

**Scottish Government - Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report 2021 (Argyll & Bute Council)**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

'Biodiversity is the variety of all life and includes the wildlife, habitats and other forms of nature. The Biodiversity Duty aims to do more than safeguard ecosystem services by protecting habitats and species; it is also about connecting people and their environment, contributing to health and wellbeing and inspiring communities.

- 1.1 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires the publication of a report (BIODIVERSITY DUTY COMPLIANCE REPORT) for the Scottish Government, every three years on how we as a public body are meeting this duty. The last report was drafted in 2017 and approved on 22 November 2017 by PPSL Committee and submitted to the Scottish Government.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek PPSL Committee approval of the Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report (Argyll and Bute Council), for the period Jan 2018 to Jan 2021. See Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The Compliance Report details progress over the last three years in the activities as set out in the Argyll and Bute Council Biodiversity Duty Action Plan 2016-2021, link: [https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/argyll\\_and\\_bute\\_council\\_biodiversity\\_duty\\_action\\_plan\\_final\\_version\\_april\\_2016\\_2.pdf](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/argyll_and_bute_council_biodiversity_duty_action_plan_final_version_april_2016_2.pdf)

**1.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note achievements made across the Council to meet Argyll and Bute Council's Biodiversity Duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011;
- Approve the Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report 2018-21 (Argyll and Bute Council) for submission to Scottish Government and publication on the Councils website.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires the publication of a report, every three years, on how public bodies are meeting this duty.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval of the Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report (Argyll and Bute Council), for the period January 2018 to January 2021. The report details the activities across the Council that support and conserve biodiversity and demonstrates the great variety and range of the work being carried out.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note achievements made across the Council to meet Argyll and Bute Council's Biodiversity Duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011;
- Approve the Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report 2018-21 (Argyll and Bute Council) for submission to Scottish Government and publication on the Councils website

## 4.0 DETAIL

### Biodiversity Duty

- 4.1 Biodiversity is the variety of all life and includes wildlife, habitats and other forms of nature.
- 4.2 On a global scale, human activity is causing biodiversity to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate with irreversible losses that can damage the vital ecosystem services on which our lives depend. International targets to halt biodiversity loss are reflected in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.
- 4.3 The Biodiversity Duty aims to do more than safeguard ecosystem services by protecting habitats and species. It is also about connecting people and their environment, contributing to health and wellbeing, supporting sustainable economic development and inspiring communities.
- 4.4 The Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report (Argyll and Bute Council) 2018-2021, contains a summary of work carried out by all Council Services in order to comply with the biodiversity duty. This includes details of projects on the ground, the inclusion of biodiversity in policies and plans and examples of partnership working.
- 4.5 The report demonstrates the breadth of activities delivered by the Council which help to enhance Argyll and Bute's biodiversity. Particular strengths in Argyll and Bute are the high level of partner involvement in both habitat and species projects, and the extent of partnership working both within and out with the Council.
- 4.6 Particular initiatives which are highlights of the last three years are:
- Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2): <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp> is a key service in the delivery of biodiversity conservation through land use and management policies, and protection and designation of a range of International, National and Local sites. This ensures that land use planning and the management of Council-owned land delivers protection and enhancements for biodiversity.
  - The Biodiversity Technical Note for Planners and Developers and the Biodiversity Checklist:  
[https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cfgstrategy\\_final\\_version\\_4.0\\_april\\_2020\\_mcc.pdf](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cfgstrategy_final_version_4.0_april_2020_mcc.pdf)
  - Community Food Growing Strategy:  
[https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cfgstrategy\\_final\\_version\\_4.0\\_april\\_2020\\_mcc.pdf](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cfgstrategy_final_version_4.0_april_2020_mcc.pdf)  
Advice on benefits of and to biodiversity.
  - Ecosystem Gardening for Biodiversity on line leaflet:  
[https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ecosystem\\_gardening\\_for\\_biodiversity\\_leaflet\\_2018.pdf](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ecosystem_gardening_for_biodiversity_leaflet_2018.pdf)

- Annual campaign – ‘What’s for the garden stays in the garden’ along with information on the identification and control of Invasive non-Native Species: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/guidance-gardeners-invasive-or-harmful-plants>
- Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust <https://www.act-now.org.uk/en/> Argyll and Bute Council specialist officers (Biodiversity, Access, Marine and Planning) advice on biodiversity, access, planning and marine and coastal projects.
- Argyll and Bute – Estate: Maintenance of properties provides opportunities to incorporate and encourage some bird nesting boxes and bat roost provision both priority species in the LBAP
- Airports- Oban, Coll, Colonsay- monitoring and recording of bird activity and at Oban Airport management of Irish Ladies Tresses- a native orchid

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report 2018-2021 (Argyll and Bute Council) demonstrates a number of valuable outcomes. The key deliverables are largely at no cost or as added value to existing operations. The impacts of this report in relation to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered and the Council’s relevant Sustainable development policies have been taken into account and noted.
- 5.2 Compliance with the statutory biodiversity duty will help achieve a sustainable Argyll and Bute by incorporating biodiversity into many of the Council’s existing activities and actions, thus helping to create a resilient natural environment, reduce carbon emissions, improve social justice, economic wellbeing and good environmental stewardship.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Policy:** Argyll and Bute Biodiversity Duty Action Plan 2016-2021  
Local Development Plan and the emerging Local Development Plan 2.
- 6.2 **Financial:** none as the report is published online.
- 6.3 **Legal:** Biodiversity Duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011
- 6.4 **HR:** None
- 6.5 **Fairer Scotland Duty:** There are no predicted negative impacts

- 6.5.1 **Equalities:** There are no predicted negative impacts on rights and equality.
- 6.5.2 **Socio-economic Duty:** There are no predicted negative impacts
- 6.5.3 **Islands:** There are no predicted negative impacts
- 6.6 **Risk:** The submission of this Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report to Scottish Government supports the Argyll and Bute Council Biodiversity Duty Action Plan 2016- 2021 and contributes to the reduction in risk of the Council as public body failing to meet its statutory duty for biodiversity.
- 6.7 **Customer Service:** assisting council officers, individuals and community groups

**Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth:**  
Kirsty Flanagan

**Policy Lead - Cllr. David Kinniburgh**

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**APPENDIX 1:**

**Scottish Government Biodiversity Duty Compliance Report (Argyll and Bute Council) 2018-21.**