

Meeting:	Strategic Planning Advisory Panel
Date:	8 th November 2005
Subject:	Responses to the initial consultation on the draft Access for All Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal
Responsible Officer:	Director of Property Services (Urban Living)
Contact Officers:	Ali Kashmiri, Access Officer Sukhpreet Khull, Planner
Portfolio Holder:	Planning, Development and Housing
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

The Panel at its meeting on 13th July 2005 considered an initial report which advised that (a) informal community involvement would be taking place in respect of the content of the Access for All SPD and (b) initial engagement would be taking place with the four statutory environmental authorities on the content of the sustainability appraisal. This report informs the Panel of the comments received and any necessary changes to the two documents. The Panel are asked to recommend that Cabinet agree the content of the documents which will now be subject to statutory formal public consultation. The Council is also required to publish a summary report on the initial consultation process at the same time as it undertakes the formal consultation.

Decision Required

The Panel is recommended to:-

- (i) Note the Consultation Statement contained within Appendix 1 of this report;
- (ii) Recommend to Cabinet that it agree the SPD and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report; and
- (iii) Recommend to Cabinet that Council undertake formal public consultation on the SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report for a period of 6 weeks.

Reason for report

The Panel on 13th July 2005 previously agreed that informal community involvement should take place on the content of the Access for All SPD, and initial engagement take place with the four environmental authorities on the content of the sustainability appraisal. This report informs the Panel of the comments received and seeks its recommendation that Cabinet agree any necessary changes to the two documents. The Panel is asked to recommend to Cabinet that the SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report should now be subject to statutory formal public consultation for six weeks.

Benefits

To ensure that access considerations form an integral part of the development process. To ensure local services and facilities are accessible to everyone.

Cost of Proposals

The cost of producing the SPD and associated SA will be met within the approved Departmental budget.

Risks

Failure to carry out the procedures set down in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulations would render the Council open to legal challenge. Delay in meeting the Local Development Scheme (LDS) timetable milestones may also lead to a reduction in the Planning Delivery Grant (PDG).

Implications if recommendations rejected

This will lead to a failure to meet the approved LDS timetable.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

Initial consultation on the draft Access for All SPD and its accompanying sustainability appraisal took place for 6 weeks from 1st August 2005 to 14th September 2005. 14 responses were received on the SPD, one of which was on the Sustainability Appraisal. Comments were received from the following bodies:-

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES REPRESENTATIONS

1. Christopher Kratz- Countryside Agency
2. Katie Wilkinson-Environment Agency

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS & PEOPLE REPRESENTATIONS

3. Peter Durrans-Sport England
4. Steven Lee-Resident

5. Pippa Moreton- Corporation of London
6. Alison Fairhurst-Government Office for London (GOL)

IN-HOUSE REPRESENTATIONS

7. Building Control
8. Harrow Libraries
9. Canons Park Project Officer
10. Community Safety Services (CSS)
11. Conservation Officer
12. Town Centre Manager
13. Highways
14. People First Development Officer

A summary of the responses received and the suggested changes made to the two documents can be seen in Appendix 1- Consultation Statement Draft Access for All SPD. References to new page numbers are made to demonstrate where the changes have been incorporated.

Next stages

Having considered the responses and agreed any necessary changes, the draft Access for All SPD and Sustainability Appraisal report will now be subject to a statutory period of public consultation. It is open to the Council to choose a period from a minimum of 4 weeks, up to a maximum of 6 weeks. In view of the level of response to the initial consultation it is suggested that a six week period consultation is undertaken. The formal public consultation is programmed to take place from 18th November to 30th December 2005.

2.2 Options considered

The LDS agreed by Cabinet on 23rd June 2005 identified production of an SPD as being the most appropriate option in Harrow.

2.3 Consultation

The initial community engagement stage for producing this SPD has followed the appropriate procedures and timetable as set down in the approved LDS, and including the means of engagement set down in the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

2.4 Financial Implications

Costs are contained within the approved Departmental budget.

2.5 Legal Implications

The Panel is entitled to note the contents of the Consultation Statement and to recommend to Cabinet: (a) that it agree the draft Access for All SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report; and (b) that Council proceed to undertake formal public consultation on the SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report for a period of 6 weeks.

2.6 Equalities Impact

Both the SPD and SA promote equality of opportunity and social inclusion.

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Background Documents:

BOTH THE ACCESS FOR ALL SPD AND ACCOMPANYING SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT WILL BE DESPATCHED TO MEMBERS OF THE PANEL PRIOR TO THE SPAP MEETING.

Draft Access for All Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal – Report to Strategic Planning Advisory Panel -13 July 2005.