

Sustainable Development Select Committee			
Title	Endorsement of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's: 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020...'	Item No	3
Contributors	Ecological Regeneration Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	8 March 2016

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1. The Sustainable Development Select Committee has agreed to review 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020,' provide comments and advise the mayor and cabinet it's recommendations with respect to Council endorsement of this the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's Biodiversity Action Plan document.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Sustainable Development Select Committee is asked to:
- note the content of the report and consider the information presented and advise the mayor with respect to Council endorsement of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's: 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020'.

3. Background

- 3.1 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 will supersede previous Biodiversity work undertaken from 2006.
- 3.2 Biodiversity Action Planning policies derive from The Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 which established the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 3.3 In Nagoya, Japan, in Autumn 2010 the 192 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity renewed their commitment to take action to halt the alarming global declines of biodiversity and to ensure that by 2020 our natural environment is resilient and can continue to provide the ecosystem services that are essential for life.
- 3.4 The Natural Environment White Paper 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature,' published in 2011, recognises that a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It aims to mainstream the value of nature across our society, including across government departments.

- 3.5 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', published in 2011, shortly after the White Paper, has as its mission to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems, and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- 3.6 The 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act' (NERC Act 2006) , Section 40 of the Act states that: 'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'
- 3.7 National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] 109 states: The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- 3.8 NPPF 113 states: Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged.
- 3.9 NPPF 114 states: Local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- 3.10 "A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham", sets out the Partnerships objectives for the immediate future for the conservation of nature across the Borough. The document also identifies the contribution of Lewisham's natural environment to quality of life and sustainable development objectives within the Borough and also demonstrates the links that the conservation of Lewisham's biodiversity can make to the Council's on-going programmes within various directorates.
- 3.11 Once embedded in Council policies, the Action Plans will become an essential tool to guide the public and private sector in the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of important species/habitats that will add to biodiversity and conservation at the local level. This will have particular relevance given the NERC Act and the National Planning Policy Framework.

4. Further Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific or additional financial, legal, environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications of this report other than those presented in the Mayor and Cabinet report attached in Appendix B.

5. Appendix Documents

- A. Mayor & Cabinet report:- Endorsement of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's: 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020'
- B. 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020'

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Nick Pond, Ecological Regeneration Manager, (ext. 42007).