

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – ESS05 22/23

Decision				
1	Title of decision: Billacombe Meadows County Wildlife (CWS) Designation Application			
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Bill Wakeham, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene			
3	Report author and contact details: Chris Avent, chris.avent@plymouth.gov.uk			
4	Decision to be taken: Approval of the implementation of the proposed management plan changes and submission of the application to Natural England for CWS designation across the entire Billacombe Meadows site and to continue to engage the local community through an engagement campaign in 2023.			
5	Reasons for decision: Billacombe Meadows has the potential to be a county and regionally significant wildflower/grass site if managed in line with the County Wildlife Site designation. This would build on the existing Site of Special Scientific Interest and enable PCC to develop its own wildflower seed hub for Plymouth. Additionally, the enhanced site would provide increased access, recreation and education opportunities for the neighbouring communities.			
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: Do nothing – this would result in the continued deterioration of the site and associated loss in biodiversity; and decrease the recreational value to the local community.			
7	Financial implications and risks: Neutral impact to revenue costs due to maintenance changes.			
8	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
			x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.

	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions	N/A
9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green, sustainable city that cares about the environment • Reduced health inequalities • Caring for People and Communities <p>The designation will give the site stronger opportunity to enhance biodiversity and nature features bringing benefits to community members who use the site.</p> <p><u>Joint Local Plan</u> DEV026 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation</p> <p>DEV028 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows</p> <p><u>Plymouth Plan</u> SO1 – Delivering a healthy city</p> <p>HEA7 - Optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment</p>
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	Enhanced management of the site through updated management regime will potentially provide opportunities to sequester greater levels of carbon.

Urgent decisions


11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section 13a)

12a	Reason for urgency:	
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12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation

13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	X	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	NA		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	NA		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	X	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anthony Payne	
		Job title	Strategic Director for Place	
		Date consulted	11 November 2022	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS76 22/23	
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.22.23.287	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/39455/JP/231 122	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	N/A	
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A	
Appendices				
17	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Briefing report for publication (<i>mandatory</i>)		
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment (<i>where required</i>)		
	C	Billacombe Meadows Management Plan		
Confidential/exempt information				
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for

		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision		30/11/2022		
Print Name	Councillor Bill Wakeham							