

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE FLOOD AND WATER SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING
DOCUMENT**

To: Economy and Environment Committee

Meeting Date: 14th July 2016

From: Executive Director – Economy, Transport and
Environment

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: N/A *Key decision:* No

Purpose: To consider the revised Flood and Water Supplementary
Planning Document (SPD) following public consultation
and to agree the SPD for adoption.

Recommendation: The Committee is requested to:

- 1) Adopt the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water
Supplementary Planning Document; and
- 2) Delegate to the Executive Director (Economy,
Transport and Environment) in consultation with the
Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee the authority
to make minor textual and editorial changes to the
SPD, in consultation with the Officer Steering
Group, prior to publication.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A significant amount of new development is planned in Cambridgeshire in the next 20 years and beyond. In order to reduce and mitigate the impact of this growth on the water environment, development must be appropriately located, well designed and managed and take account of climate change. This includes site drainage networks and proposed local water bodies.
- 1.2 Coupled with the enactment of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (which made the County Council a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)) and the progressing of comprehensive local plan preparation across the County, the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), including the County Council, have agreed jointly to the preparation and adoption of a countywide supplementary planning document (SPD) to ensure that Cambridgeshire has a consistent, locally appropriate, approach to flood risk and water management.
- 1.3 The Flood and Water SPD has been prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council (as the Lead Local Flood Authority) in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, and the Internal Drainage Boards (including the Middle Level Commissioners). This process has been managed by a county-wide Officer Steering Group.
- 1.4 The Flood and Water SPD has been prepared to support the implementation of flooding and water related policies in each local planning authority's Local Plan, including the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Core Strategy DPD and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Site Specific Proposals DPD. When adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration when considering planning applications.
- 1.5 At the meeting of this committee on 14th July 2015 it was resolved to:
 - 1) Consider and approve the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD);
 - 2) Delegate to the Executive Director (Economy, Transport and Environment) in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, the authority to make minor textual changes to the draft SPD prior to publication for public consultation and;
 - 3) Request officers bring the final SPD back to a future meeting of the Committee for approval with a recommendation to the Cambridgeshire local planning authorities to adopt the SPD.
- 1.6 Further to resolution 3) above, the public consultation has been completed and the draft SPD, taking into account the views and comments expressed. The final SPD has been agreed by the Officer Steering Group that has helped shape it and it will now go through each of the LPAs respective democratic for adoption.
- 1.7 A copy of the final SPD is provided at Appendix 1.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Each of the chapters contained within the SPD details guidance for developers and applicants on managing flood risk and the water environment in and around new developments within Cambridgeshire.
- 2.2 The main purposes of the SPD are:
- To provide guidance to developers on the approach that should be taken to manage flood risk and the water environment as part of new development proposals;
 - To provide a step by step guide to address flood risk matters as part of a development proposal, including clear guidance on the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);
 - To support existing and emerging flood risk and water management related planning policies contained within the relevant Local Planning Authorities adopted or draft Local Plans; and
 - For Cambridgeshire County Council, the SPD will support the relevant policies contained within the 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan' Core Strategy (adopted July 2011).
- 2.3 The SPD provides detailed guidance for applicants on developing proposals that:
- Are not at risk of flooding and that do not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere, including providing guidance on the sequential and exception tests, how to produce a site specific Flood Risk Assessment, and measures that can be taken to manage flood risk;
 - Include the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) that effectively manage water, are well designed to conserve, accommodate and enhance biodiversity, and provide amenity for local residents; and
 - Enhance the quality of the water environment and mitigate the adverse impact of development on the quality of water bodies including rivers, lakes and groundwater.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

- 2.4 Local authorities are not required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of an SPD as they do not contain new policy. Instead SPDs provide more detailed guidance relating to policies that have already been subject to Sustainability Appraisal as part of the local plan process. Occasionally, however, an SPD can give rise to significant environmental effects and therefore local authorities need to screen their SPDs to ensure that the legal requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations are met. The screening report prepared by the County Council demonstrates that the draft SPD does not give rise to significant environmental effects (see Appendix 2).

Equality Impact Assessment

- 2.5 Local authorities have a legal responsibility to ensure that their policies do not adversely affect the different sections of their communities. The County Council has completed an Equality Impact Assessment of the SPD which

shows that the SPD will have a neutral and/or positive impact on equality and diversity (see Appendix 3).

Public Consultation

- 2.6 Local planning authorities are required to prepare a statement setting out who has been consulted while preparing the SPD; a summary of the main issues raised; and how these issues have been addressed in the SPD. The County Council has prepared a statement that records the consultation undertaken during September and October 2015 (see Appendix 4).
- 2.7 After carrying out the public consultation, Cambridgeshire County Council, in conjunction with the Officer Steering Group and other stakeholders, has considered the representations received on the draft SPD and have made appropriate changes to the SPD. The main amendments in the document reflect the following:
- A better understanding of the Fen areas and IDBs requirements;
 - Managing conflicts between what works in City and what works in the Fens;
 - Ensuring the policy document is as user friendly as possible;
 - A better quality document in terms of design and clarity of images and graphs.

Adoption

- 2.8 Following adoption by the Council the SPD will take immediate effect and will become a material consideration in all planning decisions taken by the Council. The Districts and City Council will also adopt the SPD through their own Member processes. Once adopted the SPD will support the implementation of, and provide guidance on, flood risk and water related policies in Local Plans of Cambridgeshire Planning Authorities.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

Ensuring a countywide approach on flood risk and drainage matters will assist developers and LPAs to make well considered planning applications, which in turn will benefit the local economy.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The implementation of the guidance and tools provided in the SPD will contribute towards preventing the risk to health associated with flooding.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

The consequence of flood risk impacts on everyone, particularly the most vulnerable in society. Inappropriate or poorly designed surface drainage infrastructure increases flood risk locally. Therefore, the SPD will assist developers and LPAs in guiding them to make informed decisions with regards to managing development in relation flood risk and well-designed SuDS.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The SPD has been prepared using significant officer resources drawn from across the County Council since its inception two years ago.

It may be necessary to periodically review the SPD to ensure that it is consistent with future changes in national planning policy or any of the Cambridgeshire Local Plans.

A programme of training for the members of the Planning Committee and officers in the County Planning Minerals and Waste team will be undertaken.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category (see paragraph 2.5).

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications within this category. Full consultation required for the preparation of the SPD has been undertaken and the final SPD has incorporated the comments and views expressed where appropriate (see paragraph 2.6 – 2.7).

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix 2a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping

Appendix 2b Habitat Regulations Assessment

Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 4 Consultation Statement

Source Documents	Location
Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document: Adopted SPD (July 2016)	Room 305, Shire Hall, Cambridge