

# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL DECISION RECORD

VERSION 6. MAY 2024

**Reference Number** (taken from Sharepoint entry) **176**

**Officer Completing the Form:** Zoe Goldsmith

**Lead Director:** Cheryl Headon

**Subject:** Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire – Pre-Publication Consultation

**Details of Decision:** *Please provide a brief explanation as to what decision was made, including any financial implications. This should be done in easy to understand, non-technical language - as this wording will appear on the website for the public to read. Also please remember all staff will be able to see this document.*

Approve the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire for publication.

**Type of Decision: (please tick. see reverse for definitions)**

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key Decision (Executive) & Subject to Call-In (see section 2A on reverse of this form) Note, these decisions are published on winchester.gov.uk  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Operational Decision (see section 2B (1) on reverse of this form). Note, these decisions are published on winchester.gov.uk          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Decisions to be Published (see section 2B (2) on reverse of this form) Note, these decisions are published on winchester.gov.uk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Decision (see section 3 on reverse of this form)  |

**Reason for the Decision:** *A brief overview of your reasons for taking this course of action.*

The Environment (Local Nature Recovery) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 state that the responsible authority (Hampshire County Council) must seek the approval of Winchester City Council, as a supporting authority, to publish the Strategy. The regulations provide the supporting authorities with 28 days from the date of receipt of the Strategy to respond. The council was provided with the pre-consultation request on 1 October and therefore had until 29 October to provide written approval.

The strategy is in accordance with the regulations and guidance.

The strategy is based on extensive mapping and data from a wide range of sources, as well as collaborative expert knowledge. The County Council undertook engagement with key stakeholders through the delivery of a series of formal theme based and community-based workshops, LNRS Steering Group and Supporting Authorities Working Group meetings. A public survey was also carried out, followed by a statutory public consultation. The Strategy has been updated to consider the comments raised during the consultation and following discussions with both the Steering Group and the LPA Working Group.

Regulation 15 of the Environment (Local Nature Recovery) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 states that a supporting authority may give a publication advisory notice if it considers that:

- part of the final local nature recovery strategy cannot be justified based on the results of the consultation undertaken by the responsible authority; or
- the supporting authority considers that the final local nature recovery strategy is materially deficient.

The council did not consider there to be any significant issues with the Strategy that required a publication advisory notice or prevented it from being published.

The council will give a Member Briefing on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire on 16 October 2025. This will explain to members the council's role in developing the strategy, the main purpose and how to use the strategy once published.

**Alternative Options Considered & Rejected:** *All alternative options considered need to be outlined here. Please include detail of any representations received. This will include your response to any alternatives suggested by those making representation and the reasons why these alternatives were rejected.*

If the council considered that part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy could not be justified or was materially deficient then a publication advisory notice could be submitted to the Secretary of State within the 28-day consultation period.

**Supporting Information:** *If your decision relates to delegated authority derived from a specific Committee resolution, please confirm the name of the Committee, the date of the meeting and paste the resolution into this box.*

## Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire and Local Habitat Map.

### Background information/summary

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), introduced by the Environment Act 2021, are a new system of plans for nature recovery. Hampshire County Council as the 'responsible body' has developed the LNRS for Hampshire by working closely with 'supporting authorities' including Winchester City Council as well as other stakeholders. The aim of the strategy is to identify locations to create, restore and enhance habitats, providing the best opportunities to deliver nature's recovery. The strategy also seeks to identify where these actions have wider environmental benefits, such as flood protection, cleaner water, better air quality, carbon capture, and enhanced health and wellbeing.

The Strategy comprises of:

- A description of the Strategy area
- A Statement of Biodiversity Priorities
- A Local Habitat Map made of three layers:
  1. APIB map - Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. Existing designated sites and irreplaceable habitats.
  2. ACB map - Areas that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity. Priority areas identified in relevant plans and strategies, suggested by stakeholders or creation opportunities related to priority habitats.
  3. Measures Map - Locations where potential measures could be carried out to contribute to the strategy's priorities. This map builds on the ACB map and includes areas of the APIB map which are in poor condition. It can target joining up or expanding ACBs and APIBs to deliver the Lawton Principles of "bigger", "better" and "more connected" spaces for nature, to create resilient and coherent ecological networks.

The Strategy identified 52 priority outcomes, along with 69 potential measures to help deliver those priority outcomes.

A species priority list and their nature recovery requirements has been established using criteria from Natural England, national rarity categories, Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act species, birds of conservation concern, and the species recovery prioritisation workshop. A shortlist of 414 species was generated, of which 68 have been identified as priority species and 346 are grouped in assemblages that exist in the same habitat or location.

Th LNRS has been prepared in partnership and represents a shared ambition to see Hampshire's diverse and unique environment enhanced, and opportunities to realise wider environmental benefits from nature recovery across the area. It provides guidance for organisations and individuals on where to focus their efforts, and what actions to take, and incentivises these actions to achieve nature recovery. By providing the direction needed to create a biodiversity-rich environment, wildlife and people will mutually benefit from nature's recovery. The LNRS does not dictate how land is used or limit the choices land managers have on their land. Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), Nutrient Mitigation funding and Solent Wader and Brent Geese mitigation funding are important mechanisms to support the delivery of LNRS.

Subject to the outcome of the Natural England panel on 21 October 2025, and provided that no publication advisory notices are received during the 28-day consultation period, a report will be presented to the County Council's Cabinet on 11 November 2025 to seek approval to publish the Strategy. Should approval be granted, the County Council will notify the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of its intention to publish the Strategy in December, and thereafter publish the Strategy on the County Council's website


**Declared Officer and/or Member interests:** *List any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision and, in respect of any declared conflict of interest, any note of dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer.*

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Departmental Review			
Legal review:	<i>Tick this box to confirm legal team have reviewed proposed decision</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14/10/2025
Finance review:	<i>Tick this box to confirm finance team have reviewed proposed decision</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14/10/2025
Other review:	<i>Tick this box to confirm any other departmental review of proposed decision (and specify department)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Public Sector Equality Duty:	<i>Tick this box to confirm you have considered the PSED requirements (see section 4 on reverse of this form)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**PTO**

<b>Are the details of the decision open or exempt?</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open
<input type="checkbox"/> Part Exempt. Please expand
<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt. Please expand

<b>Decision Taker (name):</b> Cheryl Headon	<b>Decision Taker (Signature):</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 14/10/25

<b>Call In dates (key decisions only) and Implementation date:</b>	
Commencement of call in: (date)	Click here to enter a date. <i>(Please refer to Dem Services for this)</i>
Last date for call in: (date)	Click here to enter a date. <i>(Please refer to Dem Services for this)</i>
Planned Implementation Date:	Click here to enter a date.

## Notes.

### 1) Why record officer decisions?

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require local authorities to produce a written statement of an executive decision made by an officer as soon as is reasonably practicable after the decision is taken (see Paragraph 13). This written statement must include the information requested in the questions of the pro forma on the previous page.

### 2) What sort of decisions are there?

- a) **Key decisions.** A key decision is defined by Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as being an executive decision which is likely:
- To result in the local authority incurring expenditure, which is or the making of savings which are significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; **(For Winchester City Council, the financial limit above which a decision is regarded as significant is £250,000 per year), or;**
  - To be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Cabinet Procedure Rules, Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4) and the Officer Scheme of Delegation (Part 3) of this Constitution.

- b) **Non-Key Decisions.** Officers will usually take non-key executive decisions. A non-key decision is an executive decision that does not meet either criterion of a key decision as laid out above. These decisions are divided into significant operational decisions and administrative decisions.
- Significant Operational (Non-Key) Decisions.** This is a decision in relation to a Council or executive function which is not a key decision and results in one of the following:
    - Revenue expenditure or making savings (including the receipt or loss of income) between £100,000 and £250,000 per year;
    - Capital expenditure (i.e. if they involve entering into new commitments and/or making savings) and/or contract awards of between £100,000 and £250,000
    - When, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer or Monitoring Officer, a published record of the decision is required to provide openness and transparency.
    - A significant decision should be recorded in order to comply with Regulation 13 (Recording of executive decisions made by individuals) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (No. 2089).
  - "Other" Decision.** Regulation 7 of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulation 2014 requires a written record to be produced as soon as reasonably practicable after an officer has made a decision under delegation which a) grants a permission or licence or b) affects the rights of an individual.
  - Administrative Decision:** *(these do not require recording on this form unless one or more of the following applies)*
    - There is a financial implication;
    - It is in conflict with the Budget and Policy Framework or other approved policies approved by full Council; and
    - It raises new issues of policy.
    - It is a decision to alter the procurement evaluation model and meets certain thresholds – see "help text"*

### 3) Which officer decisions need to be recorded on this form?

Officers need to record:

- any key decision, i.e., decisions that have a significant effect on 2 or more divisions, or have a cost/saving of £250,000 or more. (see 2A above)
- any Significant Operational Decisions. (see 2B (1) above)
- "Other" officer decisions regarding the granting of a permission or licence or that affect the rights of an individual (see 2B (2) above)
- Administrative decisions which meet the criteria in iii above.

### 4) What are the relevant processes to be followed?

**For all decisions, the report author needs to complete the Forthcoming Decisions record in Sharepoint.**

Establish which type of decision it is (see 2 A and 2B above.)

Most officer decisions require to be recorded on this form (see 3 above) Once completed, please ensure that it is reviewed by legal, finance and the relevant Director prior to signing. Once approved, the form should be forwarded to Democratic Services for adding to the Council's website where it can be viewed by members of the public on the decisions page (unless it is an Administrative decision).

Public Sector Equality Duty. Contact your Corporate Head of Service should you require any clarification regarding the council's Public Sector Equality, including whether you may need to complete an impact assessment as part of this decision record.