

APPENDIX

Cornwall's Pollinator Action Plan 2019 - 2024

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Abbreviations

AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CALC – Cornwall Association of Local Councils
CC – Cornwall Council
CHL – Cornwall Housing Ltd
EGT – Environmental Growth Team
ERCCIS – Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly
ESI - Environment & Sustainability Institute

FWAG SW – Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group South West
GI4G – Green Infrastructure for Growth
IS – Information Services
NET – Natural Environment Team
NFU - National Farmers' Union
NGOs – Non Governmental Organisations
T&PCs – Town & Parish Councils

A. Strategic actions

+ List of abbreviations at front of document

As a strategic local authority, the Council has an important role to play in supporting and promoting practices.

These practices will encourage the growth of pollinator habitats and populations.

Action <small>*Year 1 priority</small>	How this will be achieved	Potential progress measurement	Resources	Suggested lead(s) ⁺	Partners/ others ⁺	Key dates	Status <small>◆ Underway ◆ In development ◆ Conceptual</small>
*Action 1. Raise awareness and support pollinator friendly practices amongst colleagues, residents and communities.	Development of infographics, key messages, FAQs to promote pollinators & Environmental Growth developed. General awareness programme across a range of events, media and audiences incl. local press/social media, champions, internal/external newsletters, Grow Nature toolkit, signage, promotion at internal/external events, annual questionnaire.	Track numbers of published Environmental Growth media articles, social media posts. Track numbers of events Environmental Growth message was communicated	Officer time	EGT/Business Support	Comms team, Environment Service, Cornwall AONB	Ongoing	
	CC supports/promotes pollinator projects and events (external and/or partnership projects).	Continued development of Grow Nature toolkit (and track page traffic)	Officer time Design costs	EGT	Comms team	Ongoing	
	CC provides support and/or practical assistance to external projects or groups through provision of advice, sites, funding or equipment and machinery.	Track CC support of external pollinator/ Environmental Growth projects or events eg. on Grow Nature web pages/elsewhere. Delivery of Cornwall Urban Buzz	Officer time Subject to project funding	Various	Comms team, Environment Service, Business Support ESI, externals (eg. Buglife), Environment Service, CORMAC, Property Services	Ongoing	
		Track number of pollinator projects funded through Grow Nature Seed Fund	Officer time	EGT/Business Support	Environment Sustainability Institute (ESI)	Ongoing	
*Action 2. Work with elected members and city, town and parish councillors to develop, support and promote pollinator friendly practices	Use and expand existing channels to inform and promote pollinator friendly/ Environmental Growth guidance to local government members/officers and Community Network Panels.	Track quantities of sites, equipment, machinery or advice providing to external groups/projects	Officer time External funding	Environment Service	GI4G, CORMAC	Ongoing	
*Action 3. Work with external organisations & individuals to determine most effective ways to influence pollinator friendly/ Environmental Growth practices.	Use and expand existing channels to inform and promote pollinator friendly/ Environmental Growth guidance to local government members/officers and Community Network Panels.	Develop specific Environmental Growth Guidance (and/or Management Plans) for City, Town and Parish Councils including case studies, FAQs etc	Officer time	EGT	NET, T&PCs, CALC, Community Network Officers, GI4G	2019 start	
Action 4. Map existing pollinator habitats and sites of rare pollinator species, and identify new sites where land could be better managed, or new habitats created, to connect pollinators across Cornwall	Liaise with external organisations & individuals to determine most effective ways to influence pollinator friendly/ Environmental Growth practices.	Develop of sector specific Environmental Growth Guidance (and/or Management Plans) eg. through TEVI & GI4G	Officer time External funding	Environment Service	NET, NFU, FWAG SW, TEVI, NGOs, CORMAC, ESI,	2019-2024	
Action 5. Ensure the needs of pollinators are embedded within strategic and/or partnership plans, policies, projects and operations	Work with organisations to identify and map nectar sources. Identify gaps, opportunities and potential to increase site connectivity. Identify risk, spread and response to invasives threatening pollinators (eg. Asian Hornet).	Track CC support of projects which identify mapping of pollinator habitats & habitat creation (eg. B-Lines, GI4G). Development of partnership projects and policy in response to invasive species risks. Addition of pollinator/Environmental Growth information onto CORMAC mapping layer	Officer time External funding	Environment Service	Cornwall AONB, NGOs, IS, ESI, ERCCIS, Buglife, GI4G	Ongoing	
Action 6. Manage 40% of the Council's appropriate overall 'outdoor assets'^ for pollinators by 2024 ^excluding County Farms (Actions 19-24)	Development of Environmental Growth (incl. pollinator) criteria against which to assess policies, projects, operations and schemes.	Environmental Growth criteria to assess strategic/ partnership projects, policies, operations and schemes developed. CC activities aligned with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs	Officer time	EGT	Capital Projects Team, Highways, Estate Adoption Team, CORMAC	Ongoing	
	Review how Environmental Growth Strategy is incorporated into wider Council policies and strategies (eg. transportation, planning, county farms).	All strategic/partnership projects, policies, operations and schemes are assessed against Environmental Growth criteria/ Target Outcomes. Alignment with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs	Officer time	EGT	Business Support, cross Council	Ongoing	
Action 6. Manage 40% of the Council's appropriate overall 'outdoor assets'^ for pollinators by 2024 ^excluding County Farms (Actions 19-24)	Establish baseline value for % of overall outdoor assets currently managed for pollinators/Environmental Growth (eg. adaptation of CORMAC's WDMS as a tool and GI4G info). Review of maintenance contracts to ensure sites are managed for pollinators. Development of awareness, training, and systems to assess management trends over time.	Development of CC mapping layer of asset areas under Environmental Growth (EG) management, used to assess % coverage of CC overall outdoor assets managed for EG over time. Specific guidance/training/contractual arrangements to ensure management of CC assets for Environmental Growth (and/or EG Management plans) developed/implemented. Alignment with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs	Officer time Capital req'd Potential revenue savings	Environment Service	IS, Property Services, CORMAC, Business Support	-	

