Saving is achieved
PLMGT2	Trading Standards SLA - CASH	30,000	30,000				Saving is achieved
PLMGT3	Corporate Energy Budget Savings	2,917	2,917				Saving is achieved
PLMGT6	Homelessness Income	300,000	300,000				Saving is achieved
PLMGT7	Homelessness Income - CASH	100,000	100,000				Saving is achieved
PLMGT8	Office moves	20,000	20,000				Saving is achieved
PLMGT9	Mail room	2,500	2,500				Saving is achieved
PLMGT12	Cash saving - Budget realignment within Economic Development - CASH	60,000	60,000				Saving is achieved
PLMGT14	GF Housing realignment	20,000	20,000				Saving is achieved
PLMGT15	GF Housing realignment- CASH	80,000	15,000		65,000	65,000	Staffing continue to support Corporate recovery
PLMGT16	Garden waste	50,000	50,000				Saving is achieved
PLMGT17	Decrease in Non Domestic Rates due to Rate poundage	44,000	44,000				Saving is achieved
Total	Management Efficiencies	730,967	665,967	0	65,000	65,000	

Policy

Service Reference	Description of Saving	2021/22 £	Achieved/Likely to be achieved £	Amber £	Red £	Unachieved due to Covid £	Service updates
PLPOL01	Generate income through corporate sponsorship of Council Assets: Roundabouts, Parks, Open Spaces, Roads, Cycle Paths	10,000	10,000				Service has advised this will be fully achieved
PLPOL10	Targeted reduction in council generated waste	25,000		25,000			Saving is under review
Total	Policy	35,000	10,000	25,000	0	0	

Transformation

Service Reference	Description of Saving	2021/22 £	Achieved/Likely to be achieved £	Amber £	Red £	Unachieved due to Covid £	Service updates
PLMGT17	Community Participation in the Provision of Annual Bedding Schemes	10,000	10,000				Saving is achieved
Total	Transformation	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	

Summary By Type	2021/22 £	Achieved/Likely to be achieved £	Amber £	Red £	Unachieved due to Covid £
Management Efficiencies	730,967	665,967	0	65,000	65,000
Policy	35,000	10,000	25,000	0	0
Transformation	10,000	10,000	0	0	0
Total Division	775,967	685,967	25,000	65,000	65,000

Service Summary - Housing Revenue Account

As at October 2021

<i>Description</i>	<i>Annual Budget for 2021-22</i>	<i>Forecast to March 2022</i>	<i>Variance October Forecast to Budget</i>
Chief Officers Gross Salaries	23,968	23,968	0
Chief Officers Employers Superann	5,393	5,393	0
Chief Officers Employers NIC	529	529	(0)
Single Status Gross Salaries	6,046,802	5,308,960	(737,843)
Single Status Employers Superann	1,331,458	1,175,436	(156,021)
Single Status Employers NIC	568,261	508,517	(59,744)
Single Status Overtime	260,000	411,416	151,416
Single Status Absence Pay	0	76,997	76,997
Trainee Allowances Gross Salaries	16,262	13,171	(3,091)
Long Service Awards	2,350	2,350	0
Salary Related Admin Costs	2,160	60	(2,100)
Employee Management Costs	3,000	1,680	(1,320)
Conference Expenses And Subsistence	(0)	0	0
Staff Training	88,000	49,000	(39,000)
Vacancy Management	(430,233)	0	430,233
	7,917,950	7,577,477	(340,473)
Corporate Building Repairs	0	18,163	18,163
Annual Maintenance External Providers	300,000	245,000	(55,000)
Grounds Maintenance	0	0	0
Cleaning & Hygiene Materials	1,500	4,100	2,600
Gas	6,000	6,000	(0)
Electricity	20,000	20,000	(0)
Void Rent Loss	450,000	436,650	(13,350)
Rates	3,000	17,000	14,000
Council Tax	10,000	22,000	12,000
Property Insurance	203,000	210,056	7,056
Bad Debt Provision	400,000	400,000	(0)
Building Costs - Recharges Internal	103,000	103,000	(0)
Land Services - Internal Recharges	50,000	35,000	(15,000)
	1,546,500	1,516,969	(29,531)
Short Term Vehicle Hire	4,000	6,000	2,000
Staff Travel Mileage Expenses	23,500	8,149	(15,351)
Vehicles - Maintenance Recharges	345,000	393,000	48,000
	372,500	407,149	34,649
Purchase Of Equipment	23,070	52,000	28,930
Purchase Of Furniture	(8,000)	0	8,000
Storage & Removal Charges	2,000	0	(2,000)
Materials (issued from Stock)	700,000	798,000	98,000
Materials - Direct purchases from suppliers	450,000	550,000	100,000
General Consumables (small items)	35,500	45,500	10,000
Equipment Maintenance	10,000	20,000	10,000
Equipment Rental/Leasing	20,000	20,000	0
Scaffold Hire	50,000	50,000	0
Medical Supplies	1,100	100	(1,000)
Hospitality	100	(0)	(100)
Uniforms & Clothing	6,280	2,500	(3,780)
Office Equipment - Purchases	3,650	3,650	0

<i>Description</i>	<i>Annual Budget for 2021-22</i>	<i>Forecast to March 2022</i>	<i>Variance October Forecast to Budget</i>
Printing & Photocopying	7,800	3,000	(4,800)
Stationery	6,260	5,250	(1,010)
Publications	500	700	200
Insurance	32,120	44,169	12,049
Professional Fees	60,650	43,650	(17,000)
Performing Rights	300	300	(0)
Postages	8,000	4,500	(3,500)
Legal Expenses	32,000	20,055	(11,945)
Subscriptions	20,600	13,100	(7,500)
Telephones	150	0	(150)
Mobile Telephones	33,810	32,550	(1,260)
Computer Hardware Purchase	20,000	20,000	0
Computer Software Purchase	163,500	350	(163,150)
Computer Software Maint.	83,300	113,300	30,000
	1,762,690	1,842,674	79,984
Other Council Accounts	552,620	552,220	(400)
Voluntary Organisations Payment	67,730	29,400	(38,330)
Payments To Contractors	98,200	98,450	250
Payment To Subcontractor	500,000	500,000	0
Payments To Individuals	0	3,060	3,060
	1,218,550	1,183,130	(35,420)
Support Services	1,204,000	1,204,000	0
	1,204,000	1,204,000	0
Loans Fund Interest	1,154,700	1,312,185	157,485
Debt Management Expenses	23,370	20,400	(2,970)
Principal Repayments	304,000	304,185	185
	1,482,070	1,636,770	154,700
Total Expenditure	15,504,260	15,368,170	(136,090)
Charges for Services Standard VAT	(61,400)	(10,000)	51,400
Sponsorship Income	0	(0)	(0)
Other Income	(5,740)	(13,912)	(8,172)
Housing Rents	(19,850,150)	(19,891,501)	(41,351)
General Rents	(62,350)	(80,950)	(18,600)
Interest(Revenue Balance)	(10,000)	(10,000)	0
Internal Trading Contract	(1,160,000)	(1,507,900)	(347,900)
Total Income	(21,149,640)	(21,514,263)	(364,623)
Net Surplus	(5,645,380)	(6,146,094)	(500,714)

<i>Housing Revenue Account</i>	<i>Annual Budget 2021/22</i>	<i>Forecast to March 2022</i>	<i>Variance Forecast to Budget at October</i>	<i>Variance due to Covid</i>	<i>Variance due to Non Covid</i>	<i>Variance Forecast to Budget at August</i>	<i>Movement in variance August to October</i>	<i>Narrative</i>
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Employee expenditure	7,918	7,577	(341)	0	(341)	(223)	(118)	Employee expenditure is forecast to underspend by £(0.341)m, an increase of £(0.118)m. The work associated with the filling of vacancies and arranging staff training has not been possible as other priorities have taken precedence. This has resulted in an reduction in forecast of £(0.098)m specifically within the Trades service. Recent leavers and reduced training in other areas has also resulted in a reduced forecast of £(0.020)m.
Premises expenditure	1,547	1,517	(30)	0	(30)	(25)	(5)	Small reduction in Void expenditure from August.
Transport expenditure	373	407	35	0	35	29	6	Increased staff travel costs including apprentices travel to college.
Supplies and Services	1,763	1,843	80	219	(139)	219	(139)	The Service is now starting to feel the impact of increased costs in stock and materials arising from Brexit & Covid of £0.219m. This has been offset as progress is not expected to be made on the replacement IT system this financial year. This has been influenced by competing priorities and the availability of staff resources to implement a successful transition.
Third Party Payments	1,219	1,183	(36)	0	(36)	0	(36)	The planned improvement work with the Residents & tenants federation has had to be delayed as resources not available to take this forward.
Support services	1,204	1,204	0	0	0	0	0	No variance
Capital financing costs	1,482	1,637	155	0	155	155	(0)	No variance on the increased interest payable.
Total Gross Expenditure	15,504	15,368	(136)	219	(355)	155	(292)	
Income	(21,150)	(21,514)	(364)	0	(364)	(245)	(119)	Income is forecast to overachieve by £(0.364)m, an increase of £(0.119)m. This can be attributed to an additional £(0.100)m of repairs work on General Fund Properties and an expected increase in Shop Rents of £(0.019)m.
Total Net Expenditure	(5,645)	(6,146)	(501)	219	(720)	(90)	(411)	

Housing Capital Programme 2021-22 Period to October 2021	Project Code	21-22 Net Budget	Net Expenditure to 31/10/21	Forecast as at 31/10/21	Forecast to Budget Variance	Comment	C/F to 2022-23
SCOTTISH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD							
TACKLING SERIOUS DISREPAIR PRIMARY BUILDING ELEMENTS							
Structural Works						Major work undertaken at High Street Alloa now valued £200k+ - Budget will spend out	
Structural Upgrades	10192	400,000	3,315	400,000	0		
Asbestos Testing for Council Houses	10071	20,000	2,369	20,000	0	Reactive Works	
Asbestos Removal Works for Council Houses	10072	50,000	15,426	50,000	0	Reactive Works	
Structural Works		470,000	21,110	470,000	0		
SECONDARY BUILDING ELEMENTS							
Damp/Rot							
Damp & Rot Works	10195	100,000	66,302	100,000	0	Statutory work on Tolerable standard - Work Progressing . Will Spend out Budget	
Damp/Rot		100,000	66,302	100,000	0		
Roofs / Rainwater / External Walls							
Roof & Render Upgrading Works	10196	1,000,000	505,647	1,000,000	0	Programme on site extra costs but will remain within budget.	
Roofs / Rainwater / External Walls		1,000,000	505,647	1,000,000	0		
Windows							
						Contractor on site and Extra Resource on to catch up on programme - Forecast Underspend Uncertainty around the carry forward as new contract to be procured which might lead to delays in starting.	
Window Replacement	10197	1,768,000	566,742	1,200,000	(568,000)		
Windows		1,768,000	566,742	1,200,000	(568,000)		
		2,868,000	1,138,691	2,300,000	(568,000)		568,000
ENERGY EFFICIENCY							
Central Heating - Design and Installation 2019-22	10193	112,000	69,462	112,000	0	Contractor working on Emergency Failures and Void Only - Budget will outturn Potential Grant Income of £310k to supplement the Programme through BEIS . One house to complete.	
Weir Multicon Upgrade 2018-2020	10178	750,000	586,091	500,000	(250,000)	Three pilot houses identified for Air Source heating, Budget will spend	
Renewable Central Heating Systems	10232	60,000	0	60,000	0	Programme due to commence December 2021. Budget will spend out	
Energy Performance Certificates Programme	10233	10,000	0	10,000	0		
Full/Efficient Central Heating		932,000	655,553	682,000	(250,000)		
MODERN FACILITIES & SERVICES							
Kitchen Renewal						Internal team working on this . Voids and Emergency Failure Only . £195k + identified up to December. Up to £70k ptentiall for rest of year if underspend elsewhere in programme.	
Kitchen Replacement 2017-20	10158	200,000	132,446	200,000	0		
Kitchen Renewal		200,000	132,446	200,000	0		
Bathrooms							
2016-20 Bathroom Replacements PCU Team	10141	50,000	24,901	50,000	0	Internal team working on this- Voids and Emergency Failures	
Bathrooms		50,000	24,901	50,000	0		
		250,000	157,347	250,000	0		
HEALTHY, SAFE & SECURE							
Safe Electrical systems 2018-22	10171	1,100,000	149,577	942,500	(157,500)	Full Programe of works to meet the changes to the Tolerable Standard including internal trades on Smoke alarm upgrades.	
Safe Electrical Systems		1,100,000	149,577	942,500	(157,500)		157,500
Communal Areas (Environmentals)							
External Works : Fencing, Gates, Paths	10090	315,000	0	315,000	0	Programme on Site Alva South- Budget will outturn New Contractor has been Appointed - Programme being worked on	
Secure Door Entry Upgrade 2021-25	10160	130,000	0	130,000	0	Tillicoultry/Alva	
Communal Areas (Environmentals)		445,000	0	445,000	0		

Housing Capital Programme 2021-22 Period to October 2021	Project Code	21-22 Net Budget	Net Expenditure to 31/10/21	Forecast as at 31/10/21	Forecast to Budget Variance	Comment	C/F to 2022-23
		1,545,000	149,577	1,387,500	(157,500)		
NON-SHS ELEMENTS							
PARTICULAR NEEDS HOUSING (CITC)							
Conversions & Upgradings							
Conversions & Upgradings	10092	75,000	1,055	65,000	(10,000)	Working with Social Services.	
Conversions & Upgradings		75,000	1,055	65,000	(10,000)		
Disabled Adaptations							
Aids & Adaptations	10161	50,000	64	50,000	0	The budget will outturn	
Disabled Adaptations		50,000	64	50,000	0		
Environmental Improvements							
HRA Roads & Footpaths Improvements	10099	100,000	0	100,000	0	Works Committed Through Roads Team	
MCB Tenant Community Improvement Fund	10100	402,000	9,696	402,000	0	Major project being carried out in alloa/sauchie by land services.	
Environmental Improvements		502,000	9,696	502,000	0		
		627,000	10,815	617,000	(10,000)		
Council New Build Housing							
Off The Shelf Purchase	10105	1,353,000	155,491	253,000	(1,100,000)	At present the housing market is bouyant and Service does not want to flame this by increasing bids. This may require a reassessment of the strategy on this project. Unlikely to be any significant expenditure soon.	1,100,000
Estate Management Redesign	10234	50,000	0	0	(50,000)	Progress on this delayed.	
Council New Build Housing		1,403,000	155,491	253,000	(1,150,000)		
		1,403,000	155,491	253,000	(1,150,000)		
OTHER							
Other Costs / HBMS							
Construction Design Management	10143	30,000	0	0	(30,000)	New tender in place implementation delayed.	
Computer Equipment - New (HBMS)	10111	260,000	0	0	(260,000)	Purchase and implementation of this will require significant internal investment from the current staff to ensure maximum benefit. Progress delayed	260,000
Lock Up Strategy	10185	200,000	0	91,000	(109,000)	Four sites identified for this year.	109,000
Westthaugh Travelling Site - Alva	10186	239,000	21,157	239,000	0	Funding bid submitted in August 21 and Outcome will be known soon.	
IT Infrastructure - Clacks IT	10188	21,000	1,575	21,000	0		
Demolitions	10200	147,000	0	0	(147,000)	Progress on this delayed.	
Other Costs / HBMS		897,000	22,732	351,000	(546,000)		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		8,992,000	2,311,316	6,310,500	(2,681,500)		
Sale of Council Property							
Sale of Council Land	10148	0	0	0	0		
Sale of Council Property		0	0	0	0		
NET EXPENDITURE		8,992,000	2,311,316	6,310,500	(2,681,500)		2,194,500

Report to: Place Committee

Date of Meeting: 20 January 2022

Subject: Sustainability Reporting: Biodiversity Duty Report, 2018-20

Report by: Strategic Director (Place)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek members approval for Clackmannanshire Council's Biodiversity Duty Report 2020 and to secure members support for a set of commitments that will help to improve biodiversity.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee :
- 2.1.1 approves the draft Biodiversity Duty 2018-20 report attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.1.2 approves the approach outlined in Section 6 regarding future commitments to improve biodiversity.

3.0 Background

- 3.1. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 introduced a requirement for all public bodies to report every 3 years on their compliance with their duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Council has previously submitted two Biodiversity Duty Reports (covering actions during 2012 to 2014 and 2015 to 2017), with a third report required in 2021. A draft report covering actions during 2018 to 2020 is attached as Appendix 1 which, if approved by Committee, will be sent to Scottish Government.
- 3.2. Day to day responsibility for co-ordinating the Council's sustainability and climate change response, including biodiversity, rests with the Strategic Director for Place. Responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Council's biodiversity duty rests with the Energy and Sustainability Team. The Ranger Service, based within Energy and Sustainability Team continues to work with communities, promote awareness of conservation work and manage sites to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Council area.
- 3.3. Our Energy and Sustainability team (in particular our ranger service) advises on how to protect and enhance wildlife across a range of Council services including Infrastructure, Roads, Land, Flooding & Bridges and Development Management. The team screen Planning Applications for any potential impacts on biodiversity.

- 3.4. Alongside the Rangers other services such as Land Services, Roads and Planning have contributed to delivery of our Biodiversity Duty, with notable achievements including the Council's participation in the Inner Forth landscape Initiative and ongoing work with the successor of this project –Inner Forth Futures. Work is also ongoing to designate Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) in order to ensure these are given considerations during planning applications and by landowners.
- 3.5. Officers actively encourage partnership working with external organisations such as the NHS and CTSI (Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interphase) to develop projects that will have a positive impact on biodiversity e.g The Clacks Good Food Partnership.
- 3.6. It is recognised that a Council-wide approach to the conservation of biodiversity that further embeds biodiversity considerations into corporate & service plans, policies, strategies and operations is required so that all decision-making takes account of the potential impacts on local biodiversity.

4.0 Climate change and Biodiversity

- 4.1. Biodiversity is a fundamental part of our everyday lives. Our social, economic and emotional wellbeing depends on it. Biodiversity provides us with food, soil, fuel, clean water, health, wealth and other vital services. It enriches our lives and is part of our history and culture.
- 4.2. High quality, biodiverse environments are better able to provide us with important services such as flood alleviation, pollution filtration, water purification, soil formation and pollination of our crops. Pressures such as habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, climate change and invasive non-native species mean we are losing biodiversity. As a result, action is required to protect and restore biodiversity locally and nationally.

5.0 Local Biodiversity and Climate Change

- 5.1 On 19th August Clackmannanshire Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and is currently working towards a consultation exercise with all local stakeholders to establish Clackmannanshire Council's stance on declaring a climate and ecological emergency. The council is taking fast action on emissions, cutting waste, improving and conserving nature and becoming more resilient to extreme weather.
- 5.2 The Council are partners with SEPA as part of the Flood Risk Management Planning process and are a member of two Local Plan Districts (out of the 14 covering all of Scotland); The Forth LPD and The Forth Estuary LPD. The work carried out by these partners will contribute positively towards the protection of our environment and biodiversity
- 5.3 The City Region Deal includes projects such as Scotland's International Environment Centre with both skills and training facilities and an environmental business incubator in Alloa. The heads of terms for the City Deal also references support for Clackmannanshire Council to work with regional partners and RSPB to explore opportunities and possible synergies for a new wetlands centre on the River Forth.

6.0 The Future - Commitments

6.1. The Council is putting in place strategies, policies and plans for the coming years to protect and enhance greenspace, improve sustainability, increase the environment's resilience to climate change, and enhance biodiversity, with an understanding of the multiple benefits that a healthy, high quality environment brings. The local authority will continue to work with partners to implement these objectives and will do this by:

- Raising awareness and understanding at a decision-making level the importance of protecting and enhancing the environment for the multiple benefits it provides. In doing so this will help to ensure that climate, environmental and greenspace enhancement projects continue to be supported.
- Resources permitting, develop and review the existing Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Developing biodiversity and countryside awareness in schools and within the community.
- Working with communities, developers and landowners to identify and establish new "local Nature Reserves" or equivalent areas for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.
- Committing where possible to maintaining biodiversity projects and initiatives and also re-evaluating management of greenspace to ensure the best outcome for biodiversity and people.
- Committing wherever possible to maintaining the quality of existing greenspaces and provision of quality, accessible greenspace within new development. Improving access to quality greenspace is widely recognised as providing socio-economic and environmental benefits for the areas around them.
- Instigating and delivering projects and retaining and passing on knowledge in light of reduced staff capacity.
- Encouraging staff to be pro-active and develop biodiversity projects where possible.
- Continue to make the most of accessible grant funding, specifically to deliver landscape-scale conservation

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The recent declaration by Clackmannanshire Council of a Climate Change emergency provides significant opportunities for Clackmannanshire to set a course that will modernise and transform the local area for the future while reaping the economic benefits emerging from the transition away from fossil fuels in transport, heating and electricity generation, coupled with promotion of the circular economy and enhancement of the natural environment that supports us.

7.2 The Council is already committed to putting in place strategies, policies and plans for the coming years to protect and enhance greenspace, improve sustainability, increase the environment's resilience to climate change, and enhance biodiversity. Biodiversity is a fundamental part of our everyday lives and provides for social, economic and emotional wellbeing. In addition,

positive steps to encourage and maintain biodiversity lead to financial benefits for the Council and the local community.

8.0 Sustainability Implications

- 8.1 The action taken aligns with the Council's aims to better meet its biodiversity, sustainability and climate change duties.
- 8.2 Appendix 1 provides for the official means for reporting Council compliance in meeting the public bodies' Climate Change and Biodiversity duties.

9.0 Resource Implications

- 9.1 The 2018-20 Biodiversity duty report records actions that have already taken place.
- 9.2 Future initiatives will be dependent on available funding and resources which will be passed to Finance for consideration and approval where necessary.
- 9.3 *Staffing*
- 9.4 Biodiversity actions are currently managed within existing resources. It is, however, recognised that additional resources are required to take forward some of the commitments outlined in section 6 above such as the review of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. These needs will be considered in the forthcoming service redesign of the Place Directorate

10.0 Exempt Reports

- 10.1 Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

11.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy
Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2027
Local Biodiversity Action Plan

12.0 Equalities Impact

- 12.1. Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes ☐ No ☐

13.0 Legality

- 13.1. It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

14.0 Appendices

- 14.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1: Clackmannanshire Council Biodiversity Duty Report 2020

15.0 Background Papers

- 15.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☒

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Lawrence Hunter	Energy & Sustainability	Extension : 2681

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Emma Fyvie	Senior Manager (Development)	
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	

Clackmannanshire Council's Biodiversity Duty Report 2020



What is Biodiversity Duty Reporting?

The [Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) places a statutory duty on all public sector bodies in Scotland to further the conservation of biodiversity.

“It is the duty of every public body and office holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”

The [Wildlife and Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) (commonly known as the WANE Act) came into force on 1 January 2012 and introduced a requirement for all public bodies to make a report publicly available on their compliance with biodiversity duty. Biodiversity duty reports are required every three years.

Clackmannanshire Council’s previous Biodiversity Duty report covered the period 2015-17. This report now covers actions taken over the period 2018-2020.

The Scottish Government published [Scotland’s Biodiversity: It’s in Your Hands](#) in 2004 which aims to “conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and well-being of the people of Scotland, now and in the future”. In 2013, it was supplemented by the [2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity](#). The two documents together now constitute the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The 2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity sets out the major steps needed to improve the state of nature in Scotland. The work needed to deliver this is, however, complex and challenging.

Scotland’s 2020 Challenge aims to:

- protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems.
- connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment.
- maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.

Clackmannanshire Council’s Biodiversity Duty Report 2020 aims to serve a number of purposes, the main ones being to:

- summarise activities that Clackmannanshire Council has undertaken to meet our statutory duties under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.
- reflect activities relevant to the 2004 Strategy and the refreshed 2020 Challenge. Section 8 of this report includes a table showing the activities that Clackmannanshire Council has undertaken have contributed to the biodiversity targets and key steps contained within the 2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity.
- inform both internal and external readers about activities taken by Clackmannanshire Council to conserve our biodiversity.

This report has been compiled using [The Biodiversity Reporting Template: Level One Organisations](#) and associated guidance [The Biodiversity Duty Explained](#) provided by NatureScot and Scottish Government. Public bodies using this reporting template are encouraged to provide information in a transparent and easy to understand format.

Section 1: Introductory information

Please describe your organisation's role and purpose, including any particular environmental responsibilities.

Clackmannanshire Council was established under the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994. Under this act, and through a wide range of other legislation, the Council, as a unitary authority, exercises a range of statutory, regulatory and service functions.

