



**Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council



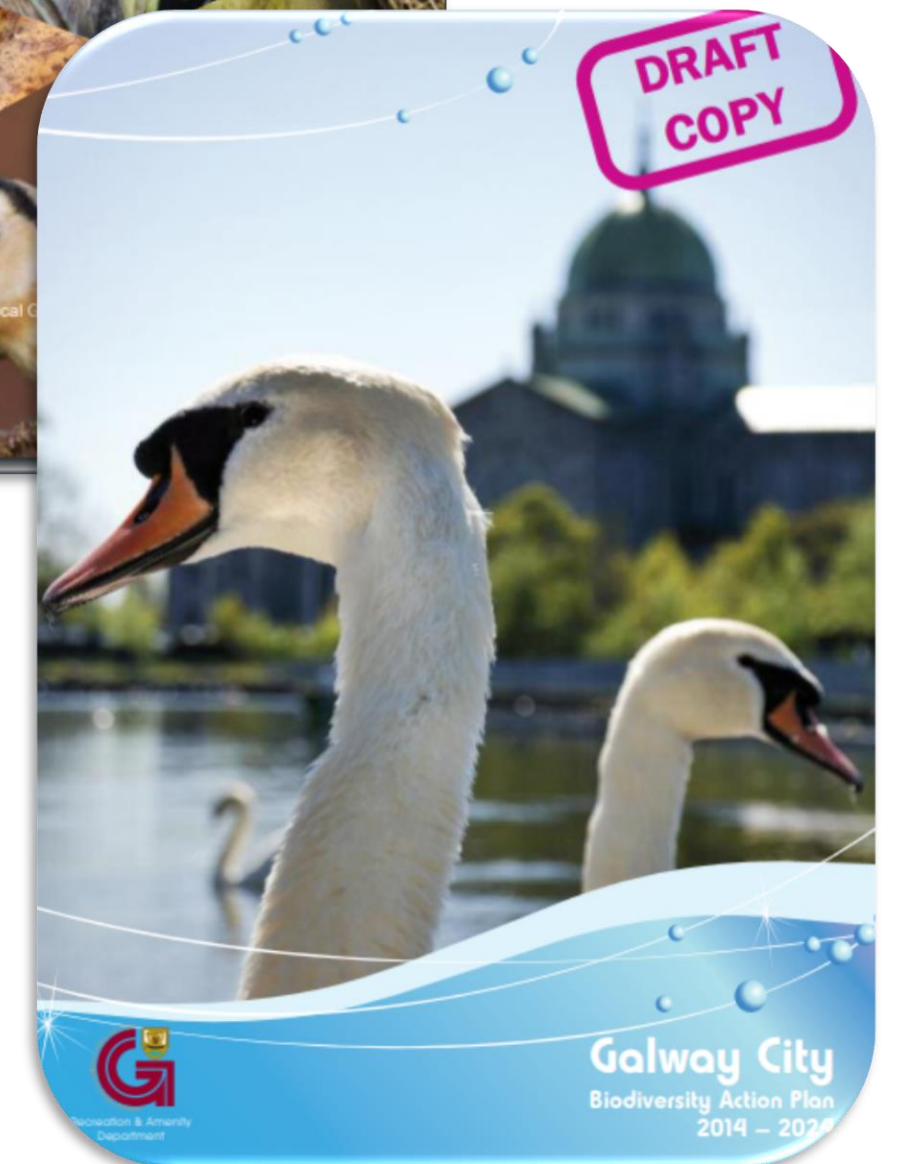
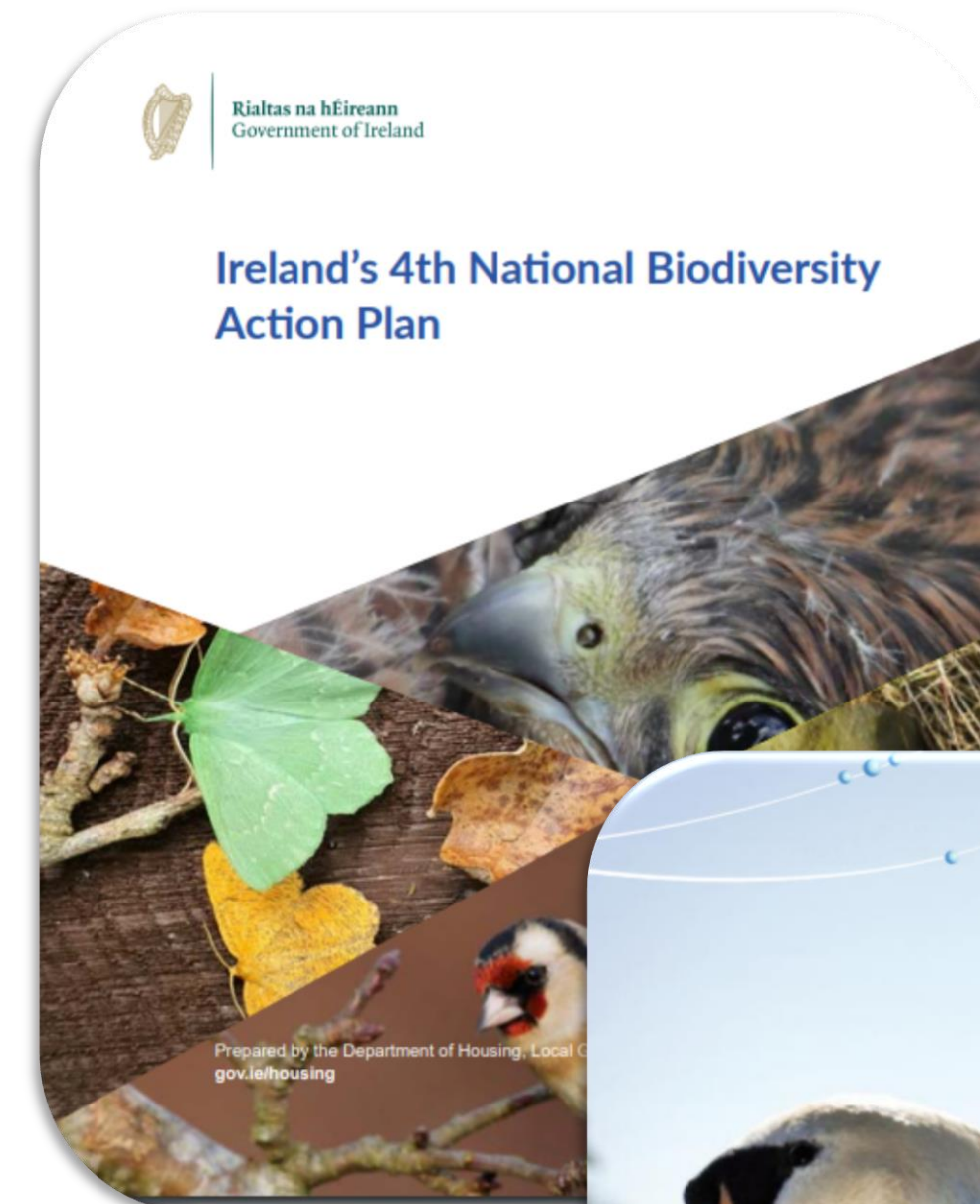
Biodiversity Action Plan Revision 2025 to 2030

Presentation by Paula Kearney Biodiversity Officer

Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 to 2030

Each Local Authority is tasked with the preparation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan as an action under Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan which was first adopted in 2002. The purpose of a Biodiversity Action Plan is to: -

“Identify sources and compile information in relation to the local biodiversity of an area, to set out a framework with a series of actions to protect local biodiversity, to raise awareness of biodiversity, its importance; why it is important on a local and global level and to encourage the involvement of all stakeholders to protect and enhance it for future generations”.



Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 to 2030: Biodiversity Crisis



Human domination of the planet means livestock and people far outweigh wild animals. Illustration: Valero Doval/The Guardian

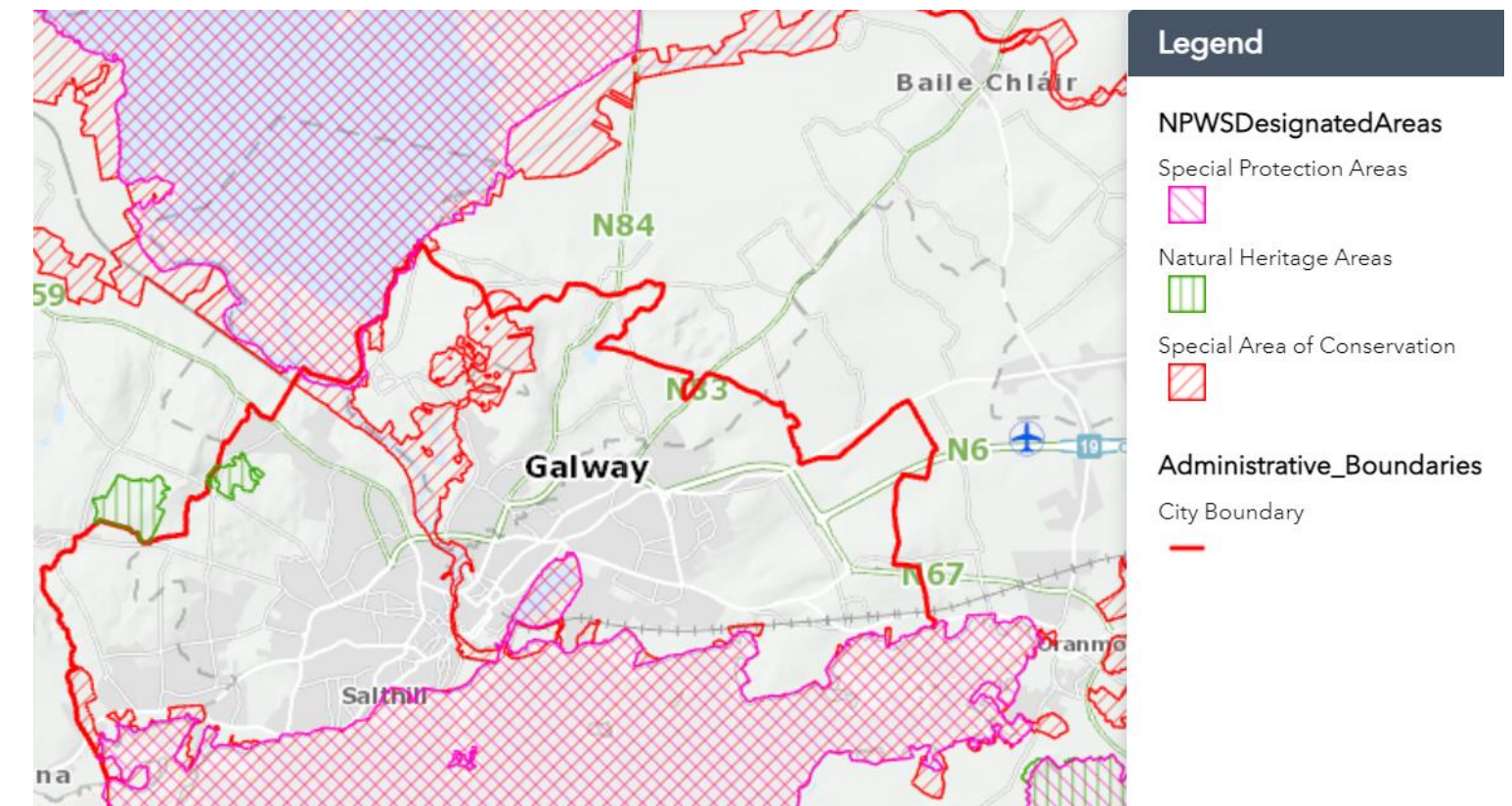
The Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service (IPBES) has published its global assessment on the state of the world's biodiversity and ecosystem services.

- Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'
- Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'
- Current global response insufficient;
- 'Transformative changes' needed to restore and protect nature;
- 1,000,000 species threatened with extinction

Revision of the current Galway City Biodiversity Action Plan 2014 – 2024 for the next 5 years 2025 to 2030 – to correspond to changes in our ecosystems, EU and national legislation, policy and future Directives.

Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 to 2030: Legislation

- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) & Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)
- Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2022
- EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
- Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC)
- Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011)
- EU soil strategy for 2030
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)



March 2021

Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 to 2030: Policy

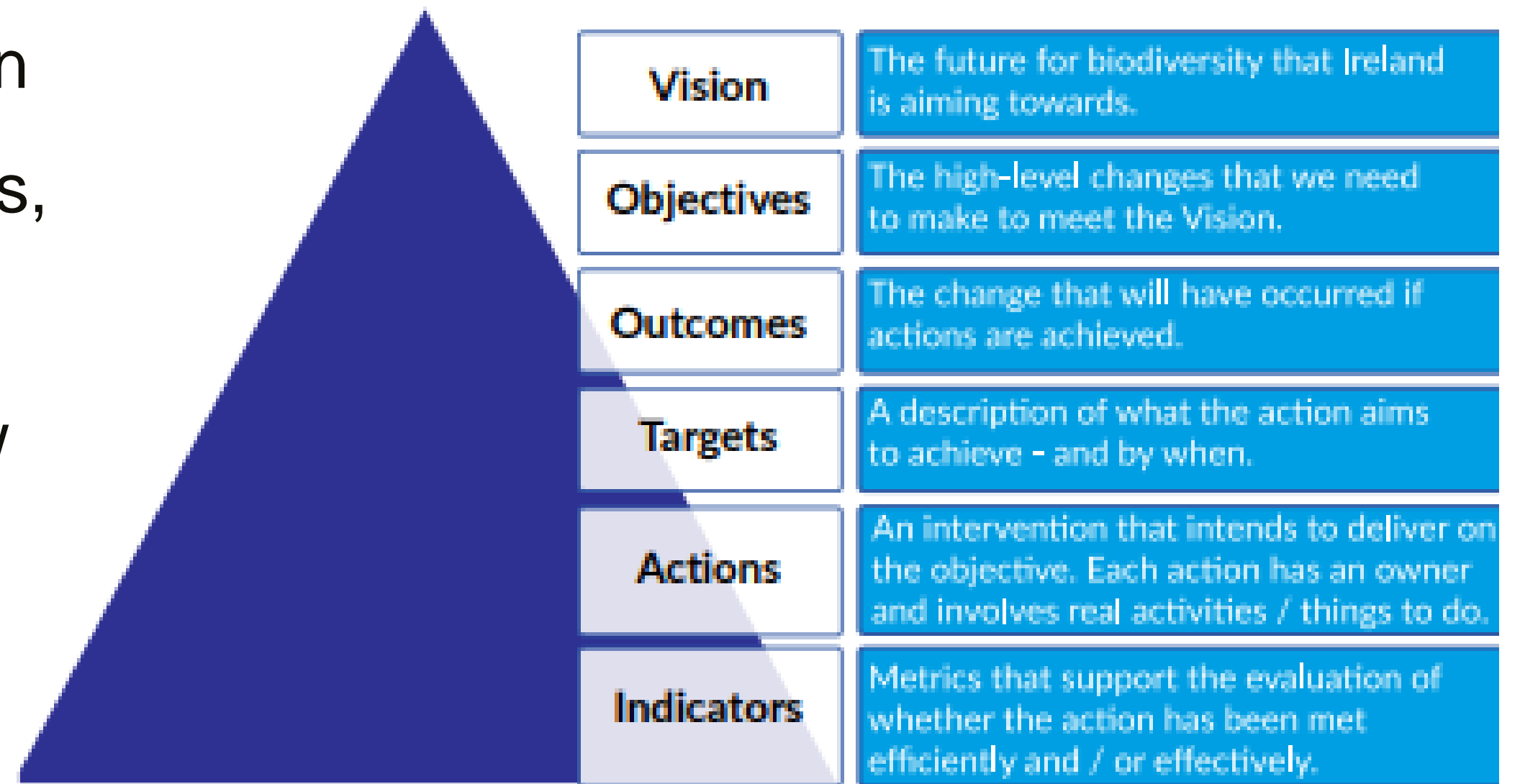
Local Biodiversity Action Plans are instrumental in effectively implementing international, national and local biodiversity conservation policy, including:

- The UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives
- National Biodiversity Plan
- Ireland's Biodiversity Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)
- Galway City Development Plan 2023 to 2029
- Galway City Council Climate Action Plan (in draft)



Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 to 2030 - Vision

The next revision of the Biodiversity Action Plan to be supported by a set of objectives, outcomes, targets, actions, and indicators which are interdependent and set out how Galway City will achieve its vision for biodiversity.



Draft Structure of the 4th NBAP

Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 to 2030



The objectives of Local Biodiversity Plan

- To develop and maintain the Galway City's Ecological Network and increase the resilience of the network by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.
- To tackle key pressures on species and habitats.
- To ensure that (inter)national targets for species and habitats are translated into effective conservation action at local level in Galway City.
- To raise public awareness and encourage involvement in biodiversity action by the wider community.
- To increase our knowledge and understanding of biodiversity and monitor impacts of biodiversity actions through ecological research.

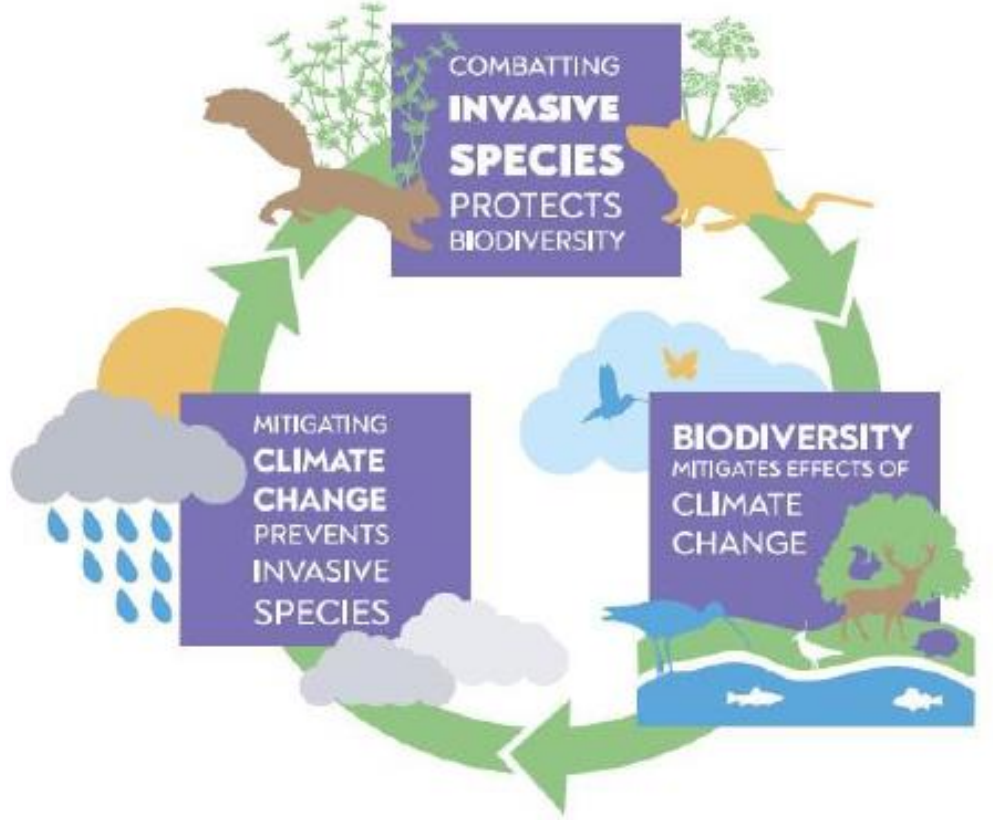
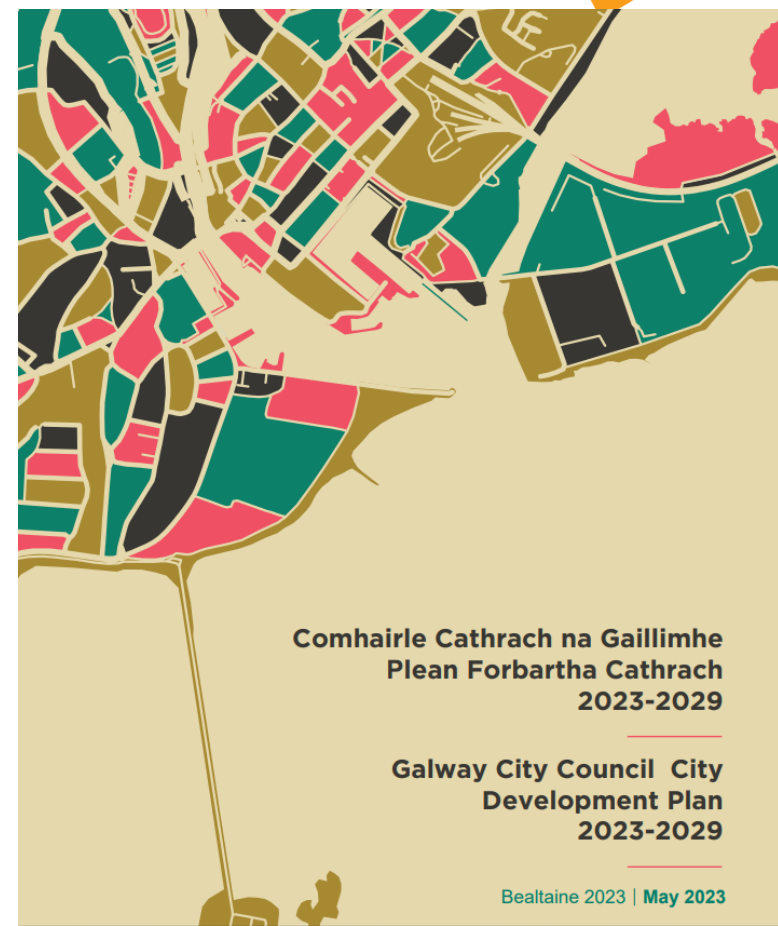
Biodiversity and Measurable Actions - Example



Biodiversity and Galway City Council Plans and Projects



GALWAY CITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SUMMARY REPORT



GALWAY CITY COUNCIL
Climate Adaptation Strategy
September 2019



What would a Charter for Sustainable Urbanism look like in an Irish context?
Programme and tickets at theaou.org/galway
6 CPD points available for each day attended.

A joint event between the AoU and RIAI in partnership with Galway City Council

THE ACADEMY OF URBANISM | RIAI

EU Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services. It incorporates green spaces (or blue if aquatic ecosystems are concerned) and other physical features in terrestrial (including coastal) and marine areas. On land, GI is present in rural and urban settings.



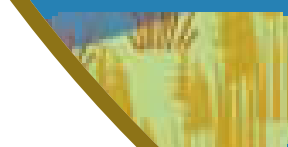
Potential components of a Green Infrastructure



- Core areas of high biodiversity value which act as hubs for GI, such as protected areas like Natura 2000 sites



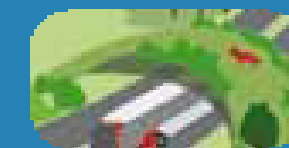
- Core areas outside protected areas containing large healthy functioning ecosystems



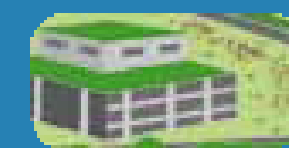
- Restored habitats that help reconnect or enhance existing natural areas, such as a restored reedbed or wild flower meadow



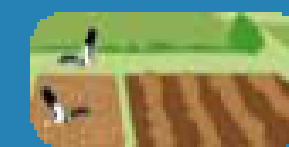
- Natural features acting as wildlife corridors or stepping stones, like small watercourses, ponds, hedgerows, woodland strips



- Artificial features that provide ecosystem services or assist in the delivery of GI, such as eco-ducts or green roofs



- Buffer zones that help improve water quality and permeability, and support biodiversity, e.g. wetlands



- Multi-functional land uses that can be managed to deliver multiple ecosystem services, e.g. food production and recreation



Biodiversity Action Plan Programme

Timeframe	Preparation of the Plan
2023	Review previous Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2024
2023	Review of biodiversity datasets such as habitat and species surveys and mapping to understand what information GCC holds on our biodiversity resource
2024	Carry out surveys to fill gaps the knowledge of the current state of our biodiversity to examine what actions we might carry forward and what new legislation, plan and policies should be considered as part of the revised plan.
Collaborate - Involve - Consult - Inform	
2023	Set up Biodiversity Forum
2023-2024	Meetings with Biodiversity Steering Group to steer the plan making process
2023-2024	Discussion with other LAs to examine common objectives of all our biodiversity plans
Apr-24	Internal presentation to GCC Staff Seniors to inform our staff of the plan and receive their input
May-24	Online workshops to invite feedback from interested groups and stakeholders such as NPWS, An Taisce, Birdwatch Ireland, LAWPRO, Bat Conservation Ireland, Coastwatch
May-24	Discussions with Universities to explore where collaborations are possible and where research can be incorporated into the plan.
May-24	Online presentation and Q&A with the biodiversity forum to include the GCCN to consult and inform in the development of the plan.
Jun-24	Drafting of the Themes, Objectives and Action of the plan
Jun-24	Internal presentation to Councillors to inform of the plan and receive their input
Jun-24	Internal presentation to Environment & Climate Action SPC to inform of the plan and receive their input
Jul-24	Presentation to biodiversity champions in estates
Jul - Aug 24	Open invitation to the general public to inform them of the plan and to receive feedback through GCC for example through "Have your Say" webpage
Oct-24	Final draft plan to be approved at SPC
2023-2024	SEA and AA of Plan
Dec-24	Final GCC Biodiversity Action Plan presented to City Council Meeting

Biodiversity Forum



The Biodiversity Forum will comprise representatives from the following groups interested and committed to protecting and restoring biodiversity, including:

- GCC departments;
- City Councillors & Politicians (nominated reps from each electoral area);
- Government and Statutory Organisations;
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs);
- Communities;
- Local Businesses;
- Academia;

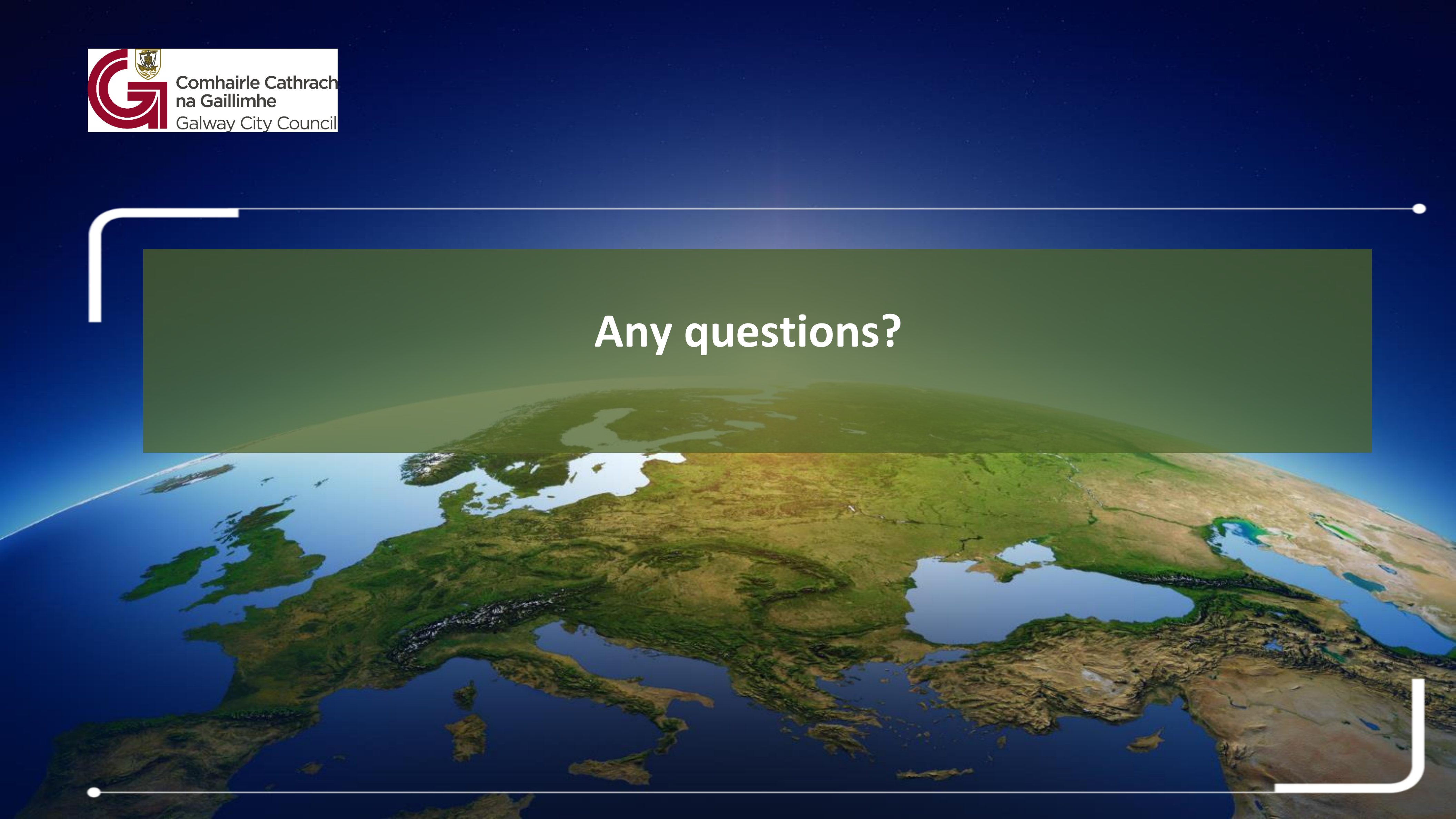
Biodiversity Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement



- **Stakeholder Group 1:** This group include GCC BAP Steering Committee, comprising GCC Departments, Agencies and other bodies that have a role in implementing the Plan
- **Stakeholder Group 2:** comprises some of the bodies and organisations that that are likely to be impacted by the recommendations of the BAP or will be involved in its implementation, such as GCC departments, City Councillors and Politicians, public bodies, environmental NGOs, and relevant industry groups.
- **Stakeholder Group 3:** Representatives from Group 1 & 2 with members of the public, including citizens, communities, academia and all other stakeholders who would like to have their say.

*Note: A stakeholder mapping exercise will be carried out to identify the members relevant to each group.

Any questions?





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