



Portfolio Holder Decision

Published on 03 October 2024

Decision: Draft Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Consultation Approval

Decision taker: Portfolio Holder for Greener Communities,

Decision Date: 3 October 2024

Is decision subject to Call-in? Yes

Deadline for Call-in: Noon on 9 October 2024

Is decision Exempt? No

Is decision urgent? No

Summary

To seek the approval of the Portfolio Holder for Greener Communities for the draft Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy to be published for public consultation.

Decision

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy be approved for public consultation.

Reasons for Decision

The Environment Act 2021 establishes the requirement on Local Authorities to publish a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Oxfordshire County Council is the Responsible Authority (RA) for Oxfordshire and each of the District Councils the City Council and Natural England are Supporting Authorities (SA's).

Supporting Authorities are required to confirm in writing that they are content for the consultation to proceed within 28 days of the RA providing them with the consultation draft of the LNRS. The council received the consultation documents on 6 September 2024, and the deadline for confirming is 8 October 2024.

The Council's ecologist has been closely involved in the preparation and drafting of the LNRS, and there has been a series of public and stakeholder engagement events. The

Draft LNRS documents have now been drafted based on the feedback from the engagement exercise and on input from a wide variety of biodiversity experts. Officers are satisfied that the draft document is fit for publication and will contribute towards the Council's environmental sustainability objectives.

Options Considered

Option 1: Do not confirm that Cherwell DC is content for the public consultation to commence.

Option 2: To object to public consultation on the draft LNRS.

Both of these options have been rejected as Officers have been closely involved in all stages of the development and preparation of the Draft LNRS and are content that the draft strategy would be substantively beneficial to meeting the Council's environmental sustainability objective and should proceed to public consultation.

Conflicts of Interest Declared and Dispensations Granted by Head of Paid Service

None

Information about this decision statement

Call-in

Notice of call-in must be submitted in writing, by email or text to the Chief Executive by the deadline specified above, and must state the reason or reasons why "call-in" has been requested;

Call-in can be requested by any five non-executive members of the Council.

Decisions not called-in by the deadline specified above will become effective immediately the deadline has expired (unless they are recommendations to the Council).

The Council has stipulated that the call-in procedure should not be used to challenge decisions as a matter of course and should be used only when fully justified.

Shiraz Sheikh
Monitoring Officer