

Decision Maker: **Development Control Committee & Environment PDS**

Date: **12th January & 28th February 2012**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **DRAFT LONDON'S DOWNLANDS GREEN GRID
FRAMEWORK**

Contact Officer: Alister Hayes, Heritage Co-ordinator
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Chief Officer: Chief Planner, Bob McQuillan

Ward: Borough wide

1. Reason for report

This report provides members with the draft London's Downlands Framework which covers the London Boroughs of Bromley, Croydon and Sutton. The Framework is part of the Mayor of London's All London Green Grid for which he is consulting on Supplementary Planning Guidance

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

That the London's Downlands Framework is endorsed by Members of the Committee and is forwarded to the Environment PDS for joint endorsement and delivery.

Comments on the All London Green Grid and the Geodiversity SPGs are invited by the Mayor before 27th January 2012. Comments on the London World Heritage Sites are invited by the Mayor before January 20th 2012.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring cost.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Planning Division
 4. Total current budget for this head: £3.3m
 5. Source of funding: Existing Revenue Budgets
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 98
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not known
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: <please select>
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All Borough residents
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The All London Green Grid is being developed to provide a strategic interlinked network of high quality green infrastructure and open spaces that connect with town centres, public transport nodes, the countryside in the urban fringe, the Thames and major employment and residential areas. 11 Area Frameworks help to support the delivery of the All London Green Grid objectives. The London's Downlands Area Framework covers the whole of the boroughs of Bromley, Croydon and Sutton. It is the capital's most continuous area of green spaces and contains over half of London's ancient woodlands and chalk grasslands.
- 3.2 The Framework has been produced by a wide partnership including officers from Renewal and Recreation and Environmental Services and has identified how the All London Green Grid can be delivered at the landscape scale and across administrative boundaries. The Framework;
- establishes a comprehensive baseline understanding of the area
 - defines a vision, area objectives and strategic opportunities
 - ensures that sub-regional and strategic projects interface with Borough level planning, regeneration, transport and open space strategies and processes
 - identifies the resources required to form bidding strategies to deliver the funding for strategic projects
 - consolidates resources, coordinates efforts and facilitates partnership working
 - supports the preparation of Delivery Strategies
 - starts to address the recommendations of the Drain London research project and ensure that the possible flood and surface water management opportunities are incorporated within the ALGG.
- 3.3 The Framework has identified a number of strategic Corridors and Links that are landscapes rather than linear routes. Projects have been identified that are partly funded whilst many are aspirational for which external funding will be sought. The projects are predominantly on publically owned land with some that seek to influence and support private and third sector land owners. Delivery will be through partnership working within and across the 3 local authorities, other public authorities, private business, third sector organisations and residents.
- 3.4 The projects have been grouped in clusters recognising the landscapes around Crystal Palace, the Ravensbourne and Cray River valleys, Darwin's Landscape, the chalk downlands and heathlands. Opportunities include:
- promoting Crystal Palace Park as a Regional Park;
 - supporting Darwin's Landscape management and investigating options for extending the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
 - greater cross authority links and project fund bidding with Kent and Surrey;
 - improving the quality of the water and riparian habitats of Bromley's watercourses whilst reducing flood risk;
 - making a positive contribution to tackling the changing climate
 - linking residents with promoting local food production
 - increasing community engagement, recreation, access to nature and improving health and well-being;
 - enhancement and protection of the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land;
 - forming a London Local Nature Partnership;
 - enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity (the Mayor is consulting on London's Foundations, draft supplementary Planning Guidance for Geodiversity)

- 3.5 The Mayor' has produced draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for the All London Green Grid and is seeking comments by 27th January <http://www.london.gov.uk/consultation/all-london-green-grid-spg>. There are a number of SPG Implementation Points:
- That area partnerships should prepare and oversee Frameworks to help deliver and promote the green infrastructure network
 - The Mayor will and boroughs and other partners should incorporate area frameworks into policies, proposals and projects working across boundaries. These can include Local development Frameworks, Open space Strategies and Area Action Plans
 - Development and regeneration proposals should incorporate green infrastructure and support the green space network.
 - The inclusion of the Green Grid in the Local Development Documents will mean that Section 106 negotiations can be considered to improve the Green Grid. Other funding mechanisms are encouraged.
- 3.6 The draft SPG has a number of mapping errors which show large parts of the south and east of the Borough as deficient in open space perhaps due to the urban setting for this designation. Other maps do highlight the natural resource that benefits the greenest London borough.
- 3.7 The Mayor is also consulting on London's Foundations, draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for Geodiversity and is seeking comments by 27th January. <http://www.london.gov.uk/consultation/londons-foundations-spg> Regionally Important Geological Sites are recommended to be designated in Local Development Frameworks and in Bromley they could be:
- Chelsfield Gravel
 - Crystal Palace Dinosaurs
 - Keston Common
 - Cray Valley Golf course Sand Pit
 - High Elms Dene Hole
- 3.8 The Mayor is also consulting on London World Heritage Sites, draft Supplementary Planning Guidance and is seeking comments by 20th January. The document does not refer to tentative list sites and thus Darwin's Landscape Laboratory. Officers have contacted the Greater London authority to ensure this is corrected to include the appropriate references.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Policy 2.18 of the 2011 London Plan refers to Green Infrastructure and the network of Open Spaces and Green Spaces. The London's Downlands Area Framework expands on the implementation points and strategic opportunities identified in the Draft All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance to the London Plan. Subject to boroughs agreement the Framework can also form part of Local Development Plans, Development Plan Documents and or Joint Area Action Plans.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The London's Downlands Chairman has received £7,500 as a stipend to co-ordinate the production of the Framework. The identification and prioritisation of projects via the development of the Framework will serve as a basis for making external funding bids.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None

Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	The All London Green grid Draft SPG November 2011. Mayor of London London's Downlands Area Framework 8.12.11 draft London's Foundations draft SPG November 2011. Mayor of London. London World Heritage Sites draft SPG October 2011. Mayor of London.
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