

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**REPORT TO:** Portfolio Holder for New Communities 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
**AUTHOR/S:** Gareth Jones / Senior Planning Policy Officers / Historic Buildings Officer / Landscape Design Officer / Ecology Officer

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### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is inform that there is a delay to the programme for producing three Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and to explain why.

#### **Background**

2. The purpose of SPDs is to expand on and to provide additional detail to policies set out in Development Plan Documents, including the adopted Development Control Policies DPD, and in the Northstowe, Cambridge East, and Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plans.
3. The SPDs are being prepared in consultation with the relevant specialist officers within the Council. Once drafted and approved, the Council will consult on them and consider the representations on the draft SPDs and make any relevant changes to the SPDs as a result of comments received. A report will then be made to Cabinet on the representations submitted, and Cabinet will make the decision whether to adopt the documents.
4. The following SPDs are included in the Forward Programme to be reported to this meeting to seek approval to publish them for public consultation:
  - Biodiversity
  - Landscape Guidance for Development Sites
  - Listed Buildings: Works to or Affecting the Setting of

#### **Reasons for the Delayed Programme**

5. Work on the SPDs is progressing well. However, at the present time the two most senior posts within the Conservation and Design team are vacant. Although these posts have now been filled, with staff due to start in October and November, it has meant that there have been insufficient staff resources to progress the SPDs as originally programmed. In addition, it is considered prudent to allow input of the expertise and experience of the new staff into the SPD production as these will be key documents setting out the Council's position on how planning applications will be assessed in relation to the issues covered.
6. It is anticipated the SPDs will now be reported to the meeting on 13 January 2009.

#### **Implications**

Financial	The delay in the production of this batch of SPDs will incur some modest additional cost to the Council. It was originally intended that one letter be sent to consultees informing them of the start of public consultation, together with notice of the adoption of the first batch of SPDs. However, these processes will now be separated.
Legal	None.
Staffing	Accommodated within existing resources.
Risk Management	None.
Equal Opportunities	None.

### Consultations

None.

### Effect on Corporate Objectives and Service Priorities

<b>Work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future</b>
The SPDs will provide a framework for planning within South Cambridgeshire and will assist in improving the environment of the district.
<b>Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community</b>
The SPDs will contribute to providing good design and a quality environment for our community to live in within South Cambridgeshire.
<b>Enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work</b>
The SPDs will provide a framework of planning policies to enhance the built and natural environment in South Cambridgeshire.

### Recommendations

None.

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