

7. ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE BUILDING (BJT/A.6101)

Purpose of the report

1. To recommend that the Authority adopts the text of the Supplementary Planning Document for Climate Change and Sustainable Building, and that the document be designed and published with additional illustrations.

Recommendations

That:

1. **The Authority adopts the text of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Climate Change and Sustainable Building as set out in Appendix 1.**
2. **The Director of Land Use Policy in consultation with the Chair of Authority be granted delegated authority to agree minor text and formatting changes to the SPD to improve the final document both for immediate use and to create a professionally designed version of the document for public release.**
3. **Following publication the Director of Planning in consultation with the Chair of Planning Committee be granted delegated authority to agree future minor technical revisions to the SPD to enable it to remain up to date, accurate and relevant.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012 and replaced a significant proportion of central government planning policy with immediate effect. The Government's intention is that the document should be considered to be a material consideration and carry particular weight where a development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out of date. In the National Park the development plan comprises the East Midlands Regional Plan 2009, the Authority's Core Strategy 2011 and saved policies in the Peak District National Park Local Plan 2001. Policies in the Development Plan provide a clear starting point consistent with the National Park's statutory purposes for the determination of this application. At its meeting on 1st February 2013 the Authority determined that the adopted policies in the Local Development Plan are consistent with the NPPF (Minute 6/13).
3. Paragraph 153 of the NPPF states that supplementary planning documents should be used where they can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery, and should not be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development. For the Climate Change and Sustainable Building SPD officers advise that the central purpose of the document is to guide planning applications towards the kind of locations and design styles that are most likely to succeed through the planning process and as such is justified under the terms of the NPPF.

National Park Management Plan 2012-17

4. The Supplementary Planning Document will help in the achievement of all 4 headline themes of the new National Park Management Plan. The text below in bold italics is to

demonstrate the way the SPD will further these themes.

5. **A DIVERSE WORKING AND CHERISHED LANDSCAPE**

A resilient Peak District where the unique beauty of its working landscapes, its wildlife and environment, its tranquility, cultural heritage and the communities within it, continue to be understood and valued nationally for their diversity and richness.

The SPD establishes a ‘landscape-first’ approach to ensure that solutions are developed in the full knowledge and respect for the special landscape we are working in.

6. **A WELCOMING AND INSPIRING PLACE**

An inspiring Peak District where all are welcome to discover, enjoy, understand and value the special qualities of the national park; a place where people can develop a sense of adventure and belonging, and play a part in its sustainable future.

The SPD raises awareness of the need to build and design in sustainable ways that respect the special environment of the National Park.

7. **THRIVING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES**

A lived in, sustainable, thriving and innovative Peak District that engages both local and neighbouring communities, and promotes a high quality of life by conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the national park.

The SPD will help individuals and communities work towards realizing their own aspirations for achieving more sustainable homes and community buildings

8. **AN ENTERPRISING AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

An enterprising and sustainable Peak District economy which capitalises on and enhances its special qualities and promotes a strong sense of local identity, reflecting the aspirations of local business, organisations and communities.

The SPD offers positive guidance on the opportunities for ‘greening’ a range of buildings with particular support for the farming environment and for ensuring that even converted traditional buildings can provide a sustainable base for small businesses.

Corporate Objectives 2012 – 15

9. The Supplementary Planning Document will aid the achievement of corporate objective 3 “to provide a high quality planning service that achieves purposes” and objective 4 “to lead a programme to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the National Park and adapt to climate change by inspiring and enabling others and through direct actions in our own operations”.

Local Development Plan

10. Adopted Core Strategy policies set the overriding context for securing National Park purposes and sustainable development through the planning process. The following policies set the primary context for the Supplementary Planning Document:
- GSP1 – Securing National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development;
 - GSP2 – Enhancing the National Park;
 - GSP3 – Development Management principles;
 - DS1 – Development Strategy;
 - L1 – Landscape Character and Valued Characteristics;
 - L2 – Sites of Biodiversity or Geo-Diversity Importance;
 - L3 – Cultural Heritage Assets of Archaeological, Architectural, Artistic or Historic Significance;

- CC1 – Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption;
- CC2 – Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Development;
- CC3 – Waste management;
- CC4 – On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion of Agricultural Manure and Slurry;
- CC5 – Flood Risk and Water Conservation

Policy Background

11. Since adopting its last Supplementary Planning Guidance for Renewables and Conservation in 2003, a raft of scientific data, legislative change and technological advancements have emerged, leaving a clear and urgent need to bring the Authority's guidance up to date and reflect the encouragement set out in the adopted Core Strategy for a more sustainable approach to building design, energy efficiency and for the encouragement of renewable energy production.
12. Nevertheless, many of the underlying principles in the existing guide are maintained e.g. the need to prioritise landscape protection and to retain the energy hierarchy as a central theme which allows innovative approaches to sustainability while conserving and enhancing the valued characteristics of the National Park.
13. The process for engaging others in the production of this SPD began during 2010 with a stakeholder workshop at Losehill Hall. Following adoption of the Core Strategy in 2011, work resumed on drafting material for the SPD. A representative group of stakeholders was then brought together to gather thoughts and steer the direction of the document. Officers prepared a range of draft materials and organized a stakeholder forum, held on the 1st February 2012. The Member Representative for climate change took a strong role at this stage by chairing the event and maintaining effective dialogue with officers. Representative groups engaged at this stage included:
 - Statutory bodies such as Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency;
 - Community interest through the Peak Park Parishes Forum and Sustainable Youlgrave;
 - Countryside business interests through the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association;
 - Countryside and sustainable development interest through the National Trust and Friends of the Peak District;
 - Social housing interests through the Peak District Rural Housing Association.
14. Some of the key observation to emerge from this session were the need to:
 - Prepare a practical and workable forward looking document;
 - Link to wider aspirations to helping mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - Prepare an enabling document with a positive tone.
 - Incorporate the landscape strategy with care so as to reflect the context but not get too bogged down in detail;
 - Face up to issues on permitted development and conservation areas
 - Make the work a step by step guide to successful and well informed planning applications.
15. Using this steer a draft version of the SPD was produced and approved for public consultation by Planning Committee on the 11th May 2012. The document was subsequently released in June 2012 for an 8-week consultation. Members were invited to contribute to the development of the SPD through that consultation. Subsequent Member input to the process was principally maintained via the Member Representative for climate change.

However, when the responses to public consultation were considered, leading to changes in the document, other Member Representatives and the Chair of Planning Committee were also engaged to ensure that related and wider aspects had been considered.

16. Through the process we aimed for consensus on key issues, building on and developing the themes which had been established and agreed through the Core Strategy and at earlier stages in the SPD consultation process. As a result the final document remains true to the principles and technical guidance on policies laid out at the draft stage, but the consultation responses and contributions made have led to amendments and changes which improve the document, highlighting the value of maintaining constructive dialogue on significant and influential documents that can have a long and meaningful lifespan.

Key issues emerging from consultation

17. A summary of key issues arising from the consultation stage, and the way that responses have been used to improve the document are included at Appendix 2. Following the public consultation stage it has been necessary to maintain dialogue with a limited number of stakeholders to ensure that their remaining concerns have been considered. The final text achieves its aim of balancing National Park purposes with the desire to create an enabling document that will help people to make successful planning applications. The input from stakeholders has led to a document that is focused on the essential planning information applicants will require as they move through the statutory process.

Proposals

18. As a result of the consultation process officers organised the detailed responses and created a summary of issues to consider alongside the draft version. These points were all shared with the Member Representative for climate change and decisions were made as to what changes could be incorporated. These are also highlighted in Appendix 2. Officers are confident that the revised Supplementary Planning Document is now ready to be adopted so that it may be used from this point forward by applicants and the Authority.
19. One of the matters resolved by this final version of the document is the nature of the relationship to detailed landscape sensitivity guidance for wind turbines which formed part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. At the draft stage it was proposed to include this or a summary of it as part of the document, however responders felt that while the principle of landscape considerations was appropriate the guidance made the document too lengthy. As such a method has been found of making a formal link (described in the text and to be activated electronically in the published version) in the document to a separate Annex, which gives detailed technical guidance for each landscape character area of the National Park. This link can be seen at page 38 of the SPD.
20. Officers are keen that SPD's with strong design and landscape content are well designed and produced to fully demonstrate the valued context in which they apply, and to offer high quality illustrations that best demonstrate the intent of policy. As such the recommendations in this report also include firstly the delegation of authority to the Director of Land Use Policy in consultation with the Chair of Authority to make minor changes as part of both the production of a professionally designed version of the document both for print and web release, and secondly delegation to the Director of Planning in consultation with the Chair of Planning to agree minor revisions should the need arise in future so that the document remains up to date.

Any future need for more substantive revisions in the light of significant technological changes and advances would be considered with members at the appropriate time.

21. It is proposed that the document will be uploaded to the Authority web-site as soon as possible after adoption so that it may be quickly publicly accessible and used. Alongside the document officers also intend to provide an initial set of best practice case studies to highlight practical ways in which policy can lead to successful schemes. Examples of such case are included for members' consideration at Appendix 3. It is envisaged that these examples may be added to and improved over time to ensure that as further schemes are approved the Authority can continue to advocate and encourage high quality sustainable developments that integrate well with the natural and built heritage of the National Park.

Further encouragement of exemplar climate change adaptation and mitigation measures

22. As stated above officers have clarified that the main purpose of the SPD is to enable high quality planning applications that lead to a greater number of sustainable developments. However while officers have sought to retain a distinctive planning focus there remains an important supporting role to the broader commitment of the Authority to address climate change and sustainable development. As such the document will make an important contribution by encouraging people to work with officers on finding solutions that reflect that commitment and fit well with the purposes of the National Park. The introductory sections of the SPD provide encouraging, enabling language to aid this commitment.
23. The publication of the SPD will not preclude the potential for other promotional material to be produced to cover other aspects of climate change, e.g. around adaptation projects or to further promote the opportunities available through the SPD and find ways of encouraging to people to use the SPD to explore possible sustainable development opportunities.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial

24. None

Risk Management

25. None

Sustainability

26. None

Consultees: Director of Land Use Policy and Director of Planning

27. Comments incorporated

Background papers (not previously published)

28. Technical Annex to the SPD entitled "Landscape Sensitivity Assessment and Guidance for Wind Turbine Applications" (accessed as a link from the main SPD, see page 38)

Appendices

1. The final SPD for adoption
2. Summary of responses to draft SPD and key changes made
3. Example case studies for website

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

29. Brian Taylor, Policy Planning Manager, 7 March 2013