

**Report To:** Planning Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Lead Member / Officer:** Cllr David Smith, Public Realm  
Angela Loftus, Planning & Public Protection Policy  
Manager

**Report Author:** Lara Griffiths, Planning Officer

**Title:** Trees and Landscaping Supplementary Planning  
Guidance – Consultation draft

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**1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. This report accompanies a draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document on trees and landscaping which, if adopted, will be used in the determination of planning applications.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1. Following the adoption of the Denbighshire Local Development Plan (LDP), an updated SPG on trees and landscaping is required in order to provide further guidance for developers, Officers and Members. A draft SPG for public consultation is attached to this report.

**3. What are the recommendations?**

- 3.1. That Members agree the draft SPG on trees and landscaping as a basis for public consultation.

**4. Report details**

- 4.1. Following the adoption of the LDP on 4th June 2013, Council agreed to carry forward the existing series of SPGs, including SPG 6 – Trees and development. The SPG has subsequently been revised to update guidance in view of the introduction of a new British Standard, made clearer and to provide better illustrative material. When adopted, the SPG will be a material planning consideration when assessing planning applications.
- 4.2. The SPG supplements the national policies and regulations in relation to trees and landscaping and Policy RD1 of the LDP by providing further detail and guidance on the level of information appropriate to various types of applications including tree surveys, planting plans and tree protection measures.

4.3. The public consultation period would be a minimum of 8 weeks and is anticipated to start in May 2016. All City, Town and Community Councils will be consulted along with people registered on the LDP database. Hard copies of documents will be available in all libraries and one stop shops as well as on the Denbighshire web site. The results of the consultation will be reported back to Planning Committee with a final SPG for adoption.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

5.1. The SPG does not directly contribute to the corporate priorities but will be used in ensuring developments are well designed and provide enhanced amenity for residents and visitors to Denbighshire, contributing to the well-being initiatives of the Council.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. Agreeing the SPG for consultation is not anticipated to create any additional cost.

**7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

7.1 An EqIA is not considered necessary for this decision. The principle of the need to provide and protect trees in relation to development has been established through national policies and adoption of the LDP. The LDP underwent a full EqIA in May 2011.

**8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1 No formal consultation has been carried out, but internal consultation has been carried out with the LDP Members Steering Group and officers in the Development Management Section.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1 Agreeing the SPG for consultation is not anticipated to create any additional cost. If any costs arise these will need to be contained within existing revenue budgets for the service.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1 In the absence of up-to-date guidance there is a risk that developers may come forward with inappropriate schemes which will be harmful to the streetscape and amenity of future users of developments.

**11. Power to make the Decision**

11.1 Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004).