

 Executive Committee 3rd December 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Consultation Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Open Space	
For further information about this report please contact	Tony Ward, Senior Planner (Planning - Policy, Projects and Conservation)	
Service Area	Planning	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	Warwick District Local Plan 1996 - 2011	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	Yes
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes, 116

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	12/11/2008	Bill Hunt
Chief Executive	13/11/2008	Chris Elliott
CMT	13/11/2008	
Section 151 Officer	12/11/2008	Mary Hawkins
Legal	12/11/2008	Peter Oliver
Finance	12/11/2008	Marcus Miskinis
Portfolio Holder(s)	17/11/2008	Councillors John Hammon and Chris White

Consultation Undertaken	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal consultation has been carried out on the draft SPD with officers from Development Control and Cultural Services. As part of the Parks and Open Spaces Audit the District Council commissioned an extensive questionnaire survey to gauge public opinion in respect of the District's current and future open space provision. A Scoping Report was prepared as part of applying the Sustainability Appraisal process to the SPD which was subject to limited external consultation. 	
Final Decision?	No
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) The report is seeking Executive approval to consult on the draft SPD. The suggested next step would be for a second report to be brought back to Executive with the findings of the public consultation prior to a decision being taken on approving the SPD.	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to place the Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Open Space on public consultation. The Draft SPD (attached as Appendix One) sets out the Council's approach to enhancing and providing open space across the District from new developments in accordance with policy SC13 in the Warwick District Local Plan (1996-2011).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) attached as Appendix A to this report is approved as a basis for public consultation.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Council has committed itself to preparing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Open Space in the current Local Development Scheme (LDS) and within the supporting text to policy SC13 of the Local Plan.
- 3.2 This Draft SPD has been prepared to give further guidance to developers on the requirements for open space contributions from new residential and commercial developments. It establishes a framework to improve the delivery and creation of new open spaces or, where appropriate as an alternative, seek financial contributions to make qualitative improvements to existing open space within the District.
- 3.3 Supplementary Planning Documents can be used to expand upon existing policy or policies within Development Plan Documents. They must therefore conform and be consistent with the existing policy. This SPD expands on policy SC13 (Open Space and Recreation Improvements) of the Warwick District Local Plan (1996 to 2011).
- 3.4 Policies SC5 (Protecting Open Spaces) and SC13 (Open Space and Recreation Improvements) provide a strong basis to protect existing open spaces and to require developer contributions towards meeting the requirements for open space as a result of new development. However, further guidance is needed on the implementation of these policies, particularly policy SC13 in terms of the level and nature of developer contributions. Issues addressed by the SPD include:
- Providing appropriate protection for existing open space
 - Setting appropriate standards for new open space provision within or associated with new developments having regard to the findings of the Parks and Open Spaces Audit 2008;
 - Setting minimum standard thresholds for the calculation of new open space provision on site;
 - Providing guidance for dealing with circumstances when on-site provision is not appropriate; and,
 - Providing guidance on management and maintenance issues.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. The Council is not required to produce an SPD on Open Space however it has committed to doing so in the current LDS and Local Plan.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 There are no budgetary implications for preparing this SPD which will be prepared using existing resources.

6. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 The Draft SPD will expand on policy SC13 (Open Space and Recreation Improvements) within the Warwick District Local Plan (1996 to 2011) as well as assisting with the achievement of the strategic aims and objectives within the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Strategy.

7. **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 In accordance with government regulations relating to the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents, the following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix One: The Draft Supplementary Planning Document: Open Space

Appendix Two: Supporting Documents, including:

- Statement of SPD Matters and Document Availability
- Statement of Consultation
- Draft Sustainability Appraisal: Non Technical Summary

- 7.2 A number of pieces of work have underpinned the development of policy in the SPD.

Parks and Open Space Audit

- 7.3 National and emerging regional policy requires local authorities to assess the level of provision of open space. The Council therefore commissioned a Parks and Open Spaces Audit to assess current levels of open space provision in order to provide up to date information to inform standards for new open space provision and to become an integral part of a wider Green Space Strategy for the Council.
- 7.4 The audit was completed in 2008 by Pleydell Smithyman Limited and is part of the evidence base for the draft SPD. This is available on the Council's website. It provides a significant amount of information and data on the amount, type and quality of open space currently available throughout the District and the varying qualitative and quantitative needs of different areas. The audit also involved a household questionnaire to help develop a thorough understanding of the public's perception of the District's existing and future open space requirements. The survey was randomly distributed to 5000 residents and there was a return rate of 979 surveys (19.6%). Overall, there was general satisfaction with the level of open space provision within the District although it was felt that improvements could be made to its quality in certain instances.
- 7.5 The open space for new developments standard is derived from the results of the Parks and Open Spaces Audit and is based on the current level of open space provision per 1,000 population found across the District as a whole. The current level of provision is considered an appropriate standard for all new developments to

meet and, where possible, improve upon to maintain the environmental quality and character of the District.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 7.6 In accordance with regulations, a full Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of various planning documents.
- 7.7 As part of the preparation of this sustainability appraisal a Scoping Report was prepared. This was subject to public consultation. The full draft Sustainability Appraisal Report (the non technical summary of which is included in Appendix Two) is available on the Council website.

Consultation

- 7.8 As part of preparing the draft SPD, the following consultation was undertaken:
- Internal meetings have been held with officers from Cultural Services, to discuss and agree the scope of the SPD; and,
 - The issues referred to in this SPD also formed part of a questionnaire undertaken as part of the Core Strategy 'Issues' consultation. The findings of which indicated support for the objectives of this SPD. The report of the public consultation on the Core Strategy Issues paper can be found at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/corestrategy
- 7.9 In addition to the above, an assessment of the scope of SPDs produced by other local authorities was undertaken as well as a review of best practice guidance and policy produced at the regional and national level.

8. What happens next?

- 8.1 Subject to approval by Executive it is proposed to:
- publish this draft SPD for public consultation during December and January 2009 (allowing for the Christmas Holiday period); and,
 - in accordance with regulations invite representations from interested parties.
- 8.2 All consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 8.3 Following the consultation, representations will be analysed and changes will be made to the draft SPD as appropriate. A final version of the SPD will be presented to the Executive in March 2009, along with a report summarising the representations received to the draft and the changes which were made.