

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY LIMERICK BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2025-2030

Biodiversity in Limerick

Biodiversity includes the variety of life forms on Earth. It is this diversity of nature, of our habitats, plants, and animals (including us humans) and their interconnections with each other. We are a part of nature and everything in nature is connected. Biodiversity is not restricted to rare or threatened species, but includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the critically endangered. Biodiversity also includes the range of places where plants and animals, including humans live, from our local parks, to our uplands, farmlands, rivers, lakes and estuaries as well the world's deepest seas and oceans. Unfortunately the pattern of biodiversity loss in Limerick mirrors global loss patterns and is considered a global threat of equal size to the climate emergency.

The Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan will provide a framework for biodiversity action for the next five years. A key aim of the plan is to focus the efforts and resources of Limerick City and County Council, public sector bodies, nature conservation groups and others to protect and enhance biodiversity and halt biodiversity loss in Limerick and to further incorporate the free ecosystem services that biodiversity provides.

International, National and Local Policy Drivers

The UN and the EU have developed strategies to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2030. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean by 2030. The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 provides targets for all member states and has “We need nature in our lives” as its central message. It links the recovery of biodiversity to the recovery from economic recession, health threats and climate disasters.

The 4th Irish National Biodiversity Plan includes many nature conservation actions relevant for local authorities. Ireland's Biodiversity Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Limerick Climate Action Plan call for nature-based solutions to tackle the drivers and impacts of climate change. The Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan translates national and international nature conservation and climate change policy into action on the ground.

Our Vision

“Our vision is for a Limerick where biodiversity thrives and all sectors, stakeholders and people work together to restore, conserve protect and enhance nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives and the lives of future generations.”

The Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan puts forward an ambitious programme of a sixty-six actions to reverse the decline in biodiversity by 2030. The actions are based upon recommendations made in ecological studies and on proposals put forward by the Limerick Biodiversity Forum, nature conservation groups, NGO's, members of the public, Strategic Policy Committee members and various Council Departments. The actions in this plan are centred on five objectives which mirror the objectives of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan.

- A. Adopt a Whole of Limerick City and County Council, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity
- B. Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs
- C. Secure Nature's Contribution to Current and Future Generations
- D. Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity
- E. Strengthen Limerick's Contribution to National and Regional Biodiversity Initiatives

Implementing the Plan

The Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan sets out sixty-six actions to maintain and enhance nature and halt the loss of biodiversity in Limerick City and County. The delivery of the Biodiversity will require collaboration across all directorates to ensure the implementation of the sixty-six actions.

The Council will oversee the overall implementation of the Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan. Monitoring Progress Reports will be prepared annually by the Biodiversity Officer. The Council will also continue to collaborate with the Limerick Biodiversity Forum to make any amendments to the plan deemed necessary, taking into account any changes in terms of legislation, policies and conservation priorities for the duration of the plan.

Conclusion

Now is the time for those of us living, working, running a business, taking part in the development of or just visiting Limerick to recognise the interdependence between plants, animals, microorganism necessary for healthy ecosystems, ecosystems services and nature based solutions that help mitigate against climate change.

Biodiversity is an important factor in the overall life and development of our city and county. This plan aims to raise awareness of what each individual can do to maintain biodiversity in their local area. The plan outlines how, in partnership with stakeholders and citizens, the Council aims to conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity for the benefit of future generations of wildlife and humans.