

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 09/03/2026

Subject: H&F Enhanced Biodiversity Duty 2026

Report of: Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology

Report author: Phoebe Shaw Stewart, Ecology & Adaptation Lead

Responsible Director: Bram Kainth, Executive Director of Place

SUMMARY

Hammersmith & Fulham Council has completed its first statutory Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (EBD) Report, covering actions taken between January 2024 and January 2026 to conserve and enhance biodiversity in line with the Environment Act 2021.

The report outlines how biodiversity is embedded across planning, parks management, community engagement, regeneration and climate programmes, with tangible outcomes including the creation of six Tiny Forests (dense, tennis-court sized native woodlands that rapidly establish diverse habitats) expanded meadow and long-grass management, and over 3,500 new trees planted. The borough's nature recovery work also highlights the ecological value of Wormwood Scrubs, where native planting and traditional low-impact meadow management using shire horses and scything has been implemented.

Other key achievements include over 46,000m² of new greening and SuDS on highways, strong community involvement via Friends of Parks groups and Nature Champions, and £3.25 million invested through the Green Investment Fund. The report also identifies priorities for 2026–2030, including embedding the forthcoming London Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), improving monitoring, expanding habitats, and maintaining statutory compliance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve publication of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham's Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report (2024–2026) to meet statutory reporting requirements under the Environment Act 2021.
2. To endorse the biodiversity priorities and monitoring approach for 2026–2030, including integration with the forthcoming London Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
3. To note that delivery of future biodiversity actions will be met within existing budgets, supplemented by external funding such as the Green Investment Fund, S106, and GLA programmes.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Corporate Plan and the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	Supports investment in green infrastructure and local skills through community gardens, microgrants, volunteering and partnerships
Creating a compassionate and inclusive council	Enhances access to nature and wellbeing, targets areas with low green space provision, and supports inclusive community led action.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Highlights engagement from Friends Groups, Nature Champions, community gardeners and local partners.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	Maximises opportunities for external funding and well as utilising existing resources where available.
Taking pride in H&F	Improves parks, streets and estates through habitat creation, meadows, ponds, Green Flag parks and biodiversity projects.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	Demonstrates statutory compliance, biodiversity net gain delivery, Urban Greening Factor improvements and nature-based climate adaptation.

Financial Impact

The proposed publication of the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (EBD) Report has no direct financial implications. Delivery of biodiversity actions will continue to be funded through existing service budgets and secured funds across Parks, Climate & Ecology and Healthy Streets. Additional secured funds are provided through external funding opportunities such as grants and developer contributions.

Kellie Gooch, Head of Finance (Place), 2 February 2026

Legal Implications

The council is legally required under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) to publish a biodiversity report by 1 January 2026 and every five years thereafter. Approval and publication of this report fulfils that statutory requirement. Future actions identified in the report also support compliance with Emerging London Local Nature Recovery Strategy duties and Biodiversity Net Gain regulations.

Joginder Bola, Senior Solicitor, 02/02/2026

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Reasons for Decision

1. To meet the Council's statutory obligation to report on action taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. To formally adopt the findings and priorities that will guide biodiversity action to 2030.
3. To support transparent, accountable and evidence-based delivery of the borough's Climate & Ecology Strategy.

Equality Implications

4. The report identifies disparities in access to green space and sets priorities that will particularly benefit residents living in areas of deficiency. No negative equality impacts are identified. An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed where individual projects are developed.

Risk Management Implications

5. This report does not present any significant risks.

Jules Binney, Risk and Assurance Manager, 2nd February 2026

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

6. The report directly supports delivery of climate resilience, carbon sequestration, cooling, flood mitigation and expanded habitats. It aligns with boroughwide Net Zero 2030 objectives and embeds nature-based solutions across planning and operational services.

Phoebe Shaw Stewart, Ecology & Adaptation Lead, 02/02/2026

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham 2026 Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report