

**Decision Maker:** Environment Portfolio Holder

**For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by Environment PDS Committee on:**

**Date:** 17 March 2015

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

**Title:** BROMLEY BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2015 - 2020

**Contact Officers:** Stephanie Waddington, Principal Greenspace & Countryside Development Officer tel 01689 853617 email [stephanie.waddington@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.waddington@bromley.gov.uk)  
Jenny Price, Countryside Development Officer, tel 01689 862815 email [jenny.price@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.price@bromley.gov.uk)

**Chief Officer:** Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment and Community Services

**Wards:** Borough wide

---

1. Reason for report

To inform Members of the revised Bromley Biodiversity Plan (provided separately).

---

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members of the PDS Committee are asked to note the new format and updated Bromley Biodiversity Plan (2015 – 2020);

2.2 The Environment Portfolio Holder is asked to endorse the Plan, subject to public consultation.

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council; Quality Environment
- 

## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
  2. Ongoing costs: No additional revenue costs
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Parks Development
  4. Total current budget for this head: £245k
  5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget 2014/15
- 

## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): existing Parks & Greenspace staff
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: n/a
- 

## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Not Applicable:
  2. Call-in: Applicable
- 

## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All borough resident who use parks and open spaces sites; planners, developers, landowners, Friends & volunteer groups
- 

## Ward Councillor Views

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

### **3. COMMENTARY**

#### Background

- 3.1 Bromley's first Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 1999 It was London's first BAP and followed establishment of the Bromley Biodiversity Partnership and widespread consultation.
- 3.2 Since then there have been 4 Editions of the BBAP each of which reviewed, extended and/or refined targets. The BBAP has been an effective way of promoting, protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the borough with widespread community involvement and has achieved a great deal for biodiversity.
- 3.3 Although much has been achieved for biodiversity in Bromley, a great deal still needs to be done to halt and reverse biodiversity decline and fulfil the outcomes in England's biodiversity strategy.
- 3.4 In order to follow these new strategies in a time of declining budgets it was felt that a change in biodiversity action planning was needed in Bromley. The Plan follows a slightly different format from previous Biodiversity Action Plans in that it contains information and advice on habitats and species, with a set of general principles for biodiversity management. Appendices include a set of Best Practice Guidelines for Land Managers; Planners & Developers; Friends groups & Volunteers and Schools.
- 3.5 The new Bromley Biodiversity Plan has been written by members of Bromley Biodiversity Partnership; members include experts from a range of local organisations that have an excellent understanding and knowledge of biodiversity in Bromley; the partnership is hosted by London Borough of Bromley.

### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Bromley Biodiversity Plan supports the Environment Portfolio Plan 2014/17 Key Outcome [3] "Conserve and enhance Bromley's parks and green spaces"; the Plan helps meets 7 of the 9 elements identified:
  - [3.1] Maintain the quality, appearance and cleanliness of parks, open spaces and the countryside;
  - [3.2] Develop and maintain Bromley publically owned tree stock in a safe condition and replace fallen trees in parks and green spaces
  - [3.4] Improve our environment through forging deeper links with Friends of Parks groups
  - [3.5] Contribute to improving resident's health by supporting park users, sports activity providers, allotment holders and other partners
  - [3.6] Apply for external investment funding for green space improvements in partnership with stakeholders
  - [3.8] Promote and support public use of parks and green spaces for community events and activities
  - [3.9] Ensure that good value for money is provided when work is commissioned to maintain and improve Bromley's parks and green spaces
- 4.2 The Bromley Biodiversity Plan supports the Environment Portfolio Plan 2014/17 Key Outcome [2] "Minimising Waste, and increasing Recycling and Composting"; the Plan helps meets 2 of the 10 elements identified:
  - [2.3] Continue to promote home composting
  - [2.6] Support schools and businesses to recycle, working closely with other initiatives such as Friends groups

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There will be no additional impact on the Council's revenue budget as a result of the publication of the Bromley Biodiversity Plan
- 5.2 The content of the Plan will be used in support of external funding bids for biodiversity related projects

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Natural Environment and Rural communities Act (NERC) 2006 section 40 requires that *'Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.'*

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Personnel implication
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Appendix 1: Bromley Biodiversity Plan 2015-2020 [Draft]