

Local Plan Committee – Wednesday, 19 November 2025

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MR T LEGRYS

The hedgehog is listed as a Species of Principal Importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. It is also now classified as Vulnerable to Extinction. This Council has a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and is required to ensure new developments do not fragment wildlife habitats. Will the Local Plan Committee commit to developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), in line with the successful East Cambridgeshire Hedgehog Recovery Design Guidance SPD, to make the inclusion of 13cm x 13cm Hedgehog Highways a mandatory planning condition for all new residential developments in North West Leicestershire?

RESPONSE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

The preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document would require time and resources which are already stretched in order to meet the challenging deadline for getting plan submitted for Examination.

Draft policy En1 (Nature Conservation/Biodiversity net gain) of the emerging Local Plan addresses the need to ensure that new development secures a net gain in biodiversity, with the priority being for on-site provision. This provides a suitable policy hook for considering future developments.