<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainstreaming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership Working and Biodiversity Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Highlights of the Past Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Challenges Ahead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Introduction

1.1 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. Section 1 of the Act states: “It is the duty of every public body and office holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”.

1.2 The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 amends the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and introduced a requirement for all Public Authorities to produce and make available a report, every three years, detailing their compliance with the biodiversity duty.

1.3 The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is comprised of ‘Scotland’s Biodiversity: It’s in Your Hands (2004)’ and the ‘2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity’. Together, these documents outline the Scottish Government’s vision for Scotland’s biodiversity and our response to international and European Union targets.

1.4 North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) achieves its Biodiversity Duty through the delivery of the ‘North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan’, focussing on biodiversity at a service level, coordinating partnership work and facilitating local action to help achieve the ‘2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity’.

1.5 Within NLC, there are 6 core council services: Chief Executive’s Office, Corporate Services, Finance and Customer Services, Housing and Social Work Services, Learning and Leisure Services and Regeneration and Environmental Services.

1.6 The importance of biodiversity in North Lanarkshire is recognised at a Service level and this report highlights the delivery of the Biodiversity Duty from the period 2011 to 2014.

1.7 The delivery of the Biodiversity Duty is highlighted through 6 key areas:
   - Governance – providing clear leadership and management on biodiversity
   - Action – taking action to protect and enhance biodiversity
   - Mainstreaming – integrating biodiversity into corporate projects, plans and strategies
   - Monitoring- recording data and reporting trends
• Partnership – developing effective partnership working through the Local Biodiversity Partnership and other stakeholders
• Communication – raising awareness and building capacity amongst stakeholders

2 Governance

2.1 There are 70 councillors within NLC, representing 20 wards and a population of 337,730. The council operates through a system of committees and sub committees.

2.2 The Council is the lead partner for the North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and coordinate the delivery of the LBAP through the North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership. Councillors oversee the production and delivery of the LBAP through the committee reporting process. [http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6400](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6400)

2.3 Greenspace Development, within Regeneration and Environmental Services, are primarily responsible for meeting key national and local biodiversity responsibilities and objectives, as well as delivering projects. Officers delivering positive action for biodiversity are: Biodiversity Officers, Countryside Rangers, Conservation Officer.

2.4 Preparatory work has commenced for the development of the NLC low carbon strategy and carbon management plan, which will set out the key focus for carbon management, energy efficiency and investment in renewables until 2018.

3 Action

3.1 From the period 2011 – 2014, North Lanarkshire Council designated 8 new Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), bringing the total number of LNRs in North Lanarkshire to 9. These community green spaces were designated for their wildlife value and habitat features. The 8 LNRs designated were:

• Braedale Hill
• Brownsburn Community Nature Park
- Cambusnethan
- Gartcosh
- Greenhead Moss
- Kingshill
- Mosswater
- Ravenswood


Gartcosh Local Nature Reserve

Brownsburn Local Nature Reserve
3.2 Management plans have been written for each Local Nature Reserve, identifying management prescriptions to be taken forward to further benefit biodiversity on a local scale.

3.3 The Countryside Ranger Service play an important role in delivering local and national Biodiversity Action Plan targets with a range of projects including biological monitoring and recording, habitat improvement and tackling non-invasive species. The Countryside Ranger Service are active within local communities and offer formal and informal learning opportunities within North Lanarkshire to deliver environmental education at no charge. They assist groups to develop and enhance access, biodiversity and facilities of their own parks and green spaces through consultation and public participation.

Table 1. Countryside Ranger Service biodiversity activities 2011-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Schools Visited</th>
<th>Number of School Pupils Engaged With</th>
<th>Community &amp; Volunteer Sessions held</th>
<th>Number of Volunteers Engaged With</th>
<th>Number of Events</th>
<th>Event Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1341</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2466</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1612</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>(2011 -2014)</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>2259</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>3725</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 The Biodiversity team, based within Greenspace Development, provide detailed comments in regards to ecology as part of the planning process. Acting as internal consultees to the planning authority, this ensures compliance with wildlife and nature conservation legislation. It also ensures that ecological surveys carried out by developers follow best practice and where appropriate, ensures that any mitigation is carried out to a high standard.

