

REPORT TITLE: Approval to adopt and publish the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy on the Gloucestershire County Council website.

Cabinet Date	28/01/2026
Cabinet Member	Cllr Martin Horwood, Cabinet Member for Nature, Climate & Waste Reduction
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose of Report	The purpose of this report is to approve and adopt the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. It provides Members with background information on Gloucestershire County Council's role and responsibilities regarding the preparation, public consultation on and publication of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
Recommendations	<p>Acknowledging the nature emergency, The Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve and adopt the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) 2. Authorise the publication of the LNRS on the Gloucestershire County Council website in February 2026, ensuring it is accessible to the public and stakeholders. 3. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Nature, Climate and Waste Reduction to make any minor amendments required prior to publication, provided these do not materially alter the content of the Strategy
Reasons for Recommendations	Gloucestershire County Council has been appointed as the Responsible Authority by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Duties include leading the preparation of the strategy, working with various stakeholders to develop and implement it, and monitoring and reporting to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on delivery. These are new statutory requirements for Gloucestershire County Council under the Environment Act

	<p>2021 and the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies (Procedure) Regulations 2023).</p> <p>This report asks that Members approve the adoption and publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Adoption will be followed by delivery of the strategy by a variety of stakeholders, through a variety of policy mechanisms and this will be reported on at predetermined intervals by the council to government as a duty of the council as the Responsible Authority.</p>
<p>Resource Implications</p>	<p>The council is in receipt of government funding of £135,500 (transition to delivery grant) for a fixed-term Local Nature Recovery Delivery Officer (October 2025 until October 2027). The role of the officer is to work with internal colleagues and external partners to embed delivery of local nature recovery into the County Council and supporting authorities (Natural England and Gloucestershire district planning authorities) visions, plans, objectives and policies.</p> <p>This will include embedding the strategy into strategic and local development plans, establishing a delivery partnership with other organisations, and to compile a pipeline of strategic projects to be delivered. Further delivery funding from Defra is anticipated but not yet confirmed. If received, it will be used to extend the fixed-term role of the Local Nature Recovery Delivery Officer.</p> <p>Any financial implications of the adoption and publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy recommended as option 1 in this report are expected to be accommodated within the capacity/preparation grants received from Defra since 2022, and mostly transferred to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust under a Service Level Agreement(SLA)for preparing the LNRS.</p> <p>Any strategic projects undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council in response to the LNRS where additional funding would be required will be sought through the council’s budget approval process and by partnership-working. Projects will not proceed unless specific funding has been identified.</p>
<p>Background Documents</p>	<p>Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation Decision - Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation</p> <p>Defra Local nature recovery strategy guidance</p>

	The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023
Statutory Authority	Environment Act 2021 The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023
Divisional Councillor(s)	All
Officer	Vanessa Clarke (Heritage Team Leader) 01452 328108 vanessa.clarke@gloucestershire.gov.uk Esther Collis (Principal Ecologist) 01452 328932 esther.collis@gloucestershire.gov.uk Sofie Borek (Local Nature Recovery Delivery Officer) 01452 328011 Sofie.borek@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation Closed – 19/10/2025 • Defra Local Nature Recovery Strategy pre-publication approval panel meeting – 16/12/2025 • Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet adoption – 28/01/2026 • Publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy – expected 13/02/2026

Background

1. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, in the bottom 10% globally, and the worst G7 nation for biodiversity loss. [The 2023 State of Nature report](#) showed that the number of species across the UK are continuing to decline in abundance, falling 19% since 1970. It is not just the number of species that are declining, it is also the diversity of species, with 16% of our species now at risk of extinction. These trends are also reflected in Gloucestershire, for example, in the 1930s, 40% of the Cotswolds National Landscape was covered in wildflower-rich and fungi-rich grassland on calcareous soils, and today that has fallen to less than 1.5%.
2. Climate change is also driving nature's decline, and the loss of wildlife and wild places leaves us ill-equipped to capture carbon and adapt to change. One issue cannot be solved without the other, the two are inextricably linked, as nature recovery is crucial to mitigating and adapting to climate change and supporting our health and wellbeing.

3. The past legislative approach to nature conservation has focused on protecting relatively small, isolated pockets of nature, but this hasn't stopped species declining in number and abundance. We face the stark reality that our beloved wildlife and places for nature are under threat and facing major challenges to their future. We therefore need to confront the ecological and climate emergency head on and to move towards nature restoration and nature recovery.
4. Our existing network of nature sites needs to be guided by the following principles of 'bigger, better, and more joined up,' which comes from the [Making Space for Nature Report \(2010\)](#). We need to plan and take action for nature through landscape scale habitat restoration and creation, whilst also ensuring that our spaces for nature are well connected to help reverse these declines.
5. The Environment Act 2021 now provides an additional legal framework to help halt the decline of species and restore our natural environment. It requires the first statutory spatial strategies for nature (Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs)), to be prepared and published by Defra appointed Responsible Authorities, with Gloucestershire County Council designated as the Responsible Authority for Gloucestershire. These strategies will cover the whole of England and will help underpin the delivery of government's national commitments for nature's recovery, including the legally binding targets set under the Environment Act 2021, and the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP 2003). The Act also establishes two other mechanisms to support the delivery of LNRSs:
 - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), which is delivered through the planning system
 - A strengthened 'biodiversity duty' on public authorities, which requires them to not only maintain and conserve biodiversity but to recover and restore biodiversity. Local authorities must also take a strategic approach to determining policies and specific objectives for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, with a further requirement to produce and publish a report to government on delivery.
6. Local Nature Recovery Strategies aim to identify and map where the most important existing areas for nature are, including where there is greatest opportunity for restoring or creating new places for nature. They also help identify where enhancement of nature would provide wider environmental benefits, such as flood risk management and improvements to the water environment. This spatial element of the strategy is called the 'Local Habitat Map' and is interactive, allowing users to click on and off 'layers', and see what actions to carry out on their site. Alongside this spatial element, each Local Nature Recovery Strategy also needs to identify local priorities for wildlife and consider the wider environmental benefits that can be delivered as part of plans for local nature recovery. This is referred to as the 'Statement of Biodiversity Priorities'. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are intended to be strategies that act as an enabling mechanism for delivery of on-the-ground action and decision-making.
7. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy statement of biodiversity priorities comprises two documents:

- Part 1 – an introduction to the need for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, a description of Gloucestershire’s existing landscape, and the ‘Statement of Biodiversity Priorities’.
 - Part 2 – a table setting out “potential measures” for nature recovery which are displayed on the Local Habitat Map. Each Potential Measure is numbered, with a brief description followed by text explaining the specific actions that should be taken to meet the aims of that “Measure”. There are both Measures that describe actions to manage or create certain habitat types, and measures that describe actions for specific species or groups of species.
8. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are fundamental in supporting local planning authorities (LPAs) to communicate and direct delivery of nature recovery through the planning system as there is a legal requirement created by the Environment Act 2021 to “have regard” to Local Nature Recovery Strategies. This requirement is currently being implemented through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023, which has already brought about changes to the [National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) guidance on the natural environment earlier this year.
 9. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 has also brought into force further significant reforms to the planning system, including revised planning policy and a new plan-making system which will help underpin local nature recovery delivery through the planning system, as there is also a new legal duty on plan makers at all levels to “take account” of Local Nature Recovery Strategies, e.g. in strategic and local plans.
 10. The planning system also plays a key role in delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategy through delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain. It plays a critical role in supporting offsite gains to be delivered in a way that maximises biodiversity benefits, when these are required to achieve a development’s biodiversity gain objective. The statutory biodiversity metric has been designed to promote the delivery of offsite biodiversity gain in the right places, if it cannot be delivered in full through onsite habitat enhancements. The metric incentivises delivery of offsite habitats to areas mapped within the strategy that could become important for biodiversity in the future by providing a 15% BNG uplift, i.e. an additional 1.15x more units are created, compared to the same habitat creation or enhancement in a location not identified within these areas.
 11. This new duty created by the Environment Act also applies generally to all public authorities, so they can align their activities around the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and to specific elements of the LNRS, principally the spatially mapped proposals.
 12. Furthermore, as set out in the English Devolution White Paper, the government wants to see new Strategic Authorities lead on nature recovery and tackling climate change alongside delivering growth, planning and development. This includes a strong leadership role for Local Nature Recovery Strategy Responsible Authorities in coordinating and developing projects that will deliver against the priorities that have been agreed in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
 13. It is expected that Defra will also provide funding for a wide range of nature recovery activities to incentivise landowners and land managers to make changes to how they

use and manage their land for greater environmental benefit. For example, Environmental Land Management schemes may pay farmers and land managers for undertaking environmentally beneficial activities on their land that also reflect priorities in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

