

Developers' Meeting

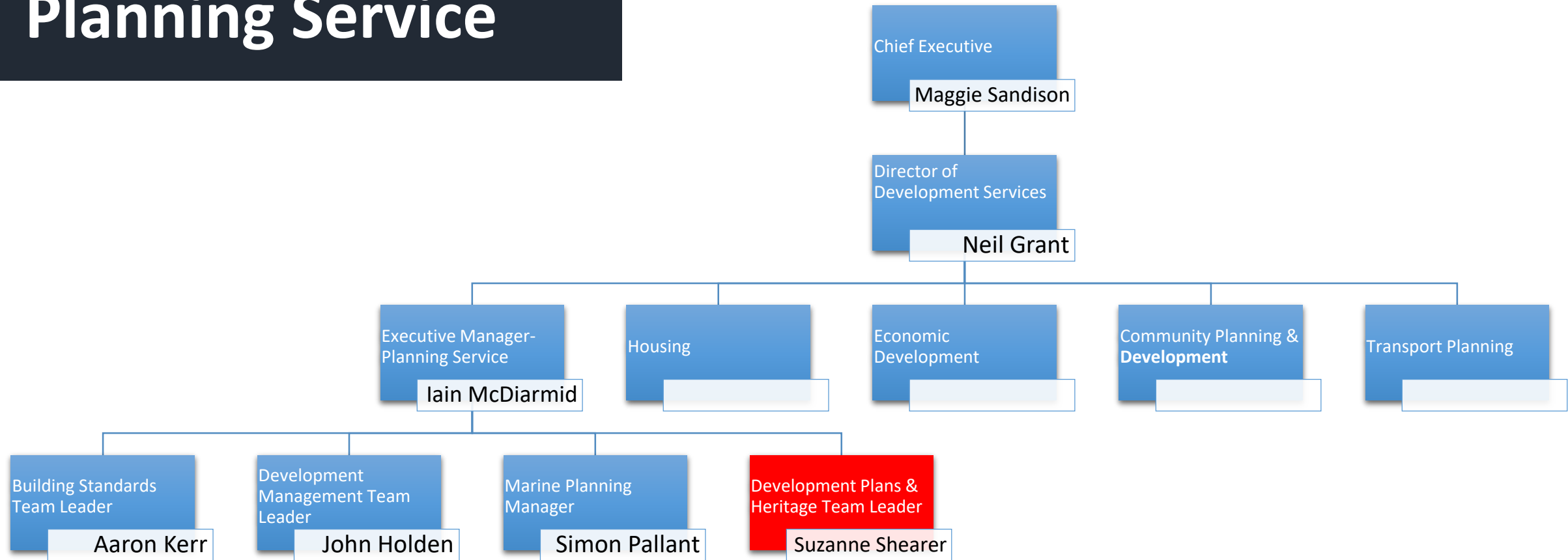
Biodiversity Net Gain

24th March 2021



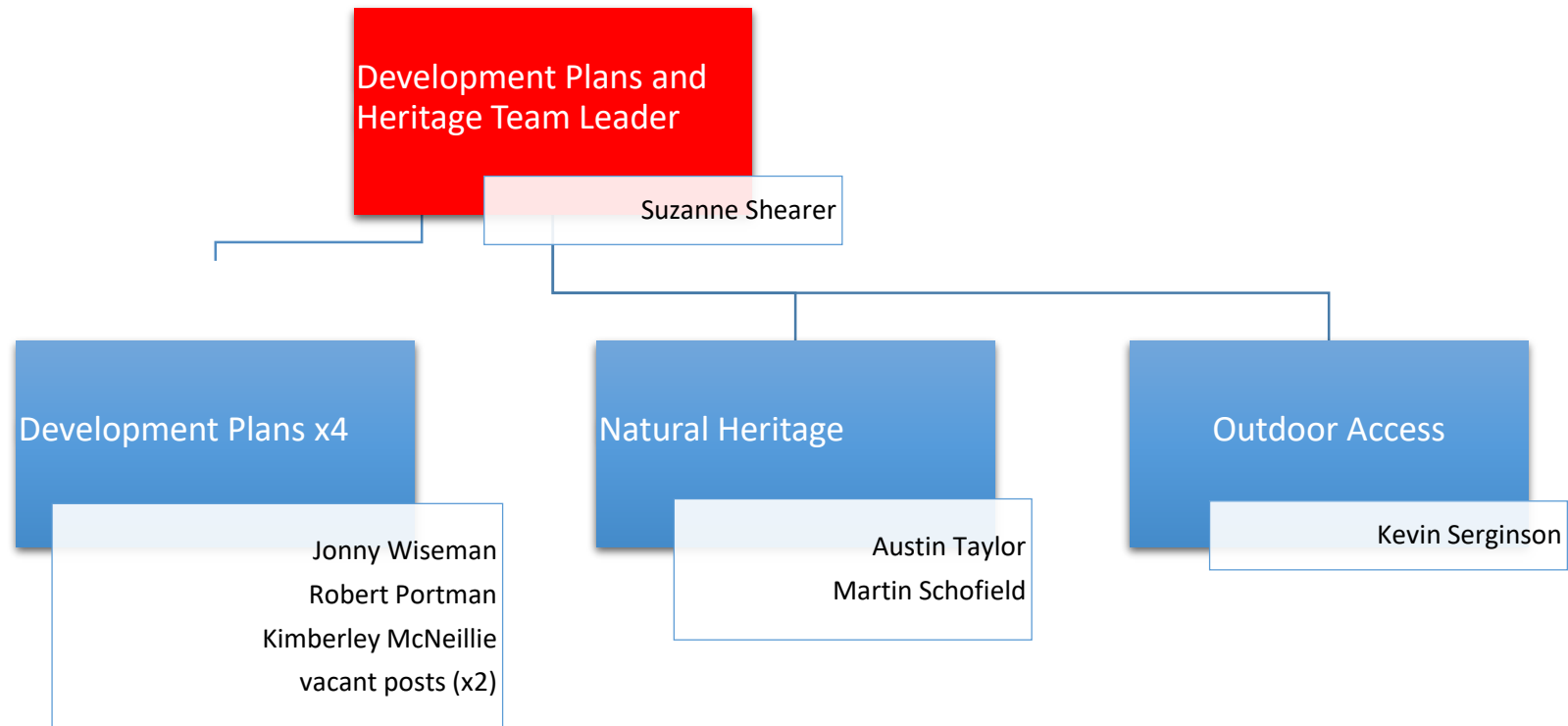
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Planning Service



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Development Plans & Heritage



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Natural Heritage

- Provide specialist advice on the landscape and nature conservation impacts of terrestrial and marine planning applications.
- Manage the LNCS and LLA programme
- Represent Shetland Islands Council at various meetings supporting the delivery of nature conservation work in Shetland
- Undertake work in support of the production of the Local Development Plan including the Habitats Regulations Assessment and leading on the Strategic Environmental Assessment.



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Biodiversity Net Gain

Agenda

- What is Biodiversity
- What is Biodiversity Net Gain
- Why is Biodiversity Net Gain Required



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Biodiversity (and why does it matter)

What – The name we give to the variety of all life on earth. All living things exist within their own communities, or ecosystems - oceans, forests, deserts, ice caps and even cities. All this put together is biodiversity: the volume of life on Earth as well as how different species interact with each other and with the physical world around them (Natural History Museum)

Why (does it matter) – “without biodiversity, there is no future for humanity”
(Prof David Macdonald, Oxford University)



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Biodiversity



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People Benefit from Nature

- Life-sustaining services - climate moderation and greenhouse gas removal; soil for plants
- Human needs - food, oxygen, water, basis for human activity and industry
- Economic Benefits - energy, income, places to live
- Social Benefits – mental and physical health, increased workplace productivity and increased hospital recovery rate
- Health benefits – basis of nature prescriptions, simple enjoyment
- Community well-being and spiritual values



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Biodiversity Net Gain

What is it?

Generally considered to be a means of ensuring biodiversity improvement is secured as part of a development project

- It should be appropriate for the location chosen



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Biodiversity Net Gain – A Lego Example



Where?

Onsite or Offsite



Photo – RSPB Scotland



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The Mitigation Hierarchy

British Standard for Biodiversity (BS 42020:2013) establishes Mitigation Hierarchy:

- (Information – about existing habitats and species)
- **Avoid - damaging habitats and harm to species**
- **Minimise - damage to habitats and harm to species**
- **Remediate - restore any lost or damaged habitats**
- **Compensate – for any habitats and species damaged, harmed or lost**



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Scottish Legislation and Policy

Shetland LDP and Development Management practice is bound by legislation and should follow policy

Biodiversity legislation is of 2 basic types:

- Directs or enables protection
 - E.g. protection of habitats and species - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- Directs or enables actions
 - E.g. further the conservation of biodiversity – Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004



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Scottish Legislation and Policy

Biodiversity policy set out in (e.g.)

National Planning Framework 3

Scottish Planning Policy

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

All such policy must account for provisions of international treaties that the UK or Scotland has signed up to

- E.g. Convention on Biological Diversity

Planning authorities need very good reasons to depart from any of these policies



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Scottish Legislation and Policy

Coming Soon (2021/2022)

The Environment Strategy for Scotland: Visions and Outcomes

“Scotland’s nature is protected and restored with flourishing biodiversity and clean and healthy air, water, seas and soils.”

The NPF4 Position Statement:

“Securing positive effects for biodiversity from new developments. We are developing ambitious new proposals which deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity from development.”



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Opportunities for BNG in Shetland

- SuDS
- Tree and shrub planting
- Green Roofs
- Bird Boxes
- Stone walls
- Many we haven't mentioned - what are your ideas?
Please put your ideas in the chat
- BNG now legal obligation in England - coming soon to Scotland?



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Opportunities in Shetland



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Consider Habitat Type and Condition

Basic Requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain

- It is a target and a process
- Must deliver measurable gain from baseline conditions
- Projects must follow the 'mitigation hierarchy'
- Importantly must avoid loss of irreplaceable habitat e.g. blanket bog
- Must be sustainable and long-term



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Business Case

- Improved Customer Relations
- Makes planning permission more likely
- Improved Corporate Image and Public Relations
- Higher Quality Developments
- More desirable places to live – the importance of access to green space and nature for mental and physical health has been proved. Really highlighted during the pandemic.

Again – what are your ideas? Please put in the chat



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Maintenance

This needs to be considered during the design process options include

- A management plan?
- Contracts

Future Standards BS 8683 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain – Specification.



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Thank You 😊

Any Questions?

**For further information
please contact**

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or visit

www.shetland.gov.uk/natural-historic-environment/natural-heritage

