Climate SPD Consultation 2024

Context

Spelthorne Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in October 2020.

A Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been created to set out the Council's expectations for new development to respond proactively to the climate emergency through appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions and measures.

An SPD is a planning policy document which builds upon and provides more detailed guidance to policies in the Local Plan.

The newly created SPD encourages the delivery of more sustainable design for future developments within Spelthorne. The adoption of the SPD will support implementation of climate change policies within the current and future Local Plan.

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Context

The SPD consultation took place between 18th September 2023 to the 16th of October 2023 . The documents were 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.

There were 29 respondents for the survey, commenting on the three sections of the survey. This covered comments on the SPD as a whole, the accessibility of the document, and feedback on the checklist component.

From the results of the survey some updates have been made to the SPD document, which is being recommended for adoption.

Breakdown of responses

Section 1: Document as a whole

Overall, there were mixed responses and comments on the SPD as a whole, some relevant, some not linked to the SPD being consulted. There were 24 responses to question 1, and these were received in a qualitative format.

The responses that provided feedback on the SPD have been taken into consideration when making changes to the document.
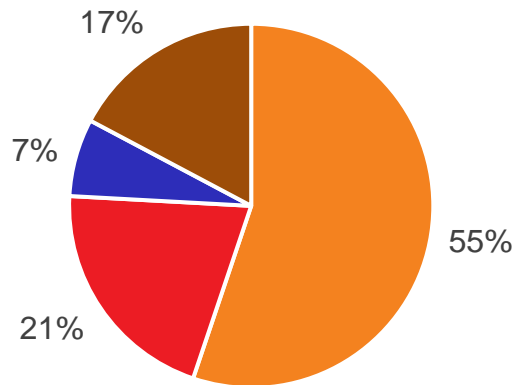
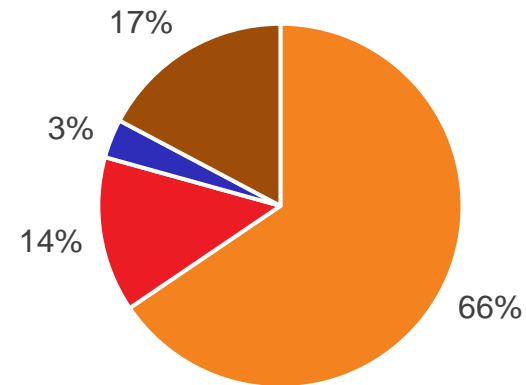# Breakdown of responses

Section 2: Accessibility and layout

Overall, the feedback to the accessibility and layout of the document was generally positive. There were a few suggestions that have been addressed and integrated into the changes made to the document.

Clear language and technical terms explained in an accessible way

17%
7%
21%
55%

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know
- No response

Are the diagrams easy to understand and provide sufficient detail?

17%
3%
14%
66%

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know
- No response

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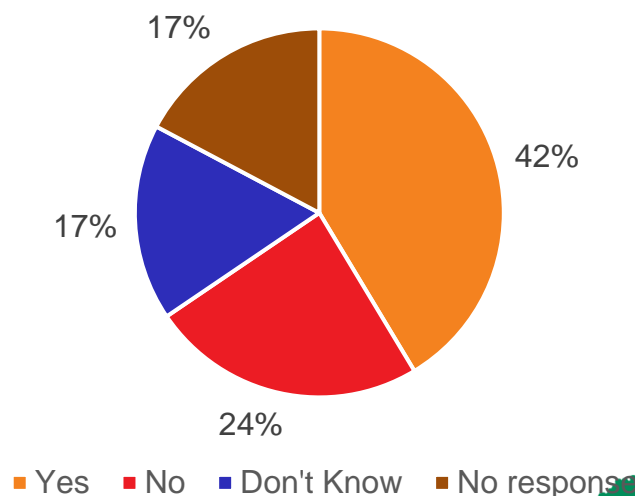
Breakdown of responses

Section 2: Accessibility and layout

Overall, the feedback to the accessibility and layout of the document was generally positive. There were a few suggestions that have been addressed and integrated into the changes made to the document.

Is the SPD laid out in a way that guides applicants to the relevant scale of development information?

17%

14%

48%

21%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know ■ No response
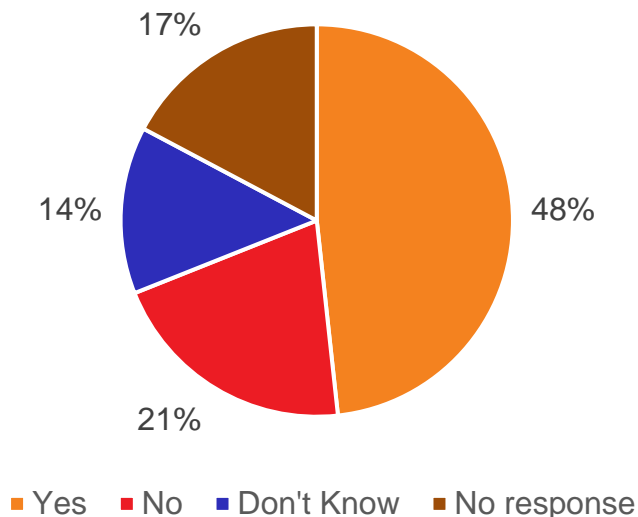
Does the "How to use this guidance" flowchart clearly guide applicants through the document and sets out what is needed for the application?

