

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Green Initiatives Fund bid – Climate Change SPD



8th November 2022

Title	<i>Green Initiatives Fund – Climate Change SPD</i>
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	<i>Jilly Mowbray - Climate Change Officer</i>
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	<i>Not applicable</i>
Corporate Priority	Recovery Environment
Recommendations	To approve funding of £30,000 from the Green Initiatives Fund for an external contractor to produce a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document
Reason for Recommendation	Producing a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to support and strengthen climate change policies within the current Local Plan and future Local Plan will encourage more sustainable design and developments within Spelthorne. The Local Plan and a new SPD are central to addressing climate change in Spelthorne and it is vital that opportunities exist within the local planning framework to ensure developers contribute to Spelthorne Borough Council's environmental priorities and adapt to the future impacts of climate change.

1. Summary of the report

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in October 2020.
- 1.2 This report seeks to receive committee approval for £30,000 of funding from the Green Initiative Fund to engage an external contractor to produce, from a clear specification, a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document.

2. Key issues

- 2.1 Developing a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document to set out the Council's expectations for new development is necessary to ensure that development responds proactively to the climate emergency through appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions and measures.

- 2.2 A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is a planning policy document which builds upon and provides more detailed guidance to policies in the Local Plan.
- 2.3 An SPD forms part of the adopted development plan (also known as the Local Plan) and sets out further guidance to support the implementation of the relevant policies within the Plan. Once complete and having been subjected to the necessary period of consultation, the Climate Change SPD can be 'hooked' onto the existing climate change policy within the current Spelthorne Core Strategy (2009). Thus it will be used when determining planning applications from the date of the adoption of the SPD in advance of the adoption of the new Local Plan.
- 2.4 It is intended that once the new Local Plan has been adopted by the Council, the Climate Change SPD will be updated, if required, and then "hook" onto the new climate change policy within the Local Plan. This will mean that the SPD will continue to be used in determining planning applications made in the Borough to ensure that the requirements of the SPD are implemented.
- 2.5 A working group comprising of the Climate Change officer, Strategic Planning officers, Development Management Planning officers, Sustainability officer, Building Control manager, Biodiversity officer, Principal Pollution Control officer, and Group Head for Commissioning and Transformation has been put together to develop a specification of what needs to be covered in the SPD.
- 2.6 The working group has researched other related SPDs, discussed what is needed to provide sustainable development in Spelthorne and what is viable from a planning and building control perspective. This has informed a working brief that will form the specification that is given to an external contractor in order to produce the SPD.
- 2.7 The SPD should seek to provide additional guidance on the following areas:-
- Energy use - including the energy hierarchy and renewable energy systems
 - Water - including sustainable drainage systems, managing flood risk and greywater use
 - Building design - including orientation and layout to maximise potential for renewable energy generation and avoid the impacts of climate change
 - Transport - including walkable and low car neighbourhoods
 - Urban greening – including planting species selected for climate resilience
 - Materials and construction – including reduction of embodied carbon lean design and sustainable material choice
- 2.8 The created SPD should also include a checklist for developers which would be used as part of a planning application submission to demonstrate clearly how they have addressed the climate change mitigation measures included within the SPD.
- 2.9 An external contractor is being proposed to produce the SPD as the working group currently does not have the capacity to produce a much needed SPD in a short timeframe.

3. Options analysis and proposal

- 3.1 **Do nothing** - This is not an option as climate change is happening and the Council needs to ensure the issue is addressed to provide protection for our residents in the future and so will not be considered further.
- 3.2 **Not recommended option** – Produce the SPD in house, this is not recommended as there is not the resource to produce a SPD in house at this time.
- 3.3 **Recommended option** – The committee approve the funding to engage a contractor to produce the climate change SPD from the specification prepared by the working group.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to the council other than those mentioned above.

5. Risk considerations

- 5.1 At this stage, there is no risk to the Council.

6. Procurement considerations

Procurement have advised that 3 written quotes need to be obtain for a spend of ca. £30,000 and the working group will work with procurement to develop the tender.

7. Legal considerations

- 7.1 Legal officers have been consulted in this process, and this report reflects the advice/guidance provided.

Other considerations

- 7.2 No further considerations.

8. Equality and Diversity

- 8.1 The climate emergency and its impacts will affect all of us. However, many of the effects will be disproportionately felt by those residents and communities who are most vulnerable. The proposed climate change SPD seeks to address some of these issues by ensuring all new development is resilient to the impacts of climate change including heatwaves and flooding.

9. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 There will be significant implications as the aim of the SPD is to ensure that any new development in Spelthorne responds proactively to the climate emergency through appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions.

10. Timetable for implementation

- 10.1 A specification for tender to be drawn up by Nov 2022
- 10.2 Development of SPD
- 10.3 E&S committee to agree draft before consultation period
- 10.4 Consultation period for SPD for 4 weeks

- 10.5 After consultation Group Head plus Chair /Vice Chair of E&S committee sign off
- 10.6 SPD adopted – Spring 2023

11. Contact

- 11.1 Jilly Mowbray – j.mowbray@spelthorne.gov.uk

Background papers: There are none

**Appendices:
There are none**