

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	PLANNING COMMITTEE	14 NOVEMBER 2018	8

BIODIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SCOPING)

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

On 10th September 2018 Planning Committee recommended that officers commence work on scoping the content of four supplementary planning documents (SPDs). The Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (Scoping) is appended to this report. This report seeks approval from members for the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (Scoping) to be put out for consultation for 6 weeks. This is in line with the Fylde – Council Statement of Community Involvement 2015 Section 5 Supplementary Planning Document Consultations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (Scoping) be approved public for consultation.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

10th September 2018 Planning Committee approved the LDS 2018 which states that the Council will commence work on four Supplementary Planning Documents. These are the Affordable Housing, Good Design, Healthy Living and Biodiversity SPDs.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	√
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	√

REPORT

1. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide greater clarity as to the specific requirements of Local Plan policies for certain situations or types of developments. SPDs may not make policy, but rather provide guidance on the application of the policies contained in the adopted Fylde Local Plan to 2032.
2. The Biodiversity SPD is proposed to be one of the initial suite of four SPDs produced to support the policies of the recently adopted Local Plan.
3. The production of the Local Plan involved dialogue with Natural England. Natural England requested that a Biodiversity SPD was produced in order to clarify how mitigation for development which affects International and European sites could be provided, in order to provide greater detail and clarity than is provided in the Fylde Local Plan to 2032. The Biodiversity SPD (Scoping) describes the issue and suggests ways forward. This could include a methodology which describes an approach for different areas of the borough, and different types of development, alternatively a site by site approach could continue to be taken. The Scoping Report seeks opinions on the best approach and the Council will work closely with Natural England to ensure the Biodiversity SPD reflects current best practice.
4. Secondly, it is intended that the Biodiversity SPD will provide more detailed advice, than is currently available on when for example a Biodiversity/Ecological Appraisal is required by the Council in order to validate a planning application, and how to maximise the creation of biodiversity opportunities of all new developments.
5. Other issues mentioned in the Biodiversity SPD(Scoping) include the following:
 - Using the Lancashire Ecological Framework to screen planning applications for their impact on wider ecological networks;
 - Providing advice on how information should be given to new home owners about areas protected for biodiversity in their local area;
 - Permitted Development and ensuring that biodiversity is safeguarded;
 - Requiring an ecological appraisal when applications are submitted for Prior Notification and/or prior Approval for demolition consents;
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and how the Council will respond to consultations;
 - Funding for the Ranger Service;
 - Nature Improvement Areas;
 - Biological Heritage Sites;
 - The Parks and Coast Design Guide;
 - The National Decline of Swifts;
6. The first stage of producing an SPD is to consult on what the SPD should contain. This is termed a “scoping” consultation. The Biodiversity Supplementary Document (Scoping) attached provides an overall framework for the proposed SPD, and asks a series of questions to encourage consultees to state what they feel should be included within the document. It includes a list of issues, and draft objectives as well as a more detailed description of the issues and some options for addressing them.
7. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from 22nd November 2018 to 3rd January 2019. This is an extended consultation, beyond the normal 4 weeks for this type of consultation, due to the Christmas period.
8. Following the consultation, the responses will feed into the draft of the full SPD. A Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD will be carried out and the final version of the Biodiversity SPD will be presented to members prior the final consultation on its content.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The SPD can be produced with current resource levels
Legal	The SPD(Scoping) will undergo consultation in accordance with Regulation 12.(a) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	This Scoping Report will raise awareness of Biodiversity issues and allow consultees to suggest further issues. This will increase the sustainability of the final Biodiversity SPD. The final SPD will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal. The Sustainability Appraisal will be put out for consultation with the final version of the Biodiversity SPD
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Local Development Scheme	September 2018	www.fylde.gov.uk

Attached documents

Appendix 1 - Fylde Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (Scoping)