The Council functions relevant to biodiversity duty reporting include:

Corporate Activity

- **Communication:** integration of sustainability messages, including biodiversity, into communications through all media at the Council's disposal is critical for bringing about real and positive change by all stakeholders to conserve and enhance our biodiversity.
- **Education:** through Learning for Sustainability and participation in the Eco-schools programme our school pupils are learning to live within environmental limits and about the value of our biodiversity. The volunteering opportunities that the Clackmannanshire Council Ranger Service provided and enabled people of all ages to learn about our local environment.
- **Land:** the way we maintain and manage our land, open spaces and green & blue infrastructure influences soils, biodiversity, habitat networks, trees and woodland and their ability to facilitate species movements and build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

Area-wide Influence

- **Community Planning Partnership** and partnership working more generally can demonstrate leadership and increase impact through joint initiatives and knowledge transfer.
- **Flood Risk Management planning** influences vulnerability and resilience to flooding and has the potential to deliver major gains for green networks.
- **Infrastructure:** where our infrastructure is located and the way it is designed and used can have a significant impact on our biodiversity and green networks.
- **Green Networks** and water features are becoming increasingly important elements of an area's infrastructure through their ability to connect habitats, facilitate species movements and reduce many of the impacts of a changing climate.
- **Planning** regulates development and use of land, including the kind of development, which can have a significant impact on our biodiversity and green networks.

The Council's elected member/spokesperson for Environment & Housing has oversight of sustainable development and climate change, including biodiversity. Any issues requiring political approval or involving policy change are considered by elected Members at the Place Committee.

Day to day responsibility for co-ordinating the Council's sustainability and climate change response, including biodiversity, rests with the Strategic Director for Place. Responsibility for implementing and monitoring the Council's biodiversity duty rests with the Energy and Sustainability Team. An officer within that team is the lead for biodiversity matters within Clackmannanshire Council. The Ranger Service, based within Energy and Sustainability Team continues to work with communities, promote awareness of conservation work and manage sites to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Council area.

Section 2: Actions to protect biodiversity and connect people with nature

Please describe and explain any actions that your organisation has undertaken alone or as part of a partnership to benefit biodiversity directly, to tackle the main drivers of biodiversity loss, or to achieve wider outcomes for nature and people.

One Site of Special Scientific Interest (Gartmorn Dam) is leased from Scottish Water and is located in the village of Sauchie situated on Council owned land. Our ranger service plays a key role in the management of the site.

Beyond these designated sites the Council manages large areas of land, urban and rural, for biodiversity benefit.

Clackmannanshire Council Land Services manages and maintains over 148.6 hectares of grass open space and 11.6 hectares of grass within cemeteries. The majority (90.6%) of these areas are managed for amenity and receive up to 11 cuts per year, with arisings left to break down naturally on the surface. Around 9.4% of this grass open space is managed under different reduced management regimes, with approximately 15.2 hectares managed for biodiversity. Various tree planting has been undertaken in 2020 including at Dollar Playing Field, Cochrane Park, Sunnyside Cemetery and Greenfield Park.

The Clackmannanshire Council Ranger Service is helping to protect red squirrels, beavers, bat, raptors by undertaking wildlife surveys. These surveys look at key indicator species that help to show the health of the ecosystems that they live in. This enables the monitoring of important habitats and species.

In September 2018 the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) came to an end after delivering 54 discrete but inter-related projects took place around the Inner Forth area.

Clackmannanshire Council was one of the founding partners of Inner Forth Futures (IFF), a project developed to build on the success of the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative. IFF aims to promote the area rich heritage, empower communities and increase the areas resilience to climate change. IFF was developed by a partnership who came together to take coordinated action to conserve the important heritage assets within this landscape. RSPB Scotland is the lead partner and Clackmannanshire Council has supported the initiative through the provision of funding and staff time from the very beginning.

Work is being carried out to designate Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) in order to make sure that they are given consideration during planning applications and by landowners. TWIC (The Local Wildlife Information Centre) are responsible for compiling the data and presenting it for designation to then be signed off by the council as a LNCS site (see Appendix 3 for a list of sites).

Section 3: Mainstreaming biodiversity

Please outline any steps your organisation has taken to incorporate biodiversity measures into its wider policies, plans or strategies. This should include decision-making structures and staff and organisational roles and responsibilities.

Our Energy and Sustainability team (in particular our ranger service) advises on how to protect and enhance wildlife across a range of Council services including Infrastructure, Roads, Land, Flooding & Bridges and Development Management. The team screen Planning Applications for any potential impacts on biodiversity.

Clackmannanshire Council continues to have a service level agreement (SLA) with TWIC to maintain a biological records database for the region, provide information to support planning and site management.

Nature conservation and habitat connectivity are key considerations in land use planning and development. The Local Development Plan (LDP) Spatial Strategy identifies preferred areas for new development. The allocated sites were selected through a process which included Strategic Environmental Assessment across a range of environmental topics, including biodiversity. The LDP was also subjected to Habitats Regulations Appraisal to ensure that Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas would not be adversely affected (see Appendix 2).

The LDP includes specific policies covering the Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure (including green networks) and the protection of Local Nature Conservation Sites. The LDP is supported by [supplementary guidance](#) directly relating to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, alongside others where biodiversity impact is an integral consideration, such as Biodiversity Conservation; Placemaking; Flood Risk Management & the Water Environment; Protecting Special Landscapes; Renewable Energy and the Stirling & Clackmannanshire Forest and Woodland Strategy (FWS).

The Vision of the Forest and Woodland Strategy states: *Through their expansion, protection and sustainable management, the forests and woodlands of Clackmannanshire and Stirling will provide a range of benefits for local people and visitors and contribute to economic, environmental and social well-being.*

Outdoor learning is of importance in education settings as a result of COVID 19 and is part of the COVID recovery plan nationally. We are currently encouraging schools to make better use of their outdoor spaces while our land services officer assists the schools in the design and procurement for improving their outdoor spaces. Our Rangers also have a pivotal role in offering advice to ensure that school grounds maximise their potential for play and biodiversity. The below table shows the number of schools in Clackmannanshire that participate in the Green Flag Award Programme, a benchmark international standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces.

Proportion of Primary Schools with a current Green Flag Award	Proportion of L.A. High Schools with a current Green Flag Award	Proportion of L.A. Special Needs with a current Green Flag Award	Proportion of Independent schools with Green Flag Award
5/18	2/3	1/3	0/3
5/18	2/3	1/3	0/3
4/18	1/3	1/3	0/3

Furthermore, individual schools are taking forward improvement plans through Learning for Sustainability in the run up to COP26. This is complimenting the Eco School programme that numerous schools in Clackmannanshire participate in and the support we are providing to Wimpy Park in developing their community garden, which has included having groups take on small raised beds, developing planning and growing of vegetables and flowers in learners' own gardens.

The Clackmannanshire Outdoor and Woodland Learning (OWLS) group has been involved in providing training for education staff to enable them to deliver outdoor learning independently. Many schools are making better use of their outdoor spaces. Prior to lockdown schools and Council staff were working towards planting more trees in conjunction with Woodland Trust Scotland. This was postponed due to the impact of Covid-19 and has not resumed at the time of writing in June 2021.

Areas maintained by the council have been earmarked for reduced mowing to increase wildflowers and as a result help pollinators. Links have been created between 'On the Verge' (a charity that works with community groups to establish and develop areas of native wildflowers) and community groups / schools within Clackmannanshire. These links are starting to increase the pollinator opportunities in the area and helping to create habitats that will benefit as many species as possible while also recognising the key role that our biodiversity, particularly pollinators, play in our local food network.

The City Region Deal includes initiatives such as the International Environment Centre with both skills and training facilities and an environmental business incubator in Alloa. The heads of terms for the City Deal also references support for Clackmannanshire Council to work with regional partners and RSPB to explore opportunities and possible synergies for a new wetlands centre on the River Forth. Consultation work is being undertaken to examine potential regional projects with Stirling Council under Culture, Heritage and Tourism as part of the City Region Deal.

Sustainable Food Growing

The Clacks Good Food partnership have come together to co-ordinate Clackmannanshire's ambition to be a sustainable food place by supporting and inspiring local people, communities and businesses to create a vibrant and diverse good food system that is fair to everyone and the planet.

Clacks Good Food Partnership is working to join the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Network, which brings with it resources and funding opportunities as well as an opportunity to gain recognition through the SFP accreditation and award scheme¹. The partnership is multi-agency and currently comprises of NHS Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire Council, Clackmannanshire Alliance (Community Planning Partnership), CTSI – Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface and Gate Charity (food bank) Clacks. The membership of the group will be broadened to include Forth Environment Link, Forth Valley College, Stirling University, Zero Waste Scotland and local producers, including market gardeners, community gardens and farmers.

Clacks Good Food has prioritised six areas of work through the development stage and will work to implement the six key priority areas for Sustainable Food Places membership, which are:

- Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public;
- Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to affordable healthy food;

¹ Sustainable Food Places (previously Sustainable Food Cities) is one of the fastest-growing social movements today. The SFP Network brings together pioneering food partnerships from towns, cities, districts and counties across the UK that are driving innovation and best practice on all aspects of healthy and sustainable food.

