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| | <h2>Policy and Resources Committee</h2> <h3>10th October 2017</h3> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Title</p> | <p>Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p> | <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p> | <p>All</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Status</p> | <p>Public</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p> | <p>No</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Key</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p> | <p>Appendix A – Consultation Report Appendix B – Green Infrastructure SPD Appendix C – Strategic Environmental Screening Assessment</p> |
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| <h2>Summary</h2> |
| <p>The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) identifies for protection and enhancement a connected network of green and blue (water) open spaces within Barnet. The SPD provides a clear vision for delivering a range of benefits including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing the physical, social and mental health of residents; • making Barnet a better place to live, work, invest, learn and play; • joining communities together by creating new green links between different parts of the Borough; • preparing for the impacts of climate change by controlling flooding, reducing pollution and moderating temperatures; and • protecting and enhancing the Borough’s trees and their contribution to cultural and natural heritage. <p>Once adopted, the SPD will provide guidance on the implementation of Local Plan policies</p> |

and be a material consideration in determining planning applications, as well as serving to aid infrastructure delivery.

Recommendations

- 1. That Committee notes the consultation responses received to the Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and agrees the consequential proposed changes to the SPD outlined and explained in the Consultation Report at Appendix A.**
- 2. That Committee delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to make any necessary changes to the final SPD (Appendix B) in consultation with the Leader.**
- 3. Subject to agreeing recommendation 2, that Committee agree adoption of the Green Infrastructure SPD.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Production of the Green Infrastructure SPD is identified in the Council's Local Development Scheme and fulfils the commitment to provide additional guidance on green infrastructure given in the Local Plan (Core Strategy and Development Management Policies). The SPD provides detailed guidance and will inform the implementation of relevant Local Plan policies in respect of green infrastructure.
- 1.2 The provision of green infrastructure contributes towards creating communities where people want to live, work and invest; delivering benefits not only to the environment but also to the development of better places. A key feature of green infrastructure is that individual assets, spaces and places can be joined together as part of a wider network, and that these networks are strategically planned for. Given the wide-ranging and cross-cutting nature of its subject matter, the SPD has been produced in collaboration with colleagues across the Council, in particular Greenspaces and Public Health.
- 1.3 The SPD provides an understanding of the features and benefits of the Borough's existing green infrastructure network. Focussing on the benefits that green infrastructure can bring, the SPD articulates the vision for delivery of the Council's aspirations; outlining the capacity of green infrastructure to deliver the range of benefits, it explains how these can be promoted and delivered through the Council's existing policies and processes. The SPD also signposts relevant Council policies and initiatives, including the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (March 2016), Playing Pitch Strategy (March 2017) and the recently approved Barnet Tree Policy (September 2017).
- 1.4 The Green Infrastructure SPD (see Appendix B):

- Provides an explanation of how green infrastructure should be a guiding principle for the design of new development, and in planning for sustainable development, through policy at all levels.
- Covers the multi-functional and wider sub-regional context of Barnet's green infrastructure covering the Mayor of London's consultation Draft Environment Strategy; the All London Green Grid as well as working with neighbouring authorities and partners to establish Area Frameworks for the identification, creation and management of new green spaces as part of: i) Brent Valley & Barnet Plateau; and ii) Lea Valley & Finchley Ridge Green Grid Areas. The SPD reflects objectives in the Watling Chase Community Forest Plan.
- Highlights the economic appraisal (Corporate Natural Capital Accounting) that the Council is developing to assess the value of the economic, social and environmental benefits derived from green infrastructure assets.
- Addresses the need for a long term strategic investment framework and mechanisms for delivery - setting out issues and opportunities for future management, funding, creation and enhancement of green infrastructure assets.
- Addresses Green infrastructure related issues likely to be addressed through policies the review of the Local Plan, an initial consultation draft of which is expected next autumn.

1.5 Prior to adopting the SPD the Council was required¹ to undertake a minimum four week period of public consultation on the draft document. In addition the Local Planning Authority (LPA) must also have prepared a statement setting out:

- a) persons the LPA consulted when preparing the SPD;
- b) a summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and
- c) how those issues have been addressed in the SPD.

The Council consulted on a Draft Green Infrastructure SPD for a six week period during July and August this year and received 32 responses from a range of national organisations, local groups and residents. All representations have been carefully considered in finalising the SPD - the Consultation Statement setting out individual comments and the Council's response to each of these is attached at Appendix A.

1.6 A supplementary planning document should be prepared where it can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery. (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), March 2012 – paragraph 153 refers). In so doing, it should build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on the policies in the Local Plan without adding

¹ Under the Town and Country (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 (Regulations 12, 13 & 35 refer)

unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development. (National Planning Practice Guidance - Local Plans – paragraph 28 refers²).

- 1.7 Government regulations³ set out the requirements for producing a SPD. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a requirement to consider the environmental effects of a plan or proposal and SPD's usually only require sustainability appraisal in exceptional circumstances where there are significant environmental effects. In this instance, for the reasons given in the SEA Screening Assessment, (attached at Appendix C), the Green Infrastructure SPD is considered unlikely to have significant environmental effects that consequently SEA is not considered necessary.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Production of this SPD will help in providing a clear vision for delivering a range of benefits for people who live and work in the Borough. These benefits include:-

- enhancing the physical, social and mental health of residents;
- making Barnet a better place to live, work, invest, learn and play;
- joining communities together by creating new green links between different parts of the borough;
- preparing the Borough for the impacts of climate change by controlling flooding, reducing pollution and moderating temperatures; and
- protecting and enhancing the Borough's trees and their contribution to cultural and natural heritage.

- 2.2 The following changes have been incorporated into the Green Infrastructure SPD:

- References to green infrastructure proposals outlined in the Mayor of London's consultation Draft Environment Strategy; the Government's UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide emissions, and the Government response to CLG Select Committee report on the future of public parks.
- Section on allotments expanded to also include reference to community food growing initiatives including the Mayor of London's Capital Growth Initiative.
- References to Archaeological Priority Areas; need for updating of the Public Rights of Way definitive map, and greater recognition of the recreational and biodiversity benefits of the Welsh Harp.

² Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 12-028-20140306 - Revision date: 06 03 2014

³ Regulations 11 to 16 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012

- A large number of minor changes made throughout the SPD to take account of additions, revisions and corrections highlighted in the consultation representations received and detailed in the Consultation Report (Appendix A).

Changes sought by a number of the representations would require revision to existing or creation of new planning policies which it is not possible to accommodate through this SPD. Policy changes suggested will however be considered in the review of the Local Plan.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The alternative option is to not produce a Green Infrastructure SPD. Failure to do so would run counter to the commitment given in both the LDS and the Local Plan, that additional guidance on green infrastructure will be provided. Not producing the SPD would be a missed opportunity to highlight green infrastructure considerations and opportunities across the range of Council services and priorities when preparing and determining applications for new developments. This may also result in the Council's over-riding priorities and objectives not being fully realised.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Once adopted, the final SPD will be capable of being used as a material consideration in the determination of future planning applications.
- 4.2 The adoption process will involve:
- Preparation of an adoption statement.
 - Publishing the Green Infrastructure SPD on the Council's website, Barnet House reception and local libraries together with the adoption and SEA statements for a period of 3 months from the date of adoption.
 - Sending a copy of the adoption statement to any person who either responded to the consultation or has asked to be notified of the adoption of the Green Infrastructure SPD.
 - After the planning challenge period has expired, updating relevant pages on Engage Barnet and the Planning, Conservation and Building Control section of the Council's website.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Approval of the Green Infrastructure SPD helps in meeting the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-20 which states:-

- Barnet's Parks and Greenspaces will be amongst the best in London;
- The Council will develop more innovative ways of maintaining its Parks and Greenspaces; including through greater partnerships with community groups

and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the Borough.

5.1.2 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-20 covers:-

- In terms of healthy lifestyles that: smoking, bad diet and a lack of exercise are the main causes of premature death in Barnet; only 1% of all trips in Barnet between 2007/08 – 2009/10 were made by bike, and pollution levels are higher along arterial routes, particularly the A406 North Circular, M1, A1 and A5.
- Sport England – Active People Survey evidences significant levels of inactivity within Barnet with, according to the Sport England Active People Survey Data (APS9 Quarter 2), 51.9% of the population not currently taking part in any sport.
- Developing and improving the accessibility and quality of open spaces across the Borough to support healthy outcomes, underpinned by the Barnet Open Spaces Strategy.
- Utilising open space to coordinate and support recreational and competitive activity.
- Barnet Sport and Physical Activity Needs Assessment (2012) highlighted that whilst health behaviours and outcomes are more favourable in Barnet than in England as a whole, sport and physical activity rates and the use of outdoor spaces are below the national average.
- The need to maximise the potential of improvements to and changes in the management of open spaces where this could support improved mental wellbeing.

