



PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LOCAL PLANNING) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012, REGULATION 12

Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

Consultation Statement

February 2021

This Consultation Statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12(a) and (b) of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

This statement sets out details of the consultation that has taken place to date which has informed and refined the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It sets out the details of how, when and with whom the initial consultation with interested parties and organisations took place and how this had informed the SPD.

Background

It is good practice for Local Planning Authorities to periodically review development plan policies to ensure that they are up to date. The same is true of associated guidance.

The Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD outlines the Council's design expectations for high quality, inclusive and sustainable places that reflect and respond to Dacorum's local character. It also provides detailed guidance for the design of commercial areas, and business and industrial units.

Area of Coverage

The whole of the Borough of Dacorum.

Drafting the SPD

The SPD was commissioned jointly by Dacorum and St Albans City & District Councils, with input from the Local Enterprise Partnership for use with commercial development proposals. Each authority has customised the final version to suit their particular circumstances and this SPD is Dacorum's document. Despite this, the content and aspirations have remained broadly the same.

The Draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD was reviewed by the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2020. The views of the Committee and the SPD documents were subsequently reported to Cabinet for consideration at the May 2020 meeting, where Cabinet approved the Draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD for public consultation.

Consultation

The SPD has also undergone public consultation (Regulation 13) from the 3rd July until the 16th August 2020.

The Draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD consultation was carried out in accordance with the minimum requirements set out in the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The consultation was also publicised in the bi-annual printed and monthly electronic versions of Dacorum Digest, the Council's primary documents for communicating with local residents and businesses. The consultation was advertised in the local press on 1st July 2020.

The consultation period ran for six weeks, two weeks longer than the time period stipulated in the Statement of Community involvement (SCI). This was to ensure interested parties has sufficient time to engage in the process, taking into account the school summer holiday and the first national COVID-19 lockdown (ending on 4th July).

Throughout the period of the consultation deposit points were not open for general public access. In order to provide a public inspection of the documents, members of the public were able to make arrangements to view a copy of the SPD at the Forum, the Borough Council office in Hemel Hempstead. This was advertised via the public notice, on the notification email and letters, and via the Council website.

The Council received 61 responses in total from 59 consultees, which are summarised in the draft SPD Consultation Report of Responses. Each response received was individually reviewed and collated, and an officer response added to the points raised.

Consultation comments have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the SPD and responses were identified within Appendix 3 of the Report to the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in July 2020 and as referred to in the Cabinet Report.

Consultation comments received related to:

- Climate Change
- Transport
- Consideration of the impacts of COVID-19
- Complexity and length of the document

These comments together with recommended changes to the Draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document were presented to Cabinet on 19th January 2021 and Full Council on 24th February 2021 for its consideration. The document was approved at Cabinet and Full Council and was adopted on 24th February 2021.

