Committee: Planning Committee
Date of meeting: 7 June 2016

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Appointment to the Thames Basin Heath Joint Strategic Partnership Board</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lead Officer:</td>
<td>Head of Democratic Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio Holder:</td>
<td>Councillor Mrs. K. Randolph, Portfolio Holder for Planning Services</td>
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<td>Link to Council Priorities:</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exempt information:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Delegated status:</td>
<td>For resolution</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
To agree a nomination to the Thames Basin Heath Joint Strategic Partnership Board.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREE A NOMINATION TO SERVE AS THE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE THAMES BASIN HEATH JOINT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD, FOR A FOUR YEAR PERIOD ENDING 7 JUNE 2020, SUBJECT TO THE MEMBER CONCERNED REMAINING ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

REPORT:

1. The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area

   In March 2005, the Government designated the Thames Basin Heaths as a Special Protection Area (SPA), with international importance for providing habitat for three rare species of birds - the Dartford warbler, nightjar and woodlark. The heaths cover 11 Local Authority Areas in Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire. Within Elmbridge the area covers Chatley Heath, part of the Ockham and Wisley Commons Site of Special Scientific Interest. New residential development proposed within 5km of the boundary of the SPA is required to demonstrate that mitigation measures are in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the heaths through an increase in local population.

2. Thames Basin Heath Joint Strategic Partnership Board

   A Joint Strategic Partnership Board (JSPB) was set up by the affected authorities in October 2007 to take forward, agree and deliver mitigation and avoidance measures. The Board, which meets twice a year, comprises elected Members representing the affected local authorities, Natural England, Wildlife Trusts, amongst others. The role of the Board is to recommend strategic measures that should be adopted in order to provide a coherent and comprehensive response to providing adequate mitigation measures across the area affected. The two strategic measures adopted comprise of: the delivery of Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG); and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM). Essentially, SANG provides alternative open space that can be used instead of the SPA for recreational activities, and SAMM introduces management
methods to be implemented on the SPA itself to encourage people to use alternative open spaces and protect the wildlife habitat.

3. **Council Policy**

Policy CS13 of the Council’s Core Strategy, adopted in July 2011, sets out the way in which mitigation should be delivered in order to address any potential adverse impacts of new residential development and the increase in population within 5km of the SPA boundary. The Policy reflects the strategic approach adopted in current regional planning policy and also takes account of the Joint Delivery Framework agreed by the JSPB. The Policy commits the Council to work in partnership with the JSPB to ensure the delivery of mitigation measures.

**Membership of the Joint Strategic Partnership Board**

4. The Borough Council is entitled to nominate one Member to serve on the Partnership Board for a four year period ending 7 June 2020, subject to the Member remaining on the Planning Committee.

As former Councillor C.J. Elmer did not stand for re-election at the recent Borough Elections, the Committee is invited to appoint a replacement representative Member.

**Financial implications:**
None

**Environmental/Sustainability Implications:**
None

**Legal implications / Equality Implications:**
None.

**Risk Implications / Community Safety Implications:**
None.

**Principal Consultees:**
Planning Policy Manager

**Background papers:**
None.

**Enclosures/Appendices:**
None.

**Contact details:**
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