3.5 From the period 2011 – 2014, Greenspace Development were consulted on 770 planning applications and 263 land disposals.
Since 2008 all sites proposed as SINCs in North Lanarkshire have been assessed in according to each of these five factors:

- **Connectivity** - this is assessed according to a site's proximity to *(physical links between)* broadly similar habitats found in the surrounding countryside, and ability for the potential of new links (wildlife corridors) to be created.

- **Species diversity** – this is assessed according to the number and variety of species found on the site compared with what may be expected to occur within similar habitats.

- **Species rarity** – this is assessed according to the rarity of a habitat within the national and local context, including those on the Scottish Biodiversity List and those listed as priorities in the LBAP.

- **Habitat rarity** – this is assessed according to the rarity of a habitat within the national and local context, including those on the Scottish Biodiversity List and those listed as priorities in the LBAP.

- **Habitat extent** - this is assessed according to the amount of a particular habitat found on a site relative to the total found in the local area.

Priority designations are also given to peatlands, riparian corridors and sites with locally/regionally rare species and locally/nationally important populations of common species.
3.7 In 2010 there were 367 SINC sites. An update added changes to boundaries in 2011 created 35 additions, 1 deletion and 9 boundary changes. These changes resulted in a list of 371 sites in North Lanarkshire. In 2012 there were further changes with the addition of 9 SINC sites and 5 boundary changes resulting in 380 current SINC sites in North Lanarkshire. 


3.8 In preparation for the Commonwealth Games, water quality improvements were taken forward at Strathclyde Country Park in preparation for hosting two triathlon events for the 2014 Commonwealth games.

3.9 North Lanarkshire Council supported campaigns such as ‘Beautiful Scotland’ and ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ during the period 2011 -2014. They were ideal opportunities to support local communities and instil local pride. It also gave a chance to give recognition to the work that voluntary groups and individuals carried out to improve the places where they live. Aimed at community groups making environmental improvements, the non-competitive ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ campaign gives support and recognition to those cleaning up and ‘greening’ up their immediate local areas: from the street they live in, to a patch of communal land, or a shared outdoor space. ‘Keep Scotland Beautiful’, recognised the work of 16 Community groups from North Lanarkshire with green accolades at an awards ceremony in the Stirling Albert Halls on 31 October 2012.

Two community groups recognised were;

1) Friends of Cumbernauld House Park, North Lanarkshire
The Friends of Cumbernauld House Park are a local community group dedicated to promoting and improving Cumbernauld House Park, the largest town park in North Lanarkshire. The group successfully secured £150,000 funding from NLC for an outdoor gym initiative. The park, and the neighbouring Cumbernauld Glen, is a valuable recreational space for local people as well as being a natural haven for wildlife, with recent evidence of red squirrels and pine martens returning to the area after a lengthy absence.

2) Greenhead Moss Community Group, North Lanarkshire
Once a quarry and landfill site, the Greenhead Moss & Perchy Pond Local Nature Park is an impressive example of transforming a brownfield site into an invaluable community asset. The park has been developed over the years to what is now a thriving ‘natural’ landscape,
with paths built sensitively to allow visitors and walkers to explore all areas of bogland ponds, woodland (including a community orchard) and impressive meadows.

Greenhead Moss Local Nature Reserve

Some members of Greenhead Moss Community Group

3.10 From the period 2011 – 2014, North Lanarkshire Council secured funding, and delivered a number of Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) projects. The WIAT programme provided the focus for Forestry Commission Scotland’s work on improving quality of life in towns and cities. The role of urban woodlands in delivering environmental and economic benefits was a key aspect of this programme.

3.11 Woodlands which have benefitted from Management Plans and WIAT grants include Colzium Estate, Dalzell Estate, Moodiesburn Glen, Strathclyde Woods, Riccard Johnston and sections of Cumbernauld Woods. This enhancement has allowed the establishment of accessible path networks through the woodlands, silvicultural thinning, where appropriate
felling and replanting compartments, with improvements to fences, drainage, signposting, elimination of invasive species and biodiversity gains.

3.12 An important by-product of this woodland management has been the provision of up to 1000 tonnes of wood logs per year to the biomass plant (wood chip) within Strathclyde Country Park. The plant provides under contract the wood chip for operation of the biomass boilers in Council facilities.

