

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**02 March 2022**

### **Wildlife Corridors 1**

**Motion: Councillors O. O'Connor, E. Dowling, D. Dunne, T. Kivlehan, S. O Faoláin and U. Power**

That this Planning Authority pursuant to Section 12 (10) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) resolves to amend the Draft Development Plan as follows

- Amend amendment 130 - Instead of deleting the line, replace with - "The wildlife corridors are depicted in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Plan 2021-2025."

**Report:**

The Executive notes the sentiment of this motion which is accepting proposed amendment 130 and proposing a minor amendment by way of different text. The executive have recommended a slightly altered modification as the Biodiversity Plan 2021 – 2025 is still in Draft form.

Amendment 130 is as follows;

"Amend last line of second paragraph, Section 8.7.1.5 'Policy Objective GIB22: Non-Designated Areas of Biodiversity' (page 171) to delete the following text: ~~"It is envisaged that the forthcoming wildlife corridors will also be depicted in Supplementary Map B1"~~

The Executive consider that supporting the implementation of and ensuring accordance with the forthcoming Biodiversity Action Plan (including in respect of the wildlife corridors contained therein) is already sufficiently provided for in the Draft Plan under policy objectives GIB20 (Section 8.7.1.3) and GIB23 (Section 8.7.1.6), which state as follows:

**"Policy Objective GIB20: Biodiversity Plan**

*It is a policy objective to support the provisions of the forthcoming DLR County Biodiversity Action Plan, 2021-2026."*

**"Policy Objective GIB23: County-Wide Ecological Network**

*It is a Policy Objective to protect the Ecological Network which will be integrated into the updated Green Infrastructure Strategy and will align with the DLR County Biodiversity Action Plan. Creating this network throughout the County will also improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The network will also include non-designated sites."*

The Executive would note that a further alteration to proposed amendment 387 is now proposed in response to Motion 8 on the Material Amendments. The revised wording would introduce the following text to Section 10.1.1 'Policy GIB23: County-wide Ecological Network' of Appendix 10 (page 297):

*"Note: The wildlife corridors will be depicted in the forthcoming Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025."*

The Executive considers however that an additional general reference to the fact that wildlife corridors are expected to be included in the forthcoming Biodiversity Action Plan could be added to the Draft Plan.

Separately, the Executive notes an error in the Draft Plan whereby some references to the forthcoming County Biodiversity Action Plan refer to differing years during which the Plan will be in effect. All such references will be updated to refer to '2021-2025', as per the Draft County Biodiversity Plan.

### **Recommendation**

Accept amendment 130

Amend last line of second paragraph, Section 8.7.1.5 'Policy Objective GIB22: Non-Designated Areas of Biodiversity' (page 171) as follows:

Delete the following text: "~~It is envisaged that the forthcoming wildlife corridors will also be depicted in Supplementary Map B1~~"

Apply a minor modification to proposed amendment 130 as follows (minor amendment is shown in red text, underlined and in italics):

Insert the following line

*"The wildlife corridors will be depicted in the forthcoming Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025."*

**Note:** All references to forthcoming County Biodiversity Action Plan to refer to Plan for "2021-2025"

**Owner:** Louise McGauran - Senior Planner