

Cabinet

8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities – Councillor E Ruane

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

Adoption of Health Impact Assessment and Coventry Connected Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

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**Is this a key decision?**

Yes - The adoption of the two SPD's provides technical guidance which supports the adopted Local Plan.

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**Executive Summary:**

Following the adoption of the Coventry Local Plan in December 2017 the Council have been developing a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) to provide technical guidance and support to specific policies within the Plan.

The development of SPD's is subject to statutory process including public consultation. Both SPDs summarised within this report have been subject to two periods of consultation during February/March and August September 2018. This is summarised in section three of this report. These stages have previously been overseen through the Cabinet Member process. Both SPD's have been updated to reflect the results of public consultation and are now presented for adoption.

**1. Health Impact Assessments – Technical Guidance SPD**

This SPD is intended to provide technical guidance and support to Policy HW1 of the Local Plan and support the delivery of Health Impact Assessments. This SPD has been developed in partnership between the Council's Planning and Public Health functions and is intended to support ongoing joint working on all matters of health and wellbeing considerations through the Planning process. As a result this will help deliver one of the overall objectives of the Plan which is to help improve the health and wellbeing of Coventry people.

## **2. Coventry Connected SPD**

This SPD is intended to provide technical guidance and support to the Accessibility policies set out in Chapter 10 of the Local Plan. This SPD has been developed in partnership between the Council's Planning and Highways functions and is intended to support ongoing joint working on all matters of transport considerations through the Planning process.

The SPD is structured to cover each of the Accessibility policies in turn (Policy AC1-AC7). This covers supporting technical detail around matters of:

- Transport Assessments.
- Travel Plans (including Green Travel Plans)
- Highway impacts.
- Promotion of a walking cycling and public transport (including Rapid Transit and rail improvements).
- Assessment of freight suitability.

Alongside the SPD the Parking Standards Appendix to the Local Plan has been amended to add greater clarity over types of development and their respective parking requirements.

Both SPD's are appended to this report at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.

### **Recommendations:**

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Approve the content of the Health Impact Assessment SPD and Coventry Connected SPD and agree their adoption with effect from the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### **List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1: Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (HIA SPD) and Appendices to HIA SPD.

Appendix 2: Coventry Connected SPD and updated Car Parking Standards (Local Plan Appendix 5).

### **Background papers:**

None

### **Other useful documents**

Both SPD's have been subject to previous Cabinet Member reports to oversee the related consultation stages. Papers are available via the following links:

- Initial round of consultation – Cabinet Member for Community Development – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018:  
<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=712&MId=11573&Ver=4> agenda items 53 and 54
- Further round of publication – Cabinet Member for Housing and communities – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018:  
<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=739&MId=11832&Ver=4> agenda items 8 and 10.

The report for the Adoption of the Coventry City Council Local Plan was considered at Council on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017. All papers are available under Agenda item 13 on <http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=11416>

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Adoption of Health Impact Assessment and Coventry Connected Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 Following the adoption of the Coventry Local Plan in December 2017 the Council have been developing a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) to provide technical guidance and support to specific policies within the Plan.
- 1.2 Supplementary Planning Documents are designed to build upon and provide more detailed advice and guidance on the policies in the Local Plan. They do not introduce new policy and should be used to help applicants make successful applications and are not to be used to add unnecessarily to the financial burdens on development.
- 1.3 The development of SPD's is subject to a number of statutory processes including an initial period of public consultation, followed by a further period of publication and engagement to present the consultation responses and how they have informed the final draft of the SPD. They must then be presented to Cabinet for adoption in accordance with the Council's constitution.
- 1.4 Both SPD's presented with this report have been through two stages of consultation and public engagement. The responses to these consultations have previously been considered through respective Cabinet Member reports but are summarised in section 3 of this report.
- 1.5 This Cabinet paper seeks the adoption of the first two SPD. These are summarised below:

### **1.6 Health Impact Assessments – Technical Guidance SPD**

- 1.6.1 In recent years there has been a renewed understanding and focus on the impact of the built environment and health. This is shown by reference in the National Planning Practice Guidance to the need for local planning authorities to ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure, are considered in decision making.
- 1.6.2 This has led to the inclusion of a Health and Wellbeing chapter in the adopted Coventry Local Plan, for the first time in over 50 years. This SPD is intended to provide technical guidance and support to this chapter and to Policy HW1 by supporting the delivery of Health Impact Assessments. This SPD has been developed in partnership between the Council's Planning and Public Health functions and is intended to support ongoing joint working on all matters of health and wellbeing considerations through the Planning process. As a result this will help deliver one of the overall objectives of the Plan which is to help improve the health and wellbeing of Coventry people.
- 1.6.3 The Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document is aimed at individuals and organisations involved in submitting a planning application as well as those involved in the determination and enforcement of planning applications, for all relevant developments (residential, commercial and mixed developments).
- 1.6.4 The SPD is structured around a detailed template to support the delivery of a HIA for relevant development proposals. It takes users on a step by step process through a

range of key health and wellbeing considerations relative to new developments, having regard to matters of build quality, design, relationship with the natural environment and links to transport and active travel.

## 1.7 **Coventry Connected SPD**

- 1.7.1 This SPD is intended to expand upon and provide support and technical guidance for the Accessibility policies set out in Chapter 10 of the Local Plan. It has been developed in partnership between the Council's Planning and Highways functions and is intended to support ongoing joint working on all matters of transport considerations through the Planning process. The added technical support and guidance provided within the report will help applicants provide the correct information and assess the right areas of transport considerations early in the planning process. This will not only save time and money but will lead to better transport planning and stronger outcomes for infrastructure. The SPD is split across 8 chapters, with the first chapter providing the introduction and context. The following sections below summarise the considerations and detail provided within the SPD.
- 1.7.2 Chapter 2 of the SPD expands upon Policy AC1 of the Local Plan which provides the overarching transport strategy. This focuses primarily on the need for developers to ensure good quality transport systems allowing for people to access the jobs and services they require. This includes providing greater choice over modes of transport; ensuring accessibility to these options; and promoting high quality provisions.
- 1.7.3 Chapter 3 of the SPD provides guidance for developers on what is required to ensure that developments can be accommodated into the local road network. This includes:
- Considering the wider impact of the development's vehicle trips upon infrastructure;
  - Highlighting when and how to assess impacts of the developments vehicle trips on the road network and the environment and how to mitigate against these; and
  - Considering the Coventry Area Strategic Model (CASM) when assessing future developments (also using CASM when conducting travel impact assessments).
- 1.7.4 While the exact scope and content of a Transport Assessment (TA), Transport Statement (TS) or a Travel Plan (TP) will remain case specific, Chapter 4 provides detailed guidance for developers on how best to scope transport related issues; prepare relevant assessments and travel plans; review parking standards and manage air quality issues through transport.
- 1.7.5 Chapter 5 seeks to ensure the promotion and inclusion of safe and convenient walking and cycling routes as part of development proposals, aiming to create a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 1.7.6 Chapter 6 promotes the support and enhancement of the bus and rapid transit (including Very Light Rail) infrastructure and services in Coventry, providing the guidance that developers need to adhere to for future developments.
- 1.7.7 Chapter 7 gives guidance to developers to ensure both the support and enhancement of the local rail network and the support of new railway stations with the primary aim of ensuring that new developments are well connected in regard to access to railway stations.

- 1.7.8 Chapter 8 covers the management of freight and the preference for utilising alternative methods of freight movement. This includes guidance around construction traffic management plans, the issues surrounding parking provision, and considering opportunities for using more alternative freight facilities (rail and air).
- 1.7.9 Alongside the SPD the Parking Standards Appendix to the Local Plan has been amended to add greater clarity over types of development and their respective parking requirements. The primary focus of this is around HiMOs (Homes in Multiple Occupation) and purpose built student accommodation.

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 As the Coventry Local Plan has already been adopted, only two potential options have been considered.
- 2.2 The first of these options has been set out in the recommendation to this report. The adoption of the SPD's would ensure the relevant Local Plan policies can be implemented and interpreted in a consistent and effective way. This will help reduce conflict and promote better quality planning applications, saving time and resources through the wider planning process.
- 2.3 The second option would be to not progress the Supplementary Planning Document and to rely solely on the policies in the Local Plan and how applicants interpret those policies. This option has not been recommended as it would place greater reliance on how applicants use the new policies which could generate greater inconsistency in evidence submitted in support of applications and lead to greater resource pressure for planning officers managing day to day caseloads.
- 2.4 The level of detail provided by these SPD's was not provided within the Local Plan itself as it would have extended the complexity and length of the Plan substantially.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 An initial round of consultation was undertaken in relation to both SPDs between 12 February and 23 March 2018.
- 3.2 A total of 7 responses were received to the Health Impact Assessment SPD and 5 responses to the Coventry Connected SPD. Comments were received via email and post as well as a range of informal comments and suggestions made through stakeholder meetings and consultation drop in events. A summary of the representations to both SPDs was then presented to the Cabinet Member meeting in August 2018 alongside amended version of both documents.
- 3.4 In both cases the majority of comments were supportive of the SPD's with comments focusing more on matters of principle, technical adjustment or general observations. In relation to the HIA SPD they can be summarised as follows:
- Additional clarification is needed about how HIA's are compiled and considered through the planning application process.
  - Additional links to other documents and SPD's would be helpful including green infrastructure studies and flood risk assessments.

- Importance of making sure information submitted with the HIA does not simply duplicate information provided elsewhere in the planning process.

In relation to the Coventry Connected SPD they can be summarised as follows:

- Specific comments related to links to Regional and Sub-regional strategies and supporting information such as Midlands Connect, Bus Network Strategies and Bike Hire Schemes etc.
- Comments and recommendations relating to linked areas of policy such as health impacts, air quality and infrastructure.

3.5 All comments were then incorporated into the revised documents (as appropriate) and the SPD's were reissued for public consideration between 8<sup>th</sup> August and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018. A further 5 responses were received to the HIA SPD and a further 3 to the Coventry Connected SPD. All focused on minor adjustments to the text (which were duly incorporated as appropriate) or were not of direct relevance to either SPD.

#### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1 Subject to approval by the Cabinet it is proposed to adopt the SPD's with effect from the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019. They will then form a material consideration as part of relevant planning applications.

#### **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

##### **5.1 Financial implications**

Unlike the Local Plan or an Area Action Plan, a SPD is not subject to public examination. It therefore does not incur the same level of costs as a higher level Plan. As such, any costs associated with the delivery of these SPD's is met through existing budgets attributed to the Planning and Housing Policy team alongside those of Public Health and Highways (as appropriate).

##### **5.2 Legal implications**

Supplementary Planning Documents are produced under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Supplementary Planning Documents are subject to supporting evidence and consultation but are not publicly examined or subject to Sustainability Appraisal. As such, their 'material weight' in planning terms is less than that of a Local Plan, Area Action Plan or other Development Plan Document. Notwithstanding this, SPD's must be adopted by a resolution of the Local Planning Authority and they are still important planning policy documents that provide technical guidance and supporting information to those submitting planning applications. A SPD does not introduce new policy, instead it builds and expands upon policies set out in the higher level plan (in this case the Local Plan) to ensure they are interpreted and delivered in the most efficient and effective way.

## **6. Other implications**

### **6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

Both SPD's will support the delivery of the overarching aims and objectives of the Council Plan, in particular it will contribute to:

- Promoting the growth of a sustainable Coventry economy;
- Improving the quality of life for Coventry people;
- Promote the growth of a sustainable Coventry economy that benefits the city;
- Developing the city centre for the 21st century;
- Creating the infrastructure for the city to grow and thrive;
- Raising the profile of Coventry;
- Helping local people into jobs;
- Reducing the impact of poverty;
- Improving the quality of life for Coventry people;
- Create an attractive, cleaner and greener city;
- Improving health and wellbeing;
- Reducing health inequalities;
- Making the most of our assets;
- Support the regeneration of Coventry's economy;
- Active communities and empowered citizens; and
- Working together with neighbours and partners across the voluntary, public and private sectors.

### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Recent periods of consultation have helped to identify and mitigate risk by highlighting any issues and concerns with both SPD.

### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

No direct impact

### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

A full Equality and Consultation Assessment (ECA) was undertaken as part of developing the Local Plan. As these SPD's support the delivery and technical interpretation of policies within the Plan no further assessment has been undertaken. As part of that analysis, the Council had due regard to its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act (2010).

Notwithstanding, an initial examination has shown that the Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document can contribute to significant benefits to the health and wellbeing of the current and future population of Coventry, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities and therefore benefiting some of the most vulnerable people and different population groups in Coventry.

Furthermore, a key priority of the Coventry Connected SPD is to support the interpretation and effectiveness of the accessibility policies within the new Local Plan.

These policies focus on promoting greater accessibility to public transport and promoting active travel. In addition they prioritise investment in highway infrastructure and seek to promote better, more efficient movement around Coventry for all its citizens.

## **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

The Health Impact Assessment Supplementary Planning Document encourages behaviours and designs for new developments that will have positive impacts on the environment and climate change.

Key priorities of the accessibility policies within the Local Plan (and therefore the Coventry Connected SPD) include the promotion and increased uptake of active travel and the promotion of improvements to air quality through improved transport technology and increased use of alternatives to the car.

## **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

The City Council as highways authority will continue to work closely with its partners in Warwickshire County Council, Transport for West Midlands and Highways England to ensure the benefits of the Coventry Connected SPD relating to highways infrastructure will also be realised on a cross boundary basis.

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