

**Report To:** Planning Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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

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

**Title:** Trees and Landscaping Supplementary Planning  
Guidance – Adoption of final document

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

- 1.1. The report summarises responses from the recent consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Trees and Landscaping and recommends adoption with modifications enabling the guidance to 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), a revised SPG on Trees and Landscaping is required in order to provide further guidance for developers, Officers and Members. A final copy of the SPG is attached to this report. Appendix A

**3. What are the recommendations?**

- 3.1. That Members adopt the final SPG on Trees and Landscaping for use in the determination of planning applications.

**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 2 – Landscaping in new Developments and 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 SPG was subject to public consultation for 8 weeks between 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016. A consultation report detailing the results of the consultation and responses received is attached as Appendix B to this report. No major issues were raised but minor changes to include additional references to the AONB are proposed. Proposed changes are shown as **highlighted** or ~~strikethrough~~ text in the revised SPG attached as Appendix A. The results of the consultation were reported to the LDP Members Steering Group on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

**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 adoption 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 requiring assessment of impact of development on Trees and Landscaping has been established through adoption of the LDP. The SPG provides further guidance on this. 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.
- 8.2. Input on the content of the SPG has also been provided through a workshop session held with the LDP Members Steering Group. The draft document was also consulted on with a range of stakeholders including all City, Town and Community Councils, and the general public as detailed in the consultation report at Appendix B.

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

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

**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).