Sustainable Food Places is a partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming. It is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The National Lottery Community Fund.
<https://www.soilassociation.org/>

- Building community food knowledge, skills, resources and projects;
- Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy;
- Transforming catering and food procurement;
- Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system.

Section 4: Nature based solutions, climate change and biodiversity

How has your organisation integrated biodiversity into nature based solutions to the climate emergency and other socio-economic outcomes?

Clackmannanshire Council accepts the key role of local government to address climate change and is currently working towards a consultation exercise with all local stakeholders to establish Clackmannanshire Council's stance on declaring a [climate and ecological emergency](#). The council is taking fast action on emissions, cutting waste, improving and conserving nature and becoming more resilient to extreme weather.

The Council are partners with SEPA as part of the Flood Risk Management Planning process and are a member of two Local Plan Districts (out of the 14 covering all of Scotland); The Forth LPD and The Forth Estuary LPD. The main purpose of these LPDs is to coordinate the publication of Local Flood Risk Management Plans (LFRMP) every six years (with the next one being due in June 2022). The LFRMPs set out a range of agreed structural and non-structural actions that are delivered by each responsible authority to better manage flood risk which are linked to and guided by a Flood Risk Management Strategy produced by SEPA for each LPD.

The [Inner Forth Landscape Initiative](#) was an initiative that delivered improved access to key natural and built heritage sites within the Inner Forth landscape. Projects within the initiative entailed providing good quality and well sign-posted access routes enabling visitors and local residents to move easily around the landscape. Together, these paths and trails have help connect communities throughout the Inner Forth.



Officers from Clackmannanshire Council and IFLI discussing the Black Devon Wetlands.

[Wanderings & Windings](#) are nine heritage trails around Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife and Stirling, encouraging people to explore the wildlife and history of this unique landscape at the heart of Scotland. During 2019 the project worked closely with local communities around the Inner Forth to develop a suite of day-long, waymarked and promoted walks and cycles. They use existing paths and tracks to encourage local people and visitors to the area to explore the landscape and discover some of the many hidden gems to be found around the Inner Forth. These include nature hotspots, historic buildings, riverside views, cultural landmarks and simply places to escape from the bustle of urban life.

In autumn 2018 Inner Forth Futures were commissioned by the EcoCo LIFE project to refine and revise an ecological coherence protocol through the Inner Forth Habitat Network Pilot. Using the protocol, IFF worked with representatives from a wide range of stakeholders, including Clackmannanshire Council, to identify and map the best areas to invest in habitat improvement, restoration and creation, to connect habitats together, and deliver wider eco-system and socio-economic benefits.

This Council provided £20,000 per year contribution for the four years 2014 to 2018, which was complemented by a further £27,860 for trainees hosted by the Council from the Coastal Communities Fund, in return for the equivalent of £1,308,944 of work being delivered within to restore and celebrate the landscape of the Inner Forth in Scotland. IFLI covered an area of 202km² around the River Forth in Clackmannanshire, Stirling, Falkirk and Fife between March 2014 and September 2018 and has now entered a 10 year maintenance and management phase.

Partners include the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (lead partner), Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils, Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland, Sustrans and the Central Scotland Green Network Trust.

Across all participating local authorities, the initiative delivered 54 projects worth £4.1 million. These projects included enhancements to 127ha of biodiversity and landscape areas and the development and maintenance of 13km of paths routes.

Over 4,000 participants have been involved in over 400 learning and participation activities. This has included:

- 850 local school pupils and 1,000 volunteers delivering £225K worth of volunteer time,
- 154 training courses for 624 participants, and
- A positive impact on 54 jobs with 233 individual training accreditations and qualifications achieved.

The project has been an outstanding success, exceeding all target outputs, and has been nominated, shortlisted or highly commended in 6 national awards schemes. IFLI has also delivered outstanding value for money, providing a return of nearly thirteen pounds for every pound invested in Clackmannanshire by the Council while exceeding all of the original targets.

The scheme has delivered against the Council's Priority Outcomes and legal requirements over the period:

- supporting employment, training and equality of opportunities,
- providing access to a safe and healthy environment
- developing safe and healthy travel,
- increasing economic development and
- ensuring environmental protection, including biodiversity and adaptation to climate change

Future Opportunities

Building on the successes of the IFLI project, Fife Council has joined the partnership to extend its scope to cover the entirety of the Inner Forth area upstream of the Forth Bridges. The expanded partnership aim to deliver the Inner Forth Futures project which has a renewed vision that:

“the sense of connection, purpose and place that put the Inner Forth at the forefront of the industrial development of Scotland will be revitalised.”

The expanded partnership at an advanced stage of fund raising to deliver this renewed vision Partners to date have committed £130,000, and in addition to the ongoing management and maintenance budget for IFLI, applications are under way to LEADER and EcoCo/LIFE bringing the value of IFF to £438,000.

The emphasis of the Inner Forth Futures project, over the next two years will be to:

- Deliver a strong IFLI legacy and ensure that management and maintenance are met.
- Management of a maintenance budget to fund any required additional works, and a legacy fund for community action and skills development.
- Development of an Inner Forth brand to promote the area’s heritage and sustainable travel networks, creating a network of business, community, tourism and heritage groups and encouraging increased visitor numbers to the area using promotional trails based on public transport and active travel networks.
- Support communities to engage in the area’s management and promotion, providing support to develop and share skills and experience in heritage management, monitoring and planning.
- Pilot partnership approaches to delivering habitat networks and climate adaptation, demonstrating local delivery of the National Ecological Network and developing and promoting new ways of adapting land and heritage management in the face of climate change.

In 2020 Inner Forth Futures started to develop a new project: ‘Climate Ready Forth’ with the aim of helping communities, landscape (natural, built and cultural heritage) and economy around the Inner Forth region to build resilience to climate change and develop ways to take mitigation or adaptation actions.

Section 5: Public engagement and workforce development

Clackmannanshire Council require the support of all Clackmannanshire's residents, as well as action by national and local government, other public and voluntary organisations, and business. To gain a better understanding of how local people view the challenges and opportunities of the Emergency the Council are planning a range of consultation exercises. While the Coronavirus has delayed many of our plans and we have had to adapt our activities to the challenges it brings Clackmannanshire Council has continued to use its internal and external communication platforms to share information and raise awareness of sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity with the general public, staff and partner organisations. We also use Twitter and Facebook to promote and capture any outdoor learning or Learning for Sustainability activities in our schools.

Section 6: Research and monitoring

Describe any research activities that your organisation has undertaken to help develop understanding and awareness of biodiversity

The Council Ranger Service contributes to a number of national schemes, including the Scottish Raptor Monitoring scheme, Bat Conservation Trust bat surveys. The Otter survey has been written as a paper in the Forth Naturalist and Historian to share the results and knowledge with others. They continue to monitor biodiversity on Council owned and managed sites, working with and training volunteers to complete regular surveys and contribute data to national schemes. Consultation work is also being undertaken to examine potential regional projects with Stirling Council under Culture, Heritage and Tourism as part of the City Region Deal.

Section 7: Biodiversity highlights and challenges

Describe your organisation's main achievements for biodiversity over the reporting period and what you are most proud of (this can include processes, plans, projects, partnerships, events and actions).

Partnership working has been at the core of many of the Council's main achievements over this reporting period. For example, the Council has worked closely with a wide range of partners to deliver biodiversity action through the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative and Inner Forth Futures.

This includes the **Inner Forth Habitat Network** to create a mapped concept for a Habitat Network around the Inner Forth through stakeholder workshops and a review of key habitat data in 2018-19. A call-to-action was drafted and shared with those taking part in the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy meetings. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/about/habitat-network-project>

Additionally, in March 2020, the IFF partnership commenced the initial development phase of a new pan-landscape multi-year project called **Climate Ready Forth**. It is anticipated the project will include delivery of habitat work and people engagement. Subject to National Lottery Heritage Funding, further development would take place in 2021 with plans to commence delivery in 2022. Further information can be found here: <https://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/about/climate-ready-forth>

The Ochils Landscape Partnership aimed to increase access to the hills and glens of the Ochils, improve the quality of our rivers, and restore parts of the historic built landscape. The project provided opportunities for community involvement and volunteering to tell the story of the area's cultural, social and industrial heritage. It enhanced the lives of people in the Hillfoots and also increased visitors to the area.

The £2.26 million project, which ran until 2014, was a landscape partnership scheme with the lead funder being the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project has also been funded by EDF Energy, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Environment Trust, Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust and Clackmannanshire Council, with in-kind contributions from Stirling University and National Trust for Scotland on specific projects. It has now been superseded by EPIC (Enabling Projects in and around Clackmannanshire). Alva Glen Heritage Trust have also undertaken a lot of biodiversity work within Alva Glen including habitat restoration and improvement.

The Local Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) work of relevance to the LBAP includes:

- the ongoing collation of species data for the Clacks region (on the 31st March 2020 we held 55,476 species records for Clacks area)
- our wildlife surveys which encourage people to get involved in recording of particular species in Clacks – see: http://www.wildlifeinformation.co.uk/recording_wildlife_surveys.php
- our conference which rotates around the TWIC area (the last event in Clacks was in 2018)
- workshops to improve ID skills of recorders in TWIC area (future ones via online means in the planning stages)
- recording excursions to proposed LNCS in Clacks area (excursions currently on hold due to COVID-19)

Stirling and Clackmannanshire SWT Group's Activities in Clackmannanshire in Clackmannanshire over the last 3 years include the following initiatives:

Cambus Pools SWT's Local Nature Reserve

A great deal of conservation work which was supported by funding from SWT, IFLLI, ECOCO, and Central Scotland Green Network was undertaken in the area. The area of clear water on the west pool was enlarged using an amphibious reed cutter, the verges of the tracks were trimmed and maintained to promote wildflowers and pollinator species. Track upgrades have improved public access and the footfall has increased five-fold. A summer Open Day for the people of Cambus was held and attended by 64 and a comprehensive survey of the biodiversity of the site was undertaken and will be published in 2021.

Sticky Catchfly

Sticky Catchfly is a beautiful rare UK species limited to 10 sites in the UK. Our monitoring programme has shown that by far the biggest population is on the cliff faces of the Hillfoots. A conservation colony was set up by SWT to provide seed for conservation work. In addition they have grown up seedlings to reintroduce the plant into areas where it has become extinct. For instance in conjunction with the Alva Glen Heritage Trust the plant has been successfully reintroduced into the Glen. Keith Brown (SMP) has become the Species Champion for Sticky Catchfly and he spoke in the Scottish Parliament about our work.

INNS

SWT have taken action and campaigned to stop the spread of Invasive Non Native Species. This included Giant Hogweed at Tullibody on the River Devon, Himalayan Balsam on our Cambus Pools Reserve, Pick a Back plant in the Community Woodland at Menstrie and Japanese Knotweed at Cambus.

Tullibody and Alloa Inch SSSIs

SWT are delighted to report that endangered Marsh Harriers and Bearded Tits have started breeding on their reserve at Tullibody Inch. Alloa Inch continues to be an important refuge for thousands of migratory geese.

Local Nature Conservation Sites

SWT have been involved with the resurveying of the LNCS sites in Clackmannanshire while The Wildlife Information Centre has at least 16 sites fully assessed and ready for adoption by Clackmannanshire Council.

Upper Glen Northern Brown Argus(Aricia Artaxerxes)

The area is home to the largest Northern Brown Argus population in Clackmannanshire. The butterfly is dependent on Common Rock-rose on which the caterpillars feed. Since the area was fenced off the threat from sheep was removed but the threat of the Rock-rose being smothered by shrubs (mostly Blackthorn, Gorse and Broom) increased.

With the help of TCV the shrubs have been cut back and this practice is planned to continue. A lot of the Rock-rose grows in rocky areas with thin soil. This means that dry spells can render the plants unsuitable for larval feeding during critical times for the caterpillar-late April/May and July and August. To overcome this and extend the range of the butterfly Rock rose has been planted on the banks, where the soil is deeper, of the zig-zag path. Egg surveys show the newly planted Rock-rose is being used by the butterflies. Further planting is planned for each year.

The butterfly population is monitored via a weekly transect during the flight season. The peak count for 2020 was 17 which is the highest in recent years. Plans to train more people in 2020 to do the transect were put on hold because of Covid but it is hoped these will take place in 2021.

Upper Glen Sticky Catchfly (*Lychnis Viscaria*)

Sticky Catchfly was once common in the Ochils. Grazing has greatly reduced the range of this species and its remaining stronghold is Yellow Crag near Menstrie. It used to be present in Alva Glen. With help from SWT, plants grown from seed collected from Yellow Crag were planted in the area around the zig-zag path in the glen in 2019. More plants were put in in 2020 with the help of TCV. In 2020 there were 43 flower spikes. The plan is 'look after' the current plants and scatter their seeds in more inaccessible areas in the hope that a self-sustainable population will become established. Some seeds were scattered in 2020. Sticky Catchfly is relatively slow growing so it will be a few years before we assess the success of the project.

Gardens around car parks

During the last 5 years the garden areas around the carpark have been developed by volunteers in a 'Planting for pollinators and people' project. The aim was to provide nectar and pollen sources for insects, larval food plants for certain butterfly species whilst having a general visual appeal for all visitors.

Larval foodplants include Garlic Mustard for Orange-tip butterflies (at least 20 caterpillars were found in 2020), Bird's-foot-trefoil for Common Blue butterflies and Stinging Nettle for Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral and Comma butterflies. In the last 2 years 13 species of butterfly, 5 species of Bumblebee and several species of Hoverfly have been recorded in the garden area. SWT plan to maintain these areas for pollinators.

Lade area

Some *Rhododendron Ponticum* has been removed and Dogwood and native plants put in.

Mill Glen, Tillicoultry

Mill Glen Action group were set up in 2017 to help maintain the Glen and improve the area for pollinators.

The main activities to improve biodiversity are:

- To plant pollinator friendly plants in the bed around the burn and create a wildflower meadow on the grass bank at the back of the entrance area. Part of the bank was planted in 2018/19 with the whole bank being planted in 2020. The area has been strimmed, scarified, and native plants put in as well as seed containing Yellow Rattle to restrict grass growth. The action has already seen an increase in butterflies.
- Control Bracken and Gorse on the path to the east of the glen to prevent existing flora being overgrown. The aim is to keep a one metre strip on each side of the path clear to allow species such as Wild Thyme, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Heath Bedstraw and Dog Violets to flourish. Work to date has been carried out by Mill Glen and TCV volunteers.

Plans are to continue with each of these streams of activities.

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland is involved in resurveying, assessment and an aim for the adoption by Clackmannanshire Council of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS). Since road verges are often rich in species compared to surrounding countryside, grazed and arable fields. Along 500 metres of verge on a country road in Carnbo in Clackmannanshire over 70 different plant species were counted. Adjacent fields were grass grazed by sheep and cows which presents the opportunity to actively manage

more road verges with biodiversity in mind such as delaying cutting till August/September where safe to do so.

Buglife ran Marvellous Mud Snails, a 2 year project that completed in March 2019, with funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund and contributions from Clackmannanshire Council, East Dunbartonshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council.

The project aimed to survey all known sites of the rare Pond mud snail (*Omphiscola glabra*) in Scotland that was previously only known from 5 sites with historic records elsewhere. We found the snails at all 5 known sites (in different local authority areas) and a further 2 historic sites (1 in Falkirk and another in Edinburgh). The population in Clackmannanshire was discovered and although not thriving is still present within a small area of the known site. Buglife aimed to do a captive breeding project to release snails at new ponds but this unfortunately didn't occur in Clackmannanshire due to poor breeding success of the snails collected from the site; although this was successful with populations elsewhere. We ran several public engagement events in the local area running sessions with schools and workshops to train people how to survey for freshwater invertebrates and recording their findings. The project is now complete with no more funding although it is important that this snail is recognised in the LBAP as it is only known from 1 pond in the Clackmannanshire area. We have a dedicated page on our website for the project: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/projects/marvellous-mud-snails/>

Additional Achievements

- Reduced grass cutting to encourage pollinators
- Updated and raised awareness through Social media pages
- Education in schools
- Dead hedging
- Thinning of willow car
- Nesting platform
- Litter picking
- Wildflower management
- Clearance of flight lines for Sand martin bank
- Increased number of ponds in Clackmannanshire

Looking ahead, what do you think will be the main challenges over the next three years?

- The impact of climate change
- Meeting UK and Scottish Government Carbon reduction targets with limited resources.
- COVID 19 recovery
- Further embedding biodiversity considerations into corporate & service plans, policies and operations.
- The production of a Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan for all areas of Clackmannanshire Council.
- Effectively considering biodiversity in this time of reduced resources & expertise & increased pressures.
- Continuing to access funding for delivery of projects on the ground
- Realising ambitions for delivering biodiversity improvements across a much larger, landscape scale

- Staff reductions reduce the ability to carry out the actions agreed to within the Biodiversity Action Plan
- BREXIT and changes to legislation that was based upon European law.

Section 8: Contribution to targets

Use the following tables to indicate the biodiversity targets to which your organisation has contributed. You may wish to insert additional targets from the 2020 challenge for Scotland's biodiversity (the Biodiversity Strategy), the Six Big Steps for Nature or the Aichi Targets.

Targets/key steps from Chapter 1 (Healthy ecosystems) of the “2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity”	Contribution to key step?	Justification
(1.1) Encourage and support ecosystem restoration and management, especially in catchments that have experienced the greatest degradation	✓	Clackmannanshire Council’s participation in landscape scale initiatives including IFLI and IFF.
(1.2) Use assessments of ecosystem health at a catchment level to determine what needs to be done		
(1.3) Government and public bodies, including SNH, SEPA and FCS, will work together towards a shared agenda for action to restore ecosystem health at a catchment-scale across Scotland		IFLI does this and will continue to do it through Climate Ready Forth project if successful in the bid. They developed the Habitat Network with the help of numerous government and public bodies.
(1.4) Establish plans and decisions about land use based on an understanding of ecosystems. Take full account of land use impacts on the ecosystems services that underpin social, economic and environmental health		
Targets/key steps from Chapter 3 (Biodiversity, health and quality of life) of the “2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity”		
(3.1) Provide opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy nature regularly, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups	✓	IFLI interpretation and access improvements IFF Wanderings & Windings. OLP (now EPIC) run groups as green gyms. Maintenance of the Core Path Network. Rangers worked with Scottish Autism in the past.
(3.2) Support local authorities and communities to improve local environments and enhance biodiversity using green space and green networks, allowing nature to flourish and so enhancing the quality of life for people who live there	✓	Conversion of amenity grass to wildflowers by Clackmannanshire Council’s Land Services. Working with Sustrans to create green corridors along cycle paths (e.g. wildflower and hedge planting). Woodland management for wildlife and

		access for people. Gartmorn Dam conservation volunteers and TCV laid dead hedging
(3.3) Build on good practice being developed by the National Health Service (NHS) and others to help encourage greenspace, green exercise and social prescribing initiatives that will improve health and wellbeing through connecting people with nature	✓	NHS joint Sustainable Food Strategy
(3.4) Increase access to nature within and close to schools, and support teachers in developing the role of outdoor learning across the Curriculum for Excellence	✓	Rangers worked with schools on outdoor education, using local resources. This creates a sense of ownership and less vandalism. Outdoor learning has become even more important since COVID. The OWLS group supports teachers by providing training for outdoor learning. Funding obtained for temporary Ranger post.
(3.5) Encourage public organisations and businesses to review their responsibilities and action for biodiversity, and recognise that increasing their positive contribution to nature and landscapes can help meet their corporate priorities and performance		
Targets/key steps from Chapter 4 (Wildlife, habitats and protected places) of the “2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity”	Contribution to key step?	Justification
(4.1) Ensure that the management of protected places for nature also provides wider public benefits		Updated Gartmorn Dam management plan. Some woodland management plans and woodland inspections.
(4.3) Integrate protected areas policy with action for wider habitats to combat fragmentation and restore key habitats		
(4.5) Involve many more people than at present in this work and improve understanding of the poorly known elements of nature		Gartmorn Dam volunteers, Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Gartmorn Dam Development Trust are all involved in this.
Targets/key steps from Chapter 5 (Land and freshwater management) of the “2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity”		
(5.1) Promote an ecosystem approach to land management that fosters sustainable use of natural resources and puts biodiversity at the heart of land use planning and decision-making		LDP Policies: EA1 - Clackmannanshire Green Network EA2 - Habitat Networks and Biodiversity

		EA3 - Protection of Designated Sites and Protected Species EA11 - Environmental Quality EA12 - Water Environment Supplementary Guidance 4 - Water 6 - Green Infrastructure 8 - Woodlands and Forestry
(5.2) Ensure that measures taken forward under the Common Agricultural Policy encourage land managers to develop and retain the diversity of wildlife habitats and landscape features		No specific reference in LDP to CAP, proposals and their impacts on biodiversity would be considered under the above policies, if planning permission was required.
(5.3) Support „High Nature Value“ farming and forestry		
(5.4) Put in place the management necessary to bring Scotland’s protected areas into favourable condition and improve the ecological status of water bodies		Gartmorn Dam Management Plan Work with SNH and SEPA around Clacks. SWT Cambus pools LNCS work
(5.5) Ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem objectives are fully integrated into flood risk management plans, and restore wetland habitats and woodlands to provide sustainable flood management	✓	Working with SEPA to set out a range of actions to better manage flood risk.
(5.6) Restore and extend natural habitats as a means of building reserves of carbon and to help mitigate climate change	✓	Working with partners tree planting and wildflower meadow creation.
(5.7) Provide clear advice to land and water managers on best practice	✓	Advice provided on management of land for biodiversity during development management process and to land owners where requested.

Appendix 2 - Nature conservation and habitat connectivity – Land use, planning and development

Strategic Objective 6

Natural Environment

To protect and enhance Clackmannanshire's natural heritage, regenerate our natural environment and support the strategic objectives of the Central Scotland Green Network by:

- furthering the conservation of Clackmannanshire's biodiversity, particularly through the protection and enhancement of designated sites and priority habitats and species;
- strengthening habitat networks within Clackmannanshire and linking to neighbouring areas;
- expanding woodland cover wherever possible and where it would be appropriate;
- protecting and enhancing Clackmannanshire's distinctive landscape character;
- improving recreational opportunity and access to biodiversity-rich open spaces;
- safeguarding the green belt.

7.19 ...When determining planning applications, specific conditions, planning obligations or other agreements may be applied to secure the protection of habitat networks....

7.20 Strengthening habitat networks will contribute to Scottish, European and UN targets for halting the loss of biodiversity. In delivering these improvements the Council will work in partnership with the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership and in support of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan, as well as other long term environmental improvement initiatives in Clackmannanshire such as the Ochils and Inner Forth Landscape Partnerships and the Inner Forth Futurescape Project.

7.21 The protection, conservation and enhancement of sites that are designated for their biodiversity interest will be supported in line with statutory requirements with the level of protection appropriate to the level of designation - international (Natura 2000 designations e.g. Special Protection Area, Ramsar), national (Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)) or local (Local Nature Reserve and Local Nature Conservation Site).

Policy EA2 - Habitat Networks and Biodiversity

This policy aims to encourage the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and habitat networks by safeguarding the integrity of features of the landscape which are important because of their linear and continuous structure or function as intermediate sites for the movement of both fauna and flora.

All development proposals will be expected to fulfil all of the following criteria:

- maximise the potential of their development to contribute positively to biodiversity conservation and enhancement (and seek mitigation for any adverse impacts of development);
- protect and enhance existing habitat networks in or adjacent to the development site;
- mitigate any negative impacts on habitats, species or network connectivity either resulting from the development or as a result of the cumulative effects of developments locally;
- identify opportunities to strengthen the existing habitat network by creating new habitat links.

Wherever possible, development proposals should contribute to the objectives of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan; and the ongoing improvement of the Integrated Habitat Network and the Clackmannanshire Green Network, in accordance with the Green Infrastructure SG.

Where there is, in the Council's opinion, a potential adverse effect upon local biodiversity, the developer will be required to submit an Ecological Appraisal of the development, which must be completed in accordance with the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's 'Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, and will be considered before the proposal is determined. Where appropriate, this information can be incorporated into a Habitats Regulations Appraisal or an Environmental Impact Assessment.

There will be a presumption against development that is likely to have a detrimental impact on the function of our habitat networks unless adequate provision can be made on or off site to maintain species populations, create or enhance comparable habitats and/or improve network connectivity elsewhere such that overall there is an expected net increase in biodiversity. Ecological Appraisal must be completed in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Policy Requirements' section of Policy EA3.

Appendix 3

Site	Grid Ref (site centroid)	Current status	Locality	Site description - summary	Assessment date
Alloa New Marshalling Yards	NS870932	LNCS	Cambus to Alloa	Old rail marshalling yard between Alloa and Cambus. Closed in 1987.	27/09/2017
Alva Devon Wetlands	NS879962	LNCS	South of Alva	Wetlands on the northern side of the River Devon, south of Alva. The site consists of two parts, a large area just east of Glenochil Wood, and a smaller section on the opposite side of the B908 in the middle of a field centred on a drain.	31/08/2019
Auchlinsky Burn and Wood	NO007023	LNCS	North of Yetts o'Muckhart	Burn and woodland north of Yetts o' Muckhart.	31/10/2018
Blackgrange Tip (Manor Powis Bing)	NS827948	LNCS	SE of Manor Powis	Part of the Blackgrange Tip/Manor Powis bing (in Stirling Council area) site. Disused bing, near the warehouses on the River Forth.	21/02/2018
Blackmuir Wood	NS870951	LNCS	East of Tullibody	Wood on the eastern side of Tullibody.	27/09/2017
Braehead Woodlands	NS862940	LNCS	South of Tullibody	Woodland on the southern side of Tullibody and Braehead Golf Course.	21/02/2018
Brandyhill Wood	NS906955	LNCS	Between Fishcross and Coalsnaughton	Woodland between Fishcross and Coalsnaughton	21/02/2018
Brucefield	NS949919	LNCS	Clackmannan	Large woodland east of Clackmannan, wraps around Brucefield Mains	25/09/2017
Cambus Pools	NS846937	LNCS	SW of Tullibody	Large area on north side of River Forth. Includes the Cambus Pools SWT Reserve	21/02/2018
Cowpark Wood	NS908943	LNCS	East of Sauchie	Area of broadleaved woodland next to New Sauchie. The wood is part of a larger woodland complex comprised of Cowpark, Coalpots, Hamilton and Gartmornhill Woods. The site is considered part of Gartmorn Dam Country Park.	31/10/2018

Delph Wood	NS862949	LNCS	Tullibody	Woodland in Tullibody. Sits next to Delph Pond	21/02/2018
Dun Moss	NS983925	LNCS	East of Clackmannan	Moss on the edge of Clackmannanshire, contains a pond in the south of the site.	20/03/2018
Glenochil Wood	NS871961	LNCS	Between Tullibody and Alva	Former bing, now woodland, north of HMP Glenochil.	21/02/2018
Menstrie Wood (Red Carr Wood)	NS843969	LNCS	NW of Menstrie	Woodland to the North-West of Menstrie.	20/03/2018
Muirpark Devon Wetlands (Tullibody Bridge Wetlands)	NS863960	LNCS	North of Tullibody	Wetland site to the north of Tullibody.	20/03/2018
Pond Wood	NS898920	LNCS	South of Alloa	Woodland south of Alloa. Black Devon flows through it, joining the Forth nearby. There is a large pond in the centre of the site.	31/10/2018
Silver Glen and Woodland Park (Wood Hill Woodland Country Park)	NS893976	LNCS	NE of Alva	The Ochil Hills Woodland Park and Silver glen. The site is flanked on both sides by watercourses and has predominantly broadleaved woodland with small stands of conifers.	31/08/2018
Twentyfive Acre Wood	NS895955	LNCS	NW of Fishcross	Woodland northwest of Fishcross, bisected by a road	31/08/2018
Alva Moss	NN885022	pLNCS	North of Alva		
Backwood Heath or Cairn Muir	NS966956	pLNCS	South of Dollar		
Bessie Mines or Devon Knowes Bing	NS930966	pLNCS	Tillicoultry		
Burnside-Glenfoot Devon Pools	NS905967	pLNCS	South-west of Tillicoultry	Small site with ponds, scrub and grassland on former tip, supporting wading birds and locally rare plants.	28/01/2020
Burnside-Glenfoot Devon Wetlands	NS908968	pLNCS	South-west of Tillicoultry	Wetland complex on the banks of the River Devon including a former curling pond, with locally rare plants and breeding birds.	28/01/2020
Garrison Dam	NS935924	pLNCS	North-east of Clackmannan		
Tulligarth Disused Brickworks	NS927924	pLNCS	North-east of Clackmannan		

Report to: Place Committee

Date of Meeting: 20 January 2022

Subject: Review of Access Arrangements and ID at Forthbank

Report by: Strategic Director (Place)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. This report is to provide an update and review to the committee on the current access arrangements and ID requirements for the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Forthbank Alloa.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee:
- 2.1.1 Approves to cease the use and concept of resident access cards and to continue with the current controls that have been introduced at the HWRC site in response to the COVID impact on operations. The rationale for this approach is set out in section 3.13.

3.0 Background

The starting point for this paper is a reminder of the Councils Statutory duty, The provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) is made in Scotland under the Refuse and Amenity Act 1978, which states;

“It shall be the duty of a local authority to provide places where refuse, other than refuse falling to be disposed of in the course of a business, may be deposited at all reasonable times free of charge by persons resident in the area of the authority..”

- 3.1 The cost of disposing of waste presented at HWRCs falls to the host authority, and it is therefore financially prudent to restrict its use to those eligible to use it. Failure to do so will incur unnecessary costs to the Council and Service which are not sustainable.
- 3.2 While it is difficult to quantify specifically this burden for our own Authority, Fife Council recently quoted an estimate of £1.5 million as the annual cost arising from mis-use of their Centres.

3.3 **Previous Controls**

Given the above challenge Clackmannanshire Council agreed some years ago to introduce an access scheme for residents, involving the issue of an addressed card to all households. These cards were renewed periodically, typically every two years.

- 3.4. It emerged over time that as an anti-fraud measure the access card had a significant number of shortcomings, these included;
- Cards being shared with individuals who were not entitled to use the centre;
 - Householders' cards being used by contractors carrying out renovation works at the householder's home, to circumvent the charge levied on commercial organisations to dispose of their waste;
 - Cards being reported as lost and requiring replacement, incurring the cost of administration time as well as that of re-issuing the card.
 - Abuse of the recycling centre and increased costs
- 3.5. It was further noted that replacement requests and misuse of the cards correlated with the length of time between general re-issues of the card. Should re-introduction of the householder card scheme be considered, an annual issue of cards to all residents would have to be undertaken with an initial cost of circa £30,000 per annum (excluding back office costs) for its continual maintenance and update.
- 3.6. **Current Scheme – Photo ID**
- 3.7. Following the successful re-opening of Forthbank after the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, an online booking system was introduced that was developed in-house by the Waste Service and the Web Manager, with the requirement that users had to verify their booking when attending the site by producing photographic ID that matched the booking details.
- 3.8. Unfortunately, due to a lack of training of temporary staff, there were reports from a number of users, particularly serving and former police officers that they were receiving 'demands' to show their Driver's Licence in order to gain access to the site. For clarification the Council has no legal right to do this, it being the preserve of law enforcement officers.
- 3.9. However this does not stop the Council from adopting a general principle of requiring photographic ID to use the HWRC, and early in 2021 amended guidance was produced on the range of documents that could be used to demonstrate proof of identity, and residence in Clackmannanshire.

Documentation Type	Details
Driver's licence	No additional proof required as this shows both picture and address
National entitlement card	No additional proof required as card shows picture plus name of card-issuing Authority to

	confirm residence.
Blue badge parking card	No additional proof required as card shows picture plus name of card-issuing Authority to confirm residence.
Passport, work ID or club membership card PLUS Official mail such as Council Tax bill, rent letter or *bank statement.	<i>Phot ID plus proof of residence in Clackmannanshire</i>
Unable to provide photo ID	Waste officers empowered to make further investigations into determining eligibility of user, and use discretion on allowing access to the Centre.

**Not everyone actually has these with them, many now receive paperless statements*

3.10. The current practice carries a number of advantages over the previous scheme;

- There are almost no administration costs for the Council attached to the scheme.
- Feedback from the public is that they prefer this and find it much easier as people don't usually carry their card anyway or have it anymore.
- HWRC staff have greater confidence that the site is being used correctly, avoiding the potential for conflict with site users;
- Overall cost of waste disposal should decrease.

3.11. It should be further noted that since the modified photo ID scheme was introduced, no formal complaints have been received to the Council in respect of its implementation.

3.12. The Council reserves the right to make further enquiries concerning the ownership of the waste, and may deny access to Forthbank. Current protocols require anyone that the Service has doubts over regarding the source of their waste to complete a Site User Declaration Form which is retained on file to ensure illegal use of the site is minimised.

3.13. Based on the cost-savings and effectiveness of the scheme, the Service recommends that the current requirement for photo ID to access Forthbank Household Waste Centre be retained, and the re-introduction of a card access scheme be discounted.

3.14. Going forward if the IT capacity was available the Council could look to develop a mobile app that could be used for other Council services that could be scanned, however this would require further work and development and would most likely need external consultants to design and implement and significant financial investment but would still only be a supplement to the existing identification methods.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. None

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

5.2. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ☒

5.3 The re-introduction of identification passes would put strain on existing limited resources within the Waste Service.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses and people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☒

Our families, children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☒

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☒

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☒

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes

No X

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

10.0 Appendices

None

11.0 Background Papers

- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered).

Yes ☐

No ☒

(please list the documents below)

Author(s)

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Approved by

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