3.13 WIAT Case Study – Dalzell Estate

Rhododendron formed a dense layer through the majority of the woodland and was inhibiting natural regeneration and the development of native ground flora. Parts of the woodland were over-stocked and where tree regeneration was present it was unlikely to continue to develop due to the existing canopy cover. A number of mature trees near to access and path routes had potential safety issues and the arboretum included a number of damaged and poorly formed trees. The arboretum in general was becoming overlooked as a feature due to Rhododendron blocking views into the area.

Although the majority of the path network was in good condition, there were sections suffering from erosion and under threat from land slip. Elsewhere paths were becoming dark with poor lines of sight due to encroaching side vegetation and dense rhododendron at the woodland edge.

Two years later the rhododendron has been cut and regrowth has been chemically treated. This has opened up the woodland increasing light to the woodland floor providing better conditions for the development of tree regeneration and ground flora. Targeted thinning work has opened up dense woodland areas and provided space for the development of the existing patches of understory.

Tree safety work has been undertaken to deal with dangerous and damaged trees near paths and access roads. Works have been implemented to open-up and rejuvenate the arboretum with poor specimens removed and 20 new specimen trees planted.
Damaged path routes have been resurfaced with improved drainage installed. An earth embankment has had large trees removed and has been re-shaped to reduce the risk of landslip. In the east a new path link has been formed allowing access for both pedestrian and management, together with new signage.

![Dalzell path works](image)

3.14 Within the period 2011-2014, North Lanarkshire Council established around 100 hectares of new woodland planting on bare ground sites, including at Ravenswood, Auchenkilns, Chapelhall, Kingshill, Cumbernauld Community Park, New Stevenston, Millcroft, Sandyknowes and the Greenlink, Motherwell. These have been planted with grant from Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) with the support of Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT). These new woodlands will function as new community woodlands and provide wood for the biomass operation after 10 years. Of particular note was the planting creation of the Diamond Wood which was an initiative promoted by The Woodland Trust to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Four sites were chosen which covered 60 acres;

- Cumbernauld Community Park, Cumbernauld
- Chapelhall, Airdrie
- The Greenlink, Motherwell
- Kingshill Local Nature Reserve, Allanton
3.15 Bog Restoration was carried out on 3 peri-urban sites in North Lanarkshire as part of a project entitled ‘Beautiful Bogs’. Urban bogs such as Sparrowhill Bog were worked upon, with ditch blocking undertaken to increase the water table and improve conditions for key bog species such as Sphagnum. Interpretation boards were also erected to highlight the importance of this important habitat to the public.

![Bog Restoration](image)

3.16 The Living Water Project focused on habitat creation, community engagement and monitoring to help combat the national decline in ponds and amphibians.

3.17 Froglife received £190K from WREN to carry out a 3 year project, starting in 2011, in North Lanarkshire to enhance biodiversity. The funding allowed for two Field Officers to be employed to deliver the project, as well as the physical habitat works and community support which was part of the programme.

3.18 Pond creation and restoration was carried out over 13 sites. As well as creating ponds, Froglife created hibernacula on many sites to provide terrestrial refuges for amphibian species. Planting of aquatic plants, wildflower banks and creation of Water vole banks also provided a number of wildlife benefits. The project had a strong community focus, with direct engagement with various groups such as the Friends of Cumbernauld Community Park. Encouraging and facilitating volunteer opportunities was also a key element within the project. The Living Waters Project also worked with local schools and engaged with young people with their local wildlife and through local events.
3.19 The Living Waters project also carried out amphibian surveys across each of the 13 sites. The information collected through monitoring contributes to the knowledge of amphibian distribution not only in North Lanarkshire but also on a national scale. On completion of the project, a report was written and management prescriptions and recommendations were written for each of the sites to inform future management.

3.20 Volunteers at Greenhead Moss and Perchy Pond Local Nature Reserve undertake practical conservation tasks and biodiversity training opportunities on a weekly basis throughout the year to improve their biodiversity skill in line with the college courses undertaken.

3.21 The Countryside Ranger Service host an Forest Education Initiative (FEI) Networking event which proves to be well attended and will be offered on an annual basis. Branching Out Initiative and Phoenix Futures provide recovery through nature and are programmed throughout the year.

3.22 A biodiversity element was included in the induction talk for the Commonwealth Games Triathlon, hosted in Strathclyde Country Park.

3.23 A Sharing Good Practice (SNH) training event, focussing on Branching Out and conservation therapy, was delivered by a Countryside Ranger.

