

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Commissioning
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	15 December 2021
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	ACC Biodiversity Duty Report 2020 – promotional version
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### **UPDATE:**

Biodiversity is the diversity of all living things on the planet, including everything from genes and bacteria to soil microorganisms, plant species which make habitats to other species such as humans. Nature and nature's contributions to people are vital for human existence and good quality of life. The 2019 landmark Global Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) reported one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction – the highest number in human history. This means we are now facing a biodiversity crisis.

Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, public bodies in Scotland have a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity. This biodiversity duty is about taking care of nature all around us, not just in specific protected sites and for particular species. In Scotland, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires every public body in Scotland to produce a publicly available report on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty. This must be completed once every three years.

Aberdeen City Council submitted our statutory 2018-2020 Biodiversity Duty Report to Scottish Government in December 2020. Since then, we have been working on a more accessible and promotional version of this report. The original report had to be submitted on the original proforma from the government but having a more accessible version enables us to promote our biodiversity work to a wider audience.

We have now finished this and attach it to this Service Update for information to all Members.

This report showcases some of the great work that has been undertaken but there is still more that we and other organisations can and must do. One way to show our commitment to this is that Aberdeen City Council have agreed to sign the “Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework”.

### **Link to the report;**

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/Biodiversity%20Duty%20Report%202020%20Graphic%20Version.pdf>