17%

17%

42%

24%
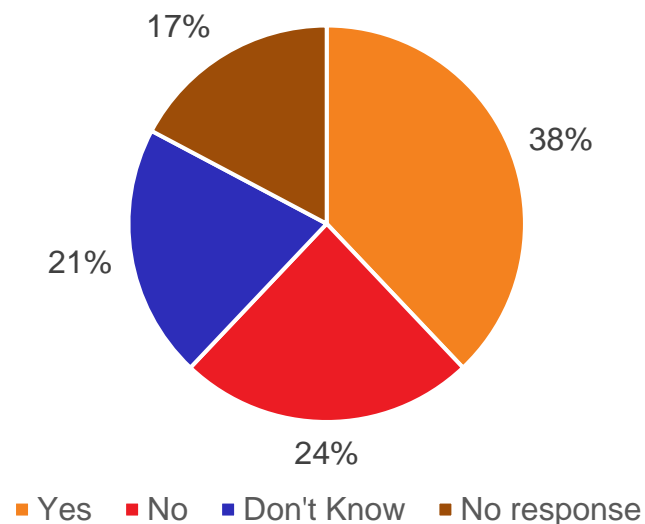
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know ■ No response
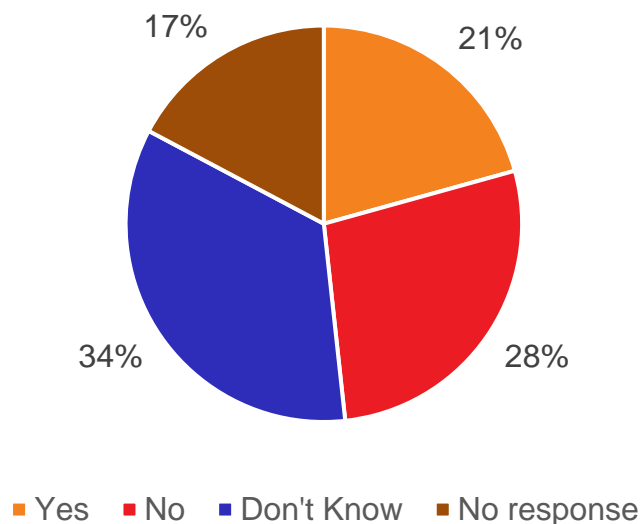
Breakdown of responses

Section 3: Checklists
Overall, the feedback on the checklists had more of a mixed response, although overall positive. There were a few suggestions that have been addressed and integrated into the changes made to the document.

Is it clear which checklist must be completed, based on the scale of development proposed?

17%
38%
21%
24%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know ■ No response

Do the checklists enable easy cross referencing with the SPD to guide applicants?

17%
21%
34%
28%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know ■ No response

Breakdown of responses

Section 3: Checklists

Overall, the feedback on the checklists had a more mixed response, although overall positive. There were a few suggestions that have been addressed and integrated into the changes made to the document.

Are the checklists set out in a way which would be straighforward to complete?

17%

38%

21%

24%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know ■ No response
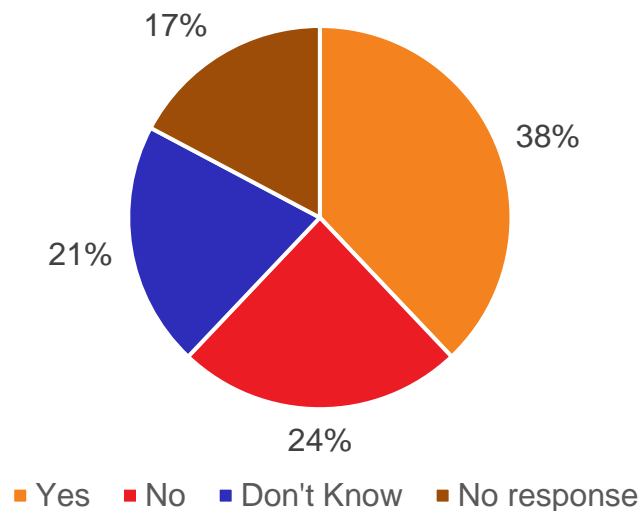
Changes to SPD

From the responses to the consultation, a number of changes were proposed for the SPD document. This included:

Content:
- Introduction has been rephrased and sections emphasized on the application of the guide and enforcement
- Net Zero defined in the SPD, to the required degree
- Added a range of suggested metrics that Major Applications could use to demonstrate sustainability credentials in an accredited way or using an external methodology
- Added 10% energy hierarchy requirement earlier in the document
- Biodiversity Net Gain date altered to reflect the change to mandatory implementation

Layout:
- Page numbers added to flow diagram

Reference to additional guidance:
- Surrey EV parking standards
- Historic England's guidance