3.24 Pool cars are now in operation at several North Lanarkshire buildings, resulting in emissions falling by 9.79% as of 2011-2012.

3.25 The John Muir Way (JMW) is a new long distance coast to coast route linking Dunbar, where John Muir was born in 1838 to Scotland’s first National Park at Loch Lomond and then to the Clyde from where the Muir family emigrated to America when John was just 11 years old. It is hoped that the name of John Muir can inspire and encourage people to connect with Scotland’s outdoors and to use the trail to get active and to explore and experience nature.
The JMW has linked existing paths and promoted routes to create a 134 mile trail across Central Scotland close to and through major centres of population but incorporating open landscapes and countryside.

The Greenspace Development team at NLC have worked closely with SNH, CSGNT and Sustrans to develop the route through North Lanarkshire. The route passes through North Lanarkshire from Castlecary to Croy and uses parts of the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Antonine Wall. These routes are already well promoted outdoor resources between Cumbernauld and Kilsyth. We have worked with our partners to improve the signage along the JMW and to make sure that it is linked to communities, public transport and places of interest such as Dumbreck Marsh Local Nature Reserve. Our objective is to create an environment which encourages and welcomes people to the outdoors. All future signage, literature and promotional material will continue to take advantage of the local outdoor resource including the JMW brand by creating circular routes for local people and day trippers to augment the coast to coast JMW.

It is estimated that nearly 10,000 walkers per year will attempt to complete the JMW from end to end, in addition we already have local people counters that record over 30,000 walkers and cyclists on certain paths.

3.26 It has been shown by numerous studies that walking and in particular walking in greenspaces has many benefits to both physical and mental health.

Greenspace Development has been working in partnership with Paths for All and NHS Lanarkshire on various projects that promote the enjoyment of walking and the benefits of a more active lifestyle. This has included employing a Health Walk Co-ordinator and a Greenspace and Health Officer through the Graduate Employment Scheme.

One of the issues that we looked at was the barriers (or perceived barriers) to walking outdoors. Among the findings were that people are not always aware of the best places to walk or are not confident that local parks and greenspaces are safe and accessible.

A current project within Greenspace Development is to survey paths within the nine Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) for accessibility, following all-abilities guidelines, so that we can better inform users. This information is to be provided through an accessibility pack.

We have also started a project surveying paths around greenspaces so that we can sign the best and shortest routes from residential areas to our Local Nature Reserves and Country Parks.
4 Mainstreaming

4.1 The North Lanarkshire Local Plan, published in 2012 set the local authority’s strategy for physical development. Its policies and development proposals are intended to ensure that:

- There are enough different land uses, for North Lanarkshire to be a successful place
- Facilities are in the right places for people to access them
- Development does not harm the environment

4.2 The key policy objectives of this plan which protect, promote and assess development in support of Natural and Built Environment Issues are;

NBE1 Protecting the Natural Built Environment
NBE2 Promoting the Natural and Built Environment; and
NBE 3 Assessing Development in the Green Belt and Rural Investment Area

4.3 It is noted in the Local Plan that “To achieve its aim of Sustainable Growth, the Local Plan needs to ensure that economic growth is not at the expense of the environment” and “Preserving and enhancing the quality of the natural and built environment contribute to the attractiveness of North Lanarkshire as a place in which to invest, work and live”.

4.4 The Community Plan 2013-2018 Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) incorporates biodiversity by including “North Lanarkshire in 2022 will be a place where people want to live because of...the quality and accessibility of the natural environment”

4.5 One of the five key themes of the SOA is “regeneration” with a strategic priority for a “Sustainable North Lanarkshire” The North Lanarkshire Partnership Officer’s Group supports the work of the NLP Board through the ‘developing the partnership’ group. This group compromises officers from each of the organisations represented on the NLP Board and meets regularly to manage and facilitate the work of the Board. Each partnership working group is led by the chair and supported by a link officer from the Corporate Service Improvement team in the Chief Executive’s Office
4.6 The SOA notes that “We will protect, enhance and create habitat and ecological resources throughout North Lanarkshire, and promote these ecological resources within new developments. We will continue to protect our lochs, rivers, woodlands and peatlands and will ensure that their visual and recreational value is maintained. Our public parks and open spaces will be safe, well-cared for and accessible. We will maintain traffic-free footpaths and routes, cycle paths, green spaces and key recreational sites”.

4.7 A key local outcome is “Enhanced network of greenspace and woodland for local communities and wildlife”.

4.8 ‘North Lanarkshire Council’s Corporate Plan 2013 to 2018’ includes in its vision that North Lanarkshire will be a place where everyone has access to a pleasant, safe environment and that the council will "make the most of opportunities for economic and environmental improvements".

4.9 The Corporate Plan notes that "Over the last decade, the image of North Lanarkshire has improved and the benefits of our natural environment are now being realised. We are committed to improving and sustaining our natural and built environment, ensuring it is protected, cared for and looked after.

4.10 NLC completed various initiatives which contributed to a reduction in carbon and energy consumption and included the introduction of pool cars and energy monitoring systems, increased numbers of recycling sites and expanded provision of park and ride facilities.

4.11 The council is now implementing the Sustainable Development Delivery Framework developed by the planning service. This will help NLC, along with our partners, to develop and deliver on the outcomes of a Sustainable and Climate Strategy and Action Plan, and to embed sustainability in future iterations of the Single Outcome Agreements and Corporate and Community Plans.

4.6 The Environmental Partnership Group, attended by Senior staff members, was set up to manage activity relating to the Corporate and Community Plan key objectives. The Environmental Partnership Group is supported by three sub-groups: Sustainability and
Climate Change, Natural Environment and Built Environment. Progress on LBAP actions is reported through Natural Environment sub group on a quarterly basis.

5 Monitoring

5.1 North Lanarkshire is home to an internationally important species of Taiga Bean Goose and NLC are a partner of the Bean Goose Action Group, contributing to monitoring efforts that have been ongoing since 1990. In 2012/2013, the population at Slammanan Plateau reached a total of 233 birds.

Bean Goose monitoring

5.2 A highly successful Barn owl project was undertaken to contribute to the Barn owl action plan. During 2011-2013, a total of 24 Barn owl nest boxes were constructed with various user groups. Since 2011, there have been Barn owl nesting at eight of these sites. Monitoring these boxes and ringing is carried out and the project provides additional benefits as it is an effective way to deliver environmental education.

5.3 Annual Odonata surveys are conducted at Gartcosh Local Nature Reserve to contribute to the long term monitoring of the site.

5.4 The Countryside Ranger Service monitor stewardship sites, noting any issues such as disturbance or potential threats, as well as recording species present.
The NLBAP (2008-2014) and associated progress reports were entered on to the newly released BARs in 2012. Details of 4 peatland projects, funded by the SNH Peatland Action Fund, were entered onto BARs in 2014.

In 2014, initial preparatory work began on compiling SINC survey species records in a format suitable for upload to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway. Once uploaded, the species records will help contribute to national monitoring and recording work.

The Greenspace Development department of NLC holds protected species data and protected area boundary shapefiles.

Many of the species records are obtained following ecological surveys conducted in preparation of development.

**Partnership Working and Biodiversity Communications**

The North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (NLBAP) covered the period of 2008-2014 and outlined actions and targets for local priority species and habitats. The Action Plan sets a framework for action to conserve and enhance the biodiversity found in North Lanarkshire. Action plans were written for 18 habitats and species that were identified as being of particular local importance. These plans were taken forward by many different organisations, individuals and community groups.

A range of positive actions were taken forward through partnership approaches, including the Living Waters project with Froglife who carried out pond restoration and creation works at 13 sites.

The NLBAP 2015-2020 was developed throughout 2014, and includes 2 new species action plans and 4 new habitat action plans as well as an invasive non-native species action plan and geodiversity action plan.
6.4 The NLBAP process is lead by North Lanarkshire Council’s biodiversity team. Partner organisations were encouraged to write species and habitat action plans and contribute text and ideas to other plans.

6.5 The Local Biodiversity partnership initially met in July 2014 and draft plans were submitted by mid September. The draft plans were then uploaded to the council web pages and a consultation period was undertaken for two months, inviting members of the public and interested parties to comment.

6.6 Following the consultation, the plans were finalised and the updated NLBAP is due to be published in April 2015.

6.7 Phoenix Futures is the leading provider of care and rehabilitation services for people with drug and alcohol problems in the UK. Through over 40 years experience of transforming lives we have developed a diverse portfolio of services across community, prison and residential settings.

6.8 Since 2001, Phoenix Futures has run the unique and innovative Conservation Therapy Programme (CTP) now ‘Recovery through Nature’ in partnership with North and South Lanarkshire Council Ranger Services.

6.9 The programme engages service users from Phoenix Futures’ substance misuse and alcohol treatment services to work as teams in assisting in the conservation of specific areas of the countryside. It delivers tangible results to those engaged, local communities, as well as providing genuine benefits to the environment.

6.10 From the period 2011 -2014 North Lanarkshire Council were involved in 3 landscape scale heritage projects.

1) Seven Lochs Wetland Park
The Seven Loch Wetland Park is a Green Network Project bringing together 20sq km of lochs, parks, nature reserves and woodlands between Glasgow and Coatbridge to create a major new heritage park for Scotland. In early 2014, £250K of development funding from HLF were secured to take forward plans for the park. Led by the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, other partners include Glasgow City Council and Forestry Commission Scotland.
2) Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership

The Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) is a Heritage Lottery funded project which aims to conserve, enhance and celebrate the unique landscape and cultural heritage of the Clyde and Avon Valleys. The Landscape Partnership, comprised of nine public bodies and charitable organisations, will work with communities and landowners to identify and develop projects which conserve the natural and built heritage of the area, strengthen the connection between people and the landscape and provide a range of volunteering and learning opportunities in traditional heritage skills and land management practices.

3) Cumbernauld Living Landscape

Cumbernauld Living Landscape is a partnership project led by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, North Lanarkshire Council and Forestry Commission Scotland. To-date, over 30 individual projects from pine marten dens in Palacerigg to peatland restoration at Fannyside Muir have already been developed.

By working with a network of community partners the project aims to:

- Connect, manage and enhance woodlands
- Support community activities and improve access
- Restore and manage peatlands
- Protect the town’s green network
- Influence the design of green buildings and infrastructure
- Improve water quality

6.11 Get Walking Lanarkshire is a partnership programme between Paths for All, North and South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire. The project aims to improve residents’ health and wellbeing by joining a local health walk group and taking part in short, safe, low-level walks whilst exploring local parks and green space. The project has an active Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/getwalkinglanarkshire

6.3 The North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Newsletter has been re-established, with an Autumn/Winter edition published in 2014.
6.4 An online biodiversity survey was taken in Summer 2014 to gather the views of local residents in preparation of the production of the new LBAP.

6.5 The NLC biodiversity web pages were updated in 2014 and a more active social media presence has been established to communicate biodiversity issues

7 Building Capacity

7.1 The Biodiversity team and other staff within Greenspace Development provide expert advice regarding biodiversity issues to colleagues within North Lanarkshire Council.

7.2 Staff are encouraged to attend conferences and training events provided by external organisations, such as Scottish Natural Heritage and Central Scotland Green Network Trust

7.3 A Biodiversity Officer attends the LBAP network meeting twice a year to share and learn from good practice examples.

7.4 In Autumn 2014, the LBAP Network Meeting was organised by SNH and NLC and held at Strathclyde Country Park.

7.5 Three site visits were held, the first at Drumpellier Country Park to discuss the work being taken forward through the Seven Lochs Wetland Park. The second site visit was held at Broadwood Loch to discuss the woodland management work taken forward by the ILM squad. The third site visit took place at Fannyside Muir with Buglife, discussing an upcoming large bog restoration project.

7.6 North Lanarkshire Council wishes to encourage high quality development that contributes positively to local environments - including the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and has produced planning guidance to make clear the constraints and biodiversity improvements that should be considered:
8 **Biodiversity Highlights of the Past Year**

8.1 The designation of Mosswater Local Nature Reserve was marked by a community Biodiversity Celebration Day. Scottish Wildlife Trust, Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Buglife came together to celebrate the designation and explore the biodiversity of the LNR through a bug walk, promotion of the “Love Our Ladybirds” campaign and other wildlife themed activities.

8.2 SNH allocated £89,000 funding for the restoration of four sites across North Lanarkshire: Greenhead Moss, Broadwood Moss, Cathburn Moss and North Shotts Moss

8.3 Preparatory work commenced for the new North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan

9 **Main Challenges ahead**

9.1 Continuing to develop funding opportunities to improve energy efficiency and reduction of the council’s carbon footprint.

9.2 Delivering on ambitious targets and actions from the updated North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan