



## **Revised Nature Conservation Strategy and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal-Consideration of representations and Adoption of Plan**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 In July 2005 a draft revision of the City Council's Nature Conservation Strategy was produced for consultation. The document will act as supplementary planning guidance to the recently adopted Revised City of Derby Local Plan, but will also guide other work of the City Council in protecting and enhancing the natural history heritage of the City. (Copy on web site-see link in list of appendices).
- 1.2 A consultation exercise was undertaken on the draft document and its supporting appraisal and following this the Revised Strategy was amended. This report contains the results of this consultation exercise and a proposed Revised Nature Conservation Strategy. (Copy on web site-see link in list of appendices).
- 1.3 I am now recommending that Cabinet adopt the Revised Nature Conservation Strategy, which will replace the 1995 Strategy and authorise the Director of Regeneration and Community to make the necessary administrative and legal steps to advertise its adoption.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To approve the Consultation Statement and to resolve to adopt the revised Nature Conservation Strategy and to authorise the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Community to make the necessary arrangements to advertise the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To allow the adoption of the revised strategy in line with the Council's Local Development Scheme.



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### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 1.1 In 1995 the City Council produced a revision to its original Nature Conservation Strategy. Since then the context for this Strategy has significantly changed, most importantly, with the adoption of the Revised City of Derby Local Plan (CDLP) 2006, which itself was adopted in February. This new Strategy will act as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to the Revised CDLP. Its scope and preparation timetable were set out in the Local Development Scheme for spatial planning documents. However it is recognised that if its aspirations are to be realised, it needs to go beyond implementation through spatial planning alone. Thus it sets out guidance and broad actions which give not only a policy framework decisions on development, which supplements the City of Derby Local Plan, but for guidance on:
- how we will manage open space to assist biodiversity;
  - how we intend to help people access, understand and better enjoy Derby's green heritage and
  - how we take forward key objectives in the DCP Derby Community Strategy and strategies flowing from it.
- 1.2 It has the overarching objective:
- "To protect and enhance significantly the wildlife and geological heritage of the City of Derby, to promote people's access, enjoyment and understanding of it and thereby to further local, national and international obligations about the protection and enhancement of natural history".
- 1.3 So that the different elements of the objective can be understood, the Strategy contains seven distinct, but interconnected aims. These break down the different elements that the objective covers.
- 1.4 To complement these, it contains guidance on how the relevant CDLP policies are to be implemented and also a number of broad areas for action beyond spatial planning, to take forward each aim, which will be expanded upon in a later, separate and more detailed action plan.

The seven aims are:

AIM 1 - To protect from damage the most important natural heritage sites, features and species in the City.

AIM 2 - To retain a healthy biological network in the City which links the wildlife sites and biodiversity features across the City and into the wider countryside.

AIM 3 - To maintain at least at its present level the stock of natural heritage features which do not qualify as the most important, but which make an important contribution to environmental quality.

AIM 4 - To increase the quantity and quality of wildlife features, sites and corridors in the City through creation of new habitat and amending land management regimes.

AIM 5 - To seek to provide all reasonable access to all natural heritage sites and features by everyone.

AIM 6 - To raise the general awareness of people and increase information about nature conservation, and in particular of the City's resources and their value.

AIM 7 - To ensure that progress towards achieving the aims of the Strategy and changes to the City's natural history resources are suitably monitored and reported on.

The Strategy recognises that these aims are entirely interdependent and failure to achieve one can weaken the likelihood of others being achieved.

- 1.5 In addition, it has been necessary to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategy in parallel with its production. This has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compensation Act, the Local Development Regulations and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Regulations. The Appraisal generally showed that the Strategy was positive in taking forward many aspects of the sustainable development agenda. (Copy on web site-see web site link in appendices).
- 1.6 The formal public consultation on the Strategy and its accompanying appraisal report has been undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England ) Regulations 2004. It has meant that the documents were on deposit for comment for just short of six weeks and were also sent to various bodies and individuals for comment. The document was also discussed by DCP Environment City Executive. All these consultations met the requirements in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. All comments made were analysed and the draft Strategy amended in the light of these comments. The comments were largely supportive but sought greater detail, especially to guide planning applications. This has been added. A copy of the Consultation Statement which also shows how the comments were taken on board is also available on the web site.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None other than not revising the Strategy. See discussion in the Sustainability Appraisal.

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**Background papers:** None  
**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 – Implications  
Please note that the Nature Conservation Strategy, its Sustainability Appraisal Report and Consultation Statement are all available on City Council web site at  
<http://www.derby.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/LandUsePlanning/revisedderbynatureconservationstrategy.htm>

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 None arising from this report.
- 1.2 The strategy acts as a framework for using existing resources and assisting in leavening new external resources.

**Legal**

- 2.1 As set out in the report.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None arising from this report.
- 3.2 The strategy acts as a framework for using existing personnel resources.

**Equalities impact**

- 4.1 The Strategy actively seeks to play its part in promoting social inclusion and overcoming some of the barriers different groups have in accessing and enjoying semi natural green space.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 5.1 The Strategy principally seeks to take forward the Council Objective of seeking “**a diverse, attractive and healthy environment**” for the City.