

PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE IN NEW HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Provision of Recreational Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to expand upon and clarify the Council's requirements in respect of the provision of recreational open space in new housing developments and the procedures for dealing with financial contributions from developers for off-site provision. It is also designed to provide definitions and design guidelines which will assist all those involved in recreational open space provision.
- 1.2 In order to ensure that appropriate public consultation takes place, SPDs are required to be accompanied by a statement setting out how the Local Planning Authority will comply with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This document details the public consultation that will take place to meet these requirements.
- 1.3 The new planning system introduced during 2004 includes new requirements (e.g. community involvement and the need to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal) governing the preparation of SPDs which replace the old style Supplementary Planning Guidance documents (SPG). Whilst not having 'development plan' status, SPDs will be afforded greater weight in the development control process than SPGs.
- 1.4 This document sets out the public participation procedures to be undertaken by the Council for the Provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing SPD. It accords with regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England regulations 2004).
- 1.5 Using the guidelines of the new government regulations and PPS 12, the public consultation draft SPD has been prepared through a process of consultation.

2. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT TO DATE

2.1 Early consultation

Early consultation was carried out to engage with key stakeholders about what form the document might take and how the existing policies could be expanded upon in a way which maximises the benefit to local communities in respect of enhancing recreational open space provision. This included:

- A discussion document, which consisted of an outline of how the SPD might be laid out and a series of questions relating to the main issues was distributed to a number of officers in the Council, specifically those whose work relates to the issues under discussion.
- The discussion document was then distributed more widely, including to all members of the Council as well as external bodies such as housebuilders. With this was an invitation to an informal discussion event to discuss the issues relating to this SPD.
- A discussion event on Friday 21st September 2007 which consisted of an introductory presentation followed by an open discussion focusing on the key issues in respect of the proposed document. This meeting was attended by twelve stakeholders including several Council Members, a number of Council Officers and representatives of the Greater Manchester Police. Other bodies, such as housebuilders, were invited to the event but did not attend. It was felt that this event was very useful in influencing the direction and format of the draft SPD.

These activities helped to identify the format and direction of the draft SPD.

2.2 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process

The first part of the SA process involved collecting background information for inclusion in the Scoping Report which enabled the scope of the SA to be determined. It was also a consultation document which allowed organisations and individuals to

comment on the proposed scope of the SA. Consultation responses received helped to ensure that the draft SA was comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD during later stages of full public consultation and examination.

Paper copies of the draft Scoping Report were sent out on the 1st August 2007 and recipients given a period of five weeks, until 5th September, to make comments. Government requires that three specific bodies (as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) were consulted at this stage – Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency. Although not statutorily required, the following bodies were also consulted:

- Government Office for the North West
- The North West Regional Assembly
- Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Rochdale Civic Society
- Rochdale Local Strategic Partnership
- Home Builders Federation
- National Playing Fields Association
- Sport England

Consultation responses have been received, recorded and incorporated into the Scoping Report as required. A draft SA has been completed for this SPD and will be subject to public consultation as part of the SPD consultation exercise commencing on 17th December 2007.

2.3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, public consultation will include direct notification to consultees, key local stakeholders and other interested parties. Publicity will also be provided through the local press.

On publication of the draft SPD a public consultation exercise will be undertaken to raise awareness and interest. In accordance with Regulation 17, a public notice will be published in local newspapers which clearly states the duration of the public consultation period and the places and times at which the SPD can be inspected.

Public consultation is scheduled to commence on Monday 17th December 2007 and end on Monday 28th January 2008, by which date all comments must be received. The following consultation methods will be used:

- The draft SPD will be available on the Council's website [Rochdale.gov.uk/council and democracy/consultations.aspx](http://Rochdale.gov.uk/council%20and%20democracy/consultations.aspx) . Comments may be made online;
- Hard copies of documents will be available for inspection at Council offices, libraries and community centres as detailed in Appendix 1;
- Letters will be sent to all parties Rochdale Council considers to have an interest in the SPD including statutory consultees, general consultees, local voluntary and community interests. The letter will include details of the role of the SPD and how and where to view the draft SPD and associated documents including the draft SA and make comment;
- A public notice will be placed in the Rochdale Observer, Heywood Advertiser and Middleton Guardian newspapers. A press release will also be issued prior to commencement of public consultation.
- Paper or electronic copies of the SPD or associated documents will be available on request (see contact details below).
- Those who wish to view this in large print or in Braille or for translation into Bengali or Urdu should contact the office below to arrange this.

On completion of the consultation exercise, the SPD will be revised as required to reflect responses. It will be submitted to Cabinet in March 2008 for adoption.

3. ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

For further advice or information relating to this document please contact:

Strategic Planning Team
Planning and Regulation Service
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
PO Box 32
Telegraph House
Baillie Street
Rochdale
OL16 1JH

Telephone: 01706 924371

Email: strategic.planning@rochdale.gov.uk

Website: [www.rochdale.gov.uk/council and democracy/consultations.aspx](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/consultations.aspx)

APPENDIX 1

Venues for public inspection of Provision of Recreational Open Space in New Housing SPD (subject to normal opening hours)

Council Information Points:

Planning and Regulation Reception, Floor 1, Telegraph House, Rochdale
Rochdale Information Centre, Floor 2, Municipal Offices, Smith Street, Rochdale
Heywood Information Centre, 44-46 Market Street, Heywood
Middleton Information Centre, Sadler Street, Middleton
Milnrow Information centre, 82 Dale Street, Milnrow

Libraries

Wheatsheaf Library, Baillie Street, Rochdale
Balderstone Library, Balderstone Park, Rochdale
Belfield Library, Belfield Community School, Samson Street, Rochdale
Castleton Library, 881 Manchester Road, Rochdale
Smallbridge Library, Stevenson Square, Rochdale
Spotland Library, Ings Lane, Rochdale

Heywood Library, Church Street, Heywood
Darnhill Library, Argyle Parade, Heywood
Norden Library, Edenfield Road, Rochdale

Middleton Library, Long Street, Middleton
Alkrington Library, Kirkway
Langley Library, Windermere Road, Middleton

Littleborough Library, Hare Hill Park, Littleborough
Milnrow Library, Newhey Road, Milnrow
Smithybridge Library, 121/3 Smithybridge Road, Littleborough
Wardle Library, 448 Bh Road, Wardle, Rochdale