

Decision Maker: **Development Control Committee**

Date: **14<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

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

**TITLE: ALL LONDON GREEN GRID**

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Ward: All

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1. Reason for report

To inform members of the Design for London proposal to extend the East London Green Grid to the whole of London. The approach provides an opportunity to identify, protect and manage green space and enhance green infrastructure jobs and skills training. The All London Green Grid will support the development and implementation of London Plan policy, the preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the London Plan, produce a delivery strategy and guide the production of the LB Bromley Local Development Framework.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To support the proposed All London Green Grid through the production of a Borough-wide framework that can form a basis for external funding.



### 3. COMMENTARY

#### All London Green Grid vision

- 3.1 The various and unique landscapes of London are recognised as an asset that can reinforce character, identity and environmental resilience. Delivered alongside existing infrastructure such as transport, utilities and schools an enhanced network of green spaces or Green Infrastructure (GI) can serve to shape and support sustainable communities, respond to the challenges of climate change and deliver an improved quality of life.
- 3.2 The Green Grid approach provides a strategic framework for creating, improving, managing and maintaining high quality green infrastructure and promotes cycling and walking. This approach has been extremely successful in accelerating delivery in East London through the East London Green Grid (ELGG).
- 3.3 Design for London is proposing a London-wide Green Grid to make the capital a more attractive sustainable and prosperous city. The potential benefit to London's and Bromley's economy is significant and can be achieved through a range of outputs that respond to climate change, promote walking, cycling and accessibility, reduce environmental risks to make more sustainable business locations and shape and support growth more generally. The work will aid the production of the Bromley Local Development Framework and Core Strategy whilst provide co-ordination and possible funding for on-the-ground projects.

#### Green Grid Area partnerships

- 3.4 Design for London recommends that 12 GGA partnerships be established to provide the basic London framework from which Green Grid development and enhancement projects can be delivered. The proposed London's Downlands GGA includes all of the boroughs of Bromley, Croydon and Sutton except where there are existing Green Grid Areas of the Green Chain and the Wandle Valley. Links from London's Downlands with these other areas will be forged as will be with LB Bexley's part of the River Cray.
- 3.5 Each Area Framework should include mapped baseline information. Design for London will support the production of this information and will set the standard for the quality of the drawings through a Design Advisor to ensure that they are consistent across London.
- 3.6 The vision of the London's Downlands Area is:

*“to create a network of interlinked, multi-purpose open spaces with good connections to the places where people live and work, public transport, the Green Belt and to provide a richly varied landscape that will include diverse uses to appeal to all.”*

#### Strategic objectives

- 3.7 The London's Downlands Partnership will need to further develop the vision and programme objectives to take into account the changing policy context. The programme objectives to achieve the vision and maximise the benefits of the network include:
- increasing access to open space
  - increasing access to nature
  - managing flood risk and urban heat
  - making sustainable travel connections
  - enhancing distinctive visitor destinations and boosting the visitor economy
  - promoting healthy living
  - enhancing green space and GI sector skills

- promoting sustainable food production
- promoting quality of design, management and maintenance
- enhancing heritage features and landscape character
- improving air quality.

3.8 A critical aspect of the London's Downlands framework will be to achieve a better understanding of the economic value of the multiple benefits provided by Green Infrastructure to determine the potential value of the open space network to London's economy through: reduction in environmental risks; improvements to health; enhancing local neighbourhoods; and the attractiveness of London as a place to live, work and visit.

3.9 The local authorities in the London's Downlands Area have formed a steering group to prepare and implement an Area Framework. The steering group has

- appointed a Chairman and lead organisation (Alister Hayes – LB Bromley)
- agreed make up of steering group, inviting any other relevant organisations (Parks Partnership Officer at LB Bromley, LB Croydon, LB Sutton, City of London, Downland Countryside Project)
- scheduled regular meetings (at least 6 a year whilst in development phase and then Quarterly once the framework has been completed).
- outlined initial strategic objectives
- agreed to apply for Design for London funding support for the production of an Area Framework by April 2011.
- Begun to outline a schedule of borough and community involvement to identify projects and for consultation.

#### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Current policies in the UDP governing the protection and use of green open spaces in the Borough include: Policy G1 Green Belt, G2 Metropolitan Open Land, G8 Urban Open Space and many of the Natural Environment (NE) policies. The bring forward of a Green Grid Area framework will further support these policies and facilitate new policies and proposals to be reflected in the Core Strategy which is part of Local Development Framework.

4.2 Policy 2.18 of the draft replacement London Plan refers to Green Infrastructure as a multi-functional network of high quality green and open spaces that provide a wide range of benefits for people and wildlife. This includes public and private spaces, such as parks, gardens, greenways, walkways and cycle ways, allotments, cemeteries, trees, and natural habitats such as woodlands, grasslands and wetlands. It also includes techniques such as green roofs, green walls, and naturalistic drainage systems that aim to green buildings and the public realm.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Bromley Council will receive up to £5,000 pa to cover costs associated with providing the chairman of the London Downlands area partnership.. The £10,000 production cost of the Design Guide will be paid for by Design for London. Subject to approvals, the LDA and consequent responsible agency will make available a significant amount of capital funding for the best performing projects in financial years 2011/12/13. The identification and prioritisation of projects via the development of GGA Frameworks will serve as an expression of interest for this fund. Following the completion of the Area Frameworks the partnership groups will be asked to prioritise a limited number of projects as a first phase of delivery. Each project will have its own delivery and funding strategy and will receive support from the Partner agencies to access funds from a range of sources.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Legal, Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	All London Green Grid Strategy Development Paper March 2010. Design for London / Greater London Authority. South East London Green Chain Plus Area Framework 2008