

Local Plan Panel Meeting	
Meeting Date	29 October 2020
Report Title	Local Green Spaces
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Baldock, Cabinet Member for Planning
SMT Lead	James Freeman
Head of Service	James Freeman
Lead Officer	Aaron Wilkinson
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Recommendations	It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and the sites which have been submitted as proposed Local Green Spaces. It is also recommended that Members agree to all Members being asked to review the existing sites and those which have been submitted in their wards, and provide any comments on the manner in which they consider them to meet (or not) the assessment criteria.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 As per paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), “The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.”. These should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated.
- 1.2 As the Council is reviewing the Local Plan, it currently has the opportunity to designate Local Green Spaces. A call for sites has been carried out and the purpose of this report is to give Members sight of the sites which have been put forward and explain the next steps.

2 Background

- 2.1 There are 112 Local Green Spaces designated in the adopted Local Plan. A call for sites to be considered for Local Green Space designation was carried out in August/September 2020 and 142 sites were put forward (some of them by more than 1 submission, and so the actual number of submissions was higher). However, of these, 31 are identical (or thereabouts) to existing designations.
- 2.2 It is the intention to carry the existing designations forwards into the Local Plan Review (LPR), subject to confirmation that there have been no changes which affect their reason for designation.
- 2.3 This leaves 111 new or modified sites to be assessed. Maps of the existing and proposed designations, split by the Faversham and Sittingbourne areas, and the Isle of Sheppey, can be viewed at Appendices I-VI to this report.

- 2.4 The NPPF and supporting Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) set out the main criteria for assessing proposed designations, these being that green spaces should be:
- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance; and
 - c) local in character and not an extensive tract of land.
- 2.5 Sites should also be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines the aim of sustainable plan making.
- 2.6 The next stage in the process, therefore, will be to carry out assessments of the submitted sites in line with the NPPF and PPG as set out above, which should result in a list of sites to be designated as Local Green Spaces in the LPR. The landowners of these sites will then be consulted and given the opportunity to respond by representation.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposal, therefore, is that Members note the contents of this report and the sites which have been submitted as proposed Local Green Spaces.
- 3.2 Due to the high response rate and large number of sites that have been submitted, it is also proposed that Members agree to all Members being asked to review the existing sites and the sites which have been submitted in their wards, and provide any comments on the manner in which they consider them to meet (or not) the assessment criteria.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no realistic alternatives. A call for sites has been carried out and those submitted must now be assessed in line with the NPPF and PPG.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 No consultation has been undertaken. However, once the sites have been assessed and a list of proposed designations compiled, a landowner consultation will be carried out. There will also be opportunities to comment as part of the Regulation 19 consultation.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The proposals would align with: Priority 2: Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges. Priority 3: Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage – the work has been carried out within the Planning Policy budget.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Sustainability	The new Local Plan will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal.
Health and Wellbeing	Local Green Spaces are identified as a way of promoting health and wellbeing in local communities.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	The new Local Plan will require a full community impact assessment.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendices I to VI.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None.