

**Report to:**

**RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN'S  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Relevant Officer:**

John Hawkin, Chief Operating Officer, Community and  
Environmental Services

**Date of Meeting:**

15 November 2018

## **GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To inform and seek support from scrutiny on the production of a Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To consider the content of the draft strategy; providing feedback and challenge along with guidance towards the completion of final strategy.

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 To engage with Members of the Scrutiny Committee on the production of a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Blackpool.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not applicable.

### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is both:

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

## 5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 Blackpool's Local Plan Core Strategy 2012-2027 includes a Green Infrastructure Policy (Ref CS6) which requires planning and development activity to protect, enhance, create and connect networks of Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI). This draft strategy aims to formalise this policy into a clear vision.

Blackpool's green and blue infrastructure is varied, both in terms of type; ranging from parks and gardens to ponds and lakes, sea and nature reserve, as well as ownership; public sector, commercial organisations, voluntary groups and private individuals.

Given this unique mix, it is clear that responsibility for creating, managing, promoting and funding GBI will fall to numerous people and organisations, working in partnership.

A GBI strategy will need to be a leadership document, setting out vision, goals and priorities that we can build upon to inspire positive change across the town whilst being mindful that GBI does not end at the borough boundary so must connect with our neighbouring authorities.

- 5.2 Work to date has included technical surveys, to assess the current position and compare with recognised benchmark data, consultation with key stakeholders involved in GBI across the town and the gathering of this information into a draft strategy document for further consultation.
- 5.3 Based on this initial work and identified priorities the strategy has been developed around six strategic goals:
- Engaging People in Health and Wellbeing
  - Enhancing the Visitor Experience
  - Greener Housing and Infrastructure
  - Enabling Productive Business and Workers
  - Promoting a Green Image and Culture
  - Improving Habitats and Benefitting Pollinators
- 5.4 Once completed the strategy will be a guide and source of information for future development across Blackpool.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

### List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a): Presentation for Committee Members

Appendix 6(b): (Draft) Blackpool Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Not applicable.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 Not applicable.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 Not applicable.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Not applicable.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 Not applicable.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Wide range of consultation completed with individuals and via stakeholder forums.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 Not applicable.