

Biodiversity Strategy 'Managing Our Natural Wealth'
Biodiversity Delivery Group
Terms of Reference

1. Name

The name of the Group will be the 'Biodiversity Delivery Group' (the 'BDG').

2. Purpose

The Biodiversity Delivery Group will work together with DEFA, other Government departments and external organisations to deliver the shared goal of implementing the Biodiversity Strategy 2015-2025.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Biodiversity Delivery Group will be responsible for promoting the delivery of the Biodiversity Strategy actions within:

- a) the organisations they represent;
- b) the Government;
- c) the wider community.

4. Tasks

- a) Assessing and agreeing priorities with DEFA;
- b) Inputting directly into the draft Delivery Plan;
- c) Writing and reviewing the Delivery Plan at the start of every financial year and when required;
- d) Facilitating further commitment to deliver actions by the organisations each member represents;
- e) Facilitate discussion on how best to deliver the more ambitious actions and consider the challenges;
- f) To advise the Department on any changes required to the Biodiversity Strategy and Delivery Plan when required (e.g. following the UN Biodiversity Conference scheduled for May 2021);
- g) Members will actively participate in the collaborative delivery of the Strategy before 2025;
- h) Provide support to the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture in encouraging other Government Departments and external organisations to become more involved;
- i) Receive reports from the Biodiversity Action Plan Leaders Group;
- j) Provide reports to the Manx Nature Conservation Forum concerning the progress on the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy;
- k) Provide reports to the Department on a quarterly basis, for submission to the Directorate meeting;

- l) The Senior Biodiversity Officer will be responsible for the compilation of items for the agenda and producing and circulating the minutes.
- m) Any member of the Group may provide a paper to the Group for discussion directly relating to Strategy delivery.
- n) The Group is a non-statutory committee of DEFA, sponsored by DEFA;

5. Outputs and deliverables

- a) An up to date Delivery Plan showing the stage of progress/completion of each action published on an annual basis.

This document will then be provided to the Department for information and to stakeholders via the Manx Nature Conservation Forum and to the wider community via the DEFA website.

6. Membership and representation

All appointments to the BDG will be made by the Department with the approval of the Minister for the Department.

Membership of the BDG shall consist of high level officers/representatives from the key organisations both within and outside Government who are involved with the delivery of actions within the Biodiversity Strategy.

Members will initially be invited as follows:

- Chairperson
- DEFA – Agriculture and Lands Directorate
- DEFA – Ecosystems Policy Team
- Manx BirdLife
- Manx National Farmers' Union
- Manx National Heritage
- Manx Wildlife Trust
- Manx Utilities

Additional membership

The BDG may, with the approval of the Department, invite additional membership as appropriate. The maximum numbers on the Group will be 10.

Membership period

Membership to the Group will be for an initial period of three years with an option for a further two years.

7. Cessation of membership

Membership of the BDG shall cease in the event of:

- a) Automatic cessation at the end of term of membership;
- b) Withdrawal of membership;
- c) Termination (at the decision of the Chair or Minister for the Department) if the arrangement is not working as necessary;

8. Chair

A Chair shall be appointed to the Group by the Minister for the Department and their term of office will run for two years, which may be extended for a further three years.

9. Working principles

- a) Participation in Biodiversity Delivery Group is voluntary;
- b) Members who volunteer to participate in Biodiversity Delivery Group agree to abide by its decisions and to work towards its purposes;
- c) Issues will be addressed with an intention to identify consensus rather than to work with the 'majority vote', although the Biodiversity Delivery Group may vote to resolve an issue if the members affected by the outcome of the vote agree to hold a vote and abide by the outcome.

10. Meeting arrangements

- a) The Biodiversity Delivery Group will aim to meet at least four times a year.
- b) Meetings will be held at Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture at Thie Slieau Whallian, St Johns.

Agreed by:



Date: 25/01/2021

Mr Geoffrey Boot MHK
Minister for Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture