

## LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 28 NOVEMBER 2018

### PART I - DELEGATED

#### 12. DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CARPENTERS WOOD, BISHOPS WOOD, OXHEY WOODS AND CHORLEYWOOD HOUSE ESTATE (DCES)

##### 1 Summary

- 1.1 To provide to the Committee, for approval, details of the draft management plans for Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods and Chorleywood House Estate.

##### 2 Details

- 2.1 The current management plans for Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods and Chorleywood House Estate have all now expired. Officers have worked with Countryside Management Service (CMS) to draw up the new draft management plans. All of the new management plans run for the period 2018-2023.
- 2.2 The Carpenters Wood draft Management Plan has been out to general public consultation and the Friends of Carpenters Wood have also had the opportunity to input into the plan and are happy with the current document.
- 2.3 The Bishops Wood and Oxhey Woods LNR draft Management Plans went out to public consultation and have been developed taking into account any comments made.
- 2.4 The Chorleywood House Estate draft Management Plan went out to public consultation recently. Some comments were received, most of which were in response to grazing proposals. Prior to the implementation of any grazing proposals, further public consultation will be undertaken on fencing proposals associated with this.
- 2.5 Reference copies of each of the draft Management Plans will be made available in the Members' Room from 15 November.

##### 3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To recommend to the Committee that the Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR site management plans are adopted as proposed, where necessary as amended following public consultation.

##### 4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The relevant policy is entitled Strategic Plan 2018- 2021 and was agreed in February 2018. The relevant aims and objectives are:

1.1 We want to maintain high quality neighbourhoods and reduce the eco-footprint of the District.

1.1.2 Maintain the number of accredited open spaces, parks and woodland areas.

2.5 We will reduce health in-equalities, promote healthy lifestyles, support learning and community organisations.

2.5.1 Improve and facilitate access to leisure and recreational activities for adults.

2.5.3 Provide a range of supervised leisure activities and facilities for young people.

4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.

4.2.1 LL34 – To maintain accreditation for Green Flag across three sites (including Chorleywood House Estate)

4.2.2 LL32 – UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) accreditation is maintained.

4.2.3 CP02 – Satisfaction with parks and open spaces is achieved at 92%.

4.3 The impact of the recommendations on this/these performance indicator(s) is:

To continue to enhance and improve the sites of Carpenters Woods, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR for both biodiversity and for people using the sites.

## **5 Legal, Community Safety and Customer Services Centre Implications**

5.1 None specific.

## **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 The Council has existing budgets for the on-going maintenance of its woodlands and Local Nature Reserve sites. Additional external funding bids will be made as appropriate with assistance from Countryside Management Service in order to implement aspects of management plans where the costs exceed the existing maintenance budgets. If necessary future capital bids may be made for individual projects for consideration by Members.

## **7 Equal Opportunities Implications**

7.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	No
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## **8 Staffing Implications**

8.1 Existing staff resources will take the projects forward. This will include working conjunction with the Countryside Management Service under the existing arrangements.

## **9 Environmental Implications**

9.1 The environment at Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR will be enhanced and improved for wildlife and people.

## **10 Public Health implications**

10.1 The environment of Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR will help to reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging informal leisure activity.

## 11 Customer Services Centre, Communications and Website Implications

11.1 All relevant information will be placed on the TRDC and ParksHerts website as appropriate.

## 12 Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

12.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

12.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Leisure and Landscape service plan(s). Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

12.3 There are no risks to the Council in agreeing the recommendation(s).

12.4 The following table gives the risks that would exist if the recommendation is rejected, together with a scored assessment of their impact and likelihood:

	Description of Risk	Impact	Likelihood
1	Habitat deterioration – loss of value to wildlife at Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR.	III	C
2	Habitat deterioration – loss of value to the general public at Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR.	III	C
3	Loss of LNR designation for Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR	II	A
4	Loss of UKWAS accreditation at TRDC Woodlands	II	A

12.5 Of the risks detailed above none is already managed within a service plan.

12.6 The above risks are plotted on the matrix below depending on the scored assessments of impact and likelihood, detailed definitions of which are included in the risk management strategy. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood are plotted in the shaded area of the matrix. The remaining risks require a treatment plan.

Likelihood ↑	A		3,4				Impact	Likelihood
	B						V = Catastrophic	A = >98%
	C			1,2			IV = Critical	B = 75% - 97%
	D						III = Significant	C = 50% - 74%
	E						II = Marginal	D = 25% - 49%
	F						I = Negligible	E = 3% - 24%
		I	II	III	IV	V		F = <2%
	Impact →							

12.7 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of treatment plans are reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

### 13 Recommendation

13.1 That the Committee approves the report and that:

13.2 The draft management plans for Carpenters Wood, Bishops Wood, Oxhey Woods LNR and Chorleywood House Estate LNR are adopted.

Report prepared by: Julie Hughes, Principal Landscape Officer

### Data Quality

Data sources:

Carpenters Wood Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

Bishops Wood Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

Oxhey Woods LNR Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

Chorleywood House Estate LNR Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

Data checked by:

Julie Hughes, Principal Landscape Officer

Data rating: Tick

<b>1</b>	<b>Poor</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>High</b>	

### **Background Papers**

### **APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS**

Carpenters Wood Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

Oxhey Woods LNR Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

Chorleywood House Estate Local Nature Reserve Greenspace Action Plan 2013 - 18

Chorleywood House Estate LNR Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

Bishops Wood Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023

WPG Management Plan Bishops Wood March 2012 to March 2032

WPG Management Plan Oxhey Woods March 2012 to March 2032

WPG Management Plan Carpenters Wood March 2012 to March 2032