

Report To:	LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT PANEL
Date:	15TH NOVEMBER 2022
Heading:	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPICABLE
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

For the Development Panel to review the Strategy before it is considered by Cabinet.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet be recommended to approve the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategy

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To update the evidence base for the Local Plan.

Alternative Options Considered

Not to approve the strategy but this would leave a gap in the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.

Detailed Information

A Local Plan must be based on proportionate, relevant and up-to-date evidence (National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] paragraph 31). The evidence needs to inform what is in a Plan and shape its development. All Local Plans are examined by a planning inspector in determining whether a

Plan is sound. The Inspector will consider whether a Plan is justified, considering the reasonable alternatives and based on proportionate evidence.

Green Infrastructure (GI) is the network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which are capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities, and prosperity. The Council has an important role to play in GI development and delivery with its broad environmental, health /social, economic, and planning responsibilities. The Council will aim to secure GI opportunities through the planning and development process and work towards implementing different management regimes on Council owned land where appropriate.

The Strategy update of the Ashfield Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Technical Paper. It is now called Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2032 and is set out in Appendix 1. It has updated references but the GI routes and original methodology remain as per the original Paper. The GI network for Ashfield links into the wider GI network across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and other areas of the East Midlands. The network identifies strategically planned links between existing and proposed green spaces with the communities around them. Through the management, enhancement and extension of these networks, multi-functional benefits can be realised for local communities, businesses, visitors, and the environment.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Planning, and the Local Plan in particular has a cross cutting role to play in helping to meet and deliver the six priorities identified in the Corporate Plan. In particular, the Local Plan has a key responsibility in delivering the outcomes around the supply of and design of homes, improving town centres, facilitating economic growth and improving parks and open spaces, health and wellbeing and alternative forms of access other than cars.

Legal: The Local Plan is brought forward under the legislative requirements set out under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) (The Act) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended. Under Section 15 of the Act local planning authorities are required to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of their area or the planning of development. National guidance on these aspects is provided through the National Planning Policy Framework, National Planning Practice Guidance and Written Ministerial Statements. This includes the necessity for a plan to be supported by an up-to-date evidence base. [RLD 03/11/2022]

Finance: There are no financial implications from the report. [PH 03/11/2022].

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.

General Fund – Capital Programme	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None.

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
No specific risk arises from the report.	

Human Resources: There are no direct Human Resource implications from the report.

Environmental/Sustainability: The studies are required as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan, which must reflect sustainable development. Consequently, it contributes towards achieving the requirement for sustainable development set out in Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

Equalities: There are no diversity or equality implications from the report.

Other Implications: None.

Reason(s) for Urgency: Not applicable.

Reason(s) for Exemption: Not applicable.

Background Papers

- National Planning Policy Framework, available on the Government's website.
- National Planning Practice Guidance First Homes available, on the Government's website.

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