

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Executive Director – Growth & Sustainability

TITLE: Adoption of updated Financial Contributions for Education Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

REPORT TO:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting	16 April 2025
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 Financial Contributions for Educational Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Council Plan priority

Learning Barnsley and Growing Barnsley

Recommendations

That Cabinet refers the report to Full Council for approval to adopt the updated Financial Contributions for Educational Provision 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 (SPDs) 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 SPDs, 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 SPDs 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, SPDs can be more readily updated but in doing so, the comments received will be 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 SPDs were adopted following the adoption of the Local Plan, including the Financial Contributions for Schools SPD. We consulted on a number of amendments in summer 2023 which were to provide updates, improvements and clarity on the scope of the SPD, including a change to the title.
 - 1.6 The public consultation took place for a period of four weeks between 3 July and 8 August 2023. A total of 8 comments were received from 5 respondents. The Department for Education were the only respondent to make specific comments on the proposed changes to the SPD. Their comments and suggested changes reflected new and updated Government (Department for Education) guidance, which was published after the SPD consultation had been launched.
 - 1.7 Resultant changes included clarification as to how early years, SEND and post-16 provision are covered by the SPD, so that it includes the relevant contributions; and updates to the contribution calculations to reflect the latest available data (published in July 2023) as a basis of pupil cost per place, and recommendations within updated DfE Developer Contributions Guidance (published in August 2023).
 - 1.8 Given that the changes made to take account of these comments were significant, we undertook a further period of public consultation for 4 weeks between 10 September and 8 October 2024. A total of 2 specific comments were received from 6 respondents. No further changes were required as a result of the further consultation. The Department for Education have confirmed that they are content with the changes made as a result of their initial comments.
 - 1.9 In addition, a correction has been made to table 2 confirming that Hoyland falls within the South East school planning area, not within the South West school planning area as was incorrectly stated on the consultation version.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is proposed that the updated version of the Financial Contributions for Educational Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is adopted. Once adopted, the amended SPD will supersede the version adopted in 2019.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 contains a summary of the comments made during the initial consultation and how those comments have been taken into account. Appendix 2 contains a summary of the comments made during the additional consultation period and how they have been taken into account.
- 2.3 Appendix 3 contains the updated Financial Contributions for Educational Provision SPD (Adoption version). Changes that were proposed in either consultation, and have been carried forward to the final updated version for adoption are shown in red and underlined or struck through. Additional changes made following the further consultation are shown as struck through or underlined text and highlighted yellow.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

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

3.1.2 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.
- Updated calculations for financial contributions for educational provision as set out in Appendix 3 section 7 of the SPD are summarised below:

1.1 School type	Cost per pupil place		
	Current SPD	2022 scorecard	Proposed updated figure
Primary	£16,202	£17,677	£17,500
Secondary	£16,056	£24,312	£24,500

3.1.3 It should be noted that if building costs continue to rise then there is a risk that the calculation will soon become out of date. With this in mind the calculation requires review and, where necessary, revision periodically to ensure the contributions given can feed into wider plans in funding extra educational setting requirements.

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.

Consultation with the Service Director (Law and Governance) will be required to ensure legal processes are aligned to enable efficient delivery of supplementary planning documents.

There are no further anticipated legal implications or risk emerging through consideration of this report.

The governance is fully detailed in the body of this report.

3.3 Governance

Part II of the Council constitution provides for cabinet to exercise the following function at para 1.1(a) to make recommendations on matters reserved for determination by the full Council, as listed in Part III of the Constitution.

A key decision is defined with Part 5g of the Council constitution and includes any decision which is likely to have a significant positive or negative impact (eg in environmental, physical, social, or economic terms) on people living or working in communities in two or more wards.

3.4 Equality

Full Equality Impact Assessment completed.

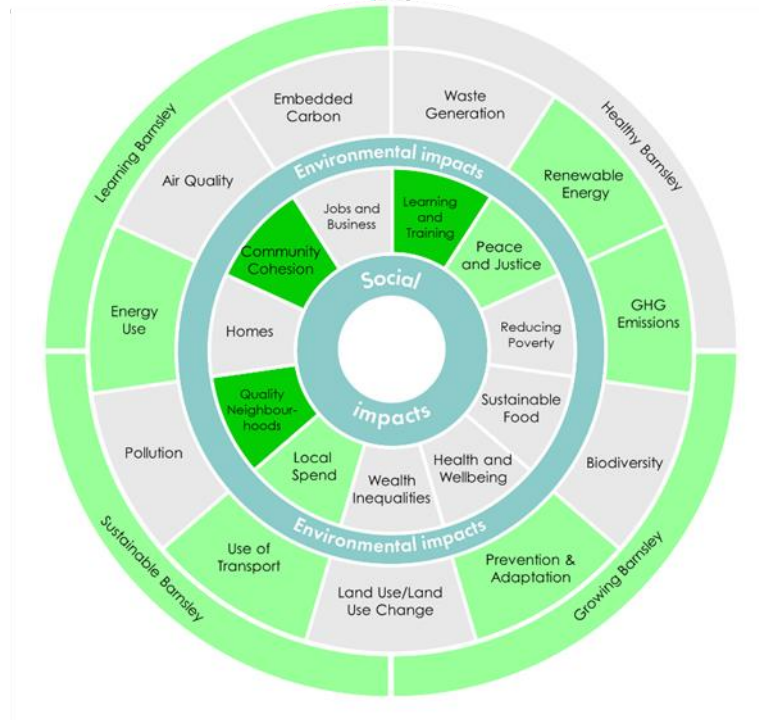
An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out to support the Local Plan. This concluded that all policies and proposals apply to all sectors of the community equally.

A further assessment was carried out when the suite of SPD's was adopted in 2019. This recognised key impacts 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 available to ensure accessibility requirements for all attendees are met. This can be carried out during consultation on the draft.

The changes proposed to the Financial Contributions for Educational Provision SPD seek to provide clarity on how financial contributions to educational provision can include provision for early years, post 16 and SEND and thereby contribute to a more inclusive educational offer for Barnsley's communities.

3.5 Sustainability

Decision-making wheel completed.



As this report concerns updates to an existing SPD, it is considered that in most instances the report has low positive or no impact. Positive impacts arise mostly from the purpose of the SPD, to ensure that pupils arising from new development can be accommodated locally within the appropriate educational setting, and the proposed changes to provide clarity on what financial contributions to educational provision may be spent on within the borough.

3.6 Employee

There are no employee implications arising from this report.

3.7 Communications

Communications support will be required to publicise the adoption through press release, social media and council newsletter(s) as appropriate.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Consultation has taken place internally with the officers who act on behalf of the teams responsible for providing input into planning applications relevant to the Financial Contributions for Educational Provision SPD. This has included officers in Children's Services.

4.2 Public consultation took place on the updated Financial Contributions for Educational Provision SPD for two separate four week periods:

- 3 July to 8 August 2023 - Initial consultation on proposed updates. A total of 8 comments were received from 5 respondents.
- 10 September to 8 October 2024 - Further consultation on significant changes proposed in response to the initial consultation. A total of 2 specific comments were received from 6 respondents. No further changes were required as a result of the further consultation.

Relevant stakeholders together with 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, in the Council's social media and in the regular schools bulletin. The consultation document was also made available online and at Library@ the Lightbox and all branch libraries. Appendices 1 and 2 contain a summary of the comments received during the consultation periods.

- 4.3 Some significant changes have been made as a result of the comments received, including clarification as to how early years, SEND and post-16 provision are covered by the SPD, so that it includes the relevant contributions; and updates to the contribution calculations to reflect the latest available data and Government guidance as a basis of pupil cost per place.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 An alternative approach is not to update the current supplementary planning document. This would mean that guidance provided to the public and developers would be out of date and unclear with respect of the new school planning areas as approved by the Department for Education, the use of financial contributions for early years and SEND provision, updated Department for Education Developer Contributions Guidance and the new Department for Education Pupil Yield Dashboard.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The revised Supplementary Planning Document provides important updates, improvements and clarity on the scope of the SPD, that will bring the document in line with updated Government guidance and provide clarity for service users.

7. GLOSSARY

SPD: Supplementary Planning Document

NPPF: National Planning Policy Framework

NPPG: National Planning Policy Guidance

SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Summary of comments received on the initial consultation document

Appendix 2: Summary of comments received on the further consultation document

Appendix 3: Financial Contribution for Educational Provision SPD Adoption version

Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Assessment SPDs 2019

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Barnsley Local Plan <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/17249/local-planadopted.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 <i>Ashley Gray – Strategic Finance Business Partner 05/03/2025</i>
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Rebecca Asquith – Head of Legal Services 3 April 2025</i>

Report Author: Emma Coveney
Post: Senior Planning Officer
Date: 11 February 2025