

The West Midlands **BIODIVERSITY PLEDGE**

We acknowledge:

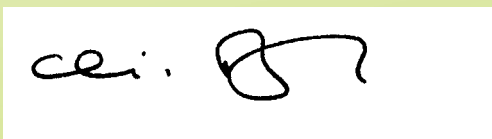
- that biodiversity and the natural environment have a vital role to play in enhancing wellbeing and quality of life
- that biodiversity is under threat from climate change and other human-induced pressures
- our duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in carrying out our functions.

We welcome the:

- Social, health, environmental and economic benefits which come from biodiversity
- Opportunity for local government to lead the drive to conserve and enhance biodiversity at a local level.

We commit our Council to:

- Ensure the conservation of biodiversity is incorporated into all relevant corporate strategies, plans and programmes.
- Champion the benefits of biodiversity within local partnerships including Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements.
- Consider the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and review policies and actions to assist wildlife to adapt.
- Participate actively in Local Biodiversity Partnerships and assist with the delivery of Local Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the planning system and deliver the key principles for biodiversity set out in national planning guidance.
- Seek to ensure that up-to-date biodiversity data is available and used appropriately and support the maintenance and development of Local Record Centres.
- Work in partnership with others to identify, protect and enhance Local Sites of Importance for Biodiversity, taking them into account within the planning and land management systems.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity within the local authority estate.
- Promote the social benefits of biodiversity in the delivery of public services and support access to nature and understanding of the natural world within formal and informal education and community engagement.
- Raise awareness of all staff, elected members, contractors and the general public with regard to biodiversity issues.



Chris Bull
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Keith Austin
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Lead Member for Environment