5.1.3 Investment in, and improvement of, Barnet's greenspaces to support growth and wellbeing in Barnet will also result in the delivery of a range of outcomes linked to other Council strategies including:-

- Growth Strategy: creating the environment for growth;
- Regeneration Strategy;
- Fit and Active Barnet Strategy;
- Community Safety Strategy;
- Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy.

5.1.4 The contents of the SPD are in accordance with the following corporate documents which play a key role in enhancing and protecting Barnet's open spaces and leisure activities:

- Playing Pitch Strategy 2017
- Barnet Tree Policy 2017
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2016
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-20
- Sports and Physical Activity Strategy 2014
- Sports and Physical Activity Needs Assessment 2012
- Open Space, Sport Recreational Facilities Needs Assessment 2009.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The cost of preparing this SPD is included in the Strategic Planning Core Fee budgets for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

5.2.2 The Green Infrastructure SPD seeks to protect, improve and enhance the natural environment of Barnet. Individual projects referenced in the SPD will be developed and delivered in accordance with both environmental and financial sustainability and outcomes.

5.2.3 Through the SPD consultation process the Council has engaged with a range of stakeholders including the GLA, neighbouring authorities, statutory, national and local organisations, community groups and residents.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The key themes within the Green Infrastructure SPD being:

- Social outcomes and benefits;
- Environmental Outcomes and Benefits;
- Economic Outcomes and Benefits

5.3.2 Social benefits will be secured through opportunity to increase access to green infrastructure assets in the Borough. This includes the health benefits, but also benefits of participation in sports, leisure and recreation pursuits afforded by the Borough's publically accessible open spaces.

5.3.3 Economic benefits will be delivered through the incorporation of green infrastructure in regeneration proposals, leading to sustainable development and economic growth.

5.3.4 Environmental benefits will be delivered through implementation of guidance leading to enhanced biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable travel, flood risk management and improved air and water quality.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Under the Council's Constitution, Document 15 Responsibility for Functions Annex A the Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for under paragraph (2) "the overall strategic direction of the Council including the following specific functions/activities: consider for approval and adoption Local Development Scheme, Statement of Community Involvement, Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Briefs."

5.4.2 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the requirements for the production and adoption of a supplementary

planning document.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The management of risk is undertaken on a continual basis and reported as part of the Council's Quarterly Performance regime and considered as part of the Performance and Contract Management Committee quarterly monitoring report. Risks are managed through the project boards and are reviewed and revised at board meetings.

5.5.2 Failing to produce a SPD covering green infrastructure is likely to result in less awareness of green infrastructure considerations and good practice. In turn resulting in missed opportunities to enhance the existing green network and effectively incorporate green infrastructure facilities and healthy lifestyle considerations in new developments. Reducing the potential to secure social, environmental and economic benefits delivered through the promotion of green infrastructure initiatives will result in Council aspirations and priorities not being fully achieved.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The Equalities and Diversity Act, 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act, 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people of different groups; and
- Foster good relations between people from different groups.

Relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

5.6.2 The SPD aims to create fully inclusive opportunities to access and enjoy the Borough's extensive green spaces network. Through public health benefits, accessibility and regeneration opportunities, there are opportunities to link and promote a range of Council service areas.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 Consultation on the SPD took place over 6 weeks in Summer 2017. This took place in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement.

5.7.2 There were 32 responses received during the consultation from a mix of statutory stakeholders (including the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England), national organisations and interest groups, Theresa Villiers MP, Barnet amenity societies, developers and local residents.

5.7.3 A Consultation Report summarising the main issues raised is set out at Appendix A. The Report sets out the Council's response to each comment

made and indicates where changes have been made to the SPD.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 [Barnet Local Plan Core Strategy](#), September 2012
- 6.2 Barnet Development Management DPD, September 2012
- 6.3 [Barnet's Statement of Community Involvement](#), July 2015
- 6.4 Policy and Resources Committee, 27th June 2017, agenda item 9
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=8736&Ver=4>