

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

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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
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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
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Staff

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

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

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