

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLACE TO CABINET ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021

Public or private: Public

#### **UPDATE OF SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks authority to consult on two updated Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) on Affordable Housing and Sustainable Travel.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That approval is given to consult on the Supplementary Planning Documents and Planning Advice Notes covered in this report.**

##### **3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 The Local Plan, adopted on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019, contains policies to be considered when determining planning applications. Supplementary Planning Documents contain further advice and explain how these policies will be applied.
- 3.2 A number of Supplementary Planning Documents were adopted following the adoption of the Local Plan. Both the Affordable Housing SPD and the Sustainable Travel SPD were adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019. The amendments proposed are to provide updates and improvements. Appendix 1 summarises the proposed changes.

##### **4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Affordable Housing SPD and the Sustainable Travel SPD are amended. The paragraphs below summarise the reasons for the proposed amendments. Appendix 1 summarises the changes made. The full documents are contained in appendix 2.
- 4.2 **Affordable Housing SPD**  
Changes are proposed in order to reflect the current evidence in the updated SHMA which was made available in June 2021. This updates the affordable housing tenure split.

4.3 Text has also been added in light of the Government's policy requirement on First Homes. In May 2021 the Government announced a new kind of discounted market sale housing, First Homes, which is now the Government's preferred discounted market tenure. Subject to a transition period from 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 First Homes are required to account for at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered. It is intended to prepare and publish a separate technical note detailing the minimum discount(s), local eligibility criteria and restrictions on the initial sale and subsequent resales.

4.4 **Sustainable Travel SPD**

Changes are proposed to the Electric Vehicle charging section of the SPD. Further explanatory text is provided in the document and an additional appendix. The proposed amendments reflect learning since EV charging points have been installed.

4.5 Other proposed amendments mostly make clear that the document relates to, and seeks contributions towards, active travel. Proposed amendments reinforce that the SPD relates to Sustainable Transport rather than public transport. A further report will be brought to Cabinet if additional changes are required resulting from the emerging Transport Strategy.

4.6 **Public Consultation**

Public consultation will take place for a period of four weeks in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) regulations, 2012. Comments will be considered and a further report will be taken to Cabinet detailing any changes made as a result of consultation, and seeking authority to adopt the final versions.

4.7 Appendix 1 provides a summary of the changes proposed to each document. The documents are contained in full in Appendix 2.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES**

5.1 One alternative approach would be not to update these documents. The current versions are supplementary planning documents. This would mean that there would be a vacuum of planning policy advice to support the Local Plan to help explain how policies will be applied and interpreted.

**6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS**

6.1 The implications for local people and service users are that the updated Supplementary Planning Documents and Advice notes will be used to provide up to date information and guidance on how planning policies will be applied and interpreted.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

7.2 The cost of the public consultation including printing and publicity costs are estimated to be no more than £1,000.

7.3 This additional expenditure will be financed from the Planning budget.

7.4 The financial implications to this report are summarised in the attached Appendix A.

## **8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no employee implications arising from this report.

## **9. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 Consultation has taken place internally with the various officers who act on behalf of the teams responsible for providing input into planning applications (Air Quality; Transportation and Strategic Housing and Growth).

## **11. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

11.1 The Local Plan is a key Council strategy document, that together with the suite of SPD's supports achievement of the priorities in Our Council Plan 2021-2024. In particular the priorities Healthy Barnsley, Sustainable Barnsley and Growing Barnsley.

## **12. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

12.1 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 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. This can be carried out during consultation on these two drafts. The EIA also noted in the summary that 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. This is still applicable.

### **13. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY**

- 13.1 If the objectives of the Local Plan are achieved it is anticipated that levels of poverty, deprivation and inequality will have reduced by the end of the plan period. The two updated SPD's play an important role in securing planning contributions for sustainable travel (public transport, walking and cycling), investment and affordable housing. These contributions will benefit communities affected by development proposals, helping to mitigate impacts but also maximize opportunities. In turn, benefits should also be realised for those in poverty.

### **14. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

- 14.1 A Health Impact Assessment was produced to consider the Local Plan proposals on health. This considered the impact of the various policies within the plan on the health of the various communities as well as whether they contributed to the ambitions of the Corporate Plan and reduce health inequalities. It concluded that as a whole the plan would potentially improve the health of residents and help address health inequalities. Provision of Affordable Housing, and promoting active travel/ sustainable transport contribute to this.

### **15. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER**

- 15.1 The Police Architectural Liaison Officer was consulted on those SPD's which relate to layout and design of development to ensure that principles of Secured By Design are embedded. There are no direct implications arising from these two SPD's.

### **16. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 16.1 There are no risks associated with consulting on these proposed amendments. Most of them are minor changes, which improve the clarity of the documents.

### **17. HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ISSUES**

- 17.1 Over and above the matters referred to under the heading "Tackling Health Inequalities", there are no direct implications for health, safety and emergency resilience arising from this report.

### **18. COMPATIBILITY WITH THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

- 18.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

## **19. CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**

- 19.1 The Local Plan seeks to achieve a net biodiversity gain by the end of the plan period, and this is considered in all developments.

## **20. GLOSSARY**

SPD Supplementary Planning Document

## **21. LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A Financial Implications

Appendix 1: List of proposed amendments to Sustainable Travel and Affordable Housing SPD's.

Appendix 2: Draft SPD documents

## **22. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Plan <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/9924/local-plan-adopted.pdf>

Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/planning-and-buildings/supplementary-planning-documents/>

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

**Report author:** Paula Tweed