

Chairman: * Councillor Marilyn Ashton

Councillors: * Husain Akhtar * Manji Kara
* Keith Ferry * Joyce Nickolay
* Thaya Idaikkadar * Navin Shah

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 3 - Sustainable Building Design Supplementary Planning Document

An officer introduced a report which provided an outline of the consideration of comments received as part of the public consultation on the draft Sustainable Building Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The officer explained that the comments had been taken into account in preparing a revised SPD and the Panel were being requested to recommend the document to Cabinet for approval.

During the discussion on this item Members raised a number of issues which officers responded to as follows:

- there had been investigations into how other boroughs had addressed issues relating to sustainable building design during the preparation of the SPD;
- there had been discussions with the Building Control department within the Council on the SPD. However it was important to note that the BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) standards and code levels referred to were assessed independently to planning requirements and building control;
- developers would be required to complete a checklist before an application was sent to the Council. If this checklist was not completed the application would not be validated;
- the SPD acted as a useful prompt for developers by incorporating all relevant requirements and provisions for consideration;
- the reference to community heating systems in the SPD encouraged the use of decentralised renewable energy sources on or close to the site which could be delivered more efficiently than the national grid. Typically this involved the use of incinerators;
- minimum residential floor space requirements were likely to be addressed in the Core Strategy and a proposed Conversion SPD.

In response to a query by a Member, the Chairman explained that the Council had signed the Nottingham Declaration. This was essentially a declaration of intent indicating the Council's commitment to reduce emissions. This involved encouraging carbon neutral developments generally.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Cabinet)

That the revised Sustainable Building Design Supplementary Planning Document be adopted subject to confirmation that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not required.

(See also Minute 163).