

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Executive Director
(Neighbourhoods & Environment)

To

Cabinet

On

21st March 2023

Report prepared by: John Burr, Executive Director
(Neighbourhoods & Environment)

Grassland Management Policy

Not eligible for call-in to Scrutiny by virtue of Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15(e)(ii)
Cabinet Member: Councillor Mulroneu
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present Cabinet with the Grassland Management Strategy which provides a framework for Southend-on-Sea City Council to improve the overall status and reduce losses in the diversity of pollinator species within the City and is recommended for adoption by the Council to allow delivery of the actions within.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the comments of the Council be noted and that the original recommendations set out in the report to Cabinet (attached at Appendix 1 to this report) be approved.**

3. Background

- 3.1 This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 12th January 2023 (Minute No. 621 refers). The matter was called-in to scrutiny and considered by the Place Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 30th January 2023 (Minute No. 644 refers). At that meeting, the Scrutiny Committee referred the matter back to Cabinet for reconsideration. This was subsequently referred up to full Council for consideration at its meeting on 2nd March 2023. The Council has referred the matter back to Cabinet for reconsideration with a recommendation 'to use a proportion of the climate change budget to plant wildflower seeds as part of the rewilding strategy' (Minute No. 753 refers).
- 3.2 A copy of the of Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) to Cabinet on 12th January 2023 entitled "Bee Happy – A Grassland Management Strategy for Southend-on-Sea 2023-2027" is attached at Appendix 1.

4. Other Options

As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 To allow the delivery of the Strategy and its wider action plans, with the outcome that we have a more sustainable environment in Southend-on-Sea.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that several major projects will shortly be coming forward for funding from the Climate change fund. This will include the significant role of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure and this fund should therefore be fully retained as these investments will have a much more significant impact on carbon reduction. Across each focus area there are a range of projects and activities which require revenue and capital funding to support the net zero carbon and climate resilient ambition. Investment of £1.5M has been included in the 'subject to viable business case' section of the capital investment programme, to deliver suitable capital projects aimed at reducing the impact of climate change and support the Council's aspirations to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030.
- 5.3 Some examples of revenue and capital projects include:
- Development of SCC Carbon Budget methodology
 - Climate Change Partnership and Commission
 - Climate Assembly
 - Further two Climate Hubs
 - Energy Performance Certificate Campaign
 - Retrofit support for residents
 - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure roll out
 - Energy Audit for schools and community buildings
 - Grant funding top up (Low Carbon Across the South and East, Home Upgrade Grants, ECO4 Government funding etc.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.2 Financial Implications
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.3 Legal Implications
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.4 People Implications
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.5 Property Implications
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.6 Consultation
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1. At the meeting of Council held on 2nd March 2023 the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture & Tourism agreed that consultation with local councillors and residents would be an important part of the strategy

- 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.8 Risk Assessment
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.9 Value for Money
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.10 Community Safety Implications
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1
- 6.11 Environmental Impact
As set out in the report attached at Appendix 1

7. Background Papers

These are highlighted in the Strategy.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report of Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) to Cabinet on 12th January 2023 entitled “Bee Happy – A Grassland Management Strategy for Southend-on-Sea 2023-2027”