

<b>Cabinet Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	1 February 2017
<b>Report Title</b>	Endorsement of Biodiversity Action Plan and Swale Green Grid Strategy
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Emma Wiggins
<b>Head of Service</b>	Charlotte Hudson
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Lyn Newton
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Classification</b>	Open
<b>Forward Plan</b>	<b>Reference number:</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	1. To endorse the Biodiversity Action Plan and Swale Green Grid Strategy

## 1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This reports sets out the consultation that has been undertaken through the Swale Green Grid Partnership and now seeks agreement of Cabinet to endorse the Biodiversity Action Plan and Swale Green Grid Strategy.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The Swale Green Grid Partnership managed by the Council and comprising statutory environment partners has now reviewed and revised the Biodiversity Action Plan and Swale Green Grid Strategy to reflect the current environment framework including legislative changes.
- 2.2 The Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geology and soils and co-ordinated working to secure coherent ecological networks and a reversal in decline in the quality and diversity of the environment as well as providing a platform for partner agencies, communities and individuals to work together to conserve the Borough's wildlife. The Swale Green Grid Strategy provides a vision for planning, designing and managing green spaces as an interconnected network rather than isolated sites; the strategy is a framework for partner agencies, organisations and individuals involved in the management of the environment in Swale.

### 3 Proposals

- 3.1 That the documents – Biodiversity Action Plan and Swale Green Grid Strategy – be endorsed by the Council.

### 4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Do nothing – this is not recommended as the Council along with its environmental partners are keen to encourage environmental stewardship through its local community actions.

### 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 In addition to internal services areas (e.g. planning policy, greenspaces, leisure and technical services), consultation has been undertaken through Policy Development and Review Committee and the Public Services Board. An extensive 8-week consultation with residents, businesses and local organisations was also undertaken. There were no comments received from this latter consultation.

### 6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	A Borough To Be Proud Of – priority theme focuses on actions which promote Swale as a physical place A Community To Be Proud Of – priority theme focuses on the Council’s aspirations for the people of Swale
Financial, Resource and Property	The Council has a working budget of £1,000 used to support quarterly meetings, site visits and partners’ funding applications; partner agencies bring resources (financial and human) for project delivery in Swale. The ECS Manager (Culture and Places) and ECS Project Officer provide professional, technical and administrative support to the Swale Green Grid Partnership.
Legal and Statutory	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	High quality, distinct urban and rural landscapes, accessible diverse opens paces and contact with wildlife are increasingly

	recognised as key components of sustainable communities contributing to people's quality of life and supporting economic and social programmes.
Health and Wellbeing	The Green Grid in particular will promote health and wellbeing by encouraging active exercise and opportunities for contact with nature; enhance recreation and amenity with more opportunities for high quality formal and informal recreation; strengthen and makes connections between new and existing communities and their local environment, by building on Swale's distinctive environment, the Green Grid will inspire people to be proud of where they live, work and to enjoy being activity and having more contact with nature; produce and promote local food through local food markets and direct market initiatives.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	Both strategies seek to promote positive community engagement and a Community Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the wider consultation and final strategies.

## 7 Appendices

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

- Appendix I: Biodiversity Action Plan
- Appendix II: Swale Green Grid Strategy

## 8 Background Papers

None