

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: New Communities Portfolio Holder 7 October 2010
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities)

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - CONSULTATION ON HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement for the Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to be published for consultation.
2. This is not a key decision because the SPD does not create new policy, but provides further guidance on implementing existing policy in the Council's Local Development Framework. Approval is sought to undertake a consultation exercise. It was first published in the May 2010 Forward Plan.

Recommendations and Reasons

3. That the Portfolio Holder:
 - (a) agrees that the Draft Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix 1) be issued for consultation.
 - (b) notes the Sustainability Appraisal Statement (Appendix 2) and Habitat Regulations Assessment Statement (Appendix 3).
 - (c) that authority be given to the Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities) to make minor amendments to the above documents.

Background

4. The purpose of Supplementary Planning Documents is to expand on policies set out in Development Plan Documents and to provide additional detail. The Council has adopted a number of Development Plan Documents (DPD) that form part of the Local Development Framework. The SPD relates to Policy DP/1 Sustainable Development in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans for major developments that may vary from the district-wide policies. These policies seek to ensure the creation of healthy and inclusive communities and that Health Impacts on populations are adequately addressed throughout the development process.
5. Policy DP/1 requires, for major developments, applicants to submit a Sustainability Statement and a Health Impact Assessment to demonstrate that the principles of sustainable development have been applied. The Health Impact Assessment SPD provides details of what should be covered in the Health Impact Assessment of the development proposals to demonstrate that the applicant has addressed sustainability issues, including impact on health.

6. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is commonly defined as “*a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.*”¹ It is a tool to appraise both positive (e.g. creation of new jobs) and negative (e.g. generation of pollution) impacts on the different affected subgroups of the population that might result from the development. Public participation is considered a major component of the process.
7. The HIA aims to identify potential effects on health in order to enhance the benefits for health and minimise any risks to health. It includes specifically a consideration of the differential impacts on different groups in the population, because certain groups are potentially more vulnerable to negative impacts from development such as those on a low income, people involved in the criminal justice system, minority ethnic groups, young, disabled (physically and learning) and elderly people.
8. The SPD builds on international and national guidance, and provides broad guidance on health impacts and building healthy communities with regard to South Cambridgeshire District Council policies. It describes what a HIA is and the steps involved in undertaking a HIA. It is intended to give guidance to developers who are required to undertake an HIA as part of the planning process. The SPD provides guidance on the preparation of HIA for new developments to assist decision making on such developments by taking into account the key determinants to protect human health, and is intended to be used as a tool during the masterplanning stage, when preparing documents in support of a planning application.

Process for preparing the Supplementary Planning Documents

9. The draft SPD has been prepared in consultation with the relevant specialist officers within the Council. Following the enactment of the Planning Act 2008 and a change to the Regulations in 2009 there is no longer a requirement to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the social, environmental and economic effects of the proposals contained within the SPD. However, under the European Union Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive, the Council still needs to consider whether there will be any significant environmental effects of the SPD. Given the parent policies in the DPDs have been fully appraised, and SPD cannot create new policy, it is considered unnecessary to undertake an SA / SEA of the SPD. A statement to this effect has been prepared and will be published alongside the draft SPD (Appendix 2).
10. The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) sets out the requirement for Assessment of plans or projects affecting Natura 2000 sites². The first stage in carrying out an HRA is the scoping report which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. If it is found that there is not likely to be a significant impact then a full Appropriate Assessment

¹ Gothenburg Consensus Paper on Health Impact Assessment, European Centre for Health Policy, WHO-Euro, Brussels 1999

² Natura 2000 is a Europe-wide network of sites of international importance for nature conservation established under the European Council Directive ‘on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora’ – (92/43/EEC ‘Habitats Directive’).

would not need to be carried out. Each of the DPDs containing the parent policies for the SPD has been found to have no likely significant impact. Given the parent policies in the DPDs have been fully appraised, and SPD cannot create new policy, it is considered unnecessary to undertake an assessment of the SPD. A statement to this effect has been prepared and will be published alongside the draft SPD (Appendix 3).

Considerations

11. The Government's overarching planning policy objective is for sustainable development. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future. The SPD provides details of what should be covered in the Health Impact Assessment of the development proposals to demonstrate that the applicant has addressed sustainability issues, including impact on health, fully in the development process.
12. As part of the process of preparing an SPD there must be an opportunity for representations to be made on their content. If agreed by the Portfolio Holder, the SPD and their accompanying documents will be subject to six weeks of public consultation, which is anticipated will start on 29 October 2010.
13. The Council will consider the representations on the draft SPD and make any relevant changes to the SPD as a result of comments received. A report will then be made to the Portfolio holder on the representations submitted, and the Portfolio Holder will make the decision whether to adopt the document.

Implications

14. Financial	Within existing budgets
Legal	None
Staffing	Staffing will be required to manage the consultation process, although this can be accommodated within existing resources.
Risk Management	No significant risks. The Consultation responses will highlight any issues for further consideration by the Council.
Equal Opportunities	The SPD has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (see Appendix 4) and has been shown to have a positive impact on Equal Opportunities.
Climate Change	The SPD supports sustainable development.

Consultations

15. The Council's Major Development Team, Planning Policy Team and Environmental Health Officers have been consulted during the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document.

Effect on Strategic Aims

16. **Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.** The consultation on the SPD will enable the Council to receive comments on the document's contents from the health sector providers, developers, house builders, other interested parties and the general public.
17. **Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.** Development has the potential to impact on people's health

and wellbeing, both directly and indirectly. The Council's Local Development Framework includes a number of policies aimed at creating sustainable developments and inclusive communities. One of the requirements, for Health Impact Assessments to be undertaken for major developments, should ensure that the implications for health are fully considered in the development process. The SPD provides guidance on the production of Health Impact Assessments of development proposals to identify potential effects on health in order to enhance the benefits for health and minimise any risks to health.

18. **Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.** Development has the potential to impact on people's health and wellbeing, both directly and indirectly. The Council's Local Development Framework includes a number of policies aimed at creating sustainable developments and inclusive communities. One of the requirements, for Health Impact Assessments to be undertaken for major developments, should ensure that the implications for health are fully considered in the development process. The SPD provides guidance on the production of Health Impact Assessments of development proposals to identify potential effects on health in order to enhance the benefits for health and minimise any risks to health.
19. **Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.** N/A
20. **Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.** The SPD will be subject to consultation with local stakeholders to enable the Council to receive comments on the document's contents from developers, house builders, other interested parties and the general public.

Conclusions / Summary

21. The report requests approval to undertake a public consultation on the draft SPD.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Development Control Policies DPD
- South Cambridgeshire Design Guide 2010

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Draft Health Impact Assessment SPD
- Appendix 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal Statement
- Appendix 3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Statement
- Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment Health Impact Assessment SPD

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