



**REPORT of
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

to
PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE
14 SEPTEMBER 2017

MALDON DISTRICT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 On 16 February 2016 the Local Development Scheme was presented to the Council. This included the need for a Green Infrastructure Strategy to guide the development of policy and delivery of Green Infrastructure across the District.
- 1.2 A significant amount of development is expected to take place in Maldon District over the next 15 years. In order to ensure it remains a thriving and vibrant destination, the district needs to retain and enhance its green infrastructure. The economic benefits of green infrastructure can include raised land and property values, enhanced inward investment, job creation e.g. in land management or tourism, risk management through climate change adaptation or mitigation, health and well-being gains, and benefits from improved recreation, landscape character and biodiversity.
- 1.3 The Local Development Plan (LDP) provides the planning strategy for future growth over the next 15 years and sets out the key principles for strategic growth, including Green Infrastructure. The key overarching policy for Green Infrastructure is Policy N1 Green Infrastructure Network requirements, supported by Policy N2 Natural Environment and Biodiversity and N3 Open Space Sport and Leisure.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to present to Committee the project brief for the Maldon District Green Infrastructure Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members comment on and note the Maldon District Green Infrastructure Strategy project brief included as **APPENDIX 1**.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This report is for Members' information only.
- 3.2 Green infrastructure is the network of green spaces and water assets, including formal parks, amenity greenspace, nature reserves, green links, lakes and waterways that provide a range of multi-functional benefits to both the community and the natural environment.

- 3.3 The Green Infrastructure Study in 2011 identified the existing evidence base in the district, including the areas of deficit and standards. Five years on from that study, in a changed planning context, it is proposed to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to provide an update on the existing network and standards, alongside the development of a vision statement, concept plan, principles and policy to promote the idea of green infrastructure in Maldon to developers, funding partners and the community and to develop a Green Infrastructure Action Plan.
- 3.4 The purpose of the Green Infrastructure Strategy is to:
- Promote a long-term Vision for the sustainable development and management of green infrastructure across the district
 - Provide a Concept Plan that demonstrates how distinct elements of the green infrastructure network work together at a district level.
 - Create a set of principles and policies to underpin the creation and enhancement of the network.
 - Identify key partners, funding streams and priorities for the delivery of key projects
 - Prepare an Action Plan for the delivery of key projects and interventions
 - Deliver effective stakeholder and public consultation
- 3.5 The project brief for the Maldon District Green Infrastructure Strategy is provided in **APPENDIX 1**. The project brief is required to be published on the Contract Finder website for a month, before the project is awarded to the successful tender.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The need for a district-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy was identified in the Local Development Scheme in February 2016. The appended brief will form the remit for consultants to prepare that strategy.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 The planning and delivery of enhanced green infrastructure supports the Council's vision for the District and in particular protecting and shaping the District, helping communities to be safe, active and healthy, and creating opportunities for economic growth and prosperity.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The long term impact on customers will be enhanced provision of green infrastructure, including in areas of growth and existing deficit identified in the 2011 baseline study. Public consultation will take place as part of the strategy development.

- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The Strategy will identify enhanced green infrastructure provision and projects across the district accessible to all communities. Public consultation will take place as part of the strategy development.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The Strategy will feed into future policy development, masterplans and site briefs. It is not considered it would have any adverse effects on operational, organisational or partnership risks.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Provides part of the evidence base for the LDP and falls within the reserves for the LDP. The Action Plan will identify funding opportunities to deliver enhanced green infrastructure.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None identified.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – The development of a Green Infrastructure Strategy will identify opportunities for the Council to lead or partner in key areas of environmental improvement including use of natural resources, land and water, landscape and biodiversity enhancement and adaptation or mitigation for the effect of climate change.

Background Papers: Maldon District Council Green Infrastructure Study (2011)

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