

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Decision taken by individual Cabinet member

(All sections must be completed (mark "N/A" as applicable))

DECISION MAKER *(Name and designation)*

Cllr Keith Dibble, Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning

DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT

Hampshire County Council (HCC) have been appointed as the responsible authority for the preparation of the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Rushmoor Borough Council (RBC) is designated as a supporting authority. The LNRS is being prepared in accordance with the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) (Procedure) Regulations 2023 ('LNRS Regulations').

Under the LNRS Regulations (regulation 7) the Responsible Authority are obliged to provide all supporting authorities with the consultation draft of the LNRS and request their comments. This pre-consultation commenced on 7th April 2025 and RBC is required to provide a response within 28 days. Under Regulation 9 of the LNRS Regulations a supporting authority can raise an objection with the responsible authority about the contents of the LNRS or how the LNRS has been prepared, including the extent to which the responsible authority has involved the supporting authority in that preparation.

Officers have identified some parts of the LNRS that contain errors and raised some concerns with contents of the draft LNRS. In summary, we have raised three issues in the response:

- concerns regarding length, focus and usability of the Strategy, particularly as there is a risk this will impact on levels of public engagement with the LNRS
- identified that the 'woodland creation and restoration' measure looks contradictory in the location around Claycart Hill (NGR48531518).
- concern regarding how Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) have been addressed in the LNRS and specifically about the exclusion of the following SINCs within our area:
 - Claycart Hill Open Space (ref RU0010)
 - Claycart Hill Flash (ref RU0038)
 - Chalk Farm Lake (ref RU0032)
 - Ramillies Park / North Camp Lakes (ref RU0035)
 - Brickfields Park (ref RU0022)
 - Rushmoor Arena (ref RU0039)

During the consultation period, Officers have proactively engaged with HCC officers to seek to resolve these issues. They have indicated that these matters can be resolved, either prior to public consultation or before the LNRS is finalised. The response sets out our concerns, pending the successful outcome of these discussions.

This decisions agrees the attached letter as the Council's formal response to the request from HCC under the LNRS regulations.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

1st May 2025

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

(Those examined by officers and generated by consultation, etc)

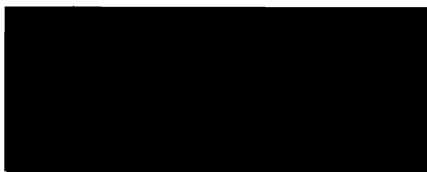
The alternative option would be not to provide a response, but this would not meet obligations under the LNRS Regulations.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

N/A

Signed



(Decision maker)

Designation: Cllr Keith Dibble, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning

Please send completed form to Chris Todd, Democracy

Guidance notes for using this form**Recording executive decisions**

New regulations¹ came into effect on 10 September 2012, under which Council officers and Cabinet members are required to record every decision they take which is connected to the discharge of a function which is the responsibility of the Executive (Cabinet). This applies whether the decision is taken by an officer or an individual Cabinet member. This record must be published on the Council's website.

Which executive decisions must be recorded?

The regulations state that any decision connected to the discharge of a function, which is the responsibility of the Cabinet, must be recorded and published. However, at Rushmoor we are restricting the recording requirement to those decisions that are 'closely' (rather than remotely) connected with the discharge of a function of the Cabinet. For guidance, this includes any decision that is either:

- A 'key decision'; or
- Delegated to an officer(s)/Cabinet member at a Cabinet meeting; or
- Delegated to an officer in consultation with a Cabinet member (within the scheme of delegation or authorised at Cabinet); or
- Any executive decision, whether or not it is in the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation, where there is a reasonable expectation of public interest in the matter being decided because it may have an impact on a community living or working in Rushmoor; or
- The subject of urgent action outside the Scheme of Delegation

Decisions which are administrative in nature – for example, purchasing low value items or are otherwise minor or routine, need not be recorded.

In addition, some decisions would be considered exempt from publication because, for example, they affect particular individuals rather than the public in general or concern the business affairs of

¹ The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

any person (including the Council) where the information could be claimed to be commercially sensitive.

What are key decisions?

Key decisions are not usually taken by individual Cabinet members or officers, unless specifically delegated by the Cabinet.

A key decision is one which is likely to:

- result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings which are significant in as much as they will have a material effect on the level of Council tax or balances or contingencies in relation to the Council's overall budget; or
- be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the Borough

1 approximately £100,000 or more

Our reference:

Contact: Anna Lucas – Service Manager
(Planning Policy)

E-mail: anna.lucas@rushmoor.gov.uk

Date: 2nd May 2025

Laura McCulloch
Head of Spatial Planning

By email only to:
laura.mcculloch@hants.gov.uk

Dear Laura,

Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire – Pre-Consultation with Supporting Authorities (Environment (Local Nature Recovery) (Procedure) Regulations 2023)

Thank you for your letter dated 31st March 2025 regarding the supporting authority pre-consultation on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire.

We recognise that this pre-consultation with supporting authorities is the opportunity for us to flag up any significant issues with the draft Strategy that we believe prevent it from being subject to wider public consultation. As active members of the Local Planning Authority Working Group, we welcome the opportunity to review the draft LNRS and provide our feedback.

We have made officers at Hampshire County Council (HCC) aware of some concerns we have about the draft LNRS and asked for clarification on some of the issues raised. We have received reassurance that these matters will be addressed either prior to consultation or as the final LNRS is prepared. We welcome the continuing engagement with HCC officers. However, we have set out the issues below in writing, pending the successful outcome of these discussions.

We have concerns regarding length, focus and usability of the Strategy, particularly as there is a risk this will impact on levels of public engagement with the LNRS. We have also identified that the 'woodland creation and restoration' measure looks contradictory in the location around Claycart Hill (NGR48531518). We would welcome the opportunity to further engage on these issues as part of the public consultation and as part of the Local Planning Authority Working Group as you prepare the final LNRS.

Our most significant concern is how Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) have been addressed in the LNRS. We have consistently raised our concerns about the exclusion of urban SINCs, as have other urban authorities across the area. We agree that it is acceptable to exclude some SINCs, where it is unlikely that changes to site management are feasible or desirable, such as cemeteries.

Ian Harrison - **Managing Director**

Karen Edwards – **Executive Director**

However, we are concerned about the exclusion of the following SINC's within our area:

- Claycart Hill Open Space (ref RU0010)
- Claycart Hill Flash (ref RU0038)
- Chalk Farm Lake (ref RU0032)
- Ramillies Park / North Camp Lakes (ref RU0035)
- Brickfields Park (ref RU0022)
- Rushmoor Arena (ref RU0039)

These SINC's would benefit from more appropriate management as may be secured through an LNRS and should be included. We have asked in writing for these to be included previously and see no clear reason why these remain excluded.

Whilst we have significant concerns about the exclusion of these sites, we do not consider it necessary to object at this stage and prevent the LNRS proceeding to public consultation. As noted above, we welcome the reassurance that these matters will be addressed either prior to consultation or as the final LNRS is prepared.

Therefore, in conclusion, Rushmoor Borough Council approves the draft Strategy for statutory public consultation. We would welcome further engagement on the issues raised above to enable our approval at the next stage and are happy to assist with the preparation of the final LNRS.

Please note that, as a formal response to a request under the LNRS regulations, this response has been prepared in consultation with, and has been agreed by Cllr Keith Dibble, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Tim Mills.

Tim Mills,
Executive Head of Property and Growth