

Environment Scrutiny Commission

Monday 22 July 2024
7.00 pm
160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Margy Newens (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice Chair)
Councillor Reggie Popoola
Councillor Bethan Roberts
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Hamish McCallum

Reserves

Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Adam Hood
Councillor Youcef Hassaine
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Esme Dobson

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. For details on building access, translation, provision of signers or any other requirements for this meeting, please contact the person below.

Contact

Julie Timbrell on 020 7525 0514 or email: julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Althea Loderick
Chief Executive
Date: 14 July 2024



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Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4.	MINUTES	
5.	LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST: CENTRE FOR WILDLIFE GARDENING	
	Diana Wallace and Jane Lilley will present on volunteering and learning sessions at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening and the 'Nature in Mind' project.	

6. HEALTHY WEIGHT

Public Health will provide a presentation on the Healthy Weight Strategy with particular reference to active travel and green spaces, in order to support the review

The following officers will present:

- Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
- Gillian Boundy, Senior Public Health Programme Manager – Place and Health Improvement

7. SCRUTINY REVIEW: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH-THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPACTS OF ACTIVE TRAVEL AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO NATURE

This item will consider the proposed scrutiny review topic of 'Environmental Health: The health and wellbeing impacts of active travel and improved access to nature and how these can be extended through our borough'.

Local groups have been invited to present – tbc.

8. BIODIVERSITY POLICIES PLANNING BRIEFING

1 - 3

9. SCRUTINY REVIEW: BIODIVERSITY DRAFT REPORT

10. WORK PROGRAMME

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

Date: 14 July 2024

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

Item No.

Title

Page No.

Southwark Plan Biodiversity policies

Update to the Environment Commission (Scrutiny)

April 2024

www.southwark.gov.uk

Overview

- 1.1 The February 2024 Biodiversity report to the Environment Scrutiny Commission included reference to three biodiversity policies in the current Southwark Plan (2022). It stated that the Planning Policy team will be updating the policies in the next Southwark Plan review. The Planning Policy team have subsequently been asked for further detail on the timeframe for the policy updates.

Timeframe for Biodiversity Policy updates

- 1.2 The biodiversity policies referenced in the February 2024 Scrutiny report are P59 Green Infrastructure, P60 Biodiversity and P61 Trees. In addition, policies P57 Open Space and P58 Open water space are relevant to biodiversity in terms of the linkages between the blue and green infrastructure within the borough.
- 1.3 Work on the Southwark Plan full review will commence in late 2024. The Regulation 19 Submission version of the Southwark Plan, with the updated biodiversity policies, will be completed in 2027.
- 1.4 It should be noted that, prior to the full Southwark Plan review, the Policy team are undertaking an Early Review of the Southwark Plan. This concerns Southwark Plan energy policies P69 and P70 - biodiversity policies are not within the scope of this review. The Regulation 19 Submission version of the Southwark Plan Early Review will be finalised in 2025.

Process

- 1.5 The production of the new Southwark Plan must proceed in a structured and evidenced way. Specific, mandatory stages must be followed. Revised or new policies must be based on robust evidence, analysis and consultation.
- 1.6 The update to the biodiversity policies will therefore be dependent on a range of new evidence and actions. This will include;
- The ongoing monitoring of Biodiversity Net Gain (mandatory since February and April 2024 for major and small sites respectively).
 - The production of the pan-London Local Nature Recovery Strategy by the GLA, which Southwark will feed into.

- The commissioning of a new evidence base strategies by Planning and Environment and Leisure. These strategies will include an Open Space Needs Assessment, an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and an updated SINC review.
 - The need to meet new London Plan (2021) requirements concerning green infrastructure. This will include the development of a new Green Infrastructure Strategy for Southwark. This will be informed by the above documents and will be undertaken by Planning officers.
 - Partnership working with a range of stakeholder groups and organisations.
- 1.6 The development of the strategies and the iterative policy development process will occur in dialogue with other departments and teams, including Environment and Leisure and Southwark’s Flood Risk teams. Synergies with other Council strategies, such as the Climate Risk and Adaptation Strategy, will also be considered. Councillors will be kept updated throughout. Based on the procurement and assembly of this evidence, the Regulation 18 Southwark Plan consultation document, containing updated policies, will be prepared by 2026.
- 1.7 In terms of work planning, the Planning Policy team are currently finalising five Supplementary Planning Documents and the Early Plan review of energy and carbon policies (P69 and P70). Resources will then pivot to starting work on the Southwark Plan full review.

Summary of key dates

- 1.8 The biodiversity policies will be updated as part of the Southwark Plan review. Summary dates are provided below.

Workstream	Milestone	Date
Southwark Plan Early Review (<i>energy policies only – not biodiversity</i>)	Regulation 18 Consultation version	End 2024
	Regulation 19 Submission version	2025
Southwark Plan review (<i>biodiversity policies to be updated</i>)	Work starts Q3 2024.	
	Strategies procured and developed internally.	2025
	Regulation 18 Consultation version	2026
	Regulation 19 Submission version of updated Southwark Plan	2027

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Environment Scrutiny Commission

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024-25

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Julie Timbrell Tel: 020 7525 0514

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
		Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Team SPARES External	10
<p>Electronic Copy</p> <p>Members</p> <p><u>Councillors:</u></p> <p>Councillor Margy Newens (Chair) Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair) Councillor Sabina Emmanuel Councillor Bethan Roberts Councillor Leo Pollak Councillor Reggie Popoola Councillor Hamish McCallum</p> <p><u>Coopted members:</u> Anna Colligan Simon Saville</p> <p>Reserves Members</p> <p>Councillor Darren Merrill Councillor Naima Ali Councillor Youcef Hassaine Councillor Esme Dobson Councillor Sunil Chopra Councillor Rachel Bentley Councillor Adam Hood</p>		Total: 10 Dated: July 2024	