



Notice of NON KEY Executive Decision by individual Cabinet member

Subject Heading:	Havering response to the All London Green Grid Draft Supplementary Planning Document 2011 prepared by the London Mayor.
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Robert Benham Member for Community Empowerment
CMT Lead:	Cynthia Griffin
Report Author and contact details:	Lauren Gray - Senior Planner Development and Transport Planning Telephone: 01708 433051 lauren.gray@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	London Plan 2011, Havering's 'Living Ambition' agenda and the Havering Local Development Framework
Financial summary:	No financial implications for the Council arising as a direct consequence of this decision
Relevant OSC:	Towns and Communities
Is this a Strategic Decision?	No
If it is a Strategic Decision, when should this matter be reviewed?	Not applicable
Is it an urgent decision? If so, please refer to the note at the end	No

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Ensuring a clean, safe and green borough	X
Championing education and learning for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing economic, social and cultural activity in thriving towns and villages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuing and enhancing the lives of our residents	X
Delivering high customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

In 2008 the then Mayor of London published the East London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) with the aim of creating a network of interlinked, multifunctional and high quality open spaces that connect with town centres, public transport nodes, the countryside in the urban fringe, the River Thames and major employment and residential areas.

The East London Green Grid (ELGG) covers the City of London and the London Boroughs of Havering, Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Greenwich, Hackney, Lewisham, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

The current Mayor of London has now published for consultation the draft All London Green Grid (ALGG) SPG which takes the principles of the ELGG and applies them across London. The draft SPG incorporates and will replace the original SPG for East London.

A recommended response is set out in Appendix 1.

Part A

DETAIL OF THE DECISION AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the response to the consultation as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

The following elements of the Council's Constitution apply.

Council's Constitution November 2010 Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions

2 Executive Functions – Functions

2.5 (b) Where there are implications for policies of the Council, to agree members of staff's responses to consultation papers from:

(i) the Government (including White and Green papers)

(ii) the London Councils, **the Greater London Authority**, the Local Government

Association and all other bodies where those papers affect the services allocated.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Background

1. In 2008 the then Mayor of London published the East London Green Grid SPG which covered the East London Boroughs including Havering. The ELGG has previously been supported by the Council and it is endorsed within the Borough's Local Development Framework (LDF).
2. The current Mayor of London has now published for consultation the draft All London Green Grid SPG which takes the principals of the ELGG and applies them across all of London. The draft SPG incorporates and will replace the original SPG for East London.
3. The All London Green Grid SPG has three key aims which reflect the aspirations of the ELGG. The aims are:
 - To protect and enhance London's strategic network of green and open, natural and designed spaces and connect them with town centres, public transport nodes, the countryside in the urban fringe, the Thames and major employment and residential areas;
 - To encourage greater use of London's green infrastructure fostering a greater appreciation of London's natural and designed landscapes; enhancing visitor facilities and extending and upgrading the walking and cycling networks in between to promote a sense of place and ownership; and
 - To secure a network of high quality, well designed and multi functional green and open spaces that are able to address the environmental challenges of the 21st century, most notably climate change.

The Green Grid in Havering

4. The SPG identifies 11 Green Grid areas covering the whole of London. These areas update, compliment and expand upon the six areas established as part of the ELGG. The Green Grid areas provide the basic framework from which policies and projects can be developed and delivered. Area 3: Thames Chase, Beam and Ingrebourne covers Havering in addition to parts of Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge. The original ELGG SPG included a London Riverside Area, however, in the ALGG this area has been incorporated into the Thames Chase, Beam and Ingrebourne area (mentioned above) and Area 2: Epping Forest and River Roding.
5. The SPG identifies key open space opportunities for each of the 11 Green Grid areas which are intended to inform the development and delivery of the network. Many of the strategic open space opportunities of the ELGG have

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been carried forward to the new ALGG SPG. 11 Strategic green infrastructure opportunities are identified for Area 3 (Thames Chase, Beam and Ingrebourne) and eight of these are within Havering. Five of them have been carried forward from the East London Green Grid:

- Improving and protecting the landscape value of the Ingrebourne valley, providing for informal recreation, reinforcing woodland planting in the north and conserving and re-creating marshland habitats to the south;
- Creating a mosaic of open spaces and woodland in Thames Chase for biomass, orchards for food production, allotments, wet woodlands and screening and improved access to the open countryside;
- Creating the London Riverside Conservation Park as an exemplar sustainable regional park for the 21st century, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and floodplains and providing informal opportunities for recreation in the countryside;
- Creating a linked network of accessible open spaces with a strong wetland character along the London Riverside Link; and
- Improving the London Loop long distance footpath linking Rainham village and the Thames and integrating other foot and cycle routes and destination points within the GGA.

