

	<h2>Policy and Resources Committee</h2> <h3>27<sup>th</sup> June 2017</h3>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p>Draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix A – Draft Green Infrastructure SPD</p>
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<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>The draft Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) identifies for protection and enhancement a connected network of open spaces within Barnet. The draft SPD provides a clear vision for delivering a range of benefits including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhancing the physical and mental health of residents;</li> <li>• making Barnet a better place to live, work, invest, learn and play;</li> <li>• joining communities together by creating new green links between different parts of the Borough;</li> <li>• preparing for the impacts of climate change by controlling flooding, reducing pollution and moderating temperatures; and</li> <li>• protecting and enhancing the Borough’s trees and their contribution to cultural and natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p>Once adopted the SPD will provide guidance on existing Local Plan policies and be</p>

capable of being a material consideration in determining planning applications as well as serving to aid infrastructure delivery.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Committee notes the contents of the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) attached at Appendix A.**
- 2. That the Committee approves the draft SPD as the basis for public consultation.**

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 Production of the Green Infrastructure SPD is identified in the Council's Local Plan Local Development Scheme and fulfils the commitment to provide additional guidance on green infrastructure given in the Core Strategy and Development Management DPDs. 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 places 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 draft SPD has been produced in collaboration with colleagues across the Council including Greenspaces and Public Health.
- 1.3 The draft 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 draft SPD articulates the vision for delivery of the Council's aspirations; outlining the capacity of green infrastructure to deliver a range of benefits and how these can best be promoted and delivered through the Council's existing policies and processes. The draft SPD signposts relevant Council policies and initiatives, including the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (March 2016) and Playing Pitch Strategy (March 2017) as well as the emerging Barnet Tree Policy.
- 1.4 The Draft Green Infrastructure SPD (see Appendix A) covers :
  - An explanation of how green infrastructure should be considered as a guiding principle for the design of new development and in planning for sustainable development through policy at all levels.
  - The multi-functional and wider sub-regional context of Barnet's green infrastructure; including as part of the All London Green Grid

working with neighbouring authorities to establish Area Frameworks for 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 and reflecting objectives in the Watling Chase Community Forest Plan.

- The taking of an economic appraisal - Corporate Natural Capital Accounting – that the Council is developing to assess the value green infrastructure assets.
- The need for a strategic investment framework for the long term and mechanisms for delivery - setting out issues and opportunities for future management, funding, creation and enhancement of green infrastructure assets.
- Green infrastructure related issues likely to be addressed through policies included in the replacement Local Plan, an initial consultation draft of which is expected next summer.

- 1.5 Prior to adopting the SPD the Council is required<sup>1</sup> to undertake a minimum 4 week period of public consultation. In addition the LPA must also prepare 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.

Also, for the purpose of seeking representations on the SPD, make copies of that statement and the SPD available for inspection and publish on the LPA's website.

## **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 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.

## **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 the LDS, and legitimate expectation given in the Local Plan, that additional guidance on green

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

infrastructure will be provided. Not producing the SPD would be a missed opportunity to provide a document that highlights 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 The draft SPD will be subject to public consultation over the summer in accordance with the requirements of the Local Plan Regulations<sup>2</sup>. Following consultation the draft document will be revised in light of comments received. Once adopted the final SPD will be capable of being used as a material consideration in the determination of future planning applications.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The Green Infrastructure SPD helps to meet 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 2012-15 states:-

- 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;
- Within Barnet the health costs of physical inactivity currently amount to £6.7 million. According to the Sport England Active People Survey Data (APS9 Quarter 2) 43.8% of the Borough are currently inactive and would like to do more;
- 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;

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<sup>2</sup> Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012

- Community Safety Strategy;
- Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy.

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

- Playing Pitches Strategy 2017
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2016
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15
- 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 draft SPD is included in the Strategic Planning Core Fee budgets for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

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

5.2.3 Through the consultation process the Council will engage with stakeholders before finalising the contents and drafting of the SPD. Stakeholders include the GLA, neighbouring authorities, statutory, national and local organisations, the local community and ward members.

## **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 draft Green Infrastructure SPD:

- 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 [Section 6.5 of the Responsibility for Functions](#) (Council Constitution) defines a key decision as one which:

- will result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

5.4.3 Regulations 11 to 16 of 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 aim is to create a fully inclusive opportunities to access and enjoy the Borough's extensive green spaces network. The purpose of the opportunities and initiatives described in the SPD is to ensure that the broad diversity of Barnet's residents and communities continue to the benefit from green infrastructure community assets and that their needs and aspirations are reflected in the provision that the Council makes.

5.6.3 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 It is proposed that a period of formal consultation on the draft Green Infrastructure SPD is undertaken over a 6 week period from 6<sup>th</sup> July until 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Consultation will entail letters being e-mailed to stakeholders on the Local Plan consultation database. A Public Notice will be published in the Barnet Press to publicise the consultation and the draft SPD will be published on the Council's website.

## **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