



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION 17 OCTOBER 2005

Report of the Director of Development and Cultural  
Services

### **Draft Revised Nature Conservation Strategy and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To consider the Draft Revised Nature Conservation Strategy and to raise any comments on it which the Commission wish to make.

#### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 So that Commission can consider the Draft Strategy and inform Cabinet of its views.

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 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 production of the Revised City of Derby Local Plan (CDLP) 2005, which itself is at an advanced state towards final adoption. This new draft Strategy will act as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to the 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 guiding decisions on development, supplementing the City of Derby Local Plan, but also 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 sister strategies flowing from it.

3.2 It has the overarching draft objective;

“To protect and enhance the wildlife and geological heritage of the City and to promote people’s access, enjoyment and understanding of it and thereby to further national and international obligations in natural history protection and enhancement”.

3.3 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.

3.4 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 which themselves will be expanded upon in a later, separate detailed action plan.

The seven draft aims are:

AIM 1 - To protect from damage the most important wildlife sites, natural history features and species in the city.

AIM 2 – To retain a healthy biological network in the city which connects the wildlife sites and biodiversity features together.

AIM 3 – To maintain the stock of natural history features within the city, below the category of “most important”, at least at its present level.

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 access for all people to wildlife sites and natural features.

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 the aims of the strategy, its implementation and changes to the city’s natural history resources are suitably monitored and recorded.

3.5 In addition, it has been necessary to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategy in parallel with its development. This has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compensation Act, the Local Development Regulations and the Strategy Environmental Assessment Directive and Regulations. The Appraisal generally showed that the Strategy was positive in taking forward many aspects of the sustainable development agenda.

- 3.6 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 six weeks and were also sent to various bodies and individuals for comment. The Document was also discussed by DCP Environment City Executive. All comments made are now being analysed.
- 3.7 The Commission is now asked for its comments on the Draft Strategy. A report to Cabinet on all representations made and responses to them will be prepared later in the year.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None.
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 - Draft Nature Conservation Strategy and Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report (both available on City Council web site at <a href="http://www.derby.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/LandUsePlanning/revisedderbynatureconservationstrategy.htm">http://www.derby.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/LandUsePlanning/revisedderbynatureconservationstrategy.htm</a> )

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

1. None arising from this report.

**Legal**

2. As set out in the report.

**Personnel**

3. None arising from the report.

**Equalities impact**

4. 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. The Strategy principally seeks to take forward the Council Objective of seeking “a diverse, attractive and healthy environment” for the city.