

EPSOM & EWELL LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2015 UPDATE

<u>Report of the:</u>	Head of Place Development
<u>Contact:</u>	Stewart Cocker
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Epsom and Ewell Biodiversity Action Plan Progress Report for 2015
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	None stated

REPORT SUMMARY

A report on progress during 2015 in implementing the Epsom & Ewell Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes progress during 2015 in implementing the Epsom and Ewell Local Biodiversity Plan.

Notes

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 six Key Priorities, assists in implementing the ten year management plans on the Council's three local nature reserves and assists in delivering a sustainable community strategy.

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 Epsom & Ewell Borough 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 This report summarises progress made during 2015 under the plans seven objectives.

3 Proposals

3.1 The Committee is asked to note progress during 2015 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.

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 Countryside Management Partnership.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 Publishing progress in implementing the biodiversity action plan demonstrates that the Council is having regard to the statutory duty referred to in paragraph 5.1 above.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 Posting the report on the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council web site is the most cost effective way of keeping residents informed about progress in implementing the plan and encouraging active involvement in this area. The updated plan will be published on the biodiversity pages alongside the previous reports.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL