

Public Document Pack

MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday 21 February 2024
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall
PUBLIC WEB LINK:	https://barnsley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts

AGENDA

1. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests
2. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

Minutes

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 February 2024 (Cab.21.2.2024/3)
(Pages 3 - 8)

Items for Noting

4. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.21.2.2024/4)

Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.21.2.2024/5)

Items for Decision/Recommendation to Council

Regeneration and Culture Spokesperson

6. UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) - Employment and Skills Programme (Cab.21.2.2024/6)
(Pages 9 - 22)
7. Adoption of Updated Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Cab.21.2.2024/7) (Pages 23 - 114)
RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 28 MARCH 2024
8. Adoption of Updated House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Cab.21.2.2024/8) (Pages 115 - 166)
RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 28 MARCH 2024
9. Exclusion of Public and Press
It is likely that the public and press will be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the items so marked because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the specific paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, subject to the public interest test.

Children's Spokesperson

10. Children's Services Financial Recovery Plan (Cab.21.2.2024/10)
(Pages 167 - 320)
Reason restricted:
Paragraph (2) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

To: Chair and Members of Cabinet:-

Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Cain, T. Cave, Franklin, Frost, Higginbottom, Howard, Makinson and Newing

Cabinet Support Members:

Councillors Bellamy, Bowser, Cherryholme, Moyes, Osborne, Peace and Sheard

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair of Audit Committee

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive

Wendy Popplewell, Executive Director Core Services

Carly Speechley, Executive Director Children's Services

Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Place Health and Adult Social Care for Barnsley

Matt O'Neill, Executive Director Growth and Sustainability

Anna Hartley, Executive Director Public Health and Communities

Neil Copley, Director of Finance (S151 Officer)

Sukdave Ghuman, Service Director Law and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)

Michael Potter, Service Director Business Improvement, HR and Communications

Katie Rogers, Head of Communications and Marketing

Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer

Corporate Communications and Marketing

Please contact Sukdave Ghuman by email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Tuesday 13 February 2024



MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday 7 February 2024
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Cain, T. Cave, Franklin, Frost, Higginbottom, Howard, Makinson and Newing

Members in Attendance: Councillors Bellamy, Bowser, Cherryholme, Moyes and Osborne

185. Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

186. Leader - Call-in of Cabinet decisions

The Leader reported that no decisions from the previous meeting held on 24 January 2024 had been called in.

187. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 January 2024 (Cab.7.2.2024/3)

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

188. Decisions of Cabinet Spokespersons (Cab.7.2.2024/4)

There were no Records of Decisions by Cabinet Spokespersons under delegated powers to report.

189. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.7.2.2024/5)

It was reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 44.

190. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-27 (Cab.7.2.2024/6)

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL ON 29 FEBRUARY 2024

RESOLVED that Cabinet submit to Full Council for approval the following recommendations:-

2024/25 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

1. 2024/25 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax

- a) that the report of the Director of Finance (S151 Officer), under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 at Section 1 be noted, that the 2024/25 budget proposals be agreed and that the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team (SMT), in consultation with Cabinet Spokespersons, submit, for early consideration, detailed plans that ensure the Council's ongoing financial sustainability in 24/25 and beyond.
- b) that the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget Forecast for 24/25 to 26/27 contained at Section 2 (supported by the suite of background papers in Sections 2a – 2d) be noted and that these are monitored as part of the arrangements for the delivery of the MTFS.
- c) that provision be made of £34.6M to cover anticipated demographic and other cost pressures in 24/25:
- Pay (£8.9M),
 - Children's Social Care (Children in Care / Practice Improvement) (£14.9M),
 - Adult Social Care (Provider Fees / Practice Improvement) (£6.6M),
 - Home to School Transport (£1.4M),
 - Waste Services (£0.6M),
 - Inflation on major contracts e.g. PFI (£1.4M),
 - Funding borrowing costs (£0.6M),
 - Investment in legal services (£1.0M),
 - Commercial income budget re-alignment (£0.8M),
 - Other minor investment £0.7M,
 - Savings on Capital Financing / Investment Income (-£2.3M)

be approved for inclusion in the budget as identified at Section 2.

- d) that the increase in the specific Adult Social Care Market Sustainability grant of £2.5M received in the 2023 Local Government Finance Settlement (£5.4M in total) be used to contribute to the funding of inflationary pressures in the care sector.
- e) that the increase in the Better Care Fund of £3.9M received in the 2023 Local Government Finance Settlement be used to fund inflationary and hospital discharge costs within Adults Social Care.
- f) that the increase in the general social care funding received over the last two years including the Council's share of the additional £1.2bn funding announced in the 2023 final Local Government Finance Settlement be baselined to fund the significant financial pressures relating to Children and Adults Social Care (circ. £30M of General Social Grant now baselined) .
- g) note that other core funding has increased by inflation, in line with previous assumptions.
- h) that the proposed Phase 1 service review savings of £8.4M in 24/25 highlighted in Section 2 and detailed at Section 4a – 4e be approved for implementation and that Members also note the further development of the transformation programme to help deliver balanced budget positions over the medium term (25/26 – 26/27).

- i) that the one-off General Services Grant / New Homes Bonus received as part of the 2023 Local Government Settlement be used to temporarily address the 24/25 budget shortfall pending the submission of further budget savings.
- j) that the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Director of Finance and the Senior Management Team be tasked with formulating alternate savings plans (over and above the current transformation programme) based on various planning scenarios for Member consideration during 24/25.
- k) that the Council's Reserves Strategy and updated reserves position at Section 2b be approved including the setting aside of £23M for additional one-off support to the budget over the planning period (over and above the retention of the £20M Minimum Working Balance .
- l) that the proposed changes to the 24/25 fees and charges policy and accompanying schedule of charges set out at Section 2d be approved.
- m) to submit to Council for approval the cash limited budgets for each Service with overall net expenditure for 24/25 of £265.0M as highlighted in Section 5a.
- n) to consider the budgets for all services and approve, for submission into Council, the 24/25 – 25/26 budget proposals presented at Sections 5a – 5c, subject to Cabinet receiving detailed implementation reports where appropriate.
- o) to consider and approve the changes to the schools funding formula including the transfer of funding from the schools' block to the high needs block and approve the proposed 24/25 schools block budget as set out at Section 5d.
- p) that the capital investment schemes totalling £45.6M in 24/25 (£20.9M in Housing, £10.4M in Roads, £6.7M Asset Replacement and £7.6M Schools), be included within the capital programme and released subject to receiving further detailed business cases where appropriate Section 6 Appendix 1.
- q) note that the above includes £2M provisionally set aside for additional investment in repairing the Borough's highways (principal roads / side streets) and that this will be released subject to receiving a further detailed report on plans for its use.
- r) that the Chief Executive and SMT, in consultation with Cabinet Spokespersons, be required to submit reports into Cabinet, as a matter of urgency, in relation to the detailed General Fund Revenue Budget for 24/25 on any further action required to achieve an appropriately balanced budget in addition to those proposals set out above.
- s) that the Chief Executive and SMT be responsible for managing their respective budgets including ensuring the implementation of all approved saving proposals.
- t) that the Authority's SMT be charged with ensuring that the budget remains in balance and report regularly into Cabinet on budget / savings monitoring including any action required.

- u) that Cabinet and the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) be authorised to make any necessary technical adjustments to form the 24/25 budget.
- v) that appropriate consultation on the budget proposals takes place with the Trade Unions and representatives of Non-Domestic Ratepayers and that the views of consultees be considered by Cabinet and the Council.
- w) that the budget papers be submitted for the consideration of the full Council.

2. Council Tax 2024/25

- 2.1 that Cabinet note the contents of Section 2a (24/25 Council Tax options) and that:
 - a) the Council Tax Collection Fund net surplus as at 31st March 2023 relating to BMBC of £3.6M be used to reduce the 24/25 Council Tax requirement, in line with statute.
 - b) the 24/25 Band D Council Tax increase for Barnsley MBC services be set at 4.99% (2.99% for Core Council Services and an additional 2.0% for the Adult Social Care precept).
 - c) the Band D Council Tax for Barnsley MBC's areas be determined following confirmation of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and South Yorkshire Fire Authority precepts for 24/25.
 - d) the Band D Council Tax for areas of the Borough with Parish / Town Councils be determined following confirmation of individual parish precepts for 24/25.
 - e) 12 months' notice be given to apply an additional 100% council tax premium (200% in council tax charge) to all properties that are substantially furnished but not some one's no one's sole or main residence (e.g. "second homes") after one year, with this premium becoming effective on 1st April 2025 onwards.
 - f) that the local council tax support scheme reverts back to the scheme approved in 22/23 as highlighted in Section 2a, effectively reducing the maximum discount for the lowest income households from 100% to 92.8% off the relevant bill.
 - g) that a full review of the current scheme be undertaken during 24/25 including the necessary consultations for any proposed changes with an update being provided to Members later in 2024.

3. Treasury Management Strategy & Policy Statement 2024/25

- 3.1 that Cabinet approve the 24/25 Treasury Management Strategy and Policy Statement (included in the main papers at Section 2c) and specifically:
 - a) approve the 24/25 Treasury Management Policy Statement (Section 2c Appendix A).

- b) approve the 24/25 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (Section 2c Appendix B).
- c) approve the 24/25 Borrowing Strategy at Section 2c including the full suite of Prudential and Treasury Indicators (Section 2c Appendix C).
- d) approve the 24/25 Annual Investment Strategy at Section 2c.

191. Co-ordinated Scheme for Admission to Schools 2025-2026 (Cab.7.2.2024/7)

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the proposed co-ordinated scheme for admission to schools 2025-2026 to ensure compliance with school admissions legislation.

192. Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools for the 2025-2026 School Year (Cab.7.2.2024/8)

RESOLVED that Cabinet approve the proposed policy of admission to community and voluntary primary and secondary schools in the Borough to ensure compliance with school admissions legislation during the 2025-26 school year.

193. Habitat Bank Creation (Cab.7.2.2024/9)

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Approves the principle of establishing a habitat bank in Barnsley on Council owned land, to be delivered internally by the Council; and
2. Delegates authority to the Head of Planning, Policy and Building Control to carry out all necessary arrangements to set up a habitat bank on Council owned land. Arrangements will include, but not exclusively: choice of site(s); legally securing the site(s); the mechanism for determining cost of credits and any future uplift; collecting and receiving payments; and monitoring.

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Chair

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDING (UKSPF) AND SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY (SYMCA) – EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS PROGRAMME

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 February 2024
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

The council seeks to deliver improved access for Barnsley residents to develop their skills and employability through a programme of support funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF). This will ensure that Barnsley is an inclusive place where young people and adults can fulfil their learning potential, overcome barriers and benefit from suitable employment.

The council has worked in partnership with the three South Yorkshire local authorities and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to determine an agreed approach to deliver the funding.

Approval is sought to enter into partnership agreements with Sheffield City Council (SCC) and City of Doncaster Council (CODC) as lead local authorities to implement the South Yorkshire UK SPF ‘People and Skills’ programme, known as ‘Skills and Employability South Yorkshire’ in Barnsley.

Council Plan priorities:

- **Healthy Barnsley** – people can access support to overcome barriers, so they can benefit from the health impacts that improved skills and employment can bring.
- **Learning Barnsley** – people can fulfil their learning potential with skills for everyday life and work.
- **Growing Barnsley** – people can take part in Barnsley’s inclusive economy that benefits everyone in our communities.
- **Sustainable Barnsley** – people can benefit from a sustainable jobs market that protects opportunities for future generations.

- Enabling Barnsley – the UK SPF fund has a broad impact and a range of targeted activity for people that need the most support.

Recommendations

- a) Approval is given for the Executive Director – Growth & Sustainability in consultation with the Executive Director of Core Services to enter into a partnership agreement with Sheffield City Council to receive UK SPF. This will deliver the following employment support projects under ‘Skills and Employability South Yorkshire’:
 - Strand One - Preparation for Work (young people and adults)
 - Strand Two - Into Employment Support (young people and adults)
- b) Approval is given for the Executive Director – Growth & Sustainability in consultation with the Executive Director of Core Services to enter into a partnership agreement with City of Doncaster Council to receive UK SPF. This will deliver the following employment support project under ‘Skills and Employability South Yorkshire’:
 - Strand Three - Progression in Employment (all age)
- c) Approval is given for the Executive Director – Growth & Sustainability in consultation with the Executive Director of Core Services to restructure and recruit additional resources to the Employment and Skills Service. This will provide a fit-for-purpose delivery structure to deliver UK SPF ‘Skills and Employability South Yorkshire’ programme.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2023, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) ended, along with the employment and skills projects funded by it. This includes those delivered by Barnsley Council’s Employment and Skills Service.
- 1.2 The domestic successor fund, the UK SPF ‘People and Skills’ programme has a wider remit than ESIF. It has a particular focus on place and people who are economically inactive and not engaged with Job Centre Plus.
- 1.3 From January 2024, Barnsley Council has access to the UK SPF ‘People and Skills’ programme. This is for a fifteen-month period via SYMCA. The council has worked in partnership with the other three South Yorkshire Local Authorities and SYMCA to determine an agreed approach for the region. This allows local flexibilities to build on each of our strengths and community needs.
- 1.4 The South Yorkshire UK SPF ‘People and Skills’ programme, known as ‘Skills and Employability South Yorkshire’, will offer a continuum of support to help young people

and adults get ready for, get into and get on in work. It aims to support economically inactive and socially excluded unemployed residents of South Yorkshire. This also includes people in low paid and insecure employment, and the development of green skills. There will be driving focus on identifying and addressing barriers to work where current mainstream employability provision cannot enable the required interventions.

1.5 Under the proposed model, activity will take place in all four South Yorkshire Local Authority areas (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield). This will be delivered through three strands under the programme called 'Skills and Employability South Yorkshire' (hereafter referred to as 'UK SPF'.

- Strand One: Preparation for Work – supporting both young people and adults to move closer to employment, volunteering or further training. Delivered through information, advice and guidance (including those in Year 11 in schools and at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Training or Employment)).
- Strand Two: Into Employment Support – providing a range of employability support for young people and adults who have been out of work. This includes developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes for a successful move into employment.
- Strand Three: Progression in Employment – providing information and advice to those in low paid or low skilled employment to consider job and career options. It also provides support (including any required training) to enable young people and adults to move into more sustainable, better jobs.

2. Justification

2.1 Delivery of the UK SPF in Barnsley will be responsive to the local landscape. There is a clear need for additional and targeted employment support in the borough.

- 71.9% of working-age people are in employment compared to a national average of 75.8%.
- The borough's comparatively low unemployment rates (3.0% vs 3.7% nationally) justify a particular focus on residents who are economically inactive. At 25.5%, Barnsley's rising inactivity rates are one sixth higher than the national average. Around 39,800 residents are out of work.
- There is also a local need for in-work support, with 36% of the 28,688 Universal Credit recipients in Barnsley being in work.

2.2 Delivery of the programme is a vital component of local economic growth. Employers require a wider local talent pool, however there's a shrinking working age population and restricted access to international labour.

- Currently there are 1,800 to 2,000 average weekly vacancies. Meanwhile,

one in five economically residents say they 'want to work'. They face numerous barriers, particularly the complexity and centralisation of the current support system.

- With 42.1% of our economically inactive residents (aged 16-64) out of work due to long-term sickness or disability (vs. only 26.9% nationally), an individually tailored employment support offer is key. This will identify pathways into good quality, well-paid work that does not exacerbate these existing conditions.
- For residents with low confidence, low skills (25.2% have no qualifications and 12% fewer residents have NVQ4+ than nationally), or a long time out of the labour market, particular focus must be placed on engaging and motivating communities. This will promote the economic, social and health benefits of work and create realistic, attractive progression pathways.

2.3 The proposed model has been shaped by best practice reviews and consultation with local stakeholders, including:

- The Pathways to Work Commission for Barnsley (chaired by Rt Hon Alan Milburn).
- A suite of commissioned consultancy reports locally including employer engagement.
- Local Government Association (LGA) reviews of employment support systems and provision for economically inactive residents.

2.4 A 2022 LGA review of Work and Skills Hubs across the country (ranging from online and self-service one-stop-shops to physical multi-agency provision) has informed these proposals. Further LGA and Learning & Work Institute analysis found that if councils and Combined Authorities could better co-ordinate local employment and skills provision, the number of people improving skills or finding work would increase by 15%.

2.5 The UK SPF programme is an opportunity to revisit local delivery models. The lack of fluidity in ESIF provision (2018-2023) has inadvertently created siloed delivery. In contrast, the integrated programme of support proposed will allow seamless progression from a significant distance to the labour market into targeted, employment-focused access activity. This includes job and apprenticeship brokerage, and sector-specific training with work experience, at a pace appropriate for the individual. Residents will be able to enter through a single gateway where their situation, needs and barriers will be triaged before being directed to the most appropriate support for them.

3. Proposal

3.1 The proposed approach to UK SPF in Barnsley will enable young people and adults to

access more and better jobs in the borough. A 'fit for purpose' operating model has been designed which meets the vision for Barnsley 2030 along with a strengthened service where any duplication is removed. This facilitates continuous improvement of the quality of the resident experience.

- 3.2 Barnsley Council, through a mixture of direct delivery by its own Employment and Skills staff and through partnership working, proposes a set of complementary activities. These will include community-based employability information, advice and guidance to raise aspirations and awareness of local labour market opportunities. This will support residents to access skills and training development and connect local people with jobs through personalised pathways to work. It also includes supporting the career development of those in low paid or insecure work. In addition to support delivered by the council, a commissioning budget will be available to assist engagement, bridge provision gaps and offer personalised budgets.
- 3.3 The programme will be delivered as a 'Hub and Spoke' model. It will be delivered through the Town Centre, Principal Towns and at a hyper-local level, engaging with residents within their own communities. It will work in partnership with Area Teams, voluntary and community sector, statutory services, health services, and education and training providers across the borough.

4. Consideration of Alternative Proposals

- 4.1 The 'do nothing' approach would mean the borough's economy will continue to lag behind both the regional and UK average. This would negatively impact Barnsley residents and the borough's delivery of the 2030 strategic objectives. In addition, the contracts of 20 council employees would cease as there would be no funding available to continue their employment.
- 4.2 An alternative model with reduced investment could be considered. Again, this would see a significant decrease in the number of Barnsley residents supported and would result in a significant reduction of the current staffing resource.
- 4.3 There are no other revenue streams available to provide alternative funding that are targeted to support the groups identified.

5. Implications of the Decision

- 5.1 The UK SPF programme will benefit residents through increased access to learning provision and employment to fulfil their potential. The programme aims to inspire local growth and community prosperity by connecting people with local jobs.
- 5.2 The programme will provide additional support to enable residents to overcome barriers, so that more people can gain Level 2 qualifications (an entry requirement for most jobs) including developing core English, maths and digital skills.
- 5.3 Through hyper-local delivery and targeted work to remove barriers, residents will be better supported to access work. This will bring Barnsley closer to the national

average for economic inactivity. There will also be a focus to increase the number of residents that are supported to move into secure employment and reduce their requirement for Universal Credit through in-work support for people in low skill and low pay employment. Increased collaboration with local employers will identify opportunities for inclusive practice so that residents can access opportunities regardless of background or starting point.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Consultation on the financial implications included in this report have taken place with representatives of the Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer).

6.2 Approval is sought to accept the £1.713m (revenue) UK SPF - to be utilised for the purposes detailed in Section (3.2(a-c)) of this report and summarised in the table below:

6.3 Shared Prosperity (revenue) Fund: Proposed Barnsley Council Spend 2023 to 2025

Proposed UKSPF Revenue Spend	2023 - 2025		Total £m
	2023/24	2024/25	
	£m	£m	
Strands 1 & 2	0.354	1.233	1.587
Strand 3	0.000	0.480	0.480
Total	0.354	1.713	2.067

6.4 The funding required to support those projects is being provided from the following key sources:

(a) UK SPF £1.713m contribution

(b) Barnsley Council £0.354m contribution

6.5 The £0.354m in revenue 'match funding' required from the council to support project delivery will be provided via existing staffing budgets from within the Employment and Skills service.

6.6 It is important to note that there is no requirement for any new financial contribution from the council to progress the recommendations outlined in this report.

6.7 Barnsley Council Finance Officers will continue to work closely with the Employment and Skills Programme Management Team to ensure spend remains within the available funding allocation and is compliant with funder eligibility requirements.

6.8 Appendix A provides a full breakdown of the financial implications of the projects arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 SCC and CODC have received funding confirmation letters from SYMCA. *When the council receives the formal partnership agreements from SCC and CODC, these will be submitted to Barnsley Council legal services for comment.*

8. Employee implications

8.1 The acceptance of the UK SPF funding will safeguard the employment of 20 employees.

8.2 To be able to deliver the programme it is important that a fit for purpose structure is in place to ensure that the council has the right resources, skills and experience to deliver a compliant programme. The proposed restructure not only maximises existing staff time, resources and expertise but is cost effective and will ensure prompt programme mobilisation.

9. Equality

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the proposal with sign off from Barnsley Council's Senior Policy and Equalities Officer.

10. Sustainability

10.1 The decision-making wheel has been completed for UK SPF programme.



10.2 The transition to Net Zero will see an evolution of jobs and the skills required up to and beyond 2030. Local Government Association research forecasts there could be as many as 694,000 direct jobs employed in the low-carbon and renewable energy economy by 2030 in England, rising to over 1.18 million by 2050. Yorkshire and

Humber could have one of the highest regional proportions of these at 14%.

- 10.3 While some completely new jobs will become available, larger numbers of workers will need to partly reskill and their jobs will change in part to accommodate new technologies, and all new and existing workers will need a greater awareness of their impact and the impact of their jobs on the environment. The delivery model will include the flexibility to incorporate environmental awareness into all programmes.
- 10.4 The programme will facilitate opportunities that will be created locally by retrofitting homes with insulation, heat pumps and solar panels. By developing programmes of learning for the green skills sector with local skills providers, this will ensure residents can either retrain or up skill in this sector.

11. Communications

- 11.1 In line with the regional approach (known as 'Skills and Employability South Yorkshire'), Barnsley Council will develop their existing 'skills and employability' brand identity. This will allow us to localise the offer.
- 11.2 Using this framework, the service will promote opportunities for people and communities to benefit from support. This will include the development of the online Employability and Skills website. Opportunities to take part and outcomes of the activity will be shared through news releases, media outlets, social media channels, newsletters, partnership channels and engagement with key stakeholders.
- 11.3 Using the 'Hub and Spoke' model, this will be targeted activity that responds to local needs and highlights opportunities taking place across the borough.
- 11.4 Promotion of UK SPF activity will be delivered in line with UK Government branding, alongside council guidelines. There will also be cross-promotion with Barnsley 2030.

12. Risk

- 12.1 Underperformance of the annual output targets risks the council being unable to access the full financial allocation for 2024 to 2025. The risk has been mitigated by extending existing staff contracts through to April 2024 to ensure continuity of delivery and retention of skills and knowledge.
- 12.2 There is a national risk of government releasing funding for 2024 to 2025. The risk is being mitigated through conversation with SYMCA regarding underwriting 2024 to 2025 spend with Gainshare funding.
- 12.3 Other risks highlighted are listed below:

Risk Description	Owner	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
Lack of clarity in the provider and referral base regarding the project officer.	Delivery team Overseen by Project Steering Group	Low	Medium	All partners and delivery staff will be briefed on the focus of the projects, and regular meetings will take place with partners and staff, to ensure there is clarity about the projects aim and objectives and that collectively targets are achieved.
Delivering outputs: Residents do not engage, leading to under achievement.	Delivery team overseen by project steering group. Project Steering Group	Low	High	Successful engagement and project delivery are dependent on identifying and engaging residents who are in the target cohorts. This is delivered through one-to-one contact and networks. Our outputs and outcomes will be reviewed regularly through the council's reporting process and SYMCA. Corrective action will be taken if required.
Commissioning process delayed	Project Steering Group	Low	Low	A commissioning strategy is in place and the Employment and Skills Service have worked to increase the provider scope on the DPS in preparation for this programme.
Delays to project milestones.	Project Steering Group	Low	Med	The intended project management team are experienced in successfully delivering business support projects. They are confident the milestones are realistic and deliverable.

Risk Description	Owner	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
Resident satisfaction	Project Steering Group	Low	Low	Residents that we work with will be invited to complete a customer feedback questionnaire on completion of an engagement. Project review meetings will monitor engagement, progress, and feedback.

13. Consultation

- 13.1 Barnsley Council has worked in partnership with the three other South Yorkshire Local Authorities and SYMCA. Through a series of manager and staff workshops, an approach has been determined and agreed for the region. There are local flexibilities to build on each of the local authority's differing community priorities and needs.
- 13.2 Engagement with internal business partner services took place during the summer of 2023. This has enabled planning for programme delivery and retention of staff with considerable knowledge and skills. This has also enabled sufficient time for preparation for new areas of delivery and commissioning.
- 13.3 Further consultation has taken place with representatives from the Finance and Human Resources services (including the Unions). Initial consultation has taken place with the representatives from the Executive Director of Core Services regarding the legal implications of contracting with external partners. Further discussions will be required once the final funding partner agreements are issued by SCC and CODC.

14. Glossary

- CODC – City of Doncaster Council
- SCC – Sheffield City Council
- SYMCA – South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
- UKSPF – UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- ESIF - European Structural and Investment Funds

15. List of Appendices

- 15.1 Appendix A: Financial Implications

16. Background Papers

- 16.1 South Yorkshire Investment Plan submitted to DLUCH, July 2022

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

17. Report Sign Off

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date: Ashley Gray Strategic Finance Business Partner – 13/12/23 Appendix A attached.
Legal consultation & sign off	<i>Peter Wilson</i> <i>When the council receives the formal partnership agreements from SCC and CODC, these will be submitted to Barnsley Council legal services for comment.</i>

Report Author: Richard Stevens
Post: Group Leader (Employability)
Date: 24.01.24

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APPENDIX A
Report of the Executive Director of Growth & Sustainability

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Employment & Skills - UKSPF Strands 1 to 3


i) <u>Capital Expenditure</u>	<u>2023/24</u> £m	<u>2024/25</u> £m	<u>2025/26</u> £m	<u>Total</u> £m
	0.000	0.000	0	0.000
To be Financed from:				0.000
	0.000	0.000	0	0.000
	0	0	0	0

ii) <u>Revenue Effects</u>	<u>2023/24</u> £m	<u>2024/25</u> £m	<u>2025/26</u> £m	<u>Total</u> £m
Strand 1 & 2 Staffing	0.272	0.818		1.090
Strand 1 & 2 Commissioning	0.030	0.357		0.387
Strand 1 & 2 Overheads	0.052	0.058		0.110
Strand 3 Staffing		0.344		0.344
Strand 3 Commissioning		0.116		0.116
Strand 3 Overheads		0.020		0.020
	0.354	1.713	0.000	2.067
To be Financed from:				
Strand 1 & 2 UKSPF	0.289	1.038		1.327
Strand 1 & 2 BMBC contribution	0.065	0.195		0.260
Strand 3 UKSPF		0.386		0.386
Strand 3 BMBC Contribution		0.094		0.094
	0.354	1.713	0.000	2.067
	0	0	0	0

Impact on Medium Term Financial Strategy

This report has no impact on the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

	<u>2023/24</u> £m	<u>2024/25</u> £m	<u>2025/26</u> £m	<u>FYE</u> £m
MTFS	0.000	6.258	7.648	13.906
Effect of this report	0	0	0	0.000
Revised Medium Term Financial Strategy	0	6.258	7.648	13.906

Agreed by: On behalf of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

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2BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: Adoption of updated Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 February 2024
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

This report seeks authority to adopt an updated version of the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Council Plan priority

Sustainable Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Refers the report to Full Council for approval to adopt the updated Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD.**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Local Plan, adopted on 3rd January 2019, contains policies to be considered when determining planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents contain further advice and explain how Local Plan policies will be applied.

1.2 The Planning & Building Control Service monitors the effectiveness of our policies and guidance on an ongoing basis. In respect of Supplementary Planning Documents, this is to satisfy ourselves that:

- They remain in conformity with national legislation, planning policy and guidance

- They are helping to ensure that the Local Plan achieves its overall aims and objectives
 - They are enabling decisions to be upheld at appeal
 - They reflect any new social, environmental or economic priorities that may have arisen
- 1.3 Supplementary Planning Documents build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. As they do not form part of the development plan, they cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. They are, however, a material consideration in decision-making. They should not add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.
- 1.4 As they do not form part of the Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents can be more readily updated but in doing so, the comments received have been fully considered to ensure that the amendments conform with national planning policy and guidance and that the content supplements existing policies in the plan (rather than replacing them or going beyond their remit) and that the amendments will not result in unnecessary financial burdens.
- 1.5 A number of Supplementary Planning Documents were adopted following the adoption of the Local Plan, including the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD. Amendments are proposed to update it.
- 1.6 Public consultation took place on the updated Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD for a period of four weeks between Monday 3 July and Tuesday 8 August 2023. A total of 83 comments were received from # respondents.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is proposed that the updated version of the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD is adopted. Once adopted, it will supersede the version adopted in 2019.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 contains a summary of the comments made during consultation and how those comments have been taken into account. Appendix 2 contains the updated Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD. Changes that were proposed from the adopted version are in red and underlined or struck through. The changes proposed following consideration of consultation responses are shown as struck through, or red underlined text, and highlighted yellow. Section 4 below summarises the key changes made following consultation.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report other than minimal costs associated with the adoption process which involves placing a public notice in the press. These minimal costs will be met from the existing planning budget. No Appendix A is therefore required.

3.2 Legal

Preparation, consultation, and adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents is carried out in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012.

3.3 Equality

Full Equality Impact Assessment completed.

This complements the Equality Impact Assessment that was carried out to support the Local Plan which concluded that all policies and proposals apply to all sectors of the community equally and that it makes provision for a range of housing types to meet differing needs such as affordable housing. A further assessment was carried out when the suite of SPD's was adopted in 2019. This recognised that the key impacts were around providing translation and interpretation assistance to those individuals that require it to help them understand the SPD's. An action for future consultation was to arrange targeted consultation such as face to face meetings with the equality forums as appropriate, relevant to the subject of the SPD, to ensure our engagement is inclusive. Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be considered at venues where documents are made available to ensure accessibility requirements for all attendees are met. A presentation to the Youth Council was given during the consultation period. The Equality Impact Assessment is attached as appendix 3.

3.4 Sustainability

The sustainability wheel shows the Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD will have a high positive impact on biodiversity and a positive impact on prevention and adaptation, emissions and land use/ change.

Sustainable Decision Wheel

Once you have filled out the values in the guidance sheets, press "run" below to fill out the wheel



3.5 Employee

There are no employee implications arising from this report.

3.6 Communications

Communications support will be required to publicise the adoption through press releases and social media.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Public consultation took place on the updated Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD for a period of four weeks between Monday 3 July and Tuesday 8 August 2023. A total of 83 comments were received from 20 respondents. Consultation was carried out in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) regulations, 2012. Stakeholders such as developers and agents that regularly operate in Barnsley, together with other people that have expressed an interest in being consulted on our planning documents were notified. The consultation was also generally publicised by a public notice in the Chronicle and in the Council's social media. The consultation document was also made available in Library@the Lightbox and all branch libraries and a flyer publicised on screens where possible. A presentation was given to the Youth Council. Issues raised by the Youth Council are summarised in appendix 1.

4.2 Some changes have been made as a result of comments. The changes proposed following consultation are shown in appendix 2 as red, underlined and highlighted yellow. The main changes relate to clarity and updated information.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 One alternative approach would be not to update the SPD's. The proposed changes provide useful updates and clarification. Therefore, adoption of the amended version is recommended.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The proposed updated SPD contains helpful information and amendments that will provide clarity for service users.

7. GLOSSARY

SPD Supplementary Planning Document

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Summary of consultation responses
Appendix 2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD Adoption version
Appendix 3: Equalities Impact Assessment

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Barnsley Local Plan <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/17249/local-plan-adopted.pdf>

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date Ashley Gray Strategic Finance Business Partner – 13/12/23
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date Bob Power 12/12/23

Report Author: Paula Tweed
Post: Planning Policy Group Leader
Date: 12th December 2023

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Introduction

Public consultation took place on the updated Design of Housing Supplementary Planning Document for a period of four weeks between Monday 3rd July 2023 to Tuesday 8th August 2023. A total of 83 comments were received from 20 respondents.

Who we consulted

- Duty to Cooperate Bodies
- Bodies and organisations with a topic specific interest
- Developers and Agents active in the Borough
- Housing Associations active in the Borough
- Parish Councils
- Equality Forums

How we consulted

- Emails or letters sent to the above consultees
- Press advert in the Barnsley Chronicle
- Press Releases (including use of the Council's social media) and press coverage through the course of the consultation period.
- Documents were made available on the Council's website
- Documents were made available at Library@the Lightbox and Branch Libraries across the Borough (online and paper form)

Response to Consultation

The tables below set out the main issues raised during consultation. They summarise the main points and any key changes made to the documents as a result of comments received.

General/ overarching comments

MAIN ISSUES RAISED	HOW THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
No comments (3 organisations)	Noted
Encouraged to see that geodiversity has been included wherever possible and that it accurately reflects concerns for the care of geological and geomorphological sites in the Borough.	Noted
SPD quite long which may deter people from reading it	Noted
Question regarding whether ecological surveys have ever been done at Locke Park. There seems to be quite a lot of natural wetland areas within in when specific pond for it all to run into.	Noted
A good document	Noted
Praise for the approach used to update the SPD both in terms of the changing legislative and policy environment and in making explicit just what is required in planning applications and indeed delivery on the ground	Noted

BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY SPD	
Key changes made as a result of comments: Reference to 10% Biodiversity Net Gain; general updates for clarity	
MAIN ISSUES RAISED	HOW THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
4.1 Queries the term 'biological geodiversity' (4 comments)	Noted, changed within SPD to " <u>biological geodiversity</u> "
Paragraph 6.15 reference to the West Yorks LGAP as an example, in the absence of one for Barnsley, and have partially deleted reference to an LGAP for Rotherham being in preparation. The LGAP for Rotherham is in preparation, but may still be a long way off.	Noted
G11 bullet point 5. Suggests addition of "geodiversity" to biodiversity (although accepts that the section is mainly about green matters) (2 comments)	Comments relate to Local Plan policy G11, this cannot be changed through SPD.
Green roofs/living walls. The requirement for all flat/<25degree pitch roofs above 25m2 seems to be low threshold, 25m2 is not a particularly large roof area, less than most residential garages. The tables say that living walls should be considered as a possible option to mitigate visual impact. If a living wall was considered but rejected, in what circumstances would BMBC request or condition a living wall? Living walls can be costly to install and maintain and plants within the wall may fail or die back.	Text should be consistent with adopted Sustainable Construction SPD. The SPD states that they "should" be considered, not that they "must" be. The request for a living roof/wall would be assessed on a case by case basis.
Table 1 – Outlines green roofs as a measure to contribute achievement of 10% BNG which is welcomed; however, it is highlighted that only roofs for which the continued management and monitoring can be secured for a minimum of 30 years (for example those not under private residential ownership) can contribute to achievement of a Biodiversity Net Gain.	Noted
Table 1 Minimum Requirement Green Roofs/Living Walls All new roofs of more than 25m2, which are flat or have a pitch of less than 25 degrees, should be a suitable type and design of living roof, unless conflicting with the rooftop provision of solar panels.	

SPDs should not add unnecessarily to the financial burdens of development. Considers as currently written, the requirement to have a suitable type/design of living roof on new roofs more than 25m² with a pitch of less than 25 degrees, or a living wall, would impact developments in terms of:

Living walls should be considered as a possible option on buildings, though especially if needed to help mitigate visual impact on otherwise unacceptably blank and/or architecturally unrelieved façades.

- Guarantees: The perceived risk of premature corrosion caused by the excessively damp environment beneath the green roof means that no guarantee would be given on standard roof specifications. This, in turn, impacts upon how the building can be funded, marketed, and occupied. Bespoke systems would add to the cost of building.

- Weight: Additional loading requirement on foundations/frame (with associated additional carbon requirements because of additional materials). The steel frame may need to be significantly upgraded to cater for the additional loading of the green roof, which can be in excess of +100kg/m² (1kN/m²) when fully saturated.

- Embodied Carbon: any additional upgrades to the steel frame (reduced purlin spans, increased purlin gauge etc) to cater for the additional weight of the green roof system can greatly increase the embodied carbon content of the project.

- Fire: The addition of the green roof system will need constant maintenance and if left to dry out can become a serious fire risk. As such, there would be a requirement to install an additional irrigation system on the roof, or at least provide provision for water at roof level. In addition to this, the green roof system will negate all current fire certification for the

<p>River-Therm® roof system (LPS 1181 etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance: Irrigation systems can be costly and add even more weight to the roof structure. The sedum matting will also require regular maintenance and green roofs can be prone to additional (unplanned) foliage contamination from birds / wind, which can take root within the sedum matting and impact on the integrity of the roofing system over time. - Traversing the roof: Extensive green roof systems are not generally intended for access and as such, dedicated walkways across the green roof may need to be installed. This would increase weight and cost. - Limited roof space: Green roof systems can limit usable space for PV/Rooflights <p>This is not something that was considered as part of the examination of the Local Plan, or taken into account as part of the viability testing and therefore the SPD should confirm that this requirement is an option to achieve the 10% Net Gain rather than a requirement beyond this:</p> <p>“As an option to provide 10% BNG, aAll new roofs of more than 25m2, which are flat or have a pitch of less than 25 degrees, cshould be investigated for the potential to provide a suitable type and design of living roof, unless conflicting with the rooftop provision of solar panels and roof lights.</p> <p>Living walls cshould be considered as a possible option on buildings, though especially if needed to help mitigate visual impact on otherwise unacceptably blank and/or architecturally unrelieved façades.”</p>	
<p>7.7 (Table 1. Minimum Mitigation Requirements)</p> <p>Section 7 sets out that a minimum 10% Net Gain should be provided within</p>	<p>It will be a statutory requirement for the majority of developments to provide a minimum 10% net gain in</p>

<p>developments. Landscaping will play a large part in this. Table 1 then sets out the minimum mitigation requirements for developments in Barnsley.</p> <p>What is not clear from the SPD is whether this provides a series of options to provide the 10% Net Gain, or if all are requirements that must be followed. If it is the latter then the SPD would place a series of specific requirements on schemes which is beyond the scope of the Local Plan/Environment Act, which requires a 10% Net Gain, but gives flexibility as to how this can be achieved. Considers the SPD should reflect this flexibility to provide the Net Gain on-site. Not all requirements (i.e. green roofs) may be required to meet this figure. Suggests paragraph 7.7 is amended to read:</p> <p>“7.7 The below mitigation requirements within Table 1 below should be taken into account in seeking to achieve the 10% BNG. Details regarding the minimum mitigation requirements for developments in Barnsley are detailed in Table 1 below.”</p> <p>Alternatively suggest splitting out Table 1 to show what requirements are required in addition to the 10% Net Gain, and which are options that could be utilised.</p> <p>Considers many of these minimum requirements in table 1 have no basis in their ‘parent’ policies. The NPPG is clear that SPDs should not provide new policies.</p>	<p>biodiversity. The name of the table has been changed to “mitigation requirements”.</p> <p>The size and type of the development would dictate which elements of the mitigation measures should be implemented. This is applicable for the following comments.</p>
<p>Considers the numbers of bat/bird boxes seem to be disproportionate when considering a large commercial development, for example a warehouse. Gives example calculations to illustrate point. The requirements for bat/bird boxes do not take into account the proportionality of the existing local bat/bird populations and may also lead to being used preferentially by species more likely to use boxes at the detriment to those species that do not (e.g. blue tits). Integrating bat/bird boxes into commercial structures can be problematic as proprietary bat/bird box products</p>	<p>Greater Cambridge Shared Planning SPD adopted in February 2022 includes the provision of a minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 100 sqm for suitable commercial developments. However, it is appreciated that a development of 50,000 sqm would result in a total of 500</p>

<p>are mostly made for inclusion within brickwork. Queries how they should be integrated into different types of development.</p>	<p>boxes and this may be disproportionate to the level of impact from the development. As such, the SPD has been updated to reflect this with developers to provide additional boxes per 1000sqm. Developers should include the provision of nesting/roosting boxes proportionate to the level of habitat loss and the final number can be agreed with the council's planning ecologist, where there is uncertainty. Where nesting/roosting boxes cannot be fitted to buildings, for example single skinned buildings, provision should be made on/adjacent to the development site to ensure the provision of nesting/roosting habitat within the area.</p> <p>The most recent state of nature report (2023) indicates that the abundance indicator for common breeding birds declined by 14% and the UK Wild Bird Indicator shows that within this group, farmland birds have suffered particularly strong declines of on average 58%. Therefore, it is imperative that we do our utmost to provide adequate mitigation for breeding birds within the borough through the planning process, be this through the provision of nesting boxes and the creation of high value nesting and foraging habitat.</p>
<p>Bat and Bird Boxes - 100% of all new dwellings to include integrated bat and bird boxes. In respect of birds, swift boxes are advised as these are also used by other common nesting species. On constrained sites, practical consideration should be given to prioritising boxes within optimum areas of the site.</p> <p>Hybrid/Commercial/public service infrastructure/householder/permitted development applications etc...will include integrated bat and bird boxes in keeping with the scale of</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The requirement for a specific minimum amount of bid/bat boxes will create a situation where a vastly disproportionate number of boxes are required compared to the size of the Site for large scale developments. For example, for a 78,000sqm building 780 boxes would be required. Therefore the SPD should be amended to provide flexibility and a proportionate approach. 2. The provision of integral boxes on commercial developments can be problematic in terms of building envelope/modern construction methods. <p>Considers the wording should be amended to remove the requirement for these to be integrated, or clarification should be provided that externally affixed boxes are suitable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The wording should clarify what is meant by commercial, and if this includes strategic-scale industrial development. 	

<p>4 CPV (May 2019), Local Plan Viability Testing – Update</p> <p>development, i.e. minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 100 sqm.</p> <p>Proposes the following amendments:</p> <p>“100% of all new dwellings to include integrated bat and bird boxes. In respect of birds, swift boxes are advised as these are also used by other common nesting species. On constrained sites, practical consideration should be given to prioritising boxes within optimum areas of the site.</p> <p>Hybrid/(non-strategic) Commercial/public service infrastructure/householder/permitted development applications etc...will include integrated bat and bird boxes in keeping with the scale of development, i.e. minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 100 sqm, capped at a reasonable level.”</p>	
<p>Suggests that the benefits of bee bricks is not yet fully proven, therefore prescribing them in all dwellings may be premature as some research suggests they can lead to the spread of mites, disease, and encourage non-native species, or encourage certain species at the detriment of others. While other research suggests bee bricks can be beneficial</p>	<p>Noted, based on evidence provided this requirement has been removed from the SPD. However, once more detailed research has been provided and concludes that they are beneficial they will be a requirement within residential dwellings. As an alternative invertebrate mitigation such as boxes on trees, bee banks and brash pile should be included within development proposals. SPD updated to state the following <u>Invertebrate boxes to be installed on suitable trees within development sites, alongside the provision of bee banks and brash piles.</u></p>
<p>Section 4 and appendix c Would like to see a reference to allotments and suggests they are protected from development.</p>	<p>Allotments are one of the categories of Green Space in our Green Space strategy. They are protected by Local Plan policy GS1.</p>

<p>Generally welcomes SPD and particularly pleased to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of a requirement for integrated bat boxes in 100 % of new dwellings • The requirement for a 20 m buffer either side of new watercourses • The promise of a new Criteria When Protected Species Surveys Are Required (Appendix E) – although not yet been produced 	<p>Noted. Information relating to the timing of protected species surveys is located with the updated local validation checklist, and as such will not be located within the SPD.</p>
<p>6. Biodiversity Net Gain • Good that it makes clear that BNG does not replace the mitigation hierarchy (6.2) and the consideration needed for protected species (7.8).</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>In Section 6.6 the initialism LNRS is given before being written out in full.</p>	<p>LNRS is written in full in paragraph 2.3</p>
<p>In relation to Section 6.7, apparently it is now known that the responsibility for the LNRS in South Yorkshire will fall to the SYMCA, although it is considered that the role of BMBC in relation to the SYMCA should be noted</p>	<p>Noted, and amended to <u>SYMCA were officially appointed as the responsible authority for the LNRS in July 2023. Barnsley Council, alongside City of Doncaster Council, Sheffield City Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England were listed as supporting authorities.</u></p>
<p>In Section 6.13 it is considered there should be a link provided to Barnsley BAP.</p>	<p>Noted and added. http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/introduction.html</p>
<p>Section 7.1 - It is considered the word 'minimum' should be added into the sentence 'a requirement of a minimum of 10% BNG is required'</p>	<p>Noted and added in <u>minimum.</u></p>
<p>Section 7.3 – noted that in most cases front and rear gardens will be created, rather than retained.</p>	<p>Noted and changed to <u>creation.</u></p>
<p>Suggests a reference to the Council's qualified ecologists in 8.2/8.3.</p>	<p>Noted and added in the following... <u>with the council's Planning Ecologists</u></p>
<p>8.15 suggests noting that this SPD will need to be reviewed when Govt finally publish all the BNG secondary legislation and guidance.</p>	<p>Noted. Added in the following.. <u>When the secondary legislation and guidance for BNG is made available, this SPD will be updated accordingly.</u></p>
<p>9. Further information suggests commentary text added to say what the links are</p>	<p>Noted and added information on the links.</p>
<p>Appendix A – the Dearne Valley NIA is still included but all the associated text (pgs 19-21) has been deleted.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

<p>Considered that Appendix C did include some helpful stuff which it is a shame to lose.</p>	<p>This appendix was considered to be lengthy and has been, where possible included within the main body of the SPD.</p>
<p>Appendix D/B (Page 46). This should refer in the title to the NPPF 2021 (text set out looks to be from the 2021 version though). It would be useful if this Appendix could be broadened to encompass the circular 06/2005 (which as far as I know is still extant as the 2021 NPPF still references it) and in particular paragraphs 98 and 99 and their relevance for protected species in a development context. •</p>	<p>New NPPF published December 2023, all references to be updated to reflect latest version. Reference is made to the NPPF which encompasses the Government Circular.</p>
<p>A number of new appendices (C: Additional details on Policy GI1, D: Ecological Survey Calendar and E: criteria where protected species surveys are required) are referred to that have not been included in the document. Has a particular interest in Appendix E, as there is a feeling the current requirements from BMBC for bat surveys in association with development are far too limited.</p>	<p>Removed the relevant Appendix titles.</p> <p>Additional text added to SPD <u>Details regarding the types of survey required and when to undertake them can be found within the Local Validation Checklist</u> <u>https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/26092/local-validation-requirements-20230519.pdf</u></p>
<p>Regarding s4.5: suggests checking date of Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI designation. Content with the proposed removal of appendices A, B and C. Considers proposed new Appendix D is sparse, it is at least more up to date and relevant now. Generally satisfied with the approach and proposals of the SPD update.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Natural England confirmed Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 on 4 February 2022.</p>
<p>Welcomes the scope of the SPD to provide additional detail particularly in respect to achieving a 10% biodiversity net gain by development in Barnsley and the information required to accompany planning applications.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>6.3 – Should consistently refer to the latest version of Defra’s Biodiversity Metric.</p>	<p>Where the metric is referred to within the SPD <u>statutory</u> has now been added to ensure the most recent, and statutory version of the metric will be used.</p>
<p>6.4 – Welcomes that development exempt from biodiversity net gain will still be required to provide biodiversity enhancements to meet planning policy BIO1.</p>	<p>We cannot ask for greater than 10% BNG on relevant</p>

<p>Highlights that sites which have a very low or nil biodiversity value as measured by the metric may need to provide a greater increase in biodiversity than 10% and recommend that a clear local approach for these sites, which are not exempt from BNG, which currently possess a negligible biodiversity is outlined. This could include setting a small target improvement utilising the metric via features such as rain gardens, natural SuDS, green roofs or native soft planting around the site or a specific biodiversity unit increase rather than a percentage gain (which can be difficult to quantify in these circumstances).</p>	<p>applications.</p> <p>Added in additional information on what would be required when the baseline value is zero.</p> <p><u>Where the baseline value of a site is zero the site is legally exempt from mandatory BNG. In this instance mitigation delivered as part of development proposals should be agreed with the council's planning ecologists and will be determined on a site-by-site basis. However, we would expect to see, as a minimum, features such as rain gardens, SuDs and other wildlife friendly features that will maximise the biodiversity value of a site.</u></p>
<p>6.6 – Reference that applicant must have regard to LNRS when delivering off-site biodiversity net gain is welcomed, it is noted that there is no specific guidance on how the strategic significance value in the Biodiversity Metric should be applied. The Biodiversity Metric applies a higher biodiversity unit score to habitats identified of strategic importance to that local area, further information relating to strategic significance can be found in the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide Paragraphs 5.16-5.24. Development should be encouraged to target habitat enhancement where it will have the greatest local benefit and avoid impacts where they will be particularly detrimental to local biodiversity, therefore clear guidance should be provided on the relevant local priorities which should be considered for example; future Local Nature Recovery Strategies (as already mentioned), Habitats of Principal Importance, local ecological networks, National Character Area priorities, River Basin Management Plans and Catchment Plans.</p>	<p>Current strategic areas in Barnsley comprises the Dearne Valley Green Heart NIA; when further guidance is published and there is a South Yorkshire LNRS more detail can be provided within an updated version of the SPD, on which sites are located within areas of strategic significance. The metric user guide defines strategic significance and provides guidance on which significance value to apply to a development site.</p>
<p>6.7 – The Responsible Authorities for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) have now been announced with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority the Responsible Authority for South Yorkshire, including Barnsley.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>7.6 – It is welcomed that the SPD encourages landscape features appropriate with the local context, would also welcome future local design codes or guidance for different areas/specific sites (the Dearne Valley Green Heart for example), which</p>	<p>Comment noted, will consider as part of future work on Design Codes.</p>

set out further detail on implementing biodiversity net gain and wider Green Infrastructure. Linkage to the Green Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide, which would be specifically relevant from Paragraph 6.16, and then 6.2 Biodiversity Net Gain and Green Infrastructure Standards, is encouraged.	
8.15 – Refers to a habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP) being legally secured for biodiversity gain sites which is welcomed however, it will also be a requirement for significant on-site gains to be managed and maintained for a minimum of 30 years and this will need to be secured via a planning condition, planning obligation or conservation covenant. Clarity regarding the requirement for HMMPs both on and off-site would be beneficial. In addition, as set out in Government’s response to the 2022 BNG consultation, the expectation is that suitable arrangements for ongoing management should be made for all proposed gains, including those deemed ‘not significant’, as is normal practice.	Noted and amended. A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (<u>HMMP</u>) will be secured by a legal agreement/ <u>planning condition</u> to secure <u>on/offsite gains</u> the gain site and will need to be approved prior to commencement of development works. Information required within the <u>HMMP</u> will include;
Appendix B – Refers to the National Planning Policy Framework 2018, but should refer to the fact the National Planning Policy Framework was revised on 20 July 2021.	Noted and amended to latest version of NPPF December 2023 release.
Welcomes the references to green infrastructure and the framework. Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Framework can be used to develop GI policy and we recommend that plans refer to the 15 GI principles which set out the why, what and how to do good GI. The principles in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Mapping Database - Beta Version 1.1 can be used to assist in planning GI strategically and inform policy.	Noted
(2.1) Welcomes emphasis in 2.1 for biodiversity enhancements to be seen as a way of adding value to developments and providing broader benefits for people as well as wildlife.	Noted
(3.1) 3.1 supports that it is restated that the conservation of biodiversity is imperative and given clear reasons for this in terms of habitat loss and species decline.	Noted
(4.1) The word biodiversity, is coined from biological diversity.	Noted

<p>(4.3) Although noting the change in the wording to emphasise ‘protected and notable species, many of which are rare or threatened’, many common species such as the House Sparrow and Starling have declined in numbers and are priority species — and would have been included in the previous wording. It is perhaps not clear that these too are notable species in the use made of the term here. A glossary of terms would be beneficial.</p>	<p>We would consider species such as house sparrow and starling to be notable species as they are Section 41 Species of Principal Importance (NERC Act, 2006). The following footnote has been added to denote this.</p> <p><u>Priority Species are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, Schedule; those relevant species included within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and all European Protected Species.</u></p>
<p>(4.4) It would be useful if paragraph 4.4 made clear the numbers of sites entirely or almost entirely in Barnsley and where information on the specific type of sites can be found online.</p>	<p>The SPD noted that all, or part of eight LNR’s are located within Barnsley. We felt this the most succinct way to summarise this. Paragraph 4.4. contains links to where the sites can be found on MAGIC and the local plan.</p>
<p>(6) Welcomes the helpful new section on Biodiversity Net Gain</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>(6.2) Pleased that paragraph 6.2 includes both the statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [BNG] does not replace or undermine the mitigation hierarchy for the consideration for the conservation of biodiversity within a development. • Where there are no anticipated impacts, developments should still secure a minimum 10% BNG. 	<p>Noted</p>
<p>(6.4) It would be helpful if paragraph 6.4 gave the main examples of development that are exempt from mandatory net gain. Is this paragraph meant to cover the situations where the baseline biodiversity value is negligible (zero), and a 10% net gain cannot be calculated? If so, this might be made more explicit and advice given as to Council expectations.</p>	<p>Noted and information provided on those sites exempt from BNG. Added in additional information on what would be required when the baseline value is zero.</p>
<p>(6.5) Pleased that changes in legislation allow the statement about ensuring that biodiversity net gain is assessed on the baseline biodiversity value immediately prior to any destruction or degradation of habitats that have taken place.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>(6.6) Welcomes the principle of ‘local first’ in 6.6, namely that BNG should be provided on-site or nearby in the first instance, creating functional habitats that increase connectivity for wildlife.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (6.7) Following recent announcements this section will need to be updated.	Noted and amended – refer to comment No. 13.
Nature Improvement Area (6.10) Although the NIA is still important, supports the slimmed down statement. Good practice should apply throughout Barnsley and there are areas outside the specific NIA where opportunities for nature recovery exist.	Noted
Nature Based Solutions (6.22) Whilst the section on Nature Based Solutions is a useful addition, there may be developments where this is not possible. Should this be a requirement or an expectation where possible/appropriate. It would be useful if some examples could be given including onsite issues that nature can provide the solution to.	Nature based solutions will be dealt with on a site-by-site basis.
7. Integrating Biodiversity into Developments in Barnsley This is a very useful section.	Noted
(7.3) appears to add a further element to the mitigation hierarchy: <i>avoid, mitigate, compensate, offset</i> . Elsewhere in the document <i>management</i> is added to the mitigation hierarchy. Clearly achieving BNG is also a step to be taken once the actions to achieve the requirements of the mitigation hierarchy are completed. Management should be a requirement for mitigation and compensation as well as BNG. Offset or off-site compensation or for BNG is discussed elsewhere and does not fit with the other content of 7.3 (-7.7).	Noted
(7.7) Table of minimum mitigation requirements Supports the principle of having robust and ambitious requirements in this table which seems to reflect not just mitigation but also possible compensation and net gain actions.	Noted
(7.8) Supports the statement BNG does not alter the protection afforded to protected/notable species and habitats The use of the term notable needs clarification either in this paragraph or in a glossary. Similarly, it would be useful to explain further what is meant by the key ecological features of the site and the fact that BNG does not substitute for attention being paid to the functions of the key ecological features.	Footnote added to define what is considered notable. The key ecological features of a site are determined on a site-by-site basis. For example a site may comprise a variety of habitats and species (woodland, GCN, bats etc..) and those features may all be classed as a key ecological feature. However, a smaller, more urban site may have a small areas of individual young trees adjacent to modified grassland; within the context of that site the

	key features would comprise the scattered young trees, however, on a larger more complex site this may not be the case.
<p>8. Information Required to Support an Application</p> <p>(8.1) It would be useful to give a stronger statement in 8.1 on the applications that would not be supported (in line with the NPPF). For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland or veteran trees) would result from development • development on land within or outside a SSSI and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it Local Wildlife Sites • if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for 	This is covered under paragraph 180 within the NPPF.
(8.5) It would be useful if information on the locations of specific type of sites can be found online. In addition it would be very useful for developers and their consultants for a map to be produced for the BMBC website, which can be updated, showing both statutory and locally designated sites, and distinguishing between the different types. The Local Plan map does not do this.	Noted
It would be useful to cover the implications of potential impacts on a locally designated site such as a Local Wildlife Site and how this should be assessed and dealt with.	This is covered within policy BIO1 in that development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature or habitat, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured
(8.14) Queries whether Local Validation Requirements need further updating in relation to this SPD and BNG.	The local validation requirements have been updated and undergone public consultation and link added to SPD.
(8.15) Supports the requirement for reports in years one, three, five, ten and every five year thereafter.	Noted
(8.23 to 8.34) Supports the deletion under the heading Nature Improvement Area, of paragraphs 8.23 to 8.34, and the associated appendices. The content is dealt with adequately elsewhere and the good practice identified should apply across the borough and not just in the NIA.	Noted

(9) The further Information links would be helped by some subheadings and titles.	Noted and updated to include titles of each document/website
Appendix B The references are to NPPF 2021 not 2018. It would be useful to include the subheadings used in the NPPF	Noted and amended.
Only one subheading is included in the contents page. If a glossary is included the page references to the terms used in the subheadings could be included there.	Noted
<p>6.5 Degradation and/or destruction of habitats</p> <p>Paragraph 6.5 sets out that where degradation and/or destruction of habitats is undertaken prior to a baseline survey being completed, the pre-development biodiversity value of a site should be taken to be its baseline biodiversity valued immediately prior to the destruction/degradation of habitats; this is applicable to any works undertaken on or after the 30th January 2020.</p> <p>Prior to land coming forward for development, it needs to be managed and maintained. This can be done outside of the planning system. We consider that Paragraph 6.5 needs to take this into account and should be amended to read:</p> <p>“6.5 As per Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021, where deliberate degradation and/or destruction of habitats is undertaken prior to a baseline survey being completed, the predevelopment biodiversity value of a site should be taken to be its baseline biodiversity value immediately prior to the destruction/degradation of habitats; this is applicable to any works undertaken on or after the 30th January 2020.</p> <p>2 Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 61-008-20190315</p> <p>3 Recent appeal APP/K3605/W/22/3309746 is clear that a SPD is guidance rather than policy.</p>	<p>The wording in the SPD is in line with that described within the Environment Act. The Act is clear in that where destruction/degradation of habitats has been undertaken on or after the 30th January 2020, then the pre development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat is to be taken to be its biodiversity value immediately before the carrying on of the activities.</p>

<p>This would exclude any normal management/maintenance of the habitat as part of ongoing management regime. Any impact of habitat as a result of a separate planning permission (or different consenting regime) should also be discounted”.</p> <p>Considers that as currently written this paragraph is ambiguous. This updated wording would ensure that any ongoing management/maintenance of land is not penalised as part of the metric calculations. It would also ensure that works consented under a different planning permission/regime will be discounted from any assessment to ensure there is no double counting.</p>	
<p>Water Framework Directive (WFD) Consulted on an earlier version in 2019 and provided this comment: <i>“There is no mention of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in this document. Developments adjacent to waterbodies may need to complete a WFD assessment in order to determine impacts to the waterbody and suitable mitigation. Mitigation and net gain associated with these developments will need to be in line with the Humber River Basin Management Plan and mitigation measures associated with individual waterbodies.”</i></p> <p>No reference to WFD in this version of the SPD. Needs to refer to the legislative title, which is The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>Given Section 5 (legislation, policies & strategies) makes reference to the relevant local planning policies, also recommends that Section 5 is updated to include Policy CC5 (Water Resource Management) – as this is the local planning policy that makes reference to the WFD (both in the Policy CC5 wording & the supporting text):</p>	<p>Comment noted. Suggested text to be added.</p>
<p>Supports the inclusion of Section 6 (Biodiversity Net Gain) in this SPD. Paragraph 6.3 highlights that the metric needs to be completed by a suitably qualified & experienced ecologist. Agrees and recommends that that this paragraph is updated to highlight that the river condition assessment (which includes undertaking a site survey using the MoRPh survey methodology) requires assessors to be trained and accredited. E.g. <i>Where watercourse habitat falls within a development site, it must be assessed within the watercourse module of the</i></p>	<p>Noted. BNG is a statutory requirement, and as such developers are required to manage created and/or enhanced habitats for a minimum of 30 years. This is explicit within the statutory guidance.</p>

biodiversity metric. River condition is assessed using the River Condition Assessment (MoRPh survey methodology) and this requires a suitably qualified person who is trained and accredited in undertaking surveys in line with the MoRPh survey methodology.

Recommends updating the wording in paragraph 6.6 to be stronger – i.e.

- the created/enhanced habitats should **must** be secured for at least 30 years via planning obligations or conservation covenants; &
- **oAs a last resort option, and only** where a minimum 10% BNG cannot be secured via on or off-site options, developers can secure the required biodiversity losses **net gains** through the emerging statutory biodiversity credit scheme.

Paragraph 6.6 highlights that prior to the release of the statutory credit scheme anticipated in November 2023, developers being able to pay the council a BNG contribution per biodiversity unit.

Suggests prices per unit is included in in the SPD. Recommends that any price the council sets for biodiversity units should differ depending on the broad habitat type / habitat distinctiveness in question. For example, watercourse habitat (watercourse units) are assessed and reported separately within the biodiversity metric.

Therefore, it would not be appropriate to apply the unit cost pricing strategy for another broad habitat type (unit) to watercourse habitat. It is recognised that the cost of delivering *watercourse units* are likely to outweigh the costs of delivering other habitat (unit) types, such as terrestrial area-based *habitat units*.

Recommends adding a paragraph to make explicit reference to situations where developers will need to apply the watercourse module of the biodiversity metric in scenarios where watercourse habitat falls within or immediately adjacent to a proposed development site's red line boundary – e.g. *The riparian zone is an intrinsic part of the ecological functioning and natural processes occurring in the river. Where the red line boundary of the development encompasses the riparian zone of a watercourse, either whole or in part, but excludes the channel of the watercourse, the watercourse module of the biodiversity metric must be applied. i.e. If the site boundary crosses into the riparian zone, adjacent lengths of the watercourse must be included within the metric assessment.*

Recommends that this section includes a paragraph to flag the importance of assessing each of the three broad habitat types (types of biodiversity unit)

The council currently charges £25k per unit, however reference to this sum within the SPD will not be relevant once BNG becomes mandatory.

All applications that fall within 10 m of a relevant watercourse will require assessment using the rivers metric/MoRPh survey by an accredited surveyor. As per the guidance, the following text has been added to the SPD.

the rivers section of the metric must also be completed by a qualified MoRPh surveyor.

<p>separately within the metric. The three types of biodiversity units generated by the metric (area, hedgerow & watercourse) cannot be summed, traded or converted between modules – i.e. a minimum 10% BNG must be achieved separately for each of the three types of habitat present on a development site. For sites that include a watercourse (including the watercourse’s riparian zone), the BNG assessment must include the watercourse module of the metric and the development must deliver at least 10% BNG for this habitat type.</p>	
<p>Supports the inclusion of the text referring to LNRS, specifically that LNRS will map areas where there is an opportunity to improve habitat connectivity and functionality and the local environment to guide BNG. Recommends that the document outlines the other policies, plans and strategies that should be used to determine strategic significance (i.e. steer BNG delivery). Refers to text in the biodiversity metric guidance and recommends that this SPD highlights the relevance of these alternative plans, particularly River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), catchment plans and actions outlined in catchment planning systems.</p>	Noted..
<p>Paragraph 7.7 - Table 1</p> <p>Watercourses – support for inclusion of a 20m wide buffer either side of watercourses. Seeks clarity on if this buffer zone will be free from development, and queries where will the buffer zone be measured from. Considers this should be from the top of the riverbank.</p>	Noted
<p>Table 1 – Regarding the proposed 20 m buffer on either sides of a watercourse, consider this might benefit from more wording around appropriate use of this buffer (i.e. 15m must comprise riparian habitat/exclude footpaths/cycleways etc.). Tying into the ‘Bats and Lighting’ section there is also a specific issue around the lighting of bridging points over rivers, that might merit mention in this section. We would also note that in relation to bats and lighting there should be a reference to the latest BCT/ILP bats and lighting guidance.</p>	<p>Reference to the updated bats and lighting guidance note has been included within the relevant section of the SDP and a footnote to the reference added.</p> <p><u>Developers should refer to the most up to date bats and lighting guidance² to ensure impacts to bats are kept to minimal levels.</u></p>
<p>Watercourses - 20 m wide buffer either side of watercourses in the borough. Seeks clarification. For example, it needs to be clear if any infrastructure/access roads are permitted within the buffer zone. It stands to reason that they must be so as not to sterilise areas of land which may</p>	<p>Developers should adhere to best practice when development occurs close to other watercourses in the</p>

<p>be otherwise developable.</p> <p>Seeks confirmation of what is meant by a 'watercourse' needs to be confirmed. For example, considers that drainage ditches should not be included, and this should be confirmed.</p> <p>The BNG metric distinguishes between Priority Habitats; Other Rivers and Streams; Ditches; Canals; and Culverts. Also, the River Condition Assessment used to inform BNG calculations considers 10m from the bank top of a watercourse to be the "riparian zone". Therefore considers the zone should be reduced.</p> <p>The rationale behind the 20m buffer should be provided. It is perfectly feasible that a scheme can be delivered which meets with the requirements of policy/guidance with a smaller/no buffer. Considers that flexibility should be included within the wording here. Suggests the following wording: "Seek to provide a 120 m wide buffer either side of natural watercourses in the borough unless justified otherwise."</p>	<p>borough, and negative impacts to other watercourses should be avoided where possible. SPD changed to... <u>Development proposals should include a 10 m</u> buffer from the bank tops of <u>main</u> watercourses (<u>Rivers Dove, Don and Dearne</u>), excluding footpaths, cycleways, roads etc... <u>taking into account the riparian zone. Developers should apply caution when working within 10m of all other watercourses and scheme design should follow good ecological practice and the mitigation hierarchy.</u></p>
<p>Section 7 row regarding "watercourses" would like clarity on whether this is a main river, or any flowing water. Considers a 40m buffer with a tiny drain would seem disproportionate. On smaller development sites this buffer may be restrictive or may prevent any development. Queries evidence for distance. Environment Agency works requiring a permit are usually 10m from a main river. Provides examples of other Council's policies (e.g. Buckinghamshire https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/watercourse-advice-note-aylesbury-vale-area/4-good-design/) which use a 10m buffer, this is double the distance.</p>	
<p>Table 1 – Welcomes the wording around prioritising optimal areas for bird and bat boxes</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Bats – would like to see a specific mention of the importance of river corridors as key linear foraging and commuting habitat here, e.g. Sensitive lighting schemes to</p>	<p>Noted and added to the table.</p>

<p>be developed where additional lighting from the development will impact habitats such as woodland edges, hedgerows, waterways and wetlands.</p>	
<p>Paragraph 8.12 – The Metric should be applied at the site selection stage, i.e. even before outline design.</p>	<p>Paragraph 7.1 states the following <u>Considering biodiversity and geodiversity at project inception stage and ensuring proposals are supported with appropriate evidence, where relevant, is necessary and will help enable efficient and effective decision-making and help to achieve a minimum 10% BNG. The LPA will not support applications that would damage the NRN, or developments that do not provide a minimum 10% BNG.</u></p>

SPD ‘Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD’

Consultation with the Youth Council on proposed changes to SPD ,

Youth Council 17/7/23

Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

Notes

Attendees: Ella Farrell; Paula Tweed; 2 Youth Voice Participation Coordinators; 7 Youth Council representatives

Ella talked through the slides on the 3 SPD’s currently out to consultation:

Financial Contribution to Educational Provision; Biodiversity and Geodiversity and House Extensions and other domestic alterations.

Questions and discussion

- What is an annex? Ella explained that an annex is a building that provides additional living space. It can be joined to or associated with the main building. An annex does not have all the elements to make it a separate self contained dwelling.
- Query re. 45% rule and whether it is measured from upper floor windows, Ella answered it could be but usually measured from ground floor window
- Query re. how BNG is monitored over 30 years. Our current understanding is that it is responsibility of the developer to provide monitoring reports to the local authority periodically. Question regarding enforcement. The enforcement team wouldn’t be responsible for monitoring but may be involved to take enforcement action if the site is not retained for biodiversity purposes. PT explained that the 10% BNG is new and we are still working out how it will be monitored and hoping for further Government guidance on detail.
- Are hard copies available of the SPD’s? There are reference copies in the libraries. Agreed to provide 3 copies of each SPD for the Youth Voice Participation workers to take out with them. **Action** Ella to organise copies.

1. About This Guidance.....	2
2. Introduction	2
3. Local Priorities.....	3
4. Biodiversity and Geodiversity in Barnsley	3
5. Legislation, Policy and Strategies	5
6. Integrating Biodiversity into Developments in Barnsley	13
7. Guidance Information Required to Support an Application	15
8. Further information	22
Appendix A. Appendix A - Detailed map of Dearne Valley Green Heart 'Nature Improvement Area'	25
Appendix B. Priority Species for Dearne Valley Green Heart 'Nature Improvement Area'	26
Appendix C. Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in new development	27
Appendix D. Appendix B National Planning Policy Framework 2023 Sections of relevance to biodiversity and geodiversity	47

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

1. About This Guidance

- 1.1** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) indicates that Local Development Documents form the framework for making decisions on applications for planning permission. Decisions have to be taken in accordance with the development plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise. **The** NPPF advises that a local planning authority may prepare Supplementary Planning Documents to provide greater detail on the policies in its Local Plan. Supplementary Planning Documents are a 'material' consideration when planning applications are decided.
- 1.2** As required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 we have prepared a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how we will involve the community in preparing our Local Plan and consulting on planning applications. In accordance with the SCI we have involved people who may be interested in this Supplementary Planning Document (**SPD**) and asked them for their comments. We have produced a consultation statement which summarises all the comments people made to us and our response. This is available on request.

2. Introduction

- 2.1** This Supplementary Planning Document **SPD** offers guidance to anyone seeking to develop land which may have, or is in proximity to a site that has, value for biodiversity and/or geological conservation. Paragraph 4.3 in the guidance section gives advice on how this is established. sets out the council's approach to planning decisions in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity and is designed to be used by those considering and applying for planning permission in the borough, to ensure biodiversity and geodiversity is adequately protected through the planning process. This document provides practical advice and guidance on how to deliver proposals that comply with the NPPF and the Local Plan, adopted in 2019. Information and links to technical guidance is also included. We believe that biodiversity and geodiversity should not be seen as a hindrance to development, rather as a way of adding value to well-conceived design proposals. When considered at early design stage, biodiversity enhancements can be achieved, providing net gains for habitats, alongside additional benefits such as increasing habitat availability for species, natural flood management, carbon sequestration and broader benefits for people provided by access to natural green spaces, including increased mental health which was observed widely during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.2** This SPD also provides developers with a list of useful links and contacts where further information can be found. The Council is not responsible for the accuracy of and updates to any of the information provided in the external links, they are provided as supporting technical material.
- 2.3** This SPD provides additional details on how local policies will be implemented while also building on relevant legislation, national policy, central government advice, and the British Standard BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development. Available information regarding the Environment Act 2021 has also been referenced; the Act includes provisions to strengthen and improve the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including mandating Biodiversity Net Gain

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

(BNG) through the planning system and the requirement for the preparation and publication of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

3. Local Priorities

- 3.1 The conservation of Biodiversity is imperative, we are seeing extinction events on local, regional, national and international scales. Habitat loss and species decline is a real threat, with habitats and species once considered common in the borough now facing increasing pressures from development, climate change and many other factors. To address this the council declared a climate emergency in 2019 with the aim of reducing carbon emissions; increasing the biodiversity of the borough can help achieve this through the planting of trees and the creation of sustainable landscapes that provide multiple benefits to help address the climate crisis and conserve the boroughs biodiversity.
- 3.2 Our Council Plan highlights the key points that are required for Barnsley to become a more sustainable place and to achieve our Net Zero Targets by 2045, these include;
- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community;
 - Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy; and
 - Fossil fuels are being replaced by affordable and sustainable energy and people are able to enjoy more cycling and walking.
- 3.3 For developments to result in the best outcome for biodiversity, planning has a key role to play, with a key objective being the protection and enhancement of biodiversity throughout the development management process.

4. Biodiversity and Geodiversity in Barnsley

- 4.1 Biodiversity coined “biological geediversity” is the variety of life on earth, from ~~complex ecosystems, through individual species of plants, animals, fungi and bacteria etc. to the genetic differences within a species.~~ to large ecosystems; the concept is broad and complex. Biodiversity is important for its own sake, and human survival depends upon it. ~~The ground-breaking UK National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) published in June 2011 provides a comprehensive account of how the natural world, including its biodiversity, provides us with services that are critical to our wellbeing and economic prosperity. The State of Nature figures 2016 states that between 1970 and 2013, 56% of species declined, with 40% showing strong or moderate declines.~~
- 4.2 The most recent State of Nature Report published in 2019, reported that in the UK more species have seen their populations decrease than increase; the report details a 41% decrease in species abundance since 1970, with the main issues being;
- Agricultural intensification;
 - An increase in average UK temperatures;
 - Negative impacts from pollution; and
 - Loss of habitats to meet the increasing needs of our population.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 4.3** Geodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of ancient rock, fossils, minerals, earth structures, sediments, soils and more recent landforms (depositional and erosional features) that create the foundations of physical landscapes and habitats. The recognition, management, and conservation of significant **geological** sites is important as it contributes to **towards the** understanding and maintaining **of** the natural environment, to scientific research and to teaching an understanding of the earth, as well as to leisure activities and the enhancement of green spaces. The industrial heritage of the area **borough** and building construction are closely linked to the geological resources of the area, particularly coal, clay, ironstone, sandstone and roofing flags. It is essential that **geological** conservation factors are taken into account in the planning process, the opportunities for educational, scientific and recreational advance are appreciated and realised and that significant features of geological interest are conserved.
- 4.4** The richness of the biodiversity of Barnsley's **biodiversity** owes its existence to the borough's varied geology giving rise to a range of landscapes – from the open moors in the west, to the lowlands of the Dearne in the east; each landscape, be it moorland, woodland, grassland, wetlands, parks and gardens or neglected former industrial **land sites**, supports its own habitats and species which contribute to local distinctiveness and character. Some of these habitats are recognised as being of national and even international importance, while other areas are recognised as important at a local level. They support a countless numbers of **protected and notable**¹ wild species, many of which are noted as being rare or threatened in the UK.
- 4.5** Barnsley borough has, at the time of writing, **two** 2 Internationally-designated statutory nature conservation sites ('Natura 2000' sites) which are to the west, in the Peak District National Park Local Planning Authority (LPA) area. The Barnsley LPA area contains the following nationally-important statutory **designated nature conservation** sites: all or part of 7 **seven** Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), **all or part of eight** 5 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and one Nature Improvement Area (NIA). The SSSIs list includes sites designated for their biodiversity or (separately) geodiversity value. Non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) and Local Geology Sites/ Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (LGSs/ RIGS) have been designated in the borough for their local ecological or geological value respectively; **at the time of writing there are 54 63 LWS and 31 RIGS within the borough** Up to date lists/**plans** of statutory and non-statutory sites can be found at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx> <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>; <http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/> and <http://www.sagt.org.uk/> <https://www.sagt.org.uk/> and on Barnsley's Local Plan **interactive mapping tool** <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/planning-and-buildings/local-planning-and-development/our-local-plan/barnsleys-local-plan/>.
- 4.6** **Of significant note within the Borough is the recently designated (February/January 2022) Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI. The site comprises 22 compartments scattered throughout the east of the borough. The SSSI is an area of post-industrial urban fringe**

¹ Priority Species are those included within the list prepared under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, Schedule; those listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and all European Protected Species.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

comprising large areas of wetland, woodland, scrub and other notable habitats located within the Dearne catchment. Its notifiable features include the following;

- Several species of breeding bird including gadwall, shoveler garganey, pochard, bittern, black-headed gull and willow tit;
- Non-breeding gadwall and shoveler; and
- A diverse assemblage of breeding birds of lowland damp grasslands and scrub and a mixed assemblage of lowland open waters and their margins including lowland fen.

4.7 The rocks underlying Barnsley borough are Upper Carboniferous in age, and ~~are mainly~~ comprise mudstones, siltstones and sandstones with coal seams, some of which are/were of major importance. There are also beds of ironstone and roofing flags. In the west of the borough, by Dunford Bridge, ~~are the~~ "Millstone Grit" sandstone outcrops of the Pennines are present. These rocks support expanses of peat and acid heathland habitats. The more resistant sandstones form hills and edges, which run roughly northeast – southwest and influence the shape of river catchments as well as the flow of groundwaters and geochemistry of the river ecosystems.

4.8 Many of Barnsley's older settlements are located on the slightly higher ground of the "Coal Measures" sandstones, above the less-well drained areas underlain by mudstone. Extractive industries still provide some employment in quarrying stone and pot clay, and many of the older buildings in Barnsley include local sandstones. Some of these sites have become a significant source of raw materials, including stone for appropriate building conservation within the region, enabling a distinctive sense of place and authenticity to be maintained.

5. Legislation, Policy and Strategies

5.1 ~~The NPPF lists in its sections 170, 171, and Nos. 174-177 issues of particular relevance to biodiversity and geological conservation. These are detailed in Appendix D.~~ There is a variety of legislation and policy provisions to ensure protection of the natural environment, these range from international to local level. This document supplements the following Local Plan policies:

Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by:

- Protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance, ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance identified via Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (for list of the species and habitats of principal importance) and in the Barnsley *Biodiversity Action Plan*;
- Maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments;

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the boroughs natural assets such as the river corridors of the Don, the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors;
- Proposals will be expected to have followed the national mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate) which is used to evaluate the impacts of a development on biodiversity interest;
- Protecting ancient and veteran trees where identified;
- Encouraging provision of biodiversity enhancements.

Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature or habitat, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured;

Development which adversely affects a European Site will not be permitted unless there is no alternative option and imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).

Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure

We will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure assets that:

- Provides attractive environments where people want to live, work, learn, play, visit and invest;
- Meets the environmental, social and economic needs of communities across the borough and the wider City Regions;
- Enhances the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors;
- Helps to meet the challenge of climate change;
- Enhances biodiversity and landscape character;
- Improves opportunities for recreation and tourism;
- Respects local distinctiveness and historical and cultural;
- Maximises potential economic and social benefits;
- Secures and improves linkages between green and blue spaces.

At a strategic level Barnsley's Green Infrastructure network includes the following corridors which are shown on the Green Infrastructure Diagram (see below):

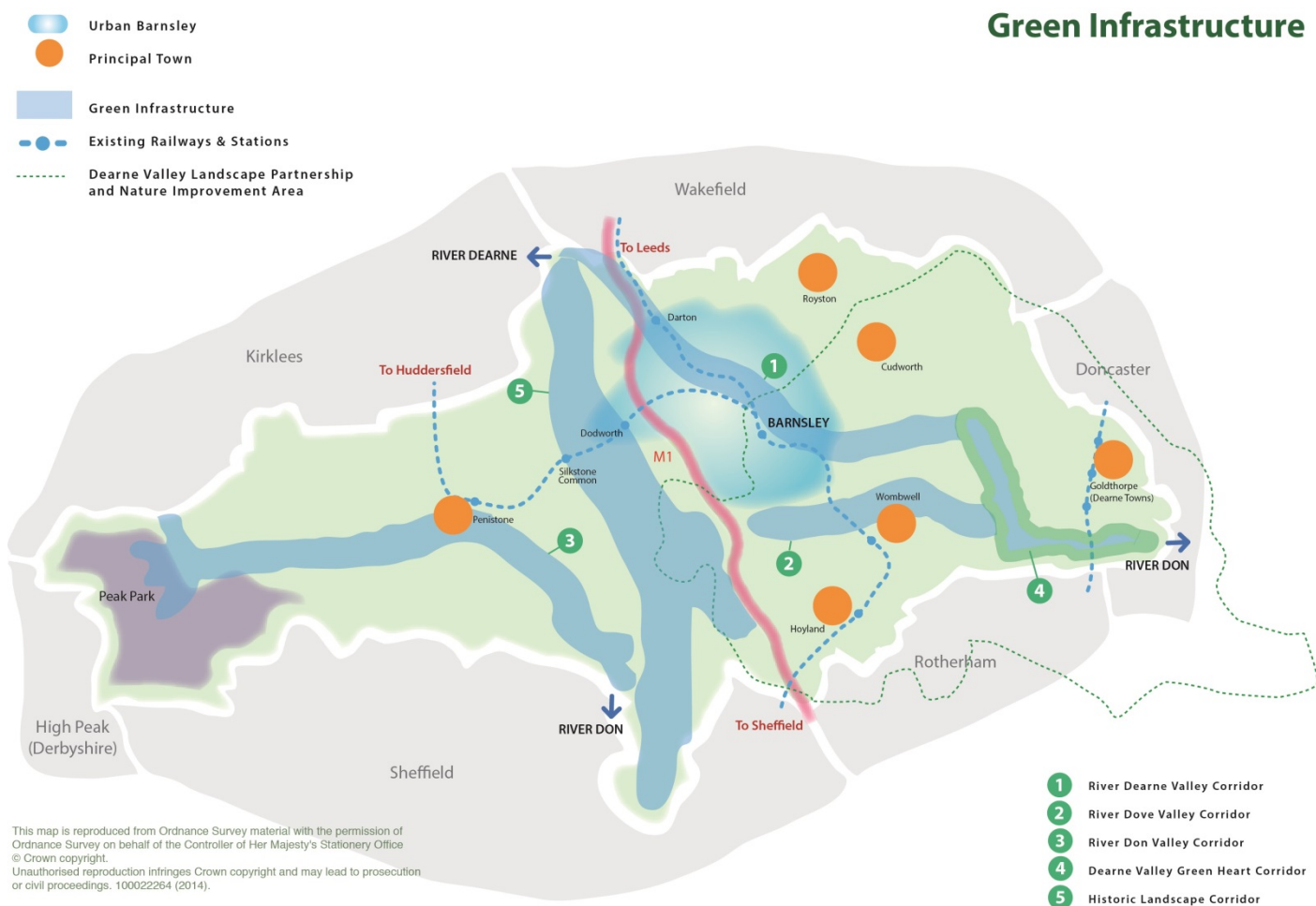
- River Dearne Valley Corridor;
- River Dove Valley Corridor;

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- River Don Valley Corridor;
- Dearne Valley Green Heart Corridor;
- Historic Landscape Corridor .

The network of Green Infrastructure will be secured by protecting open space, creating new open spaces as part of new development, and by using developer contributions to create and improve Green Infrastructure

We have produced a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Barnsley which is informed by the Leeds City Region and South Yorkshire Green Infrastructure Strategies.



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Policy GS1 Green Space

We will work with partners to improve existing green space to meet the standards in our Green Space Strategy.

Green Spaces are green open areas which are valuable for amenity, recreation, wildlife or biodiversity and include types such as village greens, local open spaces, country parks, formal gardens, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, recreation grounds, sports pitches and parks.

Proposals that result in the loss of green space, or land that was last used as green space, will not normally be allowed unless:

- An assessment shows that there is too much of that particular type of green space in the area which it serves and its loss would not affect the existing and potential green space needs of the borough; or
- The proposal is for small scale facilities needed to support or improve the proper function of the green space; or
- An appropriate replacement green space of equivalent or improved quality, quantity and accessibility is provided which would outweigh the loss.

In order to improve the quantity, quality and value of green space provision we will require qualifying new residential developments to provide or contribute towards green space in line with the standards set out in the Green Space Strategy and in accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure and Planning Obligations Policy. The Supplementary Planning Document 'Open Space Provision on New Housing Developments' offers guidance to developers on what will be expected in terms of open space provision in order to achieve those standards.

Where there is a requirement to provide new green space an assessment will be carried out to determine the most appropriate provision, taking into account site characteristics and constraints. In cases where it is deemed unsuitable to make provision for open space within or adjacent to a development site, suitable off-site open space facilities may be acceptable either as new facilities or improvements to those existing. Where appropriate new green space should secure access to adjacent areas of countryside.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 5.2** BNG is an approach to development and/or land management that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. The Environment Act 2021 mandated a minimum measurable BNG for all developments covered by the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA), which requires the biodiversity value of a development to exceed the predevelopment biodiversity value of a site by a minimum of 10%.
- 5.3** BNG does not replace or undermine the mitigation hierarchy as the primary principle for the consideration of biodiversity within a development. BNG is additional to the mitigation hierarchy and only applies once impacts to biodiversity have been avoided.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

mitigated and compensated for. Where there are no anticipated impacts, developments should still secure a minimum 10% BNG.

- 5.4** Biodiversity value is measured using a metric produced by DEFRA and the baseline value is calculated from the condition of the site before any intervention has occurred. The **statutory** metric should be completed by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist; **the rivers section of the metric must also be completed by a qualified MoRPh surveyor**. Submission of biodiversity gain information (in the form of a BNG Statement) should be provided with relevant applications alongside a copy of the most recent version of the **statutory** metric. A Biodiversity Gain Plan will be required for submission and approval prior to the commencement of development. A template in which to include biodiversity gain information and the biodiversity gain plan is expected to be provided alongside secondary legislation; **reference should also be made to the associated biodiversity metric guidance produced by Natural England when completing the Defra metric and associated documents**. **When submitting documents for planning all section of the metric must be completed, where applicable, including the start page.**
- 5.5** Development that is exempt from mandatory net gain will still be required to provide biodiversity enhancements to meet planning policy BIO1. **Developments that are exempt comprise the following:**
- **Development impacting habitat of an area below a 'de minimis' threshold of 25 metres squared, or 5m for linear habitats such as hedgerows and watercourses [NOTE Defra have confirmed (9 August 2023) that this is 25 squared metres (5m x 5m = 25 sqm)];**
 - **Householder applications;**
 - **Biodiversity gain sites (where habitats are being enhanced for wildlife); and**
 - **Small scale self-build and custom housebuilding.**
- 5.6** Where the baseline value of a site is zero, the site is legally exempt from mandatory BNG. In this instance mitigation delivered as part of development proposals should be agreed with the council's planning ecologists and will be determined on a site-by-site basis. However, we would expect to see, as a minimum, features such as rain gardens, SuDs and other wildlife friendly features that will maximise the biodiversity value of a site.
- 5.7** As per Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021, where degradation and/or destruction of habitats is undertaken prior to a baseline survey being completed, the pre-development biodiversity value of a site should be taken to be its baseline biodiversity value immediately prior to the destruction/degradation of habitats; this is applicable to any works undertaken on or after the 30th January 2020.
- 5.8** BNG should be provided on-site in the first instance to create functional habitats that increase connectivity for wildlife. Where BNG cannot be achieved on site, off-site options can be sought. However, off-site locations must take regard of the emerging LNRS and should be located in strategic areas, where possible; the created/enhanced habitats **must** should be secured for at least 30 years via planning obligations or conservation covenants. Where a minimum 10% BNG cannot be secured via on or off-site options, developers can secure the required biodiversity losses through the

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

emerging statutory biodiversity credit scheme. Prior to the release of the statutory credit scheme, anticipated January November-2023, developers can pay the council a BNG Contribution per Biodiversity Unit.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- 5.9** The council is working with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), the other South Yorkshire Local Planning Authorities and partners to develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Nature Recovery Network (NRN). SYMCA were officially appointed as the Responsible Authority for the LNRS in July 2023. Barnsley Council, alongside City of Doncaster Council, Sheffield City Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority and Natural England were listed as Supporting Authorities. The need for a LNRS is a statutory requirement of the Environment Act 2021. LNRS are to be produced by a responsible authority appointed by the Government. Until secondary legislation and guidance is received it is not known at the time of writing who will be the responsible authority for South Yorkshire. The LNRS strategy will map areas where there is an opportunity to improve habitat connectivity and functionality and the local environment to guide BNG and other policies to ensure the best outcomes for biodiversity.
- 5.10** In collaboration with the four South Yorkshire Local Authorities and three additional partners, SYMCA commissioned a detailed mapping evidence base of the region's natural environment. The report details the benefits that the natural environment provides and opportunities to enhance them. The evidence within the report will be used to inform the LNRS. The maps are derived from multiple datasets and are modelled estimates of natural environment characteristics. As such, the data are not intended to provide an exact or full account of natural environment characteristics for each land parcel, but instead to guide policy and project development decisions. At the time of writing, full details regarding the Natural Capital Assessment are not publicly available. The Natural Capital Report can be found at https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/Explore_Green-Campaign

Nature Improvement Area

- 5.11** The Local Plan also refers to the Dearne Valley Green Heart 'Nature Improvement Area' (NIA), which includes covers parts of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. boroughs. NIAs are large, discrete areas that will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. NIAs were established to help address ecological restoration as part of series of actions at a landscape-scale to improve biodiversity, ecosystems and our connections with the natural environment identified by the Natural Environment White Paper (2011) and taking forward recommendations identified in the Lawton Review *Making Space for Nature* (2010). The Dearne Valley Green Heart has been designated as an NIA; and its extent within Barnsley's boundary can be seen in the map in figure 17.1 from the Local Plan (reproduced above, with a more detailed map plan in Appendix A).
- 5.12** The Dearne Valley supports nationally important assemblages of breeding birds of lowland damp grassland, lowland open water and their margins and scrub plus nationally important numbers of some individual species of breeding water birds. The

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Dearne Valley has the ambition to become an new type of urban area for living, working and relaxing, in which environmental quality, biodiversity and contact with nature underpin the choices people make to move to and invest in the area and create a sustainable future. ~~there~~. The River Dearne ~~provides~~ is a key asset to in the valley and the surrounding communities, with its wetlands, washlands and marshlands providing a haven for wildlife. The valley has many publicly-accessible woodlands with networks of footpaths, cycle and bridle trails. Over recent years reclaimed colliery sites have been restored to create community green spaces and the valley is a model for large-scale environmental regeneration. Economic regeneration and prosperity are key to addressing social deprivation arising from the area's industrial past.

- 5.13** The vision of the NIA partnership is to restore and enhance the ecological networks in the valley. At its core will be areas of reedbeds, fen, wet grassland, wet woodland and woodland buffered by areas of farmland, amenity grasslands, parklands and reclaimed industrial areas whose biodiversity value will be enhanced. 'Stepping stone' sites exist along the river corridor where habitat should be enhanced and specific measures put in place for key species. such as eels, otters and water voles. The NIA area will support an even richer diversity of wildlife, including nationally-important numbers of wintering waterbirds and breeding farmland birds.

Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan

- 5.14** The Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is produced by Barnsley Biodiversity Trust and is reviewed periodically (<http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/introduction.html>). The BAP lists the key species and habitats targeted for specific conservation action in the borough. The list draws from nationally-approved BAP targets but also includes ~~certain~~ species and habitats which the Trusts' partners ~~feel~~ consider to be locally important too. The BAP ~~indicates~~ details conservation actions which should be ~~taken~~ implemented to help protect the key species and habitats and/or allow them to recover. Barnsley Council has adopted the BAP as part of the evidence-base supporting Local Plan decisions.
- 5.15** The presence of local priority habitats and species identified in the BAP is a material consideration in planning decisions.
- 5.16** Barnsley does not ~~as yet~~ currently have a Geodiversity Action Plan (GAP), ~~however~~. Sheffield Area Geology Trust have been commissioned to produced one for Barnsley. Until a GAP is published the relevant guidance is available in the West Yorkshire Geological Geodiversity Action Plan: A consultative Document, March 2008 published by the West Yorkshire Geological Trust (<http://www.wyorksgeologytrust.org/misc/Draft%20WYGAP.pdf>). A geological Geodiversity action plan for Rotherham is at present being written (see <http://www.sagt.org.uk>). Doncaster was adopted in June 2008 and can be found at <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/the-geodiversity-action-plan>

Green Infrastructure

- 5.17** Green Infrastructure is a combination of natural environmental assets, the functionality of which shapes the places we live, work, play and enjoy. Those assets include:

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Green or open spaces that can link together to create an informal but planned network across the Borough and beyond;
- Parks, gardens, woodland, wildlife sites, watercourses, street trees and the open countryside; and
- Spaces that can perform a number of different functions, such as formal and informal recreation, nature conservation, food production, enhanced settings for development, routes for cycleways/walkways, areas for flood risk management and education resources.

5.18 Together, these assets form an environmental system, the performance of which will increasingly determine how successful our cities, towns and villages will be in the future.

5.19 At a strategic level Barnsley's Green Infrastructure network includes the following corridors:

- River Dearne Valley Corridor;
- River Dove Valley Corridor;
- River Don Valley Corridor;
- Dearne Valley Green Heart Corridor; and
- Historic Landscape Corridor.

5.20 The recently released Green Infrastructure Framework by Natural England has been created with the aim of increasing the amount of green cover in urban areas, up to 40%. Good quality Green Infrastructure has an important role to play in urban and rural environments for improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline.

5.21 The Green Infrastructure Framework is a commitment in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. It supports the greening of towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscape as part of the NRN. Networks of green and blue spaces and other natural features can bring big benefits for nature, climate, health and prosperity.

5.22 Policy GI1 of the Local Plan states that we will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure in Barnsley.

Nature Based Solutions

5.23 Development should incorporate nature-based solutions, including an increase in the amount and connectivity of green and blue infrastructure. Nature-based solutions can provide natural carbon sinks, help deliver improvements to water quality and resilience against climate impacts, including flooding and overheating, as well as preventing further nature loss and protecting built assets.

5.24 Policy BIO1 of the Local Plan encourages maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments and, as set out above, policy GI1 states that we will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure in Barnsley.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

6. Integrating Biodiversity into Developments in Barnsley

- 6.1** BMBC has successfully implemented BNG as part of our planning requirement following adoption of the Local Plan in 2019; of which one of the objectives is to protect and enhance Barnsley's natural assets and achieve net gains in biodiversity. Prior to BNG becoming a statutory requirement, planning applications have had to demonstrate how proposals will result in no net loss of biodiversity, where applicable, and in the case of masterplan framework sites, a requirement of **minimum** 10% BNG is required. Examples of applications where permission has been granted on masterplan framework sites includes planning reference 2020/0647 within the Hoyland West South Masterplan area and 2019/1573 2021/1694 within the Hoyland North Masterplan area. Both sites demonstrated that a 10% net gain for biodiversity can be achieved through a combination of on and off-site habitat creation and enhancement measures appropriate to habitats on site prior to development.
- 6.2** All sites whether large or small have the potential to include opportunities for biodiversity through careful and well-designed schemes. The following provides advice and minimum requirements that are expected within development sites in Barnsley.
- 6.3** Landscaping proposals within development schemes should seek to retain, enhance and create habitats of value to biodiversity whilst adhering to the mitigation hierarchy *avoid, mitigate, compensate, offset*. The **creation** ~~retention~~ of front and rear gardens in householder development is encouraged as they can provide multiple environmental benefits, where this cannot be guaranteed then developers should, when completing the Defra **statutory** metric include "un-vegetated garden" as the post development habitat type within the **statutory** metric to ensure additional Biodiversity Units are not gained.
- 6.4** Landscape elements can be built into the scheme design to increase the biodiversity value of a site; this can include the creation or enhancement of boundary hedgerows, planting of street trees, the provision of wildflower grasslands, SuDS and other above ground water storage features. Where habitats are already present on a site they can provide the framework for the setting of the scheme layout. Landscaping features can help to achieve a minimum 10% BNG, as well as provide habitat connectivity in the landscape to aid the movement of species. Where possible developments should seek to provide a mosaic of habitats within landscaping designs to provide the greatest benefit for species.
- 6.5** Additionally, the use of native species of local provenance is encouraged as they generally offer more benefits to local wildlife than non-native species, as well as enhanced biosecurity and additional net gains.
- 6.6** Applicants are expected to provide landscape features in keeping and proportionate to the size of the development and appropriate with the local context.
- 6.7** Details regarding the ~~mitigation~~ mitigation requirements for developments in Barnsley are detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 . Minimum – Mitigation/enhancement requirements

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Minimum Requirement in developments</u>	<u>National/Local Policy references</u>
<u>Habitats (area/linear/river)</u>	Development proposals will have due regard to the baseline biodiversity value of a development site and landscaping plans should identify opportunities to retain and maximise the provision for biodiversity within the new development. Minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain based on baseline ecological assessment should be achieved.	NPPF 2023 (see Appendix B), <u>GS1, G11, BIO1</u>
<u>Watercourses</u>	20-m Development proposals should include a 10 m buffer from the bank tops of main watercourses (Rivers Dove, Don and Dearne), excluding footpaths, cycleways, roads etc... taking into account the riparian zone. Developers should apply caution when working within 10m of all other watercourses and scheme design should follow good ecological practice and the mitigation hierarchy.	<u>BIO1, CC5, G11</u>
<u>SuDS</u>	The provision of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) within development sites to manage rainfall is the preferred approach.	<u>CC4, CC1</u>
<u>Green roofs/living walls</u>	Living roofs of a suitable type and design should be considered on all new roofs of more than 25m ² , which are flat or have a pitch of less than 25 degrees. Where there is a conflict between provision of photovoltaics and living roofs, the council would prioritise photovoltaics Living walls should be considered as a possible option on buildings, though especially if needed to help mitigate visual impact on otherwise unacceptably blank and/or architecturally unrelieved façades.	<u>BIO1, Sustainable Construction and Climate Change Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document</u>
<u>Bat and bird boxes</u>	100% of all new dwellings to include integrated bat and bird boxes, alongside the provision of bird boxes in retained/newly created habitat on site to provide nesting habitat for a variety of species. In respect of birds, integrated swift boxes are advised as these are also used by other common nesting species. On constrained sites, practical consideration should be given to prioritising boxes within optimum areas of the site and be based on best practice. Hybrid/Commercial/public-service infrastructure/householder/permitted development applications etc... All other suitable application types will include integrated bat and bird boxes in keeping with the scale of development, i.e. minimum of 10 boxes for the first 1000 sqm footprint and one additional box for every 1000 sqm. Developments should ensure the installation of bird nesting and bat roosting boxes is proportionate to the level of impacts on the development site; where there	<u>BIO1</u>

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

	<u>are queries with regards the number or siting of boxes this can be discussed with the council's planning ecologist.</u>	
<u>Bats</u>	<u>Sensitive lighting schemes to be developed where additional lighting from the development will impact habitats such woodland edges, hedgerows, river corridors and wetlands, or any other habitats considered suitable for foraging, commuting and roosting bats. Developers should refer to the most up to date bats and lighting guidance² to ensure impacts to bats are kept to minimal levels.</u>	<u>BIO1</u>
<u>Hedgehog</u>	<u>Hedgehog Highway gaps to be located in boundary fences in residential schemes ensuring connectivity between gardens for hedgehogs and other wildlife, increasing the extent of habitat availability.</u>	<u>BIO1</u>
<u>Invertebrates</u>	<u>Landscaping features within development sites should include flowering lawns / wildflower grasslands, pollen and nectar rich plants, shrubs and trees.</u> <u>Invertebrate boxes to be installed on suitable trees within development sites, alongside the provision of bee banks and brash piles.</u>	<u>BIO1</u>

- 6.8** BNG does not alter the protection afforded to protected/notable species and habitats within a development site. As such, statutory obligations need to be satisfied with regards to protected and/or notable species and habitats; where applicable, bespoke mitigation schemes relevant to the key ecological features of the site should be provided within an application.

7. Guidance Information Required to Support an Application

- 7.1** Considering biodiversity and geodiversity at project inception stage and ensuring proposals are supported with appropriate evidence, where relevant, is necessary and will help enable efficient and effective decision-making and help to achieve a minimum 10% BNG. The LPA will not support applications that would damage the NRN, or developments that do not provide a minimum 10% BNG.
- 7.2** The council offers a paid pre-application advice service. This can help to ensure that policy requirements are fully understood at an early stage, and that any biodiversity and geodiversity features are identified, discussions with the council's Planning Ecologists can be held at an early stage, in order to seek advice and avoid impacts. Pre-application advice assists in streamlining the decision making process, and it enables the council to provide more comprehensive guidance to improve the quality of an application.
- 7.3** Suitable qualified ecologists are required to undertake ecological surveys and reporting to meet the council's requirements for providing adequate information to support an

² Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night, Guidance Note 08/23

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

application. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) provide a list of consultants on their Registered Practice Directory on the CIEEM website. The CIEEM website provides further information on ecological surveys and their purpose, and also describes the different types of report that may be required to support an application. Details regarding the types of survey required and when to undertake them can be found within the Local Validation Checklist <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/26092/local-validation-requirements-20230519.pdf>

Desk Study

- 7.4** Existing ecological data should always be gained from Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) and from neighbouring authorities' Biological Records Centres (BRC) where close to the borough boundary. Data should also be gained from other specialist data sources such as the South Yorkshire Bat Group, South Yorkshire Badger Group, and the RSPB, etc. if it is appropriate to the site and proposal. There may be exceptions to this requirement and the omission of a desk study from ecology reports should be fully justified within the report, as is detailed within the CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary for Ecological Appraisal (2017).
- 7.5** Information on internationally and nationally designated sites can be found at the 'MAGIC' website. Most locally designated sites can be seen on the Barnsley Local Plan maps and are referred to as 'Biodiversity or Geological Interest Sites'. Applicants are required to use the SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) online tool to demonstrate a rapid initial assessment of potential impacts on statutory designated sites as part of the application. If the IRZ information indicates that the development type could adversely impact a SSSI, Natural England will be consulted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Natural England may request that further information is required to support the planning application, covering how impacts upon the SSSI will be addressed.

Any development proposal which may do harm to a biodiversity or geodiversity interest should follow the mitigation hierarchy thus: *avoid, mitigate, compensate*. If it is not possible to avoid damage to the interest and planning permission is still requested for then the developer/applicant should seek to mitigate impacts by good design which not only retains as much of the value *in situ* as possible, but also reduces impacts during the construction phase and leaves behind value which is protected and maintained. On occasion, the LPA may allow compensatory works on other sites outside of the development where avoidance or mitigation are not possible/sufficient, but this should be seen as a last resort. The LPA will not support applications that would damage the ecological network and cause a net loss in biodiversity in line with the NPPF. Whilst the Environment Agency is the lead authority regarding implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Humber River Basin District Management Plan, the LPA must have regards to them when determining development proposals.

Ecological Survey and Assessment

- 7.6** Applications requiring consideration of biodiversity should be supported by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal/Ecological Impact Assessment/Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (where appropriate)/Preliminary Roost Assessment and such other secondary reports (i.e., detailed botanical assessment, protected species surveys, etc. where necessary, which evaluate the ecological quality of the proposal site and recommend

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

appropriate/proportionate mitigation, enhancement measures or off-site compensation proposals.

- 7.7 Surveys should be undertaken by competent persons with suitable qualifications and experience and carried out at an appropriate time within the year, or justifications provided if undertaken during sub-optimal timing and a robust assessment can still be made. Surveys should be undertaken using nationally recognised survey guidelines/methods, where available.
- 7.8 Reference should be made to CIEEMs Guidelines to assess when submission of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal/Preliminary Roost Assessment is sufficient or where an Ecological Impact Assessment would be required. Ecology reports should include detail on how development proposals have taken into consideration the mitigation hierarchy in order to avoid, mitigate, compensate and offset any negative ecological impacts. Ecological surveys should follow the:
- Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data (March 2020);
 - Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (December 2017);
 - Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland published by CIEEM (September 2018);
 - BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development; and
 - BS8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain. Specification.
- 7.9 Relevant applications should also be supported by a Defra **Statutory** Metric (the most recently published version of the metric should be used) and an associated BNG report. The associated report should include detail on how the Good Practice Principles for Development have been followed, baseline and post-development habitat maps (on and off-site) and condition assessments for baseline habitats, where applicable (on and off-site). Condition assessments should include details of the condition assessment criteria passed/failed, justification/evidence provided for this, and the anticipated condition assessments of proposed habitats post-development (on and off-site). Condition assessment sheets are offered in support of more recently published Defra **Statutory** Metrics and should be completed to support the associated **statutory** metric. When referring to the Biodiversity Metric User Guide it is advised that habitat surveys can be undertaken year-round, though it is important to note that the optimal survey season is April – September inclusive (for most habitat types). In the absence of seasonally appropriate survey data/evidence, the assessor must use a precautionary approach to assessing condition criteria which are not measured at a time of year when the survey is undertaken.

Avoidance, Mitigation, Compensation and Offsetting

- 7.10 ~~At present there is no nationally agreed system for measuring biodiversity or geodiversity losses proposed on a site through a development and creating a comparable biodiversity element off-site (biodiversity compensation). It is likely that one will be made available in the near future. The LPA may choose to adopt such a 'metric' and apply it in cases where compensation works are the only possible solution – in which case a new policy will be produced and publicised. Until such time the LPA will continue to use its best judgement,~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

~~based on precedents, as to what the appropriate compensation amount, as a monetary value, should be.~~

- 7.11** Biodiversity and/or geodiversity mitigation plans should be designed-in from the outset, with suitably qualified and experienced professionals being part of the design team to prevent conflicts of interest ensure the best outcomes for biodiversity and geodiversity. Any Landscape design plans/documents should clearly identify between ornamental plantings and 'green' features which are part of biodiversity retention /mitigation /enhancement. A maintenance plan for a minimum of 5 years should be provided — for example, if a valuable hedgerow or quarry is to be incorporated within a development, the application should state how it will be protected and managed. Planning applications will be expected to commit to not cover trees, hedgerows or other habitats with netting etc, prior to construction in order to exclude birds from nesting, etc.
- 7.12** Mitigation and enhancement proposals are welcomed that contribute to enlarging creating, enhancing bigger, better and more connected existing wildlife sites are welcomed. Creating new sites, and providing joined up and resilient ecological networks throughout the borough that contribute to the LNRS and the enhancement of biodiversity is crucial. This includes conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the borough's natural assets such as the river corridors of the Don, the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors.
- 7.13** Ecology and/or geodiversity reports submitted in support of planning applications should not only evaluate the site's importance, but also detail the mitigation and enhancement, etc proposals. ~~Relevant externally-held data sources should be contacted to provide their data as appropriate given the likely value of the features in the locality and proportionate to the development proposal. Report recommendations such as 'the applicant could should install.....' are insufficient: report authors consultant ecologists should work with applicants to offer clear measures which could that can be conditioned at planning decision stage. 2 key reference documents, the British Standard, BS 42020: 2013: Biodiversity: Code of Practice Planning and Development, and the CIEEM (2016) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, 2nd edition, should be used by the applicant's ecologists when writing ecology reports to guide their evaluation and recommendations. Local Validation Requirements for planning applications have been adopted by the LPA which include biodiversity and geodiversity elements that state when relevant reports are required and outline what, broadly, is needed within them, these should also be referred to when completing reports to support an application.~~
- 7.14** A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be secured by a legal agreement/planning condition to secure on/offsite gains the gain site and will need to be approved prior to commencement of development works. Information required within the HMMP will include;
- A recent landscape plan detailing the location of mitigation works and the size of each habitat/linear feature to be enhanced and/or created;
 - Management aims and prescriptions detailing the methods required to create and/or enhance each habitat/linear feature at the required quality for a period of 30 years;

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- A timetable of delivery for each habitat/linear feature created and/or enhanced;
- A schedule of ecological monitoring for a minimum 30 year period, identifying when key indicators of habitat/linear feature maturity should be achieved;
- Details on the monitoring of habitats and linear features and the provision of a report, which shall be provided to the LPA on the 1st November of each year of monitoring (years one, three, five, ten and every five years thereafter), which will assess the condition of all habitats and linear features created and/or enhanced and any necessary management or replacement/remediation measures required to deliver the Net Gain values set out in the HMMP; and
- A schedule of actions to be undertaken in case signs of failing are identified; the schedules must include details of technique(s) to be used, equipment to be used, roles and relevant expertise of personnel and organisations involved and timing of actions including submission of monitoring report to the Council.

7.15 When secondary legislation and guidance for BNG is made available, this SPD will be updated accordingly.

7.16 Precautionary measures to be adopted on site during construction works should also be detailed at the application stage (i.e. protection of retained vegetation, adjacent water course, etc.) and relevant guidance referred to. Again, further detail of this can be provided within a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) required at the reserved matters/discharge of conditions stage.

7.17 ~~– for example, if a valuable hedgerow or quarry is to be incorporated within a development, the application should state how it will be protected and managed. Planning applications will be expected to commit to no~~ The covering of trees, hedgerows or other habitats suitable for nesting birds with netting etc, prior to construction in order to exclude birds from nesting, will not be permitted.

7.18 ~~Local Plan allocations have been assessed for their biodiversity value. Some site specific policies contain biodiversity requirements. Where the ecological assessments carried out to inform the Local Plan site selection process assessed a site as having medium or high biodiversity value, and that value has been eroded through the actions of a landowner, the site will still be expected to deliver net gains in biodiversity assessed against the Local Plan ecological assessment.~~

7.19 ~~Barnsley's history of quarrying, mining and the building of regional transport infrastructure created a variety of old and valuable geological surface exposures but many of these are now becoming lost to infilling, neglect and development in both urban and rural situations. This dwindling of exposures takes on added significance since the ending~~ cessation of coal mining has prevented underground study of faults and strata in three dimensions, thereby leaving surface exposures as the only source of primary evidence. Some compensation for loss of the sub-surface data can be achieved by applying new technologies and techniques to surviving surface exposures, resulting in a wealth of valuable information on the geodiversity/geomorphological feature and its local/ regional structure. For these reasons, geoconservation is important. Some developments can create new geoconservation/geomorphological sites and opportunities, either temporarily, or possibly permanent. Where an application proposes that geoconservation/geomorphological assets will be lost or diminished, the applicant

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

and their geoconservationists should consult the LPA and its geological advisors, Sheffield Area Geology Trust (SAGT) in drawing up proposals to mitigate any impacts.

- 7.20** ~~Some compensation for loss of the sub-surface data can be achieved by applying new technologies and techniques to surviving surface exposures, resulting in a wealth of valuable information on the geodiversity/geomorphological feature and its local and regional structure. For these reasons, geoconservation is important. Some developments can create new geoconservation/geomorphological sites and opportunities, either temporary, or possibly permanent. Where an application proposes that geoconservation/geomorphological assets will be lost or diminished, the applicant and their geoconservationists should consult the LPA and its geological advisors, Sheffield Area Geology Trust (SAGT) in drawing up proposals to mitigate the effects.~~
- 7.21** Prior to submission of any a planning application, all relevant geodiversity datasets should be gained, particularly those held by SAGT if a Regionally Important Geodiversity Site is located within 0.25 km of any given development. Geological sites should be recorded by suitably qualified and experienced geoconservationists/geomorphologists using the best means available, including photography and sampling, before the loss of/damage to the feature occurs. Information obtained in this way, by the cooperation of the developer, will be shared freely with the local museum service records centre and other publicly-owned stakeholders, for the benefit of the wider community with geological geomorphological interests.
- 7.22** The geoconservation and biodiversity needs at any one site are considered on a case by case basis but geoconservation aims to achieve the following goals:
- £To preserve the geological/geomorphological integrity of the site;
 - £To preserve its visibility and availability for scientific and educational use;
 - £To ensure workable, ongoing access arrangements after completion, and;
 - £To work to protect the value from any subsequent risks from the new landowners, tenants, or residents.

Nature Improvement Area

- 7.23** ~~Within the NIA (Nature Improvement Area) we require specific biodiversity enhancements with developments over and above the minimum mitigation/compensation measures. Great nature spaces provide the ideal background for investment in housing and industry.~~
- 7.24** ~~The NIA Partnership has 2 main aims for development in the area:~~
- ~~1. The network of sites and places for nature across the NIA is restored and enhanced. This makes our important natural assets more useful for wildlife and more resilient in the future. In reality this means that the partnership will actively seek opportunities to infill and augment the nature network with new and restored wildlife sites.~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

2. Where development of housing and Industry is appropriate, the LPA will support developers in the creation of sustainable sites that include good examples of sustainable drainage, incorporated high quality habitats and wildlife corridors and encourage the use of sustainable transport.

7.25 This SPD does not describe detailed design guidance on how to realise the aims of the NIA Partnership. Instead, it identifies the key issues that should be reconciled, through good practice points, whilst also drawing attention to relevant policies, documents and contact names. A combination of all these components will, through appropriate negotiations, achieve a development proposal that will accord with the aims of the NIA.

7.26 The quality of design of new development is a critical factor in ensuring the overall success of the NIA. The design of development should reflect the specific objective(s) for each site (e.g. biodiversity, public access, wood products etc). It is important that good design is used to provide and promote accessibility to the NIA for everybody in the borough. In turn, this will help to promote the economic vitality and viability of the area.

7.27 Minor developments will not be required to contribute to ecological improvements in the NIA. Small housing developments, up to ten units, and conversions of traditional buildings have not been covered in the specific guidance relating to the NIA but would be subject to the existing validation process and planning policy requirements of the relevant planning authority. Therefore, only development proposals of a scale that can contribute a significant, quantifiable benefit, or conversely undermine the ability, i.e. a loss of wetland areas, of the NIA to meet its aims and objectives should be subject to this SPD.

7.28 Such quantifiable, significant benefits could include:

- New woodland;
- New wetland;
- Enhancing areas of poor environmental quality;
- Improving public access, or
- Improving the management of existing habitats;

7.29 Development proposals considered by the LPA to be of a scale that would significantly impact on the delivery of the aims and objectives of the NIA, shall seek to enhance and improve the ecological network of the valley by incorporation of features and design principles that follow the conservation principles supported in the Natural Environment White Paper.

7.30 Within the NIA we would expect to see developments come forward where the natural environment has been taken into consideration early in the design process and connection through and around the development site with the wider habitat networks is delivered. Small commercial and retail development sites (less than 1,000 m²) and sites

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

with limited ecological interest are expected to provide modest enhancements. Major developments³, including business parks, particularly those in close proximity to river corridors or NIA key sites, will be supported to incorporate positive full-site biodiversity measures including comprehensive sustainable drainage systems and landscape schemes. Such sites will be expected to provide connectivity throughout the site and link to sites and features outside the site. It is recommended that such schemes are included in master planning and are agreed at an outline stage to prevent inconsistent and piece-meal delivery.

- 7.31** Where a development agreement involves a commuted sum arrangement in relation to the delivery of biodiversity (or drainage) elements the NIA partnership should be involved in discussions to agree those elements. Where possible, such arrangements should aim to support the delivery of NIA aims.
- 7.32** We would welcome applications that seek to provide improvement for the priority species listed in Appendix B.
- 7.33** Opportunities for biodiversity enhancements in developments by size of development are suggested in Appendix C.
- 7.34** Case studies relating to innovative biodiversity enhancements on new developments can be viewed in Appendix C.

8. Further information

- UK National Ecosystem Assessment, <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org> (2011)
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) — review 2018: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2> includes sections copied in the text above to the following footnotes:
 - *56 Circular 06/2005 provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation and their impact within the planning system.*
 - *57 Where areas that are part of the Nature Recovery Network are identified in plans, it may be appropriate to specify the types of development that may be suitable within them.*
 - *58 For example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat.*
- Natural Environment White Paper (2011): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature>
- Barnsley Biodiversity Trust: <http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/>

³ As defined in Article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 and subsequent updates

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

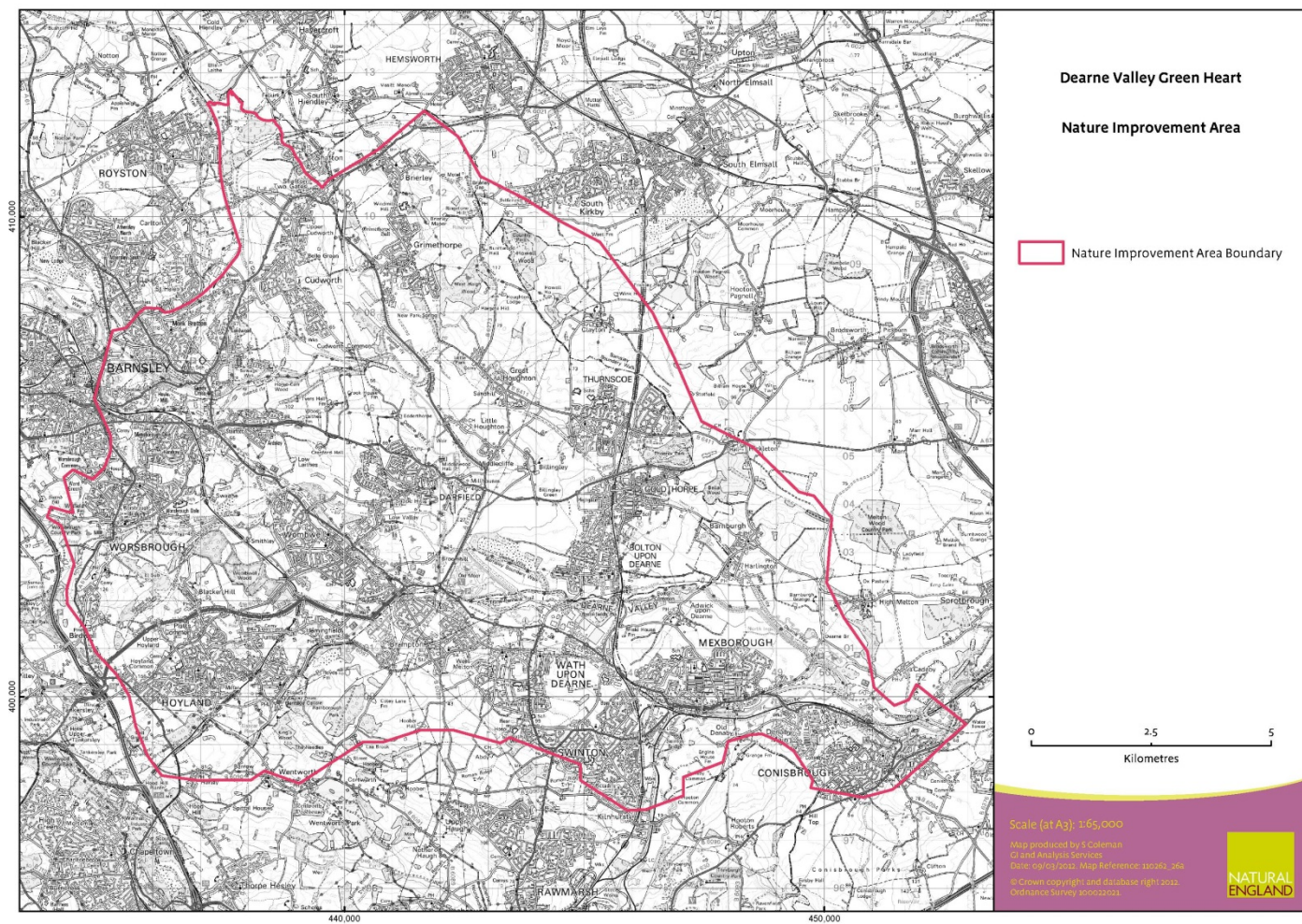
- The current Barnsley *Biodiversity Action Plan* is viewable either directly from the Trust's homepage or here:
<http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/Barnsley%20BAP%202009.pdf>
- British Standard **BS 42020: 2013: Biodiversity: Code of Practice Planning and Development**: <https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030258704>
- *CIEEM (2016) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, 2nd edition.* (CIEEM)
- Links to updated lists of current Local Sites in Barnsley (non-statutory sites): Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): <http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/localsites.html> Local Geology Sites/ Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites: <http://www.sagt.org.uk/>
- Multi-Agency geographic information website:
<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> – click on 'designations' and make 'live' tab for 'land-based designations' and 'statutory'; uncheck 'less-favoured areas' and 'nitrate vulnerable zones'.
- Environment Agency – Humber River Basin District Management Plan
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/humber-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan>
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> **The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573> **The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019**
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents> **The Protection of Badgers Act 1992**
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted> **Environment Act 2021**
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents> **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made> **The Hedgerow Regulations 1997**
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents> **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/contents/made> **The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012**
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf **Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System**
- www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk **Barnsley Biodiversity Trust**
- <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/17249/local-plan-adopted.pdf> **Barnsley Local Plan**
- <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189>
- <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> **MAGIC interactive mapping portal**
- <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/parks-and-open-spaces/wildlife-conservation-and-biodiversity/> **Barnsley Parks and Greenspaces**
- <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-accessing-and-using-biodiversity-data/> **Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data in the UK**

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/>
Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)
- <https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030258704> **BS42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development**
- <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/process-for-designing-and-implementing-biodiversity-net-gain-specification/standard> **BS8683: 2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain. Specification**
- <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Biodiversity-Net-Gain-Principles.pdf>
Biodiversity Net Gain Good practice principles for development
- <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/15707/barn-conversions-spd.pdf> **Barnsley Supplementary Planning Document – Barn Conversions**
- <https://nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019/reports/> **State of Nature Reports**
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-biodiversity-net-gain-regulations-and-implementation/outcome/government-response-and-summary-of-responses> **BNG Consultation responses - Government response and summary of responses**
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Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Appendix A - Detailed map of Dearne Valley Green Heart 'Nature Improvement Area'



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Appendix . ~~Priority Species for Dearne Valley Green Heart 'Nature Improvement Area'~~

We would welcome applications that seek to provide improvement for the focal species of the NIA as set out below:

- ~~Lapwing~~
- ~~Redshank~~
- ~~Snipe~~
- ~~Wintering teal~~
- ~~Wintering wigeon~~
- ~~Wintering bittern~~
- ~~Barn owl~~
- ~~Willow tit~~
- ~~Water vole~~
- ~~Brown hare~~
- ~~Noctule bat~~
- ~~Grass snake~~
- ~~Dingy skipper~~
- ~~Wild flowers~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Appendix A.— Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in new development

Applicants are expected to provide biodiversity features from the below lists proportionate to the size of the development, the proposed impacts of the site and in relation to nearby habitats.

Smaller scale commercial and industrial buildings e.g. retail, factories, offices and warehouses (less than 1000m²)			
Native species hedgerow planting	Provide shelter and screening for development. Nesting sites, food and shelter for birds, insects and small mammals. Provide corridors for wildlife linking areas of habitat.	http://apps.rhs.org.uk/advicesearch/profile.aspx?pid=377	Hedges can be predominantly hawthorn, with a mixture of blackthorn, hazel, dog rose, holly, willow and elder included.
Insect boxes/ Bee hotel	Shelter and nesting sites for invertebrates including bees.	www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk	
Bird boxes	Encourages and supports nesting birds, can be incorporated into roof space.	www.rspb.org.uk	Aim to install minimum 2 artificial nest sites per new unit. Unless there are trees or buildings which shade the box during the day, face the box between north and east, thus avoiding strong sunlight and the wettest winds.
Tree planting	Improves setting of development, provides shelter. Attracts birds, mammals and insects providing food, shelter and nesting sites.	www.woodlandtrust.org.uk	Frogs, toads, hedgehogs, beetles and other insects shelter underneath or among the gaps of rotting logs. Create a log pile by loosely arranging together old branches or pieces of log. Leave bark on and use a variety of species if possible.
Ponds and soak-a-ways	Improve setting of development. Habitat for amphibians, birds and wetland plants.	https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/news/pond-conservation-now-freshwater-habitats-trust/	
Living Roofs	Provide habitat for insects and birds. Reduce water runoff and increase insulation.	www.livingroofs.org www.grassroofcompany.co.uk	
Swift bricks/ internal nest boxes	Provide access to nesting sites for swifts and other birds which use buildings.	www.concernforswifts.com/ www.swift-conservation.org/	Incorporate swift nest bricks around the top of commercial buildings, they do not have to be on a visible façade.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

SuDS	Habitat for wetland plants and invertebrates. Valuable for amphibians especially where standing water provided. Add to the setting of a development as part of the green space requirement.	https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/download/documents/positions/planning/sustainable-drainage-systems.pdf https://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free-publications/SuDS-manual-C753.aspx	Developers should be careful to check with bodies adopting/maintaining any new SuDS scheme for any restrictions in relation to planting and maintenance.
Use of native tree and shrub species in landscaping	Provide shelter and screening. Provide nesting sites and food for birds and insects.	http://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-in-the-townscape.html https://www.tcpa.org.uk/fact-sheet-green-infrastructure-and-biodiversity	Species to consider depend on site conditions and location and include oak (pedunculate and sessile), rowan, willow sp, wych elm, ash, birch (downy and silver), bird cherry, hazel, elder, alder, aspen, guelder rose, crab apple, hawthorn, blackthorn, broom, gorse, dog rose, juniper, holly.
Green walls/habitat walls, Willow fedge (fence/hedge).	Can provide excellent visual features. Shelter, food and nesting sites for birds and insects. Willow in particular is inexpensive and easy to establish from cuttings.	www.livingroofs.org www.grassroofcompany.co.uk	Hedges require annual maintenance.
Introduce wildflowers into verges.	Food plants for butterflies and other insects.	https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/road-vergecampaign	Many grasses are tolerant of fairly high levels of salt but the following are particularly salt tolerant and may be suitable for roadside verges; red fescue, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, creeping soft grass.
Major development including residential, commercial, minerals or waste *			
As above plus SuDS	Creation of ponds or wetland habitats will support a variety of wetland plants and attract birds and insects. Even small areas of permanent water or wetland vegetation in detention basins can be beneficial.	See links for SuDS and ponds and soak-a-ways above.	Consider reed beds or willow filtration systems as alternatives for water treatment. Living roofs may be most appropriate to deal with surface water where space is limited.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Incorporate habitats/features within green space to create green corridors.	Retain existing wildlife habitat within the development. Links with other natural areas and the surrounding countryside are important to allow movement of wildlife along corridors. This contributes to a developments green space requirements.	www.woodlandtrust.org.uk	Link existing wildlife habitat and/or newly created green spaces with strategically placed trees, shrubs, hedges, dry stone wall or grass verge.
Habitat creation and restoration of existing habitats.	Contribute to meeting Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets for priority habitats. Creating/restoring high quality green space to enhance development. Consider wildflower grassland, native species woodland and wetland habitats. This contributes to a developments green space requirements.	http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5706 https://www.tcpa.org.uk/fact-sheet-green-infrastructure-and-biodiversity	Consider opportunities to re-meander canalised streams and rivers.
Use of nectar rich species and food plants for caterpillars in landscaping.	Benefits for butterflies, moths and other insects.	https://butterfly-conservation.org/	
Buffer strips along watercourses and ditches.	Improvements to quality of water, habitat for wildlife, linear habitat and corridor for the movement of wildlife. This contributes to a developments green space requirements.	Natural England Technical Information Note TIN099 2011 Protecting water from agricultural run-off: water retention measures https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-for-farmers-and-land-managers-to-prevent-water-pollution https://www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Ponds_web_0.pdf	
Use show home garden or demonstration area on industrial site to demonstrate wildlife gardening.	Food and shelter for birds, insects and amphibians.	http://downloads.gigl.org.uk/website/Wildlife%20Gardening%20Pack.pdf	Include use of bat boxes/bird boxes/bee hotels, log piles, planting to encourage butterflies, bumble bees and birds. Wet areas/pond for common frog, newts and damselflies.
Develop a site/Company Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).	Contribute to Local and English Biodiversity Action Plan targets and create a work/development site providing a network of habitats.	http://www.businessandbiodiversity.org/action-company_bap.html	All/any of the options listed above could be incorporated into a Site/Company BAP.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

* Major development as defined in Article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Case Studies: Urban Green Infrastructure for Biodiversity



Introduction

The intention is to provide examples of a range of urban green infrastructure interventions, including green roofs, living walls, sustainable drainage schemes and species-rich grasslands. These examples are multi-functional and demonstrate how biodiversity can be enhanced whilst various ecosystem services are provided, including flood management and cooling. Costs are provided where available and are only indicative. It should be noted that for relatively small, novel schemes, establishment costs may be relatively high. Installation or establishment costs will fall as the industry adapts to new techniques. Maintenance costs of small schemes also tend to be relatively high when compared with larger schemes on a pro-rata basis.

Biodiverse Extensive Green Roofs

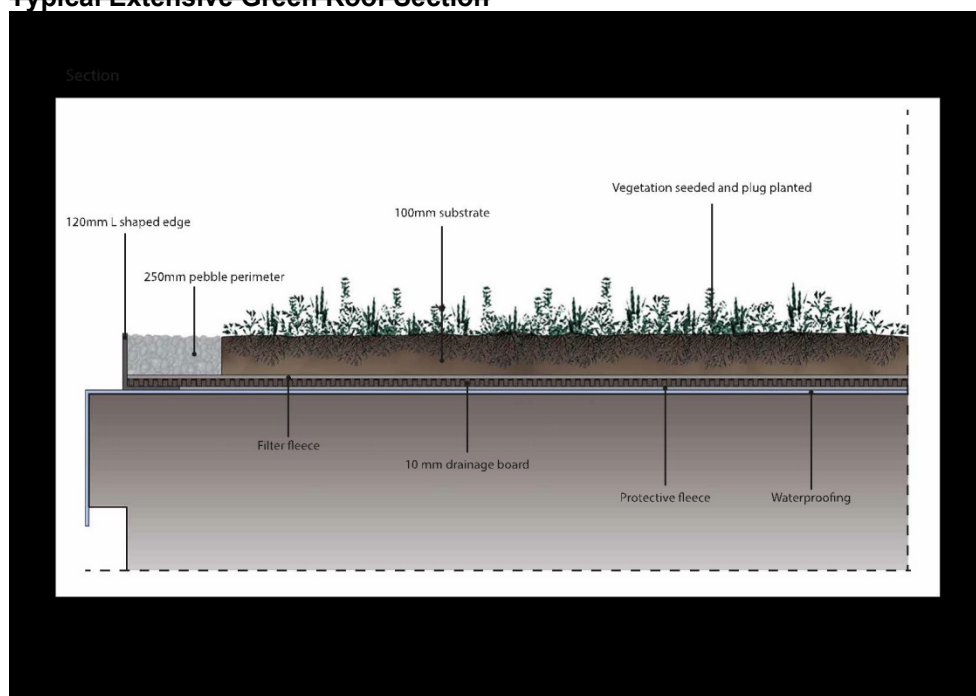
Biodiverse extensive green roofs are typified by free draining and water absorbent substrates of varying depth. They often include dead wood habitat, stones or pockets of bare sand. They are vegetated with predominantly native drought tolerant wildflowers. Sedum is usually included, however the industry norm of Stonecrop (*Sedum* sp.) dominated vegetated blankets should be avoided because they do not support a sufficiently diverse assemblage of flora and fauna and may not provide sufficient water attenuation. There should be a presumption for any proposals for biodiverse extensive green roofs to include a minimum of 80 mm substrate depth, a standard set in the UK by the Green Roof Code from The Green Roof Organisation (2011 to be updated 2014).

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Biodiverse extensive green roofs are relatively lightweight and low maintenance. Specifications with proven ecological value for foraging birds and invertebrates were pioneered by the Green Roof Consultancy <http://greenroofconsultancy.com>. For further information on how to attract invertebrates to green roofs see also the report by Buglife — The Invertebrate Conservation Charity.

<http://www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Creating%20Green%20Roofs%20for%20Invertebrates%20Best%20practice%20guidance.pdf>

Typical Extensive Green Roof Section



Green Roof Example 1: Ruislip Central Line Depot Roof London Underground Limited

This is a retrofit demonstration project. The primary purpose is to absorb and slow down rainfall runoff and to reduce the risk of surface water flooding, however the brief also required an approach that enhanced biodiversity. It was important that saturated weight did not exceed 100kg/m^2 , a requirement of this roof and many other London Underground train sheds with relatively lightweight structures.

Two adjacent biodiverse extensive green roofs types covering a total area of 122m^2 have been installed on a flat roof section at the depot. One section has a typical extensive green roof build up with protection sheet over the original waterproofing, drainage board, filter fleece with Optigreen extensive green roof substrate and the other section has been constructed using an experimental approach. Both plots are vegetated with sedum cuttings and seeded/planted with native annual and perennial wildflowers.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Monitoring devices have been installed in two downpipes of one of the biodiverse green roofs and two down pipes of a conventional control roof to measure the water attenuation.

Construction Costs: £80/m² (Total £10,000)

Running Costs: £200 (annual check of drainage outlets)

Design and Installation by Green Roof Consultancy Ltd

Monitoring by University of East London

Funding by Greater London Council through Drain London

Image: Green Roof Consultancy



Green Roof Example 2: Factory, Sins, Switzerland Gemperle AG

Swiss Federal law requires green roofs on all large commercial buildings. The conservation of biodiversity is usually the primary objective with roof greening in Switzerland. In this case the owners also wanted to keep the building cooler in summer to improve the comfort of workers. This is an example of an extensive green roof on a new-build factory/storage building.

There are two sections, one flat and the other barrel vaulted. The build-up includes 100mm depth of commercially available recycled crushed-brick based substrate placed above a filter sheet and polystyrene drainage board. Areas of pebbles, stone and logs are also included to provide habitat diversity. There is also an area of shallow ephemeral pond. The roof is vegetated by wildflower seed and sedum cuttings of local provenance.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Maintenance of the roof is minimal, with an annual check of downpipes. Although this roof is not designed for ground nesting birds and may be too small for that purpose, many of the larger green roofs on industrial buildings in the Zurich area provide nesting habitat for Lapwing.

Area: Total of 1250m²: the flat roof section measuring approximately 450m² and the other barrel vaulted section, measuring approximately 800m².

Construction Cost: £50 per m² (70 CHF)

Running Costs: £100 (estimated) – annual check of drainage outlets

Roof shortly after installation with annuals prominent (Image: Green Roof Consultancy)



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Overview after establishment (Image: Gemperle AG)



General view of factory (Image: Gemperle AG)



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

**Green Roof Example 3:
Kemp House, Soho, London
City West Homes**

Two biodiverse extensive green roofs covering an area of 330m² retrofitted on a social housing block with the primary aim of meeting the City of Westminster and London's Biodiversity Action Plan targets, creating habitat for the rare Black Redstart and invertebrate species. Further targeted benefits were also to cool the rooms below and to reduce surface run-off by storing rainwater. The build-up comprises Optigreen substrate at a depth that meets the GRO Code (80mm) with plug-planted sedum mat, with some areas that have been mounded with additional material and seeded. There are over 30 species of native wildflowers. In addition spring bulbs and log piles provide a range of habitats for both rare invertebrates. Immediately after installation three Black Redstarts were observed on the roofs and this species is now breeding for the first time in Soho. Residents within this social housing complex are able to view both green roofs from their windows and from the roof top garden adjacent to one area of biodiverse green roof.

Construction Cost: (£75 per m² (Total £ 25,000)

Maintenance Costs: £200 per annum (check of drain outlets, weeding)

Design by Green Roof Consultancy, materials supplied by Optigreen, seed from Emorsgate, plug plants from Boningales and installation by Landmark Living Roofs

Image: Landmark Living Roofs/Optigreen



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Green Walls**Green Wall Example 1: Vertical Rain Garden****Tooley Street, London****Team London Bridge**

This is a 25m² modular living wall combined with rainwater storage tanks. Downpipes from the pitched roof above are diverted into the tanks which are at the rear of the planters, between the planters and the supporting wall. Water slowly seeps through the modules, which makes the living wall self-watering thereby avoiding the need for pumped irrigation or use of potable water. The purpose is to reduce localised surface water flooding during intense summer storms where Tooley Street meets Tower Bridge Road. The planters are filled with intensive green roof substrate and native and non-native planting is combined to provide value for biodiversity and visual amenity.

Species include ivy *Hedera helix*, elephant's ears *Bergenia cordifolia*, hart's-tongue fern *Asplenium scolopendrium*, scaly male fern *Dryopteris affinis* and periwinkle *Vinca major*. Maintenance is four visits per annum for weeding and replacement of lost/damaged plants

Construction Cost: £ 10,000

Maintenance Costs: £400/annum (two annual inspections for weeding/replanting)

Designed by Green Roof Consultancy and supplied and installed by Treebox Ltd.

Funding provided by the Greater London Authority through Drain London.



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Green Wall Example 2: Wire Trellis Stucki Shopping Centre, Basel, Switzerland

A vegetated façade created by tensioning stainless steel wires between anchors in the ground and on the roof of a commercial building. Climbing and trailing plants have been trained onto the wires from the beds below and the roof above to provide screening and habitat. The beds below receive run-off from the adjacent path so that the intervention constitutes a SuDS feature and the plants and do not require irrigation (except during establishment).

Such planting can attract invertebrates and birds seeking shelter, food and nesting opportunities in otherwise unused space. A range of attractive wildlife friendly native species can be selected to provide interest that is evergreen or deciduous, flowering and fruiting and can be utilised even in shaded conditions. Species used include Honeysuckle *Lonicera* species, Clematis *Clematis armandii*, vines *Vitis cignetiae*, ivy *Hedera helix*, Boston ivy *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* and star jasmine *Trachelospermum jasminoides*. Ivy a native evergreen climber with glossy foliage and nectar rich flowers which will provide bee species with much needed food sources over autumn and winter. Annual maintenance is required to cut back unwanted shoots and replace any losses.

Shading and reduction of airborne pollutants are amongst the other benefits to this type of planting.

Area: 50 linear metres with height of 20m (1000m²)

Cost: £7500 (based on estimate of £150 per linear metre) Cost per unit area is highly variable depending on height.

Information provided by Dr. Nathalie Baumann, University of Zurich

Image: Gary Grant



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

~~Sustainable Drainage Features~~

~~The principles of the design concept of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are to mimic natural drainage by intercepting rain via vegetation, storing runoff in the soil or waterbodies and releasing it slowly (attenuation) and by promoting evapo-transpiration. Where ground conditions permit water may also soak into the ground (infiltration). Water may also be slowly transported on the surface through swales. In this way the risk of flood is reduced, pollution is reduced, biodiversity increased and amenity improved. SuDS can involve a wide range of components including green roofs, permeable paving, specially designed tree pits, rain gardens, swales and ponds. This section concentrates on schemes which include ponds. Reviews by DEFRA and CIRIA have shown that when SuDS are considered early in a project, considerable savings can be made in the capital cost of drainage projects, because the use of most expensive underground pipework can be avoided and replaced by soft, surface features.~~

~~SuDS Example 1:~~

~~The Manor Pond Estate, Sheffield, South Yorkshire~~

~~Manor and Castle Development Trust, Bellway Homes, Local Authority~~

~~This project includes a series of ponds and basins within a regenerated housing estate comprising 300 houses and service roads. The SuDS scheme is located on adjacent council owned public open space. Water enters the site and is then managed through a series of basins, dropping down through the contours of the site. The opportunity of using the adjacent park, with its watercourse, to store and treat water seemed appropriate and an opportunity to demonstrate better practice. The top basin acts as the main facility for silt collection and pollution interception. Lower down are sand filters installed behind mortar free stone walling on vertical faces in the lower courses to allow water movement. These filters manage flow at a rate determined by the resistance of the filter and the exit pipe size. This low flow passes down to the next basin below through a shallow low flow channel. If either of the upper two basins is unable to contain and release water through their filters, overflow occurs through a grassed by-pass swale, which leads down to the next basin. The third basin has a volume release control out to an existing dry valley, which leads to the watercourse. If the third basin is unable to handle flow this overflows onto a grass arena as shallow flow and exits through a further control device down to the dry valley. Turf was used to vegetate and stabilise vulnerable areas of the system such as overflow channels and the wet benches of the basins so that the system could be operational at an early date. The permanent ponds are vegetated with reed mace and other marginal aquatic vegetation.~~

~~Construction Cost: (Pond elements only) £200/m².~~

~~Maintenance Costs: (for whole Manor Pond Estate SuDS system): £10,000 per annum (commuted sum of £250,000 provided for 25 years)~~

~~Both capital and revenue costs of the scheme are claimed to be less than a conventional system. As the conventional system which was originally included in the budget was extremely expensive this gave the project team a strong position to argue for a suitable commuted sum for maintenance.~~

~~Information from [Susdrain case studies Website](#)~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Image: SusDrain**SuDS Example 2:****Upton, Northampton**

English Partnerships, Pell Frischman Engineers, The Prince's Foundation, Northampton Borough Council and County Council, Anglian Water, The University of Northampton's School of Science and Technology

This example demonstrates the use of retention ponds and wetland habitat within a 43ha housing development on green field land. The development — 6000 residential homes, schools, works and retail and community units — was intended to provide an exemplar sustainable community that forms the first part of a major urban extension to Northampton.

The SuDS scheme comprised surface drainage designed to capture roof and road rainwater runoff from the estate (with an additional conventional underground piped system). This runoff travels via permeable paving and open, linked swales (many of which hold water behind stop logs) leading to a series of retention ponds located in a new area of parkland beyond the site into the local green infrastructure; the River Nene Country Park.

The SUDS components were designed to address hydraulic balance, reduce flood risk to Northampton, trap sediment and improve water quality whilst enhancing biodiversity.

Public engagement and monitoring of the SuDS within this housing development site has been carried out since 2003. This project has been used to inform how SuDS can be managed to benefit wildlife, residents and will enable planners and developers to use best practice in providing additional SUDS habitats for local biodiversity and people.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Monitoring by ecologists at the University of Northamptonshire has shown that the ponds attract 14 species of dragonfly as well as other wildlife.

Construction Cost: £150-200/m² (pond elements only varies according to overall size and control structures)

Maintenance: £2/m² per year (estimated)

Information from English Partnerships – now the [Homes and Communities Agency](https://www.homesandcommunities.gov.uk/) (HCA) and <https://www.northampton.ac.uk/>.



Invertebrate 'Hotel' Lend Lease HQ Staff Roof Garden The Green Roof Consultancy

Two large invertebrate hotels were installed as part of the Lend Lease's HQ staff roof garden. One panel was fixed to a wall and another formed a screen. Each panel was constructed of a number of modules. Each model consisted of untreated reclaimed timber and hardwood logs with a large number of drilled holes. In order to attract a range of species (primarily but not limited to those from the *Osmia* genus of solitary bees) holes varied in diameter from 2mm to 10mm and were 90mm deep. The panels were oriented to face south to maximise use by a range of invertebrate species, including solitary bees, wasps and spiders. The invertebrates can gain shelter and breed during the year, and the panels are also an overwintering habitat for some species. Such a resource can aid local populations, which in turn conduct essential ecological roles including pollination and pest control and provide a food source for other species such as birds and bats. The panels provide nesting conditions mimicking brood chambers for egg laying and larva development. Suitable locations would include sunny facades sheltered from wind or rain, with

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

planting of wildlife value located nearby to provide nectar, fruits, seeds and pollen. The panels are fixed to walls or frames but could be is free standing if required. Roof top or ground level installations are possible.

Area: 9m².(one panel)

Supply/Installation Costs: £500/m²

Running Costs: Nil

Lend Lease Roof Garden Invertebrate Hotel (Image: Green Roof Consultancy)



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

~~Biodiverse Grassland~~

~~Preamble:~~

~~The costs of establishing biodiverse or species-rich grassland are similar to the costs of establishing conventional amenity grassland. The cost of maintaining biodiverse grassland is lower, because frequent mowing regimes are usually replaced by one or two annual cuts, however adjusting to new maintenance regimes does require slightly different equipment and techniques.~~

~~The establishment of biodiverse grassland and conventional amenity grassland are similar processes, involving seeding or turfing, however with biodiverse swards, low nutrient levels are desirable to ensure that aggressive grasses do not dominate. Therefore the use of nutrient-rich topsoil should be avoided wherever possible when establishing species-rich grasslands. Sub-soil or sandy or stony material is ideal. Direct seeding of existing amenity or improved grassland with wildflowers or a simple relaxation of cutting regime rarely has the desired effect of creating a species-rich sward. Some enhancement may be possible by plug-planting wildflowers, although this is relatively expensive. It is advisable to strip and re-seed or re-turf improved or amenity grassland wherever possible.~~

~~Existing or proposed areas of amenity grassland or any plot of unutilised land may be enhanced through re-seeding or planting and amended management practices. Such techniques will increase the plant and insect diversity, which will in turn attract bird and mammal species.~~

~~When selecting a wildflower mix it is important to choose species ecologically suited to the site. Cornfield annuals and short-lived biennials establish easily to give immediate effect and act as a nurse crop. This will support long-lived perennial species that are nationally common and typical of the area. Where possible, less common plant material should be sourced locally under licence. Projects should also reflect cultural links and local character and the overall effect should be visually attractive and varied throughout the growing season.~~

~~A wide range of commercially available plants/seeds of value to wildlife can be utilised, including wildflower seed mixes, bulbs and plug plants of perennial flowers. A carefully selected locally appropriate palette of native plants used in natural associations can provide ornamental value for the majority of the year as well as providing valuable habitat including seed, pollen, nectar sources for invertebrates and birds from early summer through to winter.~~

~~A wildflower seed mix can be sown into a prepared bed or combined with a suitable grass seed mix such. Several seed houses provide mixes for specific soils and situations (e.g. the [Emorsgate EL1F](#) wild flowers for lawns). Timing of cutting to allow self-seeding to occur, and the removal of arisings will control nutrient levels whilst enabling flowering plants to persist along with relaxed mowing around trees and margins will provide undisturbed over-wintering habitat for invertebrates and important foraging resources for birds.~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Grassland Example 1: London House Sparrow Parks Project, RSPB, London Parks and SITA

A three year research project in nineteen London parks using 25 trial areas sown with grass and wild flower mixes. The aim of the project was to study the use of the plots for insect and seed based food sources by the House Sparrow with a view to selecting the best mix to support local populations. Parks included Waterlow Park in Camden; Hampstead Heath in City of London; Laycock Green, Paradise Park and Whittington Park in Islington; Leyton Marshes, Tottenham Marshes and Water Works Nature Reserve in Lee Valley Regional Park; The Green park, Hyde park, Kensington Gardens and Primrose Hill in the Royal Parks; Burgess Park and Peckham Rye Park in Southwark; Beddington Park, Cheam Park, Perrets Field, Rose Hill park East and St. Helier Open Space in Sutton; and Tooting Bec Common in Wandsworth.

The plot types were as follows:

- Long grass – comprising the existing park grassland, but instead of regular mowing this was left uncut to go to seed, which would then be utilised by seed eating bird species including house sparrow, and to provide overwintering habitat for invertebrates.
- A native wildflower meadow mix – where a mix of native grass and flower species were seeded in order to produce nectar and seeds and sheltering habitat for invertebrates. Maintenance involved annual cut with cuttings removed.
- ‘Wildlife Seed’ plots – using a bespoke mix of flowers and field margin species that will produce seeds for birds and also be beneficial to invertebrate species. Re-seeding is necessary each year.

Seed mixes were sourced from [Kings Seed](#) and [Emorsgate](#).

All of the trial plots showed biodiversity benefits achieved by improvements to local habitat quality and increased abundance of local invertebrate populations than the traditionally managed amenity grassland. House sparrows need a high protein diet for chicks during weaning in spring and summer and are typically fed insects by their parents; adult birds need more carbohydrate rich foods and so tend to utilise seeds.

Areas: <0.1 ha for wildlife seed plots, average of 0.5ha for the other two treatments.

Establishment Costs:

‘Long grass’: £680 per hectare (7p/m²)

Wildflower Meadow: £3,452 per hectare (34p/m²)

‘Wildlife Seed’: £12,120 per hectare (£1.21/m²)

Maintenance Costs: Typically £1200 per hectare or 12p/m² (for larger wildflower meadows) Management costs and effort were lowest for the longer grass plot type (although this is the least effective). Costs and management efforts were highest in the first year of wildflower establishment. Costs and management effort for the wildlife seed plots were higher in each year as these plots were established annually and dormant weeds had to be controlled.

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Information from John Day, RSPB

Green Park wildflower meadow



Waterlow Park Wildflower Meadow



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Grassland Example 2:

**~~Popley Fields Residential Development, Basingstoke, North Hampshire
Wildflower Turf Limited, David Wilson Homes, Hickman Bros Landscape Contractors,
Natural England, The Landmark Practice~~**

~~The site incorporated an area designated for wildlife importance – a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) due to the presence of a breeding population of great crested newts. As part of the Protected Species Management Plan high quality habitat was required that connected to the wider site and beyond.~~

~~Using products from Wildflower Turf species-rich wildflower meadows were created to provide a dispersal corridor for newts between ponds and meadows. The meadows have been established quickly, are attractive to residents and require little maintenance. Interpretation boards have been situated to help residents learn about the importance of the habitat enhancements.~~

~~A variety of products are available from Wildflower Turf including shade tolerant flower mixes for use around mature trees. The turf has a wide selection of native flower and grass species – up to 41 different species, with a minimum of 75% wildflowers. Non-native perennial species can also be used to extend the flowering season. The turf produces nectar, pollen and seeds which support birds, mammals, bees, butterflies and other invertebrate species. The wildflower turf can be used on sites with all soil types; will perform well under shade and in drought conditions, as well as in open meadow conditions.~~

~~A species rich lawn turf is available which can be treated as a conventional lawn i.e. regularly mowed short, and used heavily. Unlike standard monoculture amenity lawns the turf will support 26 species of native grasses and wildflowers.~~

~~Maintenance such as watering is required for the first two weeks after installation, with occasional soaks required during prolonged dry periods. Cutting regime – one to two cuts per year, once in autumn including clearance of cuttings, leaves and other vegetation under trees in particular, to avoid mulching and the addition of nutrients.~~

~~The four years of post-development monitoring indicate that the development has not impacted negatively upon the newt population which in fact appears to be increasing.~~

~~Area: 32.2ha estate, 6000m². meadow~~

~~Establishment Cost: £60m² to include design and planning (including a species list and management plan), site preparation. For purchase of turf alone the cost is £10m².~~

~~Maintenance Cost: Information not supplied, however typical cost of annual cut with arisings removed is 12p/m²~~

~~Information provided by [Wildflower Turf](#)~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Grassland Example 3: North-west Target Wellbeing Programme, Knowlsey, Liverpool Landlife and Groundwork Northwest

This is a programme of over 90 projects run by Landlife (National Wildflower Centre) for the benefit of targeted disadvantaged communities across the Northwest. Locations include Kirkby (Towerhill, Northwood, Central), North Huyton (Woolfall Heath, Stockbridge Village — see photo below), Halewood (Torrington, Wood Road, New Hutte), South Huyton, North Liverpool (Everton) Projects have an emphasis on public engagement to provide wildflower improvements to greenspaces in Knowlsey. Linked to Natural England's national 'Walking for Health' campaign, this initiative aimed to provide biodiversity gains whilst promoting physical and mental health and wellbeing. Techniques vary depending on the location, but a favoured technique is to strip the existing turf and re-seed with a wildflower seed mix.

One example from this scheme is an area of Public Open Space, in Quarry Green Heights, Northwood, Kirkby. This involved scratch cultivation for cornfield annuals on an area of amenity grassland which had previously been heavily mown. The project was delivered by Landlife and the Community Environmental Task Team in 2004. A variety of successful treatments took place: herbiciding and sowing into short dead turf in autumn, and scratch cultivating and sowing in spring. Additional sowing in subsequent years has helped to build up a substantial seedbank.

After flowering the site was flailed, leaving seed to overwinter providing winter food for birds. Re-cultivating in spring mimics the traditional farming practices that would have sustained cornfield annuals on light soils in the past. Costs: Entire area of all projects of 5.5 ha; since 2008 over 1.5ha of wildflower meadows have been sown into parks and green spaces. Funded by £8.9m from the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund (equivalent to £161/m²)

Costs for specific projects are typically lower than this.

Wildflower seed mixes cost around to £90/kg (which provides sufficient seed for 200m² equivalent to 45p/m²). Preparation and establishment costs vary depending on local conditions however £10/m² is a typical figure for turf stripping and disposal and reseeded.

Information from [Landlife](#) and [Groundwork](#)

North Huyton. Image: GroundWork



Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

NPPAppendix B. National Planning Policy Framework 2023 Sections of relevance to biodiversity and geodiversity

153. Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.

174. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services — including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

175. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

179. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should: a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity⁶¹; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

180. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

181. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and

c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

180. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and

f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

181. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

182. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

183. When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:
- a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
 - b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
 - c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.
185. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
- a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
 - b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
186. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:
- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
 - b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
 - c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
 - d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.
187. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:
- a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and
- c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

188. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

~~170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:~~

- ~~a. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);~~
- ~~b. minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;~~

~~171. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.~~

~~174. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:~~

- ~~a. Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and~~
- ~~b. promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.~~

~~175. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:~~

- ~~a. if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;~~
- ~~b. development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- ~~c. — development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and~~
- ~~d. — development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments should be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.~~

Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

~~176. The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:~~

- ~~a. potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; and~~
- ~~b. sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.~~

~~177. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requiring appropriate assessment because of its potential impact on a habitats site is being planned or determined.~~

Equality Impact Assessment

Supplementary Planning Documents

Stage 1 Details of the proposal

Name of service	Regeneration and Culture
Directorate	Growth and Sustainability

Name of officer responsible for EIA	Paula Tweed
Name of senior sponsor	Garry Hildersley

Description / purpose of proposal	<p>This EIA covers all the Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Advice Notes prepared by the Council to date since the adoption of the Local Plan on 3rd January, 2019.</p> <p>It has been updated to include those SPD's updated and produced since the first draft in 2019.</p>
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Date EIA started	24/10/19
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Review date	<p>Latest review done 1/12/23</p> <p>Further reviews to be done to include other SPD's</p>
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Stage 2 - About the proposal

What is being proposed?	<p>Following adoption of the Local Plan on 3rd January, 2019, the Council prepared and adopted 26 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) and Planning Advice Notes (PAN's 2019).</p>
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The Local Plan was subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA). This EIA considers the implications of all the SPD's and PAN's prepared to date.

The documents considered in this EIA are listed below:

Adopted May 2019

- Financial Contributions for schools SPD
- Barn Conversions SPD
- Trees and Hedgerows SPD
- Shop Front Design SPD
- Advertisements SPD
- House Extensions and other Domestic Alterations SPD
- Residential Amenity and the siting of buildings SPD
- Design of Housing Development SPD
- Open Space Provision on New Housing Developments
- Removal of Agricultural Occupancy Conditions SPD
- Mortar Mixes for pointing historic buildings
- Hot Food Takeaways SPD
- Walls and Fences SPD
- Lawful Development Certificates
- Affordable Housing
- Heritage Impact Statements
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Hot Food Takeaways PAN

Adopted November 2019

- Sustainable Travel SPD
- Planning Obligations SPD
- Parking SPD
- Section 38 Agreements PAN
- Section 278 SPD
- Development on land affected by contamination SPD
- Elsecar Conservation Area Design and Maintenance Guide SPD
- Cawthorne Village Design Statement SPD

Adopted July 2022

- Update to Sustainable Travel SPD (supersedes 2019 version)
- Update to Affordable Housing SPD (supersedes 2019 version)

Adopted July 2023

- Update to the Design of Housing SPD
- New Sustainable Construction and Climate Change Adaptation SPD

Proposed for adoption March 2024

- Update to Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD
- Update to House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD

Consulted on Summer 2023

- Update to Financial Contributions to Educational Provision SPD

Why is the proposal required?

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Planning Advice Notes (PAN) provide further advice and guidance to people submitting planning applications. They set out guidance on various policy topics and how Local Plan policies will be applied.

What will this proposal mean for customers?

The documents mean that anyone submitting a planning application will have more clarity on certain topics. The documents deal with a wide range of issues including design so will have implications for future residents of new homes, users of businesses etc.

Use the questions in the Guidance (Preliminary screening process**) to decide whether a full EIA is required**

X Yes - EIA required (go to next section)

No – EIA not required (provide rationale below)

Data: Generic demographics

What generic data do you know about the people who will be affected by the proposal?

This could be internal data held such as ward profiles, JSNA results, if the proposal is inward facing look at the current workforce data,

Are there any external data publications relevant to the proposal? For example from the Office of National statistics, Census data, Public Health England, Charity publications

The documents will be used by anyone who submits a planning application in the borough. For example this could be residents who wish to extend their home, or could be developers undertaking larger scale developments, for example building houses or employment land.

Data: Service data / feedback

What do you already know about the equality impact of the service/location/policy/contract? This could be from complaints / compliments, stakeholder feedback, staff anecdotal evidence etc.

Data: Previous / similar EIA's

Has there already been an EIA on all or part of this before, or something related? If so, what were the main issues and actions it identified?

An EIA was undertaken on the whole of the Local Plan and the policies it contains. The SPD's link to the Local Plan policies relevant to the particular topic. The Local Plan EIA concluded that all policies and proposals apply to all sectors of the community equally. The policies make provision for a range of housing types to meet differing needs for example affordable housing etc. The Design policy D1 seeks to ensure development is designed to be accessible to all.

Data: Formal consultation

Has there been a formal consultation process? External engagement with equality forums? If so, what were the main issues and actions it identified?

There is a formal consultation process required to produce supplementary planning documents. Approval to consult on draft documents is sought from cabinet. A minimum of a four week public consultation process then takes place which is advertised in the press, on social media. Documents are made available on the Council's website. Hard copies are made available at the Library@thelightbox and all branch libraries. Once the documents are amended in light of comments made, Cabinet and Full Council approval is sought to adopt them.

Consultation on the documents that were adopted in May 2019 took place between 4th March 2019 and 1st April 2019.

Consultation on the 8 documents adopted on 28th November 2019 took place between 16/9/19 and 14/10/19.

Consultation on the documents adopted on 28th July 2022 took place between 29th November 2021 and 5th January 2022.

Consultation on the documents adopted 27th July 2023 took place between 28th November, 2022 and 6th January 2023.

Consultation on the documents yet to be adopted took place between 3rd July 2023 and 8th August 2023.

The same formal consultation process described above has taken place on the updated Sustainable Travel and Affordable Housing SPD's late 2021. The Equality Forums were sent the updated documents and asked if they wish to engage in the consultation.

The same formal consultation process was followed for the Design of Housing SPD, the Sustainable Construction and Climate Change Adaptation SPD, and the latest 3 consultation documents. These are: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation; House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations and Financial Contributions to Educational Provision. The Equality Forums were sent the documents and asked if they wished to engage. No engagement took place, although we were able to attend the Youth Council to give presentations on all documents and comments have been taken into account.

Considering the evidence above, state the likely impact the proposal will have on people with different protected characteristics

(state if disproportionately high negative impact and highlight with red text)

Positive and negative impacts identified will need to form part of your action plan.

Protected characteristic	Negative ' - '	Positive ' + '	No impact	Don't know	Details
Sex			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Age			X		<p>All the documents are available for all to use</p> <p>The updated Design of Housing SPD is requiring that a percentage of dwellings are built to the following Building Regulations standards based on evidence in our Strategic Housing Market Assessment which notes the aging population and levels of disability in Barnsley.</p> <p>26% of all new dwellings should be built to M4(2) accessible and adaptable standard</p> <p>6% of new dwellings should be built to wheelchair accessible M4(3)(2)(b)</p> <p>Text has been added to the updated Design of Housing SPD to provide further guidance on design that takes into account those suffering with Alzheimer's or dementia.</p>
<p>Disabled</p> <p><i>Learning disability, Physical disability, Sensory Impairment, Deaf People, invisible illness, Mental Health etc</i></p>		X			<p>A reference is included in the Parking SPD to ensure adequate parking is provided to cater for the needs of people with disabilities to ensure that all parking is designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate.</p>

				<p>The Sustainable Travel SPD seeks contributions towards public transport and active travel enhancements and improvements to ensure developments are accessible to all. Whilst the document does not deal with the design of particular schemes, a cross reference has been added to ensure that all schemes that contributions are collected towards using this document, meet the needs of disabled people and are designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate. This is still the case in the updated version.</p> <p>The updated Design of Housing SPD is requiring that a percentage of dwellings are built to the following Building Regulations standards based on evidence in our Strategic Housing Market Assessment which notes the aging population and levels of disability in Barnsley.</p> <p>26% of all new dwellings should be built to M4(2) accessible and adaptable standard</p> <p>6% of new dwellings should be built to wheelchair accessible M4(3)(2)(b)</p>
Race			X	All the documents are available for all to use. Translation and interpretation assistance will be made available upon request.
Religion & Belief			X	All the documents are available for all to use. Translation and interpretation assistance will be made available upon request.

Sexual orientation			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Gender Reassignment			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Marriage / civil partnership			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Pregnancy / maternity			X		All the documents are available for all to use

Other groups you may want to consider					
	Negative	Positive	No impact	Don't know	Details
Ex services			X		As above
Lower socio-economic			X		As above
Other ...					

If the proposal relates to the delivery of a new service, please refer to the Customer minimum access standards self-assessment (**found at**)

If not, move to Stage 7.

Please use the action plan at Stage 7 to document steps that need to be taken to ensure the new service complies with the Equality Act duty to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

The proposal will meet the minimum access standards.

The proposal will not meet the minimum access standards. –provide rationale below.

Stage 7 - Next Steps

To improve your knowledge about the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: community engagement with affected groups, analysis of performance data, service equality monitoring, stakeholder focus group etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Arrange targeted consultation such as face to face meeting with the equality forums as appropriate. Disability Forum likely to be the most relevant to the subjects covered by SPD's.	Paula Tweed	As required when new SPD's are prepared or adopted SPD's reviewed

To improve or mitigate the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: altering the policy to protect affected group, limiting scope of proposed change, reviewing actual impact in future, phasing-in changes over period of time, monitor service provider performance indicators, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
N/A		

To meet the minimum access standards . . .(if relevant)

Actions could include: running focus group with disability forum, amend tender specification, amend business plan to request extra 'accessibility' funding, produce separate MAS action plan, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
N/A		

Please summarise the main findings and next steps identified in this EIA.

The outcomes of this EIA must be documented in cabinet report. You could also include the EIA as an appendix to the report or reference it as a background paper.

You must also record which stakeholders need informing and how you will do this.

Summary of equality impact

The key equality impacts will be around providing translation and interpretation assistance to those individuals that require it to help them understand the SPD/PAN.

A reference is included in the Parking SPD to ensure adequate parking is provided to cater for the needs of people with disabilities to ensure that all parking is designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate.

The Sustainable Travel SPD seeks contributions towards public transport and active travel enhancements and improvements to ensure developments are accessible to all. Whilst the document does not deal with the design of particular schemes, a cross reference has been added to ensure that all schemes that contributions are collected towards using this document, meet the needs of disabled people and are designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate. This is still the case in the updated SPD.

The updated Design of Housing SPD is requiring that a percentage of dwellings are built to the following Building Regulations standards based on evidence in our Strategic Housing Market Assessment which notes the aging population and levels of disability in Barnsley.

26% of all new dwellings should be built to M4(2) accessible and adaptable standard

6% of new dwellings should be built to wheelchair accessible M4(3)(2)(b)

Text has been added to the updated Design of Housing SPD to provide further guidance on design that takes into account those suffering with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Summary of next steps

As stated earlier should any further documents be produced or when SPD's are reviewed, we will seek to arrange targeted consultation such as face to face meeting with the equality forums as appropriate. Disability Forum likely to be the most relevant to the subjects covered by SPD's/ PAN's. Face to face consultation has been offered but has not been taken up other than where we have been invited to present to the Youth Council.

	<p>No face to face consultation took place on the Sustainable Travel SPD and Affordable Housing SPD due to Covid 19.</p> <p>We will ensure that all future consultation material is accessible both on line and in accessible locations.</p>
<p>How stakeholders will be informed</p>	<p>SPD's/PAN's are only applicable to individuals submitting planning applications.</p> <p>Any language/access issues will be addressed based on the merits of the individual application submitted.</p>
<p>Signature (officer responsible for EIA) Date 8/11/21 Updates added 9/5/22 and 3/3/23 Latest updates added 1/12/23</p>	<p>Paula Tweed</p>

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BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: Adoption of updated House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	21 February 2024
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

This report seeks authority to adopt an updated version of the House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Council Plan priority

Sustainable Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1. Refers the report to Full Council for approval to adopt the updated House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Plan, adopted on 3rd January 2019, contains policies to be considered when determining planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents contain further advice and explain how Local Plan policies will be applied.
- 1.2 The Planning & Building Control Service monitors the effectiveness of our policies and guidance on an ongoing basis. In respect of Supplementary Planning Documents, this is to satisfy ourselves that:

- They remain in conformity with national legislation, planning policy and guidance.
 - They are helping to ensure that the Local Plan achieves its overall aims and objectives .
 - They are enabling decisions to be upheld at appeal.
 - They reflect any new social, environmental or economic priorities that may have arisen.
- 1.3 Supplementary Planning Documents build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. As they do not form part of the development plan, they cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. They are, however, a material consideration in decision-making. They should not add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.
- 1.4 As they do not form part of the Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents can be more readily updated but in doing so, the comments received have been fully considered to ensure that the amendments conform with national planning policy and guidance and that the content supplements existing policies in the plan (rather than replacing them or going beyond their remit) and that the amendments will not result in unnecessary financial burdens.
- 1.5 A number of Supplementary Planning Documents were adopted following the adoption of the Local Plan, including the House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD. Amendments are proposed to update it.
- 1.6 Public consultation took place on the updated House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD for a period of four weeks between Monday 3 July and Tuesday 8 August 2023. A total of 6 comments were received from 4 respondents.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is proposed that the updated version of the House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD is adopted. Once adopted, it will supersede the version adopted in 2019.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 contains a summary of the comments made during consultation and how those comments have been taken into account. Appendix 2 contains the updated House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD. Changes that were proposed from the adopted version are in red and underlined or struck through. The changes proposed following consideration of consultation responses are shown as struck through or red underlined text, and highlighted yellow. Section 4 below summarises the key changes made following consultation.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report other than minimal costs associated with the adoption process which involves placing a public notice in the press. These minimal costs will be met from the existing planning budget. No Appendix A is therefore required.

3.2 Legal

Preparation, consultation, and adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents is carried out in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012.

3.3 Equality

Full Equality Impact Assessment completed.

This complements the Equality Impact Assessment that was carried out to support the Local Plan which concluded that all policies and proposals apply to all sectors of the community equally and that it makes provision for a range of housing types to meet differing needs such as affordable housing. A further assessment was carried out when the suite of SPD's was adopted in 2019. This recognised that the key impacts were around providing translation and interpretation assistance to those individuals that require it to help them understand the SPD's. An action for future consultation was to arrange targeted consultation such as face to face meetings with the equality forums as appropriate, relevant to the subject of the SPD, to ensure our engagement is inclusive. Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be considered at venues where documents are made available to ensure accessibility requirements for all attendees are met. A presentation to the Youth Council was given during the consultation period. A copy of the Equalities Impact Assessment is attached as appendix 3.

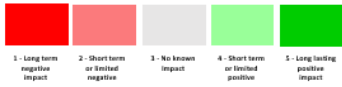
3.4 Sustainability

Decision making wheel completed.

The sustainability wheel illustrates that the main areas where the implementation of the SPD will have a positive impact are related to homes, quality neighbourhoods and health and wellbeing.

Sustainable Decision Wheel

Once you have filled out the values in the guidance sheets, press "Save" before to fill out the wheel.



3.5 Employee

There are no employee implications arising from this report.

3.6 Communications

Communications support will be required to publicise adoption through press releases and social media.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Public consultation took place on the updated House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD for a period of four weeks between Monday 3 July and Tuesday 8 August 2023. A total of 6 comments were received from 4 respondents Consultation was carried out in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) regulations, 2012. Stakeholders such as developers and agents that regularly operate in Barnsley, together with other people that have expressed an interest in being consulted on our planning documents were notified. The consultation was also generally publicised by a public notice in the Chronicle and in the Council's social media. The consultation document was also made available in Library@the Lightbox and all branch libraries and a flyer publicised on screens where possible. A presentation was given to the Youth Council. Issues raised by the Youth Council are summarised in appendix 1.

4.2 Some changes have been made following consultation for clarity and to signpost to relevant information.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 One alternative approach would be not to update the SPD's. The proposed changes provide useful updates and clarification. Therefore, adoption of the amended version is recommended.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The proposed updated SPD contains helpful information and amendments that will provide clarity for service users.

7. GLOSSARY

SPD Supplementary Planning Document

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Summary of consultation responses

Appendix 2: House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD
Adoption version

Appendix 3: Equalities Impact Assessment

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Barnsley Local Plan <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/17249/local-plan-adopted.pdf>

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date Ashley Gray Strategic Finance Business Partner – 13/12/23
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date Bob Power 12/12/2023

Report Author: Paula Tweed
Post: Planning Policy Group Leader
Date: 12th December 2023

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Introduction

Public consultation took place on the updated House Extensions and other Domestic Alterations SPD for a period of four weeks between Monday 3 July and Tuesday 8 August 2023. A total of 6 comments were received from 4 respondents.

Who we consulted

- Duty to Cooperate Bodies
- Bodies and organisations with a topic specific interest
- Developers and Agents active in the Borough
- Housing Associations active in the Borough
- Parish Councils
- Equality Forums

How we consulted

- Emails or letters sent to the above consultees
- Press advert in the Barnsley Chronicle
- Press Releases (including use of the Council's social media) and press coverage through the course of the consultation period.
- Documents were made available on the Council's website
- Documents were made available at Library@the Lightbox and Branch Libraries across the Borough (online and paper form)

Response to Consultation

The tables below set out the main issues raised during consultation. They summarise the main points and any key changes made to the documents as a result of comments received.

General/ overarching comments

MAIN ISSUES RAISED	HOW THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
No comments (3 organisations)	Noted.
Concern regarding quality of design and lack of architecture in the borough. Cites an example of recent development. Wants to see the bar raised and architects employed to work alongside planning officers.	Comments noted.
Considers there are a large number of examples where there is clear infringement of the existing and proposed planning guidelines and regulations. Notably: - - Front and side extensions - especially Flat Roofed porches - Ugly and excessively high Front Boundary Fencing - Ugly parking of vehicles on front gardens, occasionally even caravans - Garages sited too close to public footpaths - Detraction from the street scene with inappropriate painting / colouring / rendering or brickwork on front elevations - Inappropriate choice of colours and styles of replacement windows.	Comments noted.

HOUSE EXTENSIONS AND DOMESTIC ALTERATIONS SPD	
Key changes made as a result of comments: Text added to section 9 to explain planning inspection and enforcement. Text and links to Environment Agency advice added to section 9.	
MAIN ISSUES RAISED	HOW THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED
Page 3 - Second Paragraph – Considers this does not read correctly or make grammatical sense.	The text referred to is one of the bullet points of Local Plan policy D1 which cannot be changed through the SPD.
There is no mention of planning inspection and enforcement during and completion of the build - especially where permitted development applies.	<p>The following text to be added to section 9:</p> <p><i>"Site visits are likely to take place as part of the consideration of the planning application. There is no statutory requirement to inspect the planning application after works have been completed however, the Council may undertake periodic checks.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the building control function, scheduled site visits will be undertaken to ensure that national building standards are achieved to ensure buildings are safe, healthy and accessible.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, the Council has adopted a planning compliance policy and this sets out the council's approach to planning enforcement functions. This is a reactive service, predominantly replying on breaches of planning control being reported to the Council which are in turn investigated by the Council's planning enforcement team.</i></p>
Flood risk standing advice (FRSA) Householder extensions and alterations often fall within EA flood risk standing advice when the development lies within Flood Zones 2 or 3. Recommends a	Comments noted, reference to be added.

<p>signpost and link to a series of standard comments for local planning authorities and planning applicants to refer to on 'lower risk' development proposals. These comments replace direct case-by-case consultation.</p> <p>These standard comments are known as Flood Risk Standing Advice. They can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications#when-to-follow-standing-advice</p>	
<p>Environmental permits and main rivers</p> <p>Recommends that a reference to Environmental permits that may be required if a householder extension or alteration is adjacent to a main river is added.</p> <p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit or exemption to be obtained for any activities which will take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal) • on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal) • on or within 16 metres of a sea defence • involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert • in the floodplain of a main river if the activity could affect flood flow or storage and potential impacts are not controlled by a planning permission <p>For further guidance please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or by emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.</p> <p>The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once planning permission has been granted, and we advise them to consult with us at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Comments noted, reference to be added.</p>

SPD 'House Extensions and Domestic Alterations'

Presentation to Youth Council 17/7/23 Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

Notes

Attendees: Ella Farrell; Paula Tweed; 2 Youth Voice Participation Coordinators; 7 Youth Council representatives

Ella talked through the slides on the 3 SPD's currently out to consultation:
Financial Contribution to Educational Provision; Biodiversity and Geodiversity and House Extensions and other domestic alterations.



SPD Youth Council
presentation.pptx

Questions and discussion

What is an annex? Ella explained that an annex is a building that provides additional living space. It can be joined to or associated with the main building. An annex does not have all the elements to make it a separate self contained dwelling.

Query re. 45% rule and whether it is measured from upper floor windows, Ella answered it could be but usually measured from ground floor window

Query re. how BNG is monitored over 30 years. Our current understanding is that it is responsibility of the developer to provide monitoring reports to the local authority periodically. Question regarding enforcement. The enforcement team wouldn't be responsible for monitoring but may be involved to take enforcement action if the site is not retained for biodiversity purposes. PT explained that the 10% BNG is new and we are still working out how it will be monitored and hoping for further Government guidance on detail.

Are hard copies available of the SPD's? There are reference copies in the libraries. Agreed to provide 3 copies of each SPD for the Youth Voice Participation workers to take out with them. **Action** Ella to organise copies.

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1. About this guidance	2
2. Introduction	2
3. General principles	3
4. 3B Extension and alterations in the Green Belt	4
5. 4B Permitted development	4
6. Design principles	5
Building form	6
Building elements/character	7
Roof	8
Materials	8
The set back	9
Windows & doors	10
Levels	10
7. Layout principles	11
Privacy	11
Overshadowing and loss of outlook	12
The 45° Rule	13
Garden Space	13
Parking Space	14
Highway Safety	14
8. Detailed guidance on types of extensions and alterations	15
Rear Extensions	15
Front Extensions	17
Conservatories	19
Side Extensions	20
Garages, Outbuildings and Annexes	22
Decking/Raised Platforms	22
Dormer Windows	23
Extensions for the Benefit of Disabled Persons	26
9. Other issues/consents	26
Building regulations	26
Listed buildings/Conservation areas	27
Security considerations	27
Boundaries/private civil matters	27

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

1. About this guidance

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) indicates that Local Development Documents form the framework for making decisions on applications for planning permission. Decisions have to be taken in accordance with the development plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise. NPPF advises that a local planning authority may prepare Supplementary Planning Documents to provide greater detail on the policies in its Local Plan. Supplementary Planning Documents are a 'material' consideration when planning applications are decided.
- 1.2 As required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 we have prepared a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how we will involve the community in preparing our Local Plan and consulting on planning applications. In accordance with the SCI we have involved people who may be interested in this Supplementary Planning Document and asked them for their comments. We have produced a consultation statement which summarises all the comments people made to us and our response. This is available on request.

2. Introduction

Policy D1 High Quality Design and Place Making

Design Principles:

Development is expected to be of high quality design and will be expected to respect, take advantage of and reinforce the distinctive, local character and features of Barnsley, including:

- Landscape character, topography, green Infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features;
- Views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways; and
- Heritage and townscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form in the locality.

Through its layout and design development should:

- Contribute to place making and be of high quality, that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment;
- Complement and enhance the character and setting of distinctive places, including Barnsley Town Centre, Penistone, rural villages and Conservation Areas;
- Help to transform the character of physical environments that have become run down and are lacking in distinctiveness;
- Provide an accessible and inclusive environment for the users of individual buildings and surrounding spaces;

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

- Provide clear and obvious connections to the surrounding street and pedestrian network;
- Ensure ease of movement and legibility for all users, ensure overlooking of streets, spaces and pedestrian routes through the arrangement and orientation of buildings and the location of entrances;
- Promote safe, secure environments and access routes with priority for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Create clear distinctions between public and private spaces;
- Display architectural quality and express proposed uses through its composition, scale, form, proportions and arrangement of materials, colours and details;
- Make the best use of high quality materials;
- Include a comprehensive and high quality scheme for hard and soft landscaping; and
- Provide high quality public realm

In terms of place making development should make a positive contribution to achieving qualities of a successful place such as character, legibility, permeability and vitality.

2.1 This SPD sets out the design principles that will apply to the consideration of planning applications for house extensions, roof alterations, outbuildings & other domestic alterations in particular. The following should be noted:

- The definition of "house" in the document includes bungalows, but excludes apartments or maisonettes.
- This SPD also applies to houses that are located in Conservation Areas and the Green Belt as well as any houses that are listed buildings, however, due to the special characteristics of these areas, more stringent controls may need to be applied (see below).

3. General principles

3.1 Proposals for house extensions, roof alterations, outbuildings and other domestic alterations should:

1. Be of a scale and design which harmonises with the existing building and be subordinate.
2. Not adversely affect the amenity of neighbouring properties.
3. Maintain the character of the street scene and;
4. Not interfere with highway safety.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

4. Extension and alterations in the Green Belt

- 4.1 Within the Green Belt, extensions, roof alterations, outbuildings and other domestic alterations will be considered against the general principles above and the following criteria:
1. The total size of the proposed and previous extension should not exceed the size of the original dwelling.
 2. The original dwelling must form the dominant visual feature of the dwelling as extended
- 4.2 Domestic outbuildings within the curtilage of the dwelling will be treated as part of the dwelling or an extension to it, except for the purposes of calculating the original size of the dwelling.
- 4.3 Where an extension is approved it may be necessary to remove permitted development rights for houses in the Green Belt to ensure that the total size of proposed and previous extensions would not exceed the size of the original dwelling.

5. Permitted development

- 5.1 Planning permission is not always required to extend/alter a dwelling house. This will depend on a number of factors for example the size and location of the proposal, whether any extensions have been undertaken previously and what materials are to be used. Advice in respect of permitted development is not given out over the phone but you can request a Householder Development Enquiry Form or download a copy from the website.

<http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/planning-development-management>

- 5.2 A written response will be sent and you are advised to keep this for future reference.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

6. Design principles

- 6.1** It is important that any extension is designed to be in keeping with your property and the character of your neighbourhood, therefore, before designing the extension, examine the character and details of your house.

Figure 6.1 Respectful and unsympathetic ways to extend



- 6.2** Unsympathetic additions, as shown on the right in Figure 6.1, destroy the character of the house. In this case, the garage door is forward of the house and becomes unnecessarily dominant, the flat roof is a weak building form and many original features have been lost. Extending walls and roofs without any break lines can spoil the balance and proportions of the original, as well as emphasising the problems of physically joining old and new.
- 6.3** The left-hand semi in Figure 6.1 has been extended more respectfully. The addition is clearly expressed, by means of a vertical break, or set-back, and the original identity of the house is retained.

An extension will tend to be more successful if you follow the following guidelines:

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Building form

- 6.4 The extension should not normally be as large as the existing house. For example, as in Figure 6.2, a three storey extension to a two storey house, is likely to spoil the balance and character of the original and be detrimental to the street scene.

Figure 6.2 Imbalance



Figure 6.3 Better balance



- 6.5 Wherever possible, extensions should be set back from the front wall of the main house, allowing a corresponding lowering of the roof line and lessening the awkwardness of the junction with the existing. See Figure 6.3
- 6.6 Extensions which radically alter the shape of a house are not acceptable. For example:-

Figure 6.4



Figure 6.5

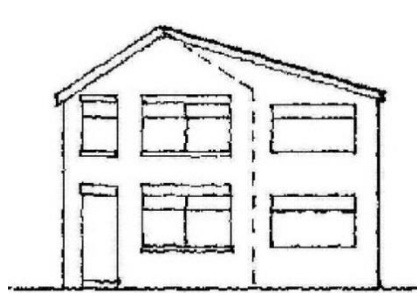


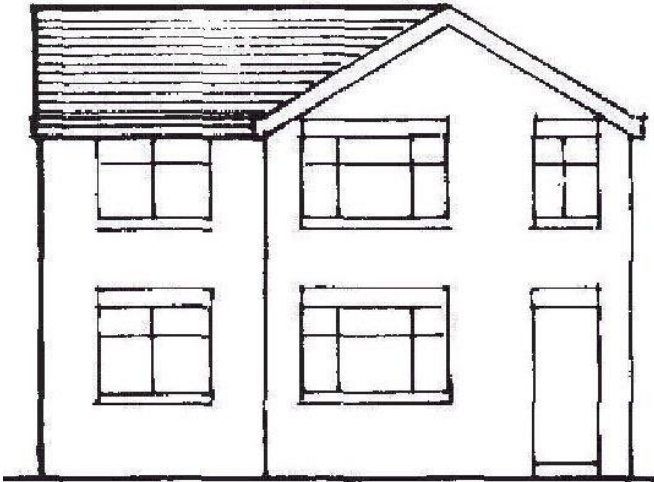
Figure 6.6



- 6.7 The flat roof in Figure 6.4 is an ugly and inferior form of construction, and is visually and physically at odds with the pitched roof. The unequal roof pitch created by the extension in Figure 6.5 unbalances the whole elevation, whilst the proportions and roof pitch of the extension shown in Figure 6.6 are incompatible with the original.
- 6.8 Figure 6.7 illustrates a more logical and sympathetic way of extending a house whose gable faces the street. The extension is set back to allow the original house form to be expressed.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

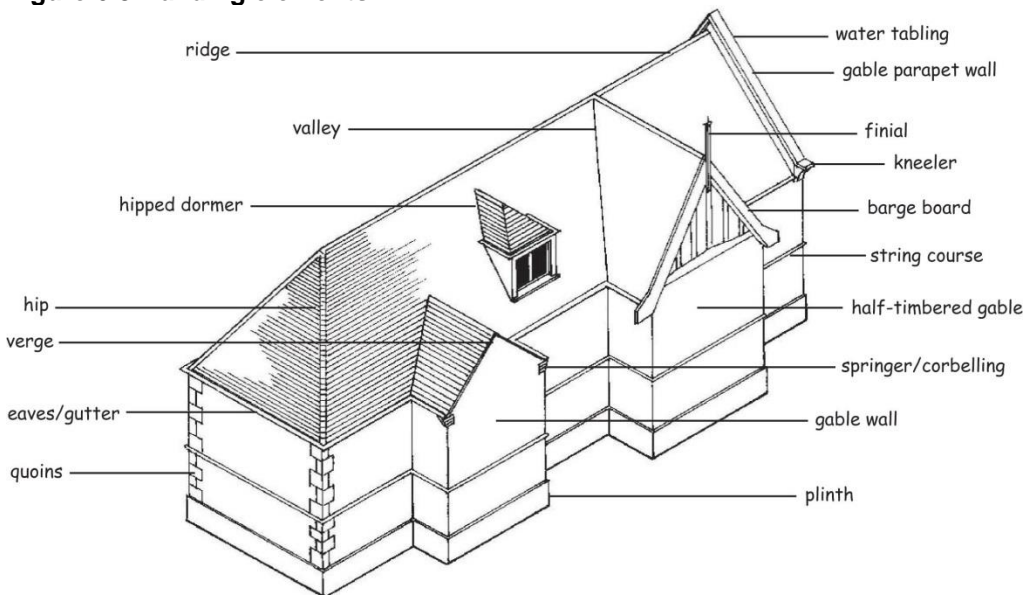
Figure 6.7 A more satisfactory form



Building elements/character

6.9 Figure 6.8 is a building composite which shows the principal external components of a domestic building. Many of the features and details, though traditional, will still be found on your building, even in modern guise. They determine the style and character of your house and should not be ignored in the successful design of your extension.

Figure 6.8 Building elements



Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Roof

- 6.10** The roof, style pitch and detailing should match those of the existing dwelling, particularly where the extension will be prominent within the street scene or extend on parallel lines at a smaller scale.
- 6.11** The single storey extension roof forms shown in Figures 6.9 and 6.10 are precise replicas of the main house. The set-back helps to scale them down proportionally. The lean-to extension in Figure 6.11, again set back, is a good option to Figure 6.9, where overshadowing a neighbour's property might be an issue.

Figure 6.9

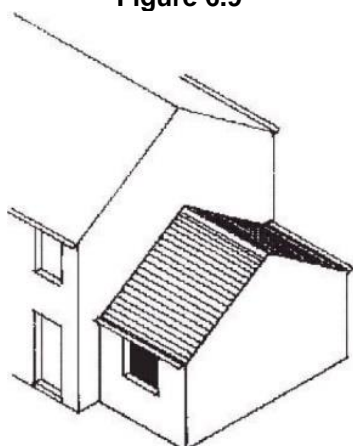


Figure 6.10

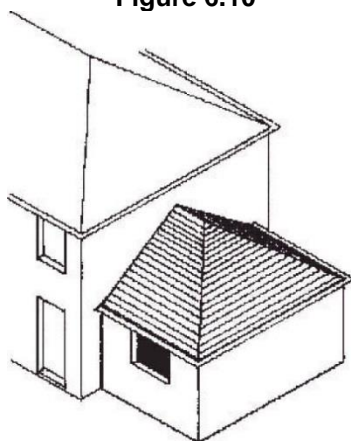
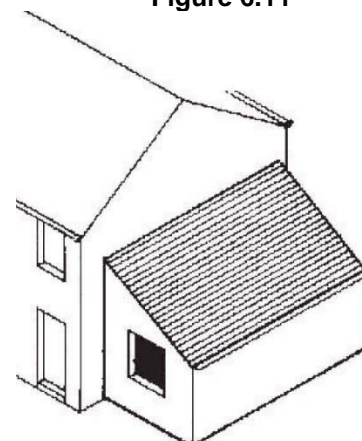


Figure 6.11



- 6.12** Two storey extensions, as shown in Figures 6.12 and 6.13, should follow the same principles as recommended for single storey extensions.

Figure 6.12

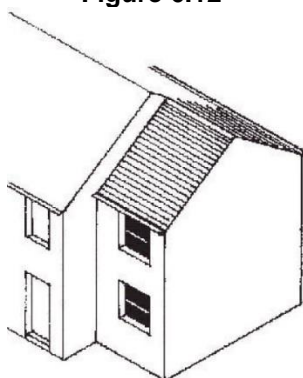
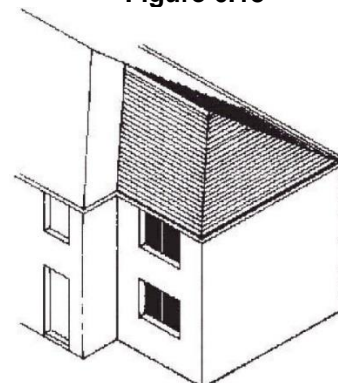


Figure 6.13

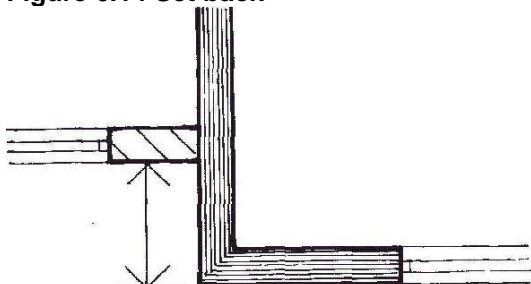
**Materials**

- 6.13** Materials should normally be of the same size, colour and texture as to the existing house or as close a match as possible. Often these materials and finishes cannot be exactly matched. This is when the set-back becomes a very important feature, not just as a means of articulating the extension but also to help reduce the unsightliness of bonding the old and new facing materials.

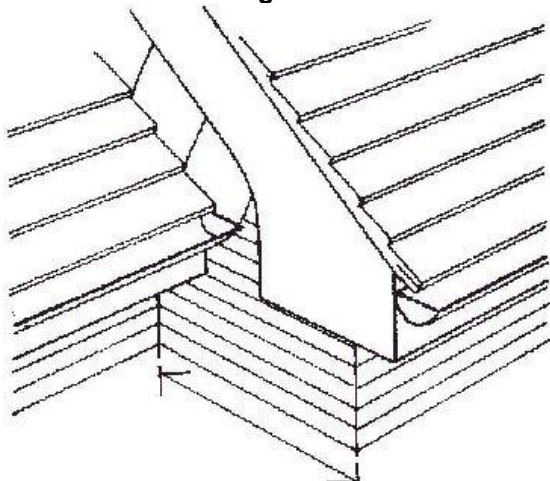
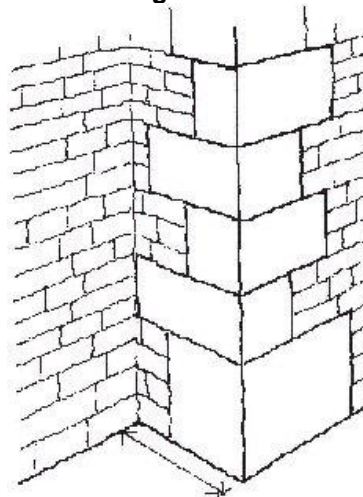
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The set back

- 6.14** An extension should appear as an extension and particularly in the case of two storey side extensions a small 'set back' of the extension from the main wall will be required. This will ensure that the extension appears subordinate and will help reduce the terracing effect that may arise where several dwellings have been extended. The inclusion of a set back also avoids the unsightly bonding of old and new materials.
- 6.15** The set-back itself should be a minimum of 500mm, and preferably allow the extension to line with a vertical brick joint. Figure 6.14 shows the 500mm set-back. This figure might increase slightly where the building is constructed in artificial or regular squared and coursed stone.

Figure 6.14 Set back

- 6.16** There will be other considerations which may vary the depth of the set-back. For example where the main house has barge boards, the extension will need to be set back sufficiently to allow its fascia to miss the barge board return, as in Figure 6.15.
- 6.17** Similar consideration will need to be given when matching up with corbelled eaves, etc. Also, if the main building has quoins, whether in brick or stone, the set-back should be deep enough for the largest quoin to be expressed, as in Figure 6.16.

Figure 6.15**Figure 6.16**

- 6.18** Before embarking on your extension, it will pay to examine the details of your house to help anticipate these design and detail considerations.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Windows & doors

- 6.19 Windows and doors should generally repeat the proportion and style of the existing dwelling, lining through with existing openings and using matching design details. This should also include the heads, sills and other opening surrounds.
- 6.20 Traditionally, older houses have window openings with a vertical emphasis and it is important to retain these proportions in the new openings as well as in the divisions within the window frames themselves.
- 6.21 Generally, any habitable room to the upper floor of a two storey house, or where an inner room at ground floor, is required to have an openable window suitable for emergency escape purposes. The window should have an unobstructed openable area of 0.33m² and be at least 450mm high and 450mm wide. The bottom of the window opening should not be more than 1100mm above the floor.

Levels

- 6.22 Where the height of development proposed differs significantly from that in the area, developers may be asked to provide elevation drawings showing the relationship between the proposed and existing development in terms of streetscape.

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7. Layout principles

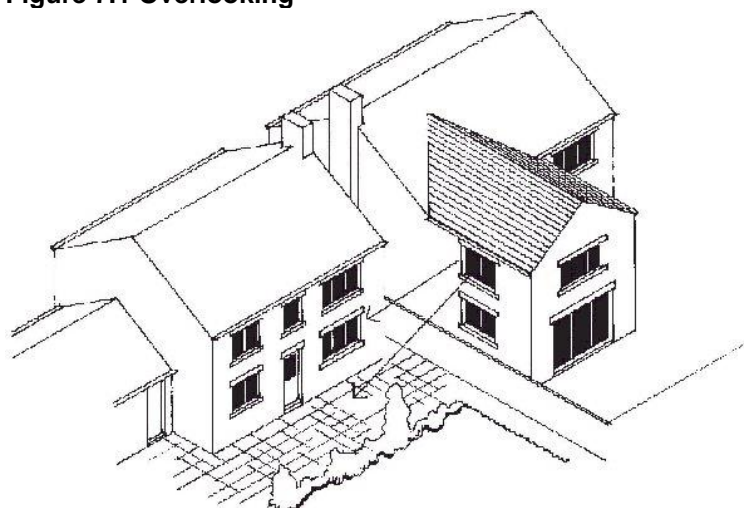
- 7.1 As well as seeking an extension designed in keeping with your existing house, you must also ensure your proposals do not harm the character of the area in general or the levels of amenity that your neighbours might reasonably expect to be maintained. An extension will tend to be more acceptable if you follow these guidelines.

Privacy

- 7.2 Extensions should be designed so that they do not result in significant overlooking of habitable room windows to nearby houses or private gardens. Privacy problems might be overcome by using a combination of obscure glazing, high level windows, screen fencing or rooflights, but are better avoided altogether.
- 7.3 Figure 7.1 illustrates a situation which is unacceptable, and Planning Permission and Building Regulations approval are unlikely to be given for an extension such as this, where the window opening to a habitable room in the side elevation directly overlooks the neighbour's rear window and garden.

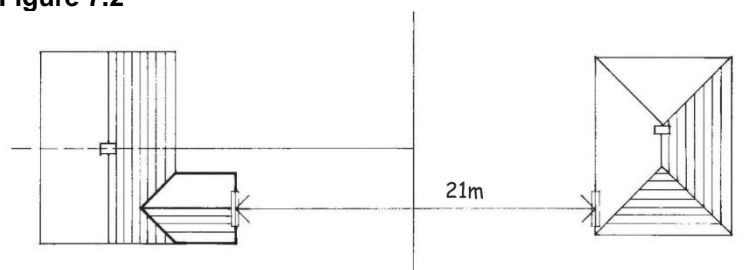
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Figure 7.1 Overlooking



- 7.4** A boundary fence may act as an effective screen to a single storey extension and could reduce overlooking from a side window.
- 7.5** As a general guide, windows to habitable rooms on an extended property should not be less than 21 metres from any other properties with habitable room windows, to ensure reasonable privacy to you and your neighbours. Figure 7.2 demonstrates.

Figure 7.2



Habitable rooms should be taken to include: lounge/living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom and study. A distance of 12 metres should be maintained to a blank gable wall and a distance of 10m should normally be provided between rear-facing windows in the first floor (and above) and the rear boundary.

Overshadowing and loss of outlook

- 7.6** The position of an extension in relation to a neighbouring property and to the path of the sun can influence the level of daylight and sunlight received by that property. Extensions should not overshadow neighbouring properties or their gardens to an unreasonable degree. Extensions directly to the south and to the south east and south west of a neighbouring dwelling will generally have a greater impact than those located to the north, east or west.
- 7.7** The Council will seek to protect principal habitable room windows on the front and rear elevations of the adjacent property, but not secondary windows, i.e. halls, stairs, utility rooms, toilets and bathrooms including en-suites, particularly those on side elevations of adjacent dwellings.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

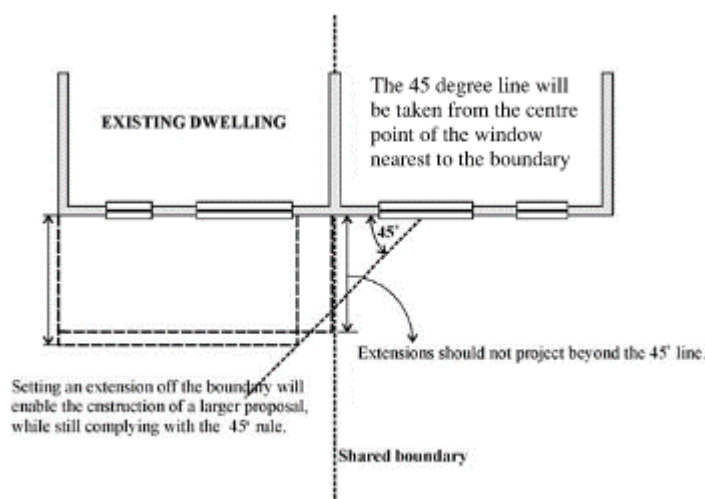
- 7.8 To ensure no unacceptable loss of daylight and to avoid an overbearing relationship with neighbouring properties, particularly adjoining ones, a 45 degree rule shall be applied. How this will be applied is set out below:-

The 45° Rule

This is a general test that will be applied as a guide to what will be acceptable for extensions to dwellings and is applied to reduce the impact of an extension on sunlight/daylight reaching neighbouring properties. In some circumstances it may be necessary to make a detailed calculation to establish the impact of a proposal on adjoining occupiers in terms of loss of daylight/sunlight to a property. The calculation used is detailed, but generally based on the 45° test (see diagram below)

The 45° test shall be applied to the nearest window of any adjacent residential accommodation which lights a habitable room or kitchen. To comply with the rule any extensions should be designed so as not to cross a 45° line, when drawn from the mid-point of the nearest window opening of the adjacent dwelling.

There may be mitigating circumstances where this test may not apply, as each proposal is considered on its own merits. Such circumstances may include existing boundary screening, orientation and path of the sun, roof design, the distance between the extension and neighbouring dwellings and variation in levels. Where screening exists, this must be retained as a mitigating feature and may be subject of a condition if planning permission is granted to ensure that this is the case. Notwithstanding the 45° test for sunlight/daylight, an assessment will also be made with regard to whether a proposed extension would have an overbearing impact on adjacent dwellings.

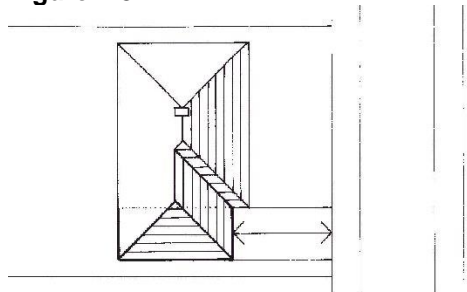
**Garden Space**

- 7.9 Extensions and outbuildings should not take up a disproportionate amount of private rear garden space and as a general principle should allow the retention of at least half the garden area. Account should be taken of existing trees and their future requirements for growth.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Parking Space

- 7.1 An extension or outbuilding which incorporates a garage door should have a minimum distance of 6m between the garage door and the highway (see Figure 7.3).

Figure 7.3

- 7.2 Extensions or outbuildings which prevent the parking of at least 1 private car within the curtilage of a dwelling will not normally be acceptable if highway safety problems would result. The use of front gardens for parking can be visually intrusive unless very careful attention is given to boundary treatment and surfacing.

Highway Safety

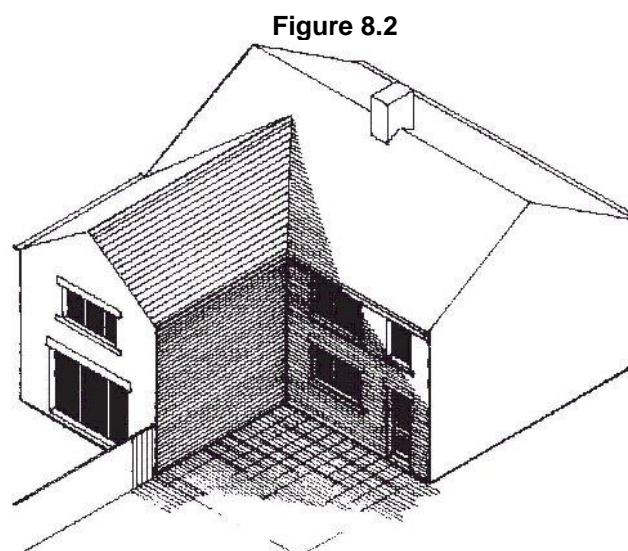
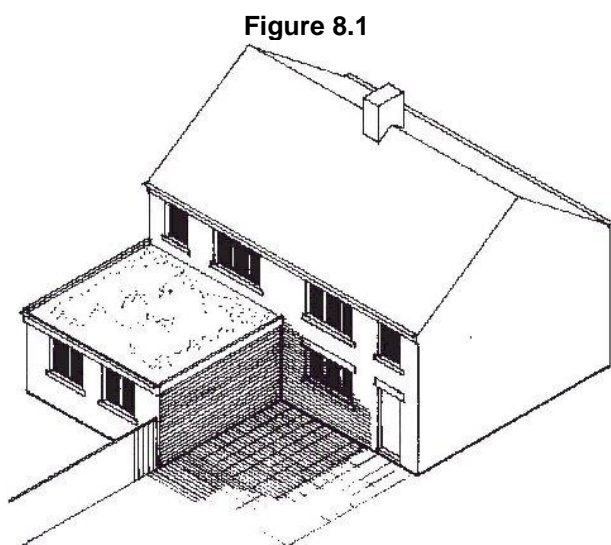
- 7.3 Extensions or garages should not be constructed in positions where they interfere with highway sight lines and should ensure that they maintain/provide an access with adequate visibility for drivers entering the highway.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

8. Detailed guidance on types of extensions and alterations**Rear Extensions**

Extensions should be designed in line with the general principles outlined in Section 3.1 and the specific extension principles outlined below.

- 8.1 Usually, the problem of overshadowing and loss of outlook arises as a result of rear extensions. The single storey rear extension shown in Figure 8.1 is not acceptable because it has an adverse, overshadowing effect on the adjoining property whilst the two storey extension in Figure 8.2 has an even greater impact and would not be permitted.

**Single Storey**

- 8.2 To combat the problems of loss of light, as well as loss of privacy and outlook, the size and projection of rear extensions need to be strictly controlled.
- 8.3 Single storey extensions to the rear of terraced houses should not exceed 3.5 metres in projection and where they exceed 3m in length the eaves height should not exceed 2.5m. On semi-detached dwellings an extension should not project more than 4m and again, the eaves height should not exceed 2.5m where the extension would project beyond 3m.

Two Storey

- 8.4 Two-storey rear extensions will be considered on the basis of the extent of overshadowing, loss of privacy and outlook. Two-storey extensions to terraces and semi-detached properties which abut a party boundary and adversely affect main windows will not normally be allowed. Two-storey rear extensions to semi-detached houses should, therefore, generally be designed with a rear projection of less than 3.5 metres and for terraced houses 2.5 metres. Larger extensions may be acceptable in certain circumstances -for instance: where the neighbouring house has been extended; or where there is a strong boundary treatment, such as a high wall or an outbuilding or garage built close to the boundary. Similarly, there may be circumstances where only smaller

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

extensions are acceptable for instance: on sloping sites or where neighbouring houses are already overshadowed.

- 8.5** Extensions to the rear of detached houses will be considered on their design merits and where no adjacent properties are affected.

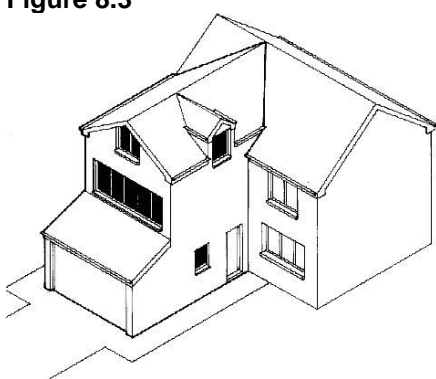
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Front Extensions

8.6 The front elevation of a building is the most important for its contribution to the street scene. Generally, therefore, such extensions need to be of a high standard of design and will not be considered acceptable where they detract from the quality of the existing dwelling or character of the street scene or cause overshadowing to neighbouring dwellings. Large extensions and conservatories are likely to appear particularly intrusive and will not normally be acceptable.

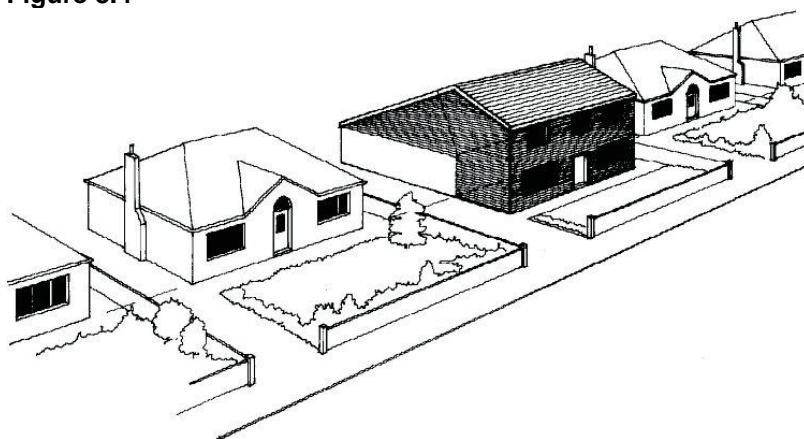
8.7 The front extension in Figure 8.3 would not be acceptable. It alters the character of the original by overwhelming it in an unsympathetic manner. For example, the front door has been removed from the main elevation, and the garage door given excessive prominence.

Figure 8.3



8.8 In Figure 8.4, the forward extension, which changes a hipped-roof bungalow into a gable-roofed two storey dwelling, has broken the common roof ridge line and clumsily interrupted the harmonious pattern and continuity of the street scene, to its detriment. Again this is unacceptable.

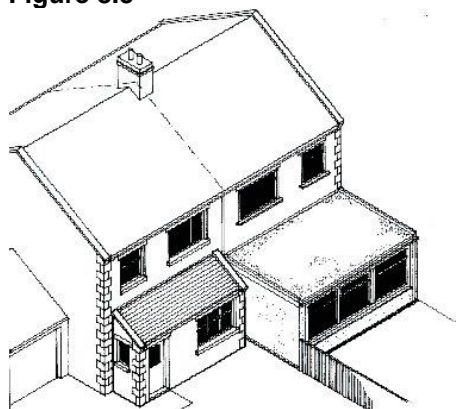
Figure 8.4



Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

- 8.9** Extensions at the front of individually-designed, detached houses, which are set back from the highway or set on staggered building lines, may, in certain circumstances, be acceptable. However, the extension must complement the original house and not adversely affect any adjacent property or the street scene.
- 8.10** Modest single storey front extensions, which are in keeping with the style of the existing house, may be allowed. For example, the left-hand semi shown in Figure 8.5 with a small extension to form a porch and provide some extra space in the front living room, would be acceptable because it is sufficiently discreet and adopts the form and features of the original. But the right-hand semi in Figure 8.5, with a larger extension, made more prominent by the alien form of the flat roof and conservatory-like front, is unacceptable.

Figure 8.5



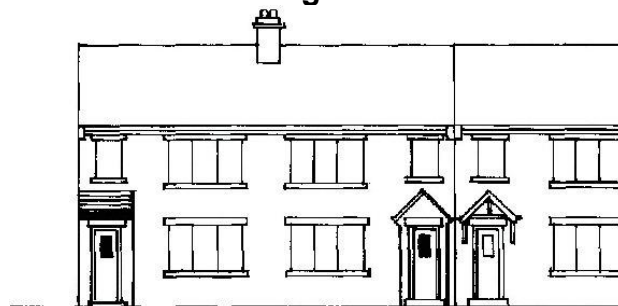
Porches and Canopies

- 8.11** Porches which fulfil their traditional function of providing shelter for the front door are normally acceptable as long as they respect the design and external finishes of the original dwelling. Figures 8.6 & 8.7 show examples of simple porches and canopies which fit in with the existing house style.

Figure 8.6



Figure 8.7



- 8.12** Whilst the joint porch shown in Figure 8.6 maintains the symmetry and balance of the pair of semis, it is preferable, but not always essential, to have the front door on the front of a porch. Sometimes to give it more shelter, or perhaps a better relationship with the approach path the front door needs to be set on the side of the porch. When this is the case, careful attention needs to be given to the porch windows on the front to ensure the style and rhythm of the existing fenestration is maintained.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

- 8.13** Porches which have flat or low-pitched roofs, or resemble small conservatories in appearance, as in Figure 8.8, will not normally be permitted.

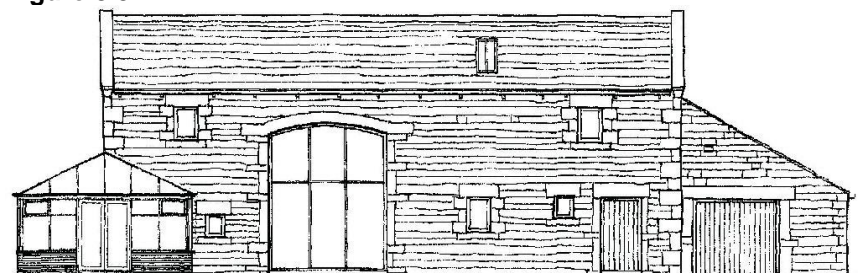
Figure 8.8



Conservatories

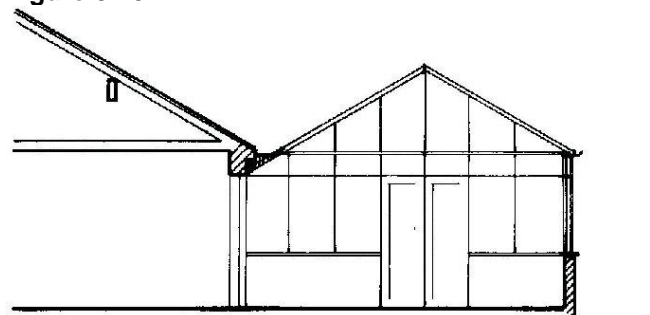
- 8.14** Conservatories are likely to appear particularly intrusive on front elevations and will not normally be acceptable. The conservatory shown in Figure 8.9 attached to this converted barn, a building not originally designed as a dwelling, is particularly inappropriate and must be avoided.

Figure 8.9



- 8.15** Where a conservatory abuts a bungalow, because of the level of the eaves it is often very difficult to construct a satisfactory roof slope, without resorting to a roof form such as is shown in section in Figure 8.10. This creates an awkward relationship between bungalow and conservatory, as well as a roof junction requiring a valley gutter, which is difficult to access and may give rise to maintenance problems in the long term. It also causes the conservatory to appear unnecessarily high and dominant.

Figure 8.10



Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

- 8.16** Where located at the rear, conservatories will also be assessed against the guidance set out in relation to single storey rear extensions (particularly in terms of projection).

Side Extensions

Single Storey Side Extensions

- 8.17** The design of a single storey side extension should reflect the design of the existing dwelling in terms of roof style, pitch materials and detailing and should not have an excessive sideways projection (i.e. more than two thirds the width of the original dwelling). In Figure 8.11 both the gabled roof shown on the left hand side and the hipped roof on the right reflect the form and pitch of the main roof. A lean-to roof (not shown) is a more traditional form and could be used as an option against a gable wall to reduce the impact on a neighbouring property.

Figure 8.11



- 8.18** Habitable rooms in the roof space of single storey side extensions will not normally be permitted, particularly where the eaves height would be increased (leaving a number of courses of brick work between the top of the fenestration and the bottom of the eaves) and/or dormer windows would be introduced.
- 8.19** On corner plots the sideways projection of a single storey side extension should not exceed more than half the width of the existing gap between the original dwelling and the side boundary.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Two Storey Side and First Floor Side Extensions

- 8.20** Terraced housing is a perfectly acceptable form of building design. However, linking or closing the gap between semis or detached houses as in Figure 8.12 to give the effect of a terrace, is a detrimental change to the character of the street scene and must be avoided.

Figure 8.12



- 8.21** All two-storey side extensions should therefore have a pitched roof following the form of the existing roof. To prevent a terracing effect and to avoid detrimental changes to the character of the street scene, it will be desirable to provide a setback of at least 500mm from the main front wall of the dwelling. A setback from the front elevation allows for a vertical break in the roof plane and a lowering of the ridge line.
- 8.22** In addition to the set-back from the front, where practicable, a side extension should also be set in by one metre from the side boundary with an adjacent property, to further avoid the terracing effect (Figure 8.13). This also gives the benefit of external access to the rear of the property.

Figure 8.13



- 8.23** The sideways projection of a two storey side extension should not exceed more than two thirds the width of the original dwelling. Where located on a corner plot the sideways projection should not exceed more than half the width of the gap between the side elevation of the original dwellings and the side boundary (unless the gap exceeded more than two thirds the width of the original dwelling).
- 8.24** In addition, on a corner plot where the rear elevation of the dwelling is clearly visible, a set back of 500mm will also be required at the rear to ensure the extension remains subordinate and to avoid the unsightly bonding of old and new materials.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Garages, Outbuildings and Annexes

- 8.25 Detached garages and outbuildings should relate sympathetically to the main dwelling in style, proportions and external finishes. In most cases, it will not be appropriate for a garage to be sited between the house and the road.
- 8.26 Detached garages and outbuildings should be single storey structures and the eaves height should not normally exceed 2.5m from ground level, with the ridge height not exceeding of 4m whilst the ridge height should not exceed 4m. Proposals for garages will be benchmarked against assessed using the reference of a standard sizes for a single garages as outlined in the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide, which states the internal floor area for single garages should be 3m by 6.5m. For double garage proposals a standard floor area size is considered to be 6.5m x 6.5m. It is not considered appropriate for detached garages to include dormer windows as a way of accommodating rooms in the roof space, but however, in some circumstances (e.g. where the garage is set within a large curtilage) it may be possible to utilise the roof space for ancillary accommodation/storage but not as an annex/granny annex. Where the privacy of neighbouring residents would not be compromised it may therefore be possible to install roof lights.
- 8.27 Applications for annexes should be accompanied by a planning statement outlining the relationship between the existing dwelling and the proposed annex and that of the proposed residents. An annex building, often referred to as a 'Granny Annex' may be permitted in a rear garden where it would not occupy a disproportionate amount of the garden and would not have its own separate access or garden area. An annex should normally have a close physical relationship with the host dwelling and maintain a reliance with it having some shared facilities, be single storey and their size shall be benchmarked against the floor area of a studio apartment, of 33m² as outlined in the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide, up to 39m² and no larger than the size of a double garage. If the Council is mindful to grant planning permission, it will almost always be subject to a condition which requires the annex to remain ancillary to the main dwelling, same family occupancy and one which prevents it being used, sold or rented as an independent dwelling/separated planning unit at a later date.

Decking/Raised Platforms

- 8.28 Decking and raised platforms are commonly used where the rear garden is below the floor area of the dwelling in order to allow improved access to the rear garden and to provide a convenient outdoor amenity area on the same level as the dwelling. Decking and raised platforms are also used in other circumstances but can often give rise to increased overlooking of neighbouring dwellings and particularly their gardens.
- 8.29 In view of this, decking and raised platforms will only be allowed where the privacy of neighbouring residents is not detrimentally affected by significantly increased overlooking (e.g. where the decking is located away from the boundary and where there is sufficient permanent screening, such as a high boundary wall or an outbuilding in an adjacent garden). In addition, decking and raised platforms should not have a significantly detrimental impact on visual amenity and for this reason decking will not be allowed where it is prominently located and can be easily viewed from public vantage points.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

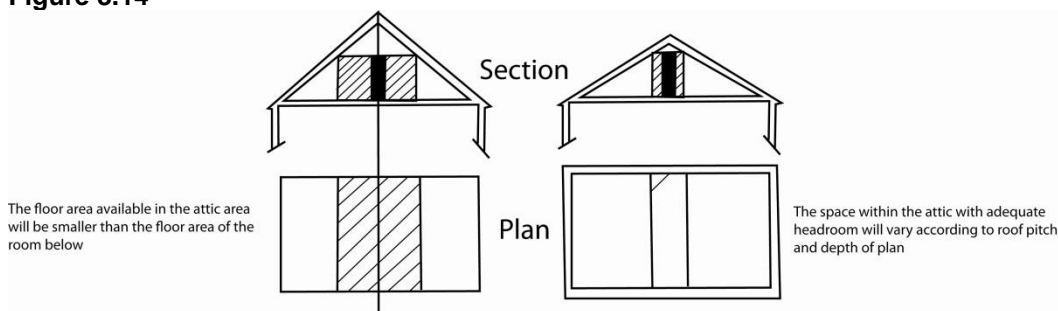
- 8.30** In some circumstances, to reduce overlooking, it may be possible to include screening such as fencing with an application for decking or a raised platform but any screening should not result in significant overshadowing or loss of outlook from neighbouring dwellings or have a detrimental impact on visual amenity or the character of the dwelling.

Dormer Windows

- 8.31** When considering whether to install a dormer window you should assess whether there is adequate space within the attic to accommodate a room(s) with adequate headroom without requiring a dormer extension that will dominate the roof (Figure 8.14). In general, providing that the roof pitch allows adequate height, a space approximately half the area of the floor below can be created.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Figure 8.14



Style

- 8.32** The design of the dormer window should reflect the character of the area, the surrounding buildings and the age and appearance of the existing building.
- 8.33** Vertically proportioned dormer windows with pitched roofs are traditionally found in the Barnsley area (Figure 8.15).

Figure 8.15

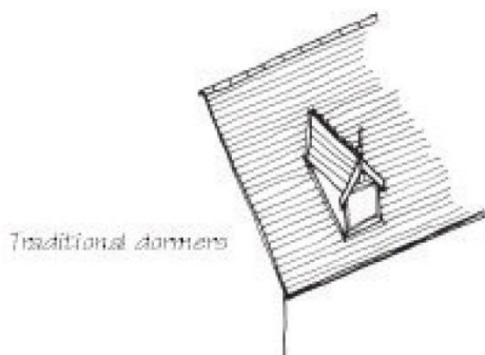
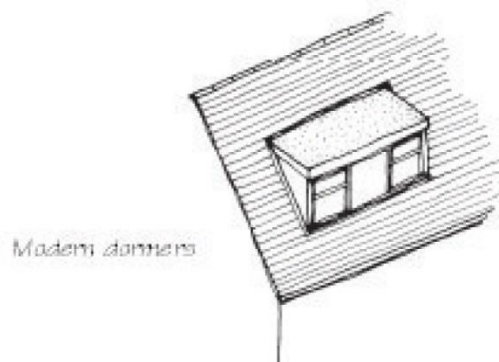


Figure 8.16



- 8.34** Flat roof dormers which tend to be larger and have horizontal emphasis can be seen in more recent housing developments. These have proved to be more expensive to maintain and prone to failure (Figure 8.16). Flat roof dormers are considered aesthetically inferior and are not normally acceptable.
- 8.35** Consequently, pitched roof dormers are generally considered more appropriate for both aesthetic and practical reasons.

Location

- 8.36** To assess whether a dormer on the front or principle elevation will be appropriate, the roofs of the surrounding buildings should be examined. Unless the street is characterised by dormers on the frontage, or these are a feature of the area/street/terrace, dormer windows should be located on the rear or secondary elevations.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Positioning and relationship to other windows

8.37 The positioning of the dormer on the roof will have an impact on both the house and its neighbours.

Figure 8.17



8.38 So as not to dominate existing roof lines and retain its original form, dormers should be set within the roof plane (see Figure 8.17) and not be built off an external wall. The guidelines below should therefore be followed:-

- The dormer should sit within the roof plane and the top of the dormer should usually be below the ridge (A)
- Dormers and roof lights should be set back from the eaves (B) and gable by at least 0.5m (C)
- They should be at least 0.5m away from the party walls with adjacent properties. (D)

8.39 Where there are existing dormers in the same roof plane, for instance in a terrace, new dormers should line up horizontally.

8.40 It is also important that dormers and roof lights reflect the pattern of existing window openings. They should be positioned to line through vertically with the window openings below.

Materials

- Roofing materials for pitched roof dormers should match the main roofing material.
- Unless glazed, the sides (or cheeks) of the dormer should be the same or similar in appearance, particularly in colour to the main roofing material.
- Cladding to the front of the dormer should be minimised.
- Glazing on windows on the side elevation must be obscure.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

Extensions for the Benefit of Disabled Persons

- 8.41 There is an exemption from planning fees for applications that shall be used solely for the benefit of the disabled person. This is interpreted as necessary adaptations, such as a downstairs bedroom or toilet/shower room.
- 8.42 The majority of these applications are as a result of the person being assessed by the Council's Aids and Adaptations Unit, and that assessment, with a recommendation of needs, is passed to the Council's Grants Agency, who then evaluate that persons suitability for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) if the person is a homeowner. Council Tenants would be passed on to Berneslai Homes for suitability checks.
- 8.43 If you are intending to submit an application on behalf of a disabled person, it may be worthwhile taking the following, used when assessing the suitability for DFG works by the Grants Agency, as a guide for the nature and type of the extension.
- Single Bedroom 8.4 square metres
 - Double Bedroom 10.2 square metres
 - Bathrooms (Level Access Shower, Toilet and Wash Basin) 5 square metres
- 8.44 All the above are internal floor area measurements. This is a minimum figure and may vary, for example, if a wheelchair turning area or hoist is required.

9. Other issues/consents

Building regulations

- 9.1 Even when planning permission is not required, it is almost always necessary to obtain approval under Building Regulations. Building Control is concerned with ensuring any alterations/ extension of your dwelling is undertaken in a safe and satisfactory manner. Please be aware that, under some circumstances, compliance with Building Regulations may well impact upon the overall design of an extension or alteration to a property, which may conflict with the planning design guidance given within this document. For further information please Tel: 01226 772678.
- 9.2 Good neighbourliness and fairness are among the yardsticks against which your proposals will be measured. You are strongly advised to discuss your plans with your neighbours before submitting your application. Your nearest neighbours, usually at least the properties either side of you will be notified of your proposals by the council and invited to make comments. Their views will be taken into account by the council in reaching a decision. If you are thinking of extending your house, think about what this may mean to your neighbour as well.
- 9.3 **Site visits are likely to take place as part of the consideration of the planning application. There is no statutory requirement to inspect the planning application after works have been completed however, the Council may undertake periodic checks.**

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

9.4 As part of the building control function, scheduled site visits will be undertaken to ensure that national building standards are achieved to ensure buildings are safe, healthy and accessible.

Finally, the Council has adopted a planning compliance policy and this sets out the council's approach to planning enforcement functions. This is a reactive service, predominantly replying on breaches of planning control being reported to the Council which are in turn investigated by the Council's planning enforcement team.

Listed buildings/Conservation areas

9.5 If your property is a Listed Building or is located within a Conservation Area, special policies and restrictions will apply. In such a case, it is advisable to discuss your proposal at the earliest opportunity with the Conservation Officer on 01226 772576.

Security considerations

9.6 The most vulnerable areas for domestic properties are the sides and the rear. This is where extensions are often built and if not constructed to the appropriate standards they can become a security risk. The design of single storey extensions in particular should be carefully considered from a security point of view. Flat roofs can compromise the security of a property by allowing access to first floor windows.

9.7 Further information on security considerations can be sought from the local Police Crime Reduction/Designing out Crime Officer on 01226 736017, or at:

South Yorkshire Police
The HUB,
Safer Neighbourhood Services
Barnsley Police Station
S70 2DL

Email: barry.regan@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Boundaries/private civil matters

9.8 When an extension or even a separate garage is built up to the property boundary, this may involve foundations or guttering encroachment over the boundary. This may not be acceptable to your neighbour and means that you cannot build the extension without your neighbour's consent even if planning permission is granted. Alternatively, set the extension away from the boundary to avoid encroachment. If an extension is built on or close to the boundary, access from your neighbours' property may be needed to build your extension and maintain it in the future. This would be a private legal matter between you and your neighbour and emphasises the need to discuss your proposals with your neighbour before submitting an application.

9.9 Even when planning permission is granted, this does not affect your neighbour's rights under civil law to prevent the work from being carried out if it involves development on their land.

Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions and Other Domestic

- 9.10 Information regarding 'The Party Wall etc. Act 1996' published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), provides full information on your rights and duties under the Act and can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/party-wall-etc-act-1996-guidance>

- 9.11 If your extension or outbuilding is designed to be built up to a boundary with the highway (a footpath, road or verge) then encroachment of foundations or guttering over the boundary will not be acceptable and must be redesigned so that there is no encroachment.

Environment Agency Flood Risk Standing Advice

- 9.12 Householder extensions and alterations often fall within Environment Agency flood risk standing advice when the development lies within Flood Zones 2 or 3. The Environment Agency has published a series of standard comments for local planning authorities and planning applicants to refer to on 'lower risk' development proposals. These comments replace direct case-by-case consultation. These standard comments are known as Flood Risk Standing Advice. They can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications#when-to-follow-standing-advice>

Environmental Permits and Main Rivers

- 9.13 The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit or exemption to be obtained for any activities which will take place:
- on or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)
 - on or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culverted main river (16 metres if tidal)
 - on or within 16 metres of a sea defence
 - involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert
 - in the floodplain of a main river if the activity could affect flood flow or storage and potential impacts are not controlled by a planning permission

For further guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits> or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm) or by emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once planning permission has been granted, and we advise them to consult with us at the earliest opportunity.

Equality Impact Assessment

Supplementary Planning Documents

Stage 1 Details of the proposal

Name of service	Regeneration and Culture
Directorate	Growth and Sustainability

Name of officer responsible for EIA	Paula Tweed
Name of senior sponsor	Garry Hildersley

Description / purpose of proposal	<p>This EIA covers all the Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Advice Notes prepared by the Council to date since the adoption of the Local Plan on 3rd January, 2019.</p> <p>It has been updated to include those SPD's updated and produced since the first draft in 2019.</p>
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Date EIA started	24/10/19
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Review date	<p>Latest review done 1/12/23</p> <p>Further reviews to be done to include other SPD's</p>
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Stage 2 - About the proposal

What is being proposed?	<p>Following adoption of the Local Plan on 3rd January, 2019, the Council prepared and adopted 26 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) and Planning Advice Notes (PAN's 2019).</p>
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The Local Plan was subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA). This EIA considers the implications of all the SPD's and PAN's prepared to date.

The documents considered in this EIA are listed below:

Adopted May 2019

- Financial Contributions for schools SPD
- Barn Conversions SPD
- Trees and Hedgerows SPD
- Shop Front Design SPD
- Advertisements SPD
- House Extensions and other Domestic Alterations SPD
- Residential Amenity and the siting of buildings SPD
- Design of Housing Development SPD
- Open Space Provision on New Housing Developments
- Removal of Agricultural Occupancy Conditions SPD
- Mortar Mixes for pointing historic buildings
- Hot Food Takeaways SPD
- Walls and Fences SPD
- Lawful Development Certificates
- Affordable Housing
- Heritage Impact Statements
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Hot Food Takeaways PAN

Adopted November 2019

- Sustainable Travel SPD
- Planning Obligations SPD
- Parking SPD
- Section 38 Agreements PAN
- Section 278 SPD
- Development on land affected by contamination SPD
- Elsecar Conservation Area Design and Maintenance Guide SPD
- Cawthorne Village Design Statement SPD

Adopted July 2022

- Update to Sustainable Travel SPD (supersedes 2019 version)
- Update to Affordable Housing SPD (supersedes 2019 version)

Adopted July 2023

- Update to the Design of Housing SPD
- New Sustainable Construction and Climate Change Adaptation SPD

Proposed for adoption March 2024

- Update to Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD
- Update to House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations SPD

Consulted on Summer 2023

- Update to Financial Contributions to Educational Provision SPD

Why is the proposal required?

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Planning Advice Notes (PAN) provide further advice and guidance to people submitting planning applications. They set out guidance on various policy topics and how Local Plan policies will be applied.

What will this proposal mean for customers?

The documents mean that anyone submitting a planning application will have more clarity on certain topics. The documents deal with a wide range of issues including design so will have implications for future residents of new homes, users of businesses etc.

Use the questions in the Guidance (Preliminary screening process**) to decide whether a full EIA is required**

X Yes - EIA required (go to next section)

No – EIA not required (provide rationale below)

Data: Generic demographics

What generic data do you know about the people who will be affected by the proposal?

This could be internal data held such as ward profiles, JSNA results, if the proposal is inward facing look at the current workforce data,

Are there any external data publications relevant to the proposal? For example from the Office of National statistics, Census data, Public Health England, Charity publications

The documents will be used by anyone who submits a planning application in the borough. For example this could be residents who wish to extend their home, or could be developers undertaking larger scale developments, for example building houses or employment land.

Data: Service data / feedback

What do you already know about the equality impact of the service/location/policy/contract? This could be from complaints / compliments, stakeholder feedback, staff anecdotal evidence etc.

Data: Previous / similar EIA's

Has there already been an EIA on all or part of this before, or something related? If so, what were the main issues and actions it identified?

An EIA was undertaken on the whole of the Local Plan and the policies it contains. The SPD's link to the Local Plan policies relevant to the particular topic. The Local Plan EIA concluded that all policies and proposals apply to all sectors of the community equally. The policies make provision for a range of housing types to meet differing needs for example affordable housing etc. The Design policy D1 seeks to ensure development is designed to be accessible to all.

Data: Formal consultation

Has there been a formal consultation process? External engagement with equality forums? If so, what were the main issues and actions it identified?

There is a formal consultation process required to produce supplementary planning documents. Approval to consult on draft documents is sought from cabinet. A minimum of a four week public consultation process then takes place which is advertised in the press, on social media. Documents are made available on the Council's website. Hard copies are made available at the Library@thelightbox and all branch libraries. Once the documents are amended in light of comments made, Cabinet and Full Council approval is sought to adopt them.

Consultation on the documents that were adopted in May 2019 took place between 4th March 2019 and 1st April 2019.

Consultation on the 8 documents adopted on 28th November 2019 took place between 16/9/19 and 14/10/19.

Consultation on the documents adopted on 28th July 2022 took place between 29th November 2021 and 5th January 2022.

Consultation on the documents adopted 27th July 2023 took place between 28th November, 2022 and 6th January 2023.

Consultation on the documents yet to be adopted took place between 3rd July 2023 and 8th August 2023.

The same formal consultation process described above has taken place on the updated Sustainable Travel and Affordable Housing SPD's late 2021. The Equality Forums were sent the updated documents and asked if they wish to engage in the consultation.

The same formal consultation process was followed for the Design of Housing SPD, the Sustainable Construction and Climate Change Adaptation SPD, and the latest 3 consultation documents. These are: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation; House Extensions and Other Domestic Alterations and Financial Contributions to Educational Provision. The Equality Forums were sent the documents and asked if they wished to engage. No engagement took place, although we were able to attend the Youth Council to give presentations on all documents and comments have been taken into account.

Considering the evidence above, state the likely impact the proposal will have on people with different protected characteristics

(state if disproportionately high negative impact and highlight with red text)

Positive and negative impacts identified will need to form part of your action plan.

Protected characteristic	Negative ' - '	Positive ' + '	No impact	Don't know	Details
Sex			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Age			X		<p>All the documents are available for all to use</p> <p>The updated Design of Housing SPD is requiring that a percentage of dwellings are built to the following Building Regulations standards based on evidence in our Strategic Housing Market Assessment which notes the aging population and levels of disability in Barnsley.</p> <p>26% of all new dwellings should be built to M4(2) accessible and adaptable standard</p> <p>6% of new dwellings should be built to wheelchair accessible M4(3)(2)(b)</p> <p>Text has been added to the updated Design of Housing SPD to provide further guidance on design that takes into account those suffering with Alzheimer's or dementia.</p>
<p>Disabled</p> <p><i>Learning disability, Physical disability, Sensory Impairment, Deaf People ,invisible illness, Mental Health etc</i></p>		X			<p>A reference is included in the Parking SPD to ensure adequate parking is provided to cater for the needs of people with disabilities to ensure that all parking is designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate.</p>

				<p>The Sustainable Travel SPD seeks contributions towards public transport and active travel enhancements and improvements to ensure developments are accessible to all. Whilst the document does not deal with the design of particular schemes, a cross reference has been added to ensure that all schemes that contributions are collected towards using this document, meet the needs of disabled people and are designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate. This is still the case in the updated version.</p> <p>The updated Design of Housing SPD is requiring that a percentage of dwellings are built to the following Building Regulations standards based on evidence in our Strategic Housing Market Assessment which notes the aging population and levels of disability in Barnsley.</p> <p>26% of all new dwellings should be built to M4(2) accessible and adaptable standard</p> <p>6% of new dwellings should be built to wheelchair accessible M4(3)(2)(b)</p>
Race			X	All the documents are available for all to use. Translation and interpretation assistance will be made available upon request.
Religion & Belief			X	All the documents are available for all to use. Translation and interpretation assistance will be made available upon request.

Sexual orientation			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Gender Reassignment			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Marriage / civil partnership			X		All the documents are available for all to use
Pregnancy / maternity			X		All the documents are available for all to use

Other groups you may want to consider					
	Negative	Positive	No impact	Don't know	Details
Ex services			X		As above
Lower socio-economic			X		As above
Other ...					

If the proposal relates to the delivery of a new service, please refer to the Customer minimum access standards self-assessment (**found at**)

If not, move to Stage 7.

Please use the action plan at Stage 7 to document steps that need to be taken to ensure the new service complies with the Equality Act duty to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled people.

The proposal will meet the minimum access standards.

The proposal will not meet the minimum access standards. –provide rationale below.

Stage 7 - Next Steps

To improve your knowledge about the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: community engagement with affected groups, analysis of performance data, service equality monitoring, stakeholder focus group etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Arrange targeted consultation such as face to face meeting with the equality forums as appropriate. Disability Forum likely to be the most relevant to the subjects covered by SPD's.	Paula Tweed	As required when new SPD's are prepared or adopted SPD's reviewed

To improve or mitigate the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: altering the policy to protect affected group, limiting scope of proposed change, reviewing actual impact in future, phasing-in changes over period of time, monitor service provider performance indicators, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
N/A		

To meet the minimum access standards . . .(if relevant)

Actions could include: running focus group with disability forum, amend tender specification, amend business plan to request extra 'accessibility' funding, produce separate MAS action plan, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
N/A		

Please summarise the main findings and next steps identified in this EIA.

The outcomes of this EIA must be documented in cabinet report. You could also include the EIA as an appendix to the report or reference it as a background paper.

You must also record which stakeholders need informing and how you will do this.

Summary of equality impact

The key equality impacts will be around providing translation and interpretation assistance to those individuals that require it to help them understand the SPD/PAN.

A reference is included in the Parking SPD to ensure adequate parking is provided to cater for the needs of people with disabilities to ensure that all parking is designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate.

The Sustainable Travel SPD seeks contributions towards public transport and active travel enhancements and improvements to ensure developments are accessible to all. Whilst the document does not deal with the design of particular schemes, a cross reference has been added to ensure that all schemes that contributions are collected towards using this document, meet the needs of disabled people and are designed in accordance with current regulations and standards including Building Regulations, Equalities Act, relevant British Standards and the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide as appropriate. This is still the case in the updated SPD.

The updated Design of Housing SPD is requiring that a percentage of dwellings are built to the following Building Regulations standards based on evidence in our Strategic Housing Market Assessment which notes the aging population and levels of disability in Barnsley.

26% of all new dwellings should be built to M4(2) accessible and adaptable standard

6% of new dwellings should be built to wheelchair accessible M4(3)(2)(b)

Text has been added to the updated Design of Housing SPD to provide further guidance on design that takes into account those suffering with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Summary of next steps

As stated earlier should any further documents be produced or when SPD's are reviewed, we will seek to arrange targeted consultation such as face to face meeting with the equality forums as appropriate. Disability Forum likely to be the most relevant to the subjects covered by SPD's/ PAN's. Face to face consultation has been offered but has not been taken up other than where we have been invited to present to the Youth Council.

	<p>No face to face consultation took place on the Sustainable Travel SPD and Affordable Housing SPD due to Covid 19.</p> <p>We will ensure that all future consultation material is accessible both on line and in accessible locations.</p>
<p>How stakeholders will be informed</p>	<p>SPD's/PAN's are only applicable to individuals submitting planning applications.</p> <p>Any language/access issues will be addressed based on the merits of the individual application submitted.</p>
<p>Signature (officer responsible for EIA) Date 8/11/21 Updates added 9/5/22 and 3/3/23 Latest updates added 1/12/23</p>	<p>Paula Tweed</p>

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