14. Gloucestershire County Council commissioned the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on behalf of Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to prepare the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This involved convening and facilitating workshops and meetings with the Nature Recovery working group of the GLNP and other relevant GLNP partners, plus all sectors and individuals required or wishing to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy contents. This included landowners, planners, specialists and community groups on potential measures to achieve the identified/potential/agreed statements of biodiversity priorities.
15. The measures range from habitat creation or management measures, corridor/connectivity measures and urban measures, to measures that relate to key species, particularly those indicated to the Responsible Authority by Natural England and/or the Environment Agency and/or Defra as needing special action.
16. Through the SLA, Gloucestershire County Council has also commissioned the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records to work with GCC and the Nature Partnership to compile information and create digital maps that form part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
17. Once published, Responsible Authorities may not change and/or amend their Local Nature Recovery Strategy other than in accordance with the process set out in the 2023 Regulations or with the written agreement of the Secretary of State (SoS). The SoS will give notice to review a Local Nature Recovery Strategy every 3 to 10 years from the date that the Regulations came into force on 13th April 2023.
18. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy was open for public consultation for six weeks from 6th September to 19th October 2025. Prior to this consultation, the strategy documents and mapping were reviewed by Defra, who made requests for a series of alterations prior to the public consultation. The results of the consultation have now been collated and reviewed, which have informed further alterations to the strategy documentation and mapping ahead of adoption.
19. The LNRS final review by the Defra panel was on 16th December 2025.

Options

20. Option 1 - To adopt and publish the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy on the Gloucestershire County Council website.
21. Option 2 - Not to adopt and publish the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy on the Gloucestershire County Council website.

Risks

22. **Option 1:** There are no known risks to option 1 as the purpose of this report is to approve and adopt the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which has already been fully

funded. We have a LNR delivery Officer appointed on a fixed-term post for two years until 30/09/2027. We are anticipating a further grant from Defra in line with the funding that has already been provided to strategic authorities, as Defra are indicating that non-strategic authorities will be next.

23. Furthermore, whilst the LNR post will be used to build partnerships and pipelines to deliver specific LNRS projects over the next two years, much of LNRS delivery will be through BNG and the planning system. The LNRS delivery role is fundamental over the next two years to embed LNRS delivery within wider corporate practice, policies and projects. We very much hope that the post will continue beyond the two years, as this is where we can really use the resource to build LNRS projects outside of planning.
24. **Option 2:** There is no statutory deadline for Responsible Authorities to publish their first Local Nature Recovery Strategy, just a stated policy intention that they were expected to be in place by March 2025. If Gloucestershire County Council does not adopt and publish, it will not meet its statutory duties under the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023. This is reinforced by a recent letter (June 2025) from Minister Creagh, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature, which states “it is vital for delivery of this role that the LNRS for your area is completed as soon as possible. It is my expectation that you complete your LNRS before December 2025 at the latest to enable this transition to delivery during the 2025-26 financial year. I am pleased to note that your authority is currently expecting to publish before December and urge you to actively manage the project to avoid any slippage in planned timings”. Publication in early 2026 has been agreed with Defra and any further slippage to the planned publication will have implications for future grant funding of the delivery phase.

Financial implications

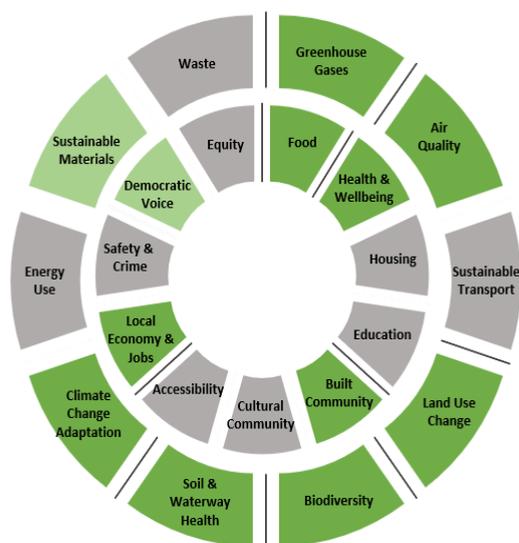
25. Any financial implications of the adoption and publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy recommended as option 1 in this report are expected to be minimal and accommodated within the capacity/preparation grants received from Defra since 2022, and mostly transferred to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust under a SLA for preparing the LNRS.
26. However, once the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is published, the delivery phase will commence and be led by Gloucestershire County Council as the Responsible Authority. The Council is in receipt of government funding (transition to delivery grant) for a fixed-term Local Nature Recovery Delivery Officer, in post from October 2025 until October 2027. The role of the officer is to work with internal colleagues and external partners to embed delivery of local nature recovery into County Council and Supporting Authorities visions, plans, objectives and policies. This will include embedding the strategy into strategic and local development plans, establishing a delivery partnership with other organisations, and compiling a pipeline of strategic projects to be delivered. Further delivery funding from Defra is anticipated but not yet confirmed. If received, it will be used to extend the fixed-term role of the Local Nature Recovery Delivery Officer. In the event that further funding is not received, the service bears the risk of any redundancy costs arising.

27. Any strategic projects undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council in response to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy where additional funding would be required will be sought through the identification of external funding sources, partnership working and/or the council's budget approval process. Many corporate and project actions would occur regardless but would be better informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Projects will only proceed if sufficient funding has been confirmed. All public authorities must have regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy under the strengthened biodiversity duty (Environment Act 2021) and Gloucestershire County Council must also report to government the actions it has taken under the strengthened biodiversity duty to enhance and improve biodiversity.
28. Delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is also underpinned by delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain through the planning system, and it is also expected that Defra will provide agri-environment or similar funding for a wide range of nature recovery activities to incentivise landowners and managers to make changes to how they use and manage their land for greater environmental benefit.

Climate Change and Ecological implications

29. Has the Climate Impact Assessment Tool (CIAT) been completed? Yes
30. Has an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) been produced, or will one be undertaken at a later stage? No, as this is not required for this type of project.
31. The Climate Impact Assessment Tool (CIAT) colour wheel below outlines the impact this decision may have on various climate change parameters. The inner circle details social specific impacts, and the outer circle environmental.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Key	
	Significant and/or long-term positive impact identified. No changes needed.
	Slight or short-term positive impact identified. No changes needed but could be reviewed to improve.
	Not applicable or no cause for concern.
	Slight or short-term negative impact identified. Review to identify possible improvements.
	Significant and/or long-term negative impact identified. Changes needed before proceeding.

32. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy covers climate change as a key theme, both in terms of the impacts of climate change on nature and the opportunities to adapt to climate change using nature-based solutions. The delivery of the strategy may create some emissions through land use change, but these should be offset by large scale habitat restoration/creation (wetland/woodland/grassland) projects which will help fix carbon back into ecosystems and protect soils.

33. Please note, this LNRS details the vision for nature recovery in Gloucestershire, but does not confirm where, or when action will be taking place. As such, the CIAT has been completed with this in mind, although it is noted a delivery plan will likely be adopted (with cabinet approval required) which will see a CIAT applied then additionally. This will also allow for a more tailored, and specific climate analysis of actions from the LNRS.

34. In general, the outcomes of approving and adopting this strategy for publication have numerous positive outcomes for the environment and biodiversity, as all partners and decisions should align with this strategy. These positive outcomes will continue during the delivery phase and beyond.

35. Equality implications

36. Has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed? Yes

37. Cabinet Members should read and consider the Equalities Impact Assessment to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications

38. No implications for data protection have been identified. The consultation was run through Gloucestershire County Council's existing digital platform for consultation

surveys, 'Have Your Say'. The adopted strategy will not be collecting any personal data via the website.

39. Following a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) Decision Checklist, a DPIA was not legally required for the consultation process, however there was a need for relevant privacy information to ensure that individuals were informed about how their data would be used. A privacy statement was included using the Information Management Service template specific to forms and surveys to ensure that Gloucestershire County Council can meet the principle of lawfulness and transparency under UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Social value implications

40. Development and delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies will take the UK from protection to active restoration of the natural world. It will help the country to deal with three of the biggest challenges we face: biodiversity loss, climate change and public health. Whilst it is expected that much of the delivery of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be through the planning system and Biodiversity Net Gain, it is recognised that some aspects of the strategy can be delivered through community groups and smaller scale projects and that the framework will encourage partners, residents and environmental organisations to continue to play their part and take more action for nature recovery in the county. This will add further social value to local communities, both through improving nature connection as well as the health benefits nature can provide.

Consultation feedback

41. The public consultation received a total of 110 responses to the online survey, with an additional seven responses received from organisations via the Local Nature Recovery Strategy email inbox when a more detailed written response was given. Out of the survey respondents, the majority (57%) were *Interested Local Residents*, who are not considered to be key end users of the strategy but nonetheless offered valuable contributions. The survey did receive responses from 15 *environmental professionals*, 10 *landowners* and seven *national wildlife organisations*, and eight representatives of *local councils*; all of whom are considered frequent users of the document and mapping.
42. The breakdown of types of responders corresponds to answers to the question, "how often do you think you will use the LNRS mapping?" with the majority expecting to only use the LNRS occasionally or a few times a year (expected to be mostly Interested Local Residents). Only 16% said they would expect to use it monthly, and 10% said weekly (most likely environmental professionals etc.)
43. Whilst it is acknowledged that a lower percentage of most likely to be frequent end users was reached with the online survey, at least six of the email / detailed written responses were from these and it is clear a broad range of groups have been successfully reached.
44. The range of organisations that responded to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy included:

- Severn Rivers Trust
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- Forestry Commission
- Cotswold National Landscape
- Greengage Environmental (consultants)
- A range of Town and Parish councils
- The Crown Estate
- West of England Combined Authority
- National Farmers Union
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
- All district / borough councils
- GCC Officers
- Woodland Trust
- Multiple local Climate Action groups
- National Trails UK
- Canal and Rivers Trust
- Ernest Cook Trust

45. The public consultation survey prompted participants to review “Part 1”, “Part 2”, a list of priority species, the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy mapping, and to answer general questions regarding whether they agreed or disagreed with key parts of the documents, along with free text questions where detailed responses could be given about each part of the strategy.

46. With respect to the online survey results, over 90% of respondents agreed broadly with the biodiversity priorities set out in Part 1, and 93% agreed that the Potential Measures will help to support action for nature recovery.

47. As part of the results analysis process, key themes were identified within consultee written responses. Depending on the following factors, the comments were either reviewed with steering groups, actioned, or deemed not relevant / no action needed.

Points were actioned or further reviewed when:

- They had been raised multiple times by different respondents.

- They raised a clearly actionable point, such as technical detail being incorrect, or issues with formatting, layout and readability.
- They had been made by a larger organisation with expertise or influence.

Points were deemed not actionable when:

- They were simply proving a general positive, neutral or critical comment.
- Their comment requested a change to or was in relation to a topic outside of the scope of the LNRS.
- Their comment was not clear or misinterpreted the Local Nature Recovery Strategy documents or mapping. Where things were clearly misunderstood or misinterpreted, an action has still been made to review the useability of documents/mapping, signposting and user guides.

48. Whilst all responses were read and reviewed, particular consideration was given to respondent “types” that were deemed to be more regular users of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and from individuals with specific expertise.

49. Key themes that arose from the public consultation and the actions taken to improve the documentation were as follows:

Key theme	Action
Formatting, grammar and language	Documents were proofread by Gloucestershire County Council officers and reviewed and amended to meet council guidelines on standards for publishing documents and using Plain English.
Clarity around how the LNRS will be used for Biodiversity Net Gain	Text within the documents has been amended and following adoption the Gloucestershire BNG guide will be updated to refer to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The council’s LNRS website will include a specific user guide for users that will also be involved with BNG. The mapping platform was updated to show a clear grouping of the layers relevant to BNG.
Comments relating the methodology used to create the mapping	Whilst a brief methodology was provided at the end of the Part 1 document, it was recognised that this is unlikely to be read in this location and that additional detail needed to be made available. The text previously in Part 1 was removed and instead a new standalone methodology document written to sit on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy website so to make it more accessible for people who need to specifically review or understand the methodology.

Queries relating to what collaboration had been done with neighbouring LNRs	Part 1 and the new methodology document does refer to neighbouring LNRs having been consulted during the development of the mapping. During the public consultation, only the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) responded with requests to adjust our mapping to align more with theirs, at the WECA / Gloucestershire boundary. Upon further review we have chosen to not amend our mapping due to the recognition that our methodology is vastly different to WECA's, and therefore it is not reasonable to expect a like for like alignment of actions along our boundaries.
Requests for additional sites to be added to the mapping	Several responses requested that additional areas to the mapping be added. Where evidence was provided as to the habitats existing on these sites, and about their management, these were subsequently added to mapping layers targeting "management" of the existing habitat. This will help protect such sites from development and may support funding applications for ongoing positive management. No action was taken where no evidence or justification was provided for including an additional area to the mapping.
Queries around existing mapping	Multiple respondents flagged areas where mapping layers overlapped each other, or existing habitat which rendered the mapped "action" not possible – such as mapping grassland actions over woodland. These were all reviewed, and adjustments made to the mapping to rectify errors.
Map functionality and useability	A survey question directly asking about map functionality found that 33% of respondents found it difficult to understand or use. Additionally, it was evident from responses that there had been misunderstandings over what some of the layers meant, or how to view them. Of all visitors to the website, only 68 watched the 'Local Habitat Map User Guide Video', and these may not have all responded. Prior to publication, the video will be updated with improved signposting on the website. The mapping platform has also been updated with new groupings for Biodiversity Net Gain (so that an uplift may be more easily targeted), and alterations to colouring of some layers to reduce confusion.
Requests for additional species or species "measures" to be considered	3 respondents commented that they could not open the excel spreadsheet that contained the long list of priority species. Several respondents with species expertise made requests for species to be removed that they deemed inappropriate and for measures to be amended with

correct details about a species ecology. These were actioned immediately or discussed within a species steering group, before amendments were actioned.

50. Gloucestershire County Council officers also called for more inclusion of the benefits of nature and potential measures for public health. Whilst this was previously briefly covered by the strategy, additional text has been added to emphasise other benefits of local nature recovery to public health. For example, flooding can have impacts on physical health as well as obvious impacts to property and infrastructure, so Natural Flood Management actions can therefore benefit public health.
51. The above key themes cover most actionable comments. In addition, there were a range of other comments that resulted in minor amendments, including more reference to “natural regeneration” as a habitat creation technique, and linking potential measures with one another.
52. Feedback from the consultation indicated that whilst respondents considered the document comprehensive, it was also considered very long and text heavy, with images needed to support text. Part of the review process has also included a thorough quality check to ensure repetition is limited, and unnecessary text is removed. It should be noted that the consultation documents were also undesigned, but a design agency has been commissioned to design the layout, graphics and formatting, ensuring the document is more reader friendly and easy to follow and navigate.
53. No comments from the public consultation were considered of concern, and no large changes that would be unfeasible in the timescale were requested.
54. Some comments from the public consultation related more to actions that could be undertaken during the delivery phase. This included recommendations for outreach, target setting, and how delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy could be monitored. All these points will in part, be informed by further guidance to be provided by Defra in due course. We anticipate that further information on delivery will be available from February 2026 (as advised by Defra).

Officer recommendations

55. Acknowledging the nature emergency, the Officer recommendation is to adopt and publish the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy on the Gloucestershire County Council website.

Performance management/follow-up

56. Once the Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy is published in February 2026, we move into the LNRS delivery phase. Defra intends to publish further guidance on the expectations around delivery. One of the key roles and responsibilities for Gloucestershire County Council as the Responsible Authority will be monitoring and reporting to government on local delivery. As previously stated, the Secretary of State will give notice when it is required to review the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

