

1 April 2021

Agenda Item: 4

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT AND GROWTH**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REVIEW OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S GREEN SPACES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to take forward the recommendations, as set out in the report, to the Communities and Place Committee.

#### **Information**

2. At its meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Committee received a report and presentation on the County Council's Green Spaces. The deliberations of Committee have given rise to the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 below.
3. The Green Estate Development Strategy 2013-2023 was approved by Culture Committee at its meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013. It is recommended that the Strategy is now reviewed and a further 10 year Strategy developed, to include the following:
  - The contribution that the Green Spaces can make to delivering the objectives of the County Council's Environment Strategy in relation to protecting and enhancing habitats and species; achieving net gains in biodiversity; creating new woodlands; and, establishing nature recovery networks across the County to increase the resilience of biodiversity to the negative impacts of a changing climate.
  - Proposals for the designation of a new tranche of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) that are of significant value for wildlife and people from the Council's Green Spaces portfolio, in addition to the 7 LNRs currently under the Council's ownership and/or management.
  - Continuing a co-ordinated partnership approach to the eradication of harmful invasive non-native species of plants in Nottinghamshire.
  - Recognition of the contribution of volunteers to the management of the Council's Green Spaces and proposals for how volunteering can be better supported and promoted to attract a diverse range of volunteers.
  - Consideration of the role of the Green Spaces in health and well-being and opportunities for widening community participation and engagement with their local sites.
  - Identification of opportunities for delivering enhancements to the network of sites, subject to the availability of funding.
  - Exploration of the potential for further partnership approaches to tackling anti-social behaviour, including unauthorised access.

- Continuation of existing partnerships, for example with the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group and Greenwood Community Forest, and exploration of potential new partnerships to improve capacity for the support of volunteers and community groups involved in managing their local Green Spaces.
  - Consideration of provision of Green Spaces, particularly in areas close to centres of population, and to review the availability of funding for ongoing maintenance.
4. It is further recommended that, once approved, the revised Green Spaces Strategy is shared with key stakeholders and partners.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

5. The recommendations set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above have arisen from Committee's consideration of the report and presentation at its meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the review of the Green Spaces Strategy will be included as part of future reports to the Communities and Place Committee.

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

8. The implications for sustainability and the environment will be fully considered as part of the proposed review of the Green Spaces Strategy.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That Committee approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 above for inclusion in a report to Communities and Place Committee.

**Matthew Neal**  
**Service Director, Investment and Growth**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Heather Stokes, Conservation Team Manager

### **Constitutional Comments (SJE – 23/02/2021)**

9. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Review & Development Committee to whom responsibility for the review and development of all

functions falling under the remit of the Authority's Communities & Place Committee, including environmental awareness and sustainability, have been delegated.

### **Financial Comments (SES 23/02/2021)**

10. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

### **Electoral Divisions and Members Affected**

- All