

Pollinators (Councillor Milne to raise)

The Council should recognise the value of pollinators, which contribute an estimated £600 million to the UK economy by enabling food production. In the past few years pollinator numbers have declined, which not only has an economic cost with regards to food production, but is also detrimental to biodiversity. The negative impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides are well documented, and are a contributing factor towards the fall in pollinator numbers. The UK government's declaration to commit to the EU's further restrictions of neonicotinoid pesticide applications, even in the event of Brexit, is therefore welcome.

I would request that the Committee agrees to write to the European Commission outlining Belfast City Council's support of the further EU restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticide applications and also write to the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) detailing both support for the proposed restrictions and agreement that such restrictions should be retained in the event of Brexit.

Additionally, I would request that the Committee agrees to further improve local biodiversity outcomes by investigating the feasibility of increasing and improving habitat provision for local pollinators, as outlined in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2015-2020).

Councillor Georgina Milne

29th November, 2017