



Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	19 January 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document
Contact:	<p>Cllr Graham Sutton: Portfolio Holder for Planning & Infrastructure</p> <p>Author/Responsible Officer: Alex Robinson: Strategic Planning Manager Claire Covington, Assistant Team Leader, Strategic Planning</p>
Purpose of report:	To seek Cabinet's agreement to adopt the draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (the draft SPD).
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the draft SPD be adopted. 2. That authority to make changes to the draft SPD documents, including any necessary to reflect Cabinet's discussions and decision, be delegated to the Assistant Director (Planning, Development & Regeneration) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure.
Period for post policy/project review	The Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD should be reviewed within 5 years of adoption.
Corporate objectives:	<p>The draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD will support the following corporate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A clean, safe and enjoyable environment:</i> e.g. contains design principles that include promoting walkable neighbourhoods, accessible green infrastructure and prioritising pedestrians; • <i>Building strong and vibrant communities:</i> e.g. includes design principles providing a mix of uses and range of housing types and tenures integrated within neighbourhoods; • <i>Ensuring economic growth and prosperity:</i> e.g. includes

	<p>design principles that promote contemporary, suitable designed employment areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Providing good quality affordable homes:</i> e.g. includes design principles to promote a range of tenures and housing typologies that meet all socio-economic needs and conform to best practice in relation to space, quality and sustainability standards.
<p>Implications:</p> <p>'Value for money' implications</p>	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>None directly associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Value for money</u></p> <p>The consultants were appointed through a formal procurement process where cost and value for money considerations were reflected in the scoring criteria.</p>
Risk implications	<p>Given the scale of future growth likely to come forward across the Borough it is important that the Council has up to date and robust design policies that reflect national practice and Dacorum's emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>National guidance advises all Councils to have in place local Design Guides that provide detailed design guidance; the draft SPD provides this local-level framework whilst reflecting the latest national-level design guidance.</p> <p>If the draft SPD is not approved, the Council will continue to apply its existing suite of design guidance documents, many of which are out of date and will not reflect Dacorum's emerging Local Plan.</p>
Community Impact Assessment	A Community Impact Assessment for the draft SPD was undertaken in April 2020 and reported to Cabinet in May 2020.
Health and safety Implications	Higher quality design of new developments will support improved community health and wellbeing.
<p>Monitoring Officer/ Deputy S.151 Officer Comments</p>	<p>Deputy Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>The process of adopting supplementary planning documents is set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Furthermore the Council is required to comply with its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) during this process.</p> <p>Adoption of the draft SPD will raise the design standards of development proposals that are submitted to the Council for determination and will help guide planning decisions made on these.</p> <p>Deputy S151 Officer</p>

	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Consultees:	The following officers have been consulted on the draft SPD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemel Garden Communities • Development Management
Background papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Report 19th May, 2020 Strategic Sites Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document • Appendix 1: Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD • Appendix 2: Draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD Consultation Report of Responses
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	<p>DBC – Dacorum Borough Council</p> <p>CIA – Community Impact Assessment</p> <p>SCI – Statement of Community Involvement</p> <p>SPD – Supplementary Planning Document</p> <p>DSDG – Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD</p>

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Draft 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.
- 1.2. The draft SPD comprises three parts, each of which has a specific role to play in guiding design:
 - Part 1: Design Process - involving three key stages of observing, evaluating and making a place;
 - Part 2: Design Principles – to which all development proposals in the Borough will be expected to adhere;
 - Part 3: Employment Uses Guidance – design principles for employment areas and examples of design solutions for commonly encountered challenges.
- 1.3. Once adopted, the draft SPD will provide additional guidance on the design related policies in the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (adopted September 2013) and those 'saved' parts of the Dacorum Borough Local Plan (adopted April 2004). The SPD is in alignment with the Council's proposed policy approach to delivering great places and high quality design as set out in the new Dacorum Local Plan (2020-2038) Emerging Strategy for Growth (Regulation 18), on which public consultation is currently taking place.

2. Preparation of the Draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (the Draft SPD)

- 2.1. The draft 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 the draft SPD (appendix 1) is Dacorum's document. Despite this, the content and aspirations have remained broadly the same.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. The timing of the public consultation took into account the first national COVID-19 lockdown (ending on 4th July) and ran for over 6 weeks from 3rd July up until the 16th August 2020. This is two weeks longer than the time period stipulated in the Statement of Community involvement (SCI), and gave residents additional time to engage in the process as the consultation

took place partly over the school summer holiday and while COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

- 2.4. The Council received 61 responses in total from 59 consultees, which are summarised in the draft SPD Consultation Report of Responses, attached as Appendix 2. Each response received was individually reviewed and collated, and an officer response added to the points raised. The tables also identify where the draft SPD has been revised as a result of the consultation comments received.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1. The draft SPD will ensure that new development contributes towards making distinctive, attractive and successful places to live and work that are adaptable for the future. The Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD will provide further detail to the saved design policies of the Core Strategy (2013) and, subsequently, the New Single Local Plan, once adopted.
- 3.2. Until the New Single Local Plan is adopted the Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD will only implement those design requirements which can be justified under the policies set out in the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Documents.
- 3.3. The updated Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document is attached at Appendix 1 and Cabinet is asked to recommend to Full Council that the document be adopted.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. Subject to approval by Full Council, the adoption (regulation 14) process will be completed and the Dacorum Strategic Design Guide SPD will become a material consideration in planning decisions.

Appendix 1: Draft Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

Attached separately

Appendix 2: Dacorum Strategic Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Report of Responses

Attached separately