

Environment and Sustainability Committee



5th September 2023

Title	<i>Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document</i>
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	<i>Laura Richardson – Senior Strategic Planner, Jilly Mowbray – Climate Change Officer</i>
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	<i>Not applicable</i>
Corporate Priority	Community, Recovery, Environment
Recommendations	To seek approval to commence the statutory 4-week consultation on a new Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document
Reason for Recommendation	David Lock Associates have produced a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) working alongside officers for Spelthorne Borough Council to support the effective implementation of the climate change policies within the current Local Plan and future Local Plan. The SPD will encourage the delivery of more sustainable design for future developments within Spelthorne. Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 states that (b)(i) before it can be adopted an SPD must be consulted on for 4 weeks. This is also part of Spelthorne's Statement of Community Involvement.

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 to commence the statutory 4-week consultation for the newly created Climate Change SPD.

2. Key issues

- 2.1 A Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document has been created to set out the Council's expectations for new development to encourage development that 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, upon adoption, 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 Funding for the creation of Climate Change SPD (£30,000) was approved from the Green Initiatives Fund by the Environment and Sustainability Committee on in November 2022. The GIF bid is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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 developed a specification of what needs to be covered in the SPD.
- 2.7 Following the procurement process David Lock Associates were awarded the contract for the creation of the Climate Change SPD and have worked with officers on the production of the document.
- 2.8 The SPD will 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
 - Green Infrastructure – including planting species selected for climate resilience
 - Materials and construction – including reduction of embodied carbon lean design and sustainable material choice
- 2.9 The created SPD has 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.
- 2.10 The proposed consultation would take place between 11th September 2023 to the 9th of October 2023. The consultation would be run using iNovem, the SBC consultation page. The documents would be published on the Council website as well as being available for the public to view in public libraries and at the civic centre during office hours.

2.11 Promotion of the consultation take the following forms:-

- Promotion on the homepage of the SBC website
- Promotion on SBC social media streams
- Posters on the Borough's notice boards
- Email to Councillors, local Residents Associations/community groups and neighbouring authorities
- Email footers on Planning emails
- Promotion in E-news (September/October)
- Press release

3. Options analysis and proposal

3.1 **Recommended option** –The Committee approve the commencement of the public consultation.

3.2 **Not recommended option** – This is not an option as the Climate Change SPD has been produced at expense and a statutory consultation is required in line with regulation.

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

6.1 There are no procurement considerations at this time.

7. Legal considerations

7.1 No comments from legal at this time.

8. Other considerations

8.1 No further considerations.

9. Equality and Diversity

9.1 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.

10. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.

11. Timetable for implementation

- 11.1 Consultation period for SPD for 4 weeks 18th September to 16th October
- 11.2 Analysis of results will be required in order to assess and address any issues..
- 11.3 Summary document of consultation feedback will be produced including how any issues have been addressed.
- 11.4 The SPD will then be brought back to this Committee for further consideration before recommending its adoption.

12. Contact

- 12.1 Laura Richardson – l.richardson@spelthorne.gov.uk

Background papers: There are none

Appendices:

- 1 – Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document**
- 2 – Green Initiatives Fund Bid**