

EX7. Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity

The Executive considered a report by the Acting Director of Development Services which provided information on the Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity. Local authorities were invited to sign the Edinburgh Declaration prior to its presentation to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity 15 (COP15). Having considered the Council's environmental objectives, the Executive was asked to approve signing of the Edinburgh Declaration.

The Edinburgh Declaration was a high-level commitment on the role of subnational and local governments. The declaration was a call on national governments to adopt an ambitious agreement at COP15 to halt biodiversity loss, with greater inclusion of subnational governments, cities, and local authorities. Subnational governments, cities, and local authorities from across the globe were encouraged to sign the Edinburgh Declaration. The Declaration was open for signatories until May 2021 when COP15 was scheduled to be held.

Current signatories included the governments/assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Quebec, regional and local governments from 11 different countries including Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Uganda and Scotland. The current Scottish local authority signatories were: Aberdeenshire Council, South Ayrshire Council, Stirling Council and Glasgow City Council. It was understood that several other Scottish Local Authorities were working towards signing the declaration. COSLA had indicated that they planned to contact all Local Authorities to encourage them to sign the declaration and to seek approval for COSLA itself to become a signatory.

Decision

The Executive approved the signing of the Edinburgh Declaration by the Leader of the Council.