

## **Appendix A**

### **Cambridge City Council Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2030:**

#### **Public Consultation Summary**

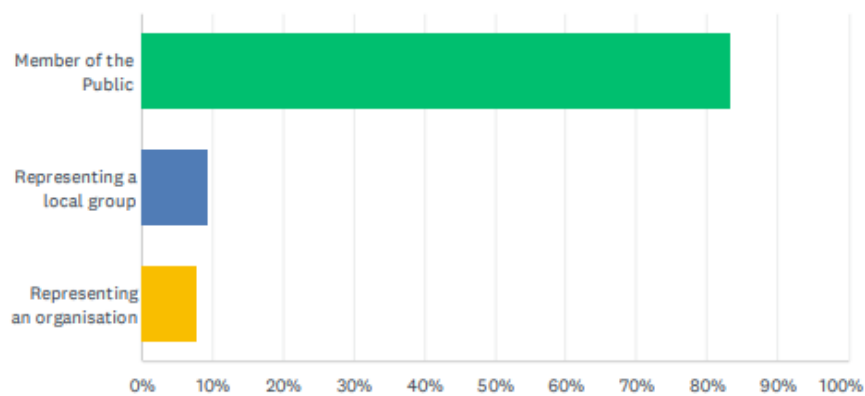
A full detailed report of all comments received (including those not submitted online) is available as a background paper to this report.

**Q1, please indicate in what capacity you are answering these questions?**

Member of the Public	83.08%
Representing a local group	9.23%
Representing an organisation	7.60%

**Q1 Please indicate in what capacity you are answering these questions?**

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



## Q2, do you agree with our strategic objectives?

### These are set out below

1 To secure a measurable net gain in biodiversity across the City by 2025 and support the Natural Cambridgeshire Doubling Nature Vision by 2030

2 To ensure designated sites and priority habitats are in good / favourable condition and connected, where possible, to increase resilience to a changing climate and contribute to the Cambridge Nature Network

3 To promote awareness of biodiversity and wellbeing, supporting coordinated action in our communities, businesses, and institutions

4 To ensure that biodiversity is considered by all council service functions and Projects

5 To maximise the potential of our buildings, parks, open spaces, watercourses and tree stock to support biodiversity, whilst balancing their multifunctional needs

6 To harness the wealth of local professional and amateur knowledge and experience in identifying and solving local issues.

7 To establish long term, species and habitat surveys and monitoring to measure the impact of activities and identify new threats and opportunities across the city

Objective	Yes %	No %
1	88.89	7.94
2	96.83	1.59
3	98.44	0
4	93.75	3.13
5	96.88	0
6	96.88	0
7	96.83	1.59

### Summary of comments received

General agreement with the objectives. Key points as follows.

- Local specialists should be consulted for help.
- Resources should be made available within the Council to deliver the actions.

- General concerns over development management and planning and the impacts on biodiversity, including compliance monitoring.
- Concerns over the use of biodiversity net gain (BNG).
- Needs further emphasis on the positive change that can be delivered, particularly economic benefits.
- Further consideration of engaging with educational institutions.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- Planning issues relating to biodiversity are to be thoroughly addressed as part of the Local Plan review and within the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- Action plan developed to clearly outline roles and responsibilities and to identify resourcing requirements
- Biodiversity net gain and the Defra metric are recognised as effective measures of change and will soon be made mandatory. We recognise that this metric does not consider all elements of biodiversity, and this will always be considered on our projects. A biodiversity net gain assessment will form just part of our work to assess biodiversity in our projects.
- Strategy has been updated to reflect better on some of the positive changes in biodiversity.
- The action plan provides further detail on our work to engage with schools.
- We recognise the concerns regarding the water vole populations at Jesus Ditch. The design at this location has been modified to ensure that there is a net gain in biodiversity, and that the impacts on the water vole are avoided.
- Cambridge City Council will always seek to work in partnership with individuals and organisations to promote biodiversity in the city. This is a key element of our strategy and the actions.

### **Q3, do you think the council should develop a biodiversity checklist for all services and projects?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	95.31%
No	1.56%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Should be applied across the board for council services.
- Swifts should be included on checklists for refurbishments and new builds on city estates.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- Priority 1 for the Cambridge City Council Corporate Plan is 'Leading Cambridge's response to the climate change and biodiversity emergencies. The biodiversity check is supported throughout our organisation.
- The checklist will include to nesting birds, such as swifts, as well as all other protected species.

## **Q4, do you think the council should aim to achieve 20% biodiversity net gain on all measurable Cambridge City Council projects?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	85.94%
No	7.81%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- The mitigation hierarchy should always be followed and not replaced by BNG.
- A higher target of net gain should be considered.
- Strategy should go beyond projects and consider all aspects of work.
- Species must not be overlooked for the sake of delivering net gain.
- Consideration of a holistic approach to Council projects to account for projects that may not deliver this gain.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- The Council will follow the mitigation hierarchy principles for all project work, and in the discharge of our planning duties – this is set out in the Biodiversity SPD.
- We have set what we believe is an ambitious minimum target for net gain that is at the same time realistic. Where there are opportunities to exceed this target, they will be taken.
- Biodiversity net gain and the Defra metric are recognised as effective measures of change and will soon be made mandatory. We recognise that this metric does not consider all elements of biodiversity, and this will always be taken into account on our projects. A biodiversity net gain assessment will form just part of our work to assess biodiversity in our projects.
- We recognise the concerns about delivering net gain on site and the potential for a holistic approach. We have already demonstrated on some of our projects that this problem can be solved with offsite enhancements in adjacent green space.

## Q5, do you think the council should implement the proposed Cambridge Green Roof Project?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	90.48%
No	4.76%

### Summary of comments received

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Consider dual use (e.g., with solar)
- Consider the cost/benefit ratio for green roofs over other positive biodiversity interventions.
- Design and management should be appropriate.

### How have they been incorporated?

- Comments noted with thanks
- We recognise the concerns regarding cost and any proposal would be subject to cost/benefit analysis.

## Q6, do you think the council should implement the proposed Cambridge Swift Project?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	95.24%
No	1.56%

### Summary of comments received

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Wider measures to ensure food resources are as important as providing nesting sites.
- Key to engage with new developments.
- Other urban birds should not be overlooked.
- Consideration of BNG should not overlook species specific measures.

### How have they been incorporated?

- Comments noted with thanks
- It is important that food provisions are considered together with nesting provisions, and it is anticipated that the wider work of the strategy will help to ensure its availability.
- Biodiversity net gain and the Defra metric are recognised as effective measures of change and will soon be made mandatory. We recognise that this metric does not consider all elements of biodiversity, and this will always be considered. A biodiversity net gain assessment forms just part of the work to assess biodiversity on projects.
- Our new Biodiversity SPD provides further information on the provision of swift boxes (and features for other species) as part of the planning process.



## **Q7, do you think the council should promote biodiversity through implementation of the Citywide Tree Strategy?**

### **Summary of comments received**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	98.41%
No	1.59%

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Trees must be planted in the right place.
- Native trees should be planted.
- General concerns over development management and the impacts on trees.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- We understand that there are concerns regarding development control and trees and these are addressed in the Tree Strategy and the Local Plan review.

## **Q8, do you think the council should keep Cambridge City Council peat free, and encourage others to do the same ?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	98.44%
No	0.00%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Consider a council-run anaerobic digester to deal with arisings generate energy and provide compost.
- Engage allotment societies.
- Use perennials rather than annuals.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- Strategy updated with further detailed actions for allotments
- The action plan provides further detail on our work to engage with allotments in Cambridge.

**Q9, do you think the council should prepare/ review and implement Management Plans for all Cambridge City Council owned Local Nature Reserves, County Wildlife Sites and City Wildlife Sites  
Summary of comments received.**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	98.41%
No	1.59%

**Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Local and ‘friends’ groups should be consulted.
- Advice should be sought from local special interest groups.
- Limiting public access may need to be a consideration.

**How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- The Council aim to engage stakeholders at all opportunities through the management plan process. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on the plans to ensure that we can make the best of the biodiversity in our city. We will seek to do this at the early stages of the plan making process and continue to do through the process. Draft documents will also be subject to consultation.

## **Q10, do you think the council should develop and implement the Cambridge Grazing Project?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	93.55%
No	4.84%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Grazing strategy should be integrated with management plans.
- Grazing is integral to management of some city open spaces.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks

**Q11, do you think the council should continue to work on pollard willows around Cambridge and implement the recommendations of the 2018 Veteran and Ancient Tree Survey?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	93.75%
No	3.13%

**Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Grazing strategy should be integrated with management plans.
- Grazing is integral to management of some city open spaces.

**How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks

## **Q12, do you think the council should implement and support the enhancement measures in the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	93.65%
No	1.59%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Addressing the pressures of water abstraction are fundamental to improving the chalk streams. Without the correct water levels other efforts will be wasted. The strategy should consider the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Strategic Spatial Options Review (2020).
- The Council should collaborate closely with other stakeholders (eg the Environment Agency and water companies).
- Protected species must be considered in all works.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- Strategy updated to reflect water abstraction issues.
- In all element of our work we take care to ensure that protected species are accounted for, and that all work follows the mitigation hierarchy

## **Q13, do you think the council should deliver opportunities for the creation/reinstatement of waterways and wetland areas on the Cambridge Commons**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	95.31%
No	1.56%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Important measures that recognise the local ecological character and these should be pursued.
- Measures must be in the correct location and residents and friends' groups should be consulted on proposals.
- Cultural considerations (such as fairs) should be considered
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### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- We will engage with all stakeholders through the creation of management plan and development of projects on our sites. All proposals will be subject to consultation, and we welcome comments and feedback.

## **Q14, do you think the council should deliver opportunities for the creation/ reinstatement of waterways and wetland areas on the Cambridge Commons**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	85.48%
No	1.61%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Other organisations within depth knowledge of Cambridge should also be consulted (eg Cambridge Natural History Society)

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks



**Q15, do you think the council should continue our work with the Wildlife Trust to provide advice to private landowners and managers?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	98.44%
No	1.56%

**Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Other organisations within depth knowledge of Cambridge should also be consulted (eg Cambridge Natural History Society)

**How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks

## **Q16, do you think the council should undertake a repeat Biodiversity Audit every five years to monitor change?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	89.06%
No	7.81%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- The frequency of the audits should be carefully considered.
- Opportunities to engage educational and voluntary resources should be considered.
- Species must also be considered as part of any monitoring process.
- Other basic measures of positive change could be considered for short term achievements (eg enhancement project delivery) with audits conducted less frequently.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- We feel five years is the correct interval for the audit process which recognises the urgency for change, the effort required for each audit and potential pace of change. We will undertake annual reviews of the actions in the Biodiversity Strategy to review progress.
- We recognise that the audit process does not measure the change in species and there are actions which will work towards measuring and monitoring change in this way. These include seeking regular advice from local recorders, encouraging biodiversity recording through CPERC and iRecord and regular bioblitzs

## Q17, do you think the council should publish, promote, and implement the Parks Biodiversity Toolkit

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	82.54%
No	6.35%

### Summary of comments received

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Perennial wildflowers should be considered over annual mixes.
- Pesticide management could be considered in the toolkit.

### How have they been incorporated?

- Comments noted with thanks
- We have pledged not to use pesticides within our parks and therefore this is not referenced in the Parks Biodiversity Toolkit.

## **Q18, do you think the council should develop and enhance the provision of interpretive materials for our Local Nature Reserves**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	76.56%
No	3.13%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Consider interpretation for biodiversity across the city.
- Guidance on appropriate behaviours for users could be included.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks

## Q19, do you think the council should continue our support for Cambridge as a Sustainable Food City

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	92.06%
No	4.76%

### Summary of comments received

General agreement with proposal.

### How have they been incorporated?

- Comments noted with thanks

## **Q20, do you think the council should Implement recreational pressure on biodiversity campaigns ?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	67.74%
No	6.45%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- There is support for management of dog walking activities on sensitive sites.
- Alternative green spaces must be provided if there is to be a reduction in recreational pressures on sensitive sites/areas.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks

**Q21, do you think the council should continue to engage with volunteers and groups around the city in practical actions to protect, enhance and monitor biodiversity**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	96.88%
No	0.00%

**Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Volunteering must not replace permanent staff dealing with biodiversity issues.
- Managing volunteers requires resources.

**How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- We are pleased to have worked with such enthusiastic volunteers to help the biodiversity of our city. We look forward to building on these relationships in the future, and we look forward to developing new relationships with volunteers

## **Q22, do you think the council should maximise opportunities for conservation collaboration across the city**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	98.39%
No	1.61%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- As biodiversity does not recognise human boundaries collaboration is critical.
- Can save money and make efforts more efficient.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks



## **Q23, do you think the council should implement annual campaigns to promote biodiversity across the city?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	93.75%
No	3.13%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Caution of overload with campaigns simply being forgotten the following year.
- More publicity of campaigns would be helpful.
- Link to ongoing monitoring to identify priorities.
- Consider more engagement with schools.
- More capacity required in the Council to deliver the campaigns

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- We agree that linking campaigns to the finding of the biodiversity audit would be an effective measure.
- The strategy has been updated with a schools and biodiversity campaign

## Q24, do you think the council should continue our work on the Keep Cambridge Buzzing project?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	93.55%
No	1.61%

### Summary of comments received

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Appropriate biodiversity interventions in appropriate locations.
- More engagement to widen impacts.

### How have they been incorporated?

- Comments noted with thanks
- The strategy and action plan set out a range of actions for biodiversity interventions and positive management for invertebrates.

**Q25, do you think the council should continue with action to reduce the use of herbicides in the city’s public realm, phasing out its routine use as soon as feasibly possible, and engaging with other land managers and residents to follow suit?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	60.32%
No	4.76%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- More urgency required to eliminate the use of herbicides.
- Impacts on air quality and health should be referenced in the strategy.
- Concern about how this will be encouraged across Cambridge beyond the Council’s remit.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted
- Strategy has been updated to reflect impacts of herbicides on human health and air quality
- Action plan developed with further detail on how these measures will be achieved

## **Q26, do you think the council should develop and implement the hedges for King's Hedges project?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	95.31%
No	1.56%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Development management should encourage more native species planting in close proximity to housing.
- Hedging should be considered across the city as a whole.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- The provision of biodiversity features as part of the planning process is detailed in the Biodiversity SPD and will be addressed in the new Local Plan

**Q27, do you think the council should continue to work with artists around the city to facilitate understanding and interest in our biodiversity?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	68.25%
No	6.35%

**Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Cost should be considered to ensure this is not at the expense of biodiversity provisions.
- A good way to engage and help understanding.
- Projects should also provide habitats.

**How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks

## **Q28, do you think the council should develop and implement the North-west Cambridge Great Crested Newt Project?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	87.10%
No	1.61%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- Also need to consider other amphibians.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks
- Our aim is to help a range of biodiversity, including other amphibians, as part of the North-west Cambridge Newt Project.

## **Q29, do you think the council should continue our work with Bioblitz events across the city?**

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes	85.71%
No	6.35%

### **Summary of comments received**

General agreement with proposal. Key points as follows.

- A good way to engage.
- Forward planning required to ensure experts can adequately help.
- Consider implementing in schools

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks

**Q30, do you think the council should continue our support of Cambridge and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre?**

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	95.31%
No	3.13%

**Summary of comments received**

- General agreement with proposal.

**How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks.



## **Q31 Is there anything you think we have missed within the draft strategy?**

### **Summary of comments received**

- Consider carbon monitoring of projects.
- Concerns of development management.
- Greater provision of green spaces.
- Improved management for biodiversity, moving away from excessive mowing and chemical use.
- Greater engagement with residents, schools and young people.
- There must be sufficient funding and resources to support the strategy.
- Focus on some of the positive biodiversity work that has already been completed in the city.
- Consider using horses for more work around the city.
- The issue of artificial light is not recognised in the strategy.
- A greater reference to the value of garden habitats for biodiversity.
- The city should be more ambitious in the requirement for biodiversity features as part of the planning process.

### **How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted and addressed above in part
- Carbon monitoring is captured and addressed within the Climate Change Strategy
- The new Local Plan and the biodiversity SPD address the issues of artificial light for development. Consideration of artificial light will be given when developing new management plans for our sites.

**Q32, have you any suggestion as to how we might collaborate to deliver this strategy?**

**Summary of comments received**

- Concerns of development management.
- Ensure that local experts are consulted on biodiversity (CNHS, Wildlife Trust, CCI, CCF etc).
- Develop local action groups.
- Critical to collaborate with residents.
- Consider a Cambridge biodiversity fair or biodiversity festival week.
- Consider a biodiversity ambassador for the city.
- More work with schools.

**How have they been incorporated?**

- Comments noted with thanks, and partly addressed above.
- Cambridge Nature Festival takes place in June 2022.

End of report.