

**Cabinet - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006**

**Report of the Director of the Urban Environment**

**Draft Supplementary Planning Document on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision - Approval for Public Consultation and Participation.**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek Cabinet approval for the Council's draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision to go forward for public consultation.

**Background**

2. The purpose of this draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to assist the successful implementation of open space, sport, leisure, and recreation policies set out in the Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (October 2005). In particular, policies DD8 (Provision of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities), Policy LR1 (Open Space), further policies set out in Chapter 8 (Sport, Leisure and Recreation), Policy SO6 (Parks) and Policy NC1 (Biodiversity).
3. The Supplementary Planning Document will have a positive impact in helping to ensure that all sections of the community within the Borough have access to an adequate supply of open space areas, sports and recreational facilities, that are of a good quality, well-maintained and designed, and in the right location to meet the outdoor recreational needs of the community.
4. The SPD will also provide additional up-to-date information and further supporting guidance for developers, agents, landowners and the public on planning contributions required, primarily as part of new housing developments, for the provision of "new" on-site open space areas and recreational facilities, or for the maintenance and enhancement of "existing" open space, sport and recreation facilities. This is required in circumstances where new development places an increased burden and additional usage pressures on existing publicly accessible recreational open space, and a demand for new or enhanced recreational facilities, as a direct result of the increased number of users created by the new development proposal.
5. The starting point for this Supplementary Planning Document is the adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (October 2005). It contains both the Strategic Policy Objectives and more detailed local planning proposals and development policies necessary to guide development in the Dudley Borough up to the year 2011. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision itself is a separate

document and will complement Policy DD8 of the adopted UDP on “Provision of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities”, as well as other policies within Chapter 8 (Sport, Leisure and Recreation) of the Council’s adopted UDP. The draft document is available in the Member’s Room and electronically on CMIS. The document is also accompanied by a Statement of Consultation and a Sustainability Appraisal as specified under the new planning legislation.

### **National Planning Guidance**

6. National Planning Guidance reinforces the importance of protecting sensitive urban green spaces and ensuring the provision of sufficient, good quality and well-planned public open space as part of major new developments in order to help deliver sustainable development, and promote development that creates socially inclusive communities. It also reinforces the vital role of open spaces, sports and recreational facilities for promoting healthy living and preventing illness, and in the social development of children of all ages through play and sporting activities, and the role of green spaces for supporting nature conservation and biodiversity.
7. This draft follows guidance set out in Policy Guidance Note 3 (PPG3) (2000) “Housing”. It expects local planning authorities to have clear policies for the protection and creation of open space and playing fields, and maintains that new housing developments should incorporate sufficient provision where such spaces are not already adequately provided within easy reach of new housing.
8. The most recent national planning guidance on open space, sport, leisure and recreation is set out in Revised Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) (July 2002) “Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation”. The guidance recognises the important role of planning obligations, stating that they “should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open space, sports and recreation provision”.

### **Regional Spatial Strategy**

9. Furthermore the draft reflects the stance taken in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which recognises that recreational resources are an important component in the overall quality of life in the Region. Under the heading “Urban Greenspace”, RSS states that access to quality green space can contribute greatly to the Region’s urban renaissance, as well as improving the quality of life in urban areas by providing opportunities for sport and recreation and supporting biodiversity.

### **Finance**

10. The will assist in securing money from developers as part of appropriate developments, which can be used to help improve and maintain existing publicly accessible open space areas, sports and recreational facilities within the Borough. Where appropriate, the guidance will help provide new open space provision and recreational facilities.

## Law

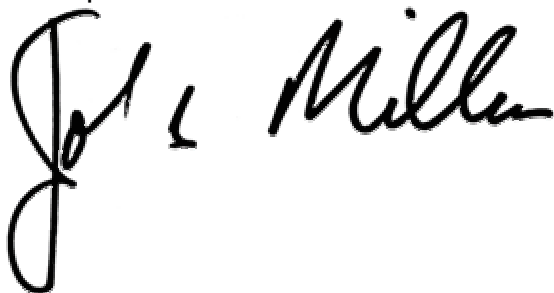
11. Once adopted the will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The has been prepared under the new planning system enacted by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Work on the as been undertaken in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

## Equality Impact

12. The Supplementary Planning Document on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision seeks to supplement Council policy to ensure that the community's needs for well-maintained and designed open spaces, sports and recreational facilities are met and adequately addressed, particularly in circumstances where new development creates new demand for additional or enhanced facilities. In a modern, equitable, and fair society it is critical that the community's needs for outdoor recreational space is catered for in order to improve and safeguard the health and well-being of the local community.
13. The will have a positive impact in helping to ensure that all sections of the community within the Borough have access to an adequate supply of open space areas, sports and recreational facilities, that are of a good quality, well-maintained and designed, and in the right location to meet the outdoor recreational needs of the community. This will have a positive impact on the health, well-being, and social development of children and young people of all ages as well as other Borough residents.
14. The seeks to ensure that in applying its Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision policy, the Council's decisions remain transparent, reasonable, fair and clear to understand, as well as according with national, regional and local planning policies, and that the policies are applied in an equitable and even-handed way.

## Recommendation

15. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the draft Supplementary Planning Document on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision to go forward for public consultation.



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## **List of Background Papers**

Draft Dudley MBC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Supplementary Planning Document (). Available in Members' Room and on CMIS.

Draft Statement of Consultation for the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision . Available in Members' Room and on CMIS

Draft Sustainability Appraisal for the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision . Available in Members' Room and on CMIS