

Environment and Sustainability Committee



27 February 2024

Title	Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	<i>Gina Cook - Climate Change Officer (Projects), Laura Richardson – Principal Planning Officer (Strategic Planning)</i>
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	n/a
Corporate Priority	Community ResilienceEnvironment
Recommendations	To approve the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document and recommend to Council for adoption.
Reason for Recommendation	After declaring a Climate Emergency in Oct 2020, a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD will support the effective implementation of the climate change policies within the current and future Local Plan). The SPD will encourage the delivery of more sustainable design for future developments within Spelthorne.

1. Summary of the report

What is the situation	Why we want to do something
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in 2020. The decision was taken by the Environment and Sustainability Committee to fund the development of a Climate Change SPD through the Green Infrastructure Fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SPD will support the delivery of the climate policies in the current and emerging Local Plan and contribute to Spelthorne achieving its climate goals.
This is what we want to do about it	These are the next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SPD has been developed and the consultation required under 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E&S to approve and recommend to Council for adoption.

<p>the Town and Country Planning Regulations has been undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want to adopt the SPD as soon as possible, so that we can implement the checklists as part of the planning process, to encourage the delivery of sustainable design. We do not need to wait for a new local plan to adopt this guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the SPD, which can be used alongside the current and future Local Plan.
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1.1 Spelthorne Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in October 2020.

1.2 The newly created Climate 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.

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. Upon adoption, the 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 Funding, as well as agreement for the creation of Climate Change SPD (£30,000) was approved from the Green Initiatives Fund by the Environment and Sustainability Committee in November 2022. The GIF bid is attached at Appendix 2.

2.5 It is intended that once a 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 for the SPD.

- 2.7 Following the procurement process David Lock Associates were awarded the contract for the creation of the Climate Change SPD and worked with officers on the production of the document which went out to consultation.
- 2.8 The SPD seeks 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 3 checklists for householder applications, minor applications and major applications. Developers must use these 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 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.
- 2.11 29 responses were received from the consultation. These responses have been analysed and addressed.
- 2.12 From the consultation responses, some changes were made to the SPD. The consultation responses and feedback are attached in Appendix 3.

3. Options analysis and proposal

- 3.1 **Option 1:** For the Committee to recommend the Climate Change SPD to Council for adoption (recommended option)
- 3.2 **Option 2:** The SPD is not recommended for adoption, resulting in business as usual for development within the borough, and undermining the climate emergency declaration (Not recommended option)
- 3.3 **Option 3:** Create an alternative Climate Change SPD however, this will cost additional money, take time to develop and push back action (Not recommended option)

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no additional direct financial implications to the Council.
- 4.2 Indirect financial implications could include the cost of measures that the guidance highlights can be implemented. However, if developments are built to higher climate resilient standards now, this will remove the risk of having to retrofit buildings in the future, which will have a greater financial cost.

5. Risk considerations

- 5.1 At this stage there is no risks to the council.
- 5.2 There are many risks if effective action is not taken, specifically on the built environment within Spelthorne. The SPD guides applicants on how to build development that is better prepared for the future impacts of climate change, through the appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions. The guidance will influence development in the Borough and contribute to the delivery of better prepared buildings and reduce retrofitting in the future. It will also support the design guide.

6. Procurement considerations

- 6.1 There are no procurement considerations at this time.

7. Legal considerations

- 7.1 Addressing climate change is one of the core land use planning principles which the National Planning Policy Framework expects to underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. To be found sound, [Local Plans](#) will need to reflect this principle and enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#). These include the requirements for local authorities to [adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change](#) in line with the provisions and objectives of the [Climate Change Act 2008](#), and co-operate to deliver strategic priorities which include climate change.
- 7.2 In addition to the statutory requirement to take the Framework into account in the preparation of [Local Plans](#), there is a [statutory duty](#) on local planning authorities to include policies in their Local Plan designed to tackle climate change and its impacts. This complements the sustainable development duty on plan-makers. The National Planning Policy Framework emphasises that responding to climate change is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- 7.3 The proposed SPD will not only assist in addressing the above mentioned requirements and duties but is also a measure that will serve as a proactive step to tackle climate change within the borough.

8. Other considerations

- 8.1 Spelthorne Borough Council has declared a Climate Emergency and this guidance will assist applicants in making decisions when it comes to the built environment, that support the Council's commitment to tackling climate change.

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. 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 To be submitted to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on the 27th February 2024 and to council on 25th April 2024. If adopted to be implemented immediately.

12. Contact

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Background papers: There are none.

List as Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document
- Appendix 2: Consultation responses overview document
- Appendix 3: Climate Change SPD Consultation – Officer Responses
- Appendix 4: Checklist 1 Householder
- Appendix 5: Checklist 2 Minor
- Appendix 6: Checklist 3 Major
- Appendix 7: Adoption Statement
- Appendix 8: Consultation Statement