

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	09/09/15

Report template revised June 2008



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Central Lancashire Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Supplementary Planning Document	Strategic Planning	Rachel Peckham	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) offer local planning authorities the opportunity to add guidance in specific policy areas. They are documents that must be prepared in consultation with interested parties, and must be subject to a screening process to discover whether a sustainability appraisal would be required. Unlike Development Plan Documents (DPDs) SPDs do not require independent examination before they are adopted.

The Central Lancashire Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance for applicants in terms of understanding the relevant Central Lancashire policies and what is required as part of the planning application process. This includes guidance in relation to ecological networks. Once adopted, this SPD should be afforded significant weight as a material consideration in determining planning applications.

The Central Lancashire Biodiversity and Nature Conservation SPD links to the corporate priorities of Clean, Green and Safe and Strong and Healthy Communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet be recommended to:

1. Adopt the Central Lancashire Biodiversity and Nature Conservation SPD attached at Appendix 1; and
2. Delegate authority to the Planning Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Housing to make any minor text, layout and formatting changes on the publication of the document.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Biodiversity is defined as ‘the variety of all life on earth’ in the Government’s Biodiversity Strategy - ‘Biodiversity 2020 – A Strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services’. Natural ecosystems provide us with a wide range of goods and services that support our economic and social wellbeing. These include essentials such as food, fresh water and clean air, and also services such as protection from natural disasters and regulation of our climate. Biodiversity is important for its own sake and Central Lancashire supports species and habitats of international, national and local importance

Development can have a negative impact on biodiversity, both directly, through the destruction of habitat, and indirectly, such as through an increase in pollution. These impacts can be significant and lead to the decline of biodiversity. Development can also have positive impacts for biodiversity for sites where there is little wildlife, by integrating new habitats with adjacent spaces.

This SPD is one of a suite of Central Lancashire SPDs that have been prepared in accordance with the Local Planning Regulations and the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework), conforming and responding to all relevant local and national policies, and based upon a robust and

up-to-date evidence base. These SPDs form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the Council, and the other Central Lancashire authorities. They are to be considered alongside policy in the Central Lancashire Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD). In addition to the Central Lancashire SPDs, South Ribble Council also has its own SPDs.

The SPD guidance should therefore be taken into consideration from the earliest stages of the development process of any site, including any purchase negotiations and in the preparation of development schemes.

Content of the Supplementary Planning Document

The main goal of this SPD is to ensure that there is no net loss of nature conservation assets, and where appropriate there is an improvement in them. It explains the Councils' approach as local planning authorities towards conserving, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecological networks.

This SPD provides guidance for applicants in terms of understanding the relevant Central Lancashire policies as well as including guidance on:

- Ecological networks;
- Biodiversity and the planning application process;
- Guidance on surveys and assessments that may be required; and
- Designing development to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Planning can make an important contribution to improving biodiversity within the Borough and the wider Central Lancashire Area. This includes enhancing the international, national and local areas of recognised importance, as well as species and habitats. To this end, the Councils have worked with Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Manchester & North Merseyside (The Wildlife Trust) and Lancashire Environment Record Network (LERN) to produce this Biodiversity and Nature Conservation SPD.

Consultation

The SPD was subject to a 6 week consultation late in 2014. 13 responses were received across the Central Lancashire Authorities. Following on from this, minor changes have been made to the SPD. The changes that were made can be summarised as follows:

- Proposed text amendments to enhance the section on SUDS, and Pollinators;
- Additional text is proposed relating to nesting and roosting boxes and other built fabric additions;
- Minor text formatting;
- Updating website addresses in the document;
- Corrections to the flowchart in Section F;
- Expanding the list of Legislative Framework; and
- Improvements have been made to the section on enhancement of sites.

A Responses Report has been published for 4 weeks prior to adoption of this SPD.

The SPD is therefore presented to the Cabinet for adoption.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

FINANCIAL	Preparation and publication costs contained in current local plan revenue estimates.
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LEGAL	
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RISK	<p>The full risk assessment forms part of the background papers to this report. The main points for consideration are summarised here:-</p> <p>A risk assessment was undertaken as part of the Local Development Scheme, and is subject to annual review.</p>
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THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	None
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OTHER (see below)	A Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken as part of the Local Development Framework, preparation of which this document will form part. A further detailed screening has been undertaken as a part of the document preparation
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<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Risk Assessment
 Central Lancashire Biodiversity and Nature Conservation SPD.