

CABINET – 5 SEPTEMBER, 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Response from Planning and Highways Committee - 4th July, 2012 and Scrutiny Committee – 25th July, 2012 – Sunderland City Council Draft Greenspace Audit and Report 2012 & Draft Ecological Evidence Base for Sunderland's Local Development Framework 2012

Author:

Head of Law and Governance

Purpose of Report:

To advise the Cabinet of the comments of the Planning and Highways and Scrutiny Committees on a report of the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval of the 2012 Draft Sunderland Greenspace Audit and Report and 2012 Draft Ecological Evidence Base for public consultation, and to seek its approval for its use in developing the Local Development Framework.

Description of Decision:

That the Cabinet be recommended to note the comments of the Planning and Highways and Scrutiny Committees.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/ Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/ Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The decision is required to provide essential evidence to inform corporate policy, and chiefly to support progression of the Core Strategy to proceed to its next stage (statutory consultation) in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

All local planning authorities are charged under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 with the preparation of a Local Development Framework (LDF), which must include a Core Strategy. They are also charged with preparing the LDF in accordance with the provisions of an approved Local Development Scheme.

The Core Strategy must be informed by a robust evidence base. The need for evidence regarding the city's greenspace and ecological requirements is emphasised in the National Planning Policy Framework. To not undertake such updates in the light of the changing circumstances in the city would undermine the planning policy framework and could jeopardise the Core Strategy at Examination. Consequently, no alternatives can be recommended.

Impacts analysed:

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?
Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
Yes

Scrutiny Committee

Planning and Highways Committee

**SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL DRAFT GREENSPACE AUDIT AND REPORT
2012 & DRAFT ECOLOGICAL EVIDENCE BASE FOR SUNDERLAND'S LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK 2012**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the comments of the Planning and Highways and Scrutiny Committees on a report of the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval of the 2012 Draft Sunderland Greenspace Audit and Report and 2012 Draft Ecological Evidence Base for public consultation, and to seek its approval for its use in developing the Local Development Framework.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 That the Cabinet be recommended to note the comments of the Planning and Highways and Scrutiny Committees.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Cabinet at its meeting held on 20th June, 2012 gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive. The report sought approval of the draft 2012 Sunderland Greenspace Audit and Report and 2012 Draft Ecological Evidence Base for public consultation, and to seek its approval for its use in developing the Local Development Framework.
- 3.2 The Cabinet endorsed:-
- (i) the 2012 Draft Greenspace Audit and Report and 2012 Draft Ecological Evidence Base for consultation purposes.
 - (ii) Following the close of the consultation and in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio holder, to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to make any minor amendments to the attached report prior to its adoption. The final report will be used:
 - (a) As part of the evidence base to inform the emerging Local Development Framework, and
 - (b) As a material consideration in determining planning applications.
- 3.3 The Cabinet also agreed that Council be recommended to approve the draft 2012 Sunderland Greenspace Audit and Report and 2012 Draft Ecological Evidence Base for public consultation, and to seek its approval for its use in developing the Local Development Framework.
- 3.4 The report was referred to the Planning and Highways and Scrutiny Committees for advice and consideration.

4.0 COMMENTS OF THE PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

- 4.1 The Planning and Highways Committee endorsed the report.
- 4.2 Scrutiny Committee commended the report for public consultation and welcomed the plans for its further consultation and development with the Council's Area Committees.

5.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 5.1 The decision is required to provide essential evidence to inform corporate policy, and chiefly to support progression of the Core Strategy to proceed to its next stage (statutory consultation) in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 All local planning authorities are charged under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 with the preparation of a Local Development Framework (LDF), which must include a Core Strategy. They are also charged with preparing the LDF in accordance with the provisions of an approved Local Development Scheme.
- 6.2 The Core Strategy must be informed by a robust evidence base. The need for evidence regarding the city's greenspace and ecological requirements is emphasised in the National Planning Policy Framework. To not undertake such updates in the light of the changing circumstances in the city would undermine the planning policy framework and could jeopardise the Core Strategy at Examination. Consequently, no alternatives can be recommended.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to the Cabinet 20th June, 2012

Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee 4th July, 2012

Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee 25th July, 2012