

**NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF DECISION TO CABINET MEMBER BY STRONG LEADER**

Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

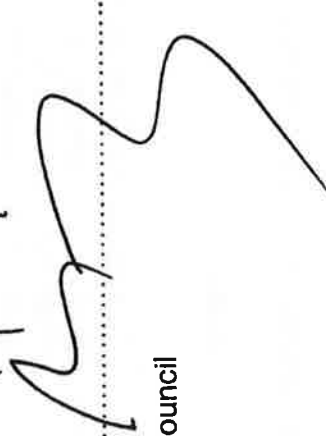
I, Marcus Hart, as Strong Leader, delegate the decisions Draft Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document detailed in the Forward Plan to the Cabinet Member/Officer detailed below:

Cabinet Member/Officer: Councillor J Campion

Dated:

14/16/14.

Signed:



Leader of the Council

**NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER**

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

In accordance with the authority delegated to me by the Leader, I have made the following decision:

Subject	Decision	Reason for decision	Date for Decision to be taken
Draft Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document	To approve the Draft Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document for consultation between Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October and Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2014.	To enable consultation to be undertaken on the Draft Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document.	2011/14

**I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.**

Dated:

Signed:

Councillor:



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 SP Curran  
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Cabinet Member

To: Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration, Councillor J Campion

From: Mike Parker  
Director of Economic Prosperity and Place

14<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Early Engagement consultation and to present an overview of responses. The report also outlines the content of the Draft Design Guidance SPD and outlines the arrangements for undertaking consultation on this.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration is asked to decide that:**

- The Consultation Statement and Draft Design Guidance SPD set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to this report are approved for public consultation.
- Delegated authority be given to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to make any necessary editorial and formatting amendments to the Draft Design Guidance SPD prior to consultation

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Design Guidance SPD Early Engagement Leaflet was reported to the Local Development Framework Panel in November 2013 and it was approved for consultation.
- 3.2 Regulation 12 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 require that before a Local Planning Authority adopts an SPD, it prepares and publishes a draft. Alongside this draft, it is necessary to publish details of the early engagement consultation undertaken, the responses received and how those responses have been considered within the Draft SPD.

## **4. THE DESIGN GUIDANCE SPD**

- 4.1 Early Engagement consultation was undertaken between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014. A total of 40 representations were received from 14 respondents. Of these, 13 were from organisations and 1 was from an individual. The responses were all supportive of the preparation of a revised SPD. The consultation responses together with details of how they have been addressed within the Draft SPD are set out within the Consultation Statement which forms Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.2 A stakeholder workshop was also held as part of the consultation. Invitations were sent to local developers, planning agents/architects, RSLs, town and parish councils, civic societies and to West Mercia Police as well as relevant officers at the County and

District Council. The workshop began by looking at examples of good design locally and then split into groups to discuss experiences of using the existing design guidance SPG, what the revised SPD should cover and finally what format the new document should take. The overall consensus was that officers should go for a web-based document containing web links to more detailed information. A summary of the stakeholder workshop is also set out within the Consultation Statement.

- 4.3 The Draft SPD has been informed by the comments received in response to the early engagement consultation. It is attached at Appendix 2 to this report and includes the following areas:
- Overarching design objectives to support Local Plan policies – (i) securing high quality design, (ii) creating and reinforcing local distinctiveness, (iii) protecting and establishing landscape character
  - The design process from initial concepts and site assessment to final construction and delivery following granting of planning permission
  - Design guidance for residential development – aims to encourage creative thinking in housing design and find solutions that satisfy both the developer's needs and the neighbourhood's qualities
  - Residential extensions – key principles
  - Character and Identity – new development should respond to local context building on the positive aspects and improving the negative aspects
  - Landscape design – quality of place is reflected in both buildings and spaces. Water management and biodiversity are key areas
  - People and liveability looks at amenity space and privacy, security and access issues
  - Town centres are key to the economic success of the area and strong urban design can add to the vitality and vibrancy of a town
  - Rural development – designs should reflect local character
  - Commercial development – key principles are set out
- 4.4 The revised Design Guidance SPD is more streamlined than the existing SPG in order to provide a more concise and accessible document with technical guidance placed in appendices. The SPD cannot set out any new policy; it can only expand on relevant design policies in the Adopted Core Strategy, the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan and the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan.
- 4.5 Regulation 12 and 13 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 require that a Local Planning Authority provides an opportunity for people to comment on a Draft SPD before it is adopted. Therefore, the Draft Design Guidance SPD will be made available for consultation for a six week period commencing at the end of October 2014. During this time the Draft SPD will be available on-line and at the Worcestershire Hub in Kidderminster and the District's three libraries. Facilities will be put in place for representations to be made electronically or in hard copy.
- 4.6 The Draft SPD was reported to members of the Local Plan Review Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Since then, the Draft has been further updated based on comments received from internal colleagues and issues raised by the Panel. The Full Draft SPD is set out at Appendix 2 to this report.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 Subject to approval, officers will arrange for a consultation to be undertaken between Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Following the consultation

period, all comments made will be summarised and considered in the preparation of the final SPD. The representation summaries and responses, together with the final SPD will be reported to Members during early spring 2015.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The costs of preparing the Design Guidance SPD will be met from existing budgets.

## **7. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The Design Guidance SPD will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Once adopted, the Design Guidance SPD will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. However, it will not set out new planning policy.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

8.1 An Equality and Diversity Screening Assessment will be completed for the final SPD.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT**

9.1 If an updated Design Guidance SPD was not to be progressed, the District Council would run the risk of not being in the strongest possible position to encourage high quality design in new development.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 The District Council is committed to producing an updated Design Guidance SPD and this is also supported by many local stakeholders. This report seeks approval of the proposed Draft SPD for consultation.

## **11. CONSULTEES**

- North Worcestershire Water Management
- Development Control
- Countryside Conservation Officer

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Adopted Core Strategy (December 2010)
- Adopted Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan (July 2013)
- Adopted Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (July 2013)