

CABINET – 16TH JANUARY 2020

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

ITEM 11 DESIGN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Design Supplementary Planning Document.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. The SPD provided guidance to support applicants to prepare suitable planning applications. The Council encouraged innovative design and the SPD was not intended to be prescriptive on what development looked like. It was important that schemes reflected the character of the location.
- ii. The SPD was aimed at smaller developers and householders. The Council worked closely with larger developers to establish the design and layout of larger schemes, often before the scheme was submitted as a planning application. In the event of a difference in opinion, an independent design review was employed.
- iii. The SPD could not include a standard for tree planting as this would be beyond remit. It did include advice on tree planting and the benefits of trees in development schemes. The new Local Plan would consider how the Council's ambitions to address climate change related to tree planting.
- iv. Neighbourhood Plans often referenced design in their own policies. There was a need to ensure that these policies were consistently reflected in other documents, including the Design SPD.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information in this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 91c 2019/20, 13th January 2020
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