

## **Appendix 6 - 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 7).
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 consulted
  - b) MAG consulted (if MAG meeting not scheduled, MAG chair consulted outside of meeting eg by email)
  - c) Independent valuation sought
  - d) Request to the Head of Finance and Property to acquire the land under delegated authority (see appendix 3)
  - 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.