

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Conservation Policy Committee

The WSBRC Advisory Committee is currently suspended and WSBRC are in the process of recruiting new members and representatives. We would very much like to hear from local nature groups, environmental NGO's and those who share of values and interests and would like to be involved.

In the interim, WSBRCs work is guided by The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Conservation Policy Committee. This document gives a brief overview of that Committee's role and work.

1. The Role of the Committee

The Committee has been established by the Council of Trustees of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to monitor and review the achievement of the Trust's aim to create living landscapes and our objective to stand up for wildlife and offer support to staff, members and volunteers in their work.

The Committee does not have any delegated powers or budgetary responsibilities and any decisions reached by the Committee are in the form of advice to the Trustees and CEO.

The Committee works closely with the Conservation Management Committee in order to provide guidance on policy decisions that require operational implementation :

1. Provides guidance on matters of conservation policy and strategy and development and planning. An indicative (not exclusive) list of policy areas that may be considered by the committee is included as Appendix 1.
2. Work's with staff on developing policies and position statements, including providing guidance on Internal Policy relating to operational risk issues relevant to this committee or raised by other committees of the Wildlife Trust (e.g. ash dieback, dogs on reserves).
3. Receives quarterly reports and updates from staff, review's progress and recommends any action or activities as appropriate.
4. In conjunction with the Trust's Conservation Management Committee, advise's on opportunities to better protect, maintain and enhance the Trust's nature reserves.
5. Considers opportunities to increase monitoring and biological recording on the Trust's reserves by advising on monitoring strategy (e.g. priority sites/habitats/species) and evaluating the results.
6. Considers the desirability and feasibility of proposed additional land acquisitions and disposal of land.
7. Considers opportunities to work with developers, local authorities and others to enhance green infrastructure, create nature parks and enhance biodiversity.
8. Considers papers produced for the committee by any sub-groups and make recommendations to Council as appropriate.

2. Membership of Committee

The Committee is chaired by a nominated Trustee on a rotating basis and includes other Council members as well as Trust members not on Council. The Chairman of Trustees, Chief Executive, Head of Conservation, Nature Recovery Champion and WSBRC Manager are Ex Officio members. The primary point of contact for the Committee is the Head of Conservation.

Council review's and endorses membership of Committees annually at its first meeting following the AGM.

The Committee comprises up to a maximum of 12 and a minimum of 8 members with knowledge of the Trust, and with experience of at least one key policy area and a knowledge and understanding of how Policy impacts on the implementation and achievement of the Trust's strategic objectives. The Committee is considered Quorate if attended by 5 members.

Members will actively contribute to discussions bringing knowledge and understanding from their own perspective and experience, to the benefit and achievement of the Trust's strategic objectives.

The committee will review the breadth and extent of knowledge and experience represented by committee members, making recommendations to Council for additional representation as appropriate.

3. Specialist Working Groups

The committee may wish to set up temporary Working Groups to undertake specific tasks or review specific issues. The Conservation Policy Committee has (currently) one Specialist Advisory Group that reports to it; the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre.

4. Committee Meetings

The Committee meets four times a year, at least two to three weeks before WWT's Council meeting. Minutes of committee meetings will be included as an item for information in the Council papers. Any issues requiring consideration by the Council should be included as a separate item on the Council agenda.

Appendix 1: Example areas of potential interest to the Conservation Policy Committee

Agriculture/ELMS
Biological Recording, Survey and monitoring
Carbon emissions and capture from land management
Catchment management and planning
Ecosystem Services / Natural Capital
Environmental legislation and regulations
Government Policies relevant to implementation of WWT Strategic Objectives.
Nature Recovery Networks and Strategies
Landscape Scale Conservation
Land use, planning and development
Local Nature Partnership
Neonicotinoids
Offsetting
Protected Species
Renewable Energy
Science and Evidence / Environmental intelligence
Work of WSBRC