

ID	Action	Activity	Latest Update	Estimated Completion Date	Potential Impact Level	Direct of Indirect responsibility	Who is mainly responsible	Who else is involved/Partners
3.1	Securing tree planting through development proposals and Biodiversity Net Gain from new development including pushing the new Defra Biodiversity Metric 2.0 at pre-app and for new applications.	a. Clear numbers now in a newly adopted Supplementary Planning Document for tree replacement. For new planting, this is tied to a 10% biodiversity net gain requirement as required by the Supplementary Planning Document using the DEFRA biodiversity metric.	Defra has now released version 3.0 of the Metric, along with a 'minor applications' metric. The Environment Bill has now (in November 2021) received royal assent and is now the Environment Act, this now mandating a requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. Officers are working with other LPAs in Devon to write a Devon Net Gain guidance note to assist the LPA, developers, applicants and consultant ecologists.	2021-2024	Medium	Direct	Development Mangement, Joint Local Plan Team	
		b. Review process and method for spending 10% net gain developer contributions.	Part of Devon Net Gain guidance approach refenced in 3.1.a	2022	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team	Devon Local Nature Partnership, Devon County Council
		c. Review metrics and policy requirements at Plan Review Stage.	Subject to Joint Local Plan Review Timescales	2024	Medium	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team	
3.2	Support more approaches by communities for tree planting on our land where there aren't any trees and is consistent with land use and not likely to lead to conflict with neighbours or conflict with the outcomes from the Devon Nature Recovery Network Mapping project (DNRN) (i.e. right trees in the right place)	a. Investigate the creation of a formal system whereby someone with an ability to pay for the upfront cost of planting and a contractual arrangement for West Devon to manage as part of its a new grounds maintenance scheme. Seek opportunities to incorporate tree planting or natural regeneration on WDBC owned sites	Officers are developing proposals for natural regeneration on over 5ha of land at two Council owned sites which will include applications to the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Offer grant. These sites identified as 'high spatial priorities' for nature recovery and woodland. Officers also hope to incorporate planting of a number of standards on Council owned sites around Tavistock this season.	Ongoing	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Devon County Council, Town and Parish Councils, Community Groups

3.3	Develop and adopt a more biodiversity/environmentally conscious Grounds Maintenance procedure.	<p>a. A new Grounds Maintenance procedure with a review of the following. - Fix more carbon in vegetation cover (relaxing cutting regime) whilst managing community expectations and a level of complaint about 'unkempt/untidy' sites, lazy Councils, etc.)</p> <p>- Scrape sites, reseed with wildflower mix, annual cut, use mixes that increase soil carbon sequestration</p> <p>- Look to reduce/eliminate weed killer use on hard surfaces</p> <p>- Assess potential to increase wildlife value balanced against amenity requirements (e.g. for short grass for dog walking/recreation, etc.)</p>	A review of the Grounds Maintenance specification with a view to a more biodiverse conscious approach is anticipated to be undertaken during 2022. This will follow on from a similar review underway in South Hams and will apply learning from this experience.	Report early 2022	High	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
3.4	Pushing tree planting agenda within Neighbourhood Plans (allocating spaces for woodland creation and sustainable management) Supporting mapping of local ecological networks/corridors within Neighbourhood Plans	a. Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy to be sent to Neighbourhood Plan groups to deliver on actions and provide advice on how to apply findings from the Devon Nature Recovery Network process.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Low	Direct	Neighbourhood Planning, Climate Change Specialist	

3.5	Ring-fencing and promoting a % of Members grant schemes (SCLF/Localities Fund) towards tree planting schemes for community groups, Town and Parish Councils, or money towards a 'Tree Planting grant scheme' (we did this in 2010 for the International Year of Biodiversity)	a. Investigate options with a view to developing a formal process and framework	Potential Deletion	Report update at the end of 2021	Medium	Direct		
3.6	Aim to develop and adopt a Natural Environment Design Guide to support Development Management proposals – establishing the importance of street trees in urban/built environment proposals, trees in new hedge lines, and tree/woodland planting as part of on-site public open space provision.	a. Investigate and review during the Joint Local Plan Review stage and using the outcomes from the Nature Recovery Network Project.	This is now an Interim Devon Carbon Plan proposal (action F2) - Develop a Biodiversity Net-Gain Supplementary Planning Document that can be adopted by local planning authorities	2022	Medium	Influence	Devon County Council	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team
3.7	Establish natural flood management approaches to increase carbon sequestration, reduce erosion, and deliver improved catchment management.	a. Investigate how the Council can influence this and establish what direct actions the Council can take and what actions the Council can contribute to, for example through partnerships	The Tamar Valley AONB led TAMARA project is working with farmers and landowners, seeking to mitigate climate change and improve water quality and the surrounding water environment, including targetted tree and orchard planting, and hedgerow restoration. The TAMARA project will provide farmer/landowner support alongside the introduction of the new ELMS agri-environment schemes. The Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) Tamar Catchment Based Approach seeks to bring together multiple interests in river basin management planning, including aspects of farm advice, reducing point source and diffuse pollution, carbon storage and sustainable storage. The WRT are currently working up a new River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan.		Medium	Influence	Environment Agency, Climate Impacts Group (DCE & DCC), Devon Local Nature Partnership	Assets

3.8	Investigate the potential to apply a % management fee to offsite compensation/Biodiversity Net Gain payments (via s106) to part-fund a new/existing role (there will be an additional pressure) in terms of findings sites to delivery this offsite habitat creation (which the LA could either buy and manage or work in partnership with another, e.g. DWT, RSPB).	a. Review in 2021 once a fund of Biodiversity Net Gain Payments has built.	At present it is considered that the requirement for offsite compensation/Biodiversity Net Gain payments may be less than anticipated. Nonetheless, where appropriate a management fee will be applied to cover offsite contributions/arrangements where they would incur officer input and this secured by section 106. Officers are working with counterparts in other Devon LPAs with respect to a guidance document on Biodiversity Net Gain to assist with a clear and consistent approach.	TBC	Medium	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	Devon Wildlife Trust, RSPB, DCC
3.9	New development led by West Devon Borough Council to aim to be exemplar (e.g. Building with Nature, bird and bat boxes, good design with GI, etc.).		Ongoing	2020-2050	High	Direct	West Devon Borough Council	
3.11	Contribute to the creation of a Devon Nature Network and assist with the recovery of Devon's biosphere.	a. Enable landowners to express an interest in hosting biodiversity net gain initiatives related to development	The North Devon Biosphere have done some initial work on setting up a Natural Capital Marketplace as a means of linking landowners with sites that could facilitate nature recovery/carbon sequestration, with developers/LAs/companies that are looking to offset/invest. Officers will monitor.	Ongoing	High	Influence	Devon Local Nature Partnership, Devon County Council	North Devon Biosphere
		b. Potentially allocate land for Carbon Sequestration as part of Joint Local Plan Review	no progress	2024	High	Direct	Joint Local Plan Team, Placemaking Team	
		c. Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan reviews to incorporate the principles of the Land Use Framework when setting spatial planning policies and allocating land for development	The first iteration of the Nature Recovery Network map is being launched at the end of November. The role these play in underpinning a Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy will evolve over the coming year/s particularly with the Environment Bill passing into law (now Environment Act 2021) and its requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies.	2022	Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Neighbourhood Planning
		d. Support community land ownership and management by engaging with communities to designate land/farms as community assets under the Community Right to Bid scheme.	suggest deletion - advised this is unlikely to take place with current resources	Ongoing	Medium	Influence	Community Groups, Town and Parish Councils	West Devon Borough Council

3.12	WDBC engages with members of the public and farmers to look at alternatives to using herbicides and pesticides (in particular glyphosate).	a. To form part our communications and outreach work in the first instance	no progress	Ongoing	Medium	Influence	West Devon Borough Council	Communications, Climate Change Specialist, NFU
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