

WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 1

CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL

COUNCIL : 20 OCTOBER 2016

ENVIRONMENT QUESTION

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WALKER

The Environmental Legislation April 2016 requires public bodies to achieve a biodiverse environment. What actions have so far been taken by the Council in response to this legislation and what future proposals are planned?

Reply

As Cardiff's Biodiversity Champion, I have been facilitating more wildlife areas in our parks and open spaces; several of which have been seeded with wild flowers to encourage pollinators. I have also attended and chair meetings of Cardiff's Biodiversity Partnership and meet regularly with the RSPB and other groups and bodies to explore ways to make Cardiff a more biodiverse city.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires that public bodies, such as the City of Cardiff Council, seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and, in doing so, promote the resilience of ecosystems in the exercise of their functions.

A new Green Infrastructure Working Group has been established which will help implement the new requirements and is in the process of drafting a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy. This strategy includes the preparation of a GI Approach document, together with GI Supplementary Planning Guidance and a GI Implementation Plan.

The adopted LDP also contains policies aimed at protecting GI (KP16), together with detailed policies relating to the various elements of GI, including biodiversity, access and recreation, trees, parks and public open spaces and sustainable drainage systems. The GI SPG will set out how these policies will be implemented.

The GI Implementation Plan document will set out future projects that would be required to implement the GI strategy, often in collaboration with other organisations. For example, the 'Giving Nature a Home' (RSPB), the 'Living Levels' (RSPB) and 'Bee-lines' (Buglife) projects.