

Agenda item:

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development, 26 July 2013

Subject: Achieving Employment and Skills Plans Draft Supplementary Planning Document

Report by: City Development Manager

Wards affected: All

Key decision (over £250k): No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To approve the Achieving Employment and Skills Plans Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for adoption.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Note the results of the consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Document and approve the Consultation Statement (appendix A);
2. Adopt the Achieving Employment and Skills Plans Supplementary Planning Document (appendix B);
3. Authorise the City Development Manager to make editorial amendments to the SPD prior to publication, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development. These changes will not alter the meaning of the document and will be restricted to grammatical and typographical errors.

3. Background

- 3.1 The SPD sets out how the council will work with developers to ensure that local people have the skills and opportunity to access employment generated from major new development in the city. Requesting employment and skills plans from major new development is one way of achieving this. Therefore this SPD has been produced to set out why employment and skills plans are needed, what would go into such a plan, what type and size of developments this would apply to and the process involved in preparing and implementing a plan.

Consultation

- 3.2 The draft SPD was approved for consultation on 28 January 2013¹. Following this, a targeted consultation took place focussed mostly on the development industry at a local and national level with a total of 254 companies and organisations contacted by letter or email. This included all of the required specific consultation bodies. The draft SPD was made available on the city council's website, at the Civic Offices main reception and in libraries.
- 3.3 A total of five representations were received, two of which made no comment, two supported the SPD and one was against requiring developers to produce employment and skills plans. As a result of consultation a minor change has been made to section 3 of the SPD to provide more flexibility around the use of section 106 agreements to require employment and skills plans. All responses are analysed in appendix A.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 So as to receive full weight in planning decisions, the SPD needs to be adopted by the city council.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 A preliminary EIA has been carried out on the draft SPD which concluded that a full EIA is not needed. The preliminary EIA demonstrated that the draft SPD would only have positive results.

6. Legal services' comments

- 6.1 Preparation of the Council's supplementary planning documents, (which for these purposes includes the SPD), including the process of public consultation, is regulated in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Publication, consultation with appropriate stakeholders, and receiving and considering relevant representations are necessary steps towards adoption. The report, with the SPD amended to show response to the representations referred to by the report, may be considered as showing that representations in response to the consultation have been properly and fairly considered. The recommendation supports compliance with the Council's statutory obligations as Local Planning Authority to consult and to adopt the SPD as appropriate following consultation that has accorded with the detailed statutory requirements in the regulations.

¹ <http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/28469.html>

7. Head of finance’s comments

- 7.1 The majority of the major development companies already produce detailed employment and skills plans as part of their normal business.
- 7.2 The amount of work generated by the implementation of this policy is therefore unlikely to have a significant impact on the resources of the regeneration team and will be managed from within the existing budget.

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Signed by City Development Manager:

Appendices

Appendix A - Consultation Statement

Appendix B – Achieving Employment and Skills Plans Supplementary Planning Document.

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
None.	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: