

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development
Date of meeting: 02 December 2014
Subject: Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document
Report by: City Development Manager
Wards affected: Eastney and Craneswater
Key decision: No
Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To approve the Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for adoption.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- 1. Note the results of the consultation on the draft SPD and approve the Consultation Statement (Appendix A)**
- 2. Adopt the Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan SPD (Appendix B)**
- 3. Authorise the City Development Manager to make editorial amendments to the SPD (attached as Appendix B) prior to publication, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development. These amendments shall be restricted to correcting errors and formatting text and shall not alter the meaning of the statement.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Eastney Beach is a designated Local Wildlife Site (LWS) as the beach is home to a large amount of vegetated shingle, which is a priority habitat. The Portsmouth Plan sets out a framework in Policy PCS13 to ensure that any impacts to LWS and the habitats they support are properly considered during the planning process.
- 3.2 Portsmouth Plan Policy PCS9 and The Seafront Masterplan set out ambitious proposals to develop and enhance the seafront. The Masterplan recognises that the vegetated shingle at Eastney Beach is valuable for the species that use it and

valued by the large number of residents and visitors who visit every day. The area is also identified for a number of development opportunities in the future which, together with others along the seafront, will maximise the potential of the area as a whole.

- 3.3 It is likely that developments in this area identified in the Seafront Masterplan will result in adverse impacts on the LWS and habitats within it unless there are mitigation measures which could be used to remove this impact. These development proposals – particularly the smaller ones – may well find it difficult to address the impacts they would cause on an individual basis.
- 3.4 This management and restoration plan will provide a coherent, strategic approach to this issue. Future development aspirations would be able to link in to this wider strategy to help facilitate the on-going management and restoration of the site and thus ensure that the impacts of their developments on the vegetated shingle habitat are mitigated and compensated for.

Consultation

- 3.5 The draft SPD was approved for consultation on 7th October 2014. Following this, a targeted consultation took place between 8th October 2014 and 5th November 2014. All specific and general consultation bodies with an interest in nature conservation or the coast were sent either a letter or email notifying them of the consultation. In addition, a further 203 letters were sent to those who live close to Eastney Beach and posters were displayed along the beach highlighting the consultation to those who visit the beach. A copy of the neighbour notification area and the poster which was displayed are at appendix 1. The draft SPD was made available on the city council's website, at the city council's offices and at Southsea Library.
- 3.6 Ten people and organisations submitted comments on the SPD, including Natural England which is the Government's statutory advisor on nature conservation. An analysis of the comments which were made is at appendix A of this report.
- 3.7 Overall, the consultation responses suggest that only minor changes should be made to the SPD. These are included in the final of the SPD, which is at appendix B. Changes made as a result of the comments are highlighted in blue.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 So as to receive full weight in planning decisions, the SPD needs to be adopted by the city council.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

5.1 A preliminary EIA has been conducted. As the plan is principally concerned with habitat restoration, it is not considered that a full EIA is needed.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The process by which the City Council prepares supplementary planning documents, including public consultation, is regulated by the provisions of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

6.2 Publication, consultation with appropriate stakeholders, and receiving and considering relevant representations are necessary steps towards adoption, and the report and recommendation support compliance with the Council’s statutory obligations as local planning authority.

7. Head of Finance Comments

7.1 There will be no costs to the Planning Service associated with implementation of the Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan.

7.2 The cost for physical works arising from the implementation of the plan will be met from contributions received from applicants. As part of the application process, there is a legal requirement for the applicant to provide funding to cover mitigation costs.

7.3 Small items such as bins and signage will continue to be met from the seafront budget.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix A - Consultation Statement

Appendix B - Eastney Beach Habitat Restoration and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:



Title of document	Location
None.	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by: