

Meeting:	Strategic Planning Advisory Panel
Date:	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2006
Subject:	Responses to the statutory consultation on the draft Access for All Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal and approval for adoption.
Responsible Officer:	Executive Director (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 Access for All SPD has been through two rounds of consultation. The initial six-week consultation period on the draft SPD began on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005 and ended 14<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Necessary changes were made to the documents before they were subject to statutory consultation between the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

During the statutory consultation stage, the main alterations required to be undertaken to the SPD have been of grammatical, colour and design related issues. The accompanying SA report has been finalised to reflect the development of the SPD. This report informs the Panel of the comments/representations received and highlights how any necessary changes to the two documents have been made.

The Panel are asked to recommend that the Portfolio Holder agrees the content of the final documents which now are at the adoption stage. The Council is also required to publish a summary report entitled the 'consultation statement' which summarises the comments/representations that were received, from which consultees and what action has been taken. Details of the comments and

proposed changes can be seen in the consultation statement (Appendix 1). The adoptions statement is also attached (see Appendix 2).

### **Decision Required**

The Panel is invited to: -

- i) Agree the responses to representations and proposed changes to the draft Access for All Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA) (as detailed within the Consultation Statement, Appendix 1).
- ii) Recommend that the Portfolio Holder clear and agree the Access for All SPD and its accompanying SA Report.
- iii) Recommend that the Portfolio Holder adopt the Access for All SPD and its accompanying SA Report. (See Appendix 2-Adoption Statement).

### **Reason for report**

The reason for the actions proposed is to enable the adoption of the Access for All Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The key aim of the Access for All SPD is to demonstrate the links between the Council's planning process, government planning policy and guidance and service provider obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The Access for All SPD aims to broaden the scope of good design by positively encouraging partnership working between the Council, professionals involved in the development process and the diverse range of local businesses and industry, in order to create local environments that are logical in layout, safe and easy to navigate. The Access for All SPD supports the fundamental principles of sustainable design. The guidance and requirements throughout the Access for All SPD actively promote the concept of inclusive design, to ensure access considerations form part of a development's overall design and not merely as bolt-on accessories.

### **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 Planning Services 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 milestone.

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2.1 Brief History**

Statutory consultation on the draft Access for All SPD and its accompanying sustainability appraisal took place for 6 weeks from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2005. Five 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. Environment Agency (Tricia Lloyd)
2. English Heritage (Graham Saunders)
3. The Countryside Agency (Landscape Access Recreation –LAR) (David Hammond)

#### **EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS & PEOPLE REPRESENTATIONS**

4. Joint Committee on Mobility of Blind and Partially Sighted People (JCMBPS)
5. Mr Jeffries-Harrow on the Hill

#### **IN-HOUSE REPRESENTATIONS**

Access Officer  
Urban Designer  
Graphic Designer  
Canons Park, Project Officer  
Planner  
Legal

A summary of the responses received and the suggested changes made to the two documents can be seen in Appendix 1- Consultation Statement. 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 Access for All SPD and Sustainability Appraisal report now require adoption.

### **2.2 Options considered**

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

### 2.3 Consultation

The initial community engagement and statutory consultation stages for producing this SPD have 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

Once adopted, the authority should include the Access for All SPD in the LDF as it will form part of the planning framework for the area. It will not be subject to independent examination and will not form part of the statutory development plan, however the authority should carry out the same publicity process for the adopted SPD as applies to a DPD. The authority must also include with the SPD a statement of the consultation undertaken, the representations received and their response to those representations, together with a copy of the final statement of sustainability appraisal.

### 2.6 Equalities Impact

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

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents**

### Background Documents:

The Access for All SPD and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report