



SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE: GREEN NETWORK

Report by Head of Communities and Economy

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the adoption of the Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 19 June 2018 the Committee agreed to adopt the Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance following a formal consultation process which ran from February to April 2018. In addition the Committee:
- a. instructed the Head of Communities and Economy to undertake the required notification/advertisement advising that the Green Network Supplementary Guidance will not have a significant environmental impact triggering the need for a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment;
 - b. instructed the Head of Communities and Economy to notify the Scottish Ministers of the Council's intention to adopt the Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance; and
 - c. required notification of the outcome of the notification of the Scottish Ministers procedure.
- 2.3 The notification/advertisement referred to in paragraph 2.1a was published in the Midlothian Advertiser newspaper on 12 July 2018. The advertisement was required to comply with Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation and regulations and was for information purposes only.
- 2.4 With regard the requirements set out in paragraph 2.1b and 2.1c the Scottish Ministers were notified of the Council's intention to adopt the supplementary guidance following the Committee's decision and have since confirmed that the Council can proceed to adopt the guidance subject to the inclusion of an additional sentence in paragraph 1.2.8 of the guidance, which states (the additional sentence is underlined):

"Trees and woodland make a substantial contribution to urban and rural landscapes, providing a range of natural and semi-natural habitats. They also have an important role in contributing to sustainable

water management, to the quality of rivers, soils and air, and to quality of life through opportunities for outdoor recreation, education and employment. All types of native woodland are recognised as priority habitats in terms of biodiversity at the national level. Ancient and semi-natural ancient woodland are of particular importance for biodiversity. The Council gives strong protection to woodland, trees and hedgerows, and will only allow the removal of trees and/or hedgerows where this will achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits (MLDP Policy ENV 11). The Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy will also be taken into account where relevant."

- 2.5 The change indicated in the direction from Scottish Ministers is non-material and has no significant impact in terms of Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation. Given the Council's intention to adopt the Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance document, no further action is required by Committee. Officers have made the change set out in the Scottish Ministers' direction and the document is now adopted by the Council and forms part of the development plan. The amended and final version of the Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance document is on the Council's website.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

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Date: 16 August 2018

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Background Papers: MLDP 2017 adopted 7 November 2017.

The Green Network Supplementary Guidance approved by the Committee at its meeting of 19 June 2018