

Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel Briefing Note

23rd November 2020

Biodiversity Strategy Development

This briefing note sets out the scope for the development of an overarching Biodiversity Strategy for Eastleigh in order to begin early engagement with the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel. The Biodiversity Strategy will reflect commitments within the Climate and Environmental Emergency Strategy and Action Plan, the Corporate Plan as well as national strategies, policies and priorities to protect and enhance biodiversity in Eastleigh. The Strategy will be produced by Ecology Team within existing resources allocated in the 20/21 Specialist Service Plan. The Strategy will also set the framework for delivery of:

- An updated Biodiversity Action Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- An updated Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document
- A Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Supplementary Planning Document

The proposed Biodiversity Strategy is intended to set out the Council's approach to biodiversity by including:

- A review of National Government and local Eastleigh Borough Council strategies, policies and priorities e.g. climate crisis, Environment Bill, Agriculture Bill, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Environment Plan etc
- A broad description of the current state of knowledge on local biodiversity and identifying national, regional and local trends e.g. on habitat loss and deterioration and species population declines and Natural Capital/Ecosystem Services;
- A review of the critical factors that need to be addressed based on above analysis
- a review of what Eastleigh Borough Council is currently doing on some of these issues and what has been achieved in recent years
- a list of key aims and objectives for biodiversity conservation and broadly describing how and when they will be achieved and by whom
- A framework for delivery of other associated biodiversity documents

Timescales

- P&P for scoping on 23rd November 2020
- P&P Environment Sub Working Group engagement December to February 2021
- Key Stakeholder Consultation March 2021
- P&P for agreement in May 2021
- Cabinet for final consideration June 2021

Considerations for Members of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel

- Does the proposed scope for the Strategy as set out in this document set the framework for the Council's priorities on biodiversity?
- Who are our key stakeholders for developing the Biodiversity Strategy?
- Which members of the panel would wish to be on the working group?