

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Planning Committee	04/01/2017

Report template revised June 2008



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Draft Central Lancashire Employment Skills Supplementary Planning Document	Strategic Planning and Housing	Steven Brown	11

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) offer local planning authorities the opportunity to add guidance in specific policy areas. They are documents that must be prepared in consultation with interested parties, and must be subject to a screening process to discover whether a sustainability appraisal would be required. Unlike Development Plan Documents (DPDs) SPDs do not require independent examination before they are adopted.

The Draft Central Lancashire Employment Skills Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance for applicants in terms of understanding the relevant Central Lancashire policies and what is required as part of the planning application process. This includes a requirement to now submit Employment Skills plans in association with prescribed types and scale of development. Once adopted, this SPD should be afforded significant weight as a material consideration in determining planning applications.

The Central Lancashire Employment Skills SPD links to the corporate priority to facilitate a ‘Strong South Ribble in the heart of prosperous Lancashire’.

The SPD has been driven by Preston, Chorley and South Ribble Councils’ aspiration to see additional benefits (known as social value) incorporated into their housing and other development opportunities. Social value is defined as “the additional economic, social and environmental benefits that can be created when the Council purchases a good service from an outside organisation, above and beyond the value of that good or service”. By integrating social value at the planning stage of a project, this can result in significant ‘added value’ benefits to the residents of Lancashire, particularly in the area of employment and skills.

The timing of the introduction of this SPD is particularly relevant given that City Deal will unlock £434 million of new investment to help expand and improve Preston and South Ribble’s transport infrastructure, at an unprecedented rate. Forecasts suggest 20,000 new jobs will be created and 17,420 homes built – a huge boost to a local economy expected to grow by £1 billion over the next ten years. The success of the deal reflects the area’s excellent location, skilled workforce and local strength in training and education.

The SPD will also contribute to Lancashire Employment and Skills Strategic Framework, which details the employment and skills needs within Lancashire, as well as assisting with the aims and objectives of the LEP who has created a Skills and Employment Board to develop sustainable skills and employment to drive prosperity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- a) Endorses the draft Employment Skills Supplementary Planning Document for consultation,

- b) Delegate authority to the Director of Development, Enterprise and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Housing to make minor text, layout and formatting amendments prior to consultation.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Central Lancashire is experiencing a booming growth rate –bucking national trends and this is an area already boasting the UK’s highest new job creation rates in the last decade, with more than 20,000 new jobs created in the private sector.

One of Central Lancashire’s priorities is to encourage economic growth within Central Lancashire that benefits the people and businesses in the three boroughs. This involves increasing employment opportunities by helping local businesses to improve, grow and take on more staff, helping businesses to find suitable staff and suppliers, especially local ones, and improving the skills of local people to enable them to take advantage of the employing opportunities. The aim of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to facilitate this by helping businesses already located in Central Lancashire to grow and attract new businesses into the area.

This SPD is one of a suite of Central Lancashire SPDs that have already been adopted in accordance with the Local Planning Regulations and the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework), conforming and responding to all relevant local and national policies, and based upon a robust and up-to-date evidence base. These SPDs form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the Council, and the other Central Lancashire authorities. They are to be considered alongside policy in the Central Lancashire Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD). In addition to the Central Lancashire SPDs, South Ribble Council also has its own SPDs.

The SPD guidance which has been developed jointly between Planning and Economic Development colleagues of the three Councils should therefore be taken into consideration from the earliest stages of the development process of any site, including any purchase negotiations and in the preparation of development schemes. This SPD hopefully will be a significant positive for the three Councils and will only be the third in the North-West and first in the country that has been jointly prepared.

Content of the Supplementary Planning Document

To complement existing activity and facilitate opportunity in association with economic growth envisaged through this SPD, the authorities will now be introducing the need for the submission of an Employment Skills Plan with relevant scales of development.

The scale of development that triggers the need for a plan being:

Commercial Floorspace over 1000sqm

Housing Developments over 30 units

The need for a plan and what it will cover will be highlighted during pre-application discussions. The requirement for a plan will be included on each authority’s validation checklist.

The plan will comprise of two parts:

1 Completion of a template providing all the key background factual information associated with the development.

2 A methodology statement that sets out the content of the plan and how it will be implemented

The plan will cover such areas as:

- *Creation of apprenticeships*
- *Recruitment*
- *Training*
- *Work trials*
- *Use of local suppliers*
- *Skills Certification*
- *Support with transport, childcare and work equipment*

Next Steps

It is intended to prepare and print the document ready for consultation in January/February to seek views from all statutory consultees, the community and stakeholders. Once these views have been received and considered, it is intended to present a final version of the SPD to the relevant Council committees for formal adoption.

Once adopted, this SPD should be afforded significant weight as a material consideration in determining planning applications.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

FINANCIAL	The preparation and publication costs of the document are contained in current local plan revenue estimates.
LEGAL	Preparation of the SPD complies with relevant legislation. Once adopted, it can become a material consideration in the planning process.
RISK	The full risk assessment forms part of the background papers to this report. The main points for consideration are summarised here:- A risk assessment was undertaken as part of the Local Development Scheme, and is subject to annual review.
OTHER (see below)	A Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken as part of the Local Plan process and in particular Policy 15 of the Core Strategy, the provisions of which this SPD will seek to assist with implementation. It is considered therefore that a further detailed SA is not required.

<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

Central Lancashire Employment Skills Supplementary Planning Document 2016 (Draft)