

<p><b>Reference from the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee</b></p> <p><b>Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document</b> <b>Open Spaces Action Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Agenda No: 11a</b></p>
<p><b>Corporate Priority:</b> A better place – Keeping our district clean and tidy, Protecting our environment, Providing green space for everyone</p> <p><b>Portfolio Area:</b> Planning and Property</p> <p><b>Report presented by:</b> Councillor Roger Walters – Chairman of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee</p> <p><b>Report prepared by:</b> Alison Webb</p>	
<p><b>Background Papers:</b></p> <p>Open Space Supplementary Planning Document 2009 Braintree Green Spaces Strategy 2008 Local Development Framework Sub-Committee 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – Agenda and Minutes</p>	<p><b>Public Report</b></p>
<p><b>Options:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To endorse the Updated Open Spaces Action Plan without modification.</li> <li>2) To endorse the Updated Open Spaces Action Plan with modification.</li> <li>3) Not to endorse the Updated Open Spaces Action Plan.</li> <li>4)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Key Decision: No</b></p>
<p><b>Executive Summary:</b></p> <p>On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee considered the Open Spaces Action Plan - 2014 Update. The Open Spaces Action Plan is a table of outline proposals for the provision and enhancement of open spaces in Braintree District. Its purpose is to demonstrate the need for these and enables Council Officers to identify where financial contributions (being sought from developers under the Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document) will be spent.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee has recommended to Cabinet that the Action Plan is approved (Minute Extract below).</p>	

**Decision:**

To approve the 2014 Update to the Open Spaces Action Plan.

**Purpose of Decision:**

To consider a recommendation from the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee on the 2014 edition of the Open Spaces Action Plan. The Plan forms part of the Council's evidence base for securing Section 106 contributions from developers to enhance existing open spaces, or provide new ones.

**Any Corporate implications in relation to the following should be explained in detail**

<b>Financial:</b>	Neutral to positive. The Open Spaces Action Plan forms part of the evidence base used for securing Section 106 contributions from developers towards enhancing open spaces or providing new open spaces. It brings capital money into the Council at no cost.
<b>Legal:</b>	The Action Plan has been prepared on the advice of the Council's solicitors.
<b>Safeguarding:</b>	No safeguarding implications.
<b>Equalities/Diversity</b>	No equalities or diversity implications.
<b>Customer Impact:</b>	The decision will maximise the potential for enhancing open spaces or providing new open spaces for the benefit of the public.
<b>Environment and Climate Change:</b>	The decision will lead to an improvement in the District's environment and may assist retardation in the rate of climate change.
<b>Consultation/Community Engagement:</b>	Parish Council, Town Council and Ward Councillors, as well as key Council staff, have been engaged in the update process and have been central to it.
<b>Risks:</b>	The current (2013) edition of the Open Spaces Action Plan is now obsolete or inaccurate in places. This could leave the Council open to challenge when negotiating Section 106 Agreements and determining the relevant planning applications. The updated version will reduce that risk by making corrections and bringing the document up to date.
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**INFORMATION:** Consideration was given to the 2014 update of the Open Spaces Action Plan.

The Open Spaces Action Plan outlined proposals for the provision and enhancement of open spaces in the Braintree District to which financial contributions sought from developers under the Open Spaces Supplementary Planning Document could be allocated. The Action Plan had been kept under review during 2013, including consultation with Parish and Town Councils and District Councillors. The proposals shown would require a detailed programme of works to be drawn up and, in some cases, a master plan and public consultation. As some proposals may be reliant on the availability of additional financial resources from grants and public sector resources, the timing of works would be dictated by the date at which sufficient financial resources were available.

It was noted that the content of the Action Plan was constantly being updated and Councillors were advised to report any amendments to Mr Stephen Wenlock, Landscape Architect. The Action Plan would be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

**DECISION:** That it be **RECOMMENDED to Cabinet** that the 2014 Update to the Open Spaces Action Plan be approved.