

Report To: **Planning Committee**

Date of Meeting: **15th March 2017**

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

Report Author: **Luci Duncalf, Planning Policy Officer**

Title: **Supplementary Planning Guidance Note: Recreational
Public Open Space- document for adoption**

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 This report summarises responses from the recent consultation on the Recreational Public Open Space Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), proposed amendments to the SPG and recommends enabling the guidance to be used in the determination of planning applications. This report is accompanied by the SPG note on recreational public open space.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 Following adoption of the Denbighshire Local Development Plan (LDP), SPG is required to support the relevant plan policies. This will provide further guidance for developers, Officers and Members. The version of the SPG proposed for adoption is attached to this report as Appendix II.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Members approve the attached SPG document 'Recreational Open Space', Appendix II for the use in the determination of planning applications.

4. Report details

- 4.1 There is currently no existing adopted SPG on Recreational Public Open Space. Therefore, this SPG provides guidance on the provision and design of open space in new developments in the County.
- 4.2 The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for prospective applicants in a concise form and in a single document. Guidance is provided in order to: (1) illustrate the criteria and considerations which will be taken into account by the Council in assessing proposals for open space in new developments; (2) provide advice on planning and design in a way which will enhance the appearance and value of future

open space provision; (3) provide information on the management of open space provision both on and off-site.

- 4.3 The proposed SPG outlines the Council's expectations with regard to the thresholds of provision of open space in new developments. The objective is to explain that where open space is to be provided onsite, it must reflect the Fields in Trust 'benchmark' standards or, where onsite facilities cannot be provided, contributions are to be made to improve existing facilities through provision of a commuted sum. Examples of types of open space and design guidance is provided.
- 4.4 The draft SPG was approved for consultation on 16th November 2016. It has since been subject to public consultation for a period of 9 weeks, from 5th December 2016 to 3rd February 2017. A Report of Consultation including summaries of each response received is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 4.5 The Council received 7 representations from interest groups and members of the Public; including Natural Resources Wales, AONB, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Anwyl Construction Company Limited, The Coal Authority, The Canal and River Trust and a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment was undertaken with members of departments within DCC and NRW facilitated by Public Health Wales, see Appendix IV. The proposed changes have been made to the SPG.

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

Corporate Priorities 2012 – 17. The SPG will contribute positively to the following corporate priorities:

- *Modernising the Council* to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers by ensuring that planning guidance documents are up to date.
- *Clean and Tidy Streets* by providing the framework for securing open space and public realm improvements, together with arrangements for future maintenance.

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

Approving the SPG document for adoption enabling the guidance to be used in the determination of planning applications with statutory bodies and the public is not anticipated to create any additional costs. The Development Management team will benefit from document adoption in supplying our customers with all necessary information on open space in residential development prior to applying for planning permission, and, hence, improving the determination process.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

- 7.1 The Well Being Impact Assessment screening exercise concluded that the Recreational Public Open Space SPG encourages a more prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Denbighshire and a County of cohesive communities. It helps to encourage people to access their natural environment more if it is on their door step. Contributions from developers can help to maintain larger conservation sites

and raise awareness of the environment and biodiversity in the location. Contributions from developers will also go towards larger off-site open space facilities and help to improve them and encourage more frequent participation. Well located open space accessible to people on foot, promotes walking and healthy lifestyles through encouraging physical activity and the associated health benefits that come with this both emotionally and physically. Well-designed public open space raises the economic value through attractiveness of an area through encouraging developers to protect and enhance the natural environment at all times. The completed Well Being Impact Assessment Report is attached to this report as Appendix III.

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

- 8.1 As part of the 9 week public consultation, a wide range of stakeholders were contacted directly and publicity used to advise members of the public. Further information is provided in Appendix I. Officers from Strategic Planning & Housing and Development Management were comprehensively involved in drafting the SPG document. A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Workshop session was also held with members of DCC and Natural Resources Wales and facilitated by Public Health Wales on 17th January 2017, see Appendix IV.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 'It is not anticipated that approving the SPG document will incur any additional costs but if it does then these costs 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 the Council will be unable to provide accurate and planning advice to its customers regarding proposals relating to open space in new developments.

11. Power to make the Decision

- 11.1 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)