

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: James Doe, Director for Planning

Service Area: Strategic Planning and Infrastructure, Place

Title of Decision: The Common Seal of the Collaboration Agreement for the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Mitigation Strategy

Decision made and reasons:

Decision: To sign off the Collaboration Agreement for the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Mitigation Strategy.

Reason: Under the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Dacorum Borough Council are legally required to ensure the integrity of the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and that it is not adversely affected by new planning proposals. This collaboration agreement sets in place the governance for managing the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) contributions to start delivering interventions on the ground.

Commissioning process: Browne Jacobson were appointed to undertake the drafting of the Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the partner authorities. Browne Jacobson were already appointed under a framework agreement through Dacorum.

Tender process: N/A

Commercial Board: N/A

Reports considered:

Considered through the wider SAC Mitigation Strategy which was presented to and approved by Cabinet on 15/09/2022. Linked here: <https://democracy.dacorum.gov.uk/documents/s36835/Chilterns%20Beechwoods%20Mitigation%20Strategy%20-%20Cabinet%20Report.pdf>

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Dacorum officers have engaged with the partner authorities at Buckinghamshire, Central Bedfordshire and St Albans. Additionally, regular engagement has taken place with the National Trust as the responsible body for delivering interventions and Natural England as the overseer of the project and wider SAC Mitigation Strategy. Internally there has been officer engagement across the council ensuring that processes are in place. This includes but not limited to the development management team, finance and legal.

There has been no requirement to consult further than the list set out above with the exception of the cabinet report in November 2022 as this has been an operational project.

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Financial Comments: There is no budget in respect of SAMM and no pressure is expected on budgets. Developers make SAMM contributions with planning applications, this is held in reserves to fund future SAMM demands and released following approved funding bids to offset any expenditure – therefore cost neutral.

Clare Dempsey, Financial and Regulatory Accounting Manager

Monitoring Officer Comments:

I have no further comments to add to this report.

S151 Officers Comments:

I have no further comments to add to this report.

Implications:

Value for Money:

The agreement sets out the governance and process for managing the SAMM contributions and will help to save officer time in the future in the future on potential disputes.

Financial:

There is no direct financial implications anticipated as part of this report as funding is coming from the development sector. Additionally there are also no direct implications for land or Dacorum owned assets.

Risk:

As this has been a collaborative process in developing the agreement and has in principal agreement from all relevant stakeholders, there is no relevant reasons to refuse the sign off of the Collaboration Agreement.

A failure to do so would be in breach of the legal requirements set out in the HRA in that development may only come forward if it can be satisfied that there would be no likely significant effects either alone or in combination. This agreement (in combination with other workstreams) allows for development to come forward. If refused there is a significant risk that Dacorum will be fall back into moratorium.

Officer Signature:

Date:

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