
Executive Decision

Local Nature Recovery

Strategy

Decision to be taken by: Assistant City Mayor
Environment & Transport

Decision to be taken on: 30 June 2025

Lead director/officer: Andrew L Smith / Annie Provan

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Annie Provan
- Author contact details: anne.provan@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is an umbrella strategy that will act as a framework for long term nature recovery across the country. The LNRS will address the need to protect nature and allow it to recover by preserving and improving habitats and biodiversity.

The strategy and supporting documents have been prepared by the County Council, as the Responsible Authority, with the districts and Rutland as supporting authorities.

The County Council will seek final approval of the LNRS at its Full Council meeting on 2nd July 2025, and thereafter request the right to publish from the Secretary of State.

2. Recommended actions/decision

To approve the Local Nature Recovery Strategy

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

Executive Members have been briefed throughout the process and the County Council, as lead authority, has undertaken extensive public and councillor consultation which has informed the development of the strategy.

The draft LNRS strategy was subject to extensive stakeholder and public consultation in January and February 2025. The results from the consultation process were then used to develop this strategy.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

The LNRS for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland has been provided to the council by the County Council, as Responsible Authority, under regulation 7 of the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023.

Leicestershire County Council was appointed as the responsible authority to lead on the strategy, working closely with the other local authorities, key stakeholders in land management, and supporting Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) organisations.

The strategy and supporting documents have been prepared by the County Council, as the Responsible Authority with the districts and Rutland as supporting authorities. City council officers have been fully involved in the development of the strategy.

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5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of this strategy. There may be actions or future recommendations to preserve and improve habitats, and the financial implications of these will need considering as they arise.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy – Head of Finance

Dated: 13th May 2025

5.2 Legal implications

The Environmental Act 2021 establishes two mechanisms to support the delivery of LNRSs: mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Section 106 (5) of the Environmental Act 2021 which requires the Councils to establish a LNRS to identify where action to achieve BNG will have the most impact and to encourage action locally through the way net gain is calculated. Councils are required to have regard to LNRSs in complying with strengthening their biodiversity duty.

Signed: Bina Sonrat – Qualified Lawyer

Dated: 19th June 2025

5.3 Equalities implications

There are no direct equality implications arising from the adoption of this strategy. The overarching aims of the strategy are intended to support the recovery of nature, address environmental issues improve access to nature and result in improvements in health and wellbeing for people from across all protected characteristics.

Signed: Surinder Singh

Dated: 17th June 2025

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

The LNRS will support the city's response to climate change by identifying opportunities for nature-based solutions that absorb carbon, mitigate urban heat, and manage flood risk. Enhancing natural habitats contributes to climate resilience and complements the City Council's strategy set out in the Climate Ready Leicester Plan for achieving net zero and climate adaptation.

Signed: Colleen Ryan, Sustainability & Energy Service Manager

Dated: 21st May 2025

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

The LNRS will act as a framework for long term nature recovery across the country. The LNRS will address the need to protect nature and allow it to recover by preserving and improving habitats and biodiversity. It is a guide for nature recovery across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. It does not provide any new protection, designation or restrictions on how land can be used or managed or any other kind of legal designation. LNRSs provide data to inform opportunities for nature's recovery.

Development being promoted in areas of nature recovery will benefit from an enhanced BNG Metric with a 15% uplift which will make these areas more attractive to developing BNG habitat banks as well as allowing for higher scoring on site BNG investment, albeit offset by an equivalent uplift in the assessment of existing baseline habitat value.

6. Background information and other papers:

a) Appendix A Local Nature Recovery Strategy

b) LNRS Mapping

<https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/4UySC08OKtEyMz4HDh2c91DhA?domain=llrlnrs.github.io>

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A Local Nature Recovery Strategy document

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?

No