

BODY: CABINET
DATE: 19th October 2011
SUBJECT: Eastbourne Park Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
REPORT OF: Senior Head of Development and Environment

Ward(s): Hampden Park, Langney, St Anthony's and Upperton

Purpose: For Members to approve the Draft Eastbourne Park SPD prior to the commencement of a 12-week consultation period from 4th November, 2011 to 27th January, 2012.

Decision type: Relates to an eventual Budget and Policy Framework decision to be taken by Full Council

Contact: William Nichols (Principal Planning Policy Officer), 1 Grove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex.
Tel no: (01323) 415254
E-mail: william.nichols@eastbourne.gov.uk

Recommendation:

1. That the Cabinet agree that the Draft Eastbourne Park SPD is approved prior to the commencement of a 12-week consultation period; and
2. That authority is delegated to the Senior Head of Development and Environment, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member, to make any necessary minor amendments before the commencement of the 12-week consultation period.

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Draft Eastbourne Park Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to set out a clear strategy for the future management of Eastbourne Park as an ecological, archaeological and leisure resource that benefits both residents and visitors. It provides details on the interpretation of Policy D11: Eastbourne Park of the Eastbourne Plan (Proposed Submission Core Strategy) and establishes a vision for the Park:
"By 2027, Eastbourne Park will provide a unique, accessible and sensitively managed 'green heart', which makes a significant contribution to the social, economic, environmental and physical well-being of the community".
- 1.2 The Eastbourne Park SPD will play an important role in conserving and enhancing the existing environmental, ecological and archaeological characteristics of Eastbourne Park, whilst at the same time sensitively managing the area for appropriate leisure and recreation uses. It will be used in the determination of planning applications within Eastbourne Park's boundaries.

- 1.3 The decision to prepare an SPD follows cross-party recognition of the importance of Eastbourne Park and the need to protect it for existing and future generations. The Park already functions as an important flood plain and an area of archaeology, ecology, and leisure/recreation interest. The Council acknowledges, however, that the Park is an under-utilised resource, which requires additional protection and a clear vision and framework for its future use. The decision to adopt the document in its final form, after consultation and any necessary further revisions, as part of the Local Development Framework, will lie with the Full Council.

2.0 Pre-Consultation Exercises

- 2.1 The Draft Eastbourne Park SPD has undergone extensive pre-consultation with a range of stakeholders in order to identify and understand the issues and options for the future of the Park that need to be addressed. An initial Stakeholder Event in July 2009 provided local organizations, landowners and other groups with an opportunity to inform the development of options. It was attended by twenty-eight stakeholders representing a variety of different interests. The findings of the consultation exercise helped inform the preparation of this document.
- 2.2 The preparation of the Draft Eastbourne Park SPD has been led by a steering group consisting of cross-party councillors. An officers' working group was also formed to provide detailed information to assist in the development of objectives and proposals. This included officers from a wide range of departments and disciplines. Councillors and officers have also undertaken visits to other wetlands at Arundel, Barnes, and Pulborough Brooks to investigate potential wetland management approaches that could be followed in Eastbourne Park.
- 2.3 Individual meetings, informal discussions and consultations have been held with key landowners. All landowners were asked to complete a form setting out their short, medium and long-term plans for their land and the feedback received has helped fine-tune the overall strategy. Discussions and meetings have also taken place with other stakeholders including English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England.
- 2.4 Various research studies have also helped provide useful background information. These studies include: the Eastbourne Biodiversity Assessment, the Eastbourne and South Wealden Flood Risk Assessment, the Eastbourne Surface Water Management Plan and the Eastbourne Landscape Character Assessment.

3.0 The Structure of the Document

- 3.1 The Eastbourne Park SPD is divided into five sections and these are summarised below.

Section 1 provides an overview of Eastbourne Park. It sets out the reasons why the Council is preparing an SPD and the consultation methods that have informed it.

Section 2 describes the Park's principle features and characteristics, setting the scene for the development of the strategy outlined in subsequent chapters.

Section 3 identifies ten key principles that will help to achieve the overall vision set out in paragraph 1.1 of this report.

- Environmental Conservation;
- Flood Mitigation;
- Improved Accessibility;
- Agriculture and Allotments;
- Archaeological Preservation;
- Healthy Communities;
- Educational Awareness;
- Sustainable Tourism;
- Green Corridors; and
- Renewable Energy.

Section 4 sets out detailed concepts for the four sectors within Eastbourne Park:

- Broadwater;
- Southbourne;
- West Langney; and
- Shinewater.

3.2 Section 5 sets out the different mechanisms through which the Council will deliver key pieces of infrastructure and initiatives proposed in the SPD. The priorities and tools for delivering each item are also highlighted.

4.0 The Consultation

4.1 The Draft Eastbourne Park SPD, will, if approved by Cabinet commence a 12-week consultation period starting on Friday 4th November, 2011 and running until Friday 27th January, 2012. Following Cabinet it will be presented to Planning Committee (25th October, 2011), and the Senior Head of Development & Environment in consultation with the portfolio holder will have delegated authority to make minor amendments as a result.

4.2 Landowners and stakeholders will have an opportunity to make formal comments on the SPD as will residents, visitors and those with an interest in the future of Eastbourne Park.

4.3 Comments can be made on any aspect of the document and all those received will be published on the Council's website. Representations can be made preferably via the Council's consultation portal or alternatively by letter and email.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1 Financial

There are no financial implications to the Council of this report. The cost of the publication and publicity for the Draft Eastbourne Park SPD will be met from within the existing service budget.

5.2 Legal

The production of a Supplementary Planning Document is an optional requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended in 2008).

5.3 Staff Resources

Officers in the Planning Policy Team will manage the consultation arrangements for the Draft Eastbourne Park SPD, the collection and processing of representations and the production of the final version of the SPD for adoption at the same time as the Eastbourne Plan (Proposed Submission Core Strategy).

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the Draft Eastbourne Park SPD prior to the commencement of a 12-week consultation period

William Nichols

Principal Planning Policy Officer

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- *Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (CLG, 2008); and*
- *Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended).*

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.