

**Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document  
Consultation Statement  
May 2020**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared by Hartlepool Borough Council. The Draft SPD was published for public consultation over a ten week period from 7 February 2020 until 17 April 2020. The consultation period was extended to provide further time to comment in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 This Consultation Statement addresses the requirements of Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 that requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare a statement setting out:
- the persons the Local Planning Authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;
  - a summary of the main issues raised by those persons; and
  - how those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document.
- 1.3 Section 2 of this Statement outlines the consultation processes and provides details of those people and organisations that were consulted.
- 1.4 Section 3 gives an overview of the representations made within the consultation period. Appendix 1 provides a full schedule of the representations made and the Council's response to each. Where a representation has informed a revision to the SPD, this is set out.
- 1.5 Section 4 gives a brief overview of the next steps in the process of adopting the SPD.

## 2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 A public consultation on the Draft SPD was approved at the Regeneration Services Committee meeting of 5 February 2020.
- 2.2 The public consultation began on the 7 February 2020 until 17 April 2020.
- 2.3 External and internal consultees were contacted via email or letter. This included housebuilders, residents' associations, Parish Councils and adjacent Local Authorities. The statutory consultees Sport England, Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England were consulted.
- 2.4 Consultees were informed that a copy of the Draft SPD was available to view at the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, and online on the Council's Planning Policy webpage. Hard copies were available on request.

**Commented [MK1]:** Can we add Sport England to this list please

### **3. Representations Made and Officer Responses**

- 3.1 A total of 6 consultees made representations on the Draft SPD. The consultees that made representations were: HBC Heritage and Countryside, Historic England, Sport England, Wynyard Park, Natural England & HBC Regeneration Team.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 includes a full schedule of representations, along with an officer response and suggested SPD amendments to reflect the representation is provided at Appendix 1.

### **4. Next Steps – Adoption**

- 4.1 The representations received during the consultation period have, where appropriate, been reflected in the finalised version of the SPD prior to being presented to Regeneration Services for final endorsement and then reported to full Council in **X** for adoption.
- 4.2 It will be important following the adoption that the SPD is kept up to date and modified to reflect any changes in government regulations and emerging opportunities across the Borough.

## Appendix 1: Schedule of Representations and Officer Responses

Respondent	Consultation Feedback	HBC Response/Proposed Action
Heritage and Countryside (Sarah Scarr)	<p>Just a couple of points/queries that I noted in the GI SPD.</p> <p><u>Seaton Park</u> ‘The park is a valuable asset to Seaton Carew, but some restoration is needed.’</p> <p>Is there any information on what restoration is needed?</p> <p><u>Burn Valley Green Wedge Inc. Summerhill Country Park</u> The impression is given that Summerhill is locally listed – it isn’t only Burn Valley Gardens is recognised.</p> <p><u>Cemeteries</u> You may wish to make the distinction between the active cemeteries of Stranton and West View and those which are predominantly full, save for the occasional burial, such as North Cemetery; Richard Harlanderson can provide further information on this.</p> <p><u>Historic Environment</u> I’m not entirely sure what you mean by this example,</p> <p>‘the formal space of Ward Jackson Park provided an opportunity to improve a park but in doing this much wider benefits were fulfilled in regenerating an area and providing a wider offer for visitors to the park.’</p> <p><u>Innovative Ideas</u></p>	<p>Noted, amendment at paragraph 6.9 of the Main Document.</p> <p>Noted, amendment at paragraph 6.13 of the Main Document.</p> <p>Noted, addition at paragraph 6.23 of the Main Document.</p> <p>Noted, amendment at paragraph 8.1 of the Main Document.</p>

	The example of the park on Thornton Street is a good example of trying to enhance a difficult area which you could cite.	Noted, please see inclusion at 10.3 of the Main Document.
Historic England	<p>We are encouraged by your inclusion of the historic environment within the SPD, for example at paragraph 8.1 the recognition of the interrelationship between the historic environment and GI.</p> <p>The glossary contains terms relating to the historic environment, we would encourage you to refer to Historic England's Heritage Definitions, and Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework in order to ensure consistency between SPD and these national definitions.</p> <p>For further clarity we recommend that you seek advice from the local authority conservation officer and from the appropriate archaeological staff. They are best placed to provide information on the historic environment, advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, indicate how heritage assets may be affected and identify opportunities for securing wider benefits through the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.</p>	<p>Noted, it is confirmed that the definitions in the SPD are accurate and in keeping with those of the NPPF and Historic England.</p> <p>The relevant Council officers were consulted on this document and the manager of the section made comments which have been incorporated into the final version, no further action required.</p>
Sport England	There are aspects of both SPDs which have synergy with Sport England's work around Active Design / Active Environments / Active Travel. Modern-day life can make us inactive, and about a third of adults in England don't do the recommended amount of weekly exercise, but the design of where we live and work can play a vital role in keeping us active.	Noted. It is noted that within this document, the benefit of GI in that it can allow for the provision of exercise has been acknowledged in the document. This document is more so to influence inclusion in the built environment, as opposed to acting as a public document highlighting the benefits of activity.

