

Appendix 4 - The Council's approach for acquisition (freehold/leasehold) for purposes of carbon sequestration and ecological improvement.

1. A scoring matrix based on various categories has been developed to assess sites for acquisition (freehold/leasehold) for the purposes of carbon sequestration and ecological enhancement (see appendix 5).
2. Land is scored for its potential to do the following:
 - a) The potential to sequester carbon – to meet our Net Carbon Zero target;
 - b) The potential to enhance biodiversity – to meet our Ecologically Positive target;
 - c) The potential to reduce flooding through planting or different management regimes;
 - d) The potential to be manageable.
3. If the land scores well at assessment and there are no immediate legal concerns discovered in the early negotiations with the seller/land agent, the current process for any land acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes is as follows:
 - a) Ward Member notified
 - b) MAG consulted
 - c) Independent valuation sought
 - d) Paper to Asset Management Group (AMG), to gain approval for any acquisition (if site over £1m then requires Cabinet approval)
 - e) Paper to Strategic Investment Group (SIG), to gain approval to spend the capital.
4. Under the proposed scheme of delegated decision making and if the land scores well at assessment and there are no immediate legal concerns discovered in the early negotiations with the seller/land agent, the process for any land acquisition for carbon sequestration and ecological improvement purposes is as follows:

- a) Ward Member notified
- b) MAG consulted (if MAG meeting not scheduled, MAG chair notified)
- c) Independent valuation sought
- d) Request to the Head of Finance and Property to acquire the land under delegated authority (see appendix 1)
- e) Offer on land and negotiations concluded.
- f) Paper to Asset Management Group (AMG) at soonest opportunity to let them know about acquisition.
- g) Paper to Strategic Investment Group (SIG) at soonest opportunity to let them know about budget used.