

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
15 JANUARY 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Simon Machen - Corporate Director Growth and Regeneration	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller - Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Gemma Wildman - Principal Planning Officer James Fisher - Wildlife Officer	Tel. 01733 863824 01733 453543

PETERBOROUGH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that Cabinet approves the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD for the purpose of public consultation.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following consideration by the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee 10 January 2018.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD in order for Cabinet to approve it for public consultation.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.9, 'To commission reviews by and determine any changes of policy proposed by the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions making recommendations to Council about proposed changes to the Council's major policy and budget framework.'

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The current Green Grid Strategy was published in 2007, though it was not formally adopted by the Council at that time. In addition, various biodiversity planning guidance documents are currently available on the Council's website, having being revised several times during the last 5-10 years.

- 4.2 The SPD aims to:
- Bring together appropriate material, and gain formal council approval for the document.
 - Support the emerging Local Plan. It will not introduce new policy but explains how policies in the Local Plan should be implemented.
 - Act as a material consideration when determining planning applications and is intended

to act as a “one stop shop” source of guidance and advice in relation to both biodiversity and green infrastructure (GI).

- Incorporate relevant new Government legislation and policies, with the “Lawton Review” and associated Natural Environment White Paper being key influences.
- Include an updated list of Priority GI Projects which have been carefully assessed against relevant criteria to ensure that the limited resources available are focussed on the most deliverable and beneficial initiatives.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The draft SPD has been developed by the City Council working in close partnership with a small working group consisting of a range of conservation organisations and land managers.
- 5.2 In July 2016 a wider stakeholder engagement workshop was held, attended by 40 people, representing 33 different organisations, which further informed the priorities and areas of focus for this Draft SPD.
- 5.3 In July 2016 a presentation was also made at the City Council’s Planning Customer Forum to inform and invite feedback to help inform the Draft SPD.
- 5.4 Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee received a copy of the draft SPD on 10 January. Any comments it makes will be verbally reported to Cabinet.
- 5.5 Subject to Cabinet approval on 15 January 2018, officers propose to consult on the draft SPD in Spring 2018 (it is a legal requirement to undertake such public consultation). That public consultation will allow officers to collect views from developers and other interested parties. The public will be invited to comment, though due to the technical nature of the document, it is more likely that comments will be received from those involved in development and environmental sector.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will approve (with any amendments as it sees fit) the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD for the purpose of public consultation in Spring 2018. Following public consultation, the SPD will be amended accordingly and then will be recommended to Cabinet for adoption later in Autumn 2018 (alongside, or shortly after, the Peterborough Local Plan).

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 There is no statutory duty to prepare this SPD. However, without this “one stop shop”, developers could be confused or misinformed in relation to appropriate consideration and implementation of biodiversity and green infrastructure requirements in Peterborough. This could have an impact on development coming forward as additional time would need to be spent on applications where biodiversity and GI issues occur.
- 7.2 In addition, this SPD provides a focus for identifying and driving forward delivery of priority GI projects in partnership with a wide range of environmental organisations and community groups within Peterborough.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Alternative options considered were:

Option 1 - do not update the 2006 Green Grid Strategy and various biodiversity guidance notes available on the Council’s website. This would represent a missed opportunity to simplify the process for those requiring advice in relation to both biodiversity and green infrastructure, as such this is not the preferred option.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 The SPD is not intended to introduce financial implications for the Council or developers, but instead to provide guidance to assist with meeting current legislative and policy requirements.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 The council must follow statutory regulations in preparing and consulting on the SPD. After the statutory process concludes, the final SPD document will be recommended to Cabinet for adoption. Once adopted, the document will be used as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The SPD is not intended to introduce legal implications for the council or developers, but instead to provide guidance to assist with meeting current relevant environmental legislation.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no equalities implications anticipated.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, Defra 2011
- 10.2 Making Space for Nature: a Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network, Defra 2010
- 10.3 The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, Defra 2011
- 10.4 Peterborough Green Grid Strategy, 2007.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD.

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