



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>BIO-DIVERSITY WITHIN COUNCIL</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our natural environment
Outcome	Our natural assets will be carefully managed
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

To update Council on efforts to both reduce cost, enhance bio-diversity throughout the Borough and to continue with bio-diversity initiatives in future years.

## **2.0 Background (to include any previous decisions of Council)**

In November 2019 Council approved a reduction in floral displays in an effort to reduce costs. A combination of approaches have been used successfully to achieve this aim. In particular Estates have replaced the traditional displays of, for example, begonias with bio-diversity friendly wildflower displays. This innovation has proved to be very popular with residents and visitors alike who have taken time to contact Council to compliment them on this approach. Not only has it reduced cost and proved popular but it has also had the benefit of providing a rich source of food for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths. Some estimates suggest that up to one third of our native bee population could become extinct due to lack of food (flowers).

This approach along with the 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' campaign has demonstrated that with a little thought, our natural environment can be managed to the benefit of both people and fauna.

A selection of photographs have been appended highlighting the rich and varied displays throughout the Borough. A media release is also planned to highlight Council's wild flower initiatives.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that the Environmental Services Committee notes the successful introduction of wildflower displays and recommends to Council that efforts continue to enhance bio-diversity throughout the Borough.