	<p>We know sport isn't for everyone, but embracing a lifestyle change to be more active can have real benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Improving physical health</li> <li>. Increasing mental wellbeing</li> <li>. Building stronger communities.</li> </ul> <p>As part of our drive to create an active environment, Active Design wraps together the planning and considerations that should be made when designing the places and spaces we live in. It's about designing and adapting where we live to encourage activity in our everyday lives, making the active choice the easy choice.</p> <p>Active Design is based around ten principles, and it is considered that the detail of the respective SPDs supports the following principles;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Activity for all' neighbourhoods</li> <li>- Walkable communities</li> <li>- Connected walking and cycling routes</li> <li>- Network of multifunctional open space</li> <li>- High quality streets and spaces</li> </ul> <p>Active Design also recognises that for green infrastructure and the public rights of way network to work well and provide their full worth to the public they need to be supported by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate infrastructure</li> <li>- Management, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>- Activity promotion and local champions.</li> </ul> <p>We've developed a range of support guidance to help Local Authorities in this area.</p>	<p>Paragraph 2.1 of the Main Document has been amended to include reference to the Sport England guidance.</p>
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	<p>The full Active Design guidance can be found at the following location on our website;  <a href="https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf?uCz_r6UyApzAZlaiEVaNt69DAaOCmkIQ">https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/spe003-active-design-published-october-2015-high-quality-for-web-2.pdf?uCz_r6UyApzAZlaiEVaNt69DAaOCmkIQ</a></p> <p>Subsidiary guidance on designing for physical activity - outdoor spaces, and designing for physical activity – routes and wayfinding, both of which I think will be of use, can be found at the following location on our website;  <a href="https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-activity-outdoor-spaces.pdf?oeqbnn6m9d3vmZ7Xh_fldeqWnCpdmFG">https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-activity-outdoor-spaces.pdf?oeqbnn6m9d3vmZ7Xh_fldeqWnCpdmFG</a>  <a href="https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-activity-routes-and-wayfinding.pdf?eX2Y6b3P_xuFhf5ESTG0vgHkeNqdcLWz">https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/designing-for-physical-activity-routes-and-wayfinding.pdf?eX2Y6b3P_xuFhf5ESTG0vgHkeNqdcLWz</a></p> <p>In summary, we wish to express our support for both SPDs. We do however consider that both have a wider public health importance than their focus suggests, and would suggest that perhaps Active Design might provide that bridge to related Local Authority agendas.</p>	
Wynyard Park	<p>Section 2 (Page 6)</p> <p>Paragraph 2.13 sets out the importance of factoring in Green Infrastructure (GI) elements into schemes. Paragraph 2.13 goes on to state that “Where this is not possible or on-site provisions are not considered sufficient, financial contributions towards GI provision within the borough will be sought”.</p>	Noted, no change necessary.

	<p>Whilst our client does not oppose this, it is important to ensure that the Council does not seek financial contributions in instances where a development is able to incorporate sufficient provision of GI.</p> <p>As is clear from the adopted Wynyard Masterplan (November 2019), development is being delivered in an attractive setting with an extensive area of existing GI. The Masterplan also details the GI requirements for new development at Wynyard. It is important to note that the Wynyard Masterplan is only an indicative and the quantum and location of the GI is not fixed. That said, our client does not anticipate that there will be justification for the Council to seek financial contributions on top of the GI being delivered by development.</p> <p>Map 1 (Page 16)</p> <p>We have reviewed the GI and Green Wedges shown in the map on page 16 (Map 1) which appears to be consistent with the areas shown on other plans such as the Wynyard Park Indicative Masterplan Framework (ref. AI09 Rev B).</p> <p>Section 10 (Page 27)</p> <p>Section 10 relates to GI within future developments and goes on to list (in paragraph 10.1) a number of housing developments / sites and the requirements relating to GI. The fifth bullet point refers to Wynyard and states: Wynyard developments: The Wynyard Masterplan sets out a green network within the area which will be delivered by developments as they come forward. We recognise and support that the paragraph essentially 'signposts' to the approved Wynyard Masterplan which</p>	<p>Noted, no change necessary.</p> <p>Noted, no change necessary.</p>
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	<p>contains further detail on the GI requirements for Wynyard Park and other developments at Wynyard.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Action Plan</p> <p>As set out on pages 11-15, Wynyard Park is located in "Area 2: Rural Hartlepool". Paragraph 5.2 refers to the growth and development at Wynyard and that contributions will be expected towards the provision of walking and cycle links in the Borough in order to improve connectivity and enable sustainable methods of travel. Our client does not object to this in principle but wishes to reiterate the provisions of NFFP (2019) paragraph 56 and that planning obligations must only be sought where they meet all of the following tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;</li> <li>b) directly related to the development; and</li> <li>c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.</li> </ul> <p>We also note the projects listed in Table 2 (Summerhill GI Projects) and Table 3 (Other Rural Projects). The majority of the projects in Table 3 are included with funding still required. As stated above, if contributions are sought from development(s) at Wynyard Park, these should meet the tests set out in NPPF paragraph 56.</p>	<p>Noted, no change necessary.</p>
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>The SPD is a very useful document, referring to updated National, Regional and Local Policy Guidance, including the adopted Hartlepool Local Plan (2018), The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) and Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy. The content of the SPD is effective in setting out the objectives and overall vision for the delivery of GI in Hartlepool, highlighting the strengths,</p>	

	<p>weaknesses and functionality of GI within distinct areas of the borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ The SPD recognises and promotes the realisation of synergies for ecosystem services and climate-change resilience through multi-functional GI, for example by creating and linking ecological networks; by protecting and enhancing biodiversity; through innovative habitat creation in urban and green wedges, and by providing and improving access to sustainable travel networks, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>□ A considerable focus of the SPD is also to provide attractive, functional green spaces for exercise and enjoyment by people and supporting business and community adaptation to climate change through the provision of blue/green infrastructure, which is positive. Greener neighbourhoods and improved access to nature may improve public health and quality of life and reduce environmental inequalities. Urban green spaces will also help provide varied ecosystem services and will contribute to coherent and resilient ecological networks.</li> <li>□ As a measure to help realise the vision for Hartlepool, we support the proposed requirement for on-site GI elements to be factored into development schemes through the planning system, understanding that (as stated in the SPD), “where this is not possible or on-site provisions are not considered sufficient, financial contributions towards GI provision within the borough will be sought.”</li> <li>□ The SPD makes reference to protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, with particular references made within Objective 4. Natural England focusses our advice</li> </ul>	
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	<p>on embedding biodiversity net gain in development plans, since the approach is better developed than for wider environmental gains. However your authority should consider the requirements of the NPPF (paragraph 72, 102, 118 and 170) and seek opportunities for wider environmental net gain wherever possible. This can be achieved by considering how policies and proposed allocations can contribute to wider environment enhancement, help adapt to the impacts of climate change and/or take forward elements of existing green infrastructure, open space or biodiversity strategies. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, along with partners, has developed 'good practice principles' for biodiversity net gain, which can assist plan-making authorities in gathering evidence and developing policy. The guidance also explores opportunities for the wider environment and developing approaches at the strategic scale, across boundaries.</p> <p>Our specific comments as follows should also be taken in to account in developing the SPD:</p> <p>The draft SPD illustrates and refers to a number of designated sites in Hartlepool, summarised by Appendix 3 of the document. Revision of the draft is recommended, taking account of the following information regarding designated sites in the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was notified in 2019 and amalgamated 7 existing SSSIs, including 'Seal Sands SSSI', 'Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI', 'Hartlepool Submerged Forest SSSI' and the 'Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands SSSI'. These SSSIs therefore no longer exist.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted, please see amendment at Appendix 3 of the main document.</p>
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	<p>□ (Other SSSIs which were amalgamated include Redcar Rocks SSSI, South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI; and Cowpen Marsh SSSI).</p> <p>□ Teesmouth European Marine Site (EMS) is the same as the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA (therefore it is not necessary to list the EMS separately).</p> <p>□ Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) and Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast potential Ramsar (pRamsar) no longer exist; these are now referred to as the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar.</p> <p>To help clarify how the above influences the details of Appendix 3 (and where corresponding changes may need to be made in the content of the SPD) please see our suggested edits to Appendix 3.</p>	<p>Noted, reference has been removed in Appendix 3.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
HBC Regeneration Team	<p>Below is an outline of forthcoming project managed by the Regeneration Team which will be influenced by the GI SPD or can contribute to the delivery of the GI SPD ambitions.</p> <p>Town Centre Masterplanning</p> <p>The regeneration team have begun the process of developing a town centre masterplan. The objectives is to renew and reshape Hartlepool Town Centre in a way that improves experience, drives growth and ensures future sustainability. The process of developing these plans will</p>	<p>Please see addition at paragraph 9 of the GI main document – “Regeneration and Green Infrastructure” this document details the overall importance of the</p>

	<p>involve working with stakeholders and the community to analyse the current issues for the town centre. There are a number of themes around the future of the town centre that the masterplanning process will consider: How we experience our town; how our town offers convenience; how well serviced the town is and the towns sense of community. Green infrastructure will play a role in improving peoples experience of the town centre through interventions or improvements in small-scale green spaces, urban trees and green public spaces as well as contributing to 'experience lines' that will reinforcing connectivity and movement through the town. We see this as valuable in increasing economic activity and investment in the town. Through these improvements we expect GI to also support the development of people's sense of community through extending dwell times and providing spaces for community congregation for events and activities.</p> <p>Industrial Estate Improvements: Brenda Road Corridor</p> <p>A forthcoming project to enhance the Brenda Road corridor aims to improve the area's identity as an active business zone using landmark features, treatment of external estate boundaries (particularly frontages) and improved wayfinding into the numerous industrial estates is an opportunity to develop green infrastructure in this area. Addressing the quality of green infrastructure would be aimed at retaining and attracting businesses, encourage private sector investment and improve the sense of place between estates and throughout this area.</p>	<p>two, and cites the Brenda Road estate as a particular example.</p>
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