



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: All

OSMB
Cabinet

7th April 2011
11th April 2011

Draft Green Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Report of the Strategic Director Development Culture and Regeneration

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of the public consultation for the draft Green Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), present the final version and seek formal adoption.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 i) Cabinet is asked to formally adopt the Green Space SPD as Council policy.

3 Summary

- 3.1 The Draft Green Space SPD and accompanying "Calculations" document (See appendices 1 & 2) have been produced to support Core Strategy Policy 13: Green Network. When adopted, the SPD will assist planning applicants and developers who are seeking to secure residential development to calculate the amount and/ or cost of green space, sport or recreation facilities that would be required. It will also provide a defensible mechanism for the Council to secure developer contributions to improve the quality of the green spaces in the City.
- 3.2 The draft document was published for a 4 week period of public consultation from the 15th November to 13th December 2010. A summary of comments received and the Council's response including proposed amendments, can be seen in appendix 3.

4 Report

Purpose of Supplementary Planning Documents

- 4.1 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) form part of the Council's Local Development Framework. They support policies contained in Development Plan Documents, including the adopted Core Strategy.

Relationship to the Core Strategy

- 4.2 This Supplementary Planning Document supports Policy CS13 "Green Network" of the Core Strategy, which aims to maintain and enhance the quality of the green network in the City. The SPD clarifies the Council's approach to the provision of green space, sport and recreation facilities to assist applicants and developers who are seeking to secure residential development where such provision would be required.

What the SPD will do

- 4.3 The Draft Green Space SPD focuses on the impact that new residential development will have on the green network and sets out the amount of green space and/ or level of developer contributions that would be required to make the development acceptable. In particular it considers the need to provide new on-site green space provision, contributions to enhance the quality of provision and maintenance costs. The “Calculations” document which accompanies the SPD, gives information on how the developer contribution figures have been calculated.

Wider Context

- 4.4 The amount of green space provision is based on local green space provision standards. These were derived from the Council’s “Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Leicester (2007), which assessed the amount and variety of open spaces in the City (quantity), how well the spaces were maintained (quality) and how easy they are to get to and use (accessibility). At the time public consultation was undertaken to inform the study and develop the local standards of provision.
- 4.5 The study provided an important evidence base for the Core Strategy and has also informed the development of the Council’s Green Space Strategy. The Green Space SPD is important for both the Core Strategy and the Green Space Strategy as it will help to implement the policies and strategies of both these documents. This will be through securing new open space provision and developer contributions to improve the quality of the green space network, where this is required, in respect of new housing development.

Public Consultation

- 4.6 Formal public consultation on the draft SPD took place for 4 weeks between the 15th November and 13th December 2010. During this time comments were invited from a wide range of organisations which included: statutory bodies, key stakeholders, developers, house builders, agents and environmental organisations. Planning and Development Control Committee were consulted on the 30th November 2010. A Public Notice was placed in the Mercury newspaper to advertise the consultation. People could also view the draft documents on the Council’s website and as hard copies in the Customer Service Centres.
- 4.7 As a result of the consultation four amendments have been made to the draft document to correct inaccuracies and clarify matters related to designing out crime, heritage assets and university sports grounds. A summary of comments received and the Council’s response can be seen in Appendix 3. The final version of the document is attached in Appendices 1 & 2. A sentence has since been added to Appendix 1 to clarify the purpose of the figures in the tables. This reads: - “They show only the quantitative aspect of green space and do not reflect the quality audits undertaken as part of the study”.

5.1 Financial Implications

“Any additional section 106 contributions and commuted sums will be managed under existing procedures.”
Martin Judson, Financial Services, ext 297390

5.2 Legal Implications

“Once adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.”
Dina Nathwani, Legal Services

Climate Change Implications

- 5.3 It is important that the Council maintains and improves both the quantity and quality of green spaces to enable the City to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change. Green spaces are central to efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change, such as providing areas of shade and cooling, and the Green Spaces SPD should assist in ensuring these important areas so space are provided.

Helen Lansdown, Senior Environmental Consultant – Sustainable Procurement

6 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References information
Equal Opportunities	Yes	The SPD considers accessibility to open space for all parts of Leicester by wards area.	
Policy	Yes	Para 4.2 – The SPD supports the implementation of Policy CS13 of the Council’s Core Strategy.	
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	Maintaining and enhancing open space provision is a key objective of the SPD.	
Crime and Disorder	Yes	The document has been revised to refer to “Secure by Design” principles.	
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		
Corporate Parenting	No		
Health Inequalities Impact	No		

7 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

- 7.1 None

8 Consultations

- 8.1 We have worked closely with the Parks and Green Spaces Service to produce this Draft Green Space Supplementary Planning Document. Other departments e.g. Planning Management and Delivery, the Development Team, Sports, Legal Services, Housing and Property Services have also been consulted as part of internal consultation.

- 8.2 Formal public consultation on the draft SPD took place between 15th November and 13th December 2010.

9 Report Author

- 9.1 Elizabeth Oxborough
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Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)