

<b>Risk Name</b>	CR17 – Wildlife and Biodiversity is negatively affected by Climate Change		
<b>Council Plan</b>	Making the Environment a priority in all our decisions		
<b>Risk Appetite</b>	Averse	<b>Risk Category</b>	Environment/ Climate
<b>Risk Owner</b>	The Chief Executive	<b>Date Added to the Risk Register</b>	18/12/2024
<b>Teams</b>	All Teams in the Council	<b>Date Last Reviewed</b>	15/01/2026
<b>Accountable Manager</b>	The Chief Executive	<b>Date of Next Review</b>	15/04/2026
<b>Risk</b>	<p>RISK – Loss of biodiversity, habitat and carbon sinks, due to changes in weather pattern and conditions more rapidly than nature can adapt to.</p> <p>CAUSE – Climate change changes the pattern and timings of environmental conditions and other ecological dependencies.</p> <p>CONSEQUENCE – Environmental damage to Council land, reduced wellbeing of residents if access to nature is restricted, financial costs for restoration, reputational impacts.</p>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>The <u>UK Climate Projections 2018</u> (UKCP18) predict that the country will experience warmer winters, hotter summers with greater potential for heatwaves and increased humidity. Biodiversity is being lost at an alarming rate and this is closely interlinked with climate change. Three species becoming extinct every 2 years in the county (ref. HMWT).</p>		
<b>Risk Likelihood</b>	<p>Biodiversity losses are already happening locally. Further declines are inevitable because of existing, and ongoing, greenhouse gas emissions in conjunction with human activities. The likelihood will always remain high that there will be impacts to nature and biodiversity.</p>		
<b>Risk Impact</b>	<p>The impacts of biodiversity loss are expected to increase in severity over time as the climate changes become more extreme and species that depend on each other are impacted together. The Council has limited ability to protect species or dedicate space for habitats therefore the impact level will always remain high.</p>		
<b>Controls in Place</b>		<b>Additional Actions to Mitigate Risks</b>	
<p>1. Planting standard trees in open areas and along footpaths to provide extra shade. Objective that tree planting provides more shade will be incorporated to Trees and</p>		<p>1. When new capital projects take place, we commit to leaving some space, wild, for nature.</p> <p>2. Once Local Plan is approved, use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds</p>	

<p>Woodlands workplan and will identify areas where this can be carried out.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Research done on the potential for drought resistant tree species to be introduced.</li> <li>3. Removal of bedding from displays and substituted with annual seeding and perennial planting which are more drought resistant and less reliant upon additional watering.</li> <li>4. Ensure that young trees are irrigated.</li> <li>5. Mulch trees to prevent damage from weeds.</li> <li>6. Grass cutting scheduled less frequently, allowing grass to grow longer. Some areas left to become meadow to benefit biodiversity, where appropriate and safe to do so from a fire risk perspective. Currently trialling an amenity meadow cut with low growing pollinator species - retaining moisture in the ground and providing habitat and refuge for insects.</li> <li>7. Capital Projects developments to include features to promote biodiversity such as bird boxes and bat bricks where possible.</li> <li>8. Biodiversity Net Gain process in place</li> <li>9. Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is in place to ensure that local recovery is incorporated to planning systems and to encourage targeted projects by stakeholders and investors.</li> <li>10. Revitalizing the Ver project includes a variety of works to make the habitats more resilient to drought and floods and will use drought resistant plants as standard.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Educate residents on how to maximise biodiversity benefits of gardens and discourage paving.</li> </ol>
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Inherent Risk		Residual Risk		Target Risk	
Likelihood	Impact	Likelihood	Impact	Likelihood	Impact
4	5	3	3	2	3
<b>20</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>	
First Line of Assurance		Second Line of Assurance		Third Line of Assurance	
1. Sustainability and Climate Strategy.		Liaison with other local authorities and comparison of risk registers.		1. There was a 2020-21 audit,	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Sustainability and Climate Crisis Tracker</li><li>3. Quarterly Meetings to Monitor Progress</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. An audit of the £2.5m Decarbonisation Fund in 2022/23</li><li>3. There is to be a 2025-26 audit of climate and sustainability.</li></ul>
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