

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....16th April 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report relating to the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document.

The Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD would be designed to provide certainty to developers and improve the Council's negotiation of the planning obligation contributions required for open space, sport and recreation facilities. This was to be achieved through the application of standards for provision set out in the document. Standards had been determined for the quantity, quality and proximity of open space, sport and recreation facilities. The Supplementary Planning Document and appendices were available to members.

It was explained that Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation outlined the need to move away from previous national standards to set locally derived standards. In order to derive these standards a robust local evidence base was required in the form of a Planning Policy 17 Assessment as outlined in Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17.

The guidance outlined a process in which local needs had to be identified, local provision audited, standards set and applied and policies drafted. Identifying local need had been undertaken through the Sport, Recreation and Leisure Survey and interest group consultation. Auditing local provision had been achieved through the Open Space Audit, a recent Open Space Audit Update and a built facilities audit. The PPG17 Assessment was available for members to view.

A summary of the evidence was included in the PPG17 Assessment along with explanation of the standards. This would be provided as an appendix to the SPD in order to support the standards contained in it. The Assessment and SPD would provide evidence for policies that would be contained in the Core Strategy and Environment Development Plan

Documents. The Assessment would also provide evidence for the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy and the emerging Sport and Active Leisure Strategy.

The standards as contained in the document were identified for members.

It was explained that Standards were not intended to be retrospectively applied to existing development, although they could be used to inform improvements where opportunities arose; rather they were to be a requirement for new development. Quantity standards would be used to identify the level of demand caused by the new development and areas where provision was deficient. Quality information would be used to identify sites for improvement. Proximity would be used to highlight areas of deficiency and to demonstrate the location of open space and facilities that were directly related to developments.

To determine if open space was to be provided onsite a 'minimum acceptable size' standard had been included for different types of space to ensure that spaces were only included on site if they were to be of a sensible size to be of use and efficient to maintain.

Members noted that in order to ensure that the open space provided, as part of new development was suitable and to ensure that high quality developments were created the SPD includes a landscaping section. This section of the SPD has been prepared by Urban Design, in close consultation with colleagues from other sections. The landscaping section of the SPD had been designed to increase the weight given to existing knowledge and practice through its inclusion in planning guidance.

The next stage of the process was to undertake consultation on the document for a period of six weeks. Comments received would be used to modify the document where appropriate. It was anticipated that the consultation would be undertaken during April and May 2009. Once comments had been considered and amendments made, the document would return to Cabinet to be considered for adoption.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.
2. the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document be agreed for public consultation.
3. Reasons for the Decision

Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 No.2204 outlined the need for a six week consultation period for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents. Comments received during this period would then be used to modify the document prior to its adoption. Cabinet approval was required in order to proceed with this consultation and progress to the adoption of the SPD.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not applicable

Proper Officer  
20 April 2009