

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX18/2022
Relevant Officer:	Jane Saleh, Head of Planning Strategy
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Tourism and Culture
Date of Meeting :	25 April 2022

ADOPTION OF GREENING BLACKPOOL SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 This report presents the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document for adoption (Appendix 4a refers) and the Greening Blackpool SPD – Consultation Statement (Appendix 4b refers) for publication on the website, the latter setting out all the representations received and the Council’s proposed response.

Public consultation on the Draft Greening Blackpool SPD took place during September and October 2021 and 14 responses were received.

The Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document provides direction on the importance for new development to fully consider landscaping and green infrastructure; and detailed guidance on the implementation of relevant policies in the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy including Policy CS6: Green Infrastructure; and the Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document.

The Supplementary Planning Document has also been informed by the local plan evidence base documents as well as other relevant council policy and strategy as set out on in the document

Once adopted this Supplementary Planning Document will be a material consideration when assessing relevant planning applications.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve and formally adopt the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document at Appendix 4a to the Executive report.

- 2.2 To approve and agree for publication the supporting Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Statement at Appendix 4b to the Executive report.
- 2.3 To authorise the Head of Planning Strategy to make any appropriate minor amendments to improve the presentation and finalise a published version of the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document (at Appendix 4a to the Executive report).

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To provide further detailed guidance to policy in the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 To not approve the Supplementary Planning Document but these would not provide guidance for applicants and the Council's Planning Committee in seeking to support Blackpool's future regeneration and growth.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 Provision of Green Infrastructure in urban areas delivers benefits not only to the environment but also to the development of better places. It supports health and wellbeing, sustains biodiversity and wildlife and provides greater climate change resilience. In order to deliver the green infrastructure that Blackpool needs, it is important that new development also contributes to a greater provision.

6.2 The key aims of the Supplementary Planning Document are to:

- ensure Blackpool plays its part in the national effort to tackle climate change;
- ensure Blackpool is prepared for the consequences of climate change;
- assist in meeting the national aspiration of increasing overall tree cover in urban areas;
- contribute to the nations efforts to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050;
- contribute towards the government's target of planting one million trees in England's towns and cities by 2022;
- assist in increasing the tree canopy cover in Blackpool from 4.4% to 10% by 2027 (approximately 10,000 trees);
- contribute towards the aims and objectives of Blackpool's Tree Strategy 2020- 2030, Blackpool's Air Quality Strategy 2020-2025 and Blackpool's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019 (or as updated); 11
- assist in increasing the quality and functionality of Green and Blue Infrastructure across Blackpool and the wider Fylde Coast;
- assist in the implementation of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework including the Tree Strategy and the recommendations in the Open Space Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy;
- ensure that all Blackpool residents and visitors have access to a wide range of high quality landscapes and green infrastructure features that meet local green space and play standards to facilitate quality of life, health and wellbeing;
- assist businesses to flourish in attractive environments which encourages private investment, increased footfall and repeat visits;
- ensure that biodiversity and trees are fully considered at an early stage of the development process;
- ensure that every opportunity is taken to provide environmental and biodiversity net gains from development;
- promote best practice for proposals incorporating trees and green infrastructure within new developments, applying 'the right tree in the right place' principles.

6.3 Draft SPD Consultation

A six-week consultation on the Draft Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document was undertaken between Monday 6th September and Monday 18 October 2021 in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 and the adopted Statement of Community Involvement. This is detailed in the Consultation Statement (Appendix 4b to the Executive report refers).

Around 1200 organisations and individuals (including statutory bodies, key stakeholders and members of the public) were invited to make representations on the draft Supplementary Planning Document. Fourteen responses were received including representations from the Environment Agency, United Utilities, the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Fylde Council.

The aims and overarching principles of the Supplementary Planning Document acknowledging the benefits of green infrastructure provision were generally supported however, the following broad issues were raised in the representations received:

- Concern over the requirements for replacement trees not sufficiently taking into account land use efficiency and site constraints and that greater flexibility is required reflective of Policy DM21 : Landscaping in the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2;
- Concern that the proposed replacement tree requirement of two semi mature trees to be planted in place for every tree lost was disproportionate particularly in relation to the replace of Category C¹ trees;
- Lack of justification in the Supplementary Planning Document on how the offsite planting contribution has been calculated;
- Concern over the level of financial contributions that are proposed for offsite provision of green infrastructure particularly the £1000 contribution per tree and the impact this may have on development viability;
- Concern over the open space requirements which were considered high; and that the proposed requirement should be more reflective of the site typologies and take into account existing open space close to proposed

¹ CATEGORY C – Trees of a low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10yrs, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.

development.

- The Supplementary Planning Document needs to better incorporate the requirements of the upcoming 2021 Environment Act, specifically the requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain.

Some comments received did not directly relate to the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document and included issues related to vandalism; sports facilities, playing pitch provision and surface water management. As appropriate, these comments have been forwarded to the relevant Council Department for consideration.

Full detail of the representations received and the Council's proposed responses is set out in the Consultation Statement at Appendix 4b to the Executive report.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 4a– Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document

Appendix 4b – Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation Statement

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The preparation of the documents is being undertaken within existing budgetary provisions. The Supplementary Planning Document is being resourced by existing staff within the Planning Strategy Team.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 The Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document provides additional information to assist with the interpretation and implementation of the Blackpool Local Plan Parts 1 and 2, which form part of the Council's statutory Development Plan. Furthermore, since the SPD is informative, it is potentially very helpful for applicants in the pre-application stage making the process even more transparent and open.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 No adverse risks will arise from the adoption and subsequent publication of the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 No adverse equalities considerations. The Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document will contribute to the Council priorities set out in the Council Plan.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Sustainability, climate change and the environment are key considerations that have been taken into account in developing the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 Core Strategy and Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies to which the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document relates. The Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document will assist in helping to deliver on the Council's Climate Change Declaration and Climate Change Action Plan

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement and in accordance with the statutory requirements and regulations for Supplementary Planning Document preparation.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (adopted January 2016)
Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (Submission) document (January 2021)

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 7/2022

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 13 April 2022 Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Summary of Discussion:

19.1 The Executive considered the item but noted that the Cabinet Member for Climate Change had not been consulted on the report. While the Executive expressed support for the Supplementary Planning Document it considered that a slight delay to ensure its alignment with other plans to address the Climate Emergency.

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To defer consideration to a future meeting, to enable further consultation to take place between the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and relevant officers.

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1 25 April 2022

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1 To enable further discussion to take place with a view to ensuring that the Supplementary Planning Document aligns with the Council's approved Climate Action Plan.

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1 26 April 2022

24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

24.1 The Executive considered approving the Supplementary Planning Document or rejecting that document but considered that both options were not desirable at this point and that further consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member should instead take place.

25.0 Executive Members in attendance:

25.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Smith and Taylor

26.0 Call-in:

26.1

27.0 Notes:

27.1 The following non-Executive member was in attendance: Councillor Hunter.