

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').

HCC have invited responses to a consultation on the Draft LNRS. 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 (known as the pre-consultation). This pre-consultation took place in April/May 2025 and RBC provided a formal response.

As part of discussions on the pre-consultation draft, we made officers at 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 as the final LNRS is prepared. We welcome the continuing engagement with HCC officers. However, we have reiterated the some of the issues raised in our formal pre-consultation response, pending the successful outcome of these discussions.

In summary, we have raised two 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
- 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)

This decision agrees the attached letter as the Council's formal response to the consultation on the draft Hampshire LNRS.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

23rd June 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: 23rd June 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 – Consultation

Thank you for inviting us to comment on the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire. As active members of the Local Planning Authority Working Group, we welcome the opportunity to review the draft LNRS and provide our feedback.

This follows our recent response to the pre-consultation with Supporting Authorities. As part of discussions on the pre-consultation draft, we 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 as the final LNRS is prepared.

We welcome the continuing engagement with HCC officers. However, we have reiterated the some of the issues raised in our formal pre-consultation response below, 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 would welcome the opportunity to further engage on this as part of the Local Planning Authority Working Group as you prepare the final LNRS.

Our most significant concern is how Sites 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. However, we are concerned 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)

Ian Harrison - Managing Director

Karen Edwards – Executive Director

- Rushmoor Arena (ref RU0039)

These SINCs 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.

We welcome the reassurance already received from officers that these matters will be addressed and would welcome further engagement to enable our approval at the next stage. We are happy to assist with the preparation of the final LNRS.

Please note that, as a formal response to the consultation, 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 handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Tim Mills,
Executive Head of Property and Growth