

# DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

**Decision maker:** Portfolio Holder for Planning

**Decision in the matter of:** Draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document

**Decision:** The Portfolio Holder for Planning, having considered the views of the Strategic Planning Board, approves the draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document for four weeks of public consultation and the publication of the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report and the associated Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Report.

**Background:** One of the key objectives of the Local Plan Strategy (LPS) is for the Plan to support the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, ecological and geological assets in the borough. The LPS includes policy SE3 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) which sets out the type of sites that are likely to have high biodiversity and geodiversity value and a requirement that all development must 'aim to positively contribute to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity'. The policy includes additional requirements for submission of construction management plans, landscaping, green infrastructure and open space proposals in certain circumstances.

The Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document aims to give greater clarity to developers, landowners, communities and decision makers on the issues of biodiversity and geodiversity in the development process. The draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document provides additional guidance to applicants on how they should respond to the policy requirements in the LPS. It also 'signposts' sources of information, including relevant documentation and Council services.

The Supplementary Planning Document contains several updates relating to how biodiversity should be addressed in a planning application. Specifically the Supplementary Planning Document includes guidance on how applicants should assess habitats on their sites, the process through which the council expects design solutions to be assessed and how biodiversity metric calculations should be

used to demonstrate that applicants preferred approach will deliver a net-gain in biodiversity.

The preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document involves two rounds of public consultation. This is the first consultation stage and will be followed by another opportunity to comment on a final draft version, which is consulted upon alongside a consultation statement. Having also considered comments made at that stage, the Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document may then be considered for adoption by the council.

Once adopted, the Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document will provide additional planning policy guidance on the implementation of Local Plan Strategy policies SE3 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity', SE5 Trees Hedgerows and Woodland, SE6 'Green Infrastructure'. The Supplementary Planning Document once adopted, will be a material consideration in decision making and support the delivery of key policies in the Local Plan Strategy.

The Strategic Planning Board, at its meeting of the 21st April 2021, recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Planning approve and publish the draft Housing Supplementary Planning Document and associated documents for public consultation.

**Background Documents:**

Report to Portfolio Holder for Planning entitled 'Draft Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document'

[Report to Strategic Planning Board 21 April 2021](#)

**Approved:**

Councillor Toni Fox  
Portfolio Holder for Planning

**Date:**

4 May 2021

**Executive Director:**

Frank Jordan  
Executive Director Place