

EPSOM & EWELL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - 2019 ANNUAL UPDATE

Head of Service/Contact: Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services

Urgent Decision?(yes/no)

If yes, reason urgent decision required:

Annexes/Appendices (attached): **Annex 1** – Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 Annual update

Other available papers (not attached): Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020

Report summary

A report on progress during 2019 in implementing the Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020.

Recommendation (s)

- (1) That the Committee notes progress during 2019 in implementing the Epsom and Ewell Local Biodiversity Plan.**

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

1.1 The Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan addresses all four of the Council's Key Priorities:

1.1.1 "Keeping the Borough Clean and Green" – by guiding the implementation of open space management plans.

1.1.2 "Supporting our Community" – by encouraging and supporting volunteers, and encouraging healthier lifestyles through regular access to nature.

1.1.3 "Managing our Resources" – by helping to ensure the sustainable management of the Borough's environmental resources (Ecosystem Services).

Community and Wellbeing Committee

19 March 2020

1.14 “Supporting Businesses and our Local Economy” – by guiding planning policy and helping maintain a green and attractive place to live and work.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Borough’s first biodiversity action plan was produced by the Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan Working Group and approved by the Council in 2010.
- 2.2 The plan contains 7 objectives, comprising 23 targets with 45 actions. It should be noted that the Working Group has no set budget to directly assist in implementing the plan and consequently is restricted to a coordinating/prioritising role with the plan as an essential guide and tool. That said, all members of the Working Group continue to be able to contribute to the implementation of the plan through the course of their normal duties.
- 2.3 The plan does have suggested dates for the achievement of actions which assists in prioritisation but does not provide a measure of success or failure, especially given the current time and resource constraints on those working to implement the plan.
- 2.4 The report attached at **Annex 1** summarises progress made during 2019 against the plan’s seven objectives.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note progress during 2019 in implementing the Epsom and Ewell Local Biodiversity Plan. The report will be posted on the biodiversity pages of the Council’s website.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 None for the purposes of this report.
- 4.2 **Chief Finance Officer’s comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1 The local authority has a duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to have regard when exercising its functions, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- 5.2 **Monitoring Officer’s comments:** None for the purpose of this report.

Community and Wellbeing Committee

19 March 2020

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

7 Partnerships

7.1 The Working Group, although not a formal partnership, includes Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council and the Lower Mole Partnership.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 If we do not publish progress in implementing our biodiversity action plan, we could be deemed to be failing in our 'Biodiversity Duty' as a public body.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 Posting the report on the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council website is the most cost effective way of keeping residents informed about progress in implementing the plan and encouraging their active involvement and it is recommended that it is published on the biodiversity pages alongside the previous reports.

Ward(s) Affected: (All Wards);