

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR BIODIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT

Approved by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on 21 June 2007

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 gives all public bodies a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity in the course of exercising their functions.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is committed to delivering its biodiversity duty and will work in partnership to maintain, enhance and interpret the natural environment and biodiversity of the Outer Hebrides now and for future generations.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar will:

- Develop a 3 yearly Biodiversity Duty Delivery Plan to assist with the 4 step biodiversity duty process and delivery of the aims of the Comhairle's Biodiversity Policy;
- Assess the impacts that all of our operations, functions and duties (direct and indirect) have on biodiversity;
- Seek to conserve and where possible enhance local biodiversity through the implementation of our statutory functions;
- Meet and where possible exceed the requirements set out in the applicable biodiversity legislation and regulations;
- Seek to minimise the impact on biodiversity when reviewing its existing policies and strategies;
- Support implementation of the Western Isles Local Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Seek to improve the benefits for biodiversity when reviewing management of Comhairle owned and managed land or grounds;
- Aim to implement a purchasing policy that favours those products and services that have the least impact on biodiversity;
- Aim to implement a purchasing policy that favours those contractors and suppliers that take biodiversity into consideration in the way they conduct their services and supply goods;
- Seek similar standards and principles towards biodiversity conservation from all third parties involved with our business – suppliers, vendors and contractors;
- Use the opportunities that we have in our daily contact with the general public to communicate, educate and promote biodiversity conservation;
- Endeavour to support projects and programmes that can demonstrate benefits to biodiversity;
- Include a consideration of the impacts on biodiversity in investment decisions that we make;
- Engage with the local community and other stakeholders as far as is possible in connection with biodiversity conservation.
- Monitor and report progress to the Scottish Executive every 3 years on delivery of the biodiversity duty and contribution to implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.