



CABINET – 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The attached report summarises the content and methodologies contained within the Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy. This report was considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 1st October 2020. The report sought the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members were advised that the strategy laid out steps towards a 5 year integrated action plan. It was also outlined to Members that the strategy provided a good fit with the developing environmental strategies of neighbouring authorities and other public sector bodies, such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

3. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 3.1 This report came before the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 1st October 2020. Members were advised of the importance of the document in view of changing legislation and a shift in the significance of green infrastructure.
- 3.2 During the course of the ensuing debate, a Member referred to a new school building being built and asked if they would be using mechanisms set out in the Strategy such as rainwater harvesting via Sustainable Drainage Systems and if the Strategy is linked to other regeneration strategies. Officers explained that it is standard practice to incorporate rainwater harvesting on new developments of this type, and also that the Strategy will not operate in isolation and will apply to urban areas and urban fringes where biodiversity is under threat. The Strategy will also work across all regeneration strategies, particularly in terms of topographical themes which includes regeneration. Members were also advised that the Strategy will blend and tie into the ethos for a greener environment and will encourage people to take a more proactive approach to environmental matters.
- 3.3 A query was received regarding biodiversity with regard to wildflower growth and cutting regimes on highways. Officers advised that at a strategic level, the Strategy identifies those roadside verges which are particularly important in terms of green corridors and connectivity and that the Council is in discussion with neighbouring authorities to discuss how landscaping continuity across county borough boundaries

can be achieved. With regards to the management of individual verges, Members were advised that a full report on trial areas for a revised mowing regime will be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet for consideration and approval prior to the 2021/22 grass cutting season.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendation be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By way of Forms voting and 1 telephone vote (and in noting there were 11 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that the Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy as appended to the report be approved and used as the core guidance document for Green Space development and management within the county borough.

- 4.2 Cabinet are asked to consider the report and the comments made by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.

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Appendices:
Appendix Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy.