

THE EXECUTIVE

17 FEBRUARY 2004

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

EASTBROOKEND COUNTRY PARK - DECLARATION OF LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (LNR)	FOR DECISION	
<p><i>This report concerns a strategic matter and is therefore reserved to the Executive by the Scheme of Delegation.</i></p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>The designation of Eastbrookend Country Park is the first target to be achieved under the Borough's Local Public Service Agreement with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Following consultation with English Nature, it is proposed to designate Eastbrookend Country Park as the Borough's second Local Nature Reserve. This follows the designation of The Chase as a Local Nature Reserve in 2001.</p> <p>A plan showing the proposed area to be designated is attached (Appendix A).</p> <p><u>Wards Affected</u> - The majority of the proposed nature reserve area is within Eastbrook Ward however, a small proportion does go into Heath Ward.</p> <p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The Executive is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the declaration of Eastbrookend Country Park, as marked on the attached plan, as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR); and2. Authorise Officers to issue the necessary Notices and enter into the necessary legal arrangements to enable the Declaration to take place. <p><u>Reason</u></p> <p>The designation of Eastbrookend Country Park as a Local Nature Reserve will assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of '<i>Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer</i>' and '<i>Raising General Pride in the Borough</i>'.</p>		
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1. Background

- 1.1 On 16 May 2001 the Executive gave approval to declare part of The Chase Nature Reserve within the Council's ownership as a Local Nature Reserve (Executive Minute 641, 16 May 2001 refers). This implemented Unitary Development Plan Policy G56 which showed a clear commitment to declare Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Status for The Chase Nature Reserve.
- 1.2 LNR status can only be declared by a Local Authority (or Parish / Town Council with delegated powers).
- 1.3 The Council recently signed a Local Public Service Agreement with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. One of the targets to be achieved over the period of the agreement (2003-2006) is the designation of further areas of land under the Council's ownership as Local Nature Reserves. For instance, Eastbrookend Country Park, Eastbrookend Country Park (Beam Valley Extension) and the Ripple Nature Reserve.
- 1.4 The target for 2003/04 is for Eastbrookend Country Park to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve (Appendix A).
- 1.5 The Eastbrookend Country Park has repeatedly won the Green Flag Park Award, (co-ordinated by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE Space). Designation of the site as a Local Nature Reserve will assist in the submission for a Green Flag Park Award in 2004, as part of the Council's Local Public Service Agreement.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There would be no additional costs to the Council as a result of declaring Eastbrookend Country Park a Local Nature Reserve.
- 2.2 The declaration of Eastbrookend Country Park as a Local Nature Reserve would enable the Council to bid for funding from English Nature. Acting as a Green Spaces Award Partner, English Nature with the New Opportunities Fund distributes grants specifically for Local Nature Reserves. This funding would enable the Council to undertake further improvement works, which may otherwise not be possible.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 Formal consultation with English Nature has been carried out, as required in Section 21 (6) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended), and their agreement to the process has been received.
- 3.2 A formal letter of intent to proceed with declaration has also been circulated to the Following:

Eastbrookend Support Group Members
Environment Agency
Countryside Agency
Thames Chase Community Forest

3.3 The following Officers have seen this report and are happy as it stands.

Peter Wright, Head of Planning and Transportation
Jane Bufton, Head of Corporate Communications
Linda Parker, Corporate Legal Manager, CS

The following Councillors have also been advised of the proposal.
Councillor Porter, Portfolio Raising General Pride in the Borough.
Councillors Parkin, Collins and Little (Eastbrook Ward).
Councillors Fairbrass, Kallar and Osborn (Heath Ward).

Background Papers

- Executive Report and Minute 641, 16 May 2001 re: The Chase Nature Reserve Declaration
- Local Nature Reserves in England, A Guide to their Selection and Declaration. Issued by English Nature 1991 (revised 1999).
- The London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Unitary Development Plan 1995

Eastbrookend Country Park Local Nature Reserve Designation

1:6,000

Key

- COAST
- UNDESIGNED LINES
- Boundaries



Information for the public is available on the Council's website at www.barking.gov.uk

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