

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	COUNCIL	Item 8	Page 1
Report Originator	Head of Development Services	<i>Work Programme Ref No: C15/002</i>	
Wards Affected	All Wards	16 th December 2015	
Title	BIODIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – ADOPTION		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To adopt the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Northamptonshire in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Since the adoption of the North Northamptonshire Biodiversity SPD in 2011, national planning policy has changed substantially, and as a result parts of the SPD became out of date. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has come into force and accompanying guidance has also been published. The SPD has been revised to comply with these changes and also now relates to the whole of Northamptonshire. The revised SPD will supplement policies within the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1). A copy of the final draft Biodiversity SPD is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.3 The draft SPD has been jointly prepared by all constituent authorities in Northamptonshire and has been led by Northamptonshire County Council. It has also involved close working with the Wildlife Trust and Natural England. In addition, all authorities have been consulted on the draft document. The document now needs to be adopted individually by each authority.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 4th November 2015 the Planning Policy Committee recommended the draft SPD for adoption by Council.

3. BIODIVERSITY SPD FOR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

- 3.1 Biodiversity refers to the number, variety and variability of living organisms. Biodiversity is a key aspect of sustainable development. Every local authority has a statutory duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. This duty is addressed in part by including nature conservation policies in The North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and the emerging Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and saved policies in the Kettering Borough Local Plan (1995).

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	COUNCIL	Item 8	Page 2
--	----------------	-----------	--------

- 3.2 The SPD builds on these policies. It also explains how biodiversity should be incorporated into the planning process to ensure that policy and legislation requirements are met. It also ensures that best practice standards are achieved in line with Kettering Borough Council's strategic aims and objectives of improving biodiversity in the borough. It provides a standard approach to be followed for all planning applications, and is to be used together with expert ecological assessments of the details of each specific case. It is also a useful tool for developing planning policy and making site allocations.
- 3.3 The SPD provides a step-by-step guide to building nature into development. It outlines the process for identifying features that could be at risk and identifying any surveys required. In addition to this, the annex attached to the SPD, offers information on all species and habitats which are of importance within Northamptonshire.
- 3.4 The SPD sets out what information should be submitted with a planning application and includes a detailed step-by-step biodiversity checklist to assist applicants in completing Question 13 of the 1APP planning application form.

4. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 4.1 Public consultation took place for six weeks from 9 February and 23 March 2015. All comments received (including those made by Kettering Borough Council's Planning Policy Committee) were assessed, and where relevant, changes incorporated in the final draft.
- 4.2 Developers will be required to undertake any identified surveys (using the checklist) before development commences. If a survey detects that the development will have an adverse effect on biodiversity, the proposal should be adapted to avoid damage. Where the damage cannot be entirely avoided, mitigation measures will be required. If the impact cannot be avoided or mitigated against, appropriate compensation will be sought to ensure there is no net loss in biodiversity.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Biodiversity SPD will support Development Plan policies, and will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

6. USE OF RESOURCES

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for Kettering Borough Council associated with this report.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document for Northamptonshire be adopted.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

	COUNCIL	Item 8	Page 3
--	----------------	-----------	--------

Title of Document: Biodiversity Supplementary Document for Northamptonshire – Consultation

Date: 28th January 2015

Title of Document: Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document for Northamptonshire – Consultation

Date: 3rd March 2015

Contact Officer: Andrew Needham – Assistant Development Officer

Previous reports/minutes

Planning Policy Committee

28.1.15

Minute No: 14.PP.25

Planning Policy Committee

3.3.15

Minute No: 14.PP.33

Planning Policy Committee

4.11.15

Draft Minute No: 15.PP.16