B. Planning Actions

As the local planning authority, Cornwall Council is uniquely placed to protect and create pollinator habitats by strengthening policies and enforcement.

Actions 7-14 set out how Cornwall Council can address pollinator issues through its planning functions.

Action <small>*Year 1 priority</small>	How this will be achieved	Potential progress measurement	Resources	Suggested lead(s)⁺	Partners/ others⁺	Key dates	Status <small>• Underway • In development • Conceptual</small>
Action 7. Develop additional guidance & processes to deliver existing planning policy designed to protect & enhance pollinator habitats and species	Through adoption and implementation of the Cornwall Biodiversity Guide and new planning guidance for the built and natural environment in line with the Environmental Growth Strategy and revised NPPF. Embedding of Environmental Growth principles into planning through Local Plan or guidance improvement where required.	New development demonstrates retention & enhancement of pollinator habitat in line with new guidance and SPD. Alignment with corporate and Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs	Officer time	Planning	Environment Service	2019 (ongoing)	• Underway
*Action 8. Work with applicants to ensure net gain for pollinators	Embed net gain process (or requirement) into planning in Cornwall. Explore how the Defra metric (or other scoring system), alongside info already captured under Preliminary Ecological Assessments, can capture biodiversity losses and gains. Create better understanding of how net gain can best be integrated into development design. Building with Nature and GI4G process may assist this. Planning officers receive appropriate 'pollinator training' to ensure they take account of pollinators when determining planning applications	Track biodiversity (incl. pollinators) loss/gain over time. Pollinator and Environmental Growth info/training developed and taken up by planning service (esp. for graduate planners). Development and dissemination of 'key messages'. Alignment with corporate and Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs	Officer time	NET	Planning, EGT, GI4G	2019	• In development
Action 9. Ensure existing pollinator-friendly features (such as hedges, trees and rough grassland) are retained on development sites	Use of planning guidance, Building with Nature and pre-application processes and appropriate planning conditions to protect features/linkages. Create a baseline of environmental information for sites using TELLUS SW LIDAR data/LULC mapping to monitor changes. Develop approach to acknowledge beneficial increases in biodiversity and retention of habitats and potential rewards. Consistent advice, guidance and communication between planning officers and developers throughout planning process. Explore opportunities to ensure retention of GI features, including at outline permission stage. Potentially use pre-app agreements between landowner/ applicant and CC. Use of enforcement to demonstrate penalties for features protected by conditions. Consideration of existing PROWs on sites and incorporate features which are already there. Appropriate conditioning of features.	Introduce system which tracks removal or damaged of existing pollinator (and wider biodiversity) features (eg. before and after aerial photography, Building with Nature, Defra metric, digital proforma). Alignment with corporate and Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs	Officer time	Planning	Environment Service	2019	• Underway
Action 10. Ensure key populations of priority- listed pollinator species and habitats (NERC Act, Section 41 species), as well as locally threatened species, are protected through the planning process	Ensure planners have access to good ecological surveys, which identify priority and locally threatened habitats and species, effect a change in development design and ongoing management. Planners have access to good quality information (including mapping and digitised information).	Track numbers of developments where priority/local threatened species or habitats have been identified and likely harmed by development (eg. using changes to land cover)	Officer time	Planning	Environment Service	Ongoing	• Underway
Action 11. Review existing plans and planning policy to ensure habitats (including brownfield sites) which support, or could support, pollinators are recognised and given adequate protection	Cornwall-wide mapping (town scale) of existing and potential pollinator and Environmental Growth opportunities/ deficiencies, used to inform policy and planning decisions (eg. through MEG, PERFECT, ERCCIS).	Existing or potential Environmental Growth areas are mapped and considered in planning process.	Officer time Revenue cost	ERCCIS, Planning, ESI	EGT	2020	• In development

Planning Actions (continued)

Action <small>*Year 1 priority</small>	How this will be achieved	Potential progress measurement	Resources	Suggested lead(s)⁺	Partners/ others⁺	Key dates	Status <small>◆ Underway ◆ In development ◆ Conceptual</small>
Action 12. Compliance monitoring and appropriate enforcement is taken to address damage/loss of pollinator habitats and/or features (eg. trees) where regulation or planning condition is breached.	Ensure highly visible construction/post construction compliance monitoring of sites by CC. Implement proportionate penalties for failure to comply with conditions/ breaches. New Cornish case law acts as deterrent to future losses or damage. Wildlife offences dealt with by Police Wildlife Crime officers. Explore options to reduce infringements/ increase enforcement through developer contribution (as demonstrated by other LPAs) and through biodiversity net gain	Scoring system to track outcome of cases where condition breaches or loss/damage to populations/habitats/features have been identified (enforced and unenforced).	Officer time Revenue cost Revenue saving	Planning	Environment Service Devon & Cornwall Police	-	In development
*Action 13. All new renewable energy sites are managed for pollinators	Guidance on 'Managing solar/wind farms for pollinators (or wider Environmental Growth)' produced and informs conditions for new applications Policy developed to require all new solar/wind farm sites to be designed and managed for pollinators (and wider Environmental Growth). Explore management opportunities on existing sites.	100% of new solar/wind farms (and other renewables) are designed and managed to maximise opportunities for Environmental Growth (including pollinators).	Officer time	Planning, EGT	NET	-	Conceptual
Action 14. Increase number of CC ecologist support and 'eco-advocates' planning officers and provide pollinator friendly standard specifications to embed pollinator-friendly measures/ Environmental Growth into Cornwall's planning functions	Provision of training (including case studies) and support on pollinators and wider Environmental Growth for planning eco-advocates. Develop standard specifications alongside GI4G for landscaping that include larger proportion of pollinator friendly planting to make it easier for developments to use as standard practice. Provision of ecological support on a par with other LPAs. Explore opportunities to increase CC ecologists through the planning system (eg. developer contributions, SLAs between Planning and NET, 'approved ecological provision').	Increase in numbers of eco-advocates Increased numbers of county ecologists or approved provision of ecological advice Pollinator friendly standard specifications developed	Officer time Revenue cost	Planning, Environment Service		-	In development

C. Asset actions

Cornwall Council owns, manages, or leases out a substantial amount of land across Cornwall.

This presents an enormous opportunity for Cornwall Council to improve pollinator habitats and populations across a range of assets.

Action <small>*Year 1 priority</small>	How this will be achieved	Potential progress measurement	Resources	Suggested lead(s) ⁺	Partners/ others ⁺	Key dates	Status <small>• Underway • In development • Conceptual</small>
Cornwall Housing Ltd (CHL); Public Rights of Way (PROW); Highways & verges; Council offices (operational); cemeteries, crematoria & closed churchyards; Public Open Spaces (parks, gardens, semi-natural, recreation & amenity spaces)							
Action 15. Ensure pollinator friendly practices are embedded into maintenance works, training, lease agreements and contracts.	Review of existing sites, contracts, training, operations to identify pollinator threats and opportunities. Environmental Growth operation standards or guidance (or specific Environmental Growth Management template) developed to inform maintenance operations and associated contracts (eg. through GI4G outputs). Embedding of CC Bees, Pollinators & Human Health recommendations into maintenance practice.	Track training, operations and contracts which deliver pollinator benefits/Environmental Growth. Alignment with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs.	Officer time Revenue saving	Environment Service	CORMAC, Property Services, CHL, Highways, Contract Manager Commercial Services, Schools	-	
Action 16. All non-routine works are assessed for their potential impact on pollinators, prior to being carried out, to ensure no net loss of pollinator habitats and/or populations.	Development & dissemination of Environmental Growth checklist or guidance to inform non- routine works programme on Council assets (similar to mitigation hierarchy). Effective monitoring of compliance and reporting system post works.	Sample of non-routine works across Council assets are assessed for compliance with Environmental Growth criteria & aligned with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs	Officer time Revenue saving	Environment Service	CORMAC, Environment Service, Capital Projects,	-	
Action 17. Work with third parties (Including contractors, site managers, community groups, T&PCs & those with devolved responsibilities) to develop and promote information on managing CC sites for pollinators	Provision of support, sites, equipment and/or practical assistance to deliver Environmental Growth. CC support of projects such as GI4G and Cornwall Urban Buzz. Ensure existing recommended practice (eg www.cornwall.gov.uk/hedges/field-hedge-practice/ is adopted & promoted by relevant teams, contractors, T&PCs and land owners. New resources developed (advice, presentations, information signposting, case studies, best practice) and disseminated (eg. Grow Nature Toolkit). Development of generic Environmental Growth Management Plans by asset type. Communication of advice & materials promoted across a range of events, media and audiences including local press/social media, internal/external newsletters, internal/external events. FAQ/complaints response developed. Development of poor management reporting system.	Track number of sites (or area) managed for Environmental Growth. Outputs from projects (eg.GI4G and Cornwall Urban Buzz). Stakeholders receive Environmental Growth best practice guidance /training. Track dissemination of advice (events, social and traditional media).	Officer time	Environment Service	Comms. Externals (eg Buglife, UoE), Cornwall AONB,	-	
Action 18. Manage Council assets to maximise opportunities for pollinators	Develop template Environmental Growth Management Plan applicable to range of CC owned/managed or leased assets. Plan informs contracts (eg. through Environmental Growth standards). Develop evidence/case studies to illustrate benefits of managing these assets for pollinators/Environmental Growth by assets type (informed by GI4G outputs). Provision of training and information to ensure client and contractors work to specific asset Environmental Growth Management Plans.	Track number of sites (or area) managed for Environmental Growth in accordance with the relevant 'Environmental Growth Management Plan'. Alignment with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs. Case studies/evidence base gathered. Track training provision/attendance.	Officer time Revenue saving	Environment Service	Commercial Services, CHL, CORMAC	Proposed start 2019	

Cornwall's Pollinator Action Plan

Action <small>*Year 1 priority</small>	How this will be achieved	Potential progress measurement	Resources	Suggested lead(s) ⁺	Partners/ others ⁺	Key dates	Status <small>* Underway * In development * Conceptual</small>
County farms							
*Action 19. Undertake review of how the County Farms estate is supporting pollinators	County Farms Panel, Countryside Officers, Property Services and EGT develop and apply criteria to assess the current extent to which the County Farms Estate supports pollinators and wider Environmental Growth. Pollinator/EG ambitions captured under the County Farms Strategy and Review and expectation to update and reinvigorate Whole Farm Reports.	The County Farm estate is reviewed against Environmental Growth Strategy, and aligned with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs. County Farms Strategy and Review incorporates Environmental Growth. Whole Farm Report incorporates Environmental Growth principles.	Officer time Revenue cost for Whole Farm Report	Farms Operations Team	Environment Service, County Farms Panel, consultants, ESI	Farms Strategy Inquiry in 2018. County Farms Strategy adopted in 2019. Then ongoing	
Action 20. Identify and promote pollinator-friendly measures/schemes/ training to County Farms Service/ Panel and tenant farmers	CC to work with ESI, FWAGSW, NE, NFU, RSPB, CWT and other external bodies to identify and disseminate information/training/schemes and events to support pollinators and wider Environmental Growth (eg. increased engagement with BEE-STEWARD modelling & the Campaign for the Farmed Environment). Addressed within County Farms Strategy and Review, and Whole Farm Reports.	Track information, events, and schemes communicated to tenant farmers and relevant CC staff. Track take up of training and events/ implementation of measures by tenant farmers and relevant CC staff.	Office time	Farms Operations Team	Environment Service, Cornwall AONB, externals	Bee-Steward element underway	
Action 21. Incorporate specific pollinator clauses within new County Farm tenancy agreements	Incorporate Environmental Growth delivery functions (including pollinators) into tenancy agreements – addressed within County Farms Strategy and Review, and Whole Farm Reports, and in tenant selection process. Strengthen evaluation of previous 25% environmental credentials in tenant application process. Potential to produce shared specification with external estates/farms.	New tenancy agreements and application process include specific pollinator/Environmental Growth clauses. Alignment with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs Whole Farm Report introduced (and reported on) across estate. County Farms Strategy and Review incorporates Environmental Growth.	Officer time Revenue cost for Whole Farm Report	Farms Operations Team	Environment Service, County Farms Panel, consultants	Farms Strategy Inquiry in 2018. County Farms Strategy adopted in 2019. Then ongoing	
Action 22. Provide incentives for tenant farmers to farm for environmental growth	Explore how the County Farm Estate can use incentives (such as rent reduction) to encourage conversion to Environmental Growth principles/organic farming. Strengthen evaluation of 25% environmental credentials in tenant application process. Promotion of Environmental Growth and organic farming through Property Services, external bodies and sector champions who will host walks and demos. Addressed within County Farms Strategy and Review, and the Whole Farm Report and in tenant selection process.	Track numbers of County Farms under organic production, or in conversion process. Track numbers 'farming for Environmental Growth' Whole Farm Report reflects Environmental Growth principles	Officer time Revenue cost for Whole Farm Report	Farms Operations Team	Environment Service, County Farms Panel, externals consultants	-	
Action 23. Reduce pesticide use on County Farms	Voluntary reporting of annual pesticide use on County Farms to produce pesticide inventory. Promotion of information and training which encourage targeted pesticide use, integrated pest management, Environmental Growth for farms. Work with external land agents and farming estates to share specifications and reduce pesticide use across Cornwall. Promote LEAF/organic (or similar certifications) and concessionary rents	Track pesticide use across County Farms over time Alignment with Environmental Growth Strategy KPIs. Track numbers of County Farms under organic/LEAF certification.	Officer time	Farms Operations Team	Environment Service, County Farms Panel	-	
Action 24. Establish a pilot 'Environmental Growth' County Farm to support pollinators	Identify Environmental Growth farm management criteria, built in to the Whole Farm Report template. Ensure tenant application/selection process identifies individuals with skill set to deliver Environmental Growth.	Environmental Growth pilot county farm established	Officer time Revenue cost	Farms Operations Team/EGT	NET, County Farms Panel, ESI	-	

D. Delivering the plan & measuring progress

The Cornwall Pollinator Action Plan is voluntary; its success relies on cross-Council engagement and ongoing support.

Action <small>*Year 1 priority</small>	How this will be achieved	Potential progress measurement	Resources	Suggested lead(s)⁺	Partners/ others⁺	Key dates	Status <small> ● Underway ● In development ● Conceptual </small>
*Action 25. Establish a mechanism to ensure cross-directorate delivery of the Action Plan	A review of delivery routes identifies how pollinator actions can be best Integrated into existing work streams and relationships. Other mechanisms, including the formation of specific Task & Finish Groups, Working Groups or through the activities of the Environmental Growth Innovation Group (as appropriate) could help ensure Environmental Growth (including pollinator issues) is addressed across the Council.	Pollinator actions delivered across Council services	Officer time	Environment Service		Begin 2019	
*Action 26. Review progress of the Action Plan	Each prioritised action is reported against. Action priorities set annually. Review and revise existing plan ahead of 2024.	Environment Service monitors progress on actions annually, and reviews and renews the Plan by 2024	Officer time	Environment Service	Cross Council	1st review April 2020	