

London Borough of Enfield

Environment Forum

Subject: Blue and Green Strategy

Cabinet Member: Councillor Jewell

Executive Director: Sarah Cary

Purpose of Report

1. Update on Blue and Green Strategy

Relevance to the Council Plan

2. The Blue and Green strategy has been developed to support the overarching priorities set out in the Council Plan, namely:

Good homes in well-connected neighbourhoods:

The provision of high quality green and blue infrastructure is recognised as essential component of sustainable and inclusive communities, particularly in the face of climate change and the ongoing health crisis. Delivery of new affordable homes must go hand-in-hand with supporting infrastructure, such as new public parks, public spaces and routes, connecting neighbourhoods to services and the street network. Enfield's ambitious growth and place-making agenda offers a significant opportunity to develop healthier, cleaner and environmentally resilient places where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy good access to nature and open spaces. Green and blue infrastructure needs to be carefully planned to unlock growth opportunities and facilitate site development, especially along existing river corridors in association with new housing and employment opportunities. The approach set out in the strategy is to integrate parks and other public spaces into the heart of the borough's physical environment through partnership working and major strategic interventions (e.g. improvements to the public realm) to strengthen the connection between people and their local communities.

Sustain strong and healthy communities:

The recent covid-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of our parks, open spaces, trees and waterways to the health and well-being of our communities. As the population of the borough continues to grow and becomes more diverse, greater demands will be placed on existing infrastructure and services, with existing open spaces and natural habitats under increasing pressure from development. Coordinated action is needed to ensure that sufficient infrastructure capacity and funding is available to support the borough's growing communities (e.g. improved links between communities, food-growing opportunities and new sport and recreation facilities) and build resilience against the threats of climate change and poor health, especially in areas of greatest

need. In response, this strategy sets out how we will work with the local community and our partners to create opportunities to get more people visiting and enjoying our parks, open spaces and waterways, improve community safety and increase the prevalence of walking and cycling.

Build our local economy to create a thriving place:

The proposals set out in this strategy will help to kick-start the local economy and green recovery post lockdown and incentivise more sustainable means of transport, such as cycling and walking to reduce emissions and improve the health of our residents. Enfield's green and blue network is worth millions of pounds to the local economy as it increases property values, visitor numbers and business occupancy rates. This strategy seeks to capitalise on Enfield's unique offer as a visitor designation and green borough and help promote London's identity as a world-class national park city. We want to build on this to attract more green businesses and stimulate investment and activity within our town centres and growth areas, as we recover from covid-19 and the uncertain economic climate. We want to use green and blue infrastructure to create more attractive and thriving places where people want to live, work and enjoy leisure/culture.

Background

3. Blue and green infrastructure encompasses all of the 'green' (such parks, open spaces, street trees and routes) and 'blue' (such as reservoirs, lakes and waterways) elements of the landscape that contribute to the well-being of the borough's communities and its environment, quality of place and economic success.

The Blue and Green Strategy will have a 10-year shelf life but will be kept under regular review. It will be updated once the new Enfield Local Plan has been formally adopted. In the interim, the strategy will help implement the strategic objectives and policies set out in the existing adopted Local Plans (especially in terms of: managing flood risk, protecting biodiversity, improving east-west connectivity, improving access to open and green spaces, preserving the open character of the borough, creating a more integrated green and blue network and creating safer and more accessible environments) and the adopted London Plan. Strategy adopted in 2021 with associated aims.

Main Considerations for the Panel

4. Officers will provide an overview of the aims within the Blue and Green strategy and report on key targets and proposed activity relating to each aim. Officers are looking for feedback on proposals.

Conclusions

5. We are seeking to provide members of the Environment Forum an overview of the key aims contained within the Blue and Green strategy and an update on progress on activity towards achieving these aims.

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Appendices N/A

Background Papers

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

Blue and Green Strategy