

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting14th January 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

LDF-SPD Landscaping and Recreation

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report relating to the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD was designed to provide certainty to developers and facilitate 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 was provided to Members.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 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.

This 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 provided.

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, Regeneration 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.

Standards were not intended to be applied retrospectively to existing built 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 did not yet meet the quantity standard. Quality information would be used to identify sites for improvement. Proximity would be used to highlight areas that were further away from facilities 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.

In order to ensure that high quality developments were created the SPD included a landscaping section. This section of the SPD had 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 statutory six-week consultation period for this document was undertaken between 18 May and 29 June 2009. Responses were received from 23 organisations and individuals that resulted in 119 individual comments. These comments were used to amend and improve the SPD, Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal. Significant changes included further work to the PPG17 Assessment requested by Sport England, removal of some of the landscaping section to the Sustainable Design SPD where it would be expanded upon, and the introduction of a provision hierarchy for the built sports facilities proximity standard. The next stage in the production of the document was adoption after which the document could be used in the determination of planning applications.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the report be noted and the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document be agreed for adoption

3. Reasons for the Decision

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation states that Local Authorities must set local standards for open space and sport based on a robust local evidence base. The

Stockton-on-Tees Local Development Scheme, which outlined the documents that make up the Local Development Framework and the timetable for their production, showed that these standards and guidance for their use were to be included in the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD. This document would provide guidance to policy contained in DPDs.

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
18 January 2010