



Harry Blake-Herbert
Governance and Scrutiny Team
Direct: 020 8132 0807
e-mail: Harry.Blake-Herbert@enfield.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL

**Thursday, 8th February, 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Conference Room,
Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XA**

Membership:

Cllrs: Hivran Dalkaya (Chair), Nia Stevens (Vice Chair), Maria Alexandrou, Patricia Gregory, Ahmet Hasan, Mohammad Islam, Destiny Karakus, and Joanne Laban.

AGENDA – PART 1

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary, other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive and agree the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 October 2023.

4. REWILDING (Pages 7 - 42)

To provide an update on rewilding including the beaver reintroduction project, tree planting, wetlands and conservation grazing being carried out as part of the Enfield Chase Landscape Restoration project.

5. CATTLE GRAZING (Pages 43 - 56)

To provide an update on the conservation grazing trial being carried out as part of the Enfield Chase Landscape Restoration project.

6. PARK MANAGEMENT & BIODIVERSITY (Pages 57 - 68)

To provide an update on Parks Management and Biodiversity, including toilet cleaning & signage, Café in parks, grass cutting, the move to tennis courts booking systems, illegal tenting and fishing at Groveland's Park, Parks and verges management.

7. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 (Pages 69 - 72)

To note the Environment & Climate Action Work Programme for 2023/24.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of the future meetings as follows:

Tuesday 12th March 2024

Thursday 18th April 2024.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL - 24.10.2023**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 2023**

MEMBERS: Councillors: Hivran Dalkaya (Chair), Nia Stevens (Vice Chair), Maria Alexandrou, Patricia Gregory, Ahmet Hasan, Mohammad Islam, Destiny Karakus, and Andy Milne.

Officers: Jon Sharkey (Head of Public Realm Services), Martin Rattigan (Interim Head of Regulatory Services), Doug Wilkinson (Director of Environment & Street Scene), and Harry Blake-Herbert (Governance Officer).

Also Attending: Cllr Rick Jewell (Cabinet Member for the Environment), Youth Parliament Representatives (Sila Karapinar (Deputy Young Mayor) and Estel Kayim), and press.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Joanne Laban, who was substituted by Cllr Andy Milne.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received regarding any item on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED the minutes of the previous Environment & Climate Action Scrutiny Panel meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023.

Updates on the actions of the previous meeting were reviewed.

4. UPDATE ON WASTE

Jon Sharkey, Head of Public Realm Services, introduced the recycling and mandatory food waste segregation for businesses elements of the item, highlighting the key aspects of the report.

The officer's presentation to Members included information on: the services offered to residents, an update on the review of the ways in which the team communicate information with residents, recycling performance, government announcements/ regulation changes/updates, and the work being done on the delivery of a commercial food waste collection service.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL - 24.10.2023

Officers responded to Member's questions and comments relating to engagement with Councillors. Officers advised that they had not yet consulted widely with Members on the changes that they were making, but that they would circulate an update on the work they had been doing in an all-councillor communication, in advance of the new/updated webpages going live. Officers agreed to send Members the information leaflet used to communicate to residents what they can/should be doing with the services they provide, and expressed that they had taken on board Members comments on communication from the previous meeting.

In response to Member's queries regarding what items could be recycled, officers advised that they try as best they can to clarify what items can be recycled; the example of loose plastic bags was mentioned, and officers agreed to take this away to see how this could be better communicated going forwards. Officers said the clarification/guidance from the government about future arrangements/requirements was a positive.

In response to Member's queries regarding hard-to-reach groups and areas, officers advised that they looked at average data on a round by round/geographical basis, and tried to target their engagement at those areas performing less effectively.

In response to Member's queries regarding Barrowell Green, officers advised that not wishing to turn people away and taking a relaxed line on bookings, had created some issues. It was expressed that they were now trying to reinforce the message about the slot-based system/appointments, as a means of: discouraging traders, getting useful data, and managing traffic. Cllr Jewell added that the service/facility was easy to book, that it was difficult to turn people around once in the queue, that staff were using common sense by allowing people without bookings in, but that the team wanted to reinforce the booking message in order to alleviate some of the issues being experienced.

In response to Member's queries regarding communication with residents, officers advised that updates to the webpages were coming which would make finding information about the services provided easier, that workshops would be taking in libraries to get feedback on the changes, and that suggestion boxes was something further that they could look at using. Officers advised that conversations with the communications team were taking place about the wider use and variety of social media platforms as a way of increasing accessibility to information.

In response to Member's queries regarding the generation of waste, officers advised that they were engaged with and feeding into conversations and consultations with various groups and government organisations relating to waste reforms. Cllr Jewell added that they had spoken to companies about their packaging, but that it was difficult to engage and enter into partnerships with these global brands.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL - 24.10.2023

In response to Member's queries regarding business waste, officers advised that the obligation was for business to secure a contract to manage their waste. It was explained that enforcement action, such as community payback, could ensure businesses had appropriate arrangements in place, but that a focus needed to be placed on using public money for clearing up public spaces rather than private spaces. Officers said that following the recent government announcement, the team could now begin marketing themselves as a provider of this service, and were in a strong position to do so successfully. Officers expressed that it was difficult to encourage behaviour changes at present, but that the change in regulation/deadline and pricing would help to drive this.

In response to Member's queries regarding missed bins, officers advised that they did not have data regarding performance on this to hand, but that they could provide/circulate this, and the figures/performance were improving. Officers advised that a reconfiguration of resources through Covid had caused some disruption with the main focus being on getting all waste cleared, and subsequently, that lots of improvements had taken place in the intervening time, and that in the scale of the number of collections conducted, circa 250,000 per week, those bins missed made up a very small number.

In response to Member's queries regarding recycling in flats, officers advised that a recent trial had been encouragingly successful, with a big improvement in quality, but that they were waiting to see what finances/funding would be made available from Government from the waste reforms and additional burdens funding for the rollout of the model more widely.

In response to Enfield Youth Parliament Representatives queries regarding engagement with schools, officers advised that they supported and provided their services to schools and were happy to reach out to schools on an individual basis if there was an interest in further engagement.

Martin Rattigan, Interim Head of Regulatory Services, introduced the fly tipping elements of the item, highlighting the key aspects of the report.

The officer's presentation to Members included information on: statistics/performance relating to fly tipping incidents, work with other teams/departments, areas of focus, types and effectiveness of enforcement responses, CCTV usage, active communications with residents, initiatives, and the difficulty of investigating/identifying/ prosecuting individuals for fly tipping.

In response to Member's queries regarding fines and recovering costs, officers advised that fines received from fixed penalty notices went to the council, but that in the case of prosecution/court action, this money went to the courts. The council could only recover what was deemed as reasonable officer and legal expenses/costs, which the courts rarely fully compensated. Cllr Jewell reiterated these sentiments. Officers advised that following changes in the regulations relating to fixed penalty notices charge rates, they

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL - 24.10.2023

would likely move to increase fixed penalty fines to the top level, and offer a reduction for early payment moving forwards.

In response to Member's queries regarding communication with residents, officers advised that the use of different languages would be captured as part of the web page review/improvements, and that some of posters and leaflets already being distributed had been translated in a variety of different languages. Officers expressed that they try to investigate all incidents of fly tipping reported to them across their various platforms, that the reporting system was the primary method for this, but that there were also various email addresses, and telephone numbers advertised. Cllr Jewell added that a name and shame system for fly tippers was still in place.

In response to Member's queries regarding CCTV, officers advised that they were still collecting data on the effectiveness of those cameras already in use, as it would not be prudent to invest further, if they were not proving effective in achieving identification of perpetrators and resulting in prosecutions and a reduction in fly tipping.

In response to Member's queries regarding locking communal/flat-block bins, officers advised that the high turnover of residents in flatted accommodation and the management of keys made this difficult to rollout borough wide; but if particular blocks and management agents wanted to trial/explore this, they would be happy to promote/support this principle. Officers confirmed that in instances when communal bins were broken, they could replace these if alerted/emailed. Cllr Jewell added that such a trial would require blocks where all residents buy into the scheme, as it would only take a few residents to contaminate the waste for the whole building. He explored the idea of having competitions and league tables between various blocks, and discussed the impact of food waste segregation on bin divers.

The Chair reviewed the actions points/outcomes arising from the meeting as including that: information leaflets be circulated to members regarding recycling; the review of information on the webpages be discussed with councillors and language options be explored; clarification as to what can be recycled, for example loose bin bags, be looked at; suggestion boxes for residents be provided in libraries for residents to give their ideas; and data be provided to panel members on missed bin collections.

5. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Members noted and agreed the Environment & Climate Action Scrutiny Panel Work Programme for 2023/24.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the dates of future meetings as set out in the report/agenda pack.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL - 24.10.2023

Members asked that the Governance Officer find/provide a potential date for their additional meeting, for Panel to agree over/via email.

The Chair thanked everyone for their time/contributions, and the meeting ended at 20:37.

This page is intentionally left blank



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Rewilding
Report to	Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting	6 th February 2024
Cabinet Member	Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy
Executive Director / Director	Cheryl Headon, Acting Director of Leisure, Parks and Communities
Report Author	Ian Russell ian.russell@enfield.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected	Cockfosters, Ridgeway, Whitewebbs
Classification	Part 1 Public

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on rewilding including the beaver reintroduction project, tree planting, wetlands and conservation grazing being carried out as part of the Enfield Chase Landscape Restoration project.

Background and Options

Beaver Reintroduction

2. This report follows the Portfolio Report PL 21/021 P – Enfield Beaver Reintroduction Project which is being delivered in partnership with Capel Manor College at Forty Hall Farm.
3. The pair of beavers that were introduced to the site in December 2022 have settled in very well as demonstrated by successfully raising a young kit – the first baby beaver to be born in London for 400 years. They have transformed the site dramatically by building dams, felling trees as well as a creating a lodge to live in. The new wetland landscape they have created provides

habitat for a wide range of wildlife including insects, amphibians, birds and small mammals.

4. To build on the successful establishment of the beavers it is now proposed to seek funding to improve the project from the Mayor of London's Rewild London fund. If successful, this will be used to expand the area of the beaver enclosure to provide additional habitat and install a number of access and interpretation features to enhance opportunities for public engagement and learning.

Wetlands

5. Further rewilding measures are being implemented through the creation of wetland habitats at key locations. As well as providing valuable habitat for a wide range of wildlife these wetlands slow the flow of water by temporarily storing it and releasing it slowly – this helps to reduce the risk of flooding in urban areas downstream and also cleans the water by filtering out pollution.
6. Where appropriate wetlands are being integrated into Enfield's new woodlands – three new wetlands have recently been constructed within the new woodland at Rectory Farm that was planted in early 2023. This brings the number of small wetland scrapes and ponds that have been created within new woodlands as part of the wider Enfield Chase Restoration Project up to a total of fifty. In addition, two toad ponds are under construction within Trent Park and are due to be completed in Spring 2024. These works complement and build on the success of the Council's wider urban wetland construction programme in parks – in the last 12 months constructed wetlands have been completed at Oakwood Park, Durants Park and Wilbury Way Open Space.

Landscape Recovery

7. This report follows the Portfolio Report PL2223_001 – Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Project which describes the proposals to investigate opportunities for landscape restoration measures in rural areas of Enfield by working with land managers in parks and tenanted farms to evaluate the potential restoration of rivers, wetlands, woodland and grassland habitats with the ambition to reduce downstream flooding, improve water quality, create and improve habitats for wildlife and reconnect people with nature.
8. Over the next 15 months Enfield Council will be working with partners including Thames21, tenant farms (such as Capel Manor College/Forty Hall Farm, Beech Barn Farm, Botany Bay Farm and Chase and Slopers Pond Farm), Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Natural England and The Rivers Trust, to develop a series of plans for the long-term restoration and enhancement of the rural estate, these will include
 - Project Management and Governance Plan – agreement on the processes and services that will support delivery of the scheme
 - Monitoring and Evaluation Plan – a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy
 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan – raise awareness of the project among local stakeholders and enable them to raise their views

- Site Access Plan – review existing access and identify opportunities for improvement, includes development of a recreation and health infrastructure strategy
- Blended Finance Plan – agreement of how and what private and public funds are involved in the project
- Land Management Plan – a description of what the project is expecting to achieve across the whole site over the lifetime of the agreement and beyond, including analysis of potential carbon emission reductions and offsetting opportunities.

Tree Planting

9. This report follows the Portfolio Report PL 22/081 P – Enfield Chase Restoration Project Woodland Creation Year 3 which led to the creation of a 20-hectare area of woodland on land that was formerly part of Rectory Farm. This most recent phase of woodland creation involved planting 34,000 trees and was carried out in early 2023. In combination with the first two years of the woodland creation project, which involved planting 100,000 trees over a 60-hectare area, this means that a total of 134,000 trees have been planted in the Enfield Chase area since 2020 to create 80 hectares of new woodland.
10. The new woodlands require management to ensure they establish successfully. A new Woodland Officer role has been created to carry out this work with funding support from the Forestry Commission. The Woodland Officer has been working with volunteers such as the Friends of Enfield Chase to carry out a range of tasks to help the new trees establish. Around 8,000 trees are being planted this winter in areas where trees have not established successfully. When carrying out woodland creation projects it is expected that not all the young trees will survive; however, the drought of Summer 2022 resulted in higher tree losses than would normally be expected so a significant programme of re-planting is being carried out this year – this commenced in January and is due to be completed by the end of February.
11. Future phases of woodland creation are currently being explored. This involves engaging with the Forestry Commission, woodland design experts, tenant farmers and other teams within the Council – this aspect is led by the Council's Blue and Green Strategy Board and the new Head of Rural Transformation who will be updating the Council's Rural Strategy over the coming months.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

12. These projects are closely aligned with Priority 1 of the Council Plan, which aims to enhance biodiversity and protect our parks, open spaces, woodlands, watercourses, wetlands, trees and shrubs. By improving biodiversity, reducing the impact of pollution and flooding and encouraging people to spend more time in Enfield's parks and open spaces they also contribute to measures in the Council's Climate Action Plan, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Blue and Green Strategy.

Report Author: Ian Russell
Principal Engineer, Watercourses

Ian.Russell@Enfield.gov.uk

020 8132 0964

Appendices

- Appendix 1.PL 21/021 P – Enfield Beaver Reintroduction Project
- Appendix 2.PL 22/081 P – Enfield Chase Restoration Project – Woodland Creation Year 3
- Appendix 3.PL2223_001 – Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Project

Please note Part 2 report is now confidential appendix.

London Borough of Enfield

Portfolio Report

Report of: Doug Wilkinson

Subject: [Enfield Beaver Re-introduction Project]

Cabinet Members: [Cllr Rick Jewell, Cllr. Ian Barnes]

Executive Director: [Sarah Cary]

Ward: [Chase]

Key Decision: [N/A]

Purpose of Report

1. To present information regarding a proposed Beaver enclosed release trial at a site in Enfield.

Proposal(s)

2. That the Cabinet Member for Environment be asked to approve the commencement of a Beaver enclosure release trial in accordance with a Natural England Wildlife Licence Application, in collaboration with Capel Manor College who are the tenant (Enfield Council are the landlord) of the proposed site which is within Forty Hall Farm, as part of a wider Natural Flood Management (NFM) initiative.
3. That the Cabinet Member for Environment be asked to agree to the proposed project budget and development of a funding mechanism of corporate sponsorship and / or income generation developed alongside specific Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and project partners.
4. That the Cabinet Member for Environment delegate authority to the Head of Highway Services to authorise the placing of orders through any of Highway Services existing relevant term contracts or to invite and evaluate tenders / quotations and, where suitable tenders / quotations are received, to award contracts for the works in compliance with the Council's procurement rules.

Reason for Proposal(s)

5. To achieve the following benefits and objectives:

6. Contribute to on-going national efforts to assess and monitor the reintroduction of an extinct native species to the UK through release into trial enclosures with conservation objectives, aligned to climate adaptation.
7. Monitor and assess the influence on the level of local landscape alteration and natural flood management (NFM) impact function through water attenuation.
8. Monitor and assess the impact on biodiversity and ecosystem service brought about by the introduction of a “key-stone species”.
9. Encourage the restoration of riparian and open water habitats and increase biodiversity along the river corridor.
10. Develop opportunities for ecotourism focussing on the benefits listed above and to engage, educate and inspire local communities, children and groups.
11. Demonstrate the applicability of a Beaver habitat in the outer London area as the first known Beaver trial in London, working in partnership with local organisations and communities.

Relevance to the Council’s Plan

12. The project meets the following aims of the Council Plan by:
 - Creating opportunities to increase the number of people visiting and enjoying our parks and open spaces
 - Working in partnership, the project demonstrates that the Council are open to working in collaboration with local businesses, communities, education providers and charities
 - Supporting the cross cutting theme of Climate Action by enhancing the natural landscape, capturing carbon and improving biodiversity, as well as creating an opportunity to inspire and educate in this area.

Background

13. The Governments 25-year Environment Plan published in 2018 advocates greater use of Natural Flood Management (NFM) techniques to reduce the risk of harm from flooding.
14. In Enfield an NFM programme has been in place since 2017 to reduce the risk of flooding in the lower river catchments by using techniques to slow the flow in the upper catchments. It has delivered a range of measures which work together at the catchment level to mitigate flooding downstream such as woody dams, wetland scrapes and woodland creation. In Enfield most watercourses drain from the north / north-west to the south / south-east of the borough, flood alleviation interventions are required throughout the catchments to reduce risk.
15. The Enfield Chase Restoration Project links rewilding, landscape restoration and NFM, as part of this the London Borough of Enfield and Capel Manor College (as project partners) are proposing to work together on a project to reintroduce Eurasian Beavers (castor fiber) in an enclosed release trial in a selected suitable site on land owned by Enfield Council and leased by Capel Manor College. The trial would contribute to the wider NFM project and increase understanding of a UK native

species through monitoring the impact on hydrology¹, landscape, water quality and biodiversity.

16. The proposed site is located on land which forms part of Enfield Council's leasehold estate, namely Forty Hall Farm, which is leased to Capel Manor College. The site is known locally as Archers Wood and is characterised as a mixed deciduous woodland area with a series of un-named watercourses running through it as well as the old abandoned course of the New River, it is sited at the northern boundary of the Forty Hall Farm property. It is bordered to the west by Whitewebbs Park and to the east by Tottenham Hotspur Football Club Training Ground. Whitewebbs Lane is located approximately 50m to the north. For the purposes of the project the site would need to be defined and suitably bounded by a fence to form an enclosure as specified under a Wildlife Licence administered by Natural England. See appendices for a plan of the above.
17. An initial feasibility study of the site was carried out by a beaver specialist, Derek Gow (Derek Gow Consultancy Ltd) in late 2019 and concluded that the proposed c.6ha site is suitable for a free-living population of Eurasian beavers with sufficient habitat in order to demonstrate their behavioural activities. Beavers typically prefer low-lying, productive riparian² environments with abundant food (certain tree species), deep water and friable burrowing banks, where the situation allows they will readily impound shallow narrow stream systems, old depressions and plains such as those present in the site. It is likely that their activity will combine to create a mixed open style woodland with retained water in a fen meadow style environment.
18. Similar enclosure trials are in place throughout the UK at multiple locations, including sites in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, the South Downs and Essex; Enfield Council officers have visited some of these sites to explore the logistics and approaches employed. It is a requirement under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) that the release of this species is controlled. It is proposed that the licensee will be the tenant (Capel Manor College), which the Council will support the application with technical and administrative assistance where required. The licence application requires information to be submitted such as method statements, enclosure details, exit strategies and animal health monitoring. Whilst there may be scope in the future for the species to be released with the right to remain and spread naturally this provision does not exist yet.
19. In accordance with a method statement for the project it is intended to release (subject to availability) a structured family group (a wild adult breeding pair and their yearling offspring). The translocation will be from Scotland, under a licence obtained from Scottish Natural Heritage by the project specialist consultant.
20. The enclosure will be formed by erecting a beaver proof fence, which will be constructed as a timber post and steel mesh arrangement to a height varying from 1.2m – 1.7m from ground level.
21. The proposed site is outside of the nearby Scheduled Monument area of Elsyng Palace and the Registered Park and Garden of Forty Hall; being outside these designations removes the inherent restrictions which they would place on the project. The site contains existing Public Rights of Way which will be retained, as well as permissive paths which will be retained as far as practicably possible. Details of the planned enclosure site location and layout is included in the appendices to this report.

¹ The scientific study of the movement, distribution, and management of water

² Situated on or adjacent to the banks of a river or stream

22. Further internal consultation is required to establish the likely need for planning permission as the site is located within Forty Hall Conservation Area and the Whitewebbs and Forty Hill Archaeological Priority Area. The impact on these heritage designations is likely to be low, however this will still need to be determined.

23. Neighbouring land owners and land users as well as other relevant stakeholders have been consulted on the proposals and no objections have been received.

Main Considerations for the Council

24. In order to ensure that the project has input from a broad range of professions and organisations it is proposed that the initiative is run in collaboration with Capel Manor College. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be agreed between the two organisations setting out the approach to the project. A draft copy of this document is included in the appendices. A summary of the lead organisations key roles and responsibilities are shown in the table below.

<p>Capel Manor College</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit licence application to Natural England and acting as primary point of contact and licence holder for any agreement • Arrange logistics of beaver introduction such as acquisition, vet screen and delivery • Lead responsibility for beaver welfare and health (utilising specialists where necessary) • Monitoring and maintenance of site infrastructure consisting of specialist beaver enclosure fencing, gates and other watercourse features associated with the enclosure • Assist on monitoring surveys of the terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species (to be performed alongside college courses as appropriate) • Installation and maintenance of trail cameras • Jointly develop method statements and risk assessments for the project • Jointly develop on site signage and interpretation • Jointly deliver community engagement alongside any other project partners • Jointly facilitate and arrange project sponsorship and funding mechanisms
<p>London Borough of Enfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full approval of the project to be carried out on the site which is owned by Enfield Council • Obtain and administer all other necessary consents (Ordinary Watercourse consents) and others (other than Natural England licence) • Carry out and commission as necessary all feasibility studies including site suitability and baseline topographic surveys • Lead on hydrological monitoring and performance from a natural flood management perspective • Commission as necessary baseline and on-going surveys as necessary, including topography, ecology and water quality • Review and approve as necessary all required infrastructure as required such as water sluice gates, fences, gates and outlets – including ensuring that the site appropriately prepared. • Enfield’s Watercourses team will be the lead contact for the project on behalf of the council and will facilitate communication with other Council departments such as Property Services • Jointly develop method statements and risk assessments for the project • Jointly develop on site signage and interpretation • Jointly deliver community engagement alongside any other project partners

- Jointly facilitate and arrange project sponsorship and funding mechanisms

25. It is anticipated that many of the functions carried out by Capel Manor College will be performed as part of the colleges education and training programme and running of the farm.
26. Enfield Councils involvement in the project will cover landowner responsibilities as well as demonstrating and fulfilling the NFM and Climate Action objectives cited earlier in the report.
27. It is proposed that other non-governmental organisations will be utilised to perform actions around the project upon the instructions of the project partners. Thames 21 and Local Wildlife Trusts will be commissioned to perform water quality and ecological assessments respectively. The involvement of these organisations will enhance the community and education aspect of the project by involving volunteers. Particularly by aligning the project with wider partnership projects such as Restoring Enfield's Rivers, which will provide the opportunity to prepare aspects of the site for the project such as vegetation clearance prior to the fence installation.
28. The project will be jointly led by the two lead partnership organisations and this will be made clear on all publicising material and communications upon agreement of all parties. It is anticipated that a joint communications strategy will be developed and utilised.
29. The treatment of the site in relation to the existing lease which is held between London Borough of Enfield and Capel Manor College is dealt with later in this report.

Safeguarding Implications

30. Where the project provides interaction among the community for children, young people and vulnerable adults this will be carried out within the adopted policies of those organisations leading such activities.
31. It is anticipated that the project will deliver opportunities to provide a setting in which those at risk can seek an education through nature.

Public Health Implications

32. The proposal will have a positive impact on improving access to natural spaces by increasing the range of interest areas and in doing so contribute to narrowing the gap between those with the best and poorest health. The project will provide enhanced access to green space and natural world experience for populations with a wide range of abilities. Studies have shown that more time spent in green space is associated with greater mental health and vitality. Other studies have shown that visitors to natural environments significantly reduced both physical and psychological stress levels after the visit, as opposed to those who visited a more built up outdoor setting or indoor space.
33. The project will provide a setting and opportunity to inspire and educate people and enhance provision for social interaction by visiting the site on nature tours, citizen science opportunities or volunteering.
34. The site itself is accessible through an existing network of Public Rights of Way including footpaths / bridleways and permissive paths and will therefore be accessible by active and sustainable means of travel, with no provision for parking of

vehicles in the immediate vicinity of the site. Therefore, promoting uptake of active travel and discouraging unhealthy lifestyle choices.

35. The project is being run and managed in collaboration with Forty Hall Farm, which is a certified organic farm run by Capel Manor College, the farm runs a community orchard, a market garden and a farm shop. This provision will be linked to project and thereby promote opportunities to link to these healthy eating initiatives.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

36. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and;
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

37. Advancing equality of opportunity mean having due regard to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
- take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people, and;
- encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

38. We have considered whether the proposal is relevant to the Public Sector Equality duty by asking whether the proposal:

- a. would affect service users, employees or the wider community;
- b. is a major policy in terms of equality;
- c. could have a significant effect on one or more protected characteristic;
- d. relates to an area with known inequalities;
- e. relates to areas where equality objectives have been set;

and have reached the conclusion that approval of a Beaver enclosure release trial is not relevant.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

39. The project is being developed with an environmentally beneficial scheme at its centre, by demonstrating climate adaptation measures and environmental management through natural flood management, water quality improvements, ecological resilience and biodiversity enhancements, achieved via a method of nature conservation and including opportunities for education and interpretation around these themes.

40. The site will be carefully monitored in order to evaluate the medium and long-term environmental impacts. As well as this, the site will be monitored to ensure that short term environmental management aspects are dealt with.

41. The main energy consumption impact of the project will be the installation of a fence, any electrification of the fence will be run by a solar power source. The scheme will demonstrate a land management approach which is aligned to climate adaptation and it is envisaged that the activities of the key-stone species will create a carbon sink through their activities.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

42. To not go ahead with the project would result in the loss of the opportunity to work with an engaged and capable project team who are also a tenant of the Council at a suitable site. The project also presents the opportunity to demonstrate a potential shift in environmental management in a controlled manner which could be extended to a wider setting in time. Utilising this opportunity allows the authority to assess the benefits and impacts of the project with all major variables controlled.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

43. The project contains risks associated with delivery and implementation. The following table details the potential risks associated with the project, all of which have been considered in appropriate method statements and risk assessments.

Risk Category	Risk Description	Risk Management Measures
Animal welfare	Issues could occur with the beavers health at any point in their transportation, release to the site, and whilst living in the enclosure. Such issues could range from disease to injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility assessment of the site to ensure suitability of food / terrain / structure • Pre-release health screening in accordance with suitable methodology by appointed practitioner • Post-release health screening carried out through remote trail cameras and regular visual observations by appointed practitioner • Provision of a veterinary service and full field health checks under vet subscription • Assessment of the site structure
Beaver escape	<p>The conditions of the licence from Natural England ensures that the beavers are to be held securely within a suitable enclosure.</p> <p>Any escapes would threaten the conditions of the licence and pose a risk of unintended damage to neighbouring land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional advice sought from specialists regarding the fence specification, which will be constructed with suitable materials, to designs and include electrification • Enclosure design which places a suitable buffer between neighbouring land users • Self-closing / lockable access gates • Specialist grilles / water sluice gates where the fence crosses watercourses • Regular monitoring and checks of the enclosure for any damage assessment on a routine basis by Capel Manor College • Drawn up escape action plan
Public interference	The site will be surrounded by a public right of way and a permissive path through the site will be maintained initially	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gated access to the enclosure will be self closing, lockable and fitted with telemetry to alert the project team of any abnormal activity • Trial cameras to remotely monitor activity • Regular monitoring and checks of the

	via pedestrian gates. Risks include vandalism to the site / intentional or accidental harm	<p>enclosure for any damage assessment on a routine basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication strategy to educate about the project and careful public disclosure over exact location of site (with acknowledgement that the location will not be confidential) • Onsite interpretation and signage • Development of a considered access strategy
Flooding	The behaviour of the beavers in the trial site will lead to landscape change and include retaining water at higher levels than at present due to dam construction on watercourses. There is therefore a risk to surrounding footpaths of flood inundation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site check has been carried out to simulate potential retained water levels in respect to the surrounding footpaths and bridges • Raising of footpaths and bridges to be carried out as necessary • Installation of a bespoke drainage outfall at a set level to ensure that flood waters do not adversely affect the outside of the site
Tree fall	The behaviour of the beavers in the trial site will lead to trees being felled as they provide food and materials for construction of lodges and dams. The greatest risk is to trees closest to the fence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement of the fence at a slight inset to the existing fence-line and therefore set back from surrounding well used paths • Assessment of all mature trees and their potential fall zone • Protection of most at risk trees with measures such as painting at low levels with rubberised paint or enclosing with weldmesh as part of site set up
Added visitor pressure to nearby infrastructure and assets	Interest in the project leading to increased pressure on the area including car parking, roads, footpaths and associated infrastructure, as well as nearby designated sites associated with heritage and nature conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inherent mitigation through a range of options to get to the site via footpaths only, which will disperse the pressure • No obvious parking sites associated with the site • Guided tours provided by the project partnership to provide a control on the numbers of visitors • Sensitive heritage designations are outside the project site area so should not be directly affected
Inadequate data collection	A primary objective of the project is to use the demonstration site to obtain data on various environmental metrics. Risk that the data obtained is not sufficient in extent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving a range of project partners for advice from a range of back grounds – including specialists in beaver behaviours and trial sites, wildlife and biodiversity monitoring, water quality as well as the specialisms of the project partners including flooding and drainage (LB Enfield) and animal husbandry and teaching (Capel Manor College) • Commissioning baseline surveys and setting out an evaluation plan from the outset
Unexpected requirement to end the project	The initial project duration is 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exit strategy has been devised which deals with any needs to end the project earlier than expected as well as an action plan for terminating the project at the end of the

	licence period if it is not extended
--	--------------------------------------

44. As outlined the project requires a wildlife licence to be issued via Natural England, a requirement of the licence application is to submit a method statement and risk assessment, which covers many of these risks in more detail.
45. Many of the routine monitoring aspects of the risk management measures will be provided by Capel Manor College under their listed roles and responsibilities as defined by the MoU. It is worth noting that this is supported by a network of informal volunteers in the community who provide reports on cattle and other herds of animals on the nearby farm, which would be extended to this project.

Financial Implications

46. The total estimated lifetime cost of the project is £169k (shown in the table below). It is proposed that Enfield Council will fund the project establishment element (£108k). To date, a contribution of £40k has been allocated from the Council's Highways Flood Alleviation Capital programme budget, the remaining £68k will be met using funding committed for the Enfield Chase Restoration Project. Officers will be exploring various potential funding sources to meet the on-going running costs of £61k; i.e. from private corporate sponsorship funding, grant awarding bodies, public sector or cost recovery and reinvestment.
47. The project costs have been estimated and comprise capital set up costs, which includes the enclosure construction and project equipment and materials, and on-going annual costs of the project. The details of these costs are shown in the table below. The total costs for the project set up and the first year of running costs have been shown, with further running costs demonstrated on an annual basis for the expected 5-year duration of the project.

Item	Unit	Quantity	£ / unit	Cost
Project establishment and equipment costs				
Fencing – including sluice gates and access gates	No.	1	62,870	£ 62,870
Acquisition, vet screen and delivery of beavers	No.	1	8,000	£ 8,000
Design and build of artificial beaver lodge	No.	1	500	£ 500
Beaver specialists	No.	1	1,000	£ 1,000
Project and site monitoring equipment	No.	1	5,150	£ 5,150
On site signage and project interpretation	No.	1	9,560	£ 9,560
LB Enfield Professional Fees	No.	70	69.53	£ 4,867
Baseline Ecological Survey	No.	1	2,000	£ 2,000
Project establishment and equipment costs sub-total				£ 93,947
<i>Contingency (@ 15%)</i>				<i>£ 14,092</i>
Project establishment and equipment costs net-total				£ 108,039
On-going monitoring / running costs				
Species 360 and vet costs	Yr.	5	6,600	£ 33,000
Expenses for specialists	Yr.	5	1,000	£ 5,000
Survey budget - Topographic / Drone	Yr.	5	2,000	£10,000
Ecological survey budget	Yr.	5	1,000	£ 5,000
On-going running costs sub-total (annual / lifetime)			£10,600	£ 53,000
<i>Contingency (@ 15%)</i>				<i>£ 7,950</i>
On-going running costs net-total				£ 60,950

48. In drawing up the plans for the project certain elements of the project have been allocated for inclusion as part of other associated schemes or functions of the project partners at a nil cost to this project. These items include ground clearance around the site for the new fence installation to be provided as part of the Restoring Enfield's Rivers project and assistance with the site check and environmental monitoring as part of Capel Manor Colleges educational and farm management functions.
49. The MoU with Capel Manor College includes a provision for the shared liability for the on-going running costs with them as the partner organisation. It is envisaged that these costs will be met in part or full by utilising an eco-tourism element of the project through guided tours, which the College is best placed to coordinate.

Legal Implications

50. S.1 Localism Act (2011) provides the Council with the power to do anything an individual may do, subject to certain limitations. This is referred to as the "general power of competence" (GPOC). A local authority may exercise the GPOC for its own purpose, for a commercial purpose and/or for the benefit of others.
51. Under s.111 Local Government Act (1972) local authorities may do anything, including incurring expenditure or borrowing which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of their functions.
52. The MOU to be entered into with Capel Manor College must be in a form approved by Legal Services.
53. Any orders placed under the council's existing term contracts for the provision of services or works must be placed in accordance with the terms of those contracts and be within the remit of what those term contracts were intended to originally cover. If any existing term contracts are proposed to be used in an alternate way to which they were originally intended, then legal advice must be sought before such orders are placed.
54. New contracts awarded for the purposes of this project must be awarded in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules (CPRs), where applicable the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015), and all governance processes must be followed in accordance with the council's constitution. Any new contracts awarded or orders placed under an existing term contract must have adequate budgetary provision to service the contract or order.
55. The Council must ensure value for money in accordance with the overriding Best Value Principles under the Local Government Act 1999.
56. Where income is to be generated local authorities are required to work within the legal framework that allows for this. Section 93(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 ('LGA 2003') provides power to charge for discretionary services, but with the proviso's that:
- the authority is authorised, but not required, by an enactment to provide the service, and
 - he or she whom is to be charged has agreed to its provision.

57. If the council is intending to trade for a commercial purpose in order to make a profit, then Enfield Council could only enter into such an arrangement through a company. Were this required legal advice must be sought.
58. The proposed decision must be consulted at a time when proposals are at a sufficiently formative stage, with adequate information, and time to allow a proper and informed response. There is no general duty for public authorities to consult those affected by their decisions; but a duty to consult may be imposed by statute, or may arise in public law either because of the duty to act fairly, or as a result of a legitimate expectation.

Workforce Implications

59. There are no expected workforce implications arising for the Council as a result of this project at present.

Property Implications

60. The project site is located within the Councils Corporate Rural Property Portfolio owned by Enfield Council and leased to Capel Manor College and known as Forty Hall Farm. It is envisaged that the agreement to work together on this project is carried out in isolation from the tenancy agreement with both partners to the agreement having separate responsibilities. Although to carry out the project the London Borough of Enfield would need to grant landlord consent, which approval of this report would infer and which would be granted by Strategic Property Services in accordance with Property Procedure Rules.
61. Further property / tenancy implications will be sought from Strategic Property Services and Knight Frank, Council's Rural Agents, in conjunction with Legal Services to identify and agree the most appropriate way to document this project with Capel Manor College. It is not expected that any problems will arise in this necessary process.

Other Implications

62. The Wildlife Licence application to Natural England seeks to collate other information which is briefly outlined in this report such as method statements, enclosure plans, exit strategies and notifications and dialogue held with neighbouring land users.

Options Considered

63. As outlined earlier in this report this initiative is planned to compliment measures already carried out to achieve Natural Flood Management measures. All of these implemented functions are achieved through direct human action (for example building leaky woody dams on watercourses and increasing catchment roughness), however this project looks to implement a more natural, conservation driven method and monitor and test the results.

Conclusions

64. It is concluded that the Council should follow the proposals outlined at the start of this report so that an innovative environmental partnership project with multiple benefits can be carried out.

Report Author: Graham Campbell
Senior Engineer
graham.campbell@enfield.gov.uk
020 8132 0963

Date of report July 2021

Appendices

MoU Enfield Beaver Project draft 20210701.doc
Beaver Enclosure Plan v.4.0 July 2021 (small).pdf

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

London Borough of Enfield

Portfolio Report

Report of: Doug Wilkinson – Director of Environment & Operational Services
Peter George – Director of Property & Development

Subject: Enfield Chase Restoration Project – Woodland Creation Year 3

Cabinet Member: Cllr Rick Jewell – Cabinet Member for Environment, in consultation with Cllr Tim Leaver – Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement and Cllr Ergin Erbil – Deputy Leader of the Council

Executive Director: Sarah Cary – Executive Director – Place

Ward: Ridgeway, Whitewebbs

Key Decision: N/A

Purpose of Report

1. It is proposed to create 20 hectares of publicly accessible woodland on existing Council owned farmland at Rectory Farm, this builds on the 60 hectares of woodland that has been planted since 2020. The new woodland will involve planting 34,000 trees and capture an additional 112 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. The new woodland is proposed to be planted in early 2023.
2. This report follows the Portfolio Reports PL 19/107 P and PL 20/034 P which proposed the creation of 60 hectares of woodland.
3. This report seeks approval to remove 20 hectares from an existing farm tenancy in order to expand woodland creation project that commenced in 2020.
4. Further reports will follow to seek approval for future phases of the project as they develop.

Proposals

5. To convert 20 hectares of agricultural land to woodland at Rectory Farm. This involves the removal of this land from the area comprising Rectory Farm which will take effect as part of the renewal of the Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) agreement with the Rectory Farm tenant farmer which had been negotiated via the Council's land agents, Knight Frank.

6. To approve the proposed woodland creation and on these parcels of land at Rectory Farm and accept funding from Forestry Commission under the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO).
7. To integrate Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures, such as ponds and wetland scrapes, into the new woodland landscape to reduce flood risk in urban areas downstream as described in Enfield's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2016).
8. To delegate authority to the Head of Parks and Open Spaces to authorise the placing of orders through any of the Council's existing relevant term contracts or to invite and evaluate tenders/quotations and, where suitable tenders/quotations are received, to award contracts for the works as part of the delivery of the woodland creation project in compliance with the Council's procurement rules.
9. To continue to work with Strategic Property Services and other internal teams within the Council to explore opportunities and develop plans and funding bids for future woodland creation and associated landscape restoration measures.

Reason for Proposals

10. The proposals contribute to mitigating climate change by offsetting carbon emissions, as supported by the Enfield Climate Action Plan. According to Natural England's Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat publication (NERR094), mixed native broadleaved woodland can capture 5.6 tonnes of carbon per hectare per year (allowing for 20% open space). This means that the new 20 hectares of woodland will capture 112 tonnes of carbon per hectare per year on average. Considering the 60 hectares of newly planted woodland in the previous two years, the overall woodland creation project would be estimated to capture a total of 448 tonnes of carbon per year. The proposed planting will be allocated to meet the Council's carbon neutrality commitments.
11. Enhancements to biodiversity by creating and extending the network of lowland deciduous woodland habitats, a priority habitat as identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, as well as the creation of priority wetland habitats within the woodland areas. The area forms part of the wider Enfield Chase, the former ancient woodland, therefore the project will contribute towards the restoration of this historical area.
12. Reducing flood risk in the lower catchment of the Turkey Brook through interception of rainfall from the rural catchment by the newly created woodland and wetland features.
13. The current proposals for woodland creation in the 2022/2023 tree planting season will attract estimated funding of ~£250k from the Forestry Commission, and potentially further funding from Rewild London/Greater London Authority with the inclusion of Rural SuDS features.
14. Increased opportunities for recreational activities such as walking and enjoying nature, by improving access to Enfield's Green Belt land, and associated benefits to public health and well-being.

Relevance to the Council Plan 2020 - 2022

15. The project is closely aligned to Priority 2 of the Council Plan, which aims to promote safe, healthy and confident communities. In particular the Woodland Creation enables the improvement of accessibility and quality of blue green spaces, and contributes towards the Council's pledge to plant trees within the borough. The project also helps with the Council's climate resilience by working with nature which is a key theme in the current Council Plan.
16. The project provides opportunities to work in partnership with different teams within the Council, as well as different organisations such as Thames21 (who will be leading on the volunteering events), the Forestry Commission, London Wildlife Trust (through the Rewild London funding) and the GLA. These partnerships help in promoting Enfield widely to ensure that the Borough receives the maximum benefit from national, regional and sub-regional programmes which will enhance Enfield's reputation across London and beyond.

Background

17. As part of the wider Enfield Chase Restoration project, it is proposed to extend the woodland creation proposals following the successful tree planting of 100,000 trees in the previous two phases. The third phase proposed to create 20 hectares of woodland at Rectory Farm, on land that is currently designated green belt and primarily used for farming.
18. The wider aim of the project is to extend and restore some of the ancient forest of Enfield Chase by creating woodland with improved public access and biodiversity enhancements. It will also contribute to mitigating the climate emergency by reducing flood risk and increasing carbon sequestration. The table below summarises the area of woodland creation from the previous two years as well as the proposed woodland creation as part of Phase 3 of the project. Natural regeneration relies on trees growing from seeds rather than planting saplings, it therefore requires more time but is considered by many ecologists to result in a more diverse, resilient woodland. Some level of natural regeneration will be allowed in Phase 3; however, this is not significant and therefore has not been quantified.

Year	2020/21 Phase 1	2021/22 Phase 2	2022/23 Phase 3	Overall
Woodland Planting (ha)	25	25	20	70
Natural Regeneration (ha)	5	5	0	10
Overall Woodland Creation (ha)	30	30	20	80

19. This report should be read in conjunction with previous reports, PL 18.113 (Enfield Rural Catchment Project, which outlines the use of Natural Flood Management techniques to reduce flooding in downstream urban areas), PL 19/107 P (Enfield Restoration Project, outlining the funding from the Greater London Authority and Forestry Commission for the first Phases 1-2 of Woodland Creation) and PL 20/034 P (to regain the land to facilitate Woodland Creation for the first two phases of the project).
20. Following the previous successful phases of Woodland Creation, the Forestry Commission have encouraged the Council to develop further funding bids through the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) grant. Consequently, a EWCO

funding bid was developed and agreed with the Forestry Commission (November 2022).

21. The below table outlines the costs of the project and the funding secured to date. The total funding secured from the EWCO grant is £249,775.87 which includes a 10-year maintenance contribution of £57k. To deliver the NFM features, the Council have submitted a funding bid for the Rewild London fund and are expecting feedback on the success of the bid in January 2023. If funding is not secured, space will be provided to deliver these features in the future when funding is available.

Project Cost Element	Estimated Cost £000	LBE borrowing £000	External grant funding £000	Funding Gap/External Funding Sought
Tree planting, protection and other supplementary features	233	40	193 (EWCO)	N/A
NFM Features – ponds and wetland scrapes	50	10	N/A	40k from Rewild London Fund TBC
Sub-total capital	283	50	193	40
Tree maintenance (10 years)	57	N/A	57 (EWCO)	N/A
Sub-total revenue	57	0	57	0
Project total	340	50	250	40

22. It is proposed to commence tree planting in January 2023. This will be in partnership with the waterway charity Thames21, who have supported the previous two phases of Woodland Creation and will be leading the volunteer events. These planting events are envisaged to continue into March 2023.

23. All works are expected to complete this financial year, in line with the tree planting season (November to March).

Main Considerations for the Council

24. The project involves the conversion of 20 hectares of agricultural land to woodland. These proposals represent an opportunity to expand on the successes and benefits of the woodland creation that occurred in the 2019/2020 and 2021/2022 tree planting seasons. The project helps to realise the Council's objectives on providing better climate resilience and provides multiple benefits. These benefits include the capturing carbon, creating important habitats for wildlife and reducing flood risk in the Turkey Brook catchment. With the introduction of ponds and wetlands, there will also be significant benefit for reducing pollution generated from the surrounding farmland. The project will help realise long-term benefits for local residents, providing better access to nature and better quality nature spaces.
25. The project has attracted significant levels of funding from partner organisations and have demonstrated high levels of public support. The previous phases of woodland creation have facilitated the formation of the Friends of Enfield Chase community group, who are playing an integral part in planting and establishing the woodland. The project also helps to support these groups in reconnecting with nature.

Safeguarding Implications

26. There are no direct safeguarding implications to children, young people and vulnerable adults from these proposals. The rationale for this is that is an environmental scheme for improving an existing public asset by incorporating existing inaccessible space.

Public Health Implications

27. Climate change is the greatest threat to human health of the 21st century. The project contributes to the efforts of the Council to mitigate climate change.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

28. Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out to support the project.
29. The Equalities Impact Assessment demonstrates that the scheme will generally have a positive impact on Enfield residents, and has identified several mitigation measures to further recognise opportunities to reduce inequalities. The scheme will be designed in accordance with good practice to ensure it is reasonably accessible for all users; any new footpaths will be compliant with the Equalities Act 2010.
30. It should be noted that any contracts awarded should include a duty on the successful applicant to assist us with meeting our obligations under the Equalities Act 2010.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

31. The Council has committed to being a Carbon Neutral organisation by 2030 and Carbon Neutral Borough by 2040. Natural offsetting through green infrastructure - including wetlands, tree planting and expansion of the natural environment was a key strategy of the Council's Climate Action Plan. An appropriate accounting system to capture the sequestration of the land change over time will be established in-line with approved methodologies.
32. The Climate Action Plan includes key actions around tree planting, woodland creation and flood defences which this proposal supports the delivery of.
33. As reported by the IPCC, the effects of change are now unavoidable, and we must be prepared for climate hazards including a future with extreme weather, heat waves and flooding events. In addition to mitigation through carbon sequestration this proposal supports adaptation of the borough and the ability to respond to climate hazards and extreme weather events such as flooding.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

34. The following key risks relate to not implementing the project:
- Loss of approximately £300k of external funding to Enfield
 - Loss of opportunity to increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat
 - Loss of opportunity to cooperate with the local community
 - Loss of opportunity to reduce flood risk and offset carbon emissions

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

35. The first few years following the planting of the trees is critical to their long-term survival. Key risks include browsing by animals, drought or flood conditions, vandalism, fire and disease. These risks and mitigation measures are summarised in the table below:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measure
Browsing by deer / rabbits / other	5	4	- Protection with guards and / or stock fencing as appropriate
Drought	3	5	- Carrying out planting as early in the season as possible - Ensure that surrounding vegetation does not outcompete trees for water - watering methods to be explored
Land contribution / failure to meet funding objectives	3	4	- The timely sign off of agreements and serving of notices being pursued

36. Trees that were planted in between December 2021 and February 2022 as part of the second phase of woodland creation, were subject to a prolonged drought during summer 2022. The survival rates of the trees were estimated to be 72%, which is considered to be good given the extreme dry and hot conditions experienced in the summer of 2022. Any trees that survived this event are considered to have a strong chance of surviving future similar dry spells.
37. The conditions of the EWCO funding require the woodland to become established at the stocking density planted.
38. Once the land is taken out of the existing tenancies the land in question becomes the direct responsibility and under the liability of Enfield Council with no sitting tenant. The land will thereafter be managed by Parks and Open Spaces.

Financial Implications

39. The costs of capital works are expected to be £283k – to be funded from £233k external capital grants/third party contributions and £50k borrowing. £193k external funding has been secured to date. The Council is awaiting confirmation of a further £40k external funding from the Rewild London Fund. £50k borrowing is approved within the overall project budget. All spend is expected to be incurred this financial year, in line with the tree planting season.
40. There is funding risk with regard to the £40k Rewild London Fund external funding contribution assumed but not yet received. If the Council is not successful in securing this funding, it will seek to reduce the scope of the project accordingly.
41. Whilst not yet ordered, the trees have been ‘reserved’, which provides confidence around sufficiency of capital budget required.
42. The creation of the new 20 hectares woodland carries with it an annual estimated revenue maintenance obligation of £5.7k per annum. Grant funding for 10 years estimated maintenance costs (£57k total) has been received as part of 2022/23 in year EWCO grant award. Any increases to this estimate will be managed from within existing approved revenue budgets for Parks.

43. Value for money assessment – this is the phase 3 of a project to deliver 80 hectares of new woodland within the area. The project benefits from significant levels of external funding and minimal Enfield Council contribution.
44. As mentioned in Property Implications below, the estimated reduction in rental income is £2,500 - £3,000 which will have minimal impact on the overall performance of the rural portfolio.

Legal Implications

45. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits local authorities to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of their functions.
46. The Council has a general power of competence under section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals may do, provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to public law principles. The proposals in this report are compliant with the Council's general power, which also encompasses the power to enter into contracts.
47. If the Council will be procuring contracts using the grant monies or otherwise entering into partnering arrangements, contracts or agreements, it must comply with all requirements of its Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules ("CPRs"). The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("Regulations") will also apply, should the value of any contracts be above the relevant procurement thresholds. Procurement and contract legal advice must be sought where required.
48. There are a number of external funders that are contributing to this project. Care needs to be taken to ensure that all grant conditions that come with the grant of monies from these external funders can be complied with by the council. Legal advice should be sought on this if and when required.
49. The New Subsidy Control Act 2022 ('SCA') shall come into force on 4th January 2023 introducing a whole new UK based subsidy control regime following the UK's exit from the EU. If any grant monies received for this project are to be paid directly to any enterprises that are economically active (such as private companies), then legal advice shall be required to ensure compliance with the new SCA.
50. There must be adequate budgetary provision to fund the schemes that are the subject of this report and in particular that there must be sufficient financial support to service any contracts to be entered into to make this project a success. Contracts proposed to be entered into must be in a form approved by the Director of Law and Governance and the council needs to be mindful of any grant conditions that are associated with external funders and whether contracts need to incorporate any provisions that are required by the grant funding. The grant conditions may also have certain procurement requirements that may need to be observed so these need to be scrutinised at an early stage.
51. Any existing council contracts that are utilised for the purposes of this project must be used strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions of those contracts.
52. The Council must at all times also adhere to the Duty of Best Value in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999.
53. A farm business tenancy (FBT) is a tenancy that exists pursuant to the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995. The report states that the Council intends to bring parts of the

FTB to an end by notice to quit part of the respective tenancies and that no compensation will be and will need to serve an appropriate notice.

54. When part of a leasehold property is assigned or transferred rent is apportioned. Similarly, the Council is to agree to apportion the rent between the land to be surrendered and the land to be retained.
55. The Council has statutory duty as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) pursuant to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to act in a manner that is consistent with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
56. The recommendations set out in this report are within the Council's powers and duties.

Workforce Implications

57. This project will be managed through a combination of in-house staff within Parks and Open Spaces team, supported by external consultants such as Thames21. Enfield has already been working with Thames21 on previous phases of this project, and staff members at Thames21 have been secured to support the volunteer events. All costs for in-house staff and consultants will be recovered by re-charging to this project. Any additional staffing resources required for this project will be recruited in accordance with Enfield's processes.

Property Implications

58. The effect of removing 20 hectares of land from the Rectory Farm Business Tenancy will involve a modest fall in rent income from that farm. However, the estimated reduction is £2,500 - £3,000 which will have minimal impact on the overall performance of the rural portfolio.
59. All other property implications are to be found in the main body of this report.

Other Implications

60. The proposed woodlands will be managed by Parks and Open Spaces who have also been managing the new woodlands from the previous phases of the project. There have been some minor incidences of littering and vandalism to the previous phases which have been successfully resolved by the Parks and Open Spaces operational teams, working in collaboration with the Friends of Enfield Chase where appropriate. The proposals have also been discussed with the Principal Arboricultural Officer in Parks and Open Spaces. It has been agreed that although the proposals will require a change in the pattern of maintenance activities, the overall cost of future maintenance will not be significantly increased as only minimal maintenance is required, particularly during the first 20 years. It is estimated that the maintenance requirements for the 80 hectares of woodland (overall) would require a Grounds Maintenance Operative for approximately 1 day per week with an associated cost of approximately £6k/year. These maintenance costs are covered by the 10 years maintenance funding provided by EWCO and will also be supplemented by Parks Services budget, additional funding will also be sought from external sources.

Procurement Implications

61. Whilst this report does not directly relate to any procurement activity, it must be noted that any expenditure to implement this plan will be subject to the Councils Contract procedure rules.
62. It will be expected that the trees mentioned in the report will be compliantly purchased and ensuring that sources are sustainable and ethical in line with the Councils sustainable and ethical procurement policy.

Highway Services

63. No Highway Services Implications.

Strategic Planning

64. The proposals have been discussed with The Planning Service, specifically Strategic Planning & Design in the context of Enfield's recently adopted Heritage Strategy and emerging new Local Plan 2036. Discussions will continue with officers as the emerging spatial options for growth are refined. It has been agreed that the woodland creation proposals are to be supported in terms of emerging policies to proactively manage growth, climate change and enhancing the borough's blue / green infrastructure and assets, in particular measures for enhancing opportunities for greater accessibility to the Enfield's Green Belt and reducing flood risk. As detailed proposals emerge for the woodland creation project, the final design and planting areas will be assessed in terms of overall historical landscape and character impact and in the context of the Local Plan. The project will be closely coordinated to ensure no conflicts arise with the borough's heritage strategy and future growth options.
65. The New Local Plan will be underpinned by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which will monitor the progress of projects and programmes (including the Enfield Chase Restoration Project) in the context of the emerging policies and wider network of green and blue spaces.

Options Considered

66. Do nothing: This scheme is part of a series of improvements to improve the biodiversity and amenity value of Enfield's rural land. To do nothing will lose an opportunity to attract significant funding to the London Borough of Enfield, improve the environment, for both people and wildlife, and reduce flood risk to local residents and infrastructure. In addition, by not proceeding with this proposal the Council would miss an opportunity to make a positive contribution to reducing borough-wide carbon emissions and addressing the world-wide climate emergency.

Conclusions

67. This report recommends the approval of Phase 3 of the wider woodland creation project. This involves planting trees over 20 hectares of land that was previously used for agriculture.
68. This recommendation follows from the success of two previous phases of the project. Further phases will be developed and delivered subject to the approval of future reports.

Report Author: Jamie Kukadia & Ian Russell
Senior Engineer Principal Engineer
jamie.kukadia@enfield.gov.uk ian.russell@enfield.gov.uk
020 8132 0965 020 8132 0964

06/12/2022

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Details of land for Phase 3 of woodland creation (map)
Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Papers

N/A

London Borough of Enfield

Portfolio Report

Report of: Doug Wilkinson – Director of Environment & Operational Services

Subject: Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Project

Cabinet Member: Cllr Rick Jewell – Cabinet Member for Environment

Executive Director: Sarah Cary – Executive Director – Place

Ward: Cockfosters, Ridgeway, Whitewebbs

Key Decision: 5565

Purpose of Report

1. It is proposed to investigate opportunities for landscape restoration measures in rural areas of Enfield by working with land managers in parks and tenanted farms to evaluate the potential restoration of rivers, wetlands, woodland and grassland habitats with the ambition to reduce downstream flooding, improve water quality, create and improve habitats for wildlife and reconnect people with nature. The project aims to build on and draw together existing projects including Enfield Chase Woodland Creation and Salmons Brook Natural Flood Management, as well as working towards delivery of a long-term Landscape Recovery scheme.
2. This report follows the Cabinet Report on the Enfield Rural Catchment Project that was approved in February 2019 (Report No 167, Item 12) which proposed using Natural Flood Management techniques, including landscape restoration, to reduce flood risk to urban areas downstream, and Portfolio Reports PL 19/107 P and PL 22/081 P which proposed the creation of 80 hectares of woodland. This report has been prepared in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement.
3. The Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery project has been awarded £563k by the Environment Agency to carry out the Project Development Phase (PDP).
4. The aim of the Project Development Phase (PDP) grant is to support the development of a series of plans in preparation for delivery of the Implementation Phase of the Landscape Recovery scheme, these include:
 - Project Management and Governance Plan – agreement on the processes and services that will support delivery of the scheme

- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan – a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy
 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan – raise awareness of the project among local stakeholders and enable them to raise their views
 - Site Access Plan – review existing access and identify opportunities for improvement, includes development of a recreation and health infrastructure strategy
 - Blended Finance Plan – agreement of how and what private and public funds are involved in the project
 - Land Management Plan – a description of what the project is expecting to achieve across the whole site over the lifetime of the agreement and beyond, including analysis of potential carbon emission reductions and offsetting opportunities
5. The project will be carried out in partnership with several organisations. The lead partner will be Thames21, other key partners include tenant farms (such as Capel Manor College/Forty Hall Farm, Beech Barn Farm and Botany Bay Farm), Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, London Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Natural England and The Rivers Trust.
6. The Project Development Phase is planned to commence in April 2023 and run for 18 months to September 2024. Initial activities will include establishing collaborative partnerships, identifying stakeholders, scoping out requirements for baseline surveys and developing the plans listed above in preparation for delivery of the Landscape Recovery Implementation Phase.
7. Further information regarding the project is provided in the Background section.

Proposals

8. The Cabinet Member for Environment approves the proposal to investigate opportunities for landscape restoration across rural areas of Enfield by working with project partners to deliver the Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Project Development Phase.
9. Accept £563k Project Development Phase grant funding from the Environment Agency and seek additional funding contributions where appropriate to the aims of the overall project.
10. To delegate authority to the Head of Parks and Open Spaces to authorise inviting and evaluating tenders/quotations and, where suitable tenders or quotations are received, to award contracts as part of the delivery of the project in compliance with the Council's procurement rules.
11. To continue to work with Strategic Property Services and other internal teams, and external partners to explore opportunities and develop plans for future landscape restoration measures. Subsequent reports will be submitted to seek approval for future governance arrangements and implementation of the project following completion of the Project Development Phase.

Reason for Proposals

12. The proposal supports the delivery of objectives in Enfield Council's Climate Action Plan, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Blue and Green Strategy and emerging Local Plan.
13. The proposal will contribute to mitigating the impact of climate change by identifying and developing opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and capture carbon through the use of landscape restoration measures such as woodland and wetland creation
14. The proposal will also help to adapt to the impacts of climate change by progressing the delivery of Natural Flood Management measures, such as increasing floodplain connectivity and creating wetlands, that reduce flood risk and increase drought resilience by storing more water in rural landscapes.
15. Improved water quality in Enfield's rivers by promoting natural landscapes that reduce pollutants.
16. Enhanced biodiversity by supporting the creation of a wide range of natural habitats including wetlands, woodlands, grassland, scrub and wildflower meadows.
17. The proposal supports increased opportunities for recreational activities such as walking and enjoying nature, by improving access to Enfield's greenbelt land, with associated benefits to public health and well-being. The creation of varied landscapes with diverse natural features and improved access would also provide enhanced interest for visitors, thereby encouraging more people to visit and spend more time when there.
18. The proposals include carrying out a Heritage Landscape Assessment as it is recognised that understanding the heritage of the landscape is considered essential to delivering a project that is sensitive to this aspect.

Relevance to the Council Plan 2020-2022

19. The project is closely aligned to Priority 2 of the Council Plan, which aims to promote safe, healthy and confident communities. The project is working towards the improvement of accessibility and quality of blue green spaces. The project also helps with the Council's climate resilience by working with nature which is a key theme in the current Council Plan.
20. The project provides opportunities to work in partnership with different teams within the Council, as well as different organisations such as Thames21, Wildlife Trusts, the Environment Agency and Natural England. These partnerships help in promoting Enfield widely to ensure that the Borough receives the maximum benefit from national, regional and sub-regional programmes which will enhance Enfield's reputation across London and beyond.

Background

21. The Landscape Recovery scheme is one of 3 new Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs) that are being introduced by the Government to replace existing subsidies for farming and land management. It will complement the Sustainable Farming Incentive, which will support action at farm level to make farming more sustainable, and Local Nature Recovery, which will support action at local level to make space for nature alongside food production.
22. The Landscape Recovery scheme is for landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate goods on their land. The goal of this scheme is to enhance landscapes and support ecosystem recovery through long-term, large-scale, land use change and habitat restoration projects.
23. Enfield Chase has been selected as one 22 large-scale Landscape Recovery pilot projects being delivered across the country and the only London borough. Each pilot is focussed on one of two themes – recovering and restoring England’s threatened native species or restoring England’s streams and rivers. The Enfield Chase project is focussed on the water theme which considers opportunities for improving water quality, biodiversity and adapting to climate change. The project could involve measures such as restoring water bodies, rivers, and floodplains to a more natural state, reducing nutrient pollution, benefitting aquatic species, and improving flood mitigation and resilience to climate change.
24. As well as investigating opportunities for landscape recovery measures such as the reconnection of floodplains and restoration of rivers, wetlands, woodland and grassland habitats, the project will also consider long-term management arrangements including the potential for rewilding through the reintroduction of species that contribute to long-term landscape restoration (such as beavers and grazing cattle). People focussed measures such as improved access and other amenity features will also be evaluated as part of the overall plan.
25. The area under consideration covers a large swathe of greenbelt land in the north-west of Enfield (see map in Appendix 1). In the middle ages most of this land was part of the Enfield Chase royal hunting forest. Much of this forest has been lost in modern times through urbanisation and conversion to farmland; however, there are still some significant, if fragmented, remnants of the historic woodland landscape throughout the area.
26. This area includes parkland that is owned and managed by Enfield Council, such as Trent Park and Forty Hall, as well as Council-owned tenanted farmland. In the latter case it is proposed to work with the tenant farmers who manage the land to develop proposals that meet the overall aims of the Landscape Recovery scheme whilst also meeting the individual tenant’s business requirements. Tenant farmers that have not yet agreed to participate in the Project Development Phase will be invited to join during the early

stages as the project will be strengthened through increased collaboration and coordinated activity across the whole area.

27. A breakdown of how the Project Development Phase grant funding of £563k will be allocated is provided in the table below.

Organisation	Amount	Description
Enfield Council	£155k	Project management and related costs
Thames21 (lead partner)	£185k	Collecting evidence and carrying out stakeholder engagement
Other project partners and consultants	£223k	Carrying out baseline surveys and feasibility work, carbon analysis and developing the finance model

Main Considerations for the Council

28. The project is an opportunity to develop a coordinated plan to manage a significant proportion of rural Enfield that has potential to benefit people and wildlife and address the impacts of climate change.

29. The project has attracted significant levels of funding from partner organisations and, through the delivery of related projects such as Enfield Chase Woodland Creation, has demonstrated high levels of public support. The earlier phases of woodland creation have facilitated the formation of the Friends of Enfield Chase community group, who are playing an integral part in planting and establishing the woodland. The project also helps to support these groups in reconnecting with nature and will create opportunities for many others to do so.

Safeguarding Implications

30. There are no direct safeguarding implications to children, young people and vulnerable adults from these proposals. Development of the proposed Site Access Plan will consider implications for safeguarding.

Public Health Implications

31. Climate change is the greatest threat to human health of the 21st century. The project contributes to the efforts of the Council to mitigate climate change.

Equality Impact of the Proposal

32. Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out to support the project.

33. The Equality Impact Assessment demonstrates that the project is expected to have a positive impact on Enfield residents, and has identified several mitigation measures to further recognise opportunities to reduce inequalities.

34. It should be noted that any contracts awarded should include a duty on the successful applicant to assist us with meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

35. The Council has committed to becoming a Carbon Neutral organisation by 2030 and Carbon Neutral Borough by 2040. Natural offsetting through green infrastructure – including wetlands, tree planting and expansion of the natural environment was a key strategy of the Council's Climate Action Plan.
36. As reported by the IPCC, the effects of change are now unavoidable, and we must be prepared for climate hazards including a future with extreme weather, heat waves and flooding events. In addition to mitigation through carbon sequestration this proposal supports adaptation of the borough and the ability to respond to climate hazards and extreme weather events such as flooding.
37. Landscape restoration projects that provide natural sequestration of carbon and include opportunities for carbon accounting, together with current mitigation measures and biodiversity net gain units, are very important to the council and borough carbon neutral targets.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

38. The following key risks relate to not implementing the project:
- Loss of approximately £563k of external funding to Enfield
 - Loss of opportunity to increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat
 - Loss of opportunity to cooperate with the local community and other stakeholders
 - Loss of opportunity to reduce flood risk and offset carbon emissions
 - Loss of opportunity to contribute to the Council's developing greenbelt strategy
 - Loss of opportunity to better interpret and reveal borough's heritage

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

39. The level of risk attached to the Project Development Phase is low as the grant funding is to support the development of a series of plans in preparation for delivery of the Implementation Phase. Enfield Council is not committed to delivering the Implementation Phase although it is expected that it will be strongly in the Council's interests to develop and deliver this successfully as the alternative would be for each land manager, including the Council, to develop their own land management plan. This would cost the Council more money and result in a lack of a coordinated, strategic approach across the area with fewer benefits for people and the environment.
40. There is a small risk of reputational damage to the Council if the Implementation Phase did not go ahead.

Financial Implications

41. The Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery project has been awarded £563k by the Environment Agency to carry out the Project Development Phase (PDP).
42. The project will be entirely funded by the Landscape Recovery Project Development Phase grant (there is no requirement for match-funding from Enfield Council). A breakdown of how the funding will be spent is provided in the table below.
43. This is a revenue project to undertake feasibility work, stakeholder engagement, baseline surveys, consultations and development of finance model.
44. A breakdown of how the Project Development Phase grant funding of £563k will be allocated is provided in the table below.

Organisation	Amount	Description
Enfield Council	£155k	Project management and related costs
Thames21 (lead partner)	£185k	Collecting evidence and carrying out stakeholder engagement
Other project partners and consultants	£223k	Carrying out baseline surveys and feasibility work, carbon analysis and developing the finance model
Total	£563k	

45. Environment Agency grant funding of £155k will be used to fund revenue project management costs. This consists of £85k for 1 FTE PO2 post, to be recruited on a fixed 18-month contract basis, £50k contribution towards the costs of new Head of Rural Transformation (HOS2) post, and £20k for other spend (including legal costs).
46. The remaining £408k Environment Agency grant is planned to fund feasibility work (stakeholder engagement, baseline surveys, evidence collation), this will be contracted out to suppliers, in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) and the Public Contracts Regulations (2015) (see procurement implications).
47. All funding will be claimed retrospectively, based on evidence of spend incurred. Planned spend is in accordance with the terms of the Environment Agency funding agreement, and the risk of grant funding being withheld is therefore deemed to be low.
48. The funds will be used for early feasibility spend only. The Council is not committed to further spend beyond this.

Legal Implications

49. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits local authorities to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of their functions.

50. The Council has a general power of competence under section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals may do, provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to Public Law principles. The proposals in this report are compliant with the Council's general power.
51. As the project is being delivered in partnership with Thames21, rather than commissioning them to act as a supplier of services, procurement rules do not apply to Thames21. The new subsidy control rule set out in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) have also been considered and it has been concluded that Thames21 would not be considered to be acting as an economic actor in the context of the proposed partnership. Further, any advantage conferred on Thames21 is not selective as the fund was open for applications from all eligible applicants and was awarded based on the meeting of grant requirements. Accordingly, the grant awarded to the Enfield Council and Thames21 partnership under the Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Project falls out of the subsidy control regime.
52. All legal agreements arising from the matters described in this report must be approved in advance of contract commencement by Legal Services.

Workforce Implications

53. This project will be managed through a combination of in-house staff within the Parks and Open Spaces and Strategic Property Services teams, supported by external partners and consultants such as Thames21. Additional Enfield Council staff will be required to deliver the Project Development Phase – the grant funding allows for the cost of a Project Director at 0.4 FTE (this will be used as a contribution to the new Head of Rural Transformation post as described in Financial Implications) and a Project Manager at 1.0 FTE. New staff will work alongside existing team members already working on related aspects of the project. Any additional staffing resources required for this project will be recruited in accordance with Enfield's processes.

Property Implications

54. There are no property implications at this stage of the Landscape Recovery project as no land transaction or change of use is involved.

Procurement Implications

55. It is expected that any procurement required to implement this project will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) and the Public Contracts Regulations (2015). This project has yet to go through the Procurement Services Assurance Process.
56. At the end of the sourcing process, authority to award any contract will be sought in line with the CPR's and Council's Governance. The Service Area shall ensure this procurement activity takes place via the Council's e-Tendering portal and will be promoted to the Council's Contract Register, and the upload the executed contracts/agreements.

57. All awarded projects must be promoted to Contracts Finder to comply with the Government's transparency requirements. Contact Procurement.procurement@enfield.gov.uk for any support.
58. For contracts over £100,000 the CPR's state that the contract must have a nominated contract owner in the Council's e-Tendering portal.
59. For contracts over £500,000 the CPR's state that the contract must have a nominated Contract Manager in the Council's e-Tendering portal and there must be evidence of contract management, including, operations, commercial, financial checks (supplier resilience) and regular risk assessment uploaded into the Council's e-Tendering portal.
60. The scoping of the procurement exercise has yet to take place, so it is not clear what route to market will be used for this procurement.

Options Considered

61. Do nothing: This scheme is part of a series of improvements to improve the biodiversity and amenity value of Enfield's rural land. To do nothing will lose an opportunity to attract significant funding to the London Borough of Enfield, improve the environment, for both people and wildlife, and reduce flood risk to local residents and infrastructure. In addition, by not proceeding with this proposal the Council would miss an opportunity to make a positive contribution to reducing borough-wide carbon emissions and addressing the world-wide climate emergency.

Conclusions

62. This report recommends approval of the proposal to investigate opportunities for landscape restoration across rural areas of Enfield by working with project partners to deliver the Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Project Development Phase.
63. This recommendation follows the successful delivery of previous phases of work including the Salmons Brook Natural Flood Management and Enfield Chase Woodland Creation projects. Further phases will be developed and delivered subject to the approval of future reports.

Report Author: Ian Russell
Principal Engineer
ian.russell@enfield.gov.uk
020 8132 0964

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Enfield Chase Landscape Recovery Map
Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers

N/A

This page is intentionally left blank



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Cattle Grazing
Report to	Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting	6 th February 2024
Cabinet Member	Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy
Executive Director / Director	Cheryl Headon, Director of Leisure, Parks and Culture (Interim)
Report Author	Ian Russell ian.russell@enfield.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected	Cockfosters, Whitewebbs
Classification	Part 1 Public

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on the conservation grazing trial being carried out as part of the Enfield Chase Landscape Restoration project.

Background and Options

Conservation Grazing

2. This report follows the Portfolio Report PL2223_023 – Introduce Conservation Grazing to selected parks in Enfield which is being delivered at Forty Hall Park in partnership with Capel Manor college who manage Forty Hall farm within the estate.
3. The grassland management practice of conservation grazing is promoted by a wide range of national conservation organisations including Natural England, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and the National Trust who view grazing as a fundamental approach to managing important habitats such as acid grasslands, wildflower meadows and heathlands. This particular type of grazing uses low stocking densities, as opposed to more intensive practices

that use high stocking densities which can lead to overgrazing. Conservation grazing reduces competition from faster growing vegetation and creates conditions for plants to set seed including less dominant grass species. This creates varied sward heights which cannot be achieved with mowing and helps to restore wildflower meadows that support a much wider variety of insects, birds and small mammals. Grasslands and ruminant animals have an interrelationship which has been adapted and built over millions of years, and conservation grazing helps restore these natural processes

4. Forty Hall and Trent Park are highlighted as parks with 'Heritage at risk' due to the incremental woodland encroachment threatening the character of the Grade II listed historic landscape, particularly compromising the condition of the nationally significant Elsyng Palace scheduled ancient monument. Historic England feel that conservation grazing will help to address management issues within the registered parks and gardens that have contributed to their 'Heritage at risk' status. The project also restores historical land management practices and reduces the use of heavy machinery which will mitigate the risk of damaging archaeological artefacts within the Forty Hall Scheduled Ancient Monument site.
5. The cattle are fitted with GPS collars which is a containment technology used to create virtual boundaries to keep animals in designated areas. It is a behavioural system that provides an audio melody that increases in pitch and volume as they approach the virtual boundary. If the animal attempts to cross the boundary after hearing the full audio melody, they will receive a small electric shock that is less than a standard electric fence used for containing livestock. GPS collar technology is now widely used across the UK and Europe and allows accurate monitoring of the animals. An added benefit of GPS technology is that it reduces the amount of physical fencing required which can be an access barrier to people, wildlife and allows the parks to remain open and fenceless for the public to continue their enjoyment.
6. A detailed Project Plan with associated risk assessments and key activities and milestones has been produced, which details the measures that will be implemented to ensure the project is conducted safely. This provides information regarding risk control measures and contingency plans. The key measures that will be in place to reduce the potential for negative interactions between livestock, people and dogs include:
 - Livestock selection – the cattle being utilised for the project are Red Polls which are known for their docile nature
 - Use of leads – it is not an essential requirement for dog owners to keep their dogs on leads within grazing areas, there are many examples of successful grazing projects that do not require this including the aforementioned projects at Epping Forest, Wanstead Park and in Cambridge city centre, nevertheless, dog owners will be encouraged to be responsible and keep their dogs on leads if they have any concerns regarding their dogs' behaviour when in close proximity to cattle
 - Retaining areas free from cattle – at each site the grazing area will be confined to ensure that there is ample space for dogs to run freely off the lead and stay well away from grazing animals if needed (grazing

areas will cover up to 40% of the available space at Forty Hall and just 15% at Trent Park)

- Low stocking densities – the number of cattle that would be introduced would be a maximum of 20 at Trent Park and 10 at Forty Hall
7. The first phase of the 12-month trial involved introducing the cattle in a small area at Forty Hall (4 ha) adjacent to the farm, this commenced in July 2023. Four of the older Red Poll cattle from the farm that had been trained on the GPS technology were introduced first. However, as these individuals were part of a larger herd, and Forty Hall Park is in close proximity to the farm, members of the herd were calling to each other, and the instinct of the four individuals to return to the wider herd was found to be stronger than the will to respond to the GPS collar system. Consequently, the cattle made several attempts to get back to the farm, during this time they were being supervised by the Grazing Management Team from the farm.
 8. Advice was sought from experts at NoFence, the company that supply and manage the GPS technology, and the Epping Forest grazing manager who has been using this technology successfully for several years. The following advice was received: separate the herd before cows are reintroduced to the park, using different sites and/or in different areas of the farm and using new, younger cattle that can be trained separately are not familiar with the herd on the farm. This advice was successfully implemented and the cattle at Forty Hall have now been grazing a small area for several weeks as part of Phase 1 of the 12-month trial. As this has gone well it is proposed to extend the grazing area across a larger region of the park in accordance with the project plan.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

9. These projects are closely aligned with Priority 1 of the Council Plan, which aims to enhance biodiversity and protect our parks, open spaces, woodlands, watercourses, wetlands, trees and shrubs. By improving biodiversity, reducing the impact of pollution and encouraging people to spend more time in Enfield's parks and open spaces they also contribute to measures in the Council's Climate Action Plan, and Blue and Green Strategy.

Report Author: Ian Russell
Principal Engineer, Watercourses
Ian.Russell@Enfield.gov.uk
020 8132 0964

Appendices

- Appendix 4: PL2223_023 – Portfolio Report to Introduce Conservation Grazing to Selected Parks in Enfield

This page is intentionally left blank



London Borough of Enfield

Title:	Portfolio Report to Introduce Conservation Grazing to Selected Parks in Enfield
Report to:	Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy
Date of Report briefing:	Monday 16 th May 2023
Directors:	Cheryl Headon, Acting Director of Leisure, Parks and Communities
Report Author:	Jamie Kukadia, Jamie.Kukadia@Enfield.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Whitewebbs and Cockfosters
Classification:	Part I

Purpose of Report

1. It is proposed to introduce conservation grazing at selected country parks within Enfield. Conservation grazing involves releasing cattle to manage grassland habitats and increase biodiversity. This form of land management will initially be introduced as a 12-month trial at Forty Hall and Trent Park.
2. The project has been awarded £30,282.80 by the Mayor of London's Rewild London funding. The project will be carried out in partnership with Forty Hall Farm and Capel Manor College.

Recommendations

- I. The Cabinet Member for Public Spaces approves the proposal to introduce the practice of conservation grazing to selected parks including Forty Hall and Trent Park.
- II. For the Council to enter into a partnership agreement and licence agreement with Capel Manor College to implement the Conservation Grazing trial.
- III. To delegate authority to the Head of Parks and Open Spaces to authorise the placing of orders through any of the Council's existing relevant term contracts or to invite and evaluate tenders/quotations and, where suitable tenders/quotations are received, to award contracts for the works as part of the delivery of the Conservation Grazing project in compliance with the Council's procurement rules.
- IV. To review the success of the Conservation Grazing trial and thereafter consider adopting this as a long-term sustainable management technique within parks in Enfield.

Background and Options

3. The grassland management practice of conservation grazing is promoted by a wide range of national conservation organisations including Natural England, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and the National Trust who view grazing as a fundamental approach to managing important habitats such as acid grasslands, wildflower meadows and heathlands. This particular type of grazing uses low stocking densities, as opposed to more intensive practices that use high stocking densities which can lead to overgrazing. Conservation grazing reduces competition from faster growing vegetation and creates conditions for plants to set seed including less dominant grass species. This creates varied sward heights which cannot be achieved with mowing and helps to restore wildflower meadows that support a much wider variety of insects, birds and small mammals. Grasslands and ruminant animals have an interrelationship which has been adapted and built over millions of years, and conservation grazing helps restore these natural processes.
4. It is proposed to trial conservation grazing within selected parks in Enfield. Natural England and Historic England were particularly supportive of Conservation Grazing being trialled at Forty Hall, Trent Park and Whitewebbs Park which are identified as supporting SINCs (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation), namely acid grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland or lowland meadow habitats. In recent years the budgetary pressures faced by the Council have meant that these habitats have not been maintained to realise full potential benefits. Restoring natural processes by reintroducing large grazing animals aims to enhance these habitats as well as strengthening the spaces between them, ensuring they are bigger, better managed and better connected.

Forty Hall and Trent Park are highlighted as parks with 'Heritage at risk' due to the incremental woodland encroachment threatening the character of the Grade II listed historic landscape, particularly compromising the condition of the nationally significant Elsyng Palace scheduled ancient monument. Historic England feel that conservation grazing will help to address management issues within the registered parks and gardens that have contributed to their 'Heritage at risk' status.

5. The trial project will be delivered in partnership with Capel Manor College who manage Forty Hall Farm. The farm livestock includes a herd of Red Poll cattle which are a notable native breed and considered to be highly suitable for grazing in publicly accessible areas due to their docile nature. The Forty Hall Farm manager will be the Grazing Manager for the project. The cattle will be checked for suitable temperament before they start grazing the sites.
6. The cattle will be fitted with GPS collars which is a containment technology used to create virtual boundaries to keep animals in designated areas. It is a behavioural system that provides an audio melody that increases in pitch and volume as they approach the virtual boundary. If the animal attempts to cross the boundary after hearing the full audio melody, they will receive a small electric shock that is less than a standard electric fence used for containing livestock. GPS collar technology is now widely used across the UK and Europe and allows accurate monitoring of the animals. An added benefit of GPS technology is that it reduces the amount of physical fencing required which can be an access barrier to people, wildlife and allows the parks to remain open and fenceless for the public to continue their enjoyment.
7. The project also provides new volunteering opportunities for the community as 'Lookers' who can help monitor the herds and can report to the Grazing Manager on the behaviour of the cattle.
8. A public consultation was conducted for the Conservation Grazing trial during the summer of 2022 – this covered three potential sites: Trent Park, Forty Hall and Whitwebbs. Consultees included the Friends Groups for the respective parks and other stakeholder groups such as Go Ape, Trent Park Hockey Club, Trent Park Housing Association and Historic England. The consultation was available online from Monday 20th June to Sunday 10th July and was supported by face to face events. A 'Meet the Cattle' event was held at Forty Hall Farm on the afternoon of 29th June 2022, where park goers could see the Red Poll cattle at close hand and discuss the project with the project team including the Grazing Manager. Comments regarding the project continued to be accepted as part of the consultation up to 27th July 2022, these have been included in the consultation response summary outlined below.
9. A total of 132 consultation responses were received. This includes responses from the online questionnaire, email responses and paper responses obtained from the face-to-face consultation event, as well as

any comments from members of the public which were forwarded by Councillors.

10. The main concerns raised through the consultation related to the possibility of cattle causing injuries to members of the public, potential conflict between dogs and cattle, and potential restrictions for dogs and dog walkers within the grazing areas.
11. A significant proportion of the consultation respondents raised concerns regarding the proposal to introduce grazing to Whitewebbs Park, including the Friends Group. In consideration of the relatively small area of potential conservation grazing at this location (9 hectares), it was agreed that conservation grazing will be trialled only at Forty Hall and Trent Park initially, with consideration for this type of land management at Whitewebbs Park following the trial, depending on the success of the project at the two main sites.
12. Positive responses received outlined that the scheme would be good for nature and good opportunities for education. Examples include, "I think it is a good idea to use natural means of control has worked well in other areas of the UK," and "I think it would be a lovely educational experience to schools and nursery aged children."
13. A detailed Project Plan with associated risk assessments and key activities and milestones has been produced, which details the measures that will be implemented to ensure the project is conducted safely. This provides information regarding risk control measures and contingency plans. This Project Plan has been developed in consultation with the Epping Forest Grazing Manager, who has extensive experience in grazing animals in publicly accessible open spaces including Wanstead Park, which is a notably urban area with high visitor numbers. The Grazing Manager of Camcattle, who manages conservation grazing in public space close to the centre of Cambridge city, has also been involved in developing the Project Plan and addressing concerns highlighted through the consultation.
14. The key measures that will be in place to reduce the potential for negative interactions between livestock, people and dogs include:
 - Livestock selection – the cattle being utilised for the project are Red Polls which are known for their docile nature
 - Use of leads – it is not an essential requirement for dog owners to keep their dogs on leads within grazing areas, there are many examples of successful grazing projects that do not require this including the aforementioned projects at Epping Forest, Wanstead Park and in Cambridge city centre, nevertheless, dog owners will be encouraged to be responsible and keep their dogs on leads if they have any concerns regarding their dogs' behaviour when in close proximity to cattle
 - Retaining areas free from cattle – at each site the grazing area will be confined to ensure that there is ample space for dogs to run freely off the lead and stay well away from grazing animals if

needed (grazing areas will cover up to 40% of the available space at Forty Hall and just 15% at Trent Park)

- Low stocking densities – the number of cattle that would be introduced would be a maximum of 20 at Trent Park and 10 at Forty Hall

15. Ongoing assessment and monitoring of welfare and behaviour of the cattle will be undertaken using GPS technology, regular site visits by the grazing staff and feedback from volunteer Lookers. In addition to these measures, the project will not be grazing cows with newly born calves who can have strong maternal instincts.

16. Signage will be used on all major entrance ways to inform people of the presence of livestock, which will include a QR code linking to a live map showing where the cattle are grazing (through the GPS Collar Technology). Park visitors and dog walkers can choose to avoid the areas where the cattle are grazing should they wish to.

17. As a further risk mitigation measure identified in the Project Plan, the 12-month trial grazing project will be introduced using a phased approach as described below:

- Phase 1 – initial trial, starting in Spring 2023, in a small area at Forty Hall (4 ha) adjacent to the farm, this has been selected because of its existing infrastructure and proximity to the farm, staff and equipment; this will also enable targeted public engagement – more ‘Meet the Cattle’ days, dog training and attracting ‘Looker’ volunteers
- Phase 2 – upon successful completion of Phase 1 the grazing area will be extended in Summer 2023 across Forty Hall and to Trent Park; the GPS fence boundaries will be adjusted dynamically within these designated areas to meet project requirements; this could be in response to overgrazing, lack of food for the cows, or public events within the parks

18. The Project Plan and associated risk assessments will be regularly reviewed and updated by the project team where necessary if further risk mitigation measures are identified throughout the trial.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Preferred Option

19. The key benefits of conservation grazing can be summarised as follows:

- It is in harmony with nature – better for bees and bugs as well as small mammals and birds
- Grazing with the right type and number of cattle encourages a wide range of wildflowers to thrive – improves biodiversity and soils
- It restores a traditional approach to cutting grass
- It reduces consumption of fossil fuels because there will be no need to mow with large tractors

20. Currently the approach to managing grassland landscapes is to use mechanical mowing, which can be costly and is fossil fuel intensive.

Managing important parkland habitats in a more sustainable way through conservation grazing will protect and enhance important grassland habitats, by preventing scrub encroachment, benefitting a wide range of wildlife including insects, birds and small mammals. This will be monitored through short term and long-term ecological surveys conducted by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

21. Conservation grazing will also help to protect the condition of historic landmarks and landscapes such as the scheduled ancient monument at Forty Hall which can be damaged by the weight of mechanical mowers. Historic England feel that conservation grazing will help to address management issues within the registered parks and gardens that have contributed to their 'Heritage at risk' status.
22. The project will provide opportunities to support existing volunteers, attract new volunteer 'Lookers' and increase public awareness regarding sustainable land management, ecological issues (loss of wildlife caused by modern farming methods) and ecosystem services (improved soil, carbon sequestration, etc) through links with Capel Manor College.
23. Through the trial project, the financial viability and overall practicality of conservation grazing will be tested and evaluated. The adoption of conservation grazing leading to the restoration and expansion of important grassland habitats can attract revenue funding from Natural England under Countryside Stewardship or other Basic Payment Schemes. Therefore, if successful this method of landscape management could be expanded to other parks in the borough.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

24. The project is closely aligned to Priority 2 of the Council Plan, which aims to promote safe, healthy and confident communities. In particular this technique in land management improves the quality green spaces and contributes towards restoring the historic environment. The project also helps with the Council's climate resilience by working with nature, exploring carbon friendly land management options which is a key theme in the emerging Council Plan and the Blue and Green Strategy.
25. The project provides opportunities to work in partnership and strengthen links with different organisations such as Capel Manor College, London's only Environmental College as well as Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Working closely with Capel Manor College provides opportunities to upskill Enfield Parks Staff in this sustainable land management technique, but also provides opportunities for attracting and upskilling new volunteers within these parks securing the longer-term sustainability of the scheme.

Financial Implications

26. The trial project has secured £30,282.80 from the GLA's Rewild London Fund, with 50% already paid upfront, and 50% to be paid after the completion of the trial.

27. The costs associated with the project include:

Item	Cost
Infrastructure – e.g. signage, GPS collars, pasture pumps	15,000
Transport of livestock	1,000
Training (including livestock training for Enfield staff)	4,000
Grazing Manager (including insurance)	13,550
Ecological Monitoring	6,000
Project advice (Epping Forest Grazing Manager)	1,000
Total	40,550

28. The additional £10k required will be monitored throughout the year and will be managed through reductions in expenditure within the Parks budgets.

29. Beyond the Conservation Grazing trial, future costs of managing the cattle would include:

- Annual subscription to the GPS cattle collar technology – estimated annual charge for 30 No collars is £1,350
- Cost of haulage to and from site – estimated £1,000 per year
- Costs of the replacement of infrastructure – expected to be less than £1,000 per year
- Grazing manager and insurance – annual costs expected to be similar to 12-month trial i.e. £13,550

30. If conservation grazing is adopted as a long-term management technique, it is anticipated that additional funding sources may be available, such as Countryside Stewardship but this is not guaranteed at this stage. The impact on ongoing parks maintenance costs e.g. grass cutting also need to be established before it is possible to ensure that the continuation of the project is financially viable. Therefore, at this stage the project is be subject to further financial evaluation, a decision to continue would be agreed by a Director through a Record of Decision (ROD).

Legal Implications

31. The Council has a general power of competence under section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals may generally do provided it is not prohibited by legislation and can enter into the recommendations within the report in reliance upon such power.

32. The documentation with Capel Manor College (CMC) must require compliance with all applicable health and safety legislation and guidance, and with legislation around animal welfare including the Animal Welfare Act 2006, the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 and the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2007. Such documentation must also address any risks flagged in the risk register, clearly set out the roles and responsibilities of

each party and ensure that CMC is liable to the Council for any consequences arising from any failure by CMC to comply with those responsibilities. Both the Council and CMC must have adequate insurance in place, and advice should be taken from the Council's insurance officers as needed.

33. Officer must ensure that the arrangements with CMC to not contravene the subsidy control regime now in force under the Subsidy Control Act 2022. They must also ensure compliance with any conditions attached to the underlying Mayor of London's Rewild London funding.
34. The Council's Partnership Procedure Rules (PPR), part of the Council's Constitution, apply to the proposed arrangements with CMC. The PPR set out the minimum details to be included in the partnership agreement and - among other things - include the following requirements:
 - A permanent register of all partnership arrangements must be maintained in which the details of each arrangement are recorded. It is recommended that these arrangements are recorded on the Council's Contract Register.
 - Where the Director responsible believes that the provider (i.e. partner) is the only organisation capable of delivering the service then the selection will not be based upon a tender process. However, in these circumstances he/she must keep a record of the decision and forward it to the Director of Finance, Resources and Customer Services who will report at six monthly intervals to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.
 - Partnership agreements must aim for value for money (VFM). All decision reports which record the decision to enter into a partnership must contain within them a description of how this arrangement will ensure that the Council receives value for money.
35. The documentation to be entered into by the Council and CMC (the partnership agreement and the grazing licence) must be in a form approved by Legal Services on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance.

Equalities Implications

36. The Equalities Impact Assessment demonstrates that the scheme will generally have a positive impact on Enfield residents, and has notably identified measures to attract volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds to further reduce inequalities.

HR and Workforce Implications

37. The project involves changes to management practices within the selected parks by replacing mechanical mowing with conservation grazing. Appropriate training will be provided to Enfield Council staff involved in the project to ensure they are adequately prepared for this change.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

38. While cattle do produce methane as part of the digestion process, known to be a highly potent greenhouse gas, based on recent studies, the impact of methane (that partially accounts for the carbon captured by the grass consumed by the cattle) can be neutralised using a carefully managed method of conservation grazing. In this process, grasslands act as a carbon sink, absorbing the carbon and nutrients, and enriching the soil rather than being released into the atmosphere. The practice significantly reduces the impact of methane associated with traditional livestock farming, also because cows on a more natural diet produce less methane than those fed on intensive systems, the research shows. Incorporating into the calculation the reduction in fossil fuels from industrial mowers currently utilised in the management of Enfield parks, the accumulative carbon impact is suggested to be neutral if not net-positive.
39. Meat will be produced as a by-product of the project and sold at Forty Hall Farm. With only a small number of animals grazing, meat production itself would not be commercially viable at the scale of this project and would be managed by the livestock owner (not the Council). It is hoped that the meat will be purchased by local people to help connect with the parks and provide food choices for those who wish to support conservation management of their local green spaces.

Public Health Implications

40. Climate change and the loss of biodiversity are serious and continuing threats to public health. Projects that address both of these issues will contribute to maintaining health of residents across the borough.

Property Implications

41. The proposals for grazing at Trent Park need to take into account that the western part of the proposed area is leased in from LB Islington on long leases. This means that some matters need to be determined, and if necessary, regularised prior to the introduction of grazing cattle.
42. Firstly, to determine whether the proposed use is within the current permitted use under the leases, and if it isn't, to gain landlord's consent for grazing (which is believed to be contentious). Secondly, to understand the landlord's plans to reoccupy some of its land and to adapt the area for grazing accordingly.
43. There are no property implications for the Forty Hall proposed area.
44. As regards longer term ambitions for grazing in a small part of Whitewebbs Park, the possibility of this use and the access to it will need to be taken into account in the draft documentation that is being prepared in the event that the proposed Agreement for Lease with Tottenham Hotspur FC be approved.

Safeguarding Implications

45.N/A

Crime and Disorder Implications

46.N/A

Other Implications

Procurement Implications:

47. Any procurement of services or partnership agreements are covered by the Contract Procedure Rules.
48. Where there are no other suppliers available then a waiver or exception is needed.
49. Currently this is low spend, but should the pilot be successful then the costs need to be considered should the longer-term project breach Public Contract Regulations, where open tendering is potentially required.
50. Any contract for services should be entered into the Councils Contract Register (LTP) to ensure that transparency regulations are met. That the contract should be contract managed to ensure delivery of outcomes.

Report Author: Jamie Kukadia
Senior Engineer, Watercourses
Jamie.Kukadia@Enfield.gov.uk
020 8132 0965

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Trial Conservation Grazing Maps
- Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Enfield Conservation Grazing Trial – Project Plan

#Departmental reference number, if relevant: PL2223_023



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Parks Management and Biodiversity
Report to	Environment and Climate Action Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting	6 th February 2024
Cabinet Member	Councillor Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy
Executive Director / Director	Cheryl Headon, Acting Director of Leisure, Parks and Communities
Report Author	Marcus Harvey Marcus.harvey@enfield.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected	Cockfosters, Ridgeway, Whitewebbs
Classification	Part 1 Public

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on Parks Management and Biodiversity, including toilet cleaning & signage, Café in parks, grass cutting, the move to tennis courts booking systems, illegal tenting and fishing at Groveland's Park, Parks and verges management.

Background and Options

Toilet Cleaning provision within Parks

There are currently 12 toilet block facilities within our parks and open spaces for public use. These toilets are cleaned and inspected by the parks front line and supervisory teams. This arrangement allows for ownership within the parks workforce and equally encourages speedier responses to defect and damages within the facility.

Cleaning is performed based on anticipated use, with a minimum cleanse of once per day, the consumables are restocked during this process, with a sign off sheet to validate the task has been completed. The quality control aspect of the cleaning is also completed once per day.

The Parks service is presented with behaviour issues within the toilet facilities which impact on the condition of the facility. Issues relating to damage and defect is reported to our property colleagues, who hold the responsibility for the infrastructure aspect of the facility. The Service Level Agreement with our property colleagues outlines response times linked to the severity of the issue.

The parks service works with internal and external stake holders in a group known as the Public Protection Safety Group (PPSG). This group shares issues and trends in behaviours and is the correct platform for Parks colleagues to raise issues linked to toilets and Public Safety. This sharing of information has led to successful intervention and issue resolution.

The toilets are closed an hour before park closing times throughout the year.

Park Tennis Courts

In 2022 the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) introduced a £30m fund to improve the quality of local authority owned park tennis courts within Britain. The “Renovation Fund”, which is part funded by Government and the LTA Tennis Foundation, aims to tackle poor quality or unplayable courts, and facilitate growth in tennis participation.

Enfield Council was successful with a bid to the Renovation Fund, securing £588k from the LTA, with the Council providing £55k of match funding. The funding was secured for the following 12 sites and 39 courts listed below:

- Albany Park – 3 courts
- Arnos Park – 4 courts
- Craig Park – 3 courts
- Durants Park – 3 courts
- Groveland’s Park – 2 courts
- Hazelwood Rec – 3 courts
- Jubilee Park – 4 courts
- North Enfield Rec – 3 courts
- Oakwood Park – 6 courts

- Ponders End Rec – 1 court
- Pymmes Park – 3 courts
- Town Park – 4 courts

Unfortunately, the LTA did not grant funding for the 10 tennis courts within Bush Hill Park, due to the number of courts requiring work and the cost the renovations required to bring each of the courts back up to an acceptable standard.

The courts at Firs Farm Recreation Ground (4 courts) and Broomfield Park (6 courts) were not included in the bid as they have either been constructed or reconstructed relatively recently and remain in very good condition.

The programme of works has varied from site to site, but has included resurfacing, tree root removal, fence and gate repairs, application of an anti-slip colour coating, installation of new nets, and the installation of a pin-code access system. The main construction works were completed in December, although the application of the anti-slip colour coating will be completed at six sites when the weather improves this spring.

As a condition of the grant from the LTA, pin-code access systems have been installed at all the sites that are part of the funded programme. This is consistent with the systems that have been in successful operation at Broomfield Park and Firs Farm for the last couple of years.

The system requires users to prebook a court/s via the LTA's ClubSpark's booking system. When booked, users are provided with a code that they type into their court's pin pad on arrival and the system provides access to the court for their booking. The system ensures that users can book a court at a convenient time knowing it will be available when they arrive, which the LTA's research has shown as a barrier to participation for some users at sites where no booking system exists. If a resident does not have access to the internet at home, they can either contact the Parks Business Unit via the telephone to book or access the internet via one of the Council's community buildings.

Courts can be booked free of charge Monday to Friday from 9am – 5pm, and for £5.50 during the evening or weekends (£8.40 for floodlit bookings at Firs Farm and Broomfield). A condition of the LTA funding is that there must be sustainable revenue generated from the tennis courts to enable them to be kept to a good standard once refurbished.

Booking information and participation data will allow the monitoring of court utilisation within the borough and enable the Sport & Leisure team to support tennis growth and development moving forward. The pin-code access system will also help ensure the courts remain available for their primary purpose and help prevent them being for other

activities such as cycling or dog training, which we are aware has happened on some of the courts.

A further condition of the LTA grant funding has been the appointment of a tennis operator, who will organise free social tennis at all sites, provide coaching, organise tennis leagues and help develop tennis in the borough. A preferred tennis operator is in place and contracts are being finalised. As part of their bid the preferred operator will pay the Council an annual management fee that will be held in a sinking fund and provide a sustainable funding model for the courts moving forward to keep them in good condition and therefore encourage usage of them.

Parks, grass and verge management

All parks and verge maintenance and management are undertaken through an in-house provision. The verge maintenance and associated management became an in-house provision in 2021.

In principle the borough is split into eastern and western geographical areas due to the location of the depots, Pymmes Park Depot located in N9, and Trent Country Park Depot located in EN4.

The work schedules for both parks and verge maintenance are presented to the maintenance team members in thirteen four weekly schedules. The schedules are orientated around land characteristics and both verge and park content. For parks as the grass cutting season depletes, the introduction of sport pitch maintenance increases, alongside woodland management. For verges, this will be seen as a period of performing edging works to provide delineation of the verges, and equally any hedge maintenance will be performed.

This provision ensures that all aspects of maintenance are programmed in, allowing for suitable preparation.

April 2024 will see the service begin to operate as a municipal function, we have been able to introduce this change by increasing both supervision and operational management by a hundred percent. As a result of this increase, we have been able to reduce areas of geographical responsibility for the supervisory element of the service, and they will take on the responsibility of the parks, open spaces, and verge maintenance within the geographical space.

To support the service performance further we are working towards the introduction of the work schedules in a digital format. This introduction will ensure that any missed tasks are reprogrammed for completion, and that the missed activity is published on the service web page to allow for improved customer relationship management and transparency. As well as informing our customers, the technologies will be able to

distribute Ad-hoc works to our teams based on their location and skill set, reducing disruption and improving on response times, there is also the benefit of idle time reduction through real time instructions to our work force.

The technologies are anticipated to be operational within the service by mid-May 2024, with a full time role responsible for the management and analysis of the works schedules, and ensuring the software becomes embedded in the service.

General amenity grass within our parks and open spaces is cut on a fifteen-day schedule, and our sport pitch grass is cut at an increased frequency of five days, which allows for a safe and appropriate surface for play. The variance between frequency, is linked to use and equally allows for a balanced approach towards our environmental commitments, through reducing machinery use and waste generation.

April 2024, see the introduction of an increased Country Side (CS) agreement with Natural England, this agreement enforces sound land management practices and supports enhancing biodiversity through the completion of land-based management practices.

The original agreement was linked to five parks and limited in scope, through a rigorous feasibility review, this has been increased to eighteen parks. The full listing is detailed in table 1.

Sites included in the Countryside stewardship April 24 Onwards			
Albany Park	Boxers Lake	Forty Hall	Groveland's Park
Broomfield Park	Hillyfields	Montague Recreation Ground	Bury Lodge
Durants Park	Firs Farm	New river loop	Oakwood Park
Prince of Wales Park	Pymmes Park	Trent Park	Town Park and Old Loop
Whitewebbs	Wilbury Way		

Table 1. CS agreement April 2024

The CS agreement identifies parcels of land within each space and provides an expected management approach, this also relates to engineered or natural water assets within the spaces. Natural England, as part of the quality assurance mechanisms, will perform an annual audit of Enfield's performance, which provides a focus for the service to deliver.

Illegal Fishing and overnight camping (Groveland's)

Fishing is permitted at Groveland's Park during the day, providing the individual has a current licence and returns the fish to the waterbody. Our Bye Laws do not permit overnight camping within any park.

The organisation has commenced with a new contract in relation to waste management and the enforcement of FPN's linked to littering. Colleagues responsible for this contract have agreed that frequent visits to sites, through this mechanism is available for Summer 2024, the summer being the significant period when overnight camping occurs. With the support of the revised contract and increased supervisory / management within the parks service, there will be an increased focus on the control and removal of overnight camping and inappropriate behaviours linked to fishing within the areas where this is permitted.

This approach will be the first option in relation to this issue, due to the heritage and characteristic of Groveland's Park, the service is reluctant to install signage over the current provision.

Oakwood Park, Trent Park, Town Park and Whitewebbs Park, each have a café building/ structure and outdoor seating area. These four park cafés were under contract to a single tenant. Following default on rental payment, forfeiture of the four park café premises was issued on the 12th of September 2023.

Park Cafes being a key area of demand for communities, their closure is an inconvenience for community and park users. As such and following the forfeiture notices, Enfield Council began a submission process for new operators for the park cafes.

Submission Evaluation Process

A brochure of the four park cafes (along with three other culture venues) was created with submission and application guidance, including how each submission would be evaluated; this was released 09th October 2023 (Appendix 1). This brochure was advertised on the Enfield Council website, on posters outside each of the four park cafes (with QR and web links to the full brochure), as well as emailed to any interested parties who contacted property or commercial services.

The initial deadline of 27th October 2023 was extended by a week to 5th November 2023 5pm, as feedback from multiple businesses requested an extension. Applicants could apply for multiple cafes, but the submission would be evaluated independently for each location, as they were not offered as a batch.

Following the deadline, the initial evaluation process was followed with up to 8 officers from key departments (property, commercial services, and parks) evaluating the submissions on pre-determined areas of assessment with clear marking guidance

(Example shown in Appendix 2). Each area was given a score 1-5 and the weighting of that area automatically calculated the score for that criterion, as well as the overall score.

The overall scores were then averaged, and the top scorers for each culture and park café were invited to an in-person evaluation panel.

The in-person evaluation panel had set criterion to be evaluated against; attendees were invited to provide a food presentation, a bid presentation bringing their proposal to life, and a Question-and-Answer portion, with questions asked about their bid presentation. On the panel was the Director of Parks, Leisure and Culture, commercial services representations, and property colleagues.

After evaluation, all applicants were notified of the outcome of their submission on 29th November 2023. Successful applicants were notified, and next steps provided (heads of terms, site visits etc). Those who had not been successful were notified and anonymised scores provided so applicants could see how their submission scored on the different criteria areas in comparison with other bids with further feedback offered on their submission should it be requested.

Post Award Process

S.123 notices advise the public that the council will be disposing of some open space to a third party. This allows for any interested parties to object and for all objections to be duly considered and responded to prior to disposal. For the café properties, S.123 Notice procedures and timelines have been followed for the park café properties. Due process for contract drafting is being followed.

Trent Park Café

The successful proposed operator for Trent Park Café is a family owned, independent café founded by an Enfield based husband and wife team.

Oakwood Park Café

The successful proposed operator for Oakwood Park is an Enfield based Cycling Charity that has been dedicated to promoting cycling, wellbeing, and healthy eating events in Enfield.

Whitewebbs Park Café

The successful proposed operator for Whitewebbs Park Café is an Enfield based father and son team who have been together in business since 2009.

Town Park Café

The successful proposed operator for Town Park Café is a wife and wife team, local to Enfield and a start-up business for this opportunity.

Submission Evaluation Process

A brochure of the four park cafes (along with three other culture venues) was created with submission and application guidance, including how each submission would be evaluated; this was released 09th October 2023 (Appendix 1). This brochure was advertised on the Enfield Council website, on posters outside each of the four park cafes (with QR and web links to the full brochure), as well as emailed to any interested parties who contacted property or commercial services.

The initial deadline of 27th October 2023 was extended by a week to 5th November 2023 5pm, as feedback from multiple businesses requested an extension. Applicants could apply for multiple cafes, but the submission would be evaluated independently for each location, as they were not offered as a batch.

As the extended deadline passed, 42 applications had been received for review; 21 applications for Trent Park Café, 12 for Town Park Café, 7 for Whitewebbs Park café, 4 for Oakwood Park Café, and 10 for the other culture venues advertised within the brochure.

Following the deadline, the initial evaluation process was followed with up to 8 officers from key departments (property, commercial services, and parks) evaluating the submissions on pre-determined areas of assessment with clear marking guidance (Example shown in Appendix 2). Each area was given a score 1-5 and the weighting of that area automatically calculated the score for that criterion, as well as the overall score. This process was condensed into eight working days to evaluate all 42 submissions.

The overall scores were then averaged, and the top scorers for each culture and park café were invited to an in-person evaluation panel, scheduled for the 21st, 23rd and 28th of November 2023. These applications were also sent to finance colleagues for credit checks and company history vetting to assure that they were credible with adequate cashflow for the acquisition of the sites.

Up to 50 points were available at the in-person evaluation panel, as such whilst the top 3 scorers were to be invited, where there was a difference of 50 points or over between the second and third scoring business, the third place was not invited to panel as it wasn't thought to be fair to invite them to an in-person panel when they couldn't have been awarded.

The in-person evaluation panel had set criterion to be evaluated against; attendees were invited to provide a food presentation, a bid presentation bringing their proposal to life, and a Question-and-Answer portion, with questions asked about their bid presentation, how they are securing their capital for investment etc (Appendix 3). On the panel was the Director of Parks, Leisure and Culture, commercial services representations, and property colleagues.

After evaluation, all applicants were notified of the outcome of their submission on 29th November 2023. Successful applicants were notified, and next steps provided (heads of terms, site visits etc). Those who had not been successful were notified and anonymised scores provided so applicants could see how their submission scored on the different criteria areas in comparison with other bids with further feedback offered on their submission should it be requested.

Post Award Process

S.123 notices advise the public that the council will be disposing of some open space to a third party. This allows for any interested parties to object and for all objections to be duly considered and responded to prior to disposal. For the café properties, S.123 Notice procedures and timelines have been followed, and Investment proposals for the sites are in review and the contract drafting is with the legal department within Enfield Council. The sites have required clean up and waste removal which has been completed. The successful applicants have been offered a Tenancy at Will until 13th March 2024, after which should no legal challenge be raised, a longer-term lease will be offered.

Trent Park Café

For Trent Park Café, the top four were invited as two had the same score for their initial submission. The successful bidder, represented by Bidder 19 had the highest overall score and so was offered the Tenancy at Will, with the aspiration of offering a longer-term lease should there be no legal challenge from the previous tenant.

The successful proposed operator for Trent Park Café is a family owned, independent café founded by an Enfield based husband and wife team.

Trent Park Final Scores

	Submission Score	Panel Score	Final Total Score
Bidder 19	339.17	44.80	383.97
Bidder 6	314.17	32.60	346.77
Bidder 12	308.33	31.00	339.33
Bidder 21	308.33	29.80	338.13

Oakwood Park Café

For Oakwood Park Café, the top two were invited (as the third place was over 50 points below second place), with Bidder 1 being offered the tenancy at will, with the aspiration of granting a longer-term lease should no legal challenge be issued by the previous

tenant. Unfortunately, after meeting with the winning bidder to propose next steps and contract terms, the bidder was not able to commit to the rent agreement set out for the location in the brochure and declined the offer to proceed. As the score between Bidder 1 and 3 for this lot was quite significant, a brochure for Oakwood Park Café was created, and sent to unsuccessful bidders that had gone to panel, which had the same or higher final score as Bidder 1 for this lot (303.87). These 13 who scored the same, or higher, were emailed the brochure and asked to express interest in Oakwood Park Café. Of those who responded, the highest scoring was offered Oakwood Park Café tenancy at will, represented by Bidder 9 for Town Park Final Scores.

The successful proposed operator for Oakwood Park is an Enfield based Cycling Charity that has been dedicated to promoting cycling, wellbeing, and healthy eating events in Enfield.

Oakwood Park Final Scores

	Submission Score	Panel Score	Final Total Score
Bidder 1	266.67	37.20	303.87
Bidder 3	246.67	18.00	264.67

Whitewebbs Park Café

For Whitewebbs Park Café, the top two were invited to an in-person evaluation panel, with the successful bidder, represented by Bidder 3 below, proceeding with the Tenancy at Will, with the aspiration of granting a longer-term lease should no challenge be presented by the previous tenant.

The successful proposed operator for Whitewebbs Park Café is an Enfield based father and son team who have been together in business since 2009.

Whitewebbs Park Final Scores

	Submission Score	Panel Score	Final Total Score
Bidder 3	313.33	37.60	350.93
Bidder 4	271.67	37.20	308.87

Town Park Café

For Town Park Café, the top three scorers were invited to an in-person evaluation panel, with the winning bidder, represented by Bidder 4, being offered Tenancy at Will with the aspiration of granting a longer-term lease should no legal challenge be raised by the previous tenant.

The successful proposed operator for Town Park Café is a wife and wife team, local to Enfield and a start-up business for this opportunity.

Town Park Final Scores			
	Submission Score	Panel Score	Final Total Score
Bidder 4	310.00	38.80	348.80
Bidder 9	285.00	23.80	308.80
Bidder 7	274.17	28.20	302.37

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

These projects are closely aligned with Priority 1 of the Council Plan, which aims to enhance biodiversity and protect our parks, open spaces, woodlands, watercourses, wetlands, trees and shrubs. By improving biodiversity, reducing the impact of pollution and flooding and encouraging people to spend more time in Enfield's parks and open spaces they also contribute to measures in the Council's Climate Action Plan, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Blue and Green Strategy.

Report Author: Marcus Harvey
 Head of Service, Parks, Open Spaces and Bereavement.
Marcus.harvey@Enfield.gov.uk
 07990 584947

Appendices

None

This page is intentionally left blank

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

Date of meeting	Topic	Report Author	Lead Members	Executive Director/ Director	Reason for proposal	Other committee/ Cabinet/Council approvals?
3 July 2023	Work Programme Planning					
24 Oct 2023	Recycling – to include: how information about what can be recycled is communicated to residents - the use of images/ stickers/ videos, the harmonisation/ standardisation of recycling, trial on recycling in council flats/ estates – the next step, recycling processes relative/ comparison to other local authorities – particularly those hitting the 50% London target, a second recycling centre being built/ opened at the North London Waste Authority	Jon Sharkey	Cllr Jewell	Doug Wilkinson/ Simon Pollock	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	
	Mandatory food waste segregation for businesses, to include: how the council can make changes to boost our recycling levels through business waste, how many food businesses there are in Enfield and all businesses recycling	Jon Sharkey	Cllr Jewell	Doug Wilkinson/ Simon Pollock	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	

	rates of businesses, how their waste is collected and who is our biggest waste collection competition in Enfield?					
	Fly tipping – to include: enforcement and cameras, data and information on the numbers of offences, numbers of convictions, and areas of development, progress with the fly tipping cameras on fly tipping rates, how many fines have been issued since, areas located in, a history of year-on-year fly tipping report data, where are you getting the most reports (phone/online) and location	Jon Sharkey	Cllr Jewell	Doug Wilkinson/ Simon Pollock	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	
8 Feb 2024	Rewilding – to include Chase Landscape: Tree Planting, Wetlands, Beavers, and funding	Marcus Harvey/ Ian Russell	Cllr Anyanwu / Cllr Jewell	Cheryl Headon / Simon Pollock/ Doug Wilkinson	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	
	Cattle Grazing at Forty Hall	Marcus Harvey/ Ian Russell	Cllr Anyanwu	Cheryl Headon / Simon Pollock	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	
	Parks Management & Biodiversity – to include toilets (cleanliness & signage) and cafes in parks, grass cutting, the	Marcus Harvey (Mathew Watts)	Cllr Anyanwu	Cheryl Headon / Simon Pollock	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/	

	move to tennis courts using a booking system, illegal tenting, and fishing at Grovelands Park, and parks and grass verges management more generally				review/ scrutinise further.	
12 Mar 2024	Biodiversity Net Gain	Gideon Whittington/ Karen Page	Cllr S Erbil	Brett Leahy/ Sarah Cary	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	
	Quieter Neighbourhoods – Walking & Cycling Infrastructure – to include consultations that have taken place	Richard Eason	Cllr Jewell	Brett Leahy / Sarah Cary	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	
	Air Quality/Pollution & ULEZ - cycling routes impact on air quality	Ned Johnson/ Richard Eason	Cllr Jewell	Brett Leahy / Sarah Cary	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	
18 April 2024	Climate Action Plan	Perry Scott/ Brett Leahy (Sustainability post)	Cllr Ergin Erbil	Perry Scott	To present the updated document for Scrutiny	Cabinet sign off in February 2024
	Pilots Retrofitting Council Housing for Energy Efficiency	Rafe Bertram	Cllr Rick Jewell/ Cllr George Savva	Sarah Cary	Suggested by the Executive Director, and something the Panel decided to discuss/ review/ scrutinise further.	

This page is intentionally left blank