
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	27th SEPTEMBER 2018	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	ALLISON THOMAS STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO:
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SUBJECT:	LOCAL GREEN SPACES – DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS03

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee approve the Local Green Spaces Draft Development Plan Document (see Appendix A) for consultation.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform the Committee of the scope and content of the Draft Local Green Spaces Development Plan (“the Draft Plan”) and provide a timetable for the remaining stages of plan preparation.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Local Green Spaces were introduced with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. The recent update to the NPPF has left the policy in respect of Local Green Spaces largely unchanged and the updated NPPF allows the Council to designate Local Green Spaces where sites are:
- in reasonable close proximity to the community it serves;
 - demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance; and
 - local in character and not an extensive tract of land.
- 3.2 The Council has undertaken a number of previous consultations with a view to establishing potentially suitable sites for designation. Officers have reviewed all previously identified sites and identified those suitable for designation using the methodology the Committee agreed at this committee on 19 April 2018. In total 85 Local Green Spaces are proposed across 21 settlements.
- 3.3 In addition to designating sites, the Draft Plan also includes a number of thematic policies to help guide future development, or the enhanced management of sites. These policies cover issues such as built sport and leisure facilities, infrastructure, wildlife and biodiversity, accessibility and improving community value.

- 3.4 It is expected that the Draft Plan will be subject to consultation for not less than six weeks, with any consultation likely to start on Monday 8 October 2018. Consultation materials will be presented on the Council's website and in local libraries and responses will need to be made in writing by email, letter or questionnaire. Proposals for additional sites are not being sought.
- 3.5 Following the consultation on the Draft Plan, any necessary changes to the sites and policies proposed will be made and a further pre-submission consultation undertaken in early spring 2019 in line with regulatory requirements. The Plan will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate with examination likely in early summer 2019. Adoption of the Local Green Spaces Development Plan Document is then likely in the autumn 2019.
- 3.6 Finally, as the Draft Plan is a development plan document, there is a statutory requirement to prepare and consult on a Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report which outlines the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan. There is also a statutory requirement to undertake a Habitat Regulations Assessment considering whether the proposed Plan will have a likely significant effect on sites designated for protection under European law. All necessary environmental assessment work will be published alongside the Plan and will form part of the consultation materials for the Plan.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The adoption of a complete South Derbyshire Local Plan is a key priority of the District Council and is included as an action within the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Local communities are often keen to safeguard areas of green space that they feel are intrinsically important to the settlement in which they live. Local Green Spaces are the mechanism with which to do this through the planning system.

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 Appendix A: Local Green Spaces Draft Development Plan Document
7.2 Appendix B: Local Green Spaces Interim Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report
7.3 Appendix C: Local Green Spaces Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment