

Cabinet

01 April 2025

Part 1 - Public

Executive Key Decision



Cabinet Member	Cllr Robin Betts, Climate Change, Property and Regeneration and Cllr Mike Taylor, Planning
Responsible Officer	Eleanor Hoyle, Director of Planning, Housing & Environmental Health
Report Author	Jenny Knowles, Principal Planning Officer, Policy and Carrie Spencer, Climate Change Officer

Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the publication of the updated Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Sustaining a borough which cares for the environment.
- 2.2 The identification of existing green and blue infrastructure in the borough, along with proposed actions for how to conserve and enhance these assets, provides a strategic approach to delivering a range of corporate priorities and statutory duties.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet ENDORSE the updated Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy as set out in Annex 1 for publication.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee (CESSC) considered the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy at its meeting on 5 March 2025.
- 4.2 The introduction of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy was welcomed by Members and it was recommended to Cabinet that the Strategy be endorsed for publication, subject to a number of points being addressed.

- 4.3 The recommendation of the CESSC is attached for information. The updated Strategy is attached at Annex 1.

5 Proposal: Updated Strategy

- 5.1 A footnote has been included in paragraph 7.1.1 to provide a link to the definition of 'Local Green Space' as provided in the National Planning Policy Framework within the Local Plan context, and the use of the term 'greenspace' in Section 3 and the key in Figure 14 have been amended to avoid confusion between the terms.
- 5.2 Additional explanatory text has also been included in paragraph 2.2.5, as well as minor amendments made to the titles of Table 1 and Table 2, to help provide clarification around the maps in Figures 5 and 6. Minor changes have also been made to paragraph 2.2.12 to clarify that the Tree Canopy Cover assessments are based on the 2013 ward boundaries.

6 Other Options

- 6.1 There are no other viable options.

7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 7.1 As per attached report submitted to CESSC.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 As per attached report submitted to CESSC.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 As per attached report submitted to CESSC.

10 Consultation and Communications

- 10.1 As per attached report submitted to CESSC.

11 Implementation

- 11.1 As per attached report submitted to CESSC. Any subsequent Action Plan that would be developed to implement recommendations arising from the Strategy would help demonstrate how the Borough Council was meeting its Biodiversity Duty as required under the Environment Act 2021. As such, this would include performance data and monitoring.

12 Cross Cutting Issues

- 12.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 12.1.1 Adaptation and resilience have been considered.

12.1.2 Climate change advice has been sought in the preparation of the options and recommendations in this report.

12.2 As per attached report submitted to CESSC.

12.3 Equalities and Diversity

12.3.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

12.4 Other If Relevant

- None

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1: Updated Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy