

**Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee**

**29 February 2008**

**Agenda Item No. 9**

<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Joint Officer Team (Jacqueline Veater)</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT ON LUTON &amp; SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE GREEN SPACE STRATEGY - CONSULTATION DRAFT</b>
<b>PURPOSES</b>	<b>To inform the committee of the progress of this project through to statutory consultation stage</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>Information only</b>
<b>REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## **PROGRESS**

1. This joint project is now nearing completion. Following a brief period of consultation and a rigorous audit of existing green space throughout the two Council areas, an Audit Report and Scoping Report were produced. The Scoping Report was sent to Statutory Consultees on the 14 November, 2008 for a five week consultation period. Only the Environment Agency and Natural England replied. The results have been incorporated into the resultant Sustainability Appraisal.

The consultation on the Draft Luton and South Bedfordshire Green Space Strategy started on the 25<sup>th</sup> February for a period of 6 weeks closing on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. The extensive consultation will include gathering opinions on the strategy from statutory consultees, members and officers of both Council's, stakeholders, interest groups and forums for specific groups such as young and elderly, equalities forums, and businesses.

Completed questionnaires entered onto the Lime House system. This will ensure compatibility of the data with the consultation on the Core Strategy. The results will be process during April.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

2. The consultation exercise on the draft strategy is being managed jointly by Luton and South Beds. South Beds are contributing financially towards the overall costs and the balance will be paid by Luton through the Resourcing Transformation Funding for

green infrastructure. A full schedule of costs is not yet available but will include an additional payment to Halcrow for their involvement and printing costs of the consultation draft and final documents. Funding will be required from both authorities in 2008/9 to complete the project.

These implications were agreed by the Finance Manager (Environment & Regeneration) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

3. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the statutory consultation exercise and subsequent amendments this document will be presented to the Joint Committee for adoption as SPD.

These implications were agreed by John Secker, Luton Borough Council Legal Services on 19 February 2008.

### **CONCLUSION**

4. When the strategy has been amended it will be presented to this committee for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.