

KEN BRADLEY

**DOE - Planning and Environmental Policy
Group**

**BIODIVERSITY DUTY AND
IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILS**



Department of the
Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk

WHAT IS THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY?

“Duty on every public body, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”



Department of the
Environment
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PUBLIC BODIES AND FUNCTIONS

- Departments, NDPBs, local authorities.
- NIHE, ELBs. Health Trusts, etc. etc.
- Statutory obligations/commitments



WHY IS A DUTY REQUIRED?

- Reinforces that conserving biodiversity is everyone's responsibility
- Reinforces international, EC, National and local commitment
- Reinforces long term commitment and priority



WHICH COUNCIL FUNCTIONS PROVIDE GREATEST SCOPE TO PROMOTE THE DUTY?

- Parks and amenity areas, open spaces
- Leisure, arts and sport facilities
- Community and play centres
- Building control and other areas of influence
- Education/awareness raising



HOW DO YOU ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE DUTY

- Thinking differently about the way we undertake our work
- Incorporate biodiversity into business planning
- Actions do not have to be strategic or grand scale
- Actions do not need to cost additional money or work



WHAT IS NEXT?

- Wildlife Bill is going through Assembly process
- Hope to have legislation in place by Summer recess
- Developing guidance material for all public bodies
- Short document with practical examples



COMPLIANCE WITH DUTY

- How do we know we are achieving the duty?
- Do we need a rigorous monitoring system?
- Do councils adopt the BIP process?
- Whose role is it to monitor?

