

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
Date:	10 March 2022
Title:	Natural Environment – Review and Way Forward
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Simon Cramp

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability agrees the approach being proposed to address the provisions under the Environment Act (2021) and wider climate change responses.
- 1.2 That the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability notes the new duties and responsibilities necessary to protect and enhance the natural environment introduced by the Environment Act (2021).

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment is of the highest importance to the County Council and a fundamental part of its commitment to tackling climate change in Hampshire. The purpose of this report is to set out the actions taken by the County Council to protect the natural environment, to describe its key current activities in this important area, to outline recent and forthcoming changes, including in national legislation, and to seek approval for the approach to address these new requirements.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. The option of not seeking agreement of the proposed approach to meet the new requirements imposed by national legislation and other changes was rejected on the basis that this would not enable the County Council: to meet its obligations effectively; to capitalise on the unique opportunities afforded by the new circumstances to benefit the natural environment and address the challenge of climate change; or to demonstrate a position of leadership and desire to collaborate with partners working in this area at the local, regional and national level.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. **Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

6. **Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

7. **Statement from the Decision Maker:**

Approved by:

Date:

10 March 2022

**Executive Member for Climate Change and
Sustainability
Councillor Jan Warwick**