6. Three new opportunities have been identified:

- Improve north to south links along the river corridors of the Gores, Wantz, Ravensbourne, Mardyke and Beam by upgrading access and transforming parks within the corridors;
- Improve and strengthen east/west links through the area by increasing access and connectivity along major east/west infrastructure corridors such as the A13, A1306 and railway lines and by creating new cycle corridors and tree lined streets; and
- Provide a new public park, civic square and tree lined streets within Romford Town Centre, enhancing pedestrian and cycle routes to surrounding green spaces and restore and enhance access to the River Rom through opening up of culverts, naturalising river channels and enhancing the recreational potential of the river.

7. An opportunity was identified in the 2008 East London Green Grid SPG to restore previous mineral extractions and landfill sites with an accessible landscape structure of woods and hedgerows. This opportunity has not been included in the draft SPG, yet remains an opportunity and aspiration of the Council.

8. A further opportunity identified in the ELGG SPG that has not been carried forward to the draft ALGG SPG is to reopen the culverted Rainham Creek.

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Whilst the removal of this opportunity is accepted, the Council does still have aspirations to enhance public access in this area and protect and enhance its landscape and biodiversity value.

9. The open space opportunities identified in the All London Green Grid SPG have not been costed and there are no firm financial implications at this stage. The SPG provides policy support should these opportunities be pursued. Further detail is provided in Part B – Financial Implications and Risks.

Recommended Response

10. On balance it is considered that the draft SPG should be supported because it will assist in securing wider planning and regeneration objectives including those in the London Plan (and its linked documents such as the draft Opportunity Area Planning Framework) and the Council's own strategies. It is recommended that Havering's response should say that Havering:

- Welcomes the publication of the All London Green Grid SPG and the incorporation of the East London Green Grid within it.
- Supports the five strategic green infrastructure opportunities within Havering that were previously within the East London Green Grid SPG.
- Supports the three new strategic Green Infrastructure opportunities that have been identified.
- Recommends the re-instatement of the strategic green infrastructure opportunity identified in the ELGG SPG (see paragraph 7) that has not been carried forward to the All London Green Grid SPG.
- Recommends some additional wording in the main text of the SPG to better reflect the Council's aspirations for Rainham Creek.
- Recommends some factual minor wording changes to the main text of the SPG to address issues such as the physical attributes of the area.
- Welcomes the opportunity to work with the GLA and other partners to implement the Green Grid.

11. The recommended full response is set out in Appendix 1.

Next Steps

12. Subject to Member approval the recommended response will be submitted to the Mayor of London.
13. Members will be updated on any issues arising from both this consultation and the final document.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Member Non-Key Decision

The option of not responding to the consultation was rejected because it is important that the Council responds to consultations on Mayoral Supplementary Planning Guidance that may impact on the Borough and takes the opportunity to ensure that, as far as possible, these reflect Council's priorities and objectives when they are formally published.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Martyn Thomas

Designation: Development and Transport Planning Manager

Signature: 

Date: *January 18 2012,*

Part B

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no specific legal implications or risks for the Council arising from the consultation and the response.

Cleared by Vincent Healy, Legal Manager, by email, 6 January 2012

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the consultation and the response.

The SPG identifies open space opportunities which may have financial implications if advanced, however the SPG only sets out the strategic direction for the All London Green Grid and there are no details or costings for any of the projects that may be used to fulfil the opportunities. The SPG provides policy support should the Council or other organisations wish to pursue the opportunities to develop the Green Grid network and does not commit the Council to any funding.

Cleared by Conway Mulcahy, Strategic Finance Partner, by email 17 January 2012

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no human resources implications for the Council arising from the consultation and the response.

Cleared by Samantha Doggett, Strategic Human Resources Business Partner, by

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email, 3 January 2012

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There are no specific equalities or social inclusions implications or risks as a result of this formal response.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Confirmation of decision

I confirm that I have made this executive decision, in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Signed



Name Councillor Robert Benham
Portfolios held: Cabinet Member for Community Empowerment

Date: 19th January 2012

Lodging this notice

This notice should be delivered to the proper officer, currently the Democratic Services Manager via Ian Buckmaster, in the Town Hall. A copy of this notice should be retained by the individual Cabinet member making the decision in question.

Urgency

Where the executive decision recorded in this notice has been made in accordance with the special urgency provisions of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a copy of the written agreement obtained under rule 18 must be attached to all copies of this notice.

For use in Democratic Services

I confirm that this notice was lodged with me on

28/1/12

Signed



LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
Town Hall
Romford
RM1 3SL

Andrew Barry-Purssell
PP18 – Greater London Authority
FREEPOST LON15799
City Hall
More London
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2BR

Telephone: 01708 432845
Email: martyn.thomas@havering.gov.uk

Date: 27 January 2012

Dear Mr Barry-Purssell

**Draft All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance:
Response from the London Borough of Havering**

Havering Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). Please find the Council's consultation response set out below.

The Council is supportive of the publication of the All London Green Grid SPG and the incorporation of the East London Green Grid within it. In particular, the Council supports the strategic green infrastructure opportunities within Havering that were previously included within the East London Green Grid SPG and supports the new strategic green infrastructure opportunities that have been identified.

The 2008 East London Green Grid SPG identified a strategic open space opportunity to 'restore previous mineral extractions and landfill sites with an accessible landscape structure of woods and hedgerows for the Fairlop, Beam and Ingrebourne area'. This opportunity has not been carried forward to the All London Green Grid however, it is still an aspiration of the Council to restore such sites and as such it should continue to be identified as an opportunity for Area 3 (Thames Chase, Beam and Ingrebourne).

A further opportunity identified in the 2008 SPG that has not been carried forward to the draft All London Green Grid SPG is to reopen the culverted Rainham Creek. Whilst the removal of this opportunity is accepted, the Council does still have aspirations to enhance public access in this area and protect and enhance its biodiversity and landscape value. Please find enclosed with this letter recommended text amendments to Chapter 5, Green Grid Area 3 Thames Chase, Beam and Ingrebourne which reflect the Council's aspirations for Rainham Creek. In addition to changes relating to Rainham Creek, the enclosure also contains some suggested factual minor text amendments.

Havering Council welcomes the opportunity to work with the GLA and other partners to implement the Green Grid.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Thomas
Development and Transport Planning Manager

Encl.

Suggested Text Changes

London Borough of Havering Suggested Text Changes

Text proposed to be deleted is shown in ~~strikethrough~~, proposed new text is underlined. Proposed new text relating to Rainham Creek is underlined in blue.

Chapter 5, GGA3 Thames Chase, Beam and Ingrebourne

Paragraph 5.42 The land north of the A118 is mainly flat arable land, with large open fields that maintains its rural and natural character, In the south ~~G~~gravel extraction has left its mark on the landscape, where this activity has led to former workings being used for landfill and also for recreation with land being restored as country parks at Fairlop Waters, Eastbrookend and Hornchurch. To the north and east of the GGA the land rises and is largely agricultural in character with wooded areas on higher ground. ~~Although the middle section of this area around the River Rom includes extensive areas of public open space, there is limited access in the town centres and to~~ The Thames Chase Community Forest covers a very substantial part of the rural area of the GGA.

Paragraph 5.45 The Rainham, Wennington and Aveley Marshes in the south of the GGA are flat grazing marshes of ~~rank grassland and relatively dry reedbeds,~~ intersected by a network of ditches and provide an important bird wildlife habitat. The River Thames is the main feature, affording views along and across the waterway, in a landscape that can have an open and exposed feel. The London Riverside Conservation Park on these marshes will include the restoration of Rainham landfill site. The park is of regional importance and is being created by a number of partners including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. ~~However, there are existing~~ Some of the barriers that limit access to the park have been overcome.

Paragraph 5.46 The **Dogg Kennel Hill Link** follows the London Loop through the Green Belt, connecting Hainault Forest Country Park in the east with Havering Country Park and Bedfords Park, through to Dagenham Park and the Ingrebourne valley in the east.

Paragraph 5.47 The **Romford Link** follows the River Rom from Eastbrookend Country Park in the south to Romford town centre where the river becomes culverted. As it goes north the Link branches into two routes. The left west route continues to follow the River Rom, though it is partly channelised and inaccessible behind residential development, before emerging into the Green Belt and connecting to the London Loop. The ~~right hand~~ east branch follows Blacks Brook which runs through a mainly green corridor that connects to Bedford Park in the north.

Paragraph 5.48 The **Ravensbourne River Link** follows the Ravensbourne River through the residential areas ~~of Emerson Park~~ north of Hornchurch, past Hornchurch Sport Centre and through Harrow Lodge Park. There is currently no public access to the river where it runs through the residential area.

Paragraph 5.49 The **London Riverside Link** includes the Barking Reach development site and the Dagenham Docks Industrial Estate and Rainham

Creek. The redevelopment of the area will provide a new green space network through the district. A number of ditches and small water courses run through the area which provides an important habitat for water voles, wetland birds and estuarine vegetation.

Strategic Green Infrastructure Opportunities

Opportunity 2 Improve and protect the landscape and biodiversity value of the Ingrebourne valley including Rainham Creek, providing for informal recreation, reinforcing woodland planting in the north, and conserving and re-creating marshland and river habitats to the south.

Opportunity 7 Create a mosaic of open spaces and woodland in Thames Chase ~~for biomass, orchards for food production, allotments, wet woodlands and screening~~ and improved access to the open countryside by woodland planting and landscape scale restoration.

Opportunity 8 Create the London Riverside Conservation Park as an exemplar sustainable regional park for the 21st century, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and floodplains and providing informal opportunities for recreation in the countryside and alongside the river Thames.

Opportunity 9 Create a linked network of accessible open spaces with a strong wetland character, along the London Riverside Link and at Rainham Creek.

Opportunity 11 Improve the London Loop long distance footpath linking ~~Rainham village~~ Harold Hill in the north and the Thames and integrating other foot and cycle routes and destination points within the GGA.