



**COUNCIL MEETING**

**18 November 2021**

**GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor J Adams will move the following amendment:

Delete “calls on the Chief Executive to draw up a strategy to boost pollinator populations throughout Gateshead.”

Insert:

“Council further notes the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and biodiversity continues to be in rapid decline. 13 per cent of species in England are threatened with extinction and since 1970 more species have seen their populations decrease than increase. The greatest drivers of biodiversity loss are agriculture, urbanisation, pollution, fisheries, invasive non-native species, and climate change.

Council notes that due to Government cuts public sector expenditure on biodiversity in the UK, as a proportion of GDP, has fallen by 42 per cent since a peak in 2008/09. Despite this, public support for UK conservation continues to grow. The amount of time donated by conservation volunteers has increased by 46 per cent since 2000, with their time being estimated to have a financial value of about £20m per year.

Council believes that a ‘stand-alone’ strategy is not the best way to boost pollinator populations and will continue to address this important issue through the development of a broader, more integrated, better coordinated Local Nature Recovery Strategy, where we will work with our communities, neighbours, and partners.

Council will use its Local Nature Recovery Strategy to

- set priorities for the recovery of biodiversity and improved ecological connectivity
- identify, map, and describe the most important existing areas for biodiversity
- identify suitable areas for the delivery of habitat and species recovery work that will deliver the greatest benefits for biodiversity and people

Council believes that this will best serve the recovery of our insect populations.”

Proposed by: Councillor J Adams

Seconded by: Councillor J Green