
Meeting of the Cabinet – 13th June, 2007

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment (DUE)

Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) For Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision

Purpose of Report

1. To adopt the Supplementary Planning Document for Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision.

Background

2. The purpose of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to assist the successful implementation of open space, sport, leisure and recreation policies as set out in the Council's Adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (October 2005). In particular, policies DD8 (Provision of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities), Policy LR1 (Open Space), further policies set out in Chapter 8 (Sport, Leisure and Recreation), Policy SO6 (Parks) and Policy NC1 (Biodiversity). The SPD on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications by the council's Development Control Committee. A copy of the full document has been placed in the Members Room.
3. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision SPD does not introduce any new policies but is produced to supplement and add further clarity to existing planning policies on open space, sport and recreation provision outlined in the Unitary Development Plan. This will assist developers, agents, planning applicants and stakeholders, including Friends of Parks Groups and other open space amenity groups, in interpreting the UDP policy on open space, sport and recreation provision. It should enable the Council to ensure that it secures appropriate contributions from developers towards the maintenance and enhancement of existing open space, or the provision of new public open space via planning obligations in respect of major new developments.

4. The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will have a positive impact in helping to ensure that all sections of the community within the Borough have access to a better supply of publicly accessible open space areas, outdoor sports and recreational facilities, that are of a good quality, well-maintained and designed, and in the right location to meet the outdoor recreational needs of the community. In accordance with national and regional planning guidance the Council is seeking to ensure that an adequate supply of public open space is provided as part of major new development proposals or a developer financial contribution is made towards the maintenance and enhancement of existing open space in order to meet the recreational needs and demands of the community.
5. A draft version of the SPD on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision was approved for consultation by the Council's Cabinet in November 2006. The draft document was then subject to a six-week public consultation period which ended in December 2006. The SPD was then subject to a further public re-consultation for a period of five-weeks, during April/ May 2007. All the issues and objections submitted during this period have been analysed. A copy of the consultation responses are available in the Members Room.

Finance

6. The SPD will provide further clarification on policies already set out in the Adopted UDP (October 2005) and will assist in securing money from developers via planning obligations as part of appropriate developments, which can be used to help improve and maintain existing publicly accessible open space areas, sports and recreational facilities within the Borough. Where appropriate, the guidance will help provide new open space provision and recreational facilities and secure monies for their on-going maintenance.

Law

7. National planning guidance in the form of Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG's), Planning Policy Statements (PPS's) and Circulars are a material consideration in determining planning applications and the Council has a duty to ensure that it refers to such guidance as appropriate. SPD's have to be produced in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

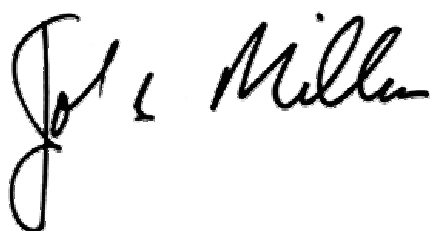
Equality Impact

8. The Supplementary Planning Document on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision seeks to supplement Council policy to ensure that the community's needs for well-maintained and designed open spaces, sports and recreational facilities are met and adequately addressed,

particularly in circumstances where new development creates new demand for additional or enhanced facilities. In a modern, equitable, and fair society it is critical that the community's needs for outdoor recreational space are adequately addressed, in order to improve and safeguard the health and well-being of the local community, including children and young people.

Recommendation

9. To adopt the final version of the Council's Supplementary Planning Document for Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision.



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List of papers which have been placed in the Members Room:

- Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision.
- Responses to objections received and issues raised during the public consultation of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision.

List of related background papers which have been placed in the Members Room:

- Dudley MBC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) "Sustainability Appraisal"
- Dudley MBC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) "Statement of Consultation"