

Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document

Draft Consultation Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is the 'Consultation Statement' for the Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as required by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This statement sets out early stakeholder engagement and how the public and other stakeholders will be consulted upon the SPD. Following the consultation period, this statement will be expanded to summarise the comments received during the consultation period, including details of how the issues raised have been dealt with in working towards a final SPD for adoption.
- 1.2 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in the District Plan. SPDs do not have to go through the formal examination process, but consultation with stakeholders and the wider community is still a vital part of the preparation process. The scope of consultation and decision on who will be consulted will reflect the nature of the SPD.

2. Town and Country Planning Regulations

- 2.1 The SPD is produced in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The relevant regulations relating to the consultation process are explained below.
- Regulation 12: Regulation 12(a) requires the Council to produce a consultation statement before adoption of the SPD, this must set out who was consulted, a summary of the issues raised, and how these issues were incorporated in to the SPD.

- Regulation 12(b) requires the Council to publish the documents for a minimum 4 week consultation, specify the date when responses should be received and identify the address to which responses should be sent.
- Regulation 35: Regulation 12 states that when seeking representations on an SPD, documents must be available in accordance with Regulation 35. This requires the Council to make documents available by taking the following steps;
 - Make the document available at the principal office and other places within the area that the Council considers appropriate;
 - Publish the document on the Council's website.

3. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

3.1 The SCI explains how the council will involve the community in plan-making and in the consideration of planning applications. In October 2019 the Council adopted a new SCI to replace the previous SCI (adopted in 2013) and take into account changes to legislation and policy. This consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the SCI.

3.2 However, as a result of current advice from the Government on Covid 19, making hard copies of the consultation documents available at the Council's offices in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, and at libraries across the district is not currently mandatory. In line with Government advice, the Statement of Community Involvement has been temporarily updated to clarify that whilst the Council offices and other deposit locations in East Herts remain closed, documents will be available on the website. If the offices and libraries are open at the time of the consultation, copies will be made available at these locations

4. Early consultation

- 4.1 As part of the scoping of the Sustainability SPD, a number of stakeholders have influenced the scope and content of the SPD. Planning and the Sustainability SPD were discussed in January 2020 at the Community and Stakeholder Climate Change Event. Feedback from stakeholders at the event and subsequently made it clear that development must be more sustainable and that planning has a key role in ensuring that compulsory standards are introduced and enforced. Discussion about the SPD favoured covering a range of topics, with particular emphasis on energy reduction, and ensuring developers were held accountable. Flooding was also raised as an issue to consider. The topics addressed within this SPD have been informed by this feedback. Whilst, the SPD cannot introduce mandatory targets, clear implementation measures have been included.
- 4.2 Early feedback from developers suggests general support for the topics and themes identified in the SPD, but the following comments were raised:
- Flooding and drainage should be considered;
 - Water efficiency is very difficult to enforce as it is not monitored;
 - Water efficiency should be governed by building regulations;
 - Rainwater harvesting can be associated with hygiene problems;
 - Clear air pollution mitigation strategies should be set out;
 - Generally flexibility is required to take account of local circumstances
 - Guidance is required in relation to electric vehicle charging points, but it needs to include a flexible approach;
 - Construction waste should be considered;
 - Biodiversity net gain should be addressed.
- 4.3 These comments have been considered and have helped shape the scope and content of the SPD.

4.4 The emerging SPD has also been informed by a range of East Herts Council's officers and colleagues at Hertfordshire County Council, with expertise in the various topics.

5. Proposed Consultation

- 5.1 The draft SPD will be published for consultation for four weeks between 10 September and 8 October 2020. If they are open at this time, the draft SPD will be available for public inspection during normal office hours at the East Herts Council Offices in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, town council offices and in libraries across the district.
- 5.2 All consultation documents and further information on how to submit representations will be available to view on the East Herts Council website. All statutory and relevant consultees will be directly contacted, including those on the planning policy database.
- 5.3 Representations can be made via the Council's consultation portal available on the Council's website.
- 5.4 Alternatively representations can be emailed to planningpolicy@eastherts.gov.uk, or hard copy representations should be sent to; Planning Policy